

OPENING TIMES

SEPTEMBER 2015 / FREE

STOCKPORT



BEER WEEK

24TH SEPT - 4TH OCT 2015

INSIDE: STOCKPORT BEER WEEK – A
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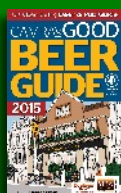
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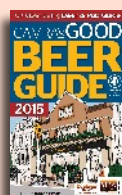
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OPENING TIMES

Opening Times is published by the Stockport & South Manchester Branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, with assistance from the Trafford & Hulme and High Peak & North East Cheshire Branches. Additional material is supplied by the North Manchester and Macclesfield & E Cheshire Branches. 7,500 copies a month are printed by Phil Powell Printing of Failsworth and distributed throughout Stockport, Trafford, Manchester and Tameside. There are also many outlets in Macclesfield & East Cheshire, High Peak and Glossop.

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www.citizensadvice.org.uk/index/getadvice/consumer_service.htm

Their telephone no. is 03454 04 05 06. To report a matter to Trading Standards go to:

www.adviceguide.org.uk/consumer_e/reporting_a_problem_to_trading_standards

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* Transport for Greater Manchester: www.tfgm.com 0161 228 7811

* East Cheshire: 0300 123 5500
www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/public_transport.aspx

* Derbyshire: www.derbybus.info

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We aim to ensure that the information in *Opening Times* is correct at the time of going to press. If we get something wrong then please get in touch (editorial contact details above) and we'll print a correction. Please also note the opinions expressed in *Opening Times* are not necessarily those of CAMRA either locally or nationally.

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Distribution Manager – Janet Flynn

Front cover - Stockport Beer Week – see page 9 for full details.

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What's On

Local CAMRA Branch Events, Information and News

Your Local CAMRA Contacts & Websites

Stockport & South Manchester (SSM)

www.ssmcamra.co.uk

Contact: Paul Felton; Secretary@ssmcamra.co.uk

North Manchester (NM)

www.northmanchester.camra.org.uk

Contact: Phil Booton; phbooton@hotmail.com

High Peak & NE Cheshire (HPNC)

www.hpneccamra.org.uk

Contact: Stewart Taylor 07907 714826; taylorshouse@supanet.com

Macclesfield & East Cheshire (MEC)

www.eastcheshirecamra.org.uk

Contact: Tony Icke 01625 861833; bicke@madasafish.com

Trafford & Hulme (T&H)

www.thcamra.org.uk

Contact: John O'Donnell 07879 880972; enquiries@thcamra.org.uk

Local CAMRA Events

All welcome at these events

Thursday 3rd September – Branch Meeting: Volunteer Hotels, Cross Street, Sale, M33 7HJ. (T&H)

Wednesday 9th – Winton & Worsley Survey: Ellesmere, King William Street, M30 9HZ 7.30pm; Barton Arms, Stablefold, M28 2ED 8.30pm; Bridgewater Hotel, Barton Rd, M28 2PD 9.30pm. (NM)

Thursday 10th – Branch Meeting: Gateway, Wilmslow Road, East Didsbury, M20 5PG. Will also include “Meet the Brewer” with Mobberley Brewery. Starts 8.15pm. (SSM)

Thursday 10th – Ashley Social: visit newly refurbished Greyhound. 7.44pm train from Navigation Road via Altrincham and Hale. Return 10.24pm. (T&H)

Friday 11th–Sunday 13th – Heritage Pub Walks. See branch website. (NM)

Saturday 12th – Social: Angel, King Street, Dukinfield, SK16 4TH 2.00pm then Ashton crawl. (HPNC)

Monday 14th – Branch Meeting: Dog & Pheasant (Top Dog), Oldham Road, Ashton, OL7 9PQ. Starts 8.00pm. (HPNC)

Tuesday 15th – Campaigning Meeting: Robin Hood, Church Lane, Rainow SK10 5XF. Starts 8.00pm. (MEC)

Wednesday 16th – Branch Meeting: Eagle Inn, Collier Street, Salford, M3 7DW. Starts 7.30pm. (NM)

Thursday 17th – Urmston/Flixton Social: 8.00pm Nags Head, Davyhulme Circle, 15 bus from Stretford or 23 (Chorlton), or 245 (Altrincham) and walk up Crofts Bank Road. 15 min walk or 15 bus at 8:58pm to 9pm Bent Brook, Broadway. 15 min. walk or 245 bus at 9:54pm to 10pm Garricks Head on Moorside Road. (T&H)

Friday 18th – Cheadle Hulme Stagger: Hesketh, Hulme Hall Road, SK8 6JZ 7.30pm; Governor's House, Ravenoak Road, SK8 7EQ 8.30pm. (SSM)

Wednesday 23rd – Good Beer Guide 2016 launch: Craftbrew, Lowry Plaza, Salford M50 3WB. From 7.30pm. (NM)

Thursday 24th – Pub of the Month award and Stockport Beer Week public launch: Spinning Top, Wellington Road South, Stockport, SK4 1AA. From 8.00pm. (SSM)

Thursday 24th–October 4th – Stockport Beer Week. See branch website and page 9 for details. All welcome. (SSM)

Saturday 26th – Bus to the Brewery. See branch website and page 19 for more details. (NM)

Saturday 26th – Brewery Visit: Dancing Duck, Derby to present Beer of Festival Award. Details from social@thcamra.org.uk (T&H)

Wednesday 30th – Victoria/Cathedral Crawl: Beerhouse, Victoria Station 6.00pm; Old Wellington, Cathedral Gates, M3 1SW 7.00pm plus two others. (NM)

Thursday 1st October – Liverpool Road Social: Castlefield Hotel 8.00pm; Ox 8.45pm; White Lion 9.30pm; Cask 10.00pm; Deansgate 10.45pm. (T&H)

Saturday 3rd October – Buxton/Macclesfield Trip: Meet Cheshire Cheese, High Street, Buxton, SK17 6HA from 1.00pm. Catch 58 Bus at 5.28pm to Macclesfield. (HPNC)

Thursday 8th October – Branch AGM: venue tbc. Starts 8.00pm. (T&H)

Social Media

Many of the local CAMRA branches have Facebook and Twitter accounts which you can follow:



Stockport & South Manchester:
www.facebook.com/SSMCAMRA

Trafford & Hulme: www.facebook.com/thcamra

Macclesfield & East Cheshire:
<http://fbl.me/meccamra>



Stockport & South Manchester: @SSMCAMRA

Trafford & Hulme: @THCAMRA

North Manchester: @NorthMancsCAMRA

Macclesfield & East Cheshire: @MECCAMRA

Trafford & Hulme Award

The Trafford & Hulme Summer Pub of the Season Award was presented to **Pi** in Altrincham. Pictured below Pi owner Andy Ingham (left) is seen receiving his award from CAMRA's John O'Donnell.



Pub of the Month

The Spinning Top, Stockport



The Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA Pub of the Month for September is the Spinning Top on Wellington Road South in the town centre. John Clarke paid a visit.

Occupying part of the Garrick Theatre building, the Spinning Top is one of Stockport's newest bars. It's also one of the most appealing, as what is essentially one large room exudes a particular warmth and character. For many years these premises have been occupied by a variety of restaurants, of varying degrees of quality, but its newest, and arguably best, incarnation is the project of Mike Swann and Duncan Lanser who opened for business in September last year.



It's comfortably furnished with sofas and low tables at the front (great for people-watching on the road outside) while there are more conventional tables and chairs elsewhere. At one end there's a small stage area which is used for popular live music nights and the weekly comedy club. On two of the

walls is some striking three-dimensional artwork by local artist Rob Shaw which adds to the appeal.

Mike acts as mine host and being a Devon man has made sure that alongside the beers, traditional cider (and sometimes perry) is available too (he was born opposite a famous cider pub in Newton Abbot). As for the beers – well there are three cask ales on handpump (including a house beer from Tatton Brewery) with an emphasis on local brews, the occasional craft keg and a very interesting selection of bottled beers. It's a well-thought-out selection with something for everyone.

Home-made food is available all day and includes pub staples, sandwiches, home-made soup and cakes. Soft drinks, tea and coffee are readily available too. The presentation will be made on the evening of Thursday 24th and this event will also mark the public launch of Stockport Beer Week. Everyone is welcome to join the celebrations.



