

# OPENING TIMES

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2025

FREE



IN THIS ISSUE: CROWN REOPENS / GOOD BEER GUIDE 2026 / AWARDS GALORE / PUB WALK AND MUCH MORE....



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## About Opening Times & Contacts

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## 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)

## Front Cover

Enjoying the Cider & Perry Bar at this year's Stockport Beer & Cider Festival. Photo by Rebecca Cowtan.

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## Welcome

Not wishing to rest on our laurels, you will see that we've tweaked the appearance of *Opening Times*. You'll find details of all the forthcoming CAMRA events, along with the various branch contacts, on page 23.

This month we celebrate the reopening of the Crown on Heaton Lane in Stockport. Why the fuss? Well, for many local cask beer drinkers the Crown is something of an iconic pub. It wasn't the first in Stockport to offer changing guest beers (that honour goes to Ye Olde Vic in Edgeley), but, such was the range and quality of those on offer, it gained a reputation well beyond the town boundaries.

In recent years there have been various periods of closure punctuated by a procession of licensees who didn't seem to know what to do with it. The fact that it is now open, in safe hands, and looking better than it has done for years really is cause for celebration.

Interestingly, the Crown is just one of numerous reopenings and new ventures locally. In Stockport, the long-closed Kings Head on Tiviot Dale has surprised everyone by coming back to life as Rockafellas, while the equally long-closed Grey Mare in Didsbury is back as Kennedy's Irish Bar. Against a gloomy national backdrop of pub closures, we do seem to be bucking the trend, at least for the time being.

It's also back to the future on the beer front. Multi-national giant AB InBev is doing some very unexpected things. Firstly, it's put some significant promotional spend behind Draught Bass, and now comes the relaunch of Boddingtons Bitter. There are rumours of other projects in the pipeline, too.

Compare and contrast with the activities of Carlsberg Marston's, or Carlsberg Britvic as they are now called. Their breweries and cask brands have been going down like ninepins in recent years and, to add insult to injury, they are also marketing 'Fresh Ale', keg beers sold via handpump, a practice we in CAMRA have roundly condemned as misleading. See the graphic below to report it, if you come across it.

John Clarke, Editor

## Tips to spot

### Carlsberg 'Fresh Ale'



#### Carbonation

Lower carbonation than keg and may be slightly fizzier than cask

#### Brands

Wainwright Amber, Wainwright Gold, Hobgoblin IPA



#### Dispense

Cask handpump, might look 'jerky' during pouring

#### Mouthfeel

Smooth with a slight fizziness

#### On the bar

'Brewery-conditioned' on the pump clip

#### Taste

Slight 'tinniness'

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it here →



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Good Beer Guide, 2018, 2019, 2020 - 2025  
Stockport Cider Pub of the Year  
2018, 2019, 2020-2025

Originally a brewery in 1823  
Beer Garden (with awesome views)  
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# Pubs of the Month

Stockport & South Manchester Winners for September and October



The Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA Pub of the Month award for September 2025 has been awarded to the Victoria, Wilmslow Road, Withington, writes Jim Flynn.

This extremely busy, late 19th century pub, with its period exterior and etched windows, has been a Hydes house for 121 years. Although over the years the pub has been opened out, the refurbishments have generated distinct drinking areas that have the feel of separate rooms, giving the place an intimate feel. At the rear, there is an attractive outdoor patio, where you can enjoy a beer in the early autumn sunshine.



Any pub is more than just its structure and décor; its excellence is measured by the quality of its fare and the warmth of the welcome. Under the guidance of its longstanding licensees, Alyson and Paul Mitchell (pictured here with a previous award), who arrived in the pub 13 years ago, the Victoria scores extremely highly on all of these points. Throughout their tenure they have demonstrated a passion for cask beer, with four or five different Hydes cask ales regularly on sale, and which are always in excellent form – the pub is a regular in the *Good Beer Guide*.

It is Paul and Alyson's dedication to customer care that really sets them apart, creating what must be one of the friendliest and most welcoming pubs in the whole area, and ensuring that the Victoria is at the heart of its community, attracting an eclectic mix of customers including families, pensioners, locals and students. The pub benefits from big-screen sports, boasts a popular poker school on Monday/Tuesday evenings, darts teams, DJs (Friday and Saturday) and weekly quiz nights (Thursday and Sunday). Nevertheless, such is the pub's layout, you can always get away from all this activity and just enjoy the buzzing atmosphere and lively conversation.

So, join us on Thursday, 25 September when the Pub of the Month award will be presented to Alyson, Paul and their staff. I am sure a really great night will be enjoyed by all; don't miss it!

The pub is on one of the UK's busiest bus routes with, amongst others, the 41, 42, 43, 142 and 143 from the city centre/south Manchester, the 42 from Stockport, and other routes including the 42A (early evening) from Reddish and the Heaton.



October's Pub of the Month is the Armoury on Shaw Heath, Stockport. *Opening Times* editor John Clarke has been along.

The Armoury is currently largely hidden from view, concealed behind the fencing that has been erected outside while the Greek Street railway bridge and roundabout are replaced. Don't let that put you off, though, as the Armoury is still very much open for business.

The ongoing construction work, due to be completed 'next spring', has obviously been something of a challenge for licensees Pete Johnson and Holly Scotts who took over the pub in October last year. However, although the Armoury is their first pub, neither of them is new to the licensed trade, with a decade's worth of experience to call on. They are also both familiar with the pub and the local area, coming as they do from Offerton.

The pub itself has bedded in following a rather drastic refurbishment by Robinsons a few years ago, when most of its heritage features were removed (although some of the old Bell's Brewery internal glasswork remains). Pete and Holly have worked hard to re-establish the Armoury with the local community and it does seem to have taken off again.

Obviously, football features strongly in the pub's offer, both when Stockport County are at home, and with other matches screened during the week. There's more to the Armoury than that, though, and other activities include quiz nights and acoustic sessions that alternate on Wednesdays. Work on the upstairs function room is now more or less complete and hopefully that will host a new darts team (it also provides a great view of the ongoing engineering work).

And what about the beer? You'll find Robinsons Unicorn, Dizzy Blonde, Trooper and the current seasonal on the bar – and all in superb condition. These will be enjoyed on the night of Thursday 23 October when we present Pete and Holly with this well-deserved award.

Buses 11 and 368 from Stockport Interchange will drop you close by. The 192 will drop you at Stockport College from where it's a short walk down Greek Street.

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.



# Heard at the Bar

Pub News from Stockport, Manchester, Tameside and beyond

## Shamrock Revived



The pub known to many as the **Shamrock** on Bengal Street in Ancoats is to reopen, writes *Steve Ingham*.

Originally owned by Renshaw & Caldwell's Hulme brewery at the turn of the 20th century, it became a Wilsons house in 1962, and by 1984 it was a Burtonwood pub. It finally passed into the hands of Marston's who closed it in 2018, although for the moment it still carries the Burtonwood signage.

