

Camra Bolton Branch and its Pubs 2017

Bolton Branch Pubs included in the 2017 Good Beer Guide were

Bolton – Bank Top Brewery Tap, Bob's Smithy, Bolton Ukrainian Club, Finishers, Kings Head, Old Man & Scythe, Great Ale at the Market (One for the Road)

Bromley Cross - Flag

Harwood – House Without a Name

Horwich – Bank Top Brewery Ale House, Brewery Bar, Crown, Victoria & Albert

Branch Meetings in 2017

Spinning Mule 05/01/17

Ainsworth 24/01/17 Committee

Balmoral 02/02/17

Bank Top Brewery Ale House 14/02/17 Committee

Millstone 02/03/17

House with No Name 30/03/17 Committee

Horwich Conservative Club 06/04/17

Millstone 04/05/17

Hen & Chickens 23/05/17 Committee

Wheatsheaf 01/06/17

Old Three Crowns 20/06/17 Committee

Great Ale at the Market 06/07/17

Horwich RMI Club 03/08/17

Masons Arms 16/08/17 Committee

UKI Club 06/09/17

Robert Shaw 15/09/17 Committee

Millstone 05/10/17

Hope & Anchor 18/10/17 Committee

Spinning Mule 02/11/17

Bay Mare 22/11/17 Committee

Wheatsheaf 07/12/17

Bolton Beer Breaks 16 Spring 2017 Pub News [Link](#)

Pub News

The Hen & Chickens reopened at the end of October with the landlord from the Albion, Paul Kirkman, taking charge. Five cask beers are back on the bar from a wide range of breweries, food is now available again after a long break and a pool table has been installed in the small room at the rear.

Elsewhere the Lever Bridge in Darcy Lever has reopened, but here the handpumps have disappeared, so cask beer is no longer available. The Withins has reopened as well after a rather austere refurbishment and gained two handpumps on the bar, cask beer was initially available but more recently has not been.

In Westhoughton the new Micro Pub on Market St opened its doors at the end of October, and has 4 handpumps on the bar with selection of small breweries beers on offer, plus there is a large rack of bottled beers to drink in or takeaway and a real cider too. Across the road the keg Lounge Seven reopened in November after being closed for several months, however it closed again before Christmas amid rumours of licensing issues.

Down in the country lanes beyond Blackrod, Suzanna's bar and restaurant closed its doors at the end of September but is now believed to have been sold (subject to contract), so could be reopening soon.

In Horwich, dubTAP closed around Christmas it is understood that Epicurus brewing who took over the Hornbeam brewery in Denton last year have bought the business, they are also believed to be interested in running the Star And Garter on Bow Street in Bolton.

Near the Macron stadium, Stonegate Pub Co have closed Scotts bar for refurbishment and conversion into an identikit Missoula bar, a marketing man's dreamworld of Cocktails, Wines, Spirits and Suds. For those of you not familiar with the term 'Suds' their website helpfully advises these are world lagers, beers and ciders from the fridge, and are such wonderful drinks in their own right that you can pay an extra £2.50 to 'Boilermaker' them, this

adds a shot of bourbon/whisky into your chosen 'drink'. Lovely!

There have been changes on Nelson Square in the town centre whereby the cask beers regularly available in the past have all but disappeared under the new management of the Dragonfly, however across the square at Oscar's Bar, now renamed from Square Lounge, there are two handpumps on the rear bar to the right serving Marston's Pedigree and another guest from the Marston's range, this is linked to the closure of Downtown on Bradshawgate.

In the Market Place vaults a 'pop up' bar and restaurant has appeared, the Eagle and Child, in theory this is for a temporary period of two months whilst the host pub, the Eagle and Child in Shuttleworth, Ramsbottom is refurbished. After an initial issue with cooling, Marstons EPA and Westons Rosies Pig have been on offer recently.

In Farnworth the Bradford Arms was closed and boarded up for a while, but has now reopened, but as yet no sign of any cask beer.

Following the granting of planning permission a new pub/eatery called the Farmhouse Inn is to be opened by Greene King at the otherwise Industrial site at Cutacre between Little and Over Hulton.

Old favourites before they were closed the Gypsy's Tent on Deansgate and the Clockface in Kearsley have recently been given planning permission for conversion to residential flats and apartments.

Cider and Perry News

The North of England Cider and Perry Competition was held at the Manchester Beer and Cider Festival in January and local producer Red Bank picked up a Silver award for Crackin' Pear perry.

Two recent(ish) additions to the list of outlets for real cider in Bolton are Bunbury's and Yates. Bunbury's has up to six bag-in-box ciders available, usually three from Gwynt-y-Ddraig and three changing varieties. Yates has one changing cider or perry on handpump.

