

# OPENING TIMES

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2019 / FREE

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## About Opening Times & Contacts

*Opening Times* is produced by the Stockport & South Manchester Branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale. Additional material is supplied by the High Peak, Tameside & North East Cheshire Branch, and the Macclesfield & East Cheshire Branch. It is printed by Matelot Marketing and distributed throughout Stockport, Tameside, South Manchester and East Manchester. There are also numerous outlets in Macclesfield & East Cheshire, Manchester City Centre, High Peak and Glossop.

News, articles and letters are welcome to the editorial address – John Clarke, 45 Bulkeley Street, Edgeley, Stockport, SK3 9HD. E-mail – stocam@btinternet.com. Phone 0161 477 1973. Advertising rates on request or online at: <http://www.ssmcamra.co.uk/magazine.htm>. Local advertising John Clarke (as above) or contact Neil Richards MBE at [n.richards@btinternet.com](mailto:n.richards@btinternet.com)

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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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## CAMRA Discounts

A list of local pubs generously offering a discount to CAMRA members can be found online at [www.ssmcamra.co.uk/discount.htm](http://www.ssmcamra.co.uk/discount.htm)

## Front Cover

The restored Angel Inn – the launch venue for Stockport Beer Week. Full details on page 7. Photo by Lawrence Devaney.

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**Copy date for the November/December issue is Monday 7 October.**

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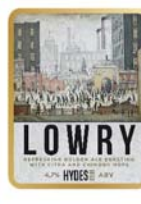
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# Pubs of the Month

Stockport & South Manchester Winners for September and October



***The Pub of the Month Award for September goes to the Angel Inn on Stockport Market Place. John Clarke explains why it won.***

When Robinsons took over the old Bell & Co brewery in 1949 they inherited a swathe of pubs in Stockport town centre. The Angel was among them and when it closed two years later, that was likely to be the end of its life as a pub. Selling it on as a free house was out of the question back then.

For the following 67 years the building was put to a variety of other uses – for many years it was a solicitor's office and latterly home to Seven Miles Out. Then along came Craig Johnson and his business partner Anthony Meynell who, along with other investors, made plans to bring the old pub back to life. It finally re-opened on 23 November last year and hasn't looked back.

Obviously little remains of the original pub interior, but it's been a skilful conversion with a bar to the left and the interior nicely broken up into different areas. A snug at the back left is particularly welcoming. The walls have gradually filled up with pictures and other artwork to enhance the comfortable feel. At the back is a large outdoor area which has been put to good use and is a real asset to the pub.

On a day to day basis the Angel is managed by Rob Loader, a very experienced licensee who really knows his beer. The well-appointed bar offers up to six changing cask beers, with one handpump sometimes given over to traditional cider. These are accompanied by an impressive range of German beers on tap and in bottle. Well-chosen Belgian specialities complete the picture.

The Pub of the Month award will be presented on Thursday 19 September. This will coincide with the launch night of Stockport Beer Week and will incorporate a performance by TV comedian James Dowdeswell of his stand-up show 'The Pub Manifesto'. Civic dignitaries will also be along to what promises to be a great night out.



***The October Pub of the Month award has been won by the Nelson in Didsbury. John Clarke pays it a visit.***

The Nelson, on Barlow Moor Road, just round the corner from Wilmslow Road, is a fine example of a down-to-earth community local. There aren't many pubs left in Didsbury fitting that description.

It's quite a small pub and has been opened up over the years so that it's now essentially open-plan. It's also very sport-focussed with several screens dotted around the place.

Unfortunately the Nelson was for a long time let down by the quality of its cask beer. Sharp's Doom Bar was the solitary offering – and its quality was nothing to write home about. As a consequence many of the regulars drifted away from cask and sales were down to a single nine-gallon barrel a week.

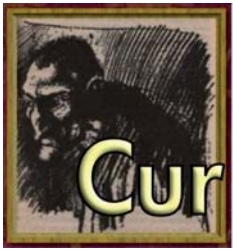
However, everything changed with the arrival of new licensee Adam Prestage, who took over last December. He came to the Nelson following a six-year stint at the Witton Chimes in Northwich, but he's a local man with connections to the Nelson – 20 years ago he captained the pub's football team. More to the point he's a big cask ale fan and his first priority was to tackle the beer quality. He's certainly succeeded, as not only have the sales increased to five nine-gallon casks a week but he's also recently gained Cask Marque accreditation for the quality of his beers. Two cask beers are usually available – Robinsons Dizzy Blonde is the regular and there is also a changing guest beer.

Adam tells us that he's been supported in all of this by the pub's owner, the Craft Union Pub Company (a division of Ei Group), which is also cask-focussed it seems. Company representatives should be along on the night of the presentation, Thursday 24 October.

This should be an excellent night out so please join us if you can. Didsbury is well served by buses – from Stockport the 23 and 42 are your best bets. From Manchester there are too many to list. There is also a Metrolink stop on the line out to East Didsbury.

***The Pub of the Month award is sponsored by Stephenson's, a local family firm that has been supplying the local pub and catering trade for over 150 years. Check out their advert on the previous page.***

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# Curmudgeon

## The Beer That Dare Not Speak Its Name

A couple of decades ago, there was a trend for brewers to start calling their milds anything but "Mild", in the belief that the name itself came across as old-fashioned and was putting drinkers off. Now this tendency has spread to bitter as well. At first it was mostly confined to beers at the stronger end of the scale, with Young's Special and Marston's Pedigree dropping the "Bitter" and just going by their one-word brand name. But it has now extended to the classic "ordinary" bitters, such as Hook Norton Hooky, with many of them denying that they are any kind of bitter at all, often just calling them "amber ale".

It has been suggested that one reason behind this is the undesirable flavour connotations of the word "bitter", but I'm not convinced by that. After all, we've been happily drinking it for decades, and "sours" have become popular in the craft world without anyone finding that term off-putting. I'm sure it is more the case that "bitter" is seen as the beer your dad drank.

But "amber" itself is just a colour, and in fact is generally described as a rich gold, whereas many beers calling themselves such are copper or even chestnut. And nobody ever, when asked the question "what type of beer do you enjoy drinking?" replies "Oh, I like amber ale". At least, round here, if you go in a Holt's, Lees or Sam Smith's pub, you can still ask for a pint of bitter and that is precisely what you will get.

Whether you like it or not, Bitter, while it covers a wide spectrum of colours and flavours, is perhaps the quintessential English beer style, and stands in the pub alongside other major categories such as mild, stout and lager. To try to deny its existence and break it down into a myriad of sub-styles just sows confusion and leaves drinkers adrift as to what it actually is. So maybe it's time for brewers to say, loud and proud, that what they're producing is Bitter, and stop trying to suggest that it's just some fuzzy, ill-defined category of "Ale".

## Sheep in Wolf's Clothing

Handpumps have become an unmistakable symbol of real ale; if you go in a pub and see them on the bar, you know exactly what to expect. However, this can cut both ways, and, for many drinkers who have had too many bad experiences, they may mark it out as something not even to be considered. So it's interesting to hear that Sharp's Brewery are trialling a keg-style tall font for cask Doom Bar. There's a clear statement on the mounting that it is cask beer, so nobody can claim that they are being deceived.