More recently, the pub was acquired by Manchester family brewers Joseph Holt. Once an application to vary the premises licence has been completed, it will be sensitively refurbished to reopen as a community-focused pub, which is one of the hallmarks of Holt's stewardship of their pubs.

The decision to change the name of the pub is a bold move, and the family should be given credit for the decision to hold a competition to choose the new name. This is a further example of the brewery's community-focused approach and how they relate to their customers. It both serves to emphasise the pub's long association with the area and also anticipates the positive next phase in its long history.

So, we can be confident that the result of everyone's efforts will be worth waiting for. The pub is destined to become a vibrant hub in the continuing evolution of Ancoats, pronounced 'Ancuts' if you are a Mancunian by birth or adoption!

Certainly, with the increasing popularity of the 'Scholars' walks, which start at the old St Michael's Church nearby in July each year, everyone, including the descendants of the Manchester Irish and Italian communities, may once again treat their children to shandy and crisps whilst the older family members enjoy the hospitality of the pub.

In the past, the pub acted as a clearing house for newly-arrived members of the Irish community who sought work in the area, hence its naming as the Shamrock, and long-standing connection with the Irish community and other locals. Indeed, it became in the minds of locals and visitors, an 'Irish' pub.

It's fitting that, having celebrated last year 175 years in the city, both providing employment and continuing to support the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute and other community charities, the pub will join the Joseph Holt 'family' and provide a welcome focus for the community. Further updates will follow.

## Macclesfield Pub of the Season



The **Dog**, Peover Heath, is a classic country pub located just over a mile as the crow flies from Chelford. On a summer's day you can catch the sun either on the front patio or in the extensive rear beer garden which has its own bar.

Although there is a strong focus on dining, as you would expect, this is not to the exclusion of those who just want a drink. The cask ale offerings are usually the Best Bitter and Cheshire Cat from local brewer Weetwood. These are supplemented by Timothy Taylor's Boltmaker and a guest beer – on the day this was Beartown Glacier. The food, which is served daily until 8pm, is all freshly prepared and features locally-sourced ingredients. Unsurprisingly, dogs are welcome at the pub, just keep them in the bar area if you come inside (and if you want to stay a little longer, there are six en-suite dog-themed bedrooms upstairs).



The Summer 2025 Pub of the Season award was presented on Saturday 14 June to Kieran Garrihy and Daniel Taylor, who both manage the pub and also look after the cellar. Kieran is pictured here with his certificate, while local CAMRA members look on.

Although the Dog is in a very rural area, there is an hourly weekday daytime bus service (one bus a day passes the pub) stopping close to the pub at Peover Superior school (ten minutes' walk away). The Saturday service runs every two hours. The bus is the 87 Macclesfield- Knutsford bus (which is a continuation of some 88 Altrincham-Knutsford services).

## Macclesfield News in Brief

After many months of erratic opening hours, the **British Flag** on Coare Street has finally closed, with some of the contents being transferred to an adjacent skip. Planning permission has been granted for conversion to residential use.

Following a sudden closure in June, the Punch Pub Co-owned **Jolly Sailor** on Sunderland Street has now reopened with new licensees – Danielle and Steve have moved from the **Prince of Wales** on Roe Street. The previous tenant, Glyn Naden, is now focussing on running his own pub, **G&J Muckers**, further along Sunderland Street.

# Macclesfield & East Cheshire Awards

## Pub, Club and Cider Pub of the Year 2025

### Pub of the Year

The **Throstles Nest** on Buxton Road, Buglawton, to the north west of Congleton, is Macclesfield & East Cheshire branch Pub of the Year for 2025, writes *David Seddon*.

This fantastic community free house serves consistently good cask ale and is an excellent example of a pub that has been rescued from a previously derelict state. The award was presented to licensee Mike Cooper (pictured here, right) by branch chair Dave Gittins on Saturday 26 July. Thanks to the hard work of Mike and his team, and the support of Caldmore Taverns, the Throstles Nest rose from the ashes in January 2023 and has been a wonderful place to visit from the very first day. There are normally six cask



ales available: Bass, a bitter and a stout, together with three others that vary regularly but usually include at least two pales. Often there is a mild or something more unusual. Mike works very hard to vary the beers and they are nearly always from breweries within 100 miles.

The interior of the pub is beautifully and traditionally done, and there are several indoor areas, including a games room, plus a smoking area and a roof terrace. One of the most striking things about the pub is its very wide age range and good mix of people. It has a really friendly, relaxed, community atmosphere, and everyone receives a warm welcome.

The Throstles Nest supports pool and darts teams, and a range of bar games is available. This is all further enhanced by regular events such as Cask Tuesday and other seasonal promotions, brewery takeovers, quizzes, bingo nights, live music and visiting food caterers.

### Club of the Year

The Macclesfield & East Cheshire branch Club of the Year for 2025 is the **Victoria Club** in Holmes Chapel, writes *Dave Gittins*.



Situated on Victoria Avenue, south of the village centre, just off the A50 London Road, this is not the first time that the club has won this award.

Known as 'The Vic', the club is welcoming to all, members or not, and typically offers three cask beers, with two from Arclid-based Merlin and Doom Bar the third. These are kept in excellent condition by the enthusiastic bar team. It's good to see a club that supports a local brewery.

The Vic has a significant community focus with events throughout the year, such as summer fairs and a November bonfire. There is provision to show various televised sporting events, including Premier League football. There are also rooms that can be hired for specific functions, and a variety of sports take place at the club, including cricket, tennis, bowls, snooker, pool and darts.

The award was presented on Saturday 12 July. Unfortunately steward Tom Dowson was not available on the day, so barman Fred accepted the award on behalf of the team – he is pictured below left with the award.

Come and see for yourself what a great facility the Vic is for those living in and around Holmes Chapel. It is about a ten-minute walk from the railway station.

### Cider Pub of the Year

It is unusual for the Macclesfield & East Cheshire branch to award a pub twice in a few years with the same award, writes *Jill Hasler*.

However, the **Cotton Tree** in Bollington has bucked the trend, as it was overwhelmingly agreed that mother and daughter Jayne and Christina Blackwell's cider offering is outstanding. They are pictured below with Macclesfield CAMRA cider officer Jill Hasler (right).

Entering the pub, there is a chalk-board opposite the bar, above the fireplace, listing the ciders available – a wide choice from the Westons range, but also several changing guest ciders and perries all served from the box, plus a good selection of bottled ciders and perries, too. On the day of our presentation, there was also a Glastonbury cider, plus some Long Mynd and Hecks, among others.

If you do come here to sample the range, flights can be made up to your choice (a bargain at £4). When you are ordering a round,



do make sure you include all the ciders you want, as Jayne or Christina have to disappear to the rear of the pub, where a shed houses their cider range – visitors who are unaware of the set-up tend to look bemused as they disappear for several minutes!

The cider is always well kept, served at a good temperature, and was very much appreciated by the visitors and locals on the afternoon of our visit, enjoying their cider in the amazing Tardis-like rear yard.