The Beer School

Just over 30 years after we moved to Westhoughton, we have finally got a drinking establishment that we are happy to call our local. A mere 100 yards from our back gate, The Beer School opened at the end of October 2016. On the bar there are 4 cask pumps, 4 keg pumps plus one for draught prosecco. At the time of writing there have been at least 72 different cask ales, some from local breweries such as Blackedge, Hophurst and Northern Monkey and others from further afield, for example Bad Co, Rat and Brass Castle. There is nearly always a mild, porter or stout available (hurray, it can be done!) On the keg pumps, Bootleg Spin Doctor is more or less a permanent feature, whilst the other three have interesting beers from breweries such as Rivington and Bad Co. For non-beer drinkers there is a good choice; there is a bag-in-box of Red Bank Autumn Orchard behind the bar, there's the aforementioned

prosecco, an interesting selection of wine and a range of small-batch gin. On the shelves there are plenty of bottled and canned beers to take away, and glass 'growlers' for take-outs of the cask ales.



Owner Rachel Birch runs The Beer School with her partner Steve and barman Harry. Before the bar opened, Rachel expected that most of the trade would be daytime off sales of the bottles, cans and growlers. However, it's drinking on the premises that has proved the more popular, which goes to show that we were not the only people in Westhoughton who were waiting for somewhere to drink good beer without having to travel to find it. Over the last month or so, off sales have started to pick up, and the range of bottles and cans available is now over 150.



The atmosphere in The Beer School is friendly and relaxed, there's a wide age range of customers and a good buzz of conversation. Maybe occasionally the background music is a bit intrusive, but we understand from those in the know that it's a really interesting playlist. We've certainly got talking to quite a few people we only knew previously by sight. The place is very dog friendly - a water bowl and dog treats are provided.

The bar was used recently by Northern Monkey to launch their new beer 'Hop Pot'. More bar takeover events are planned, including Tickety Brew in April and Bad Co.



The Grey Mare Inn on Tottington Road, Harwood is a traditional pub where customers can enjoy great ale in great company. The tenancy of the pub was taken over in June 2016 by Gordon Leach who is supported by the pub's manager, Sarah Lowe.

Sarah took over the management of a pub which had benefited from a substantial capital investment that saw a full resurface of the pub's car park, the laying of a new patio and a return to the traditional exterior colours of black and white.

Whilst real ale was only a minor consideration when Gordon took over the Grey Mare Inn, the introduction of guest ales, real cider and craft beer has supported a growing reputation for the provision of quality beer in a quality environment. The pub has two staple beers – Wainwright's and Landlord – with guest ales on rotation. In early September '16, just over three months after taking over responsibility for the pub, Gordon successfully achieved Cask Marque recognition for the Grey Mare Inn – an achievement to be proud of!!!



As a member of CAMRA and a strong supporter of its philosophy, Gordon, with the support of Sarah, has established a key objective for the Grey Mare Inn - to be recognised as the go-to venue for real ale, real cider and craft beer. To support this objective, the pub now offers all CAMRA members

(on production of a current membership card) 10% off any real ale or real cider. This offer is available during all opening times.

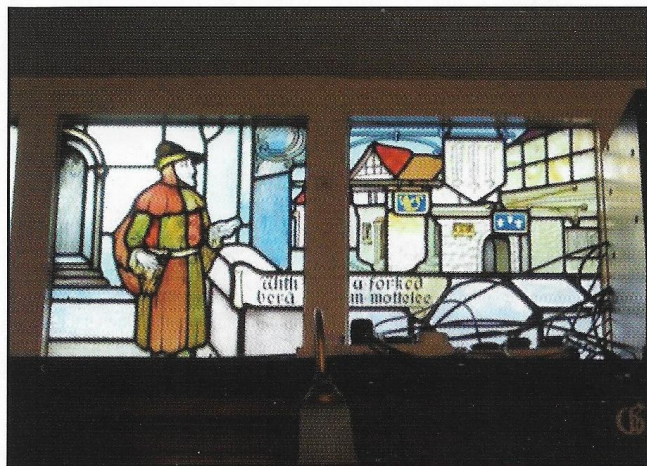
Contributing to the growing success of the Grey Mare Inn are two pool teams, live entertainment each month, free pool on Tuesday and Sunday evenings and a 'Happy Hour' from 2 till 8pm Monday to Thursday. In addition, the Grey Mare Inn shows live football and live rugby union as well as other major sporting events. Sarah is keen to have at least one darts team based at the pub so if you're looking for something to do on a Thursday night get in touch with Sarah or any member of the team.

