

# OPENING TIMES

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2023

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# Contents & Information

## In this issue...

<b>Pubs of the Month</b> .....	5	<b>Winter Warmer Wander</b> ..	11
<b>Heard at the Bar</b> .....	7	<b>News Extra</b> .....	13
<b>Manchester's Beer Pubs &amp; Bars</b> ..	8	<b>CAMRA Awards</b> .....	15
<b>Scribble on a Beermat</b> .....	9	<b>Pub Walk</b> .....	17
<b>Stockport's Lost Locals</b> .....	9	<b>Branch Diaries</b> .....	19
<b>Winter Warmer Wander</b> .....	10	<b>Homebrew Competition</b> ...	19

## 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, Central Manchester Branch and the Macclesfield & East Cheshire Branch. It is printed by Paper Red Media 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. Email - stocam@btinternet.com. Phone 0161 477 1973. Advertising rates on request or online at: [www.ssmcamra.co.uk/magazine.htm](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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- \* East Cheshire: 0300 123 5500  
[www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/public\\_transport/public-transport.aspx](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/public_transport/public-transport.aspx)
- \* Derbyshire: [www.derbybus.info](http://www.derbybus.info)

## Pub Opening Hours

We hope you will visit all of the pubs mentioned in *Opening Times*. There isn't the space to print all of their opening hours – however these can be checked on CAMRA's online pub guide: [whatpub.com](http://whatpub.com)

## Disclaimer

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 on the left) 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.

## Your Local CAMRA Contacts & Websites

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

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### Central Manchester

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## CAMRA Discounts

A list of local pubs generously offering a discount to CAMRA members can be found online at [www.camra.org.uk/join/membership-benefits/real-ale-discount-scheme/](http://www.camra.org.uk/join/membership-benefits/real-ale-discount-scheme/)

## Front Cover

Kaci and Ciaran at the Duke of York, Heaviley, getting into the Christmas spirit. Photo by Lawrence Devaney.

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**Copy date for the January/February issue is Wednesday 6 December.**

# The Petersgate Tap



**Double Winners!**  
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**Cider Pub of the Year (5th year in a row)**

Winner, Stockport Pub of the Year, 2023

Winner Stockport Cider Pub of the Year  
2018, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023

Winner Gtr Manchester Region  
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Good Beer Guide  
2018, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023

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# Pubs of the Month

Stockport & South Manchester Winners for November and December



***The Pub of the Month for November is the Sun & Castle on Hillgate, in Stockport. John Clarke explains why it has won.***

Landlady Veronica Bell (known to everyone as Ronnie) says that her pub is something of a contrast between inside and out. She's right. From the outside, it can look a little plain – but walk through the doors and you're in a warm and friendly local.

Holts haven't always owned the Sun & Castle; for many years it was a Tetley pub and, for a lot of those, sold no cask beer. Holts are responsible for replacing most of the original inter-war fittings with a mock Victorian interior, and for once this really seems to fit the bill, with pride of place going to a spectacular 1890s bar back.

So what you have now is a warm interior with lots of dark wood and a classic 'traditional pub' feel. On the right is a cosy lounge, and behind that a bigger, rambling room complete with a small stage. On the left is a spacious and well-used vault.

Ronnie has been there on and off for most of the last 23 years and in that time has made the pub very much her own. Eleven years ago she retired but was tempted back for six weeks – and is still there! She has been in the trade for over 35 years and seems to have spent most of those on Hillgate as, before coming to the Sun & Castle, she had lengthy spells at the now-closed Golden Lion and Pack Horse.

The cellar was looked after by Ronnie's late husband Harry, who won many awards for his efforts, but he passed his skills on to Ronnie to very good effect. The Holts Bitter is always in excellent form, and it's pretty much impossible to stay for just one pint!

Do come along and join us on Thursday 23 November when we present this well-earned award to Ronnie and her hard-working staff. The pub is just a short walk from Wellington Road South and its many buses.

***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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***The Pub of the Month for December is a complete contrast to November's winner – the Runaway Brewery Tap on Astley Street, off Heaton Lane, writes John Clarke.***

After three trial openings in December last year, the Runaway Brewery Tap, based along with the brewery in a former sheet metal works, opened to great acclaim in mid-April. And, it's safe to say, it has been an immediate hit.

News that Runaway Brewery was relocating from its previous home in central Manchester to a site in Stockport was greeted with much anticipation by local beer fans, as the brewery had built an enviable reputation for its beers. Interest was heightened by the news that the new location would include a brewery tap – and one that would be open for more than the Saturdays-only operation at the Manchester site.



What we have is a skilful conversion of old industrial premises into a bright and modern bar which, nonetheless, also manages to feel comfortable and pub-like. The furniture is modern and functional, but clever lighting, plants and statement lamps soften the appearance to good effect. The brewery can be seen through glass panels, while outside is a large and secluded beer garden, where you will find Honest Crust Pizza providing excellent food.

So what about the beer? Almost all Runaway beer is keg-conditioned, and so 'real ale', but the relocation to Stockport prompted a greater move into cask, in recognition of local drinking preferences. Consequently, there are two changing handpumped beers alongside the keg range. In addition, there is a large fridge with a bottle and can range, put together by Manchester's Beermoth shop.

It's still a bit of a work in progress – there's a large upstairs space which will be brought into use, and where tutored tastings have already been held. The Tap is also surrounded by building works at the moment, with the Weir Mill development across the road, and the new transport interchange nearby. Completion of these will doubtless boost the already busy trade.

The Runaway Tap opens at 1pm Thursday to Saturday, closing at 10pm on Thursdays and 10:30 on Friday and Saturday. Do come along to our presentation on Thursday 28 December when we present our award to brewery owner Mark Welsby, his partner Sam and their hard-working team.



## Why we love the rain in Yorkshire

Taylor's brewery sits upon The Knowle Spring, the unique source of water we use to brew our beers. This particularly pure and consistent spring water is one of the reasons we're able to brew beer of such reliable quality and taste. Filtered over time through layers of sandstone and black rock, Knowle Spring water has special mineral qualities that marry perfectly with our Golden Promise barley malt. This unique combination is the foundation of the complex flavour and subtlety of Landlord. And it all begins with rain falling upon the Yorkshire hills. That's why we're always happiest when it pours.

All for that taste of Taylor's





**Central Manchester CAMRA**  
Pub of the Year 2023





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# Heard at the Bar

Pub News from Stockport, Manchester, Tameside and beyond

## Stockport's Lost Pubs



A new display and social media campaign highlighting Stockport's Lost Pubs has been launched by Stockport Local Heritage Library, writes *Dave Stearn*.