The Pub of the Month award is sponsored by Stephensons, a local family firm that has been supplying the local pub and catering trade for over 140 years. Check out their advert on this page.

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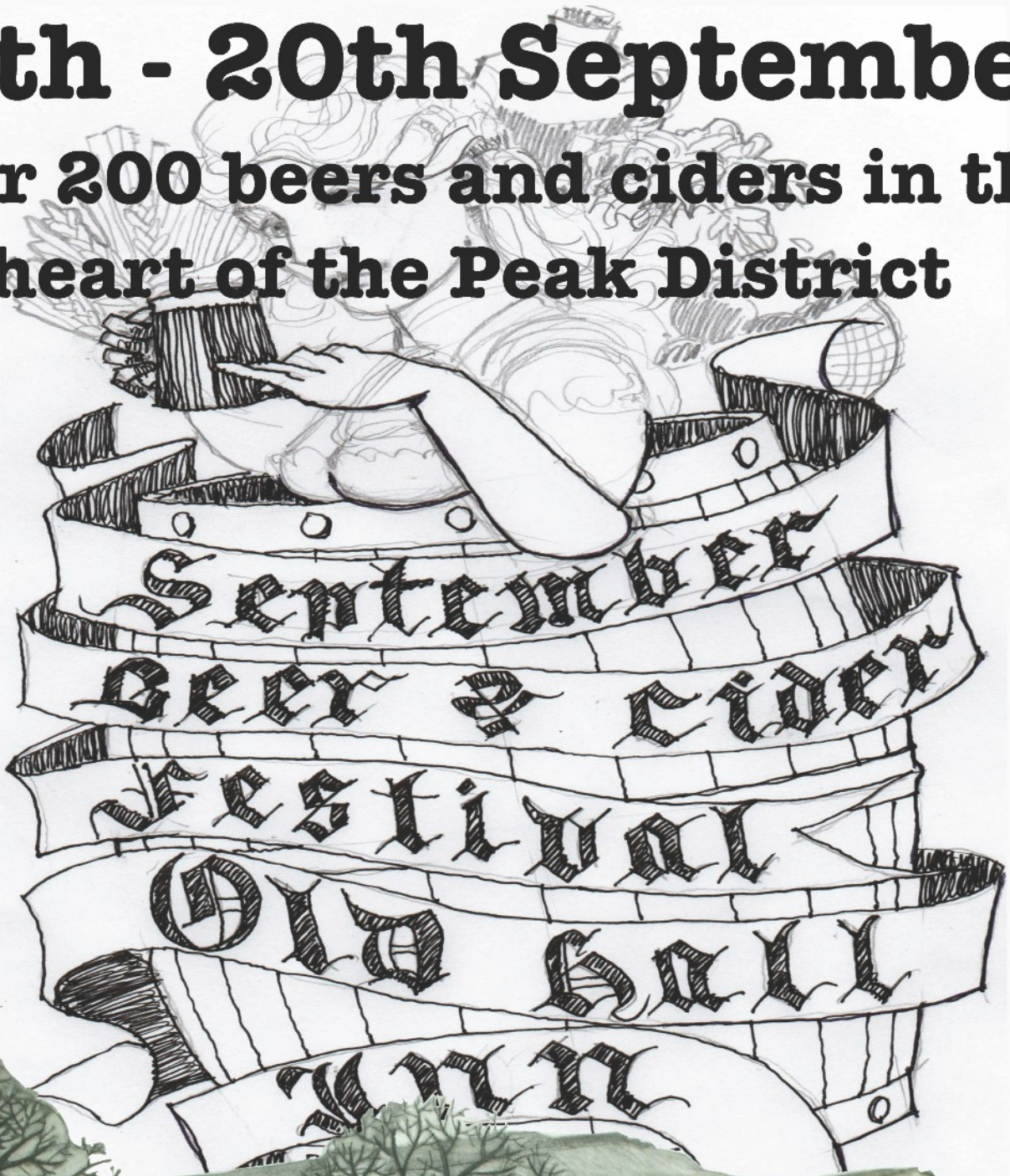
GOOD BEER GUIDE PUB
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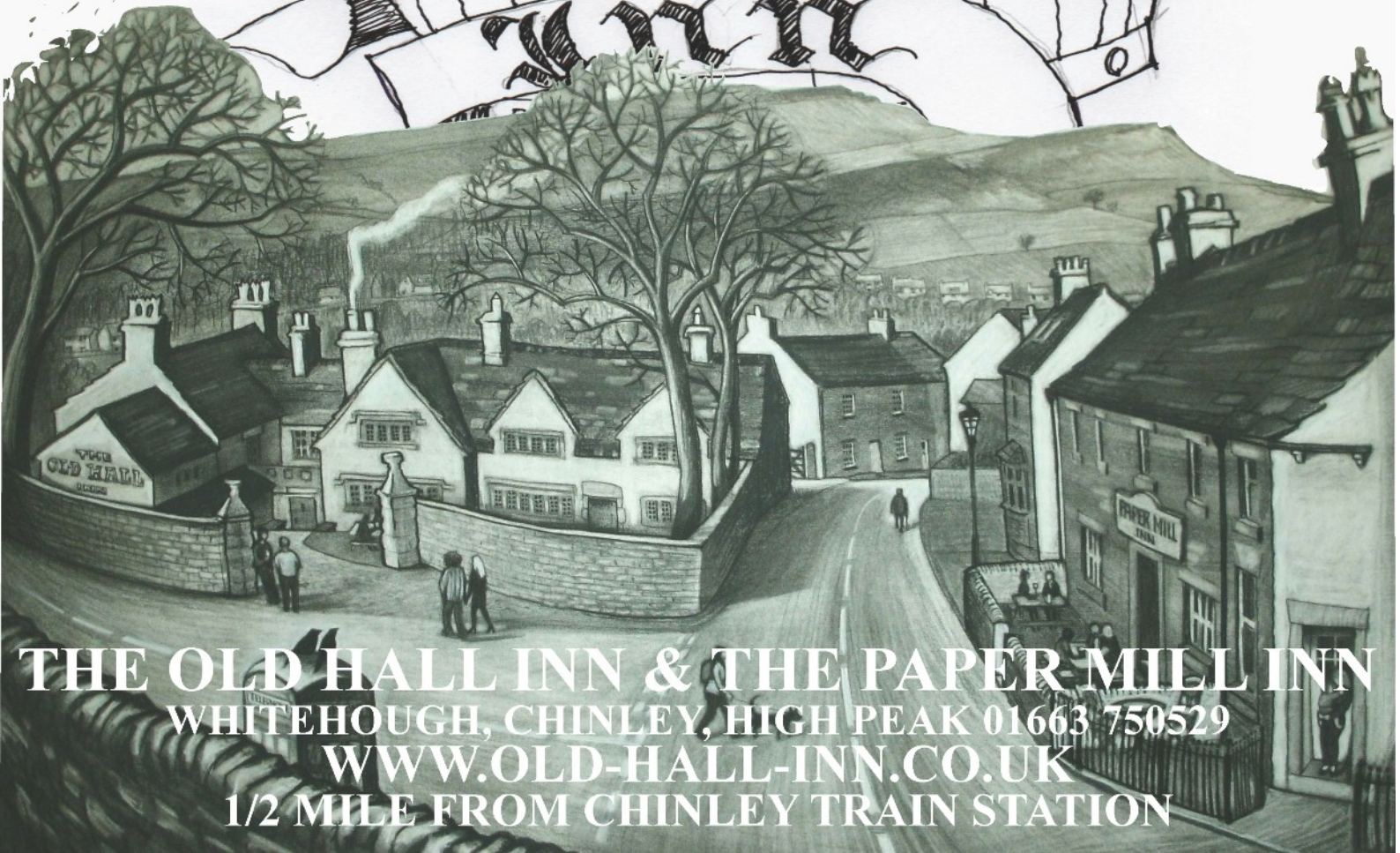
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Stagger

Gatley and Cheadle with Jim Flynn

It was a lovely summer's evening when we met up in the fenced garden of the **Prince of Wales** in Gatley; what a very pleasant spot it is too next to the village church and overlooking the village green.



