

Camra Bolton Branch and its Pubs 2019

Bolton Branch Pubs included in the 2019 Good Beer Guide were

Bolton – Bank Top Brewery Tap, Bolton Ukrainian Club, Bunburys, Elephant & Castle, Great Ale at the Vaults, Hen & Chickens, Old Man & Scythe, Spinning Mule

Harwood – House Without a Name

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

Westhoughton – Beer School

Branch Meetings in 2019 (incomplete)

Spinning Mule 03/01/19

Millstone 07/02/19

Brewery Bar 13/02/19 Committee

Millstone 07/03/19

Crown 13/03/19 Committee

Spinning Mule 04/04/19

Alexandra 17/04/19 Committee

Cross Guns 08/05/19

Westhoughton Conservative Club 06/06/19

Seven Stars 19/06/19 Committee

Old Man & Scythe 04/07/19

Hen & Chickens 17/07/19 Committee

Old Three Crowns 01/08/19

Bobs Smithy 21/08/19 Committee

Millstone 05/09/19

Ellesmere Rd Social Club 18/09/19 Committee

Old Man & Scythe 03/10/19

Beer School 16/10/19 Committee

Swan 07/11/19

Bridge Horwich 20/11/19 Committee

Pub & Cider News

PUB NEWS

On Nelson Square following the opening of the **Northern Monkey Brewpub**, in what had only been open as Madison's Lounge for a few months, became Amber Tavern's **Northern Way**. There are now 4 handpumps on the bar serving beers from Wily Fox, Bank Top, Lancaster and Cheadle Brew House beers which are brewed on the now relocated brewery plant ex the recently refurbished Hogarths.

A new bar has opened at Little Bolton Town Hall called **Courtyard 36**, it's very upmarket with prices to match and only sells a range of modern keg beers, no real ales. Harvey's bar also reopened on Mawdsley Street, now known as the **Courthouse Bar and Restaurant**. They seem keen to make judgements, how about still no real ale!

In Bromley Cross the **Railway**, after a couple of years waiting finally reopened, whilst it is mainly food orientated, there are four handpumps on the bars and Timothy Taylors Landlord and St Austell Proper Job have been regulars. One bonus is that it opens as effectively a station buffet for commuters at 6am. Up the road the **Nook & Cranny** have expanded into number 211 as well as 213 to provide more space for customers and there is also potentially space at the rear for a small brewery too. Down on Hough Lane the Pubco owned **Spread Eagle** has been advertising for a new leaseholder for several months now with seemingly no takers.

The beginning of the year saw the reopening of the ex Lounge 7 bar on Market St in Westhoughton, now known as **Bank** as that was a previous use of the building, and you would expect them to sell Bank Top beers and yes, they do. The following week the Bank restaurant in the Vaults closed.

Also on the edges of Westhoughton on Hindley Rd the **Grey Man** had 4 real ales on the bar with handwritten pumpclips last November, but by February after the almost predictable churn of landlords in Pubco owned pubs, the handpumps remained but were out of use.

Enterprise Inns the pubco owners of the **Bridge Inn** in Horwich opted out of continually changing the landlords like they have done in so many pubs throughout the country and boarded the pub up and put it up for sale at the end of November last year. By late January it had been purchased and as we go to press scaffolding has been erected outside, no doubt to rectify the lack of maintenance under its previous ownership. Back in 2001 it was a multi award winning pub, doing food, various societies were based there and it won the Horwich in Bloom competition, soon afterwards Enterprise took over the pub and from then on there was anything but enterprise.

The Crown in Horwich owned by Holt's Brewery celebrated 20 continuous years in the Good Beer Guide 2019 and a special presentation was arranged and a great time was had by all. However rumours circulated that the brewery had put one of their other pubs, the Grade II listed Brooklyn on Green Lane, Great Lever up for sale. Despite being described as being in Little Lever by the estate agents, it and the surrounding 3 or 4 acres of land have been sold for a rumoured £1 million, no doubt to a property developer keen on exploiting the land for residential use. The pub closed at the beginning of May with the final landlord moving to the **Churchgate** in town. The nearby Southfields is reported to have lost its real ale too.