The display at the library, which is within Central Library on Wellington Road South (opposite McDonald's) features several town centre pubs you may remember.

The Heritage Library is also featuring #AtoZLostPubsStockport in weekly posts on Facebook (Stockport Libraries) and X, formerly Twitter, (SMBC\_Libraries). The library also has a photograph archive containing more than fifty thousand images, including many pictures of pubs past and present. Visit the Image Archive at [www.stockport.gov.uk/stockport-image-archive](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/stockport-image-archive) or pop in and see them at Stockport Local Heritage Library, just over the road from McDonald's on Wellington Road South in Stockport.

*Dave will be writing a regular column featuring some of Stockport's lost pubs. The first is on page 9.*

## Two for Manchester

There were two new openings in Manchester City Centre in October, and both promise to be serious additions to the city's pub scene.



Thursday 5 October saw the opening of Pomona Island Brew Co's **North Westward Ho**, a skilful conversion of a former Thai restaurant on Chapel Walks, just off Cross Street (although the entrance is on Pall Mall).

The first thing that strikes you is how big it is, and the second thing is the attention to detail, in the fixtures, fittings and overall finish. The bar faces the entrance, with five handpumps taking pride of place in the middle, which feature both Pomona Island beers and guests. Alongside these are 19 keg taps (18 for Pomona Island, one for real cider), plus a wide range of bottled and canned beers and ciders, from both the UK and abroad. Food at the moment is restricted to (very good) pork pies plus various bar snacks.

It has a very traditional feel, with lots of fixed seating, a snug area to the right, and a clever use of mirrored and leaded glass. It's all very new at the moment but, as it beds in, it's the sort of place that will feel that it's been around for ever. If we have one quibble, it's that they could do with more obvious information about what's on sale – the keg taps in particular are difficult to read if the light is subdued, and the printed Pomona Island can list just gives the name of the beer, without telling you exactly what sort of beer it is. These, though, are minor issues that can easily be put right. Do pay it a visit.

North Westward Ho opens at noon every day, closing at midnight Sunday to Thursday and 2am Friday and Saturday.

The following week, the long-awaited **Victoria Tap** opened at Victoria Station with a soft launch on 10 October, and is the second Manchester venture from Bloomsbury Leisure alongside their **Piccadilly Tap**. Amie Black from the Piccadilly Tap will be the general manager across both bars.



It's quite small, but also very high-ceilinged, so still has a light and airy feel. The bar, with its ornate ironwork, dominates the room and features four cask beers alongside 20 taps for keg beers (including several German imports) and cider.

There is also a reasonably sized outside drinking area, overlooking the tram tracks as they enter the station (so an ideal perch for tram spotters!). The plan is to have this properly covered over but at the moment large umbrellas cover the tables and benches.

The Victoria Tap opens every day at 12 noon, closing at 11pm.

## Duke of York



*Opening Times* made a brief visit to the **Duke of York** in Heavily to sign the pub up for the Winter Warmer Wander. Since the pub had a makeover a couple of years ago there have been some temporary licensees but, since November 2022,

Martin Taylor has been in charge.

Martin was happy to sign up for the Winter Warmer Wander and is looking forward to adding Old Tom to his regular cask offering of Cumbria Way. He is encouraging local people to use the pub on a regular basis, and has also increased the profile of the pub's traditional B&B business by extending an invite to non-residents to come in and enjoy a full English breakfast.

A fun afternoon that sounds like a definite one for the diary is the Duke of York's German market on 26 November. This will utilise the garden area behind the pub and will include craft stalls, a BBQ offering German sausages, and a brass band who will be encouraged to embrace a bit of Oompah.

## Old Hall, Whitehough

The annual beer festival at the **Old Hall** made a welcome return this year. We asked Old Hall owner Dan Capper how it went and he was very positive, telling us: "Well, didn't we luck out with the weather? It was such an amazing pleasure to be back hosting our annual beer and cider festival. It always takes me back to my earlier days at the pub, and to see so many familiar faces all enjoying themselves is great fun. Particular thanks must, however, go to the fantastic Old Hall and Paper Mill team, who go above and beyond with some epic shifts, without which we wouldn't be able to host. We look forward to welcoming you next year (20-22 September) and before."

# In Praise of Stockport's Pubs

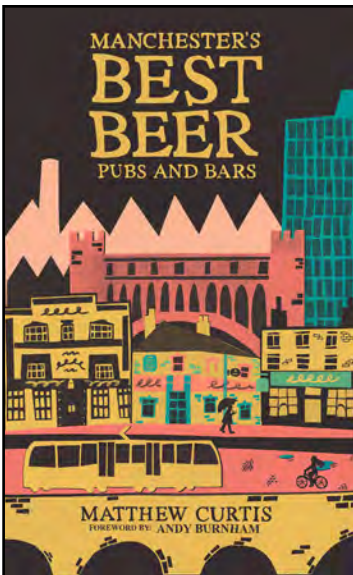
By Matthew Curtis



Ever since I became a resident of Manchester in 2020, I've always felt drawn to its southerly reaches.

Yes, the city centre is packed to the gills with some of the best beer destinations in the country,

from traditional boozers such as the **Grey Horse** on Portland Street, to refined, modern venues like **Café Beermoth** a short walk away. You could honestly spend weeks exploring and still find new venues that bring you surprise and delight. And yet, to truly understand Manchester and how deep its connection to beer and pubs is, you have to leave the city centre behind.



In producing my new book for CAMRA, *Manchester's Best Beer Pubs and Bars*, the question I have been asked most often is "what was the most interesting part of researching the book?" My answer is simple: exploring Greater Manchester's outer reaches, from Wigan to Rochdale, and from Altrincham to Stalybridge. Almost every town and suburb I have arrived in has revealed to me great riches in terms of pubs and bars, to the point where I actually ran out of room and had to restrict each of these areas to a 'greatest hits' of sorts.

One area in particular gave me great joy to write about – Stockport. Having lived in

Levenshulme for the past couple of years, I already knew about some of South Manchester's best beer destinations, and I became particularly fond of its contemporary pubs such as **Station Hop**, **Reasons to be Cheerful** and **Heaton Hops**.

But even those places couldn't quite replicate the thrill (and I am sure none of them would mind me saying this) of taking the 192 a little further down the road, and alighting just outside the Magnet. This pub is one I would class as a 'super pub' in that it possesses a rare majesty that is difficult to describe. The beer selection is perfect, the decor eccentric but charming, the welcome always warm. But these things alone don't make the **Magnet** extra special.