I use the word 'garden' advisedly as it has now been tarmacked over with a drainage grid put in front of the pub after the cellar suffered from regular flooding. Inside, the three rooms, with their low doors and ceilings, (revealing the pub's history as a pair of cottages) and their bench seating provide a country pub atmosphere. The landlord very helpfully allowed me to try before I chose from the Hydes Original and Celsius, and Sly Fox. The latter two beers did not have proper pumpclips and so I am guessing that the Sly Fox was from Everards (the landlord didn't know). All three were rated as more than reasonable.



With the Red Lion now a Tesco and the Gothic Bar now a restaurant, off we went down Church Road to another Hydes pub, the **Horse and Farrier**. With its mock-Tudor exterior and bay windows this is certainly an imposing building. Inside this low-ceilinged, multi-roomed, characterful pub is even bigger than it seems from outside but despite this on our visit it was packed. Alongside the Hydes Original, 1863, Owd Oak and Finest were beers from TicketyBrew, Hornbeam and Storm, and everything we tried was on very good form. While talking to the friendly landlord we learnt that the pub was due a makeover although thankfully nothing drastic is planned.

Both the Gatley pubs are well worth a visit so it was with some reluctance we hiked our way down to Cheadle — the buses were off due to road works. Our first port of call was another

imposing pub, the whitewashed **White Hart** next to St Mary's parish church.



Here we encountered what would seem to be a trend in Cheadle — the television set, or rather a significant number of sets. However in this case I did not find them too intrusive but some of my colleagues begged to differ. Taking advantage of the CAMRA discount we sampled Sharp's Doom Bar, Bass, Lancaster Blonde and Thwaites (or is it Marston's?) Wainwright. All but the latter were on good form. We left as Essex were clearly on top against Middlesex in the 20/20 Blast on the tellyes.



Further down Cheadle High Street is the **Crown**. Hydes (yes them again) converted this shop into a pub some while ago, long before it was fashionable to do so. As a result I always think it lacks some of the character of the first three pubs but on the evidence of our visit that hasn't stopped it being exceedingly popular. There was only the one large TV above the bar but much to the chagrin of some of our party there was a very loud female singer using a very loud tape machine as backing; however many of the regulars were clearly thoroughly enjoying the performance. The beer range for the size of pub was impressive with Everards' Sunchaser and Black Country Summer Ale joining Hydes Original, Celsius, Owd Oak and Amber Dawn. Again those tried were in good condition. As we left Essex romped home.

With the Vine now a restaurant we moved on to the **Star** (picture above right), another Hydes

pub with a mock Tudor exterior. Despite the disco at the back (there were no TVs evident) this was the quietest pub on the stagger in terms of customers, most of who seemed to be sitting to the front away from the music. I have never felt the Star has been as distinctive or as atmospheric since they opened it out and I wonder whether another look needs to be taken. There were two beers available - Hydes Original and Beer Studio Sharp Motueka which was most people's beer of the night.



Our final stop was the recently reopened **George & Dragon** where we were greeted by the first and only bouncers, sorry door staff, of the night. This pub takes the use of the television to an all new and hopefully unsurpassable level. I counted 16 sets inside the pub and one in the garden at the back. There was one table to the left of the bar where potentially it could be possible, sitting at a certain angle, not to be able to see a TV but that was full so we sat elsewhere. All this is a little sad because the refurbishment is excellent creating a modern clean look contrasting with dark wood and bare brick. Nice touches are that the former coaching archway has been incorporated into the pub and they have kept the lovely hanging sign above the door. I found however that I had to fight to take all this in given the pervasiveness of the TVs. You could not fault the beer however with Moorhouses Black Cat and Wells Bombardier being scored as good.

Altogether an excellent stagger with a good range of contrasting pubs and a surprisingly good choice of good quality beers given that the majority of those pubs were from one brewery. As well as the expected availability of light summer ales, three of the pubs had a cask mild on offer. Well worth a go.

Recent CAMRA Awards



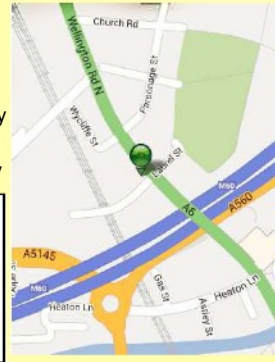
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The Gold Award in the Beer of the Festival competition at this year's Stockport Beer & Cider Festival went to **Stockport Brewing** for their excellent Cascade. In late July a CAMRA group paid a visit to the brewery to make the presentation. Pictured here are Steve Alexander and Andy Pass with their award.



The public vote for this year's Mild Magic "Champion Mild Pub" award was quite a close run thing but there can be only one winner and this year the honours went to a relative newcomer - the **Spinning Top** on Wellington Road South in Stockport. Pictured here CAMRA's John



Sutcliffe presents the award to Mike Swann (right) mine host.

The Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA Pub of the Year vote is always keenly contested. The winner was the Magnet on Wellington Road North. The runner-up was the **Armoury** on Shaw Heath. There was a good turnout at this excellent traditional local when Stockport & South Manchester chairman John Clarke presented landlady Sheila Barlow with her certificate.



The Stockport & South Manchester Pub of the Month Award for June was presented to **Ye Olde Vic** on Chatham Street in Edgeley. At the time the pub was under threat of closure but now appears to be safe following a successful buy-out by a group of locals. Pictured here is licensee Steve Brannan (third from right) and the team receiving the award from CAMRA's Graham Privett (second left).



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*Branch and Regional
 Cider Pub of the Year 2014*



Stockport Beer Week



A celebration of Stockport's pubs and breweries

Stockport's pub and beer scene is thriving. We now have seven breweries in the town (with possibly another on the way). The collection of free houses, heritage pubs and traditional locals in and around the town centre is starting to act as a tourist magnet. In the suburbs the situation seems to be just as positive with several new cask beer outlets having either already opened this year or in the pipeline.

Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA thinks all this is worth celebrating and so have put together the first Stockport Beer Week. This will run in conjunction with national Cask Ale Week and in fact covers an 11 day period from 24th September to 4th October.

All of the local breweries will be taking part, with either special beers or more bespoke events. Many central pubs are also pushing the boat out. Below we detail all of the events we had confirmed as this issue of *Opening Times* went to press. For additional events check the website at www.ssmcamra.co.uk.

Events taking place for the whole of Stockport Beer Week 24th September - 4th October

Robinsons Visitor Centre - Additional beer samples included in the price of a brewery tour. Booking advised.

Bakers Vaults - Guest beers will be from Stockport breweries.

Calverts Court - Cheshire challenge Yorkshire to a brewery "Brew-Off".

Magnet - Showcase of beers brewed by female brewers.

Navigation - Enhanced range of Beartown beers across the week.

Events taking place on specific days only

Thursday 24th September

Spinning Top - Stockport Beer Week opening event - Stockport CAMRA Pub of the Month - from 8pm.

Friday 25th September

Stockport Stagger - Mini Hillgate Stagger - meet at Little Jack Horners 7.30pm, Waterloo 8.30pm.

Stockport Market Place - Foodie Friday - 6pm - 9pm. High Peak Beer Company will be featuring Stockport-brewed bottled beers.

Saturday 26th September

Hope - Beer Festival of Stockport-brewed beers. Local band in the evening.

Railway, Wellington Road North - Local band Removal Men at 8pm.

Boars Head - Cellar Tours - 12.30, 1.30, 2.30 and 3.30pm. First come first served basis and at participants' own risk.

Staircase House - Archaeology, Architecture and Ale at Staircase House 2pm - 3.30pm. Did you know there used to be a brewery in the cellar? Includes beer sampling. Booking essential.

Sunday 27th September

Hope - Beer Festival of Stockport-brewed beers.

Tuesday 29th September

Ye Olde Vic - Tap takeover and Meet The Brewer with Thirst Class Ales Brewery (evening).

Wednesday 30th September

Cryptic Ales - Brewery open house 4pm - 8pm including brewery tours.

Spinning Top - Local band Band of Lords (formerly Atlanta Roots) at 9pm.

Ye Olde Vic - Local band in the evening.

Thursday 1st October

Magnet - Meet the Brewer evening along with Giant Charity Cheeseboard Evening.