Thirty years ago, plenty of real ale was dispensed via electric pumps of various kinds, so in a sense it's a case of the wheel coming full circle. There may be a strong association between real ale and handpumps in the public mind, but it no more needs to be served through them than it has to be delivered on horse-drawn drays or kept in wooden barrels. And the fashionable "keg-conditioned" beers are dispensed through taps indistinguishable from those used for normal kegs.

Of course there's always the possibility that drinkers are so wedded to the concept of handpumps that it will deter more than it attracts. But it must be worth a try, to see whether it helps to make cask look more like everything else on the bar rather than something "other" to be avoided at all costs. It could also eliminate some of the variability caused by incompetent bar staff having little idea how to use handpumps. I'd certainly be keen to try it if I saw it.

Curmudgeon Online: [curmudgeoncolumns.blogspot.com](http://curmudgeoncolumns.blogspot.com)

# Didsbury Beer Festival

Didsbury Beer Festival is not-for-profit, organised and run by volunteers, sponsored by local businesses and raises money for local charities and good causes, writes *Stuart Morris*. This year the festival is supporting:

**42nd Street**, a local mental health charity for young people, chosen by the festival organisers as a direct response to the tragic suicides of local youngsters in the last few years, and

**Together Dementia Support**, which provides therapeutic activities for people living with dementia and their carers and supporters, chosen because more and more members of our community are directly and indirectly affected by dementia.

Typically, more than 5,000 members of our diverse community go to each festival over its three days. But why do they go? For starters, it's because the festival brings the community together to enjoy a great party that offers 200 varieties of ciders, perries, cask and keg beers (with vegan and gluten free options), a broad range of live music, from big bands to bluegrass, folk, rock and blues, and delicious food.

But it's more than the beer, music and food that draw people in. This festival brings the Didsbury community together, sponsors, volunteers and punters alike, to raise money for local charities and good causes. So, whilst all beer festivals can leave you with a warm fuzzy feeling, if you go to Didsbury Beer Festival, you might feel an extra bit of warmth knowing that you've been drinking for charity. Since the first festival in 2008, Didsbury Beer Festival has raised over £130k for local charities.

There's no need to buy a ticket in advance, it's pay on entry, £5, which includes a glass. However, the festival organisers will release a few "Friends" tickets which will get you into every session with a free glass. Check out the website [www.didsburybeerfestival.org.uk](http://www.didsburybeerfestival.org.uk) or follow Didsbury Beer Festival on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The 12th Didsbury Beer Festival takes place at **St Catherine's Community Centre, School Lane, Didsbury M20 6HS from 31 October to 2 November 2019.**

# Old Hall Beer Festival



One of the best rural beer festivals around has to be that run every year at the **Old Hall Inn** in Whitehough, near Chinley, and its sister pub the **Paper Mill** (it's just across the road).

Having two pubs so close together, in the same ownership but very different, creates a unique atmosphere with festival visitors shuttling between the two venues. Whether it's the 'olde world' feel of the Old Hall or the more modern, but still cosy and comfortable Paper Mill, all visitors should feel at home.

Between them, the pubs will be offering 200-plus beers and ciders, from both from local favourites and breweries further afield. Food comes courtesy of a quality barbecue in the Old Hall's garden plus pop-up street food kitchens across the road at the Paper Mill. There will be live music too. The festival runs from 20 to 22 September this year.

There are regular trains to Chinley from Manchester which also call at numerous suburban stations en route. From Chinley station it's a 10-15 minute walk down to the Old Hall. Well worth a visit.

# Stockport Beer Week

## Eleven Days of Beer



It's that time of year again: the end of September sees Stockport celebrate its fifth annual Beer Week. There are 20 or so mostly free events taking place in and around the centre of the town in

the 11 days from Thursday September the 19th to Sunday 29th and we want you to join in, writes *Chris Walkden*.

Our event just happens to coincide with National Cask Ale Week, organised by Cask Marque, which has recently recognised Stockport Beer Week as being one of the biggest and best events during their promotion.

The Beer Week is not just about the beer, but also about the pubs, breweries and heritage of our town. Working with Stockport Council and the Town Centre Development Company, Totally Stockport, CAMRA is helping to encourage the revitalisation of the town centre by getting people to visit the many pubs and bars, and sample different beers. Part of this is the **Town Centre Ale Trail** sponsored by our local family brewer Robinsons. Visit pubs, have a beer, get a sticker for your card and win prizes. What's not to like?

The launch event on Thursday 19th will be a double-header at the **Angel**: TV comedian James Dowdeswell will perform his stand up show "The Pub Manifesto" and sign his CAMRA book of the same name. This will be followed by the presentation of the September's Pub of the Month award.

There will be an opportunity to enjoy the pubs of the Market Place the following evening when CAMRA runs its monthly "stagger" and you could pick up some Ale Trail stickers to win a T-shirt or some Old Tom bottles.

Heritage is a big theme of the Week: as well as special offers at the award-winning **Robinsons Brewery Visitor Centre**, there will be cellar tours of some of Stockport's historic pubs on Saturday 21st. These include the **Queens Head**, **Bakers Vaults**, **Boars Head** and the **Arden Arms**. Not only can you find out what goes on in a pub cellar, but you can also see some historical elements which are not normally available to view.

Shire Horses are one of the great traditions at Robinsons Brewery. You can get up close and personal with Bobek and Mojo, their current horses, at a meet and greet event on Sunday 22nd.

What was beer like in times gone by? Well you can find out when beer sommelier Annabel Smith conducts a tutored tasting of beers through the ages at the **Petersgate Tap** on Wednesday 25th. And with the explosion in micro-breweries in recent years, Dave Porter will come along to the **Hope Inn** on Saturday 21st and tell us some tales about the ones he has built and installed around the world.

And at the other end of the process, we have managed to arrange an exclusive trip to the Robinsons packaging plant in Bredbury on Monday the 23rd where, amongst other things, you will be able to see the famous Old Tom beer being bottled in anticipation of its 120th birthday in November.

The **Petersgate Tap** has another of its popular cider tastings on the final day, this time hosted by Dan Hasler of the Orchard Project. Cider can also be found at Stockport's main music venue, the **Spinning Top**, which will be holding a Beer and Music festival over the second weekend.

Mobberley's brewers will host a tasting of their beers at **Project 53** on Sunday 22nd, **Calverts Court** will be holding an SK Beer Festival and will feature a Meet the Brewer event on Monday 23rd while Andy Pugh will reveal the secrets of successful home brewing on Tuesday 24th at **Ye Olde Vic**.

The Beer Week will also offer a guided tour of pubs in Cheadle Hulme and Bramhall by service-bus if you fancy a day out.

*Full details can be found on the Stockport CAMRA website at [www.ssmcamra.co.uk/campaign.htm#beerweek](http://www.ssmcamra.co.uk/campaign.htm#beerweek) and in printed programmes available around the town from mid-September.*

Please note that while many events are free, some are ticketed – information can be found in the programme or on the website.