The Balmoral is reported to be closing soon so that it can be converted into an Enterprise Inns managed **Craft Union Pub**, typically these have 3 or 4 real ales which are competitively priced.

Kevin Banks of the **Sweet Green Tavern** has converted his **Piggy Banks Cafe** on Newport Street into a cocktail and bottle bar, it is expected that a couple of real ales will appear on the bar in due course.

Elsewhere in the town centre the **Albion** briefly reopened and soon closed again and was put up for sale by owners Heineken UK. Also for sale in the town centre is **Bar Metro**, this comes with 'flying' freehold

as it is partly built over the tunnel for the Bolton to Blackburn line. Under the same ownership as Bar Metro was the **Canary Tavern** in Little Lever which also closed its doors and has been sold to Hands On Computer services. They applied for planning permission to convert to offices with flats above, however one of the flat bedrooms is too small to meet the minimum standard of bedroom size so permission was rejected.

In Kearsley the **Church Inn** have applied for change of use for the pub to offices, with associated parking and other changes at the rear of the premises. On the main road Pubco Punch Taverns have put the **Old Three Crowns** up for sale as it is on their non-core list, although unusually this does not necessarily involve the pub itself closing as there is an existing 10 year lease in place. On Buckley Lane the **Bradford** is now associated with Farnworth based Kirkpatrick Construction, which probably means its days as a pub are numbered?

Rumour denial – there was a sign outside the **Griffin** in early March saying Smart Casual only no riff raff.

Guess The Pub



Two interior shots this edition. Good luck. Pubs in the last edition were the **Kings Arms**, Farnworth and the **Queen Anne** in Little Lever



Pub & Cider News

PUB NEWS

In the last Beer Breaks we noted the closing of the **Brooklyn**, subsequently we find that it has been bought by a company who have connections with an address on Green Lane. There is also now a planning application to convert the pub to a school.

In Horwich the **Bridge** is rolling back the years with a restoration and refurbishment to enhance the many features which under Enterprise Inns ownership had been covered over with paint and grime. The function room on the first floor is being restored too, and on the top floor 9 En Suite bedrooms are to be provided as well. Outside at the front a planning application has been submitted to utilise part of the pavement for four tables.

The **Balmoral** in Bolton town centre has reopened as a Craft Union branded pub, the layout is much improved and the decorative coving has been retained. Initially Sharp's Doom (£2.00) and Taylor's Landlord (£2.05) were available on handpump on the bar.

Market Street in Westhoughton looks like it is on the up again as **Blackedge Brewery** will be opening their new 'tap' in mid September in what used to be Horwich Carpets, next door to the Robert Shaw. Across the road **Statement** has opened in what was the Nat West bank. This is run by the people from Provenance, there was a handpump on the bar in anticipation of real ale being available soon.

It would be good to see someone opening a new real ale bar in Farnworth/Kearsley. Instead at the **Bradford, Trust Inns** closed and sold off the pub to Kirkpatrick Construction, where a new roof had replaced the existing one by the end of May for which retrospective planning approval was sought in early August. The original roof was said to be in a dangerous condition. In late August a further planning application was submitted to convert the pub into 12 one bedroom flats.

The **Watergate Toll** finally responded to the new build Pine Tree Farm just across the way, by closing and refurbishing the pub, for reasons that are not clear they

removed the handpumps in the process, so now you know which pub to go to for real ale with your meal.

In Morris Green the **Morris Dancers** now sells Holts Bitter. They also now have a system in place where you have to register your car at the bar if you are using their small car park. If you don't then you face an extra £100 being added to the cost of your visit!

Both the now closed **Claremont** and **Robin Hood** on Halliwell Road have applied for change of use to Restaurant/Cafe.