Robinsons Visitor Centre - Launch of Robinsons' next White Label speciality beer.

Spinning Top - John Emil, US Blues artist at 9pm.

Friday 2nd October

Stockport Brewing Co - Open House 4pm - 8pm. 3-4 beers on tap. Launch of their new winter beers.

Heritage Walk - History of Market Place Pubs Walk, starts 7.30pm at Staircase House, Market Place. Duration approx 1 hour.

Crown - Stockport breweries tap takeover including new beers and cider.

Crown - Local band "New Day" - acoustic set at 8.30pm.

Magnet - Sap Tap Acoustic Night with local bands at 8pm.

Saturday 3rd October

Crown - Stockport breweries tap takeover including new beers and cider.

Crown - Ukulele special - Stockport Ukulele Orchestra, Dr Uke, starts 3pm followed by local band "Trip Hazzard" (classic covers rock band).

Sunday 4th October

Crown - Stockport breweries tap takeover including new beers and cider.

Crown - Afternoon - regular local Irish folk group jam - starts 3.30pm.

Railway, Portwood - Tutored cider tasting hosted by *Opening Times* editor John Clarke. From 2pm. There will be a fee to cover the cost of the cider.

Note all events are FREE ENTRY except Robinsons Brewery Tours (booking advised), the Staircase House event on 26th September (booking essential) and Tutored Cider Tasting on Sunday 4th October.

Location and Contact Details

Bakers Vaults - Market Place SK1 1ES. 0161 480 9448

Boars Head - 2 Vernon St, Market Place, SK1 1TY. 0161 480 3978

Calverts Court - 13 St Petersgate SK1 1EB. 0161 474 6750

Crown - 154 Heaton Lane, SK4 1AR. 0161 480 5850

Cryptic Ales Brewery - 3 Carrington Field Street, SK1 3JN. 0161 222 8840

High Peak Beer Company - Unit 25, Victorian Market Hall, 19 Market Place SK1 1EU. 07730 034326

Hope - 118 Wellington Road North, SK4 2LL. 0161 637 6191

Little Jack Horners - 28 Lord Street SK1 3NA

Magnet - 51 Wellington Road North, SK4 1HJ. 0161 429 6287

Navigation - 1 Manchester Road, Heaton Norris SK4 1TY

Railway, Wellington Road North - 74-76 Wellington Road North, SK4 1HF. 0161 477 3680

Railway, Portwood - 1 Avenue Street, Portwood, SK1 2BZ

Robinsons Visitor Centre - Apsley Street SK1 1YE. 0161 612 4100

Spinning Top - 20 Wellington Road South SK4 1AA. 0161 312 2457

Staircase House - 30/31 Market Pl, SK1 1ES. 0161 474 4444 for bookings on the tour 26 September. Come and experience Staircase House's architecturally significant undercroft and brewhouse, usually closed to the public. Beer sampling included. Suitable for adults 18 and over. Admission £3 CAMRA members £2.

Stockport Brewing Co - Arch 14, Heaton Lane SK4 1AQ. 0161 477 1084

Waterloo - Waterloo Road SK1 3BD

Ye Olde Vic - 1 Chatham Street, Edgeley SK3 9ED 0161 480 2410

Stockport Beer Week has been kindly sponsored by Clarke Nicklin and is being run in association with Stockport MBC.

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STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE BEER SHOP

13 KINGSLEIGH ROAD, HEATON MERSEY



The Beer Shop is now fully open until 22:00 every night for on and off sales.

Hand made pizzas available to eat in or take away Friday & Saturday 5 to 9pm.

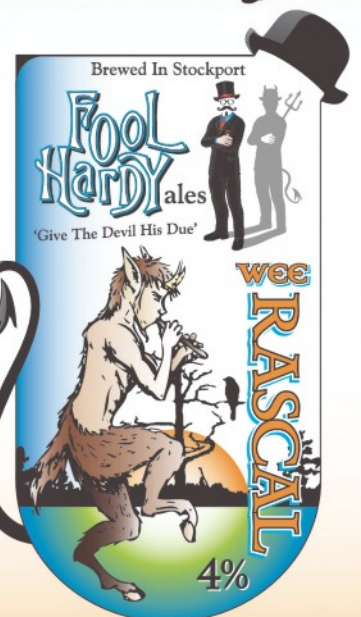
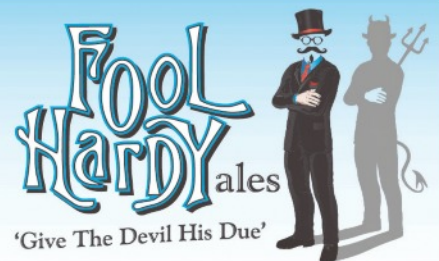
Future events, check www.ukbeershop.com or 0161 947 9338 for updated information.

**OPENING HOURS: TUESDAY TO THURSDAY 4-10PM
FRIDAY 2-10PM SATURDAY 12-10PM SUNDAY 2-10PM
MONDAY CLOSED**



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hopheads.



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High Peak Bus Trip

Stewart Taylor on a grand day out

A baker's dozen of High Peak and North East Cheshire Branch members came from far and wide to assemble in Buxton on a summer's Saturday morning. The intention was to visit a couple of pubs by public transport and although this sounds to be a modest objective, the general paucity of bus services in the southern part of the area required planning of military precision – except that we forgot that it was the day of the Buxton Carnival.



Our first stop was the village of Earl Sterndale and the **Quiet Woman**. First things first as we enter this time warp of a village pub and contemplate the offerings on the bar. We are here for the better part of two hours so no rush. The Quiet Woman is a free house but is often mistaken for a Marston's pub and one can understand why as the beers on the bar were Marston's EPA and Burton Bitter along with Jennings Dark Mild. Of the three the Dark Mild was considered to be the best of

the bunch. Attention turns to the rather unusual pub name and the picture above might help to explain this one although where it would stand in these politically correct days is uncertain.

Time passes and the bus back to Buxton is due. The short trip back is dominated by conversations about where we have to pick up the next bus and what to do with the spare hour or more we will have in Buxton. We gravitated to the **Ale Stop** (see picture) which, so far as we know, is the



only micropub in the High Peak and always well worth a visit. Licensee Dan lived up to his reputation of providing real ales which are rarely, if ever, seen in Buxton. On the bar we had three beers to choose from: Sonnet 43 Steam Beer from

Coxhoe in County Durham, from closer to home came Downpour from Macclesfield's Storm Brewing and the real surprise was a beer called The Clas from the Celt Experience Brewery of Caerphilly, and which weighed in at a challenging 7.2%. It was still early in the day but one of our group was brave enough to take on The Clas and considered it to be on good form. The rest of us stayed with the more modest offerings and were impressed.

The next part of the journey involved a walk across towards the **Wye Bridge** at the bottom of Fairfield Road. The group split up a bit at this stage – not to be fully united for another two hours or more. We appreciate the sacrifice of those getting all the way to the Wye Bridge without pausing for refreshment as the 10 minute walk from the Ale Stop was made significantly longer by the crowds in the town awaiting the carnival procession.

The 190 bus comes around the corner and a swift head count indicates that we are two missing. "Never mind, they are old enough and daft enough to sort themselves out" said one of the group so onto the bus for the remaining eleven. To be honest, Buxton has become a really good real ale venue of recent years and it was perhaps slightly surprising that we had only lost two members at this stage. A journey past Buxton Golf Club takes us through a rolling landscape studded with quarries, dry

stone walls and sheep until we reach our destination – the **Wanted Inn** at Sparrowpit (picture below).



This is a pub which everyone knows but few have been in as it stands on a significant bend in the main road to Chesterfield and most people simply drive past. Many are the stories of the ex-Robinsons pub relating to crashes of lorries out of

control on the steep hills and snow up to the first floor during one quite memorable winter. This is now a free house and combines the normal role of a pub with that of a kind of village shop with all sorts of local produce for sale. On the bar we had the choice of Marston's Pedigree or Farmers Blonde from the fairly local Bradfield Brewery. The Farmers Blonde was the universal choice of the group and pretty decent it was too.

