

Camra Bolton Branch and its Pubs 2023

Bolton Branch Pubs included in the 2023 Good Beer Guide were

Bolton – Bank Top Brewery Tap, Great Ale at the Vaults, Hope & Anchor, Millstone,
Northern Monkey Bar, One for the Road,

Farnworth – Kings Arms

Harwood – House Without a Name

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

Westhoughton – Beer School, Brewery Tap

Branch Meetings 2023

Swan & Barristers 05/01/2023

Brewery Bar 18/01/2023 Committee

Millstone 02/02/2023

Poacher 22/02/2023 Committee

Millstone 02/03/2023

B33R@33 27/03/2023 Committee

UKI Club 04/04/2023

Crown 26/04/2023 Committee

B33R@33 02/05/2023

Mosley Arms 24/05/2023 Committee

Spinning Mule 01/06/2023

Bob's Smithy 21/06/2023 Committee

Thomas Egerton 26/07/2023 Committee

Northern Monkey Brewery Tap 03/08/2023

Stork Tavern 22/08/2023 Committee

Bar Four 07/09/2023

Doffcocker 19/09/2023 Committee

UKI Club 05/10/2023

Volunteer 25/10/2023 Committee

UKI Club 02/11/2023

Finishers 22/11/2023 Committee

The Following Pubs Closed during 2023

Lion of Vienna 156/158, Chorley New Road. The pub closed on 01/08/2023, like all Samuel Smith pubs new tenants were being advertised for on Gumtree of all places, not surprisingly with very little success.

Tavern Fayre 761, Wigan Road, Hunger Hill. It closed on 21/05/2023 and believed to have been sold/let to the owners of the Victoria Inn Markland Hill, who were going to close the pub for about a year in order for it to be refurbished as had happened at the Victoria Inn. It had been up for sale by Christies for £2 million. Stavros Properties have two outstanding charges on the site. Still waiting for it to reopen in 2026.

Park Hotel 259, Bridgman St. The pub closed on 23/04/2023 on was up for sale with Fletcher CRE for £250,000, by 16/05/2023 it was showing as under offer and was no longer listed by September. It still retained the Tetley Traditional Handpumped Beer signs until long after it had closed, even though these cask beers had not been available for many years. Planning application 17691/24 for conversion to 3 stories and an extension for a 27-bed HMO has been refused. 18693/24 reduced to only 24 bed HMO approved, work started mid-June 25.

The Star & Garter 11, Bow Street. Their last Facebook post was on 29/07/22, initially closure was understood to be only temporary. However, planning application 17402/23 is to create a 13-Bedroom HMO with a rooftop garden! This was refused as it did not satisfy conservation requirements and was deemed to provide poor living standards, a further application 17958/24 is for an 11-Bedroom HMO and was approved on 31/05/24.

Spread Eagle 313, Manchester Rd, Kearsley. Closed in early 2023, it had been noted as For Sale by Everard Cole on 22/10/22 £225K, later reduced to £195K, noted as under offer 27/03/23. Planning application 16392/23 is for conversion to 8 Bed HMO, approved 08/12/23. The Pub had numerous landlord changes over the previous 10 years.

Hare & Hounds 13, Market St, Stoneclough. For Sale with Sidney Philips £400K, it was sold in late 2023 and converted into an events and functions venue opening on 18/10/2025, It was renamed the Grand Hotel and promotional material seemed imply that it was in Manchester, this is driven by the Postcode being in M26 rather than BL. Subsequently put up for sale again for £595,000 with Sidney Philips, later reduced to £570,000. Later it was listed by Savills at £475,000, no longer listed in March 2026, but was auctioned by them in July 2026 with a guide price of £450,000. Pugh's Auctions Guide Price was £385,000 on 24/08/26, reduced again to £375,000 for the 30/09/2026 auction.

Loco 25, Bradshawgate. This late bar closed around 01/12/2023, the last Facebook post being on 28/11/2023. It was up for sale in February 2024 but does not seem to have been sold.

Cotton Tree 15, Prince St. The pub was put up for sale in July 2023 with CRE Fletcher for £295,000, it stopped being listed in January 2024. The locals/regulars were not happy and there were articles in the Bolton News and even the BBC about it closing. It closed in September 2024 and Planning Application 18150/24 was to turn into a Nursery, due to open May 2025. Soon the old Greenall Whitley Cotton Tree Sign was finally taken down!