Recently I moved from Levenshulme to Stockport, a decision initially driven by budget, but one I now put down to fate. Since the move, I've decided that if you lifted the Magnet up and placed it anywhere else in the world, it might lose that magic which makes it feel so special. Its location is as important as any of the other factors that contribute towards its brilliance. And, most importantly, it wouldn't be a ten-minute stroll from my front door.

But Stockport isn't a one pub town – far from it. The Magnet is a gateway of sorts, acting as the perfect stepping off point if you truly want to understand why Greater Manchester is the beer capital of the UK. From the **Runaway Brewery Taproom** to the **Petersgate Tap**, the **Swan with Two Necks** and **Ye Olde Vic**, Stockport has a beer scene able to compete with Manchester City Centre, as do most of its outlying towns.

But Stockport in particular is no longer just one of these towns, but my home, and I can't wait to spend plenty of time becoming further acquainted with its wonderful pubs.

*Matthew Curtis is a Stockport-based beer writer, co-founder of Pellicle Magazine, and the author of Manchester's Best Beer Pubs and Bars, published on 18 October by CAMRA Books.*

## Vale Cottage Award



In late August, the Stockport & South Manchester branch of CAMRA presented its 2023 Pub of the Year Runner-up award to the **Vale Cottage** on Kirk Street in Gorton.

This free house really does have the feel of a country pub, despite being a couple of hundred yards from busy Hyde Road. There are usually three cask beers available from Moorhouse's and Taylor's, with quality always superb. Pictured here is bar-cellarman Geoff McCabe receiving the award on behalf of the pub.

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# Scribbles on a Beermat



**Welcome to Scribbles on a Beermat: the quiet corner of a Stockport pub where our Poet in Residence, Carl Burkitt, is sipping a pale ale and scribbling some poems.**

## Tips for Naming a Pub

If the pub you've just purchased is in need of a new name, take the street it's on and add the word Tap or Arms.  
*Springwood Tap. Westbury Arms.*

If you're feeling grander, add Grove or House.  
*Springwood Grove. Westbury House.*

Go grander still with a name fit for a King.  
*The Rose and Crown. The Royal Oak.*

Or name it after a former monarch.  
*The Victoria. The King George.*

Or make things relatable with a royal body part.  
*The King's Arms. The Queen's Head.*

Why not get quirky?  
*The King's Shin. The Queen's Elbow.*

Why not get cheeky?  
*The King's Bum. The Queen's Bum.*

People and jobs is always quite fun.  
*Butchers Arms. Masons Arms.*  
How about a less celebrated role?  
*Cleaners Gloves. Plumber's Wrench.*

By all means go for *The Red Lion* – there's a reason more than 500 UK pubs have gone for that name, after all.  
But stand out with different colours and creatures.  
*The Purple Rooster. The Orange Piglet.*

Pairing up animals always go well.  
*The Dog and Fox. The Horse and Hound.*  
But again, go further with unlikely combinations.  
*The Rat and Hippo. The Donkey and Dolphin.*

Why not be trendy like a cool indie cafe?  
*The Grumpy Trilby. The Giant Pistachio.*

If the pub you've just purchased is in need of a new name...

who cares, just make the inside a place people want to come back to again.

# Stockport's Lost Pubs with Dave Stearn

Welcome to the first letter in our series looking at the Lost Pubs of Stockport. This issue: the letter A.



The first pub we are looking at is the **Albion Inn** on Little Underbank (pictured here in 1901). A pub on this site is believed to go back to the late 1700s and was called the Rising Sun. By 1838 it had been renamed the Albion. It was a regular drinking venue for the next 120 years, but failed to get its licence renewed in 1960, due to the building's poor state of repair, described as being damp, with rotting floors and peeling wallpaper. It was demolished in 1962 and replaced by a modern grey row of shops, typical of the era.

With the recent revitalisation of the Underbanks area, the good news is that the now empty shops are set for redevelopment early in 2024. Next door, the famous Winter's with its ornate figurine clock, for generations a jeweller's shop, is now being turned into a pizza restaurant. The new building on the site of the Albion will be more sympathetic to the Underbanks conservation area, with the architects planning a new development that gives more than a nod to the design of the original Albion Hotel.

Also under the letter A is the **Ash Hotel** on Manchester Road in Heaton Chapel (pictured below in 1947).



It was a popular inn on the main stagecoach route dating back to the 1820s, when the area was quite rural. Throughout the later part of the 19th Century, the pub marked the northern boundary of Stockport. It had a bowling green, with neighbouring pleasure grounds where the annual Lancashire Hill Wakes was held. Activities including cricket, horse racing and even balloon ascents took place on the fields.

It was originally not only a pub but a brewery. The Ash brewery was attached to the old inn but, along with many pubs in the area, the late Victorian/Edwardian period marked a time of redevelopment when many of the smaller drinking houses were rebuilt as hotels, in a more elaborate style.

The later building dates from 1901. It is a large pub, built in the Jacobean style, with stone carvings round the doorway, stained glass and mosaic flooring. It originally had a billiard room and bowling green. It stayed as a pub right through the twentieth century. In the early 2000s, it underwent a major refurbishment into a large open-plan pub, with football on the big screen and a large function room to the rear. It eventually closed for good in January 2011. Its next incarnation was as The Ash Tea Rooms, closing again in 2018. It has now been converted into apartments.

**Dave Stearn works for Stockport Local Heritage Library, and all the photos in this article are courtesy of them. More images can be seen at [www.stockport.gov.uk/stockport-image-archive](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/stockport-image-archive)**

# Winter Warmer Wander

Friday 17 November to Saturday 30 December 2023

In November and December we are once again running the Winter Warmer Wander, our annual celebration of festive beers, to bring you a little winter cheer across the Christmas period. Like the Mild Magic Challenge, this is a chance for you to visit some new pubs and try some new beers. We have lots of great prizes – and different ways to win them.

When selecting your beers, please remember that the reasoning behind the Winter Warmer Wander is to promote particular beer styles – stout, porter, old ale and barley wine (all of any alcoholic strength), and ‘Christmas’ or ‘seasonal’ ales of 4.4% ABV or above, brought out especially for the Christmas period, such as Tom & Berry, Plum Pudding or Sixex.

A special mention goes to Robinsons Brewery, and Old Tom in particular, for sponsoring this year’s Winter Warmer Wander.