So, what are you waiting for? Get along to the Grey Mare Inn, taste its wares, which includes a large selection of lagers, wines, spirits, soft drinks (as well as tea and coffee), and enjoy a great pint, live music or sport, or just relax in a friendly, warm, environment.

Guess The Pub

Two more pubs for you to identify. Both of these are close to the borders of Bolton, and one of them is right on the border of our closest metropolitan borough neighbour.

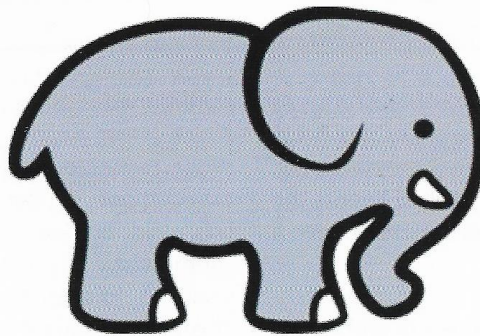
The two pubs in the last edition are the Rabbit in Horwich and the Old Three Crowns in the centre.





**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

Bolton CAMRA



Beer Festival

April 27th – 29th **2017**

Thursday 27th April
3:30pm-10:30pm

Friday 28th April
12:00-10:30pm

Saturday 29th April
12:00-10:30pm

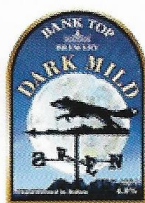
at
Bolton Ukrainian Club
99 Castle Street
Bolton BL2 1JP

**50+ Real Ales
Cider & Perry**
Plus
KeyKeg Bar
&
Local Meads

ENTRY £2 (except
Friday after **5:30pm £3**)
plus £3 glass hire
(refundable)

NKONO'S HOT FOOD,
Soft Drinks & snacks
available at all sessions

*Poster kindly
sponsored by:*



CAMRA members **FREE ENTRY**
Except Friday after **5:30pm**, only **£2**
(on production of valid membership card)
Over 18s **ONLY** except Saturday before 7:00pm

Supporting

In aid of



Bolton Hospice
caring from the heart

Hospitals Charity
No. 510704

www.boltonbeerfestival.org.uk



@BoltonCAMRAbeer



BoltonCAMRAfestival

Pub & Cider News

PUB NEWS

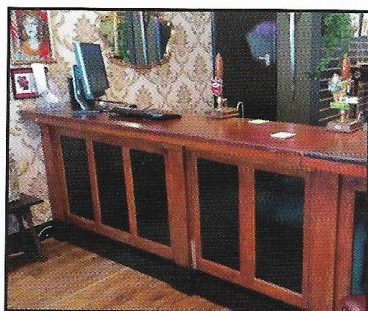
The removal of the handpump at the **Lever Bridge** in Darcy Lever was only temporary and Bank Top Flat Cap and Old Slapper have been noted since.

In Horwich, **dubTAP** has been renamed **Tap & Cork** where you can expect to find Epicurus beers on the bar amongst others. Further down Lee Lane the **Rabbit Saloon** is being completely refurbished and will be renamed **Tails and Ale** and it is expected to see 4 real ales on the bar when it reopens. Across the road the **V&A** is now being run by the McGinlays and contrary to earlier rumours, 3 real ales remain on the bar. Moving to 174-176 Chorley New Road close to the Winter Hey Lane traffic lights a new Micropub is planned, change of use and licensing have been applied for.

At the Macron stadium what was called the **Pure Bar** in the Bolton Whites Hotel has been renamed the **Whites Bar and Lounge** after being refurbished and handpulled ales are promised which hopefully will be an improvement on the irregular appearance of Sharps Doom Bar in the past.

At the **Blundell Arms** on Chorley Old Road it is believed that a micro brewery to serve the pub is going to be installed in the near future.

In the Market Place vaults the **Eagle and Child** 'pop up' bar and restaurant only lasted two months. The **Brass Cat** on Churchgate was sold by Punch Taverns last year and now refurbishment including a much needed new layout is almost complete. Five handpumps are already on the bar of what in future will be known as the Churchgate. Elsewhere in Bolton town centre, **McCauleys** has had its licence



revoked after an early morning brawl. Another pub to close its doors at the end of May was the **Starkie Arms** the unbranded Thwaites long term keg pub on Tonge Moor Rd.

On Halliwell Road, Bravo Inns **Lord Raglan** has been noted as selling Lancaster Amber, whilst the nearby **Mop (Weavers Arms)** rarely sells any real ale now, several recent visits have only resulted in promises that never seem to materialise. The **Claremont** was noted as being up for sale on Pugh's Auction in July for £135,000, but was sold prior to the auction.