We are grateful to our sponsors, Robinsons Brewery, Metro Taxis, JD Wetherspoon and Imagine FM, for their assistance, so please support them when you can.

## Stockport Beer Town

Many CAMRA members travel extensively around the country checking out new pubs and investigating interesting beers. During these "research trips", they often come across a range of local pub and beer leaflets, some produced by local CAMRA branches.

This set some people thinking, why not something similar for Stockport town centre? The town is unquestionably one of Britain's premier beer towns with a heady mix of pubs and bars, so we should have a leaflet for locals and visitors alike.

It was obvious that lots of questions needed to be answered, not least the area to be covered and whether it should include all cask outlets. In addition, where could we find a useable base map and how could we get the design done?

CAMRA successfully approached Totally Stockport for a grant in line with other projects to help revitalise the town centre. Then it was off to see Crystal Print to show them what was wanted and it was agreed that CAMRA would supply the words, photos and information and Crystal Print would set out the design and arrange the printing.

During the six-month process, tying down all the pubs/bars was like trying to pin jelly to the wall. New ones such as Vinaböd were opening whilst the Light Cinema announced they were dropping cask ale.

This article was written before the *Stockport Beer Town* pub leaflet hits the streets, so we haven't seen the final product yet but we hope you like it. The leaflet, launched in conjunction with Stockport Beer Week, will be available in all the pubs covered and in areas further afield, as well as in libraries and information centres etc. Any user feedback will be welcome.





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# Heard at the Bar

Pub News from Stockport, Manchester, Tameside and beyond

## Jake's of Gee Cross



Darren and Cheryl Shaw, owners of the popular **Jake's Ale House** micropub in Romiley have now opened a sister pub in nearby Gee Cross.

Situated in the heart of the village at 285 Stockport Road, this is a skilful conversion of a sports bar and follows the successful format of the original Jake's, albeit on a slightly smaller scale. There's just one room but this is comfortably furnished with plenty of fixed



seating and old pews around the walls. The extensive use of natural wood, for the flooring and bar, adds to the warm and natural feel.

The dog- and walker-friendly bar, managed on a day-to-day basis by Robbie Kelly, who has moved here from **Platform 1** in Romiley, offers four changing cask beers and six keg beers (two of which will also be changing guests). When *Opening Times* called the cask ales were a varied collection from brewers such as Revolutions, Beartown, Yeovil and Welbeck Abbey. Half a dozen bag-in-box ciders are also available along with a good German and Belgian selection.

Darren tells us that trade has been good to date - as it should be because this is a very welcome addition to the area. Jake's of Gee Cross is closed on Mondays, opens from 4pm to 10pm from Tuesday to Thursday, 1pm to late on Saturday and 1pm to 10pm on Sundays.

## Cocked Hat

The **Cocked Hat** in Stockport Market Place has a new face behind the bar. The pub has been taken on by Yorkshire-based Mood Pubs, which appears to be a company specialising in taking on run-down properties and turning them into successful pubs and bars. We aren't quite sure how the Cocked Hat fits in with this, but it does look a step in the right direction for a pub that has had more than its fair share of ups and downs in recent times.



The new man is Sam Brown (pictured left) who is being assisted by his dad. Sam comes with plenty of experience having spent time on relief work in various pubs and also running the **Pineapple** in Bolton. Plans for the pub include a redecoration and also a welcome name change back to the Pack Horse.

When *Opening Times* dropped in, the cask beer range had certainly been revitalised and includes house beer Ye Ole' Pack Horse (a house

When *Opening Times* dropped in, the cask beer range had certainly been revitalised and includes house beer Ye Ole' Pack Horse (a house

beer supplied by HB Clark of Wakefield and a bargain £2.30 a pint), Oakham Citra, Wimbledon Brewery Common Pale Ale, Great Heck Dave and Titanic Plum Porter (which may also become a permanent beer). Sam is also considering turning one of the handpumps over to real cider, too.

The Cocked Hat opens at 12 noon every day and closes at 11pm Monday to Wednesday, midnight Thursday to Saturday and 10:30pm on Sunday. Well worth supporting – pay it a visit.

## High Peak Pub of the Season

A jolly time was had by all on Saturday 20 July when the High Peak, Tameside & North East Cheshire Branch presented their Summer Pub of the Season Award to the **Flute & Firkin** on Park Lane in Poynton.

This small pub, which operates over two floors, opened in May last year and is the tap for the local Poynton Brewery (based at the nearby Legion Club). There are six handpumps featuring four beers from Poynton Brewery in addition to a couple of guest beers from local microbreweries. A stout or porter is always available. The cask offering is complemented by five craft keg beers, one craft cider and a wide selection of wines, malt whiskys and gins (including Middlewood gin produced by Poynton Brewery).



It's been an excellent addition to the Poynton beer scene and the award was celebrated by a large crowd of locals, CAMRA members and civic dignitaries. Pictured above with the Pub of the Season award are (left to right) High Peak CAMRA member Lawrence Bamber, branch chairman Ben Zwierink, Poynton Brewery's Sue and Colin Bavins, and Mayor of Poynton Sarah-Jane Gilmore.

## Tameside News in Brief

The **Chapel House** on Astley Street in Dukinfield no longer sells cask beer. On the plus side Robinsons' **Victoria** on Victoria Road now has a new licensee and real ale has made a welcome reappearance.

In Mossley it is reported that the old RBS bank on Stamford Street is to open in September as a bar and restaurant and this may sell real ale. In Droylsden the old Lloyds Bank is likely to become a craft beer and wood-fired pizza venue. Also in Droylsden the old RBS bank may be turned into a real ale/craft beer bar downstairs and restaurant upstairs. In all cases watch this space.

In Ashton we hear that **Tapsters Bar** may be extended into the premises next door while the **Bowling Green** may soon have cask beer back on the bar.

Finally, in Stalybridge we welcome back a famous name. The **Stalybridge Tavern** has reopened as **The Old Thirteenth Cheshire Astley Volunteer Rifleman Corps Inn** which will now have the record as the longest pub name in the UK.

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## Thanks from Stockport CP



Stockport Cerebral Palsy Society is a local charity that has been providing support to adults and children with disabilities for over 60 years, writes *Chloe Adey*. We were thrilled to be the chosen charity for the CAMRA Stockport Beer and Cider Festival, now in the second year of the three-year partnership, raising an

incredible £6,000.

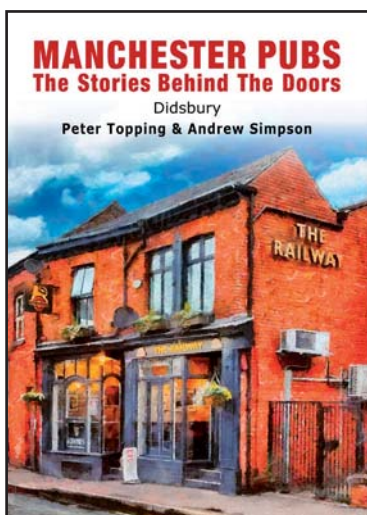
We couldn't have succeeded without the support of everyone involved. Thank you to CAMRA's brilliant organisers and volunteers for their hard work and support. A huge thank you to Casino 36 Stockport, which kindly sponsored our bar at the event. Thank you to Hydes Brewery, Outstanding Brewing Co Ltd, Timothy Taylor's, Torrside Brewing and Weetwood Ales for donating all the beer and to our cask sponsors, the Angel and the Hinds Head. Over half of our casks had sold out by Saturday evening. We also would like to thank all of our hardworking volunteers with a special mention to ACS Construction Group, Handelsbanken, Slater + Gordon and finally, Cardinal Maritime.