**ROBINSONS**

## What you need to do:

- Buy a half or a pint of CASK-CONDITIONED stout, porter, old ale or barley wine or Christmas Special (of 4.4% ABV or above).
- Ask the pub for a sticker to put on your WWW entry sheet opposite (additional sheets can be downloaded from <https://ssm.camra.org.uk/>).
- Collect 12 stickers from DIFFERENT pubs, with 6 from the white options opposite, 5 blue and 1 gold, and you win three bottles of premium beer.
- Collect 24 stickers, this time 12 white, 9 blue and 3 gold, each from a DIFFERENT pub, and you will win a WWW T-shirt, two bottles of beer and entry into a prize draw for a case of 12 beers.
- Collect 36 stickers, 18 white, 14 blue and 4 gold, each from a DIFFERENT pub, and you will win a WWW polo shirt, two bottles of beer and entry into a prize draw for a case of 12 beers.
- Collect stickers from all 65 pubs, and your prizes are a WWW sweatshirt, four bottles of beer and entry into a prize draw for a case of 12 beers.

Completed sheets need to be returned by Monday 15 January via post, or CAMRA Branch meetings at the Magnet SK4 1HJ (Thursday 11th) or the Angel, Dukinfield SK16 4TH (Monday 15th). Please note: Electronic entries will NOT be accepted.

Return completed sheets to **Sue Lightfoot, 10 New Beech Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport SK4 3DD.**

Please ensure you include your name and two contact details, such as address/mobile number/email address – and your size, if you are eligible for a T-shirt, polo or sweatshirt.

## Festival Charity Required

Stockport Beer and Cider Festival is looking for a new **Festival Charity** for the 2024 to 2026 Festivals. Through sponsorship, the sale of beer, programmes and other products, plus donations from our generous customers, it is estimated that the chosen charity could expect an income of £5K or more per festival. Just as important, however, is the opportunity to significantly raise the charity’s profile in the area.

Applicant charities must be registered with the Charities Commission, local to the area (no national charities please), provide a service to the people of Stockport and the surrounding areas, want to work as a constructive partner with the Festival Organising Committee and be willing to have their name/logo used in festival publicity.

Interested charities should email Jim Flynn at [jim@flynnfam.co.uk](mailto:jim@flynnfam.co.uk) setting out the following:

- How you will be able to guarantee the supply of people to staff your stall, collect donations and sell the programmes at the Festival for all sessions (all of which provide an income stream)
- How you will be able to provide half a dozen bar staff during the busy evening sessions as required (for which you will receive a donation)
- How you will obtain 6 to 8 firkins of cask beer free of charge for you to sell at each Festival
- How you will be able to attract sponsors for yourself
- How you will promote the Festival
- What you can do to assist and support the Festival
- New ideas or initiatives
- Why the Festival Organising Committee should choose your charity

Applications should arrive no later than 3 January 2024.

The decision of the Organising Committee will be final.

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**Make our story part of yours. Join at [camra.org.uk/join](https://camra.org.uk/join)**

  
Campaign for Real Ale

Real stories, real people, real ale



# Winter Warmer Wander

Sponsored by **ROBINSONS OLD TOM**



All stickers must be from different pubs and collected 17 November to 30 December 2023.

Collect 12 stickers: 1 gold, 5 blue & 6 white to win 3 bottles of premium beer.

Collect 24 stickers: 3 gold, 9 blue & 12 white to win a WWW T-shirt, 2 bottles and entry into the prize draw.

Collect 36 stickers: 4 gold, 14 blue & 18 white, to win a WWW polo shirt, 2 bottles of beer and entry into the prize draw.

Visit all 65 pubs, and you win a WWW sweatshirt, 4 bottles of beer and entry into the prize draw for a case of 12 beers.

**Pubs displayed in red text** have restricted opening hours, ie not 1pm to 10pm every day of the week.

Full details, location map and much more information <https://ssm.camra.org.uk/viewnode.php?id=202262>