Not only a previous winner in the Cider Pub of the Year (it reached second place in the regional round), the Cotton Tree has also won a Pub of the Season award and a Community Pub award and is well worth a visit. For non-cider drinkers, the five beer pumps always include Bass and excellent Timothy Taylor's Landlord.

The pub is easy to get to as well, with the 10 Macclesfield-Bollington bus terminating across the road and the 391 Macclesfield-Stockport bus also passing by.

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# A Tale of Two Crowns

## A Reopening and an Award

### Crown, Heaton Lane

The iconic **Crown Inn** on Heaton Lane, under Stockport's famous viaduct, has a new lease of life. The pub was converted from three terraced houses in about 1877 and, by the 1990s, it was a Boddingtons pub. It retains an original relief sign on its frontage bearing the brewery's name.



In the decades surrounding the turn of the century, the pub was famous for the quality and number of beers from the burgeoning number of microbreweries across the country, which were not found anywhere else in the area. In 2009, it was the runner-up in CAMRA's National Pub of the Year competition. However, since then, the place has had mixed fortunes, with several tenants and periods of closure.



But now the pub has been revitalised, as the new operators are Alan and Chris Gent, who also have the **Petersgate Tap**, an award-winning pub in Stockport town centre. The pub will be run on a day-to-day basis by Chris and his partner Amy Barker, and it reopened on Friday 15 August (our picture above shows the eager queue).



There has been huge attention to detail during the refurbishment, and thorough deep clean, replastering, redecoration, and repairs to the 17(!) broken windows. The pub looks better now than it's done for over 20 years, we think. The huge garden at the rear should also be a real asset – live entertainment is planned for next year.

Alan said: "The Crown got under our skin as far back as 2019, but every time the lease came up, conditions were not right. Nevertheless, we went on what might loosely be called 'red alert' and, when the 'To Let' sign went up yet again earlier this year, I contacted the owners, Red Oak Taverns.

"Intense negotiations continued for several months and we finally agreed a deal which sees all our eight cask-beer pumps and some keg-beer taps free of tie, allowing a wider choice from independent breweries. We got the keys on 1 July and immediately set about refurbishing both the interior and exterior of the pub, and finally opened on 15 August.

"It's become apparent during this time that the Crown holds a special place in a lot of people's hearts, so we hope the renovation is considered sympathetic and appropriate. Initial signs are promising, and we have already sold three casks of our 'house beer', Draught Bass, in the first three days. And, who knows, with Boddingtons Bitter being revived, we may be able to feature that beer on the bar once again!"

Local Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA branch chair John Clarke said: "It's great to see that one of Stockport's flagship pubs is once again in safe hands, especially at a time when the hospitality industry is facing many challenges, and scores of places are closing for good.

"This area of the town is undergoing a transformation, and the Crown is in an ideal area to serve these new residents and visitors.

"This addition to our list of excellent pubs and bars in and around the town centre can only enhance the town's reputation for a great day out. I wish Alan, Chris and Amy all the best for a successful future at the Crown."

The Crown is open from 2-10pm on Mondays and 12-11pm all other days. There are eight cask beers – Draught Bass is permanent and the other seven constantly change.

### Crown, Heaton Mersey



After several false starts, Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA finally presented their 2025 Pub of the Year award to the **Crown**, Didsbury Road, Heaton Mersey, on 9 July.

Since taking over this Robinsons pub in November 2021, Goska and Jamie Langrish and their team have worked hard to create a very welcoming pub – the quality of the welcome has been commented on by many visitors. The cosy atmosphere is enhanced by the decoration and the pictures, some of which record the history of the area and of the Crown itself, part of which once served as the village bakery.

Unfortunately, Goska couldn't be present on the night as she'd had to pay a visit back to Poland as her mother was unwell. The award was accepted on her and Jamie's behalf by Martin Haugh and Nichole Binnie, who are pictured above with their certificate.



# TAP ROOM NOW OPEN



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## CAMRA Time to Join

As many readers of this, and many other local CAMRA magazines, will be aware, the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) is a membership organisation. It relies on its members to provide information to keep you all informed about things going on in pubs and clubs in the local area, as well as up and down the country, writes *Graham Donning*.

It is also members of CAMRA who volunteer to help run many a local beer festival that most of you also enjoy! Stockport Beer & Cider Festival is a local example. This is just one of several local beer festivals that are run in Greater Manchester, with members organising the events, ordering the beer, physically setting the events up as well as “take down” (removing all kit, empties etc.), serving beer (and of course ciders!) as well dealing with many other aspects that visitors will not normally be aware of.



I hope you are also aware of *The Good Beer Guide* – CAMRA’s flagship publication that has been running for over 50 years. This takes a lot of very enjoyable research, meaning visiting many pubs to ensure that the beers and ciders are in good condition! Well, somebody has to do it! There are many other things that CAMRA members step up to do – such as liaising with local breweries to ensure that *The Good Beer Guide* has up-to-date information about the many thousands of breweries throughout the UK. Not to mention actually tasting the beers and ciders so we can provide descriptions of the different tastes and give you an idea what you may be getting at your next pub visit!” Again, somebody has to do it!



But, like most organisations, CAMRA has been running for many years (over 50 now) and our membership is ageing – as you can no doubt tell when you visit our beer festivals. We aim to encourage people of all ages to join CAMRA and the latest initiative is to ensure, from January 2026, that any member of CAMRA is offered free entry to all of the beer festivals that CAMRA runs. This includes any national events such as the Great British Beer Festival (GBBF) that ran in August this year at the Birmingham NEC and

also the National GBBF Winter (GBBFW) that was run in Rotherham in January.

We do run some beer festivals in conjunction with other organisations (such as the one in Chorlton run by Trafford & Hulme CAMRA in association with St Clement’s church) which may not give CAMRA members free entry (but may allow a discount).

For details of all the benefits of joining CAMRA, see the website at [camra.org.uk/membership/member-benefits](http://camra.org.uk/membership/member-benefits). See also the advert on page 23, where you will also find details of local CAMRA activities.

*The photos in the article are by Amelia Claudia.*

# More CAMRA Awards

## Presentations from across the area

### Oxford Road Tap

Central Manchester branch have awarded Best Newcomer for 2025 to the **Oxford Road Tap**, which follows its stable-mate the **Victoria Tap** as a recent winner.

Since the bar opened late last year, it has established itself as a small but excellently located option for cask and keg beers. Despite its size it serves consistently good cask beers from four handpumps. These are backed up by a small but varied range of keg beers. Here, branch chair Sean O'Mahoney (on the right) presents the award to the Oxford Road Tap manager, Max Petersen.



### Railway, West Didsbury

After a couple of false starts, and a delay while the pub was closed for an impressive refurbishment by owners Joseph Holt, Stockport & South Manchester branch finally presented their Most Improved Pub award to the **Railway**, on Lapwing Lane in West Didsbury, on Sunday 27 July.

There was a full house to see Stacy Saunders and Mark Dunn receive this very well deserved award from branch chair John Clarke. John praised Stacy and Mark's efforts in transforming the Railway from an under-performing pub with a solitary handpump dispensing an average pint of bitter into a thriving and vibrant community local. Up to six beers from the Holt's range are now sold, with quality being second-to-none.