Sarah Thomas, CEO of Stockport CP said, "I would like to thank CAMRA for selecting us to be the chosen charity, our volunteers for their hard work and our donors. This is a fantastic opportunity for Stockport CP and the funds raised are so important and help us carry on providing our support."

We are delighted that we are the chosen charity for the third year running next year and hope to see you there!

## Book Review

*Manchester Pubs – The Stories Behind The Doors, Didsbury*, by Peter Topping and Andrew Simpson. Topping Publishing; 310 pages; £14.99



This welcome addition to Peter Topping and Andrew Simpson's *Manchester Pubs* series (the first two covered the City Centre and Chorlton) is a comprehensive review of all the current pubs in Didsbury (West, East and central) and Withington and also includes a section on the numerous lost pubs in the area, too.

Peter paints the pictures of each pub and Andrew tells their stories – and very entertaining stories they are too. Every pub history is full of fascinating detail and quirky anecdotes and, in addition to Peter's

paintings, is accompanied by photos of the pubs as they are today and in days gone by. The quality of the illustrations is outstanding and the authors are also to be commended on their meticulous research. Each section is also accompanied by a map to help you plan your own visits – and after you have read this book you'll certainly want to get out and about around Didsbury.

Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA has supported the book and has supplied an Epilogue celebrating the pubs in the area. If you are interested in pubs, this is an essential addition to your bookshelf – you may be able to pick up a copy at EJ Morten Booksellers on Warburton Street in Didsbury or direct from the publishers.

## Cider and Perry

News, awards and events



### Regional Cider Pub of the Year

Stockport's **Petersgate Tap** is the CAMRA Greater Manchester Cider Pub of the Year. This was presented on Saturday 17 August and pictured here with the award are (left to right) Greater Manchester Regional Director Phil Moss. Regional Cider Representative Mike Gilroy, Alan Gent from the Petersgate Tap and Stockport & South Manchester Cider Rep Dave Preston.



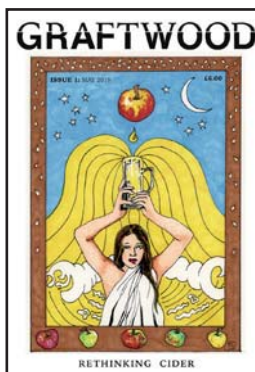
### Manchester Cider Week

Manchester Cider Club was launched from a sold-out cider tasting in the Spring. Since then numbers have grown for each monthly meeting – and now a series of events has crystallised into a whole week dedicated to cider in Manchester, writes *Dick Withecombe*.

Running from 9 to 15 September, events include tastings and talks by the UK's world-famous cider maker Tom Oliver and US cider innovator Rev. Nat, plus cider tastings and a cider party at the Green Space at Stretford Mall (this is on Sunday 15 September and runs from 2pm to 8pm).

On Wednesday 11 September, there will be an 'Introducing Local Ciders' event at the **Beatnikz Republic Bar** on Tariff Street in Manchester. This starts at 7pm and will be introduced by Chris Hewitt from Dunham Press Cider. Chris will also be hosting a talk and tasting at **Silly Country** in Droylesden on Saturday 14 September – this will be from 12 noon and coincides with Silly Country receiving its Cider Pub of the Year award from High Peak CAMRA. Rev. Nat will be out and about the same day, hosting a talk and tasting at the **Font** in Chorlton from 3pm, and a tap takeover at the **Crown & Kettle** on Oldham Road from 6pm.

### Graftwood



Last time, we reported on *Full Juice*, a free magazine celebrating the world of craft cider. Hot on its heels comes *Graftwood*, a quarterly subscription-only magazine produced by James Forbes of Little Pomona Orchard & Cidery and Albert Johnson of Ross on Wye Cider & Perry.

Whilst *Full Juice* is tabloid and newsy, *Graftwood* presents a series of thoughtful essays including a tribute to cider pioneer Jean Nowell and a narrative of her own journey into cider by Elizabeth Pimblett, the director of the Museum of Cider in Hereford. Beautifully illustrated with old engravings, *Graftwood* takes cider journalism to another level. Each issue is £6 and you can subscribe online at [www.graftwood.co.uk](http://www.graftwood.co.uk). Recommended.

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# The Cider Circuit



## Win great prizes on our annual cider trail

This month we are offering you the chance to win a 10 and five litre bag-in-box ciders as we rerun our Cider Circuit. Not only that, but it is once again very easy indeed to win a prize. All you have to do is visit our participating pubs and buy a pint or a half of traditional cider or perry, and then get the bar staff to put a sticker on the pub's entry on the form below. Get 10 stickers and you will win a bottle of traditional cider or perry. Get 20 stickers and you will win instead two bottles of cider or perry. Get a sticker from all pubs and as well as winning two bottles of cider or perry you will also be entered in the draw for the bag-in-box ciders. All entrants will also go into a draw for extra bottles of top-class fine ciders. If the pub has run out of (or mislaid) the stickers then get a signature and date instead.

**The Cider Circuit runs from Sunday 15 September to Thursday 31 October.** Completed forms should be sent to: Cider Circuit, 45 Bulkeley Street, Edgeley, Stockport, Cheshire, SK3 9HD to arrive no later than Saturday 16 November. If you are entering the grand draw, make sure you specify whether you would prefer dry, medium or sweet cider. **Please make sure you include your name, address, telephone no. and email address so we can contact you.** All the prizes will be presented at a special cider afternoon to be held at the Cheshire Ring, Manchester Road, Hyde SK14 2BJ on Sunday 1 December from 2.00pm onwards.