<b>Angel Inn</b> 20 Market Place Stockport SK1 1EY	<b>Arden Arms</b> 23 Millgate Stockport SK1 2LX	<b>Ash Tree</b> 9-11 Wellington Road Ashton under Lyne OL6 6DA	<b>Bakers Vaults</b> Market Place Stockport SK1 1EU	<b>Blossoms</b> 2 Buxton Road Heaviley Stockport SK2 6NU
<b>Ye Olde Vic</b> 1 Chatham Street Edgeley Stockport SK3 9ED	<b>Angel Inn</b> 197 King Street Dukinfield SK16 4TH	<b>Ape and Apple</b> 28-30 John Dalton St Manchester M2 6HQ	<b>Archive</b> 2 Mellor Road Cheadle Hulme Stockport SK8 5AU	<b>Britons Protection</b> 50 Great Bridgewater St Manchester M1 5LE
<b>Wilfred Wood</b> 204 London Road Hazel Grove Stockport SK7 4DF	<b>Wobbly Stamp</b> 130 Stockport Road Cheadle SK8 2DP	<b>3 Drinks Behind</b> 285 Stockport Road Gee Cross Hyde SK14 5RF	<b>Beer Shop</b> 13 Kingsleigh Road Heaton Moor Stockport SK4 3QF	<b>Chiverton Tap</b> 8 Mellor Road Cheadle Hulme Stockport SK8 5AU
<b>Waterhouse</b> 67-71 Princess Street Manchester M2 4EG	<b>Unicorn</b> 1-7 Ashley Road Altrincham WA14 2DP	<b>Arden Arms</b> Ashton Road Bredbury Stockport SK6 2RY	<b>Calverts Court</b> 13 St Petersgate Stockport SK1 1EB	<b>City Arms</b> 46-48 Kennedy Street Manchester M2 4BQ
<b>Swan With Two Necks</b> 36 Princes Street Stockport SK1 1RY	<b>Three Tunnes</b> 194 London Road Hazel Grove Stockport SK7 4DQ	<b>Bridge Beers</b> 55 Melbourne Street Stalybridge SK15 2JJ	<b>Church Inn</b> 90 Ravenoak Road Cheadle Hulme Stockport SK8 7EG	<b>Duke of York</b> 113 Buxton Road Heaviley Stockport SK2 6LR
<b>Station Buffet Bar</b> Rassbottom Street Stalybridge SK15 1RF	<b>Tapsters</b> 31 Old Street Ashton under Lyne OL6 6LA	<b>Costello's</b> 18 Goose Green Altrincham WA14 1DW	<b>Crown</b> 6 Vale Close Heaton Mersey Stockport SK4 3DS	<b>Elizabethan</b> 33 Heaton Moor Road Heaton Moor Stockport SK4 4PB
<b>Red Lion</b> 532 Wilmslow Road Withington Manchester M20 4BT	<b>Society Rooms</b> 49-51 Grosvenor Street Stalybridge SK15 2JN	<b>Halfway House</b> 123 Whiteacre Road Ashton under Lyne OL6 9PS	<b>Ford Madox Brown</b> Wilmslow Park Rusholme Manchester M14 5FT	<b>Gateway</b> 882 Wilmslow Road East Didsbury Manchester M20 5PG
<b>Rain Bar</b> 80 Great Bridgewater St Manchester M1 5JG	<b>Sheldon Arms</b> Lord Sheldon Way Ashton under Lyne OL6 7UB	<b>JP Joule</b> 2A Northenden Road Sale M33 3BR	<b>Hatters Arms</b> 81 Church Lane Marple SK6 7AW	<b>George &amp; Dragon</b> 14 London Road Hazel Grove Stockport SK7 4AH
<b>Piccadilly Tap</b> 8 Gateway House Piccadilly Approach Manchester M1 2GH	<b>Samuel Oldknow</b> 22 Market Street Marple SK6 7AD	<b>Northumberland Arms</b> 64 Compstall Road Marple Bridge SK6 5HD	<b>Jack's Bar</b> 3 Hamnett Street Hyde SK14 2EX	<b>Great Central</b> 306 Wilmslow Road Fallowfield Manchester M14 6NL
<b>Petersgate Tap</b> 19a St Petersgate Stockport SK1 1EB	<b>Reddish Ale</b> 14 Broadstone Road Reddish Stockport SK5 7AE	<b>Pointing Dog</b> Grove Lane Cheadle Hulme Stockport SK8 7NE	<b>Ladybarn Social Club</b> 13 Green Street Ladybarn Manchester M14 6TL	<b>Gullivers</b> 109 Oldham Street Manchester M4 1LW
<b>Paramount</b> 33-35 Oxford Street Manchester M1 4BH	<b>Red Lion</b> 83 Stockport Road Cheadle SK8 2AJ	<b>Silly Country</b> 121 Market Street Droylsden M43 7AR	<b>Marble Arch</b> 73 Rochdale Road Manchester M4 4HY	<b>Head of Steam</b> 653 Wilmslow Road Didsbury Manchester M20 6QZ
<b>Old Monkey</b> 90-92 Portland Street Manchester M1 4GX	<b>Railway</b> 3 Lapwing Lane West Didsbury Manchester M20 2NT	<b>Navigation</b> 1 Manchester Road Heaton Norris Stockport SK4 1TY	<b>Mounting Stone</b> 8 Woodford Road Bramhall Stockport SK7 1JJ	<b>Heaton Hops</b> 7 School Lane Heaton Chapel Stockport SK4 5DE
<b>Norfolk Arms</b> 2 Town Street Marple Bridge SK6 5DS	<b>Molly House</b> 26 Richmond Street Manchester M1 3NB	<b>Millstone</b> 65-67 Thomas Street Manchester M4 1LQ	<b>Magnet</b> 51 Wellington Road North, Heaton Norris Stockport SK4 1HJ	<b>Lower Turk's Head</b> 36 Shudehill Manchester M4 1EZ

Name: ..... Post Code: .....

Communication - 2 of: Email/Phone/Address.....

Shirt (circle if applicable): T-shirt / Polo / Sweat      Size: S / M / L / XL / 2XL / 3XL / 4XL / 5XL      Please tick for information about CAMRA

Completed forms to be with: Sue Lightfoot, 10 New Beech Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport SK4 3DD by Monday 15 January.

# CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF BREWING

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# News Extra

More pub and brewery news from across the area

## Steelfish on the Move



**Steelfish Brewing Co** is leaving its current South Reddish home, and moving to a new location in Manchester.

Set up by former homebrewers Simon Goodier and Ali Combes (pictured here) in 2020, Steelfish have been brewing at Ventile Brew

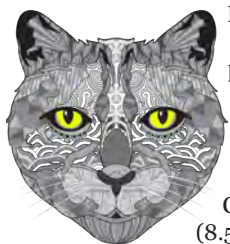
Co for the last two years but are now due to relocate to a railway arch on Temperance Street in Ardwick this November.

The arch is already the home of **Courier Brewing Co** and their 3.5-barrel brewery, which presents an opportunity for Steelfish to continue its 'cuckoo brewing' on a slightly larger kit.

Steelfish has also been acquiring some brewery equipment of its own. They already have their own fermenter and have more recently acquired the one-barrel brew kit from the now-ceased Temperance Street Brewery. The intention is to use this for additional small volume runs and, more significantly, for parti-gyling, whereby an 'imperial' strength version can be produced alongside a regular brew. It's something Torrside has used to very good effect. It is possible some of these bigger beers may find their way into a couple of spirit casks now owned by Steelfish – one is an ex-bourbon cask, while the other originally held English gin. With the forthcoming move Steelfish will look to maintain its current availability of 80% cask to 20% keg ratio whilst it settles into its new location.

These are indeed exciting times for what has rapidly become an extremely popular local brewer, whose beers are held in very high regard. Potential customers can contact Steelfish on [steelfishbrewing@gmail.com](mailto:steelfishbrewing@gmail.com) or call either Ali (07917163052) or Simon (07973857033) directly.

## Old Tom Day



Perhaps a few days too soon for this issue of *Opening Times* but, depending on our publication date, you might still catch the inaugural **Old Tom Day** launched by **Robinsons**, the first of what will be an annual event.

Old Tom Day is a celebration of Old Tom (8.5%) returning on cask in Robinsons pubs on 4 November; it's also a celebration of Old Tom's birthday, as the beer was first brewed on 1 November 1899 – so next year will be Old Tom's 125th birthday.

Pubs will have balloons and birthday badges to hand out to the first people who join them on the day, and Robinsons are encouraging everyone who joins in to tag the brewery on Instagram (@[robinsonsbrewery](https://www.instagram.com/robinsonsbrewery)) and use the #OLDTOMDAY hashtag on all their photos. Also out for November and December is the popular **Tom & Berry** seasonal ale (4.4%).

## Closed Down

There are two sad closures to report. In Romiley, Jonathan Winchcombe has closed his **Chadkirk Brew Co** in the face of mounting overheads. His clean, hoppy beers were always very enjoyable and will be missed.

