GREATER MANCHESTER NOVEMBER, 1986 TYKE ISSUE

NUMBER 10

WHOLESOME?

SOME years ago several cases of a famous dark ale were sent to a British reception in West Germany. The beer never arrived. Many months later the empty cases were returned with a covering note from the German Customs authorities stating "Your English "beer" was analysed before being allowed to enter the country. It was found to be injurious to human health and we have, therefore, been forced to destroy it."

Little wonder then, that the Germans are fighting to prevent the European Court from scrapping a 370-year-old law which keeps their beer pure and free of additives. Their medieval rule permits only malt, hops, yeast and water as ingredients in beer.

The public get a raw deal when it comes to beer. All other foodstuffs have a list of additives on the label, yet there is no list of permitted additives for beer, as there is for wine. While every pot of noodles and packet of instant pudding has a list of E numbers and funny names on it, beer is sold both through the same supermarkets and in the pubs, without a mention of what is in it.

Real ale drinkers hope that the Germans will be allowed to keep their pure-beer rule, as the first step in an effort to upgrade all Europe's ales.

In the U.K. a brewer can add flaked maize, even potatoes or onion skins to his brew, all of which are cheaper than malted barley, and not mention a thing on the label. The usual rule on the Continent is that at least two-thirds of the basic material must be malted barley. In this country, anything goes and no-one need know.

Denis Palmer, a British Beer agent in Amsterdam,

who has written a piece for the 1987 Good Beer Guide says, "Our beers are shunned and treated with grave suspicion in most European lands". He worries about brewers who put in "dyes more suited to kippers or day-glo T-shirts" than beer. However he goes on to say that "thankfully there are still some smaller brewing concerns where the head brewer wouldn't recognise a flask of propylene-glyco-alginate if it walked in and introduced itself."

The German Government defended its pure beer laws on health grounds. The European Court in Luxembourg was told that beer was one of the most important sources of nutrition for Germans, providing up to one quarter of their daily needs. Herr Martin Seidi said that up to 28 dubious additives could be found in some British and Irish beers. He asked "what harm could these accumulating substances do to the human body?" Two and a half million Germans agreed with him, in a signed petition asking for their medieval law to remain unchanged.

The only problem with the German's case is that they operate one rule for themselves and another for export beers. While their pure beer law, known as Das Reinheitsgebot, is strictly upheld for their own consumption, over the borders German beers have all the additives they are striving to keep out.

It's time the laws into ingredients listing were reviewed and made to include beers and lagers, perhaps then we could safely raise our glasses and drink to good pure traditional British beer, the best in Europe.

PAULA CARDER

GOOD BEER GUIDE 1987 Fourteenth edition

Britain's best, best-value and best-selling pub guide

Over 5000 Great British pubs

Special features · Cartoons · Maps

Every British brewery and beer

STILL ONLY £4.95

BITS AND BOBS

BACK on the beer festival front, if you thought that Greater Manchester had given up on them all together, the following have been suggested for the first six months of next year:

February: Bury (13th & 14th)

March : Bolton (possibly at Silverwell St. Sports

Centre)

April : Oldham (charity event for the Lord

Mayors appeal)

May : Saddleworth (1st, 2nd & 3rd)

As well as all these, Manchester Beer Festival could well go ahead at Manchester Town Hall if rumours are true.

IT'S TFC alesearchers time again! Unfortunately, due to a poor piece of pre publicity you've missed the heats, but the final will be at the Gamecock, Ashton-under-Lyne on 12th November, starting at about 8.00 p.m.

A QUIZ night for charity will be held at the Diggle Hotel, Diggle, Saddleworth on Monday, 3rd November starting at 8.00 p.m. Rochdale, Oldham and Bury will be sending along two teams and hopefully other branches will be represented. CAMRA were hoping to take on a team of lager drinkers but so far no one has come forward.

TO all those who have now bought a 1987 Good Beer Guide (those who haven't, buy one today), beware the Hark to Topper, Bow Street, Oldham. It has now gone keg! Sam Smiths seem to have reversed their real ale policy here!

THE Howcroft in Bolton recently had its charity bottle containing £40 — £50 stolen. I hope whoever did it feels suitably proud of themselves. However, in a charity night held shortly afterwards, £220 was raised towards a Premature Babies Brain Scanning Machine for St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.

THE Harp and Shamrock, New Mount Street, Manchester has now added Marstons Merrie Monk to its range.

THE Rose & Crown, Manchester Old Road, Bury has completed its recent refurbishment (at great expense and one ulcer). Current range is Boddingtons bitter, Thwaites mild and bitter, Hydes bitter and one guest beer per fortnight. A strong ale may well appear soon. Before you ask, yes, the pub is now open plan with no separate rooms. However, it is a very tasteful job.

THE Theakstons Mild debate continues. The Horse & Jockey at Delph has now changed to Marston's mild after being advised that the brewing of Theakston's mild had been discontinued. However, the Rams Head at Denshaw still has the mild on sale, with the relevant cask stickers. Will somebody at Matthew Brown or Theakston please let us know what's going on.

ROB CARDER





2 WARRINGTON ST., ASHTON-U-LYNE. 061-330 6776

and Darties et

THE 1987 GOOD BEER GUIDE

YES readers, it's that time of year once again, when drinkers up and down the country scour the pages of "Britain's best, best selling and best value pub guide" to see whether their local is still included, or whether by some travesty, it has been deleted from the Guide.

This year's Good Beer Guide still upholds the standards of previous years, and in some aspects surpasses them, particularly with the cover, which is probably the best and most eye-catching eyer.

The usual number of campaigning messages are featured, and this year a theme involves the additives contained in most British beers; particularly topical in view of the case presently before the European Court of Justice, attempting to outlaw Germany's "pure beer" laws on the ground that they restrict competition in the EEC.

The topic of takeovers looms large, and it is distressing to see the number of changes in the Breweries section of the Guide as a result of closures or takeovers since the 1986 Guide.

Some small recompense is afforded by the continued emergence of new micro breweries and home brew pubs, albeit