Stacy and Mark are pictured here (left) with their certificate, along with many local CAMRA folk, and members of the football team sponsored by the pub.



### Jack's Bar, Hyde

The High Peak, Tameside & NE Cheshire Pub of the Season for summer was **Jack's Bar** in Hyde. The bar is tucked away in Hamnett Street, just off the market square. It is easily missed but well worth a visit.

It was previously known as the Tweed Tap but, since then, the bar has had a sympathetic make-over and now has a light, airy and welcoming feel. On the beer front, there is an ever-changing range of cask beers, always in good condition.

The presentation took place on Saturday 19 July to a packed house of CAMRA members and locals. Congratulations go to landlady Claire Rowbotham and her staff. Claire is pictured here (right) receiving her certificate from High Peak CAMRA chair Ben Zwierink.



### Blue Bell, Levenshulme

Another rarely presented award from Stockport & South Manchester branch is that for Community Pub of the Year. The winner was the **Blue Bell**, on Barlow Road in Levenshulme.

This Sam Smith's pub has been run by Mark and Mary Dunn since 2006, and since then they have turned it into a real community hub for Levenshulme and Gorton. Numerous groups meet at the pub and there are fundraising events for local community projects, along with many other initiatives.

The award was presented to Mike and Mary on 31 July and they are seen here with their certificate.



More presentations are on Page 15

# BYE! ECK

**THE CREAM OF MANCHESTER  
IS BACK ON CASK**

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# What's Brewing

## Brewery News from around the region

### Boddies Comes Back

**JW Lees** is now the exclusive brewer of Boddingtons Cask Ale, which they will brew and distribute under licence from Budweiser Brewing Group (BBG).

JW Lees and BBG have formed a new long-term partnership whereby Lees will brew and sell the Boddingtons Cask brand under licence across the UK. As a quid pro quo, Budweiser Brewing brands will also



be available in JW Lees pubs, although the relaunched Boddingtons Bitter will be a free-trade only beer, with no plans to introduce it into the Lees estate.

Many of *Opening Times's* older readers will be interested to

see how the new beer, which will come out at 4% ABV, compares with the Boddies of old (although that in itself is a beer that had more than one incarnation before the cask version was discontinued).

William Lees-Jones, Managing Director of JW Lees, said: "When I joined JW Lees in 1994 Boddingtons was 'The Cream of Manchester' and we were in awe of their position in leading the cask beer revolution. We are planning to put Boddingtons back where it rightly deserves to be as one of the leading premium UK cask beers, particularly in our heartland of the North West."

A series of launch events will be taking place across Manchester city centre during late August and early September, with the beer due to be rolled out to what are described as 'iconic locations' around the north west during September.

### New from Hydes



Salford-based **Hydes** will have three new beers out during September and October. Two of them are in the 'Classic Car' range of monthly specials. For September, look out for Allegro (4.3%), an amber ale brewed using crystal malt and with Amarillo hops, while October will feature Cavalier (4.4%), described as "a dark English ale boasting rich, fruity flavours originating from a lavish blend of roasted cereals, malt, caramel and Muscovado sugar".

The third beer, also out in September, sounds perhaps the most interesting. This is one of the bi-monthly 'Anvil Brand' range, and is Stingo (6%). The brewery description tells us: "this is a beer which has a robust and intense character. The higher alcohol content adds to its strength and complexity. The hop bitterness is another defining feature, providing a bold and sharp flavour profile." Definitely one to keep an eye out for.

### Magic Dragon

**Magic Dragon Brewing** is a 12-barrel brew plant set in the beautiful Dee Valley just outside Wrexham, writes *Magic Dragon's* Liz Lever. They use Welsh water and British malt/barley to produce their beers, and brew small batches, which means they can make a higher quality beer than bigger, automated breweries.

There is a rich history of brewing in the Wrexham area and the brewery has been at the Plassey Holiday Park since 1985, with a number of different owners/brewers taking on the brewery (which has traded under various names) and developing it in their own way.

Richard and Liz Lever took over the brewery in 2017 and rebranded it to Magic Dragon Brewing. The name comes from the magic of taking water, grains, yeast, and hops and them becoming beer. The dragon is, of course, the symbol of Wales.

The brewery has a core range of cask beers: Eyton Gold (a golden ale), Border Bitter, Old Magic Dark Mild, Green One IPA and Obsidian Stout. There is a nitro stout version of the Obsidian in keg. Dr G IPA and Nectarone are also in keg.

Magic Dragon has won a number of awards for its cask and keg beers in the Society of Independent Brewers and Associates (SIBA) regional beer competition, and Untappd community awards, as well as one- and two-star Great Taste awards for the bottled beers.

The brewery aims to widen its distribution into the north west, so keep an eye out for their beers, which were very well received at this year's Stockport Beer & Cider Festival.

### RedWillow Great Taste Awards



Macclesfield's **RedWillow Brewery** also keeps picking up gongs in the Great Taste awards. The 2025 results have been announced, and two more of the brewery's beers were recognised. The Vietnamese coffee-infused Breakfast Stout (5.6%) picked up a coveted three-star award, while session IPA Weightless (4.2%) gained one star. Congratulations!

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# More Heard at the Bar

Pub News from Stockport, Manchester, Tameside and beyond

## Double Award for Magnet



It was a double celebration at the **Magnet**, Wellington Road North, Stockport on Thursday 14 August. Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA members cut short their monthly branch meeting to present two awards to this popular free house.

First came the presentation of the branch's **Pub of the Year Runner-up** certificate. Branch chair John Clarke praised the superb attention to detail in every aspect of the pub's operation – from the range and quality of the beers, both cask and keg, to the excellent service and the overall atmosphere. He added this was all due to many years of hard work to make the pub what it is today.

John followed up the silver with the gold and presented landlady Lesley Watts and her team with one of the top awards from this year's Mild Magic. The Magnet was voted **Champion Mild Pub** by those taking part in the trail. Given there were some exceptionally good pubs to be found among the 102 pubs included this year, that is no mean achievement, and also again demonstrates the Magnet's attention to quality and detail.

Lesley and her team together with Mild Magic organiser Darren Berry (right) are seen here with the awards.

## Pub of the Month Awards



The Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA Pub of the Month for June was the **White Lion Coaching House** on Great Underbank, Stockport.

Unsurprisingly, in the year the White Lion has been open, it has grown to be very popular. The pub is upmarket without being pretentious or unwelcoming, with the casual drinker being as welcome as the diner partaking of a classic pub meal. The ground

floor bar has four well-kept cask beers, with one often from Timothy Taylor's and another from Bradfield Brewery near Sheffield. In the basement is a sports bar, the 'Lions' Den', which is very busy when football is on, and a smart private function room, 'The Boardroom'. Co-owner Paul Astill is pictured above with his certificate.

From the White Lion it's a short walk to July's Pub of the Month which was the **Bakers Vaults** on Stockport Market Place.