In Manchester, owner Katie Sutton announced the closure of the **Temperance Street Brewery and Tap**, again due to financial issues. Not only will this see the end of a much-loved bar, but also various brewing operations. Not least is Steve Dunkley's **Beer Nouveau**, which will now be in stasis for a couple of years, and the kit sold off.

## Big Trip



Manchester's **Big Trip Brewery** has now fitted a mezzanine floor at the brewery in Ancoats. The plan is to employ additional staff to open up the bar for special events this winter, with the intention to open up regularly on weekends from Easter 2024. Cask beer will be a permanent feature.

## Ossett meets Torrside

Last month, we reported on the 25th birthday of West Yorkshire's **Ossett Brewery**, whose beers are a frequent, and welcome, sight on bars in the *Opening Times* circulation area.



Part of the celebrations has been a year-long series of collaborations with other brewers. One of these, Macaroni Ted, a collaboration with Reading's Elusive Brewing, won bronze at this year's Stockport Beer & Cider Festival. More recently, Sarah Rothko-

Wright and Barney Hanna, from **Torrside Brewing** in New Mills, travelled over to Ossett to brew Dragon Smoke IPA (4.5%). The brew includes a small amount of German beech-smoked malt to give a subtle smokiness to the beer, which is also generously hopped with Styrian Dragon hops. Look out for it.

November will see a collaboration with local family brewer **JW Lees** and, Ossett tells us, 2024 is looking very exciting. Barney and Sarah are pictured above (right) with the Ossett brewing team.

## Holts

In 2019, Joseph Holt acquired the closed **Shamrock Inn**, on Bengal Street in Ancoats, with a view to developing the site as a pub with a large beer garden, but since then there has been no real activity on site. Central Manchester CAMRA members spoke to Joseph Holt's MD, Richard Kershaw, about this during the CAMRA reception for the Conservative Party Conference. It was heartening to hear him confirm Joseph Holt is indeed planning to invest in the Shamrock site subject to agreement about planning conditions.

From 24 to 26 November, Holts are also running a beer festival at the **Woodthorpe Hotel** (Bury Old Road, Prestwich, M25 0EG) featuring 20 local beers. See the advert on page 18.

## Arden Arms, Bredbury

The **Arden Arms** (Ashton Road, Bredbury, SK6 2RY), which is taking part in the Winter Warmer Wander, has extended its opening hours and food offering for the remainder of the year, and this will continue into 2024 if successful. The pub is now open daily from noon until 10pm, with food available from a significantly larger menu until 7pm daily except Wednesdays. Three real ales continue to be available, with 25% discount for CAMRA Members.

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Pie and Mash  
offer at  
Lunchtimes



## J.W. LEES

# CHRISTMAS IN A GLASS

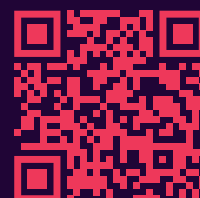
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**MALT** PALE ALE & CRYSTAL  
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# CAMRA Awards

Recent presentations by local branches

## Two in Stalybridge

High Peak CAMRA branch awards are usually presented to mark Pub of the Season, or Pub and Club of the Year, writes branch chair Ben Zwierink. However, the branch decided to make an exception in the case of the **Wharf Tavern** on Caroline Street in Stalybridge.



Terence Grainger, the pub's landlord, is finally calling it a day after a record 74 years in charge. Terence became a pub landlord in 1947, and took over the Wharf Tavern two years later. We celebrated this remarkable event at a well-attended presentation on 19

September, when Terence regaled us with many stories about his family-run pub. The family also runs the fish and chip shop next door. A great combination!

With Terence retiring, the future of the pub is uncertain. Ever-rising costs, and the fact that the Wharf is somewhat off the beaten track, make it difficult to survive as a pub. Rumours that it might be converted into a bistro are unsubstantiated, according to Terence.

It would be a great shame if this unspoilt, classic pub were to close down. If you happen to be in Stalybridge to visit some of the other excellent bars in town, do call in before it closes.

Pictured above are CAMRA's Ben Zwierink (left), with Angela Dyson, Terence Grainger and Anette Dyson.



On the same day, the High Peak branch Cider Pub of the Year award was presented to the **Stalybridge Station Buffet Bar**. The Buffet is no stranger to receiving awards; at the latest count, this one was the ninth from the branch. Pictured here are duty managers Lyndsey Walker and

Holly Walker accepting the award from Ben Zwierink.

## Castle, Macclesfield

The CAMRA Cheshire Pub of the Year 2023 is the **Castle**, Macclesfield, hidden away on cobbled Church Street only 250 metres from the railway station.

Only a few years ago, this pub was considered to be very much under threat, and it closed early in 2015 with no indication as to what the future might hold.

Fortunately, it was reopened in September 2021 by Branching Out Two Ltd who carried out a spectacular refurbishment of the pub, including the repair of the water-damaged ornate ceiling in the lounge. The pub incorporates a glazed, wooden, former off-sales serving hatch in the entrance corridor, and several impressive fireplaces. It is a Grade II



listed building, and is also listed by CAMRA as having an interior of national historic importance.

But it is not just the building that is impressive. The Castle offers a choice of three ever-changing cask ales, together with a number of craft kegs, and they have recently been selling real cider. A small menu of delicious food is available every day until 7pm. The pub is run on a day-to-day basis by Rebecca Prunty, who unfortunately was away when the award was presented on 2 September by CAMRA's Gary Chester, but it was accepted on her behalf by Jen and Viktoria from the pub.

## Cotton Tree, Bollington



The Merseyside & Cheshire Cider Pub of the Year runner-up award was presented to the **Cotton Tree**, Bollington, on 10 August. The pub, which has a surprisingly large choice of ciders for a Punch-owned house, has been run by Jayne Blackshaw, assisted by her daughter Christine,

since May 2015. The winning pub was the **Red Fox** at Thornton Hough in Wirral.

The Cotton Tree has a homely feel, with a collection of memorabilia based on local transport themes, including canals, trains and planes. Indeed, the no. 10 Macclesfield-Bollington bus terminates outside the pub, with the 391/392 Stockport-Macclesfield bus passing close by.

Our picture shows Jayne and Christine (centre and right) receiving the award from regional cider representative Linda Harris (left).

## Heaton Hops



The Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA Pub of the Month for August was **Heaton Hops**, School Lane, Heaton Chapel. Since opening in 2015, this popular bar has won many well-deserved awards, of which this was the latest. Owner

Damian O'Shea is pictured here with his award, along with bar staff Georgina Nuttall and Rachel Holloway.



