

Camra Bolton Branch and its Pubs 2018

Bolton Branch Pubs included in the 2018 Good Beer Guide were

Bolton – Bank Top Brewery Tap, Bolton Ukrainian Club, Brewhouse, Bunburys, Great Ale at the Vaults, Kings Head, Old Man & Scythe, Great Ale at the Market (One for the Road), Spinning Mule

Harwood – House Without a Name

Horwich – Bank Top Brewery Ale House, Brewery Bar, Crown

Branch Meetings in 2018 (incomplete)

Millstone 04/01/18

Morris Dancers 10/01/18 Committee

Millstone 01/02/18

Finishers 13/02/18 Committee

Spinning Mule 01/03/18

Kings Arms 20/03/18 Committee

Horwich Conservative Club 05/04/18

Spinning Mule 03/05/18

Jolly Carter 17/05/18 Committee

Rammy Craft Brewery 07/06/18

Beer School 11/06/18 Committee

Old Three Crowns 05/07/18

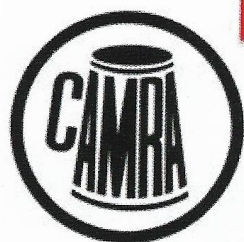
UKI Club 02/08/18

Balmoral 06/09/18

Northern Monkey Bar 04/10/18

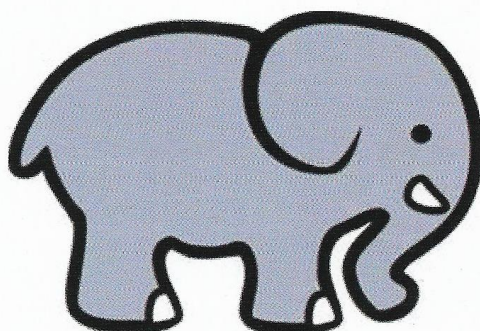
Spinning Mule 01/11/18

Rammy Craft Brewery 06/12/18



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

Bolton CAMRA



Beer Festival 2018

Follow the elephant!

April 26th – 28th

Thursday 26th April
3:30pm-10:30pm

Friday 27th April
12:00-10:30pm

Saturday 28th April
12:00-8:00pm

at
Bolton Ukrainian Club

99 Castle Street
Bolton BL2 1JP

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

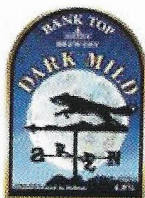
**50+ Real Ales
Cider & Perry**

**Plus
KeyKeg Bar**

**&
Local Meads**

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

Sponsoring

In aid of



Bolton Hospice
caring from the heart

www.boltonbeerfestival.org.uk



@BoltonCAMRAbeer



BoltonCAMRAfestival

Registered Charity
No. 518704

Beer Festival 2018

Once again, a very successful festival was held at Bolton Ukrainian Club over the weekend of 26th to 28th April. We were able to give our customers a wide variety of ales & ciders from across the country and included a key keg bar. Unusually we had two ales that were also available as key kegs, giving people the opportunity to see if there was any difference in taste and texture.



Cider/perry of the festival was a perry and it's Udder's Orchard Waterloo Sunset.

Winner of Pale Beer of the festival went to Salopian Brewery Kashmir. There were also three runners up: Wildside Beers Tropical Fruit Blast Gold, North Riding Brewery Mosaic Pale and Brewsmith Magic Number

Winner of Dark Beer of the festival went to the collaboration brew between Five Towns brewery, North Ridna and our very own **@BeersManchester** - From

Kether to Malkuth. This was an unusual dark, served direct from a wooden cask, and was also voted as the overall beer of the festival.

The Dark Beer runner up was Tiny Rebel Stay Puft.

Festival food was provided by three very different suppliers

- Mama Sue who does big pan cooking specialising in the heady flavours of the Deep South.
- Nkono – contemporary African street food.
- Pretzel & Spelt, a Bavarian bakery specialising in flavoured pretzels.



These are all local businesses who gave our customers a wide variety of excellent eating.

We were also able to donate to Bolton Hospice, which we have had the pleasure to support since the festival was reborn.