The Bakers is a pub that packs a lot in. Manager Luke Morgan continues to offer a good range of Robinsons ales, along with three to four guest beers. Fans of Titanic Plum Porter are regularly treated to this popular tittle. Cider drinkers are well catered for, as are gin lovers. The pub boasts a 19th-century gin store in one of its lower cellars, which is well worth a visit when open days are arranged. Live music on Sunday afternoons is a popular attraction, with bands playing on what must be one of the most miniature stages in the UK. The live bands cover a wide range of music styles, and a popular

music quiz rounds off the entertainment events.

Luke wasn't available on our presentation night, so the award was collected on his behalf by Andy White, seen above with the certificate.

## Wild Alderman, Didsbury

In Didsbury, the **Wild Alderman** opened on 25 July. It occupies the building near Fletcher Moss Park that some will remember as the Didsbury Steak & Kebab, although it has had several incarnations since then.



It's now owned by Manning Brewers of Congleton, who largely trade as Beartown Brewery. The stylish interior is divided into three distinct areas, each reflecting their individual character – snug, hearth and sun – with other, smaller cosy nooks. There's also an outside seating area at the front.



On the ground floor is a wheelchair-accessible toilet with baby-changing facilities. The other toilets are upstairs.

Four cask beers are on handpump – three from Beartown Brewery and one varying guest (a pale ale from Wiper and True when we called). There are also ten keg taps. Food is also available in the form of small plates, sandwiches, burgers, large plates, desserts and kids' meals. Sunday roasts will also be available from 12 noon.

The pub opens at 10am every day, closing at 10pm on Sunday, 11pm Monday - Tuesday and midnight Wednesday to Saturday.

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## Bev + Stu welcome you to **THE STEELWORKS**

242 Stockport Road West, Bredbury SK6 2AN

Community Microbar recently awarded the  
**'Concept of the Year' award at the Made in Stockport awards.**

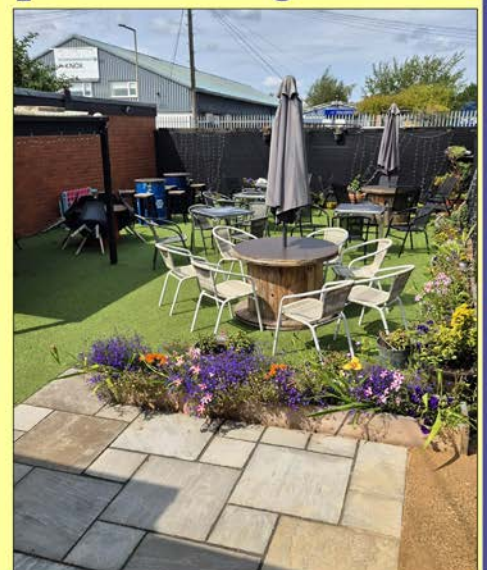
We sell quality wines and spirits, 4x handpulled real ales,  
real cider, local and continental beers and 9x premium keg lines.

Quiz night every Tuesday at 7.30pm  
Live acoustic music every weekend  
Dog friendly, baby changing facilities and  
a huge beer garden



### OPENING TIMES

Monday Closed  
Tuesday - Thursday  
3pm-10pm  
Friday - Saturday  
12pm-11pm  
Sundays  
12pm-8pm



# Pub Walks with Chris Morris

## Knutsford

The historic market town of Knutsford attracts a lot of interest for its delightful 18th century buildings, independent shops and upmarket café culture. A good pint can also be found, which will taste that bit better after a scenic countryside stroll. This circular walk takes us through the grand estate of Tatton Park and around Tatton Mere, before heading back to Knutsford to sample some quality cask beers from the town's best pubs.

### Train Information

This pub walk starts from Knutsford railway station on the Mid-Cheshire line. Services from Manchester Piccadilly and Stockport run hourly, Monday to Saturday. The service is reduced on Sunday to every two hours.

### The Walk

This three-mile circular through Tatton Park has 100 feet of ascent. There is a mixture of good gravel paths and some that will be muddy after wet weather, so choose suitable footwear. One path is narrow and can be tricky in summer with overgrown vegetation. The gates to Tatton Park are locked at 7pm during summer and 5pm in winter. It is also closed all day on Monday in winter. All pubs welcome dogs. On arrival at Knutsford railway station, use the footbridge to cross over to Platform 1. We now exit the station, walking downhill through the station car park, with the tracks on our right. At the road junction, carry on straight ahead along Church Walk, signposted to Mobberley. After a short distance, we take the right fork, again signposted to Mobberley. Follow this road for 250 yards, ignoring paths leading under the railway. When the road ends at a junction, we continue straight ahead to join a muddy track that meanders through woodland. On exiting the woods, the track narrows considerably. When reaching the entrance to Tatton Park, walk through a high metal gate, then follow the wide gravel track through more woodland. After exiting through another high gate, we now walk anti-clockwise for two miles around the picturesque Tatton Mere, keeping the water on our left at all times. The easiest route is to follow the wide gravel track, which eventually becomes a road. The more scenic option is to walk along the paths by the water's edge, but these can be uneven in places. Whichever way you choose, they all take you to the wooden tollhouse, from where we then walk under the impressive stone arches. When the road bends to the right, carry on straight ahead along a wide track. On exiting the woodland, we now find ourselves on Knutsford's charming King Street, where we can find a number of characterful pubs to quench our thirst.



The town's current entry in the *Good Beer Guide* is **Wallop**. Easily spotted with its bright yellow exterior, it holds a torch for cask beer, with four handpumps proudly taking centre stage on the bar. Usually from modern local breweries,

the cask beers are sensibly reduced to three during the week to keep quality high. On last inspection, these were from Brightside, Thornbridge and Torrside. To plan future visits, the pump clips of the next cask beers due on are helpfully on display. With your pint in hand, I'd recommend seeking out the many rooms filled with eclectic furniture and a rustic quirkiness. The upstairs terrace has also been cleverly furnished with both covered and uncovered seating.

Built in 1647, the **Rose & Crown** has arguably the finest exterior in town. This is continued inside with exposed timbers, oak beams,



led windows and subtle lighting, radiating a cosy charm. Often featured in the *Good Beer Guide*, up to four cask beers are available, usually from local breweries. These were from Weetwood, ShinDigger, Mobberley and Carlsberg Marston's Wainwright

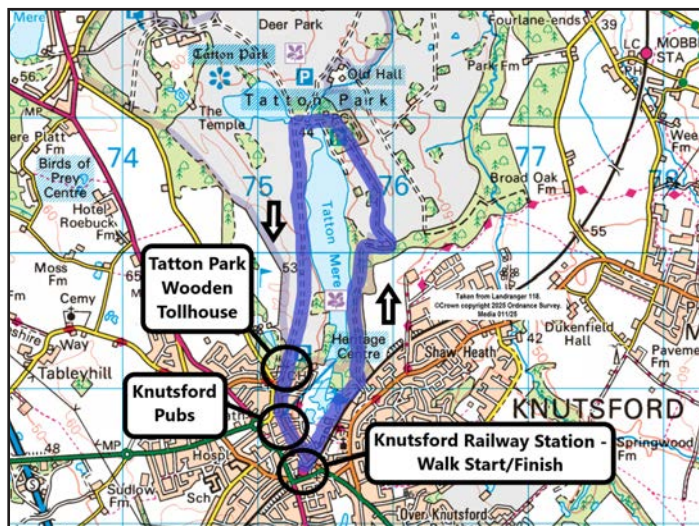
when I last called in. Although some tables are set with knives and forks, drinkers are welcome to sit anywhere.