The **Cherry Tree** in Blackrod has successfully applied to have a new decking and a set of awnings, the Royal Oak on the A6 was also successful for their Terrace and Pergola. However in Harwood the **No Name** applied for a Pergola and associated opening doors at the front of the pub, not surprisingly perhaps this was refused given its location in the conservation area.

Horwich Town Council have successfully applied for Asset of Community Value (ACV) status for the **Horwich RMI club**. Meanwhile the **Hen & Chickens** ACV was activated for community bids when Punch Taverns notified the council of their intention to sell the pub. Quite why the legal notice to this effect was posted on the lamppost outside the now closed Post Office 50 metres away and on the opposite side of the road and not on the lamppost immediately outside the pub remains a mystery.

Rumours are circulating that a new Real Ale/Craft Beer bar is being planned on **Platform 4/5** on Bolton railway station.

In 2017 Punch Taverns successfully applied to build houses on the land behind what was then Ericos but now renamed **Roka** on Bradshaw Brow. However a new planning application has been submitted, but with access further down the brow and along what is now a footpath rather than through the traffic lighted car park as previously.

The long closed **Stags Head** with its partially collapsed roof on Junction Road has now two planning applications in for consideration, one is for retail units on the old car park area, the other is to convert the pub building into a nursery. As access inside the building is not currently possible on safety grounds, one wonders if the applicants are aware of the cellar area and the other 'historical rooms' under the ground floor which may impact on the cost of the conversion.

The beginning of the year saw the reopening of the ex Lounge 7 bar on Market St in Westhoughton, now known as **Bank** as that was a previous use of the building, and you would expect them to sell Bank Top beers and yes, they do. The following week the Bank restaurant in the Vaults closed.

Also on the edges of Westhoughton on Hindley Road, the **Grey Man** had 4 real ales on the bar with handwritten pumpclips last November, but by February after the almost predictable churn of landlords in Pubco owned pubs, the handpumps remained but were out of use.

The First Bolton Beer & Cider Week

The idea was first mooted last year - for the local CAMRA Branch to be a catalyst and facilitator for a week showcasing what Bolton Beer (it's breweries, drinking establishments and enthusiastic drinkers) can offer to both local people, and visitors to the town.

In the absence this year of the Branch's beer festival we were determined to give the **Bolton Beer and Cider Festival** a go, but had only left ourselves 10 weeks to do it, being determined to latch the event onto the already established **Rivington Beer Walk**. Secondly, in recognising that Mondays and Tuesdays would be tumbleweed days compared to weekends, we were prepared to muddy the very meaning of a week and include two adjacent weekends into the mix.

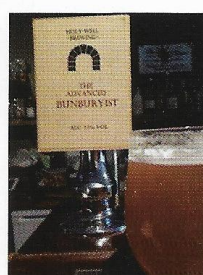


Letters went out to scores of local pubs and bars, but there was some wariness and some disbelief that the whole thing would take off. Initial response was mainly from the micros, craft bars and new wave breweries, less so from many of the 'proper pubs'; not much time, so we ploughed on.

One of the initial ideas was to have a brewing challenge for breweries with their own bars, and for pubs to partner with other breweries to launch diverse and eclectic IPAs. **Northern Monkey Brew Co.** debuted **Bolton RIPA** - a cotton candy IPA with added real raspberries. **Blackedge Brewery** went off script slightly (it was a challenge, not an instruction) to brew two delicious beers - their **Angry Gingerbread Man Stout**, and their **Nuclear** - NZ hopped 'insanely strong' PA. Craig at



Bromley Cross's Nook & Cranny did a collaboration brew at **Rivington Brew Co.**, a 10% New England style Triple IPA - **We'll Say Wolves Did It**, and again launched this at **The N&C**. At The House Without a Name, their collaboration with **Moorhouse's - The Beer without a Name** went on the pumps at about the same time.