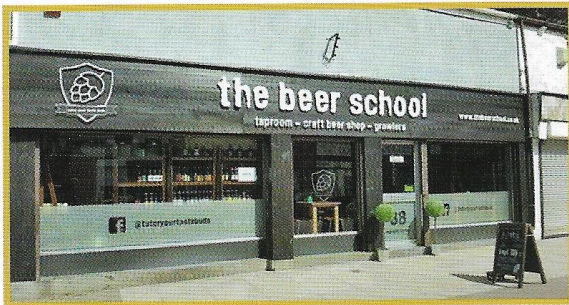
To all of you who came, we cannot thank you enough. There is a small band of volunteers, who work very hard to organise the festival, and to see so many people come and enjoy what we would like to think of as a friendly and welcoming event, makes all the effort very worthwhile.

See you next year!

Pub & Cider News

PUB NEWS

Real estate Retail investment trust NewRiver have taken over **Harvey's Cafe Bar** on Mawdesley St, subject to planning approval of this Grade II listed building, refurbishment of the interior is planned, hopefully this will include the provision of real ale on the bar. They have also taken over at the **Wheatsheaf** on Market St in Westhoughton, where again refurbishment is planned.



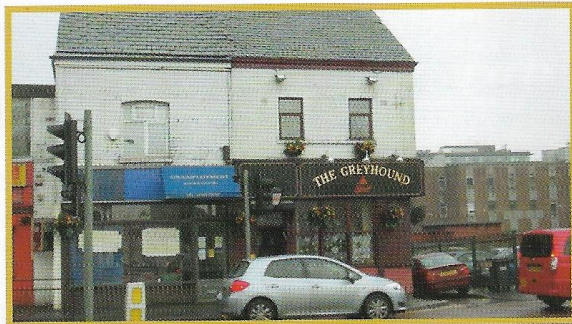
Elsewhere in Westhoughton, the **Beer School** now has a beer garden at the back, and Wetherspoon's **Robert Shaw** has also been given planning permission for improvements to its beer garden/outside area.

In Bolton Town Centre the pub with the most name changes in 2017, last known as **Soul Central**, has, you guessed it, changed its name yet again, this time to **Distillery**. What next - Prince William maybe?? Next door at the **Swan**, the opening hours have dramatically changed from being late nights at weekend only to full day every day and at the same time two handpumps have appeared on the bar one selling Bank Top Flat Cap.

Diagonally across the road at the **Old Three Crowns**, the owners Heineken UK based in Edinburgh and part of the Global Brewing giant Heineken applied to change the signage at the front of the pub, this included covering over the now unique century old Manchester Brewery Mosaic under the bay window with an utterly tasteless hot applied grey vinyl. To rub salt in the wound they also applied for a new sign at the rear to list the heritage details of the pub, a big part of which they were covering over at the front! Several objections later

from local CAMRA members, and with backing from the planners, the original signs were replaced with far more tasteful Black and Gold lettering ones, with the covering over of the mosaic dropped completely.

Behind the Old Three Crowns on Bow Street the **Star & Garter** continues to be refurbished, the Epicurus Brewing plant from Denton is now on the premises, but is awaiting the installation of the required 3 phase electricity, before it can be operational again. Already operational in the old Bow Street Car park is the re located **Northern Monkey Brewery**, their bar is awaiting opening along with the other units currently being completed in the development.



The **Greyhound** at the end of Deansgate, opposite the **Hen & Chickens**, has installed two handpumps on the bar one serving ex Thwaites but now Wolverhampton brewed Wainwrights and the other Bank Top Flat Cap. On Moor Lane, the **Albion** is expected to close in the near future, a victim of the closure of the bus station and its transfer to the new interchange last September. Also now selling Wainwrights is **La Roma** on Ringley Hall Road in Stoneclough.