The **White Horse** on Stitch-mi Lane in Harwood has reopened after refurbishment and is now more orientated towards food, though two or three real ales are on offer too. The previously external decorated windows featuring Chaucer's Canterbury Tales have been transferred to inside the pub, other unique features of the pub have also been retained. At the opposite end of the branch area the **Unity Brook** on Manchester Road in Kearsley now has two handpumps on the bar, one serving Wolverhampton brewed 'Thwaites' Wainwright and the other a guest beer.

The fate of the **Moses Gate** has been determined after the council planners decided that no prior approval was required for it to be demolished. The pub had been in use as a music venue for many years and judging by the bushes and plants growing and with the old Vaux signs still hanging outside, little or no maintenance had been undertaken since Vaux Brewery closed in 1999. It is expected that the site will be reused for housing.

The newly built **Lostock Sports Club** on Chew Moor Lane, Chew Moor has started selling Blackedge beers, Pike was the first available but others will be tried too.

The new pub being built by Greene King on the A6 at the Cutacre site in Over Hulton was nearing completion for a mid-August opening, it will be one

Of their Farmhouse Inns called the Pine Tree Farm.

A Mild Celebration

May is a month of double celebration for me. My birthday coincides with the Annual Branch Mild Trail when we celebrate Mild Month by visiting pubs which regularly serve a cask-conditioned mild and encouraging other pubs along the route to stock one. Mild is a misunderstood and underrated style of beer, developed from ancient unhopped British ales. The term "mild" applied to different styles of ale and simply meant "fresh", served within 2-3 weeks of being put in the cask. It later became characterised by low bitterness and low strength, making it hugely popular as a working man's thirst-quencher.

This year the Trail had a good turnout and we began at **Great Ale at the Market**, 2016 Branch Pub of the Year. Not being dark in colour, their mild offering, **Potbelly Brewery Ambrosia** took some people by surprise. Although this one was brewed in Kettering, light milds such as these were once common in the Pennine fringes where the soft water was perfect for creating a sweeter beer.

A short trip on the 125 bus took us to **Bunbury's** on Chorley Old Road, 2017 Branch Pub of the Year. Owner Daryl greeted us not just with a perfect pint of **Beartown Black Bear** but also with a fabulous cake made by friend of the Beer Festival, Julie Ritchie. The addition of German Dunkel beer to the recipe gave the fruit cake a taste of liquorice which married perfectly with the chocolate maltiness of the excellent ruby mild.



Bank Top Brewery Ale House in Horwich is a must visit on these days out. A ten minute bus ride and we were dropped off at its front door. **Bank Top Dark Mild** is always on the bar. Winner of Champion Mild of Britain in 2015, it never disappoints and was certainly a favourite amongst the group.

Next was a new stop for many, the **Tap & Cork** further down the road on Lee Lane. This modern-styled microbar serves real ale mostly from **Epicurus Brewery**, but there was a special place on the pumps for **Rammy Craft Whimberry Mild**. At 6.1% this is an example of another formerly common beer style, strong mild, brilliantly executed with the addition of real whimberries by brewer Matt Holmes working from his microbrewery in Ramsbottom. I first tried this beer last year and it remains one of my favourites. Its dry fruitiness is dangerously moreish.



We ended our Trail in **the Crown** with **Joseph Holt Mild**. With its subtle malty sweetness and a mere kiss of earthy English hops this beer exemplifies what most people think of as mild. It's a shame that the Crown remains one of the few pubs still serving this excellent beer. Hopefully Holt's won't go the way of Robinsons, a similar local family brewery, who axed their cask mild completely a couple of years ago.

This year turned out to be one of the best mild trails that the Branch has ever run. Each pub had a different variation on the style and each pint was perfectly served. We even matched the flavours with a slice of cake! Thanks to all the pubs who took part.