**Please note — those pubs with a red background do not have opening hours of at least 1pm to 10pm seven days a week. Please check pub details on WhatPub (whatpub.com) before making any special journey.**

<b>57 Thomas Street</b> 57 Thomas Street Manchester M4 1NA	<b>Angel Inn</b> 20 Market Place Stockport SK1 1EY	<b>Ashton Tap House</b> Unit 16, Ashton Market Hall Market Street Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 7JU	<b>Bakers Vaults</b> Market Place Stockport SK1 1ES	<b>Bridge Beers</b> 55 Melbourne Street Stalybridge SK15 2JJ
<b>Britons Protection</b> 50 Great Bridgewater Street Manchester M1 5LE	<b>Calverts Court</b> 13 St Petersgate Stockport SK1 1EB	<b>Cask</b> 2 New Union Street Cotton Field Wharf Ancoats Manchester M4 6FQ	<b>Cheshire Ring</b> 72-74 Manchester Road Hyde SK14 2BJ	<b>Chiverton Tap</b> 8 Mellor Road Cheadle Hulme SK8 5AU
<b>City Arms</b> 46-48 Kennedy Street Manchester M2 4BQ	<b>Crown &amp; Kettle</b> 2 Oldham Road Manchester M4 5FE	<b>Crown Point Tavern</b> 16 Market Street Denton M34 2XW	<b>Crown Inn</b> 154 Heaton Lane Stockport SK4 1AR	<b>Friendship</b> 353 Wilmslow Road Fallowfield M14 6XS
<b>Gateway</b> 882 Wilmslow Road Didsbury M20 5PG	<b>Head of Steam</b> 653 Wilmslow Road Didsbury M20 6QZ		<b>Hope</b> 118 Wellington Road North Heaton Norris SK4 2LL	<b>Jakes Ale House</b> 27 Compstall Road Romiley SK6 4BT
<b>Jake's of Gee Cross</b> 285 Stockport Road Gee Cross, Hyde SK14 5RF	<b>Lowes Arms</b> 301 Hyde Road Denton M34 3FF	<b>Marble Arch Inn</b> 73 Rochdale Road Manchester M4 4HY	<b>New Oxford</b> 11 Bexley Square Salford M3 6DB	<b>Petersgate Tap</b> 19a St Petersgate Stockport SK1 1EB
<b>Railway</b> 1 Avenue Street Portwood SK1 2BZ	<b>Samuel Oldknow</b> 22 Market Street Marple SK6 7AD	<b>Silly Country</b> 121 Market Street Droylsden M43 7AR	<b>Smithfield Market Tavern</b> 37 Swan Street Manchester M4 5JZ	<b>Spinning Top</b> 20 Wellington Road South Stockport SK4 1AA
<b>Stalybridge Station Buffet Bar</b> Rassbottom Street Stalybridge SK15 1RF	<b>Swan With Two Necks</b> 36 Princes Street Stockport SK1 1RY	<b>Tweed Tap</b> 3 Hamnett Street Hyde SK14 2EX	<b>Victoria</b> 438 Wilmslow Road Withington M20 3BW	<b>Ye Olde Vic</b> 1 Chatham Street Edgeley SK3 9ED

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# Stagger

## Cheadle Hulme with Viv Thorpe

After a few weeks of unseasonal weather, we were lucky that tonight's Stagger was undertaken on a beautiful June evening. We began at **P5** in the centre of Cheadle Hulme. The pub was packed and the outdoor areas were especially busy with customers enjoying the early evening summer sun.



P5 is the latest name for what was recently Platform 5 and formerly the Cheadle Hulme. Those with longer memories will recall its days as the Junction Hotel. Owned by Holts, it would until fairly recently have been described as one of their no-nonsense drinking

houses. At the turn of the century it had a major refurbishment and an extensive food operation was added. Beer drinking was not neglected, with the offering expanding to two guest beers usually available alongside the regular Holt's range. The beers tonight were Holt's Mild, Bitter, IPA and Two Hoots. All but the IPA were tried and scored above average.



Our next stop, and a late addition to the stagger, was the recently opened **Archive**, which had only been trading for a week. This is a vibrant, modern bar converted from a former restaurant. It is set over two floors and was busy with an eclectic mix of customers, both young and old. Archive has four cask beers, 12 keg lines

and over 300 bottled and canned beers. Artisanal gins, a cocktail menu and well-chosen wines also feature. The cask ales tonight were Squawk's Pavo (the regular house beer), Shangri-La from Arbor, Certified Citra by Tiny Rebel and Hawkshead Red. All were tried and all scored above average – indeed Archive proved to have the best beer of the night.



Just down the road is the **Kings Tap**, our next stop, owned by Stonegate Pub Co. The building was built in 1937 as the Kings Hall (the date is shown on the facade above the entrance) and served as a village hall with a dance hall upstairs. It has had various functions over the years,

but was converted into a pub by Wetherspoons in 1998. Stonegate bought it in October 2016 and renamed it the Kings Tap. Reasonably priced meals are available all day, and these range from a full English breakfast to early evening curries. Tonight was music night with a guitar-playing singer performing to what was, for a Friday night, a pub rather bereft of customers. There were four handpumps but only Marston's Wainwright was available and we thought this was below average.



A brisk walk down Ladybridge Road now followed, to the **March Hare**, owned by Vintage Inns. When this pub was built as the Old Mill in the 1980s, much use was made of reclaimed brick and old timbers to make it resemble an old saw mill. It subsequently changed its name and

underwent a number of alterations so that today it's more cosy and intimate with lots of separate areas furnished and decorated in a 'modern traditional' style. Like many local pubs there is a focus on food but we were not made to feel uncomfortable when just having a drink.

We sat in the cosy beer garden at the front of the pub, surrounded on three sides by hedges and shrubs, and enjoyed the pleasant late evening setting sun. There were two cask beers – Sharp's Doom Bar and Jennings Cumberland Ale – both were tried and both were fine.

After a rather long 'short cut' suggested by one of our number, we arrived at our penultimate destination, the **Micker Brook** on Councillor Lane. Despite one handpump displaying a Wainwright pump clip, no cask beer was available. We quickly moved on to our final destination, the **Cross Keys** on Adswood Road.



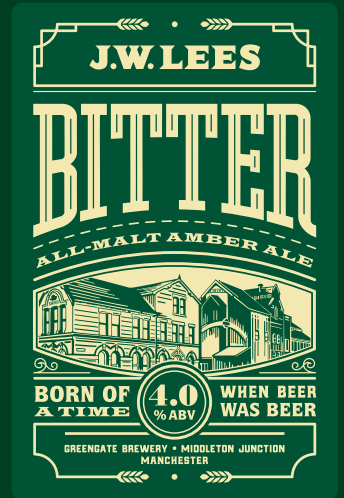
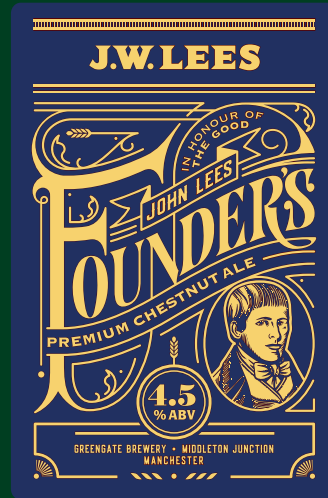
On entering the pub there was a karaoke in full swing in the main front lounge. The accommodating landlord suggested other rooms would be quieter for us – there are a series of interconnected areas at the front of the pub and a large vault-cum-games room at the rear. There used to be a pleasant bowling green at the back but this was sold off for housing. Nevertheless there is still an agreeable outside drinking area and we sat there. This is a lively wet-led Hydes pub, and the beers on tap were Original, Lowry and Old Indie. Between us we tried them all and found them more than acceptable. This is a great local community pub with plenty going on, and it's well worth a visit.

All in all a very pleasant evening – despite the occasional route march!