Meanwhile over at **Bunbury's** in parallel with a curry night, the only Firkin of **The Advanced Bunburyist**, brewed by **Holy Well Brewery**, was breached and drunk dry in 130 minutes. This stunning beer was the first **Rosé IPA** brewed in the UK, and what's more was cask. This beer

made it into both **The Bolton News** and **The Morning Advertiser**, incidentally producing some tangible publicity for the **BB&CW** as a whole.

There was much more. **Great Ale at the Vaults** had a tap takeover by **Manchester's** famed **Squawk Brewery**, **Bank Top Brewery** had a brewery tour and tasting,



and also a **Cider & Perry Festival** at their **BTB Ale House** in **Horwich**. **The Beer School, Westhoughton** also had a **Cider & Perry Festival**, featuring such ciderists as **Little Pomona**, **Ross** and **Hogan's**. In a mixed weather week they were able to transfer to their rear garden on the Sunday; cider heroes, but just for one day.

There was food - **Alain (Mr Bolton) Job** produced Cameroonian food in a cone for much of the week at **Northern Monkey**, where there was also music - a **Rum 'n' Reggae Night**. There was also a **Poetry**

and Comedy Tuesday at **Bunbury's**. Was there no end to the merriment?

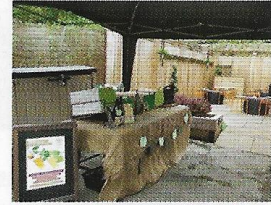
Well, all things come to an end, in this case with the third **Rivvy Beer Walk**. After having ample time to sample the nectar that is on offer from **Horwich's** many fine hostleries, a record crowd set off from outside

The Brewery Bar to brave an equally record ceaseless downpour across the churning mud to **The Rivington** pub, and thence to **Rivington Brew Co.'s Tap Beneath**



the Trees where there was beer, cider and food.

Was the week successful - yes, for a first try. There will be another **BB&CW** in **2020**, this time bigger and better, with another Brewing Challenge, tap takeovers, food, tastings, entertainment and activities. We will see you there.



Guess The Pub

The two pubs in this edition have been relatively recently refurbished. One in the centre of town and one which, I suspect, not many of our readers have visited. Both serve cask ales.

The answers from the last edition are **The Greyhound** and **Bunburys**.



1	Alma Inn 152 Bradshawgate BL2 1BA Up to three ales from Marstons
2	Barristers Bar 7 Bradshawgate BL1 1EL 6-8 ales usually one Bank Top
3	Churchgate 11 Churchgate BL1 1HU Up to 3 ales
4	Dragonfly 60 Bradshawgate BL1 1DP 1-2 ales, often Doom Bar
5	Elephant & Castle 4-10 Deansgate BL1 1BR 5 ales. Bank Top & often St Austell & Moorhouse's
6	Great Ale at the Vaults Vaults Below Market Place BL1 2AL 4 changing ales plus Outstanding Vaults Bitter
7	Greyhound 146 Deansgate BL1 1BB 2 ales usually one Bank Top
8	Hen & Chickens 143 Deansgate BL1 1EX 5 changing ales

LocAle

WhatPub

Full details of all pubs and clubs on WhatPub.com

The information provided is the best available at time of production. Please let us know about change or inaccuracies.

Listing does not equal CAMRA endorsement. Try them out and make up your own mind! Use WhatPub.com to provide your beer scores.

www.bolton.camra.org.uk

 @BoltonCAMRA

 bolton_camra

 Bolton CAMRA

Key to symbols

-  Real cider or perry available
-  LocAle beers served
-  CAMRA members discount