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# Pub Walks with Chris Morris

## Marple Circular

Marple is the perfect location for a pub walk. As well as being served by excellent public transport, its location on the edge of some delightful countryside means you don't have to walk too far before you get that hit of nature and scenic views. A range of great pubs in the area means that your efforts will be generously rewarded with some refreshing cask beers.

### Train and Bus Information

The walk starts at Marple railway station, which is as easily accessible by bus as it is by train. Train services are half-hourly from Manchester Piccadilly, Monday to Saturday, and hourly on Sunday. For buses, the 383 and 384 stop every 20 minutes during the day and hourly in the evening. The 385 and 394 are hourly. Train timetables are available at [nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk). Bus timetables are available at [tfgm.com](http://tfgm.com).

### The Walk

This is a moderate four-mile walk with a number of climbs. The Peak Forest Canal path is excellent but there are some paths that can be uneven and muddy after wet weather, so walking boots are recommended. The walk can be followed in either OS Explorer Map 268 or OLI (OS app also available). All pubs are dog-friendly.

From the main road outside Marple station, walk up the hill on the left side pavement for 300 yards and turn left to join the canal towpath. Keeping the water on your left, we now pass the flight of Marple Locks for 600 yards. When we reach bridge 18, ignore the steps up to Marple high street and walk through the horse tunnel to re-join the canal. After lock 16 we reach the point where the canal forks, with the Macclesfield Canal joining from the right. To continue along the Peak Forest Canal, walk over the road bridge and bear left, to rejoin the canal with the water on your left as before.

After 500 yards turn left to cross the canal at bridge 19 and take another left to spiral down to the canal towpath, which is now on the other side. Carry on along the canal for one mile, keeping the water on your right at all times. Our route is now through a stone pinch stile on the left, with two signposts to help us. One is directing us to 'Mellor, Werneth Low and Gee Cross', with the other for the **Strines Nightingale**, which is our first pub of the day. Walk along the straight grassed path, climb over the stile, bear left and enter a field. Keep to the right edge of the field, following the footpath sign. Ignore the path straight ahead and exit the field to the right via a narrow path which passes between two houses. We now meet a main road with our first pub opposite.



Previously known as the Sportsman, and closed for a number of years, the pub thankfully reopened in 2022 as the **Strines Nightingale**. A tasteful refurbishment now gives us an attractive, welcoming space. The bar stocks up to four cask beers from local breweries, such as

RedWillow, Pictish and Blackjack. A pleasant outdoor terraced area to the side offers scenic views. The pub is open from 4pm on Thursday and Friday, 1pm at weekends. The 358 bus stops outside if you want to cut your walk short.

To carry on our walk, turn right out of the pub and walk along the main road pavement for 300 yards. At a sign for 'Lum House & Lum Barn', turn right and walk down the track to the River Goyt. Walk

over the charming 18th century Roman Bridge, climb the large steps on the other side and then take a left. Carry on along this wide track for a half mile as it passes the octagonal Floodgates Cottage and under the Goytcliffe Viaduct, before passing by the Roman Lakes on the right. Take a left at the T-junction, signposted to 'Site of Mellor Mill & Lodge'. After 300 yards, turn right at the next junction (Bottoms Mills Road). Before walking along this track, the remains of Mellor Mill are on the right and worth exploring. After a half mile, we now reach



Marple Bridge and two recommended pubs.

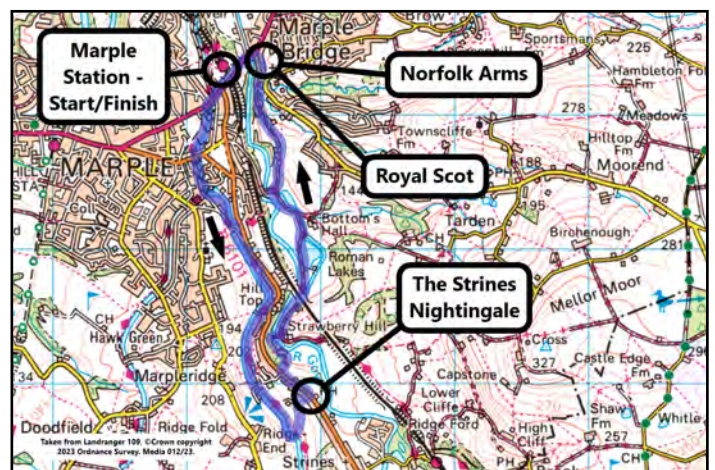
Robinsons' **Royal Scot** (pictured above) is reached first, offering a comfortable and handsome interior. Low-level lighting, wooden floors and an open log fire give a cosy welcome for aching limbs. Unicorn and Dizzy Blonde were the cask beers available on my last visit.



The **Norfolk Arms** is popular with all ages and it's easy to see why. The rustic farmhouse interior, with bespoke furniture, a touch of quirkiness and an open log fire, gives an appealing charm. The quality offering continues with the food and drink. As well as a number of

craft keg, up to five cask beers are available. These were from Purple Moose, Salopian, Moorhouse's and Little Critters when I last dropped by.

For full pub details, including opening times, visit [whatpub.com](http://whatpub.com).





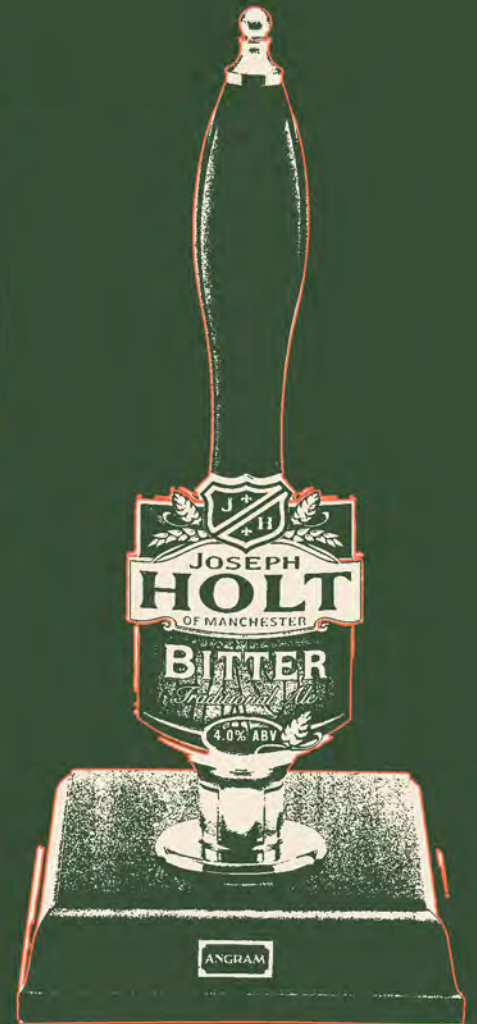
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# What's On