The **Victory** on Chorley Old Road was closed by pubco owners Admiral Taverns in late January and was then up for sale by Fleurets for £325,000, however by April it was no longer listed, but on April 1st Admiral listed it with the council as being empty premises. Last May the **Starkies** on Tonge Moor Road suddenly closed, and a Sold sign has now appeared. In Harwood at the **Grey Mare** in January they thought the Enterprise Inns pub

was closing for good, so on the 'last' day, everything was sold off, however this wasn't the case and the new landlord was in no position to open the pub.

The **Wilton Arms** on Belmont Rd used to owned by Mitchells Inns (of Lancaster) but had been subsequently sold, it has now been refurbished inside and the handpumps removed, in Belmont village the **Black Bull** has now closed, which leaves only Holt's Black Dog open for real ale once you have left Astley Bridge. Here the **Pineapple** very briefly did have real ale available but it disappeared again before anybody knew. Perhaps it was too difficult to advertise with a sign outside the pub that could be seen by the thousands who pass by every day.

CIDER AND PERRY NEWS

The award for Branch Cider Pub of the Year went to **The Brewery Bar** in Horwich, and several branch members gathered there on Thursday 8 March to make the presentation to Alex. The Brewery Bar is now being judged along with pubs from other Greater Manchester branches in the Regional Cider Pub of the Year competition. Judging closes on 12 May, so we should hear soon after that how The Brewery Bar has gone on. (Stop press! The winner is the Petersgate Tap in Stockport.)



Despite two of the ciders ordered getting damaged or lost in transit, there was the usual varied and interesting mix of ciders and perries on sale at the Branch Beer Festival. This year's selection was supplied by Ashover from Derbyshire, Butford Organics from Herefordshire, Gethins from Pembrokeshire, Red Bank from Bury and Udders Orchard from Huddersfield. By the time the festival finished, three had sold out completely and several others were getting near the end. The Waterloo Sunset Perry from Udders Orchard was voted Cider/Perry of the Festival.

A recent addition to the list of pubs in the Bolton Branch area where you can drink real cider is the Nook and Cranny on Darwen Road, Bromley Cross. Up to three varieties are usually available.

AWARDS

The **Beer School** in Westhoughton has been named as Bolton Branch CAMRA pub of the year. This is quite an achievement and congratulations must go to all at the pub.



The **Hen & Chickens** has been awarded the Spring Pub of the Season.



Guess The Pub



These pictures are possibly a little more obscure. Two out of town centre pubs that are probably not as visited as often as they should be.

Photos in the last edition were the Old Man & Scythe and the Market Street Tavern in Stoneclough.



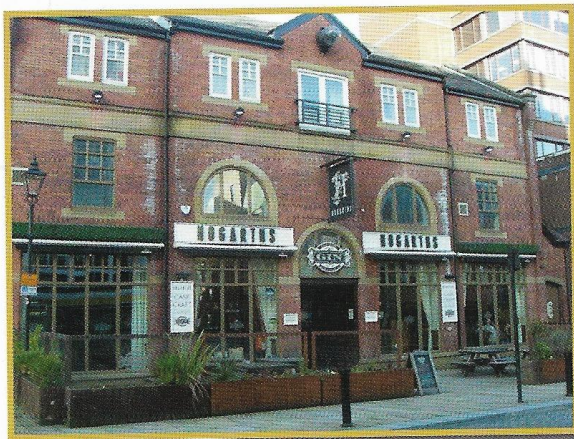
Bolton & Horwich Pub Crawl

Thursday 15th February 2018

Five members met at Lancaster Railway Station and met chaos, overhead down between Lancaster and Carnforth, trains cancelled, but a train for Preston arrived at 1150, which nicely continued to Bolton, so we only arrived 30 minutes later than planned. Nice dry, sunny day, but with a cold bitter wind.



We started at the Great Ale at the Market, meeting Pat, our jovial local beer man and guide. Nice bar, in the market, I think my favourite, food available from other stalls, and like everywhere else, the locals were very friendly as it should be, advising the party on other good pubs, etc.