REAL ALE GUIDE #1

BOLTON TOWN CENTRE

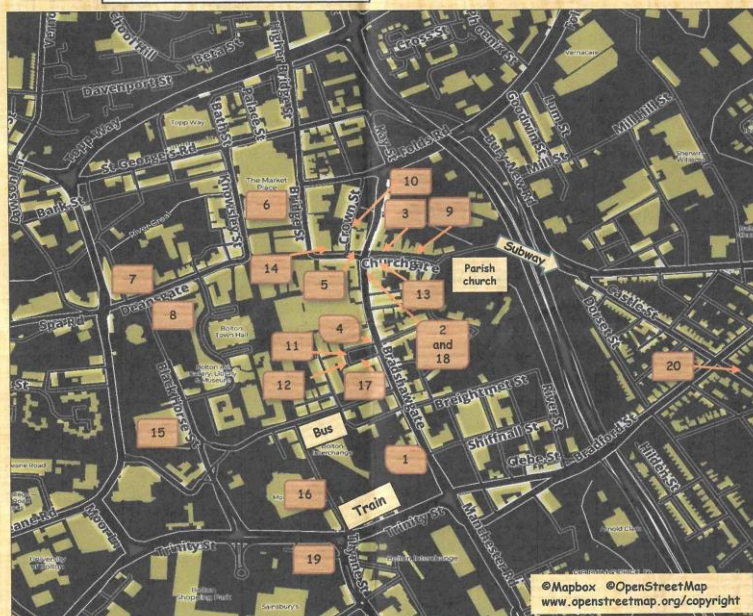


Produced by the Bolton Branch of CAMRA

2019 VERSION

9	Hogarth's 37 Churchgate BL1 1HU 4 changing ales
10	Millstone 12 Crown St BL1 2RU Joseph Holt Bitter
11	Northern Monkey Nelson Square BL1 1AQ Northern Monkey Brew Pub. 4 ales Northern Monkey & guests
12	Northern Way 4 Nelson Square BL1 1JT 4 changing ales often Marstons, Bank Top, Wily Fox or Cheadle
13	Olde Man & Scythe 6-8 Churchgate BL1 1HL CAMRA Heritage Pub. 4 ales Bank Top, Hop Back, two guests
14	Old Three Crowns 14 Deansgate BL1 1BR 2 changing Theakston ales
15	One For The Road Bolton Market BL1 1TJ 3 changing ales. Market day only
16	Piggy Banks 128 Newport St BL3 6AB 2 changing real ales
17	Spinning Mule 2 Nelson Square BL1 1JT Up to 10 ales. Wetherspoons

18	Swan 2-4 Churchgate BL1 1HJ 4 changing ales
----	--



19	Sweet Green Tavern 127 Crook Street BL3 6BD Up to 4 changing ales
----	--

20	Bolton Ukrainian Club 99 Castle Street BL2 1JP 3 local ales. Entry with CAMRA card
----	---



Campaign
for
Real Ale



BOLTON BEER & CIDER WEEK 2019

@beerciderweek
#BBCW19

BOLTON BEER & CIDER WEEK 7TH-15TH JUNE 2019

ALL WEEK STARTING FRIDAY 7TH JUNE

CIDER FESTIVAL

THE BEER SCHOOL

88 Market St
Westhoughton

Featuring some of the UK's best
cidars from Hogans, Ross-on-Wye,
Little Pomona, Nightingales, Turners,
Dunham Press, and more



WEEK OF BOLTON BEERS

A week-long celebration of Bolton Brewed Beers on the bar at three
venues across town