It's a two hourly bus service around these parts so we settled down to contemplate the state of the nation whilst waiting for what was the last bus of the day. Any thoughts on the high plane of world affairs were broken by the appearance of a couple of chaps with musical instruments. Included amongst the instruments were a ukulele, a banjo and an acoustic guitar with which the two musicians royally entertained the assembled gathering with a few covers and some self-penned songs. The finale featured two of our group, one on spoons, for which a two minute lesson was the only preparation, and another on table mat (with wooden spoon) for which no rehearsal seemed necessary as the playing gave every evidence of influences from early free-form jazz. But the last bus waits for no man (or woman) so away we went to be re-united with the two waifs and strays last seen in Buxton.

So, eventually, after a lengthy journey home, what turned out to be a 12 hour day ended and most enjoyable it was too.

George Hotel, Glossop

Following a few weeks of closure for refurbishment the George Hotel in Glossop, directly opposite Glossop Railway Station, reopened in early August. The establishment is owned by Punch Taverns and the signage outside advertises the management position. Currently running the pub is Eric Mills who is described as the temporary manager but with a view to making this position permanent.

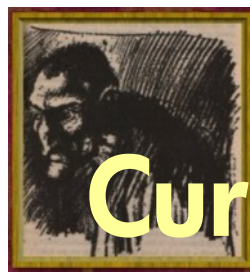
This is positive news for local real ale lovers as Mr Mills, a CAMRA member, comes with a significant track record. Readers may recall him from his time at the Blossoms in Heaviley, Stockport. The Blossoms gained a fine reputation locally as a Robinsons "Ale Shrine" pub and is listed in the 2015 Good Beer Guide. Prior to that, Eric ran the Good Beer Guide listed Wellington Arms in Bedford for Banks & Taylor, a pub where up to 16 handpumps have been prominent on the bar counter.

When *Opening Times* visited in early August there were no obvious signs of any refurbishment with the layout seemingly unchanged. It was reported that work was ongoing upstairs and that the hotel part of the business would be reopening soon. Similarly, there was no food on offer at the time of the visit but would be shortly. On the bar counter Robinsons Unicorn and John Smiths Cask were on handpump but the beer selection is likely to change in the not too distant future.

Well worth keeping an eye on progress at the George as the situation is likely to change rapidly and the continued presence, hopefully, of Mr Mills with his evident commitment to real ale will be a big positive.

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Curmudgeon

Bye Bye Binge Britain

If you were to believe the media, you might reach the conclusion that Britain was in the grip of an unprecedented drink problem, with alcohol consumption and related late-night disorder and health problems at record levels. However, if you look more closely at the facts, they tell an entirely different story, and it is about time this was properly recognised.

Alcohol consumption in Britain, per adult, fell by 19 per cent between 2004 and 2013. 'Binge-drinking' (defined as consuming more than eight or six units in a day for men and women respectively), has fallen from 29 per cent to 18 per cent amongst 16 to 24 year olds, and from 25 per cent to 19 per cent amongst 25 to 44 year olds.

There have been smaller declines amongst every other age group. Rates of teetotalism are now as high amongst 16 to 24 year olds as they are amongst pensioners (27 per cent). The proportion of 11-15 year olds who have never had a drink rose from 39 per cent in 2002 to 61 per cent in 2013. According to the Office for National Statistics, the "proportion of young adults who drank frequently has fallen by more than two-thirds since 2005". And if you think alcohol is available at "pocket-money prices", remember that British drinkers pay 40 per cent of all the alcohol duty collected in the EU.

Some alcohol-related health issues such as liver cirrhosis are still showing an increase, but there is obviously a time lag before a disease shows itself. In another decade or so, these figures will start heading down again. And the overall decline in consumption must be one factor behind all the pub closures we've seen in recent years.

Insofar as it ever existed in the first place, "Binge Britain" has ended, and those who constantly lecture us on the subject need to get over it. And supporters of beer and pubs should take a more robust line in pointing it out, rather than meekly going along with the prevailing narrative.

Old Soaks

Over the summer, on what must have been a slow news day, there was a report in many of the papers about a supposed "Middle Class Drink Epidemic", based on a study carried out for the charity Age UK. This found that many middle-aged, middle-class people were drinking at levels above the official government guidelines, which could potentially be storing up health problems in the future.

However, the study failed to find any actual negative health effects, and ended up rather despairingly concluding "Because this group is typically healthier than other parts of the older population, they might not realise that what they are doing is putting their health in danger." So the people drinking a bit more than an arbitrary guideline are actually healthier than the average, but they'd better cut down just to be on the safe side. It's not exactly a convincing argument.

The study points out the apparent paradox that poorer social groups on average drink less than the middle classes, but end up having a much higher rate of alcohol-related health issues. But this shouldn't be too surprising, and it just shows the limitations of linking average figures with individual outcomes. There is much more of a split amongst the less well-off between those who do not drink, and those who drink far too much, and most of those whose drinking prevents them holding down a job will fall into this group.

And, as the famously bibulous novelist Kingsley Amis said "No pleasure is worth giving up for the sake of two more years in a geriatric home at Weston-super-Mare."

Curmudgeon Online:
curmudgeoncolumns.blogspot.com



Horse & Jockey
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High Peak Pub Scene

Robin Wignall & Tom Lord with News and Views

Peak Practice

With Robin Wignall

The August edition of *Derbyshire Life* was well worth a browse both for a one-off supplement, Pub Guide, and for mentions of pubs in other articles. The Pub Guide is better than some of these pocket size publications often are, with pubs from across the county, from the Brunswick in Derby to a number of Peak District pubs, having an entry. All serve real ale and there are comments on food and accommodation where appropriate. It makes a handy little booklet for the visitor to the county, though the Good Beer Guide would be of more use to ardent beer drinkers. In this area the **Church** at Chelmorton, a regular Good Beer Guide entry, and the **Crispin Inn** at Great Longstone get a page, and a handful of pubs along the Hope Valley have been chosen too.



An article in the same DL notes the 'delightful drinking and eating areas' of the **Lamb** at Chinley Head on the long climb up the Hayfield road from Chinley. It is a while since I have been in here so perhaps it's time for a re-visit. The **Old Hall** and the **Paper Mill** at adjacent Whitehough are given a good mention. Don't forget the Beer Festival here from 18th to 20th September. Finally from DL comes a piece on the **Anglers Rest** at Bamford (pictured above), a pub saved by the community for the community, which includes the local post office as one of its functions. Also good for a pint.

The **Cock** in Whaley Bridge continues to offer a range of Robinsons beers. A choice from four beers on handpump ensures a good turnover of beer and decent quality as a result. Recent interesting brews have included Wizard and Dizzy's Twisted Sister Blonde Ale. The Cock is worth a call for beer and for decent food.

As well as being a regular outlet for mild ale, Jennings Dark Mild, the **Shepherds** in Whaley Bridge also rings the changes with beers from the various breweries in the Marston's group. Belma was a single hop brew from Marston's whilst it was good to see the return of Sunbeam from Banks's on a recent call. This always sells well and soon sells out.

High Peak Pub News

With Tom Lord

It is reported from Ashton that the **March Hare** has now finally been demolished, and that the **Woodcock** has had the roof and second floor taken off and with no news as yet as to its future as it has been in this shell like state for quite a while.

More sad news from Denton where the **Gardeners Arms** near Crown Point has now been closed. This makes this immediate area around Crown Point caskless as Hughes' Bar, Last Orders, Red Lion and Toll Point are all keg



The **White Horse** at Whaley Bridge has very recently changed hands. Hopefully more on this next time.



Phoenix White Monk and Storm Bosley Cloud were notable beers at the **Drum & Monkey** at the Horwich End end of Whaley Bridge on a recent call. Here there will be another beer festival for the diary, during the weekend of 2nd, 3rd and 4th October. Look out for a good



only. However a short walk towards Haughton Green will get you to the excellent **Carters Arms**, which offers three well kept ales, with the Holt's **Chapel House** only a short way further on.

Up in Buxton, Dan Hawkin, the proprietor of the **Ale Stop** in Buxton, is running a 'pop up' bar in the closed White Lion at weekends only for ten weeks starting on the 1st August. A couple of cask beers and an interesting range of bottled beers are on offer.