*Additional material by Dave Pennington*

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# Pub Walks with Chris Morris

Hayfield

## The Sportsman Inn, Hayfield



Located in a beautiful setting and surrounded by delightful countryside, this Thwaites-owned pub has in its time welcomed many a weary Rambler in need of refreshment and an escape from the elements. A cosy fire in winter, plus popular home-cooked food with friendly and welcoming staff, ensure you will leave contented, whatever the weather. A good selection of Thwaites cask beers is available too. On my last visit these were Amber, Gold, IPA and Original. The pub is open from noon to 11pm Tuesday to Sunday and closed on Mondays.

## Bus Information

This walk starts and finishes at Hayfield Bus Station. The 358 bus runs from Stockport through Offerton, Marple and New Mills before it reaches Hayfield. The journey is a delight in itself with some spectacular views in places, especially from the top deck! The service runs hourly and late into the evening. For full timetable information visit [www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com).

## The Walk

This is a moderate three-mile circular walk with one fairly steep climb. There may be some spots of mud in wet weather. The OS map is OL1 The Peak District (OS app also available).

The bus stops outside the public toilets. From here we need to walk to the village centre. Cross the bypass at the pedestrian lights and then walk along the lane with the church on your left. Turn right at the end and walk up the hill of the main street. At the top of the street take the first road to the left and then left again. Carry on along this road for half a mile. The road becomes a track close to the river and then forks at a stone wall. Take the fork to the right and through a gate. Ignoring a steep path to the right, continue along the main path for another half mile as it gradually climbs past the campsite and through woodland – and then enjoy some great hill views. The path will briefly split in two before joining up again. When climbing becomes easier, carry straight on through a gate and to a lovely stone bench – with the climbing done for the day, this is the perfect place for a well-deserved rest!

Continue along the narrow path until it joins a tarmac track. Take a sharp left here. Then go through two large gates and down the road which bends left and follows a stream. After the road bends to the left again (passing Bowden packhorse bridge on your right) our route continues through the campsite entrance road to the left passing some public toilets (the car park opposite marks the start of the famous Mass Trespass of 1932). Continue along the campsite

road which then becomes a path, keeping the river on your right until you reach a row of pretty cottages on your left. Cross the river by the footbridge opposite and climb up to the road above to the Sportsman Inn opposite.

There are two alternative routes for returning to Hayfield. The traffic-free option is to retrace your steps back down the path, over the footbridge and then right along the same path as before. Another option is to turn right out of the pub and walk back into the village along the road for great views of the surrounding hills.

## Hayfield

This picturesque village is a joy to explore, with old-world charm in spades. Small independent shops, cafes and a great traditional chippy, as well as an abundance of characterful stone cottages, ensure that visitors will want to return again and again, like I do. The charm also extends to the three excellent walker-friendly pubs that are along the main street. All are open all day every day, except for the **Pack Horse** which is closed on Mondays.



The **Royal Hotel** is well known for its excellent cask beer, having been in the Good Beer Guide for many years. It is popular with walkers, having its own Ramblers Bar – good food is also available. The cask beers were from Happy Valley, Peak Ales, Howard Town and Fiddlers Green when I last visited.

With a traditional and cosy interior, the Marston's-owned **George Hotel** is also regularly featured in the Good Beer Guide. On my last visit, cask beers from Banks's, Ringwood and Marston's were available as well as a real cider. Food is also a speciality.

Recently refurbished with a contemporary yet traditional style, the **Pack Horse** specialises in food but cask beer is also well represented. These were from Mobberley Brewhouse, Big Smoke and Rooster's when I last visited.



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# News Extra

More pub and brewery news from across the area

## Hazel Grove



The **Rising Sun**, the landmark pub near the 192 bus terminus, has had a makeover and also gained new licensees. Gary Rainford and Suzanne Norris have moved here from Morecambe having seen the pub as a good business opportunity. Mind you, all this happened in February so we are a little behind the curve in bringing this to you.



The pub, which is run by multiple operator Blind Tiger Inns, has had a much-needed spruce up but remains essentially open-plan with various areas off. The décor and furniture are modern although an old feature fireplace has been kept. Bespoke tiling on and behind the bar is a new and attractive addition.

Three cask beers are sold – Robinsons Dizzy Blonde is the permanent beer (at a bargain £2.50 a pint all day) and this is joined by two guests, which rotate between Marston's Bombardier, 61 Deep, Pedigree and Wainwright plus Black Sheep Best Bitter.

Gary told *Opening Times* that everything had gone well since opening, with the cask ales selling six to eight nine-gallon casks a week, mainly driven by the bargain-priced Dizzy Blonde.



At the other end of the village, Greene King's **George & Dragon** has also had a makeover and gained new managers, who have moved here from the **White Hart** in Cheadle and the **Ladybrook** in Bramhall. It all looks very smart, both inside and out, without there being any major changes.

There are five handpumps on the bar but on the two occasions *Opening Times* has called only three have been in operation, with beers from the Greene King range plus guests such as Black Sheep Best Bitter and Howard Town Wren's Nest. Card-carrying CAMRA members will benefit from a 10% discount and there's also a 'Cask Ale Loyalty Card' whereby you buy five pints and then get one free.

Staying in Hazel Grove, hopefully by the time you read this, the much-anticipated **Beer More Social** will have opened. This is in one of the units in the building now on the site of the very much unlamented **Grove**, and pretty much directly opposite the **Anchor**. Hopefully we'll have more on this one next time.

## Jolly Sailor

In Davenport the **Jolly Sailor** finally reopened in July after a major refurbishment by owners Greene King, and Almond Pubs, the new operators, who have added it to their portfolio of local pubs.



It's immediately obvious that a lot of money has been spent here – and all to good effect. The street entrance leads directly to the long L-shaped, and visually very impressive, bar along the left side. To the right is

mostly seating and tables for those just wishing to drink, and beyond that is a large conservatory housing the majority of those wishing to dine. The signature Almond Pub carvery is located beyond the end of the bar on the left; this area has dining tables too, in what was probably the former billiard room.

Décor is stylish yet traditional, with plenty of panelling, old prints and various objects dotted around which give it the feel of a country house. Outside is a large patio area at the rear for fair-weather drinking.

Four cask beers are sold. One comes from the Greene King range (Morland Original Bitter when *Opening Times* called) plus three guests, which came from Moberley Brewhouse, St Austell and Black Sheep.

We thought the Almond family involvement was likely to be the best possible outcome for the pub and it looks like our predictions have been borne out. Business was brisk on a Tuesday afternoon so it's likely to be heaving at the weekend.

## Vinaböd



This Viking-themed tapas bar opened properly at the end of July. It's just off the Market Place on Vernon Street and is a welcome addition to the area. The people behind Vinaböd are Dan Ray and Jill Williams, and the unusual combination of tapas and Viking is down to Dan growing up in Spain and having a long-term interest in Norse mythology.

It has to be said that it's immediately appealing – being warm and cosy having the feel of a mini Viking drinking hall, complete with runic signs, fake fur skins on the seats and various drinking horns dotted about. The changing menu looks appealing and Jill told us that as far as possible all ingredients are sourced from the Market Hall just up the hill.