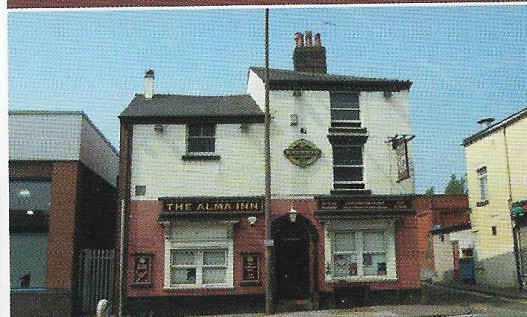
We continued to the Great Ale at the Vaults, in the old market, now an upmarket shopping centre and more expensive. A shortish walk to Churchgate and a look in the **Old Man & Scythe**, the oldest pub in town with claims to be haunted. Across the road was **Hogarth's**, where beer is still brewed. We picked up the 125 bus on Deansgate, to Bunbury's micro pub, the local Pub of the Year, great pub with Rammy Craft Export Brown Ale on draught at 7.2% Back on the 125 and over the hills to Horwich and the Bank Top Brewery Bar, eight of their beers were available. Continuing on the 125 to the Blackedge Brewery Bar, and onto Chorley, just in time to catch the delayed 1824 train back to Lancaster.

A most enjoyable day.

Lawrence Bland

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Pub & Cider News

PUB NEWS

Following the closure of the Italian Restaurant La Piazza at the top end of the Pack Horse building on Nelson Square, the lease has been taken over by **Northern Monkey Brewery**, they have moved their brewing equipment in and it is housed in a segregated area from what is now the bar area. There are now four real ales on offer on handpump, including a couple from their own adjacent plant, plus guest beers from other selected micro brewers. The Brewpub is closed on Mondays and open from noon until 11pm other weekdays and 1am on Fridays and Saturdays. No decision yet has been taken on the previous brewery location in the old Bow street car park, so a second bar remains a possibility. On the other side of Nelson Square a new nightclub Ikonic has opened next to the **Spinning Mule**, whilst the end unit which only opened in February as **Madison's Lounge** has been sold to Amber Taverns, who one would expect to convert to a pub and install real ale as they have done elsewhere.

The **Wheatsheaf** on Market St in Westhoughton, has been reopened by new owners Amber Taverns after a refurbishment which has transformed the pub. There are now three handpumps on the bar instead of the previous one. Whilst the beers have been changing those from Wily Fox and Robinsons have been noted. As usual with Amber Taverns pubs there are a number of TV screens featuring Sports including one outside in the smoking area and patio area.

Elsewhere in Westhoughton on the A6, the **Royal Oak** is up for sale, it can be yours for a mere £700,000. The Fat Pig bar/restaurant on Chequerbent roundabout has reopened as Mediterraneo Restaurant and Cocktail bar, unfortunately the handpump has now disappeared from the bar.

In the last edition of Beer Breaks we noted the name changing of **Soul Central** on Bradshawgate to **Distillery** well no sooner had Beer Breaks hit the pubs than it had changed names yet again to **Circus**. Too busy having new signs made to install real ale. However, next door at the **Swan**, the choice of real ale has improved with the number of handpumps being increased from two to four. Across the road at the closed **Flying Flute** a

refurbishment to a bar/restaurant was expected, but it appears to have been resold to new owners who have made a planning application for change of use to 3 retail units on the ground floor with flats on the first and second floors has been made. No mention about the use of the very large cellar. Nearby the nightclub part of the **Elephant & Castle** currently known as Reflex is to be renamed Popworld.

On Bow Street the **Star & Garter** continues to be slowly refurbished, however it's rumoured that the Epicurus Brewing plant may not become operational there because of the costs of the installation.

On Moor Lane, the **Albion** closed and reopened for 2 or 3 weeks and then closed again.

The **Victory** on Chorley Old Road was closed by pubco owners Admiral Taverns in late January and was then up for sale by Fleurets for £325,000, the asking price went as high as £395,000, however it was offered by Pugh Auctions with a guide price of £290,000 but was withdrawn before the auction being bought by Mahmood Holdings, no doubt planning applications for conversion to flats will follow shortly. The **Starkies** on Tonge Moor Road was also sold and again a planning application for flats was expected but instead a fine looking building is to be demolished in favour of a supermarket, given the proximity of the relocated Coop supermarket just up the road, this use may seem questionable perhaps. Also, the council highways department have several issues with the proposed access for delivery vehicles which are yet to be resolved. The **Spread Eagle** on Manchester Road in Kearsley, seems to close like many other pubco pubs on a regular basis for new tenants, but rather surprisingly this time it has reopened selling four real ales from Keighley's Bridgehouse Brewery. This makes it worth a visit for the first time in many a long year.