A recent branch trip out into Derbyshire revealed an interesting range of beers at the pubs visited. Starting at the newly opened **Quarryman Arms** in Dove Holes (pictured left), the three beers were York Brewery Blonde, Mouselow Farm Brewery Maybe Frank Extra and Taylor's Landlord. The Quarryman has been well renovated and is a comfortable and welcoming pub bringing a good range of cask beer to the village and well worth a visit. Down at the excellent **Drum and Monkey** in Whaley Bridge the four cask beers on offer were Abbey Brewery Brimstone, Storm Brewery Bosley Cloud, Marston's Burton Bitter and last but not most certainly not least, Whaley Bridge Brewery Stoneheads Bitter.

mix of beers local and from afar. The 199 bus from Stockport stops at the door, whilst the train to Whaley Bridge, Northern Rail Timetable 20, gives you a 10 minute walk.

The **Goyt** in Whaley Bridge usually has five hand pumps on the go. The beers are from the Punch main list and from the Finest Cask list. Customer favourites such as Sharp's Doom Bar and St. Austell Tribute are often to be found and Weetwood Cheshire Cat is often available. The Goyt is well worth a call for well-kept beer.

By the time you read this article Whaley Bridge Brewery should have moved into new premises. The new kit was being installed at the end of July and fresh ingredients were ready for brewing in the building in Furness Vale, part of the Whaley Bridge town area. Brewer Mike Wilde is really looking forward to this next step in the venture which will give him scope to develop and to expand. After a pause in brewing earlier in the year Whaley Bridge beers are again available locally and were on sale at the beer festival at New Mills Football Club in early August.

Finally I paid a visit to the **Robin Hood** in Rainow recently. With the demise of the Highwayman a few years ago and the Rising Sun more recently, the Robin Hood is the only pub left in the village. It has recently changed hands but serves sensibly-priced good food. Beers available were Marston's Pedigree, Taylor's Landlord and Black Sheep Bitter, all safe enough to build up a following before trying something new. The Robin Hood deserves a call.

Rhys Jones

Veteran campaigner in Manchester and Wales

With the passing of Rhys Jones, who died on 28 July after a short illness, CAMRA has lost both one of its great campaigners and one of its great characters.

Rhys was born 64 years ago in Hereford and whilst technically English by birth (a source of occasional and good-natured ribbing) he was a Welshman to the core. Fluent in the language, Rhys was immersed in the culture of Wales from his keen support of the national rugby team to his annual attendance at the National Eisteddfod, where the absence of decent beer or cider was a regular cause for complaint.

He was a railway man too, having worked in the industry until he took early retirement in the mid-1990s. In later years his interest in trains took him abroad on annual trips with a railway society and, closer to home, he was something of a “track basher”. On one occasion he memorably made a journey to Sheffield to traverse a chord on the Supertram system that was only brought into use on Sundays!

However CAMRA was his primary interest and many members throughout the country will have been touched by Rhys’s knowledge, enthusiasm and good humour. He was an activist for many years: the first national AGM he attended was in 1975 and he never missed one after that up to and including Nottingham this year.

Over many years he had active involvement in CAMRA in the Potteries, Preston, Manchester and, latterly, west Wales where he was the founding chairman of the active Bae Ceredigion Branch. In Manchester he was a long serving chairman of the Stockport & South Manchester Branch until late 1998 when he moved back to Wales after inheriting the family home in Llanilar near Abersystwyth. Once settled in he found that the local CAMRA presence was largely moribund. Rhys being Rhys he wasted no time in sorting this out. As he explained in an article for the branch’s new magazine:

Later, around the turn of the century, a small nucleus of loosely organised volunteers was able to take responsibility for pub surveying efforts and also for selecting an annual Pub of the Year. And it was at one Pub of the Year presentation, at the Ship and Castle in Aberystwyth in 2007, that a few of us had the idea of setting up a properly constituted branch of CAMRA. Set up in June of that year...the branch continues to flourish.

Local members have paid tribute to the knowledge and humour with which Rhys chaired meetings and enabled the new branch to grow and flourish. Indeed his last CAMRA event was in June when, already ill, he joined a branch trip to Penlon Cottage Brewery. Local member Mary Galliers remembers good times with Rhys:

I loved playing “pub bingo” with Rhys, trying to match his encyclopaedic recall of pubs in every town in Britain. I used to feel triumphant if I had been to a pub that he had not, especially if it was one on the National Inventory. I especially loved it when he delved into the deep pocket of his green gilet to extract his well-thumbed Good Beer Guide (held shut by an elastic band) to check some pub fact or other. Sometimes, I would feign ignorance about a particular pub as a way to get him to dig out his Good Beer Guide and peer at it over the top of his spectacles.

On the national scene it was Rhys’s passion for cider and perry that marked out his campaigning. He helped found the cider bar at Stockport Beer & Cider Festival in 1987 and took it to such prominence that it was an early host of the National Cider & Perry awards. He was also very active on APPLE from its early days. Current APPLE head Andrea Briers paid tribute to his work there:

Rhys was very knowledgeable and passionate about CAMRA and cider and his advice often proved invaluable. He will be very much missed by everyone on the APPLE committee.

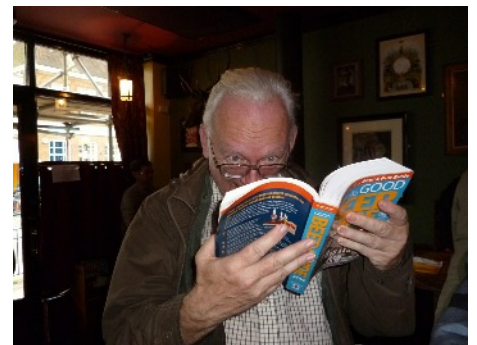
Above all, Rhys will be remembered for his voice and his laugh. From wise words of advice to booming “time” at Stockport Beer Festival – always heard throughout the venue and without amplification – Rhys always made his presence felt. CAMRA’s national AGM will never be the same again. Everyone will have enjoyed his virtuoso performances speaking on various motions over the years. National Chairman Colin Valentine recalls one memorable incident (out of many):

The last motion on the order paper at Douglas in 2010 - my first as chairman - called on all branches to select a wide range of ciders and not to rely on wholesalers. I gave Rhys the opportunity to be the last speaker against the motion. He gave what we all expected - a barnstorming, humorous and well-crafted speech gently rubbishing the proposal. When I asked the proposer if he wished to exercise his right to sum up, his exact words were “What’s the bloody point”. He was right and the motion was soundly defeated.

Perhaps this is a cliché but being Welsh Rhys almost inevitably had a fine singing voice. From singing with the crowd at rugby matches to joining the folk carol singing tradition at Sheffield every December (an annual trip to the Royal at Dungworth had become a tradition for some of us in recent years). And who will forget his memorable renditions of “The brewery tap’s a supermarket now”?

His laugh was also memorably loud, almost getting several of us thrown out of quieter pubs on more than one occasion. You knew he was there at even the most crowded beer festival – if he couldn’t be seen he could usually be heard.

CAMRA has lost a great campaigner, cider and perry have lost a great supporter, and of course many of us have lost a great friend. We all know though that wherever he may be now, they will certainly know he’s there.



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Meet the Brewer

Drink Up Brewing

This month Brendon Hall interviews Alex Parkinson of Drink Up Brewing. Based in Horwich, DUB are one of the region's newest brewers. Their beers first appeared at this year's Stockport Beer & Cider Festival and were formally launched at the Old Original Bay Horse in Horwich in mid-August.

1) Hi Drink Up Brewing. In a few lines, please introduce yourselves!

Hello! I'm Alex Parkinson, Head Brewer of DUB. We're (very soon to be) a 10 barrel brewery in Horwich, Bolton. We'll be producing a wide variety of beer styles, from Kölsch to IPA, Gose to Extra Special Bitter. The team currently consists of myself (pictured left in the photo), Lewis Russell (Founder/Managing Director, the left brain to my right brain (and pictured right)), and Gary Leaf (Production Assistant and man of many talents!)

2) What got you into brewing your own beers?