Two cask beers will be sold – initially coming from Beartown of Congleton but other breweries will also feature. While *Opening Times* was there a traditional cider, Gwynt y Ddraig Ancient Warrior, also went on sale. Dan tells us that everything has been going well – with weekends notably busy. Well worth a visit (but note it's closed on Mondays).

# News Plus

## Malt Disley



Lauren Booth from **Malt Disley**, the popular micro-pub in Disley, has been in touch with details of all sorts of events.

A new promotion is 'Mop Up Mondays' when all cask beer is reduced to £3.50 a pint - and then CAMRA members can get double discount on top of that. There is also a Monday offer of a pint of cask

ale and a pork pie for £5.

On Saturday 21 September Malt Disley is going mobile and will be the pop-up bar at a local music festival, 'Gig in't Barn'. This is an afternoon and early evening event with a mixture of tribute acts and local artists, a BBQ by the local butcher and a number of little pop-up shops. Tickets and more information for the event can be found at: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gig-int-barn-tickets-61752242620](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gig-int-barn-tickets-61752242620).

The following Sunday they will be mobile once again at the follow-up event to Gig in't Barn...Pets in't Barn! This is a pet show and family event and all pets are welcome. Tickets are again available at Eventbrite.

Then, over the weekend of 5 and 6 October, Malt Disley is staging its popular Oktoberfest for the third year and this time it's over the whole weekend. On the Saturday there will be an oompah party with music, beer, nibbles, dirndls and lederhosen! The following day Lauren will be hosting a German beer tasting session in the downstairs lounge. She will be giving a brief talk on German brewing before the tasting and there will also be some beer-related activities. This event is strictly ticket only and with limited spaces. Tickets can be purchased at the bar for £15 per person.

## Fir Tree, Reddish



The **Fir Tree** in North Reddish closed in mid-August. A former community pub award-winner, the pub has had a troubled image recently.

We understand that it was bought by a London-based property company

which, due to the anti-social behaviour associated with the pub, came under pressure to either close it down or take it upmarket – a move they considered economically unviable. It's been sold on to a development company and we are told the plan is to redevelop the site as a Lidl supermarket (although at the time of writing no planning applications had been submitted).

The Fir Tree was the last pub in North Reddish and locals are trying to muster support to save it. CAMRA is fully behind these efforts and wishes them well.

## More Micropubs

Although it will not be a replacement for the Fir Tree, the Reddish pub scene isn't all doom and gloom. We hear that a micropub is being planned for the Houldsworth Square area, which should do well we think. This is one of a collection of new openings in the pipeline. The first should be one in Northenden, which may be open by the end of October.

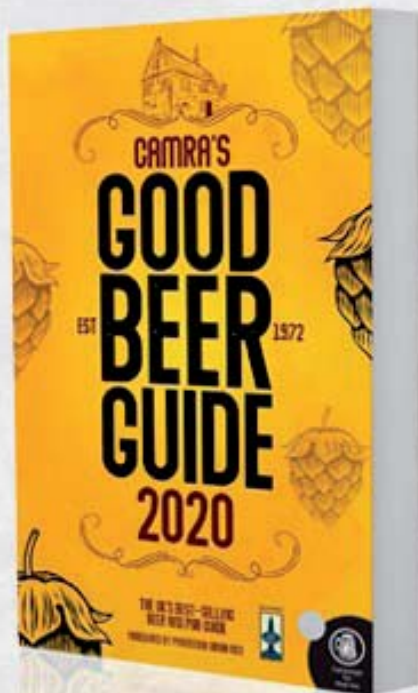


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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1</b> CAMPAIGN<br>for great beer, cider and perry                        | <b>2</b> Become a <b>BEER EXPERT</b>                            |
| <b>3</b> Enjoy CAMRA <b>BEER FESTIVALS</b><br>In front of or behind the bar | <b>4</b> <b>GET INVOLVED</b><br>and make new friends            |
| <b>5</b> Save <b>YOUR LOCAL</b>   | <b>6</b> Find the <b>BEST PUBS IN BRITAIN</b>                   |
| <b>7</b> Get great <b>VALUE FOR MONEY</b>                                   | <b>8</b> <b>DISCOVER</b><br>pub heritage and the great outdoors |
| <b>9</b> Enjoy great <b>HEALTH BENEFITS</b><br>(really!)                    | <b>10</b> <b>HAVE YOUR SAY</b>                                  |

## What's yours?

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[www.camra.org.uk/10reasons](http://www.camra.org.uk/10reasons)



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12th Sept 2019



# What's On

## Local CAMRA Branch Diaries

Events for September and October for the following local branches:

- \* **Stockport & South Manchester (SSM)**
- \* **High Peak, Tameside & NE Cheshire (HPNC)**
- \* **Central Manchester (CMCR)**
- \* **Macclesfield & East Cheshire (MEC)**

### Formal Branch Meetings - Member only

**Monday 9 September** – Royal Hotel, Market Street, Hayfield, SK22 2EP. Starts 8:00pm. (HPNC)

**Tuesday 10 September** – Bulls Head, 30 Wilmslow Road, Handforth, SK9 3EW. Starts 8:00pm. (MEC)

**Thursday 12 September** – Gateway, 882 Wilmslow Road, East Didsbury, M20 5PG. Includes a 'Meet the Brewer' evening. Starts 8:15pm. (SSM)

**Tuesday 1 October** – Angel, 6 Angel Street, M4 4BQ. 6:00pm for 6:30 start. (CMCR)

**Thursday 10 October** – Petersgate Tap, 19a St Petersgate, Stockport, SK1 1EB. Guest speakers from Howard Town Brewery. Starts 8:15pm. (SSM)

**Saturday 12 October** – Angel Inn, 197 King Street, Dukinfield, SK16 4TH. Starts 1:30pm and will be followed by a social in other local pubs. (HPNC)

**Wednesday 6 November** – Gas Lamp, 50A Bridge Street, M3 3BW. 6:00pm for 6:30 start. (CMCR)

### Social Events & Presentations

#### All welcome

**Saturday 14 September** – Cider Pub of the Year: Silly Country, 121 Market Street, Droylsden, M43 7AR. From 1:30pm. Will be followed by a social in other local pubs. (HPNC)

**Thursday 19 September** – Pub of the Month and Stockport Beer Week Launch: Angel Inn, 20 Market Place, Stockport, SK1 1EY. From 7:00pm. (SSM)

**Friday 20 September** – Stockport Market Place Stagger: 7:30pm Bakers Vaults, Market Place, SK1 1ES; 8:30pm Project 53, 22 Market Place, SK1 1EU; final pub Arden Arms, 23 Millgate, SK1 2LX. (SSM)

**Saturday 21 September** – Altrincham Social: meet Costello's Bar, 18 Goose Green, Altrincham, WA14 1DW. From 12:30pm. (CMCR)