## Local CAMRA Branch Diaries

Forthcoming events 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

**CAMRA members only at these meetings.**

**Thursday 9 November** – Blossoms, 2 Buxton Road, Heaviley, SK2 6NU. Guest speakers Oliver and William Robinson from Robinsons Brewery. Starts 8pm. (SSM)

**Monday 13 November** – Bridge Beers, 55 Melbourne Street, Stalybridge, SK15 2JJ. Starts 7:30pm. (HPNC)

**Tuesday 5 December** – Dog & Partridge, 97 Palmerston Street, Bollington, SK10 5JX. Starts 8pm. (MEC)

**Saturday 9 December** – Harewood Arms, 2 Market Street, Broadbottom, SK14 6AX. Will be followed by a social. Starts 2pm. (HPNC)

**Thursday 14 December** – Nursery, 258 Green Lane, Heaton Norris, SK4 2NA. Will include Christmas Quiz with beery prizes. Starts 8pm. (SSM)

**Tuesday 9 January** – Town Hall Tavern, 20 Tib Lane, Manchester, M2 4JA. Starts 6:30pm. (CMCR)

## Social Events & Presentations

**Friday 17 November** – Ladybarn & Fallowfield Stagger: 7:30pm Ladybarn Social Club, 13 Green Street, Ladybarn, M14 6TL; 8:30pm Friendship, 353 Wilmslow Road, Fallowfield, M14 6XS; final pub Studio Bar, 256a Wilmslow Rd, M14 6LB. (SSM)

**Saturday 18 November** – Winter Warmer Wander Launch Social: first stop Northumberland Arms, 64 Compstall Road, Marple Bridge, SK6 5HD. See branch website for more details. (SSM)

**Saturday 18 November** – Social in Bredbury and Denton: meet Arden Arms, Ashton Road, Bredbury, SK6 2RY at 2pm. (HPNC)

**Thursday 23 November** – Pub of the Month presentation: Sun & Castle, 54-58 Middle Hillgate, SK1 3DL. From 8pm. (SSM)

**Tuesday 5 December** – Weekday Wander in Tameside (and a chance to pick up some Winter Warmer Wander stickers). Meet 11:30 at Manchester Piccadilly on Ashton-bound tram platform. First stop will be Silly Country in Droylsden. (SSM)

**Saturday 16 December** – Curry and Christmas Party: Cheshire Ring, 72 Manchester Road, Hyde, SK14 2BJ. Starts 7pm. (HPNC)

**Friday 22 December** – 'Hillgate' Stagger: 7:30pm Blossoms, 2 Buxton Road, Heaviley, SK2 6NU; 8:30pm Sun & Castle, 54-58 Middle Hillgate, SK1 3DL; finish in Market Place pubs. (SSM)

**Thursday 28 December** – Pub of the Month presentation: Runaway Brewery Tap, 9-11 Astley Street, Stockport, SK4 1AW. From 7:30pm. (SSM)

**Thursday 28 December** – Drown the Turkey Social: meet Piccadilly Tap, Station Approach, Manchester, M1 2GH at 12 noon. (HPNC)

**Wednesday 3 January** – Weekday Wander in Manchester City Centre (West). See branch website (<https://ssm.camra.org.uk>) for details. (SSM)

## Calling Home Brewers

### New Competition Launched

**Stockport & South Manchester Branch of CAMRA is again running a competition for local home brewers to find five beers for Bar Nouveau at next year's Stockport Beer & Cider Festival.**

Bar Nouveau was introduced in 2015 and features brand new beers launched at the festival. It's proved to be a very successful feature and we will be running it again next year (the festival dates are 20-22 June). There will be up to ten beers, all served on a separate bar and properly cooled to ensure optimum condition.



For the past few years we have involved local home brewers and have been delighted by the response. As in past years, each of the five winners will have their beer brewed by a local brewery. The festival will purchase three firkins of each winning beer and the rest will be sold on to the market by the brewers concerned. If

you are a home brewer this is a great chance to join in a brew day at a local brewery, and also see one of your beers out there on sale to the public.

The brewers who have kindly agreed to host the winners are:

- \* Steelfish, Manchester (Mild & Brown Ale)
- \* Marble Beers, Salford (Bitter, Pale Ale & Session IPA)
- \* Blackjack Brewing, Manchester (ESB, Strong Pale Ale & IPA)
- \* Torrside Brewing, New Mills (Stout & Porter)
- \* Runaway Brewery, Stockport (Speciality)

The five categories are quite broadly drawn so that you can use your imagination. Here's what we are looking for:

**Mild & Brown Ale** – this is a chance to take old beer styles and run with them. Maximum ABV 5.5%.

**Bitter, Pale Ale & Session IPA** – session ales, pale ales, brown, amber or blonde – the choice is yours. Maximum ABV 5%.

**Strong Pale Ale, ESB & IPA** – while we're not style fanatics, you should aim for a minimum ABV of 5%. Apart from that, it's up to you – brown, red, black or white IPAs are all welcome. Maximum ABV 6.5%.

**Stout & Porter** – again this is broadly drawn – added flavours and ingredients optional. Maximum ABV 6.5%.

**Speciality** – this is where you can really go to town. Saisons, bocks, rauch biers – all are welcome. Note – all beers with lactose will fall in this category. Maximum ABV 7%.

A few things to bear in mind: although the beers will be judged from bottle, they will have to work as cask beers, so please do consider commerciality. We will be buying some of each brew for the festival, but the host brewers will have to sell the rest into the trade, so the beers will have to be commercially viable for them.

Please also note that we will be looking to ensure the entries observe the ABV limits for each category – a tiny amount of drift is OK but not huge overshoots.

**How to enter** – just email your name, contact details and which categories you want to enter to: [stocam@btinternet.com](mailto:stocam@btinternet.com). **The cut-off date for entering is 14 January (but we won't need details of actual beers until early February).** Judging will take place in late March/early April next year.



**It's Back on Cask!**

# **OLD TOM**

**Celebrate Old Tom Day on  
Nov 4th at selected Robinsons Pubs**

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