I've always been a very creative person, but before I started home-brewing in my old flat in Salford, I'd never found my medium. I lack the dexterity and finesse to produce artwork, or the patience and eloquence required to write a novel; but with beer, I love that I can turn my imagination into something tangible that both myself and others can enjoy. Plus, home brewing made a cheap pint! It all spiralled from there, and now I do my hobby for a living. I'm a lucky boy.

3) Your dubFIRE ACE beer was a real hit at Stockport Beer Festival - how do you go about choosing your beer flavours and ingredients?

I drink! I usually have a beer in mind, so I drink as many of that style as I can, and document what I like and what I don't, before trying to recreate those good elements in one beer. The usual dubFIRE is inspired by many ambers and reds, including newly crowned Champion Beer Of Britain, Cwtch by Tiny Rebel. I also read a ridiculous amount. Any new recipe starts with taking notes from 'Designing Great Beers' by Ray Daniels, and I usually dip into 'The Oxford Companion To Beer' by my hero Garrett Oliver several times a week. Sometimes, I just get a feeling. With dubFIRE ACE, I saw a tweet from Jamie at Five-Oh about some spare Sorachi Ace hops he had, and thought 'ooh, I bet they'd be nice to dry-hop FIRE with!' So I did.

4) As new brewers do you have any hints and tips for anyone interested in getting into brewing?

Be prepared to be exhausted, a lot. Be prepared to work until ten at night, go home, and come back in for seven in the morning. You MIGHT have to work weekends. You WILL get acid and caustic on your clothes. Your arms will ache. You'll cancel plans with friends, and appear flaky about making them, because a new beer isn't fermenting out the way you expected or something equally as stupid, so you might need to stick about the brewery. That's the tip of the iceberg; but if you are ready for all that, you will be entering an industry with a huge sense of community, innovation, and adventure, and one that is immeasurably rewarding.

5) Where do you see DUB in five years' time?

Both me and Lewis are crazy ambitious; we've seen the UK beer scene explode over the last few years and we want to keep riding that wave; one that I personally believe will never crash into the shore. Despite not even getting out of second gear yet, we've already got a clear progression plan for the next couple of years. My dream for the brewery is to put Bolton on the beer map, the way Thornbridge have with Bakewell, or dare I say it BrewDog with Aberdeen. Now that might come across as arrogant, or as if I have delusions of grandeur, but I'm a young lad who simply wants to try to be the best he can be in his own field, and give something to his home town that they can champion and cherish.

6) Finally, when you aren't drinking your own beers - tell us one favourite local, one national and one international beer that you can't get enough of!

Ooh this is hard! I've never been good at picking favourites. Locally, there is a plethora of insanely good beers, but if I had to drink one every day, it would be Manchester Bitter by Marble. It doesn't scream or shout, but then again it doesn't have to. It's incredibly well balanced and absolutely gorgeous. Nationally, it's Beavertown's stunning lemon iced tea Berlinerweisse, Earl Phantom. Tart, juicy, refreshing; it's perfect for a summer's day. Picking one beer from the rest of the world is tough, so I'll pick two. For everyday supping, a fresh can of Ballast Point's Sculpin hits all the IPA boxes. For sharing with friends, I'd have to go for Rosé de Gambrinus by Cantillon, or indeed any beer from the kings of lambic! See, told you I was bad at picking favourites!



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Wobbly Bob



2002

Navvy



2002

Wobbly Bob



2004

Wobbly Bob

Nursery Flowers Again

The Nursery Inn on Green Lane, Heaton Norris reopened on 21st July after a thorough refurbishment by Hydes Brewery. It's a listed building which features on CAMRA's National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors, so the pub's original 1930s interior layout and fittings remain intact, including the distinctive stained-glass windows featuring garden plants and tools. The one notable change is the conversion of the former outdoor sales area to a ladies' toilet serving the vault, which previously only had a gents.

It has been reupholstered and generally smartened up throughout, with much use being made of authentic 1930s design motifs. The previously slightly shabby vault has been greatly improved while still maintaining its distinctive character



complete with dartboard. An obvious contrast has been created between the main lounge, with its plush, chintzy feel, and the rear smoke room where there is a more geometric, Art Deco theme. Some of the decor initially comes across as a touch bright and jazzy, but no doubt it will mellow over time.

New faces behind the bar are experienced licensees Sue and John Ketley (not to be confused with the weatherman!) After ten years in the Hong Kong Police, John returned to the UK to run a series of pubs including the Cemetery in Rochdale and the Cross Guns in Egerton. In 1992 he launched Marston's first dedicated alehouse, the Queen's Head in Lichfield, and most recently has been running Thwaites' Boatyard at Riley Green near Blackburn. John says he's always looked on the Nursery as the pub he really wanted to run, and he and Sue see it as crowning their career before heading for retirement in Portugal.

The beer range comprises the four Hydes regular beers – Owd Oak, 1863, Original and Manchester's Finest – plus Hydes' own seasonal beers, at least one from the Beer Studio, and generally a couple of guests from other breweries. John has a long-term commitment to cask beer and reckons every pub he's ever run has ended up in the Good Beer Guide. Certainly when OT called the Beer Studio Copper Cascade was on top form. There's 50p off every pint of real ale on Mondays.


Food remains important to the pub and is now available every evening until 9pm (8pm on Sundays). For sports fans there are large screens showing Sky and BT Sports in the smoke room and vault, but none in the main lounge.

All in all, it's a welcome brightening-up of a long-established classic pub that hasn't compromised its essential character. Although a little off the beaten track, it's well worth a visit for both beer and food. The address is 258 Green Lane and the postcode SK4 2NA. It's open all day, every day, with 12 midnight closing on Fridays and Saturdays.

Old Vic Saved?

We have reported that Ye Olde Vic in Edgeley was under threat of closure. The owner wanted to sell and the current tenants, Steve Brannan and Jo Quinn, could not afford to buy it. A consortium of locals has raised the required funds and we hear that their offer has been accepted. Good news if it all goes through, especially as Steve and Jo will remain as tenants. Fundraising is still a priority though as the pub needs a considerable amount spending on it so if anyone is interested in investing please contact the pub.


Several changes have already been implemented. The Vic now opens every day at 5pm and there is regular live entertainment on Wednesdays. Another innovation is a blackboard in the pub detailing the beers on sale and showing what's on next. The cask beer range remains ever-changing and quality is as good as ever.




**SSM CAMRA
Pub of the Year
2010**

Railway Heaton Norris

Stockport's Award Winning Community Pub



**Pure Radio Perfect
Stockport Pub 2010**



**GOOD BEER GUIDE 2014
We're in it**

Good Beer & Good Cheer

We're in the Good Beer Guide 2015

Hand Pulled Ales
Holts Bitter plus 4 changing guest ales

Live Music
Modern/Mainstream Jazz every Sunday
Open Mic every Friday
Rock & Roll - 1st Saturday of Month

Hazel Moor Sea Anglers Club - 1st Wednesday of Month

Pub Games
6 darts/crib teams and 2 pool teams

74-76 Wellington Rd North, Stockport SK4 1HF
Tel: 0161 477 3680

Buses 192 & 22 pass by the door

Hello Poynton!

We are pleased to report the opening of the **Poynton Brewery** based at the Poynton British Legion Club.

In February's *Opening Times* we reported that the Worth Brewery, which had been brewing at the club since 2010, had ceased to trade. Colin Bavins, a Poynton resident and also a member of both CAMRA and the Club, spotted the opportunity to realise a long-held ambition and has recently acquired the equipment of the old brewery with his business partner Andy King.

Colin told *Opening Times*: "We are pleased to be based at a club that is one of a few in the UK currently with its own onsite brewery, with a well-established reputation for offering great cask beers and with a clientele having great enthusiasm for real ales. We want to develop recipes that we and club members are happy with before we start selling more widely and we welcome all input from club members. We will initially concentrate on producing two or three quality beers with a focus on consistency. We are particularly keen to deliver a well hopped, refreshing light bitter as our signature beer.

"We are fortunate to have been mentored by Tony and Mark Nixon at Townhouse Brewery based at Audley, north of Stoke. Tony and Mark have been generous with their time and advice allowing us to share their 15 years' experience and to work with them at Townhouse. We are aiming to have our own brews available soon."

Watch this space for further news on this exciting development!

Wood Street Bitter

A traditional bitter is being launched this month to help raise awareness about the high levels of child poverty in Manchester.