Meanwhile up the newly reopened road the **Moses Gate** is now a pile of rubble, did anyone salvage the now very rare Vaux pub sign that was high up on the rear of the building?

CIDER AND PERRY NEWS

The newly opened **Northern Monkey Brew Pub** has two bag-in-box ciders available, currently from Seacider, based in Ditchling, East Sussex.

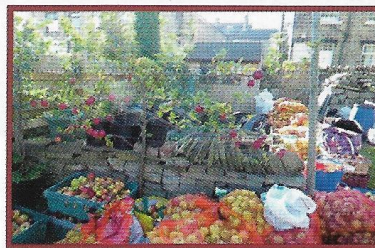
On Saturday 6 October, the branch celebrated cider month with a bus trip. Starting at **Great Ale at the**



Market, the trip visited seven pubs in Bolton town centre and along the 125 bus route finishing at this year's Cider Pub of the Year,

the **Brewery Bar** in Horwich.

Twenty-three different ciders and two perries were spotted (though not all were sampled!),



of which about half were flavoured with other fruit. Twelve different cider producers, from eight counties, were represented. Other pubs visited were **The Olde Man and Scythe, Barristers Bar, Northern Monkey, Bunbury's**, and **Bank Top Brewery Ale House**.

Awards

Three awards have been given out since our last edition. First mention must go to the **Crown** in Horwich. A great pub that has been in the Good beer Guide for each and every one of the last 20 years. This is a tremendous achievement and something that is not easily done. Entry to the guide has some tight criteria, particularly regarding the quality of the product. To consistently serve outstanding cask ales for such a long period is remarkable. A presentation and a small celebration took place at the pub in October, with representatives from The Crown, CAMRA and the brewery, Joseph Holt. Congratulations to Gary and the team.

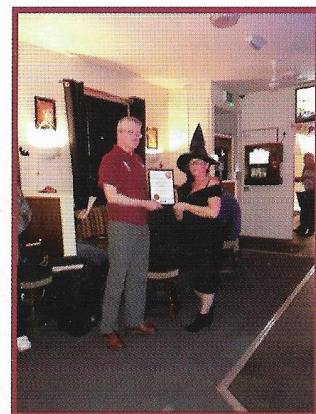


Left to Right: Joseph Holt Area Manager, Dave Bone; The Crown Manager, Beverley Parker; Camra Bolton Branch, Graham Walsh; Crown Pub Manager, Gary Parker and Joseph Holt Head Brewer, Phil Parkinson

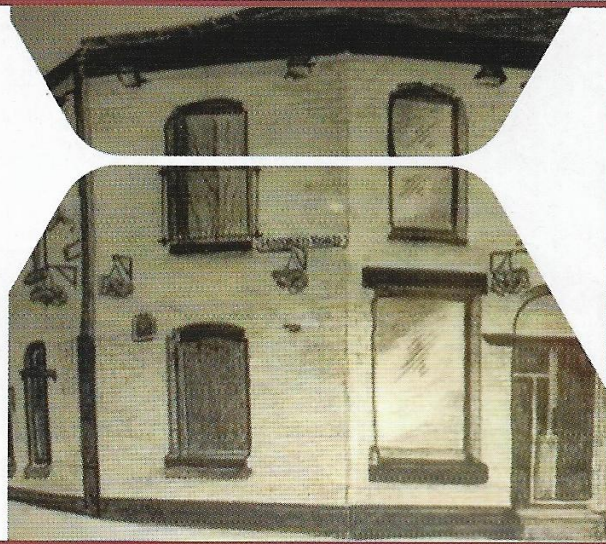


The Ukrainian Club was presented with their award as Club of the Year. A warm welcome is given to everyone here, members or otherwise, and if you get the chance, a visit should be made. They serve 3 changing cask ales, with the emphasis on local breweries.