Graham Walsh

The First Rivington Beer Walk

The Thirstiest Walk of All

I had been talking with Ben, the brewer at Rivington BrewCo - wouldn't it be really good if you had an occasional brew tap, so that drinkers could combine a country walk with the delights of your beer - get a feeling for the terroir. Ben had been thinking the same, so an idea



was germinated. Ben also suggested that the walk take in local hostelries Spring Cottage and The Rivington (aka The Rivington Bowling Club)

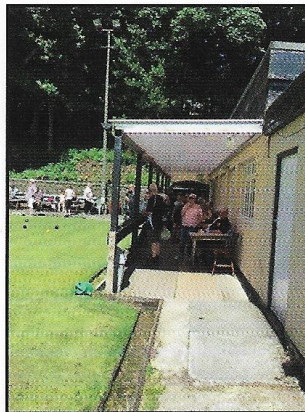
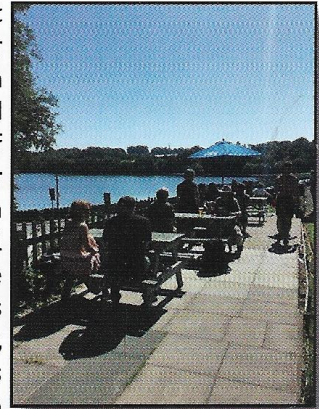


A group within Bolton CAMRA Branch had been working on a published ale trail between Bunbury's on Chorley Old Road and the far pubs of Horwich and it seemed like a natural extension. June 17th looked like the best date, so hope was for fine weather.

Though Rivington has also seemed a Boltonian playground, strictly it is just over the border into the Chorley Badlands, so naturally most of the walkers were ethically bound to take in refreshment from some of the Horwich pubs and clubs first. The mass gathering of some 40 intrepid beer pioneers (many from further afield than our beautiful town and some with children and dogs in tow) was in the

forecourt of The Brewery Bar (Blackedge). I could no longer evade my responsibility and I unleashed my inner dictator, marching the enthusiasts into a blazingly lovely blue yonder.

You have to at least notionally earn your jars of ale through physical effort, and though thoughts of a route march over Rivvy Pike had been long abandoned, we all managed a two mile walk through woods and alongside reservoir, taking in Lord L's Liverpool Castle folly to Spring Cottage.



Spring Cottage occupies a gorgeous woodland setting and was perfect for our first stop, most choosing to drink from Rivington Brewco's arsenal of bottles. Then onto The Rivington, with pints of cask Abbeydale around the bowling green, and adjacent to the blue blue reservoir; in my eyes a honorary lake. A lot of group happiness in the sunshine there.

Final stop, just two minutes further, was Rivington Brew Co's The Tap Beneath the Trees at Home Farm - the bar under an awning with plenty of constructed seating and accompanying sausage and Pimms vans. On tap were three hand pumped beers - Sunset



Strip, Chillen and Rye 'n' Gosling and a wall with five keykeg-conditioned beers. Many tried the completely opaque Never Knew Fog Like It, which was not found wanting.

A success then, with general demand for a repeat walk, though no one can guarantee a repeat of the lovely weather.



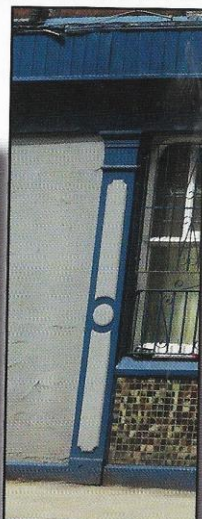
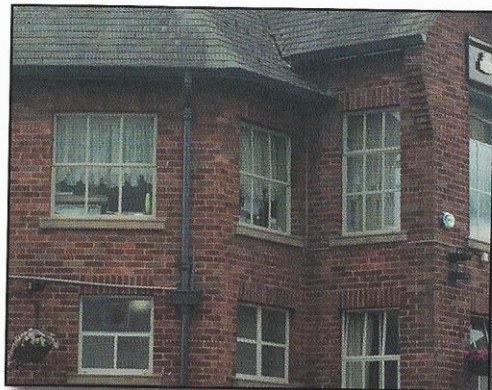
Ben and Mike are opening their Tap Beneath the Trees for a second time during the August Bank Holiday Weekend - Saturday to Sunday August 26th - 27th from 2pm. This time growlers (beer carryouts) can be purchased or filled for home

consumption. Camping is also available on site; contact Home Farm or Rivvy Brewery for details.

Guess The Pub

Two more for you, one in town and the other on the outskirts.

Last edition answers are the Stopes Tavern in Little Lever & the White Horse in Harwood



Pub & Cider News

PUB NEWS

JR's Ale House at 174-176 Chorley New Road in Horwich near the Winter Hey Lane traffic lights has opened with 5 real ales available, these include a couple of the less common ones on Marston's range, plus guests from more local breweries such as Blackedge, Dunscar, Northern Monkey, Wily Fox, Cross Bay and Bowland.

By the time you read this it is expected that the **Nook and Cranny micropub** will have opened at 213, Darwen Road, Bromley Cross will have opened and further up the road in Egerton the Cross Guns is expected to reopen after a lengthy refurbishment on December 6th, more details in the next issue.