The 18th century **Lord Eldon** is Knutsford's wet-led 'proper pub'. Popular with locals, this is a great example of a traditional pub interior, with horse brasses, comfortable bench seating, tartan carpet and an open fire in winter. Along with the pool table and dartboard, sport is often shown on TV. Salopian Oracle and Tetley's were the two cask beers available when I last dropped by. Payment by cash is preferred.



Knutsford's impressive Town Hall was built in 1871, in the Gothic Revival style, but lay empty in recent years. In 2016, it was converted at considerable expense and it's now home to the contemporary bar **Lost & Found**. The vast interior has a high ceiling and mixes large gothic arched windows with exposed bricks and industrial styling, with a skilful addition of subtle lighting. A single cask of Brightside Odin was available when I last visited.

The **White Bear** is Knutsford's oldest pub and is also worth a look. As well as its thatched roof, the interior features low ceilings, exposed timbers and a little quirkiness. When last surveyed, Theakston Best Bitter and Greene King Uiltje Bird of Prey were the cask beers available.



# Stagger

## Reddish with Lawrence Devaney



The Reddish stagger is not what it used to be. Over the years, there have been changes to the route and the number of pubs visited, reflecting the decline of pubs and the decreasing availability of real ale in the area.

It once started on the Gorton and North Reddish boundary, then went down to Houldsworth Square and veered off along Broadstone Road. Today, on a warm sunny evening, the official stagger began at the **Grey Horse**, a Joseph Holt pub serving a fine example of

their bitter. It is a great hostelry, and indeed was the local CAMRA Pub of the Month for May, with locals as the main group of drinkers enjoying quiet conversation, although a TV silently followed another Lancashire T20 defeat.



A walk across two pub car parks leads you to the **Union**, where Robinsons Unicorn was the only cask ale being served. This was on reasonable form, with some of us enjoying it more than others. A DJ was doing his best to compete against the deafening crowd, determined to be heard. Sensibly, like many

others, we retired to the excellent beer garden to enjoy our drinks. The pub seemed busier than its neighbour with few, if any, spare chairs inside, and drinkers shoulder to shoulder around the bar.



Heading north up Broadstone Road, **Reddish Ale** is a new bar that acts as a bit of an oasis since it's a free house, and the sole cask ale outlet at the centre of Reddish, with all other nearby pubs either closed or serving keg only. It's small, but as we know, small doesn't have to be unattractive. On a Friday night, the bar was relatively quiet,

but for us, that meant we could find seats for the entire group, who enjoyed the three cask ales on the bar. These were Runaway Opus, Blackjack Salvation, and Farm Yard Holmes Stead. All three beers were tasted, with opinions being average to good overall. However, one of the beers was warmer than ideal, which probably slightly lowered the overall score, even though the beers themselves were good.



A bus ride towards Stockport takes you to the door of the **Carousel**, very much a food-led member of the Greene King pub estate. As we anticipated, at gone 9pm, the diners had long departed, leaving an empty pub and just us to enjoy the summer evening outside. Also, as expected, Greene King IPA was the only real ale available. Although there was nothing wrong with the beer, and it was quite satisfactory if you like GK IPA.



Running a little late now, it was well past 10pm, the **Navigation**, at the top of Lancashire Hill, was the final pub of the night. Once a beacon for the Beartown Brewery (who leased it from the flour mill next door) with several of their beers available, it has suffered from the ravages of the pandemic, financial difficulties, and previous management that never truly grasped cask ale. It now serves as a sanctuary where friendly locals can enjoy themselves. It was busy on this Friday night, with Beartown Kodiak available and rated as average to good.

So, quite a mixed bag – albeit one with no really disappointing beer and a few very good pints to be had. Try it yourselves and see what you think.

## The Winter Warmer Wander Is Back

The popular Winter Warmer Wander will be returning later this year.



It will run from 14 November to 28 December, and will again feature 65 pubs across the region.

As usual there will be a great selection of prizes to be won. These include t-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts plus bottles of beer.

Once again, the Winter Warmer Wander is sponsored by Robinsons Old Tom, which should be widely available on cask during the event.



# 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.*

## Head Chef

I'm drinking strong lager next to two women who have never been in this pub before. The lady in the leopard print top and leopard print Converse shoes tells her friend in the grey skin that she got recommended this place by a colleague because of its famous cheese dumplings.

The woman in grey skin melts into a thousand colours as she says she knows because the food in this pub saved her life during a particularly low period. I think about leaning over and telling them that I have known the head chef for 27 years but I decide not to make this poem all about me.

## John McGovern

The bloke in the pub who is nearly old enough to get a letter from the King told me to watch a new documentary about Brian Clough. So I am. I've got the volume on low because my wife and young son are sleeping. A tray of potato smiley faces is in the oven and former midfielder John McGovern is talking about Clough's surprising sensitivity.

## Regular

The dog of some regulars is on the pub floor chewing a bone his owners cannot remember whether it is made out of turkey or duck.

Another regular asks the dog if the bone is made out of turkey or duck and the dog ain't saying nothing. Another regular notes that the dog and I have the same curly hair on the top of our heads.

So another regular asks me if I know if the bone is made out of turkey or duck and I say it looks like turkey because it's a bit lighter than duck meat. Another regular calls me a good boy.

# Stockport's Lost Pubs with Dave Stearn

We continue our series looking at the Lost Pubs of Stockport. This issue: the letter L.

Our first pub is **Land O' Cakes**, 48 Middle Hillgate, on the corner of Bamford Street. It was first mentioned in the 1820s as the Lower Packhorse. Rebuilt in 1850 in what was known as the 'gin palace' style, it was given a new name, probably due to confusion caused by the plethora of Packhorse pubs in the town. At one point in the 19th century there were four Packhorses in the town centre, two of them on Hillgate. The new name was taken from a Robert Burns poem, 'On the Late Captain Grose's Peregrinations Thro' Scotland':



*Hear, Land o' Cakes, and brither Scots,  
Frae Maidenkirk to Johnie Groat's.*

From 1904 until 1912 the landlord was Richard Price. In the photo from Stockport Image Archive, he's posing proudly with his family outside the pub's front doors.

The rebuilt pub stayed open little more than 60 years, closing shortly before the end of World War One, on 21 May 1918. After its closure, the building initially became a furniture shop. In the 21st century, the splendid Victorian corner building survives and is now office premises. It still retains the name Land O' Cakes, which you can see inscribed in the tiled floor in the entrance way.