Finally the **Kings Arms** in Farnworth was awarded Autumn Pub of the Season. A worthy winner for a pub that serves a wide range 10 changing ales. It's a bit out of town, but is on a bus route. Well worth a visit.

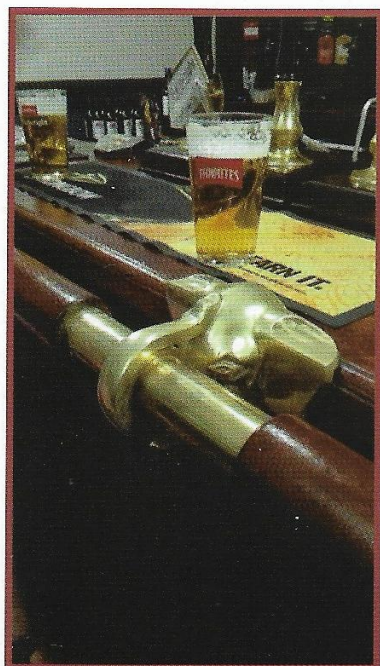


Guess The Pub



Again, two out of town centre pubs that are probably not as visited as often as they should be.

Photos in the last edition were the Morris Dancers, Great Lever and the Mosley Arms in Brightmet.



The Following Pubs were closed in 2018.

Bar Metro 109/111 Bradshawgate. This gaudy blue pub sponsored by Metro Taxis closed on 04/05/18, its owning company was later dissolved (See also Canary Tavern, Little Lever). The Bolton to Blackburn railway tunnel goes under the building and so the pub had a 'Flying Freehold' over it.

Claremont 274-278, Halliwell Road. The pub was being sold by Admiral Taverns and was included in Pugh's Auction in July for a guide price of £135,000 but was sold prior. It remained open until 30/09/2018. Planning Application 04226/18 was for conversion to shops and flats above, 06606/19 approved application for conversion to A3 Restaurant, 08097/20 was for another restaurant application.

Victory 151, Chorley Old Road. Pub had been closed by Admiral Taverns 21/01/18 and was For Sale with Fleurets for £325,000. Planning application 04734/18 was for conversion to flats and retail on the ground floor.

Smithills & Heaton Conservative Club 468, Chorley Old Road. Club deemed no longer viable in early 2018 and it closed. Sold to The Petite Venue Ltd 24/04/18 for use as a wedding venue.

Rae's Café Bar 13, Bradshawgate. Basement bar had only opened in December 2017, but closed on 18/03/2018 after it was believed lease issues. It was to open on the ground floor as Rogues a Darts venue in December 2024.

The Following New Pubs opened in 2018.

Nook & Cranny 213, Darwen Rd, Bromley Cross. This was a new Microbar that opened on 03/03/2018 in previous retail premises, it was selling 3 cask beers from local independent brewers as well as a range of craft beers. It did expand into the adjacent 211, and there were rumours of a brewery being included on site, but nothing came of this. Later it reverted to being only in 213.

Northern Way 4, Nelson Square. New Pub opened by Amber Taverns on 19/11/18 in what had previously been a late bar/club called Madisons and before that Maloneys, it initially sold four handpumped Cask Beers, but by 2021 they had reduced to one and by 2022 none.

Light Cinema Unit X4A, Market Place Shopping Centre. New bar which is not restricted to just Cinema customers, but there is no cask beer available.

Northern Monkey Bar Nelson Square. The Northern Monkey Brewery and Bar was expected to be in a unit on what was Bow St Car Park, Instead the lease was available in the old Pack Horse dining room in what had been since then been the Piazza restaurant. The bar and initially the brewery as well moved there on 21/09/2018. There were 4 handpumps with their own beers and guests on the bar. The brewery moved out to its own Industrial unit off Chorley Street.

Courtyard 36 St Georges Street. New upmarket bar in listed building opened 05/12/18, only sold 'keg craft beers', no cask beers.