Since the last issue the **Churchgate** (ex Brass Cat) has reopened with the bar relocated and the rest of the pub fully refurbished, it's been transformed from its days as the Punch Taverns neglected Brass Cat. There are four real ales on the bar with an emphasis on beers from the Greene King range, plus guests. The nearby **Star & Garter** on Bow Street has changed hands and is in the process of being refurbished, there are family connections to Epicurus Brewery in Denton and it is expected that the number of handpumps will increase from the existing one to extend the choice of real ales available.

Elsewhere in the town centre Punch Taverns owned but non-core designated **Harvey's Cafe Bar** closed at the beginning of November, according to council records the rates had been being paid since January by Lingfield Homes, so little doubt there then as to what it is going to be converted into.

Harveys has now reopened after refurbishment

Also reopened on Little Scotland in Blackrod is the **Goose and Gander** which was previously known as Suzanna's, there are now 5 handpumps on the bar offering a range of beers to compliment the food offerings.

In mid November the **Bowling Green** on Bury Road was noted as being closed but not boarded up, the **Spread Eagle** on Manchester Road in Kearsley was in the same situation but they had a couple of lights on in the bar area too! The **Lever Bridge** in Darcy Lever also closed in early October but had reopened in mid November with the handpumps nowhere to be seen.

Tonge Leisure will be converting the **Morris Dancers** over to Real ale around December 8th, the pub has 3 handpumps on each bar which have been largely unused for many years apart from a brief period in late 2015/early 2016 when Lees Bitter was available on one of them. Other Tonge Leisure pubs are expected to follow suit in the new year.

The 2017 award for the 'pub' with most name changes during the year goes to what started the year as the **Karaoke Bar** on Bradshawgate, it then became **Shenanigans**, back to the **Karaoke Bar** for a while, before becoming **Mansion**, now it is closed and being refurbished to reopen as **Soul Central**. During this time there were also three failed or withdrawn planning applications, to separate back into the two original buildings. Across the road **Yates** didn't change its name but was closed for about a month whilst there was a total refurbishment.

A new 'bar' has opened at 45, Lee Lane in Horwich called the **Horcrux Emporium**, it doesn't appear to have any draught beers, but does have bottles of Wizard and Unicorn from Robinsons as well as Pendle Witches Brew and Blond Witch from Moorhouses's. Also available are a series of cocktails, sorry, potions named after the Harry Potter characters and locations. It is licensed, but the expected premises A4 Public House status seems to be hiding in a horcrux somewhere yet to be found, no doubt a wave of the wand and commanding aparecium is all that is needed. (For those who like to know, Aparecium is a Reveal Charm used by Hermione in the second film, Chamber of Secrets, on Tom Riddle's book - it didn't work!)

Guess The Pub



To try and forget the cold wintry nights, two pictures of sunny gardens. One in town and one on the outskirts.

Pubs in the last edition were the Castle in Tonge Moor and the Star & Garter in town



Bob's Smithy Inn
An intimate stone-built hostelry on the edge of the moors with panoramic views. Now with its own restaurant, is handy for walkers and visitors to Macron Stadium. The inn is some 200 years old and is named after a local blacksmith who allegedly spent more time in the pub than he did in his smithy across the road. This is a genuine free house which offers guest beers from small independent breweries. Dogs are welcome, there is a covered smoking area at the side of the pub. This pub serves 3 regular ales; Bank Top Flat Cap, Wainwright & Timothy Taylor Boltmaker along with 3 changing beers.

Bunbury's
397, Chorley Old Road, Bolton, BL1 6AH.
www.bunburys.co.uk
Bob's Smithy
1448 Chorley Old Road, Heaton, Bolton, BL1 7PX
www.bobssmithy.co.uk
Hope & Anchor
747 Chorley Old Road, Bolton, BL1 5QH
Doffcocker
780 Chorley Old Road, Bolton, BL1 5QE
www.joseph-holt.com/pubs/view/doffcocker-inn
The Finishers Arms
487 Church Road, Bolton, BL1 5RE

For further information visit: www.whatpub.com

Finishers Arms

Beautifully refurbished in 2015. The serving area was moved to the back wall which has opened out the main bar area. A central raised table provides a focal point for locals to meet and chat. Two rooms have been retained off the side of the bar and these provide a quieter atmosphere. Some traditional features such as the wooden beams are still visible. A range of well kept local beers are served often including the popular and award-winning Bank Top and Blackedge breweries. A real cider often replaces one of the cask beers in the summer. A comfortable beer garden is at the back.