The bitter called "Wood Street" is being brewed by Marble Brewery to mark the opening of a history exhibition at children's charity Wood Street Mission, and a specially-commissioned guided walk from the charity's historic building just off Deansgate, to another institution set up in the mid-Victorian era, the **Marble Arch** pub in Ancoats.

Roseanne Sweeney chief executive of Wood Street Mission said: "We were both set up at a time when there was a lot of concern about rising poverty levels and children's welfare. Today sadly one in three local children is living in poverty. I am delighted Marble Brewery is helping us raise awareness about our work through this exciting collaboration."



The bitter is being brewed in a traditional style but at 3.6% is half the strength of beer brewed in the nineteenth century in order to appeal to a wide range of beer drinkers. Matthew Howgate head brewer at Marble Brewery said: "It will be made with Maris Otter and Crystal malts. Hops will be Admiral which is an English hop. It will be beautiful."

"Wood Street" was being launched on Wednesday 9th September - the same day as the opening of the Exhibition **Queues, Clogs and Redemption** and the first of two guided walks. It will be available from then for a limited period in Marble Arch and selected other pubs, including the **Gas Lamp** on Bridge Street, which used to be Wood Street Mission's old kitchen.

Bus to the Brewery

Is it a brewery tour, meet-the-brewer day or Bus to the Pub? Well, it's all three, actually. To mark this year's Cask Ale Week, organised by Cask Marque and supported by CAMRA, North Manchester CAMRA is offering an hourly bus service linking all the breweries in Salford. It's on Saturday September 26th, and the buses leave Stevenson Square, in central Manchester, at 12 noon, then hourly until mid-evening. There are also departures from Eccles, by the Lamb, at 11:30, 12:30 and 13:30. The fare is £5.00 (£4.50 to CAMRA members and concessions), pay on the bus.

it's Cask Ale Week 2015 Celebrating British Real Ale 24 Sep - 4 Oct

and it's **BUS TO THE BREWERY** Meet the Brewer Bus to the Pub and brewery tours all at once!

SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

4 breweries
3 brewery taps
1 brewpub

our buses leave Mtr Stevenson Square at 12 noon then every hour and Eccles Lamb Hotel at 1130, 1230 & 1330

full details on northmanchester.camra.org.uk

We will be calling every hour at Seven Brothers, Hydes Beer Studio and First Chop, then up to the revamped Star Inn Community Brewery. We cross into inner Manchester to visit Holt's brewery tap and the Marble Arch, pausing on the way at Blackjack's busy brewing archway.

You can stop off at any, or all, of these for an hour to pick up our next bus. Each stop will be different; at many, the brewer will be on hand for questions (and compliments), several will be providing a BBQ, and at least one will resemble a small pop concert. The cost of your real ale is not included!

Full details of the bus timetable can be found at northmanchester.camra.org.uk. You can join the bus anywhere on its route - convenient stops are listed on the website.

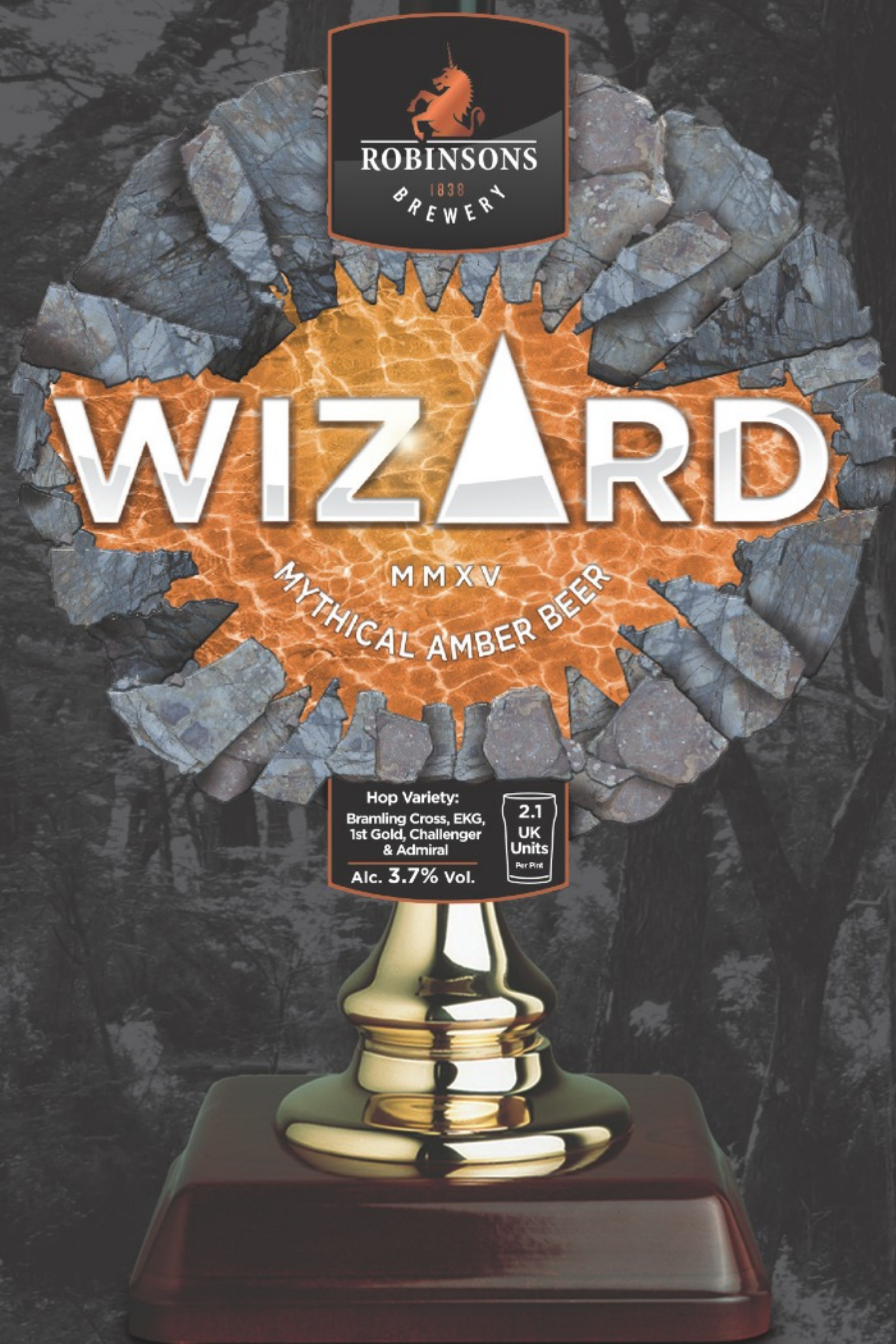
Pub News in Brief

Enterprise Inns have apparently sold the **Vale Cottage** in Gorton (subject to contract), it seems to a small group of Manchester folk who also own and run other pubs, although there was rumour of late bids from elsewhere. Hopefully the pub will survive, with real ale (and the excellent good value food), but those of you who have visited will know that the site is quite large, although we gather some of the land may be protected in some way. We will be keeping an eye on developments. Nearby the **Garibaldi** on Lees Street still sells cask beers from Morecambe's Cross Bay Brewery - on a recent visit the quality was excellent.



In Heaton Moor a new bar, **Time and Place**, was due to open on 28th August. Cask beer from First Chop was promised - more next time. In another development the **Moor Top** reopened last month after a short closure. We are told it has been taken on by Steve Pilling (who runs the nearby Damson restaurant and the Dockyard pubs in Manchester and Salford). When OT called three cask beers were on handpump - Thwaites Lancaster Bomber and Wainwright plus Black Sheep Best Bitter - and three more were promised. Food, supervised by the chef from Damson, was due to be available by the time you read this.

INTRODUCING...



Serving
SORCERY

Inspired by a local Cheshire legend 'The Wizard of Alderley Edge', we have combined 5 English hops, pale, wheat & crystal malts to produce Wizard, a moreish, sessionable 3.7% ABV mythical amber ale. Packed full of flavour, Wizard has a spell-bounding berry fruit & zesty hop palate complemented by a magical full malt character.

*Drink of this & take thy fill
for the water falls by the Wizard's will'*