Cotton Kier 2-4 Eagley Fold Way, off Watersmeeting Road, Astley Bridge. Greene King's Hungry Horse branded outlet closed on 01/09/2023 when it is believed the lease was not renewed. Planning Application 20462/25 approved for demolition and replacement with a 66-bedroom residential care home

Shots Bar 55, Bradshawgate. The late bar closed on 01//11/2023. Planning Application 17803/24 withdrawn by applicant, further Planning Application 19979/25 for 5 apartments on part of ground floor and both upper floors withdrawn by applicant. Third time lucky - Planning Application 00041/26 for conversion to commercial use on ground floor with flats on first and second floor.

Bolton Irish Centre (Nightingale Inn) 95, Lever Street. Closed for the second time around in at the end of October 2023 but had been up for sale from July 2023. Established in February 2024 by the Sri Lankan Bolton Community (SLBC) now known as the Darul Ilm Mosque.

The Following Pubs Opened during 2023

Patio Outside Marketplace opposite and above Bridge Street. This was a seasonal outdoor Pop-Up bar housed in a large 'Garden Shed' with shutters. There were several wooden seating tables outside the Marketplace above Bridge St where the bar was located. Music events and food were planned from the opening date of 28/07/2023 and its closing on 24/09/2023. It was associated with Bar Four inside the Vaults. It did not reappear in 2024.

Porters Café and Wine Bar 153, Lea Gate, Harwood. opened on 29/09/2023, there was no cask beer available.

Bytes rear of 45/47, Market St, Westhoughton. opened on 01/08/2023, there was no cask beer available

The following Other Changes took place in pubs during 2023

Cross Guns 390, Blackburn Rd, Egerton. It closed on 03/01/2023 and was put up for sale on 15/02/2023, pub reopened June 2024 after being bought by Tonge Leisure.

Railway 46/6 Egerton Street, Moses Gate. Unusually for a Holts pub no cask beer was available in 2023 and it was closed for several months during the year or was at least not open on a regular basis and in November the regulars were accompanied by two motorbikes in the lounge!

Tempest 1110, Chorley Old Rd. The pub had closed in May 2022 and subsequently sold twice, in 2023 there was a planning application 15844/23 for conversion to a Children's Day Nursery, subsequently withdrawn 01/08/23, Further application 17784/24 for a day nursery with a rear extension and accommodation for up to 74 children approved.

Withins Brightmet Fold Lane, Brightmet. The Pub had closed and been boarded up by 13/11/2022, and in February 2023 Bolton Council were selling the land. The Pub is still boarded up and suffered fire damage On 03/06/2025.

Saddle Inn 43, King Street, Farnworth. The pub was demolished around 2014, and the site remained vacant until 2023/2024 when houses were built on the site. Unable to trace any Planning Applications for this!

Anchor Inn Eagle St, The Haulgh. See Planning Application 16755/23 for warehouses surrounding the pub.

Blackrod Conservative Club 70, Church Street, Blackrod. Planning application 11608/21 for 12 1-Bedroom flats, refused. 13101/22 for 8 x 1-bedroom flats approved 31/10/23

Upside Down 18, St. Andrews Court. Downstairs bar reopened 18/03/2023 after Definitely Maybe (1) had moved out. No Facebook postings since 29/12/23 or any sign of it being open since.

The following pubs stopped selling Cask beer during 2023

Bay Mare Astley Bridge 31/07/2023

Bridgewater Farnworth 08/03/2023

Grapes Stoneclough 19/11/2023 (only temporary)

New Inn Little Lever 19/11/2023

Poacher Blackrod 19/06/2023 (Returned in 2024)

Spread Eagle Eagley 11/05/2023 (only temporary)

White Horse Harwood 19/11/2023

York Newport St (19/05/2023)

Churchgate Churchgate! 04/06/2023

Queen Anne Junction Rd 01/06/2023

Rosa Westhoughton 22/02/2023

La Roma Ringley Hall Road, Stoneclough and Provenance Market Street Westhoughton.

Were both reclassified as Restaurants with no cask beer.

Bar Four in the Vaults below Market Place. It was selling two cask beers.

Crofters 103, Bradshaw Road, Harwood The Pub was closed and refurbished in early 2023 and the handpumps were moved from the top of the bar to the very bottom where few could see them except for those walking past outside, the cask beers did not last long, very much an own goal! In mid-2026 one handpump was being used to sell Keg Wainwright Gold, referred to by Carlsberg Britvic as 'Brewery Conditioned (KEG) and not Cask Conditioned as it could and should be.) Also referred to as 'Fresh Ale' except it's not as it has been dead in a Keg awaiting an injection of more Carbon Dioxide to make it acceptable to sell.