Doffcocker Inn

Large community pub, with a central bar that splits the drinking area in two. Regular Holt's beers are supplemented by one occasional guest often from Bootleg which is owned by Holt's. Unusually a 'calendar' pub, with windows with 365 panes of glass, 52 Doors, 28 rooms (days in a 4 week month), 12 rooms in the cellar, 7 bedrooms, and 4 floors for full weeks in a month. The pub serves 2 regular beers; Holts Bitter & Holts IPA.

Hope & Anchor

A traditional pub with a wonderful snug complete with bell pushers that attracts walkers and bird watchers, and is very near to Doffcocker Lodge, a well known nature reserve. A new extension with disabled access and a pool room does not affect the original pub layout. This pub serves 3 regular beers including Timothy Taylor Landlord and Lees Bitter and 1 changing beer.

This leaflet has been produced by the Bolton branch of the Campaign for Real Ale.

www.bolton.camra.org.uk

It should be noted that all information was correct at time of going to press, and any deviation is not the responsibility of Bolton CAMRA

HORWICH 125 ALE TRAIL

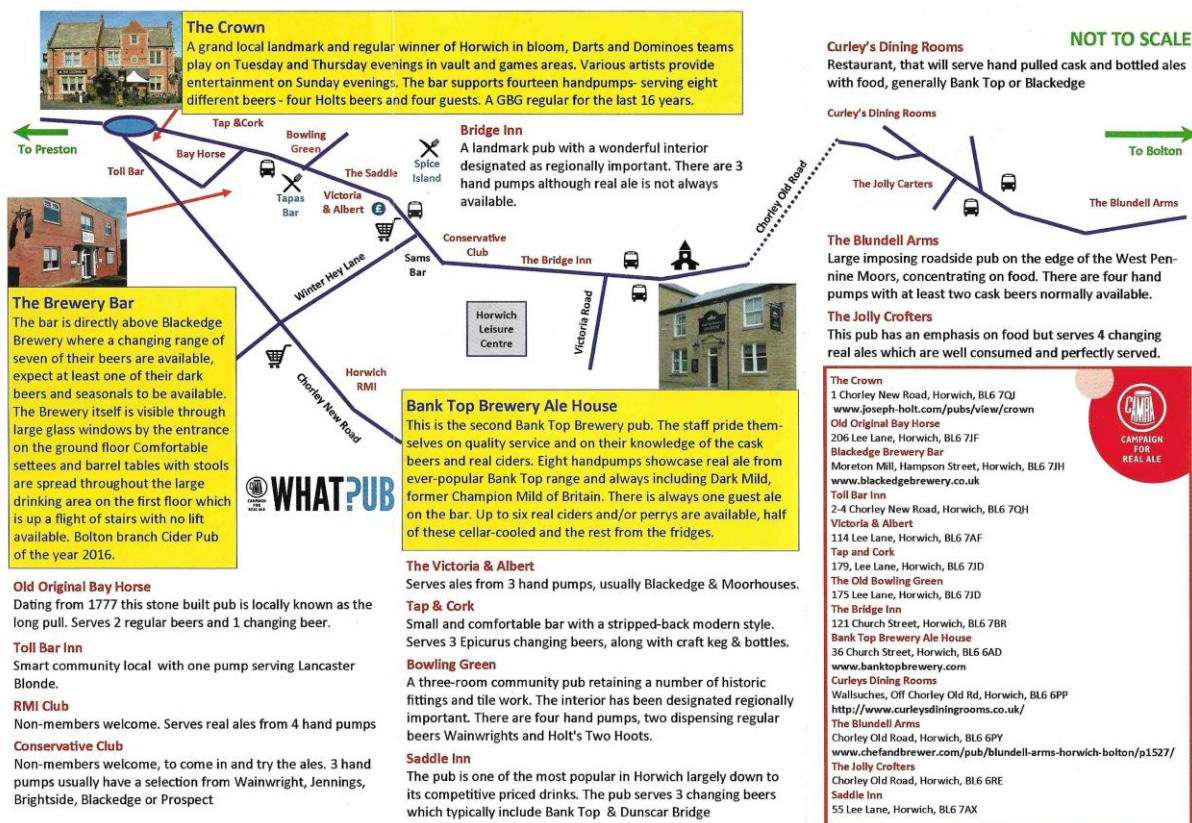
Welcome to the ale trail which follows the 125 bus, originating from Bolton Interchange. The route starts at Bunbury's, Bolton CAMRA pub of the year for 2017



Bunbury's

A cosy micropub, with the intimate atmosphere that you would expect, which is named after a fictitious character in Oscar Wilde's play The Importance of Being Earnest. The bar has 3 hand pumps serving real ale and a range of keg offerings, occasionally ones which are keg conditioned. Beers vary in their origin but are usually from highly regarded breweries, often local such as Rivington, Holy Well and Northern Monkey. Real cider is available along with a small range of spirits and wine. There is also a very good bottle range, which is unmatched locally.