NORTHERN MONKEY

Nelson Square
Bolton

New Beer Launch from Northern
Monkey on Friday 7th

Street Food from Nkono
Live Comedy 8pm Thursday
All Day Party on Friday 14th



NOOK & CRANNY

213 Darwen Rd
Bromley Cross

New Beer Launch from Rivington
Brewery on Friday 14th



BUNBURY'S

397 Chorley
Old Road

New Beer Launch from Holywell
Brewery on Saturday 8th



Friday 7th June

NORTHERN MONKEY Nelson Square	BEER LAUNCH Bolton RIPA A Cotton Candy Infused IPA. A collaboration between Northern Monkey and Tuesdays Skateshop	
GREAT ALE AT THE VAULTS Vaults Below the Market Place	TAP TAKEOVER MEET THE BREWER Manchester's Squawk Brewery Tap Takeover 3 cask plus keg.	
Saturday 8th June		
BUNBURY'S 397 Chorley Old Road	BEER LAUNCH & CURRY NIGHT From 7pm Launch of a new IPA, a collaboration between Holywell Brewery and Bunburys. Curry to match made by locals Kam and Del	
Over the weekend 7-9th June		
HOUSE WITHOUT A NAME Lea Gate, Harwood	BEER LAUNCH Beer Without a Name 4.1% Golden Ale Collaboration between Moorhouse's Brewery and House Without a Name Only 144 pints brewed! Check @HouseWithNoName for launch time	
Mon 10th June		

THE AINSWORTH ARMS 606 Halliwell Road	SPRING PUB OF THE SEASON Bolton CAMRA Presentation with the opportunity to sample Bolton beers	
Tue 11th June		
BUNBURY'S 397 Chorley Old Road	BEER AND COMEDY FUNDRAISER NIGHT From 8pm Ticketed event Proceeds to Homeless Aid UK More very special beers plus local comedian Chris Kehoe and local poet Oliver James Lomax Contact Bunburys on 07952 344838	
Wed 12th June		
YE OLDE MAN & SCYTHE Churchgate	BOLTON TOWN CENTRE LOCALE WALK Start 7.30pm at Ye Olde Man & Scythe Organised by Bolton CAMRA No Booking Required An easy guided walk of approximately 1 mile around pubs in Bolton. Sample beers from local breweries.	
Thu 13th June		

THE BREWERY BAR Hampson St Horwich	DOUBLE BEER LAUNCH MEET THE BREWER Blackedge Brewery Nuclear NZP3 7.2% Gingerbread Stout 6% Both new beers will debut on the bar from about 6pm. Brewers Wayne and Shaun will be there too.	
Fri 14th June		
BOLTON UKRAINIAN CLUB 99 Castle St	TAP TAKEOVER From 4pm Bolton CAMRA Club of the Year host beers from Radcliffe's Brightside Brewery Two light hoppy beers and one dark.	
NOOK & CRANNY 213 Darwen Rd Bromley Cross	BEER LAUNCH We'll Say Wolves Did It A New England Triple IPA A collaboration between Rivington Brewery and Nook & Cranny	
BANK TOP BREWERY Ashworth Lane Astley Bridge	BREWERY TOUR Booking required Learn how the famous Bank Top beers are made. Contact Bank Top on 01204 595800	
Sat 15th June		

THE BREWERY BAR Hampson St Horwich	RIVVY BEER WALK ON BEER DAY BRITAIN Meet 1.30pm Blackedge Brewery Bar No Booking Required Organised by Bolton CAMRA Moderate 2-mile walk through beautiful countryside to Rivington Club and Rivington Brewery Tap Beneath the Trees. Food from Mama Sue's	
---	---	---

MORE EVENTS TO BE ADDED OVER THE COMING DAYS

KEEP UP TO DATE

 [@beerciderweek](https://twitter.com/beerciderweek) #BBCW19

Find us on  [Bolton Beer & Cider Week](https://www.facebook.com/BoltonBeerCiderWeek)

<https://bolton.camra.org.uk/bolton-beer-cider-week-2019/>

The Following Pubs closed in 2019.

Brooklyn Green Lane Great Lever. Sold by Joseph Holt, Pub and land sold to KYK Holdings, Leasehold available at £30K per annum. Planning application 06542/19 was for change of use for building to become a D1 school.

Albion 34/36 Moor Lane. The pub had reopened in late 2018, but closed again very soon afterwards, the bus station opposite had closed and moved to the new Interchange, so the pub was no longer viable. The pub was boarded up, and was For Sale with Jenics on behalf of Heinekens Star Pubs and Bars Ltd for £250,000 02/04/19. Refused Planning Application 08311/20 was for retail units and 12 flats etc. Approved August 2022 Planning application 12428/21 to part demolish and build extension for three commercial units and 8 apartments. However, It was completely demolished in the first half of 2024 though!