**Thursday 26 September** – Cider Pub of the Year: Smithfield Market Tavern, 37 Swan Street, M4 5JZ. From 6:30pm. (CMCR)

**Saturday 5 October** – Day out in Chorley. Full details will be on the branch website ([www.ssmcamra.co.uk/diary.htm](http://www.ssmcamra.co.uk/diary.htm)) nearer the time. (SSM)

**Saturday 12 October** – Mystery Tour: meet Piccadilly Station 10:30am. Contact Social Secretaries to book and pay for tickets (£25 or £17 for railcard holders). (CMCR)

**Friday 18 October** – Hazel Grove Stagger: 7:30pm Three Tunnes, 194 London Road, SK7 4DQ; 8:30pm Grove Alehouse, 145 London Road, SK7 4HH; final pub Anchor, 62 London Road, SK7 4AF. (SSM)

**Saturday 19 October** – Autumn Pub of the Season: RedWillow Buxton, 1 Cavendish Circus, Buxton, SK17 6AT. From 1:30pm. Will be followed by a social in other local pubs. (HPNC)

**Thursday 24 October** – Pub of the Month: Nelson, Barlow Moor Road, Didsbury, M20 6TN. From 8:00pm. (SSM)

**Thursday 24 October** – Thirstback Thursday #TurnBackTime: meet Angel, 6 Angel Street, M4 4BQ 6:30pm. (CMCR)

# CAMRA Awards

## Recent Presentations

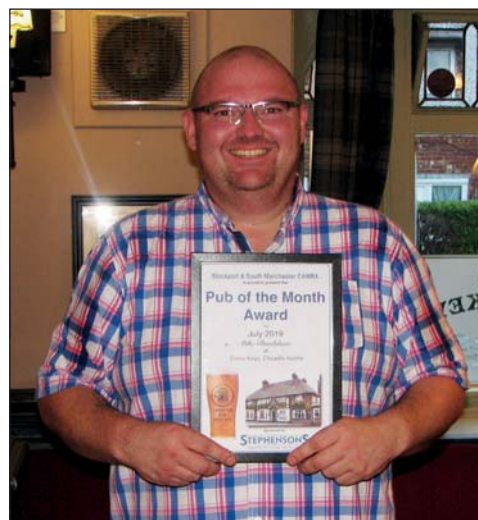
The Stockport & South Manchester Club of the Year for 2019 is the **Moor Club** on Heaton Moor Road, Heaton Moor. This popular club boasts no fewer than three full-size snooker tables and also hosts the Manchester Backgammon Club every week. Three cask beers are sold, with Holt's Bitter as the regular alongside two guests. Pictured below, CAMRA's Jim Flynn (centre) presents the award to club manager Mike Didlick (left) and Colin Buckley (right).



The Stockport & South Manchester Pub of the Month for June was the **Grove Alehouse** in Hazel Grove.

This micropub has been revitalised since Angela and Scott Jepson took over last year. Five regularly changing cask beers are available, covering a mix of beer styles. Three real ciders and

perries are also sold, mainly from local suppliers such as Stockport's Madhatters and Dunham Massey's Dunham Press. Scott and Angela are shown here with their certificate.



The July Pub of the Month Award winner for Stockport & South Manchester was the **Cross Keys** in Cheadle Hulme. This Hydes house has had a new lease of life since licensee Mike Bradshaw took over in October last year. Trade has increased nicely and this is reflected by the wider range of Hydes beers available. Original Bitter has now been joined on handpump

by Old Indie and Lowry. Mike is pictured above with his certificate.

# What's Brewing

## Brewery News from around the region

### New Generation at Holts



The great-great-great grandson of Manchester brewer Joseph Holt is now working alongside his sister at the family business – making it the first time in the company's 170 year history that siblings from the Holt family have worked together.

Andrew Kershaw, 29, will join his sister (and Holt's brewer), Jane and will be training for six months in all aspects of the business, which has remained in the same family for six generations.

Jane, 33, is the first female member of the Holt family to have worked for the brewery and was recently crowned Brewer of the Year by the Institute of Brewing and Distilling.

Manchester-born Jane and Andrew have both gained experience working in other areas of the brewing industry both in the UK and abroad before joining the family firm.

Their father Richard Kershaw, chief executive of Joseph Holt, says he is delighted that another member of the family will be coming to work alongside him.

He said: "I spent 20 happy years working with my father, Peter. He used to say that I speeded him up and that he slowed me down. But it seemed to be an effective way to work and I'm looking forward to continuing the tradition. Especially since this is the first time in Holt's history that a set of siblings from the family have worked together."

Added Andrew: "I'm so delighted to be joining my family at Joseph Holt. And I'm so proud to be part of the first set of siblings to work for the brewery in this next stage in our family history."

The brewery was established in 1849 by weaver's son Joseph Holt and now has 126 pubs and employs 930 people. It is currently celebrating its 170th anniversary with the 170 Cask Ale Programme – a set of six special ales which will be released over the coming year and which celebrates six generations of the family.

### Old Tom Anniversary



Robinsons is celebrating the 120th anniversary of Old Tom strong ale, which was first brewed in 1899. You can enter an online competition to win a variety of prizes, including 120 bottles of Old Tom. For each month until November, 20 winners will be chosen and then one lucky winner will be drawn out for the 120-bottle prize. Details can be found at [www.robinsonsbrewery.com/120-years-of-old-tom](http://www.robinsonsbrewery.com/120-years-of-old-tom).

### Torrside

A party from Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA took the train to New Mills in July. The destination was Torrside Brewery at New Mills Marina, to present the Silver Award in the Beer of the Festival competition held at this year's Stockport Beer & Cider Festival.

The winning beer was Dandelion & BurDUNK, a 5% dunkelweiss with the flavours of dandelion and burdock. The beer came from the annual homebrew competition held to find five new beers for the popular Bar Nouveau, and the homebrewer who devised the beer was Peter Allan, a regular at the Chiverton Tap homebrew club.

Pictured here (left to right) with their awards are Chris Clough and Peter Sidwell from Torrside, homebrewer Peter Allan and Torrside's Nick Rothko-Wright.



There's a tap at Torrside Brewery on the last weekend of each month and these are well worth a visit (it's about a five-minute walk from New Mills Newtown station). Look out too for Smokefest, a celebration of smoked beers. The first one last year was a huge success so it's happening again over the weekend of 9 and 10 November. You can get tickets at [www.designmynight.com](http://www.designmynight.com).

### High Peak Club of the Year

On Saturday 15 June, High Peak, Tameside and North East Cheshire Branch made its Club of the Year presentation to the War Memorial Club in Buxworth near Chinley, writes Tom Lord.



The club is on the main road in the centre of Buxworth, close to the restored and historic Buxworth canal basin. Three changing cask ales are normally available. On my last visit they were Storm Brewery Desert Storm, Wincle Brewery Indian Runner, and Stancill Brewery Blonde.

This is a small, comfortable and welcoming local club providing much appreciated variety to the beers of the area. Well worth a visit and handy for walkers and canal boaters.

Non-members are welcome and the opening hours are 5pm to midnight Monday to Thursday; 5pm to 1am Friday; 4pm to 1am Saturday and 4pm to midnight on Sundays.

Members of the club committee are seen here with their certificate.

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