The 125 service is operated by Stagecoach and runs between Bolton and Preston Interchange. If travelling from Preston, passengers can alight at the Crown Hotel, Horwich. Day saver and return tickets are available depending on your departure point. Other services are available that will cross or travel on part of the route. For further information visit: www.stagecoach.com or www.tfgm.com



The Following pubs closed in 2017.

Canary Tavern 96, High Street, Little Lever. Pub had closed 01/10/17 Available for £150K from Miller Metcalfe, sold to Hands on Computer Services. Planning application 05593/19 and 2 flats refused, 06142/19 with no flats approved.

Flying Flute 28, Bradshawgate. It had been for sale for some time, with Christies £950K (under offer), also with Jeremy Rubin, reduced to £800K 07/07/15 no longer listed by Christies 08/09/15. It was listed on the No Business Rates list with owners Whitbread Group PLC no longer listed now Harringtons (North West) Ltd, still listed 06/01/17 and 04/05/17, no longer showing as new listing 01/08/17, now owned by another Darren Miller Co Gemini Leisure Enterprises, showing as under offer 07/12/17. On No Business Rates list again 01/12/17 and notified as empty of furniture 14/02/18, it had been sold and due to be converted to a Restaurant & Bar, which would take 12-18 months, listed by Jeremy Rubin as sold 04/04/18. Planning application 04462/18 approved for 3 Shops plus upstairs flats. Hairdresser and Beauty salon due to open in part of site early December 2020, Posh Burger bar opened April 2021.

McCauleys 79/83 Bradshawgate. It had closed 15/06/17, this was after the licence had been revoked after a brawl at 6.30am on a Sunday morning. Planning application 11074/21 was to convert to retail units with apartments above.

Starkie Arms 150, Tonge Moor Road. Pub had closed 31/05/17 when the operators Weston Castle had a voluntary agreement to pay HMRC £950,000, the pub was owned by Thwaites and been one of their few Tank beer pubs, but they were in denial about their ownership as was the case with many of their other 'Wet Led' pubs. It was soon boarded up, but oddly it was no longer boarded up on 06/07/2017 but not open. There was an unofficial Pub Bonfire in the vault on 04/11/17. It was For Sale with Trevor Dawson on 17/12/17 as a former pub Price on Application. A Sold sign appeared on

the pub 03/05/18 Planning application 004263/18 was to demolish and replace with a Heron supermarket. It was demolished on 18/12/18, when it still had pictures hung on the walls whilst being demolished.

The Following New Pubs opened in 2017.

Pine Tree Farm Cutacre Way Over Hulton. New build Greene King Carvery, Restaurant and Bar outlet, which opened on 21/08/2017. Greene King Abbott and IPA were available.

Koo Bar 105, Market Street Westhoughton. New Bar opened on 09/10/2017 in previous retail outlet, no cask beer available.

JR's Ale House 176, Chorley New Road, Horwich. New Microbar opened in former retail premises on 13/10/17 with a choice of five Cask Beers available.

Crux Emporium 45, Lee Lane, Horwich. Unique Bar which opened on 22/11/2017 where you learnt how to make (and then drink) themed potions (Cocktails) named after the Harry Potter Films including he who should not be named (OK, Voldemort) and a group of adventurous school kids. There were no draught beers but bottles of Robinsons Wizard, Unicorn and Moorhouse's Pendle Witches Brew and Blond Witch were available. Takeaways of 'potions' were available too. Very sadly, the owner of the bar was killed in car crash causing closure. After it closed on 07/11/2021 it became the 8-Bit Micro Arcade where gaming fans could re-live their youth in this bar which was a fun arcade and games centre for families by day and a bar at night for adults. When that closed it became Inn the Dog House in July 2025. It was originally called the Horcrux Emporium but a certain Film Company's lawyers intervened and said using the word Horcrux was not permitted.

Cave, Bank Bar and Grill and Baltic Cellar were all new bars that opened in the vaults under Market Place during 2017. Usually, the bars were an open bar as part of a main food offering. None of them sold any cask beer.

Rae's Bar 13, Deansgate. This was a downstairs bar underneath a ground floor Café, it opened on 02/12/2017 but closed on 18/03/2018 after it was believed to have had lease issues. In December 2024 the building became Rogue's Bar which specialises in Darts.