Also under the letter 'L' is the **Lamb** or, as it was also called, the Old Lamb at number 11 Millgate. It adjoined another public house named the Packhorse, at number 13. They were both first mentioned in the 1820s but it is likely they were even older. Certainly, the buildings were. They were half timbered, and it is thought they could have

dated back to the 15th Century. The Packhorse is thought to have its origins in the town house of the Bamford family.

Brewing took place at the Lamb. It was advertised 'to let' in the 1850s, complete with a four-barrel brew house. The pub eventually passed to Sarah Marsland's Brookfield Brewery in the 1870s and finally to Showell's Brewing Co., before closing in 1894. Ten years later, along with the Packhorse, it was demolished to make way for the County Hotel, replacing possibly real Tudor with Mock Tudor. The Edwardian pub itself was demolished in the 1980s and is now the site of the rear service entrance to the Asda supermarket.

*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).*

It all started  
when I tried to  
grow Golden Promise....



## As our farmers know all too well: no pain, no grain.

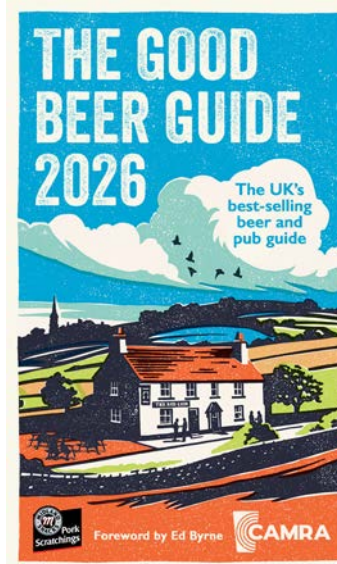
They say nothing worth having comes easy. Unfortunately for our farmers that's true of the barley we use to brew our beers. We use a classic variety called Golden Promise, grown to our own unique specification. The biscuity, golden malt it produces is the perfect partner to our natural spring water, and is vital to Landlord's depth and delicate balance of flavour. It's also a type of barley that's notoriously hard to grow, and our exacting specification makes it even more difficult. Which makes it a costly ingredient and a real challenge even for experienced farmers. Please raise a glass to their efforts.

All for that taste of Taylor's



# Good Beer Guide 2026

*"The definitive rundown of the best places in the UK to get a pint of real ale, from cosy country inns to upmarket style bars."*  
– Time Out Magazine



*The Good Beer Guide*, CAMRA's premier publication, featuring the very best pints of real ale, will be published on 25 September. This is the 53rd edition of the country's best beer and pub guide, and features 4,500 of the finest pubs in the UK, chosen by CAMRA members across the country.

It is the UK's definitive guidebook to good pubs that serve real ale and has been refreshed and updated for this edition. It features recommended pubs across the United Kingdom that serve the best real ale, as well as a comprehensive listing of UK breweries. This is the complete book for beer lovers and for anyone wanting to experience

the UK's finest pubs. *The Good Beer Guide* is completely independent, with listings based entirely on evaluation by CAMRA members.

*The Good Beer Guide* is the UK's best-selling beer and pub guide and it continues to represent the best of the best in the brewing and hospitality industry. With 4,500 pubs, bars and clubs, selected by unpaid volunteers up and down the country, this is the definitive guide for pub-goers interested in being served a good pint of real ale, as well as those who wish to find a local near them that is welcoming. It also has many other features that may appeal.

Each entry contains a short description, as well as details of regular beers that can be linked to the brewery section, to discover local beers as well as some treasured national favourites.

The foreword for this year's guide has been penned by Ed Byrne, comedian and beer lover. He is famous for his #preshowpints on social media, where he has posted about the various bars and breweries he has sampled around the UK prior to his shows.

**Copies of *The Good Beer Guide* can also be obtained from Jim Flynn at a price of £16.99 (including p&p). Please send a cheque payable to 'CAMRA Stockport & South Manchester' to 66 Downham Road, Heaton Chapel, Stockport, SK4 5EG. You can also pay by BACS using sort code 16-34-27, account number 11363511.**

### Did you know?

Research commissioned by CAMRA found that people who have a 'local' are happier and have higher levels of life satisfaction than those who don't.



Source: Dunbar, R., "Friends on Tap" (2016)



# News Extra

More pub and brewery news from across the area

## Award for Track



**Track Brewing** is proving to be a serial award winner for its superb pale ale, Sonoma (3.8%) which, incidentally, celebrates its tenth birthday this year.

In the heats for the Champion Beer of Britain competition, held at Chorlton Beer Festival, the beer came top of its category. Pictured

here, left to right with their certificate, are Track head brewer Matt Dutton, owner Sam Dyson, and events and creative manager Stefan Melbourne.

In the actual Champion Beer of Britain competition, held in August at Birmingham's NEC, Sonoma won its category again, although was not in a medal position.

## New from Robinsons



There are a few interesting beers from **Robinsons** in the pipeline, including a much-anticipated mild.

The popular Big Sur, a very hoppy IPA, will be out from September and will run through to March. Trooper IPA will be out in cask for October, while November will see that mild – Broken Record (4.1%).

There will also be a Christmas beer, which was still being decided as we went to press. And finally – Old Tom will be back on cask in time for November's Old Tom Day.

By the way, Robinsons has confirmed that brewing ceased in Stockport in March, since when all the beers has come from the new brewery in Bredbury.

## Steelworks Beer Bus



The **Steelworks** in Bredbury organised a successful 'Beer Bus Bash' on Saturday 26 July, which involved two minibuses circuiting a route of ten pubs (**Jack's Bar**, Hyde; **3 Drinks Behind**, Gee Cross; **Steelworks**, Bredbury; **Hop Haus** and **Voltigeur**, Romiley; **Spring Gardens**, Windsor Castle and **Northumberland Arms**, all Marple Bridge, and **Aggie's Bar** and the **Samuel Oldknow** in Marple) when participants could

hop on and off wherever they chose all afternoon (free of charge). Plans are now in place to repeat the event on Saturday 13 September and also on Saturday 6 December, the latter in support of the Winter Warmer Wander 2025.

Also, the Steelworks has introduced a Crochet & Chat Group on Thursdays from 7pm; crib and dominoes, also on Thursdays, from 8pm; and a Friendly Friday Social Group between noon and 3pm, with free tea and coffee.

## Brew 32 at the Three Shires



After almost two years' closure, the Three Shires on Great Underbank in Stockport reopened on 18 August. Its recent history, as **Huffy's**, was chequered to say the least – the closure in late 2023 came about when the police had its licence revoked.

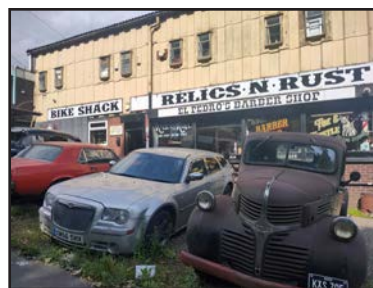
It's all very different now. It's run by James Ridgway and, while this is his first solo venture, he has considerable experience in the pub trade, having worked at the **Magnet** amongst other pubs.