Bradford Arms 45-47, Buckley Lane, Farnworth. Pub closed on 09/01/2019 being sold to Kirkpatrick Construction Ltd. It had been To Let by Trust Inns but was sold instead. It gained a new roof by 01/06/19, Planning Application 06690/19 in August 2019 was made for this even though the work had already been completed, a further change of use planning application on 06737/19 was for 9 one-bedroom flats also in August 2019, this was approved 07/05/20, by which time most of the work had been completed.

Church Hotel 61, Church Road, Kearsley. Pub closed 01/05/19 after approved Planning application 05434/19 to close pub and convert to offices 05/02/19, New application 06844/19 to demolish and build 20 apartments on 4 levels refused. 08246/20 Convert to 14 flats approved on appeal 28/05/21. The pub was offered for sale with MBRE partially completed in 2023 for £515,000.

Farmers Arms 355 - 357 Radcliffe Road, Darcy Lever. Pub closed 28/05/2019. Covid delayed opening as Indian Restaurant. Withdrawn Planning application 11447/21 for extension, Car Showroom and

Restaurant plus flats was not approved and the council refused to determine 12446/21 for similar. Perhaps this was because all the work had already been done without any approval? The pub car park had been a dumping ground for a motley collection of cars well before it closed.

Nelson 30, Chorley Old Road. Pub had closed around April 2019. Planning application 07766/20 to convert to HMO was deemed withdrawn and replaced with approved 08735/20. The pub was notable for its shuttered windows both on the ground and first floor.

Anchor Inn (Sparkles Bar) 14/16, Union Buildings, off Bradshawgate. The late bar now known as Sparkles Bar closed 01/04/2019. After being empty for some time it was in use as a Jewellery Training Centre even though no change of use seems to have been applied for.

Lord Nelson (La Roma Restaurant) Ringley Hall Road, Stoneclough. No longer classed as a pub serving food but a restaurant with a bar for diners.

Baltic Cellar Vaults below Market Place. The restaurant and bar which had opened in 2017 was deemed no longer viable and closed on 01/05/2019.

The following pubs opened in 2019

Piggy Banks 128, Newport Street. A former double-glazing store and more recently a cafe bar which was then licenced to become a 'Cocktail and Bottle Bar' which opened on 23rd April 2019 and situated opposite the Rail/Bus interchange. It was opened and named after Kevin Banks from the Sweet Green Tavern. Cask beer followed.

Little Vic 349A, Chorley New Road, Horwich. This new build pub opened on 01/04/2019. Its name is in deference to the adjacent Victoria Tavern, a much larger premises which closed in 2012 and is now a Premier mini market. The return of a pub to this part of Horwich, once home to workers at the Loco Works and Victoria Mill just down the road and now both closed and redeveloped for housing, is to be welcomed. The smaller scale of the premises perhaps reflects the nature of the modern community pub. However, being purpose-built it does feel more spacious than many of the bars which have opened in recent years. Cask beer was only available for a short time after opening.

Statement 50, Market Street, Westhoughton. New bar that opened on 12/07/19 in the former Nat West Bank. It had a handpump on the bar ready for use, but it never have been used.

Blackedge Brewery Tap 55, Market Street, Westhoughton. The second Blackedge Brewery outlet opened on 30/09/2019. There were seven cask beers available with others on keg taps plus several ciders.

Wayoh Brewery Tap 3, Lodge Bank Horwich. A new Brewery with its onsite tap room opened on 11/11/2019. Initially it was only open from 2pm to 5pm on a Friday selling a guest beer. Their own brewery beers were still under development in the ex-Northern Monkey 40L plant, but soon became available. Also available were over 200 Scottish Whiskies.