James has put in a lot of time and effort turning the old Three Shires into what is very much a café-bar (hence the new name of **Brew 32 at the Three Shires**). It's been thoroughly cleaned and brightened up, and now has a very attractive light and airy feel.

The slightly surprising, but very welcome, news is the presence of cask beer. There's a handpump on the bar at the back and, when *Opening Times*, called this was set to dispense Ossett Blonde (the licence was imminent).

Brew 32 is open from 9am to 4pm Monday to Thursday, and 9am to 10pm Friday to Sunday. Well worth a visit – and look out for the feature fish tank!

## News in Brief



In mid-August, *Opening Times* paid a return visit to the quirky and hugely enjoyable **Relics 'n' Rust** on Commercial Brow in Hyde (and very close to Newton for Hyde station). We are pleased to say it's still going strong and, indeed, has plans to move and expand the bar area and increase the beer range. You won't get any

draught beer at all here. What you will get is a range of well-priced bottles including Belgian specialities and, notably, a wide range of Torrside bottles, with up to 30 different beers available from them.

In Stockport, the long-closed **Kings Head**, latterly the **Full Shilling**, on Tiviot Dale, has surprisingly reopened. It's now **Rockafellas**, which describes itself as Stockport's newest and best dive bar. Needless to say there's no cask beer, but it's still good to see it open again.

Also back from a long-term slumber is the former **Grey Mare** (although it's had umpteen names over the years) in Didsbury. It's now an Irish bar called **Kennedy's** – you can't miss it as the ground floor has been painted bright red.

In Cheadle Hulme, the former P5 is being turned into the **Station House** by Almond Family Pubs in conjunction with Holt's brewery. It's due to open this autumn.

In Wythenshawe, there are new licensees at Holt's **Silver Birch**, while, not a million miles away, the **Waggon & Horses** on Wilmslow Road in Handforth is to close (and may well be shut by the time you read this). Owners Greene King have apparently sold it to a developer.



**Unmistakably Northern**  
— Since 1849 —

# Events, Socials and Meetings

## Plus local CAMRA Contacts

### Local CAMRA Contacts

#### Stockport & South Manchester (SSM)

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

Contact: Lawrence Devaney; [secretary@ssm.camra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ssm.camra.org.uk)

Facebook – [facebook.com/SSMCAMRA](https://facebook.com/SSMCAMRA)

X – @SSMCAMRA

#### High Peak, Tameside & NE Cheshire (HPNC)

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

Contact: Ben Zwierink; [ben.zwierink@gmail.com](mailto:ben.zwierink@gmail.com)

Facebook – [facebook.com/HPTNECCAMRA](https://facebook.com/HPTNECCAMRA)

#### Macclesfield & East Cheshire (MEC)

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

Contact: [contact@eastcheshire.camra.org.uk](mailto:contact@eastcheshire.camra.org.uk)

Facebook – [facebook.com/groups/897449270304045](https://facebook.com/groups/897449270304045)

X – @MECCAMRA

#### Central Manchester (CMCR)

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

Contact: Sean O'Mahoney; [chair@centralmanchester.camra.org.uk](mailto:chair@centralmanchester.camra.org.uk)

Facebook – [facebook.com/groups/CentralManchesterCamra](https://facebook.com/groups/CentralManchesterCamra)

X – @MCRCentralCamra

CAMRA National website: [camra.org.uk](http://camra.org.uk)

### Formal Branch Meetings

CAMRA members only at these meetings.

**Saturday 6 September** – Crown Inn, 142 Victoria Street, Glossop, SK13 8JF. Starts 1pm. (HPNC)

**Thursday 11 September** – Gateway, 882 Wilmslow Road, East Didsbury, M20 5PG. Guest speaker from Peerless Brewery. Starts 8pm. (SSM)

**Thursday 9 October** – Petersgate Tap, 19a St Petersgate, Stockport, SK1 1EB. Guest speaker: Toby McKenzie from RedWillow Brewery. Starts 8pm. (SSM)

**Saturday 11 October** – Venue to be confirmed. See branch website. (HPNC)

**Tuesday 14 October** – Malt Disley, 22 Market Street, Disley, SK12 2AA. Starts 8pm. (MEC)

### Social Events & Presentations

Everyone welcome at these events.

**Sunday 7 September** – Greater Manchester and North West Cider Pub of the Year 2025 presentations: Petersgate Tap, 19a St Petersgate, Stockport, SK1 1EB. From 2pm. (SSM/All)

**Saturday 13 September** – Trip to Bhurtpore Inn, Wrenbury. Catch 10:40am train from Stockport. (HPNC)

**Monday 15 - Sunday 21 September** – Branch trip to Tallinn. (HPNC)

**Friday 19 September** – Hazel Grove North Stagger: 7:30pm Grove Ale House, 145 London Road, SK7 4HH; 8:30pm George & Dragon, 14 London Road, SK7 4AH; final pub Crown, 416 Buxton Road, Great Moor, SK2 7QJ. (SSM)

**Saturday 20 September** – Stockport Wander: meet 12 noon at Calverts Court, 13 St Petersgate (for food), then Petersgate Tap, Saints Club and others, Finishing in Ye Olde Vic, Chatham Street, Edgeley. (MEC)

**Thursday 25 September** – Pub of the Month presentation: Victoria, 438 Wilmslow Road, Withington, M20 3BW. From 8pm. (SSM)

**Saturday 27 September** – Macclesfield Social: this will coincide with the Mild Magic winners' trip to Bollington Brewery, meet at 1:30pm. Check branch website for more details. (SSM)

**Saturday 27 September** – Prestbury & Macclesfield Wander: meet 12 noon at Admiral Rodney, then Prestbury Village Club, Bridge Hotel and Legh Arms. First pub in Macclesfield will be the Castle. (MEC)

**Saturday 27 September** – Day out in Hebden Bridge. Catch 11:59am train from Manchester Victoria, (HPNC)

**Wednesday 1 October** – Weekday Wander in Bury: meet at tram stop in Victoria Station 10:45am for 10:53am tram to Bury Interchange. First pub: Art Picture House, 36 Haymarket Street, Bury, BL9 0AY. (SSM)

**Friday 17 October** – East Didsbury & Heaton Mersey Stagger: 7:30pm Gateway, 882 Wilmslow Road, M20 5PG; 8:30pm Dog & Partridge, 687 Didsbury Road, Heaton Mersey, SK4 3AG; final pub is the Crown, 6 Vale Close, SK4 3DS. (SSM)

**Thursday 23 October** – Pub of the Month presentation: Armoury, 31 Shaw Heath, SK3 8BD. From 8pm. (SSM)

**Saturday 25 October** – Pub of the Season presentation: Alfred's, 4 Park Green, Macclesfield, SK11 7NA at 3pm. (MEC)

**Tuesday 4 November** – Weekday Wander to Chorley: meet in 'Platform 13/14 waiting room', Manchester Piccadilly, at 10:40am for the 10:50am Barrow-in-Furness train direct to Chorley. First pub is Sir Henry Tate, New Market Street, Chorley PR7 1DB. (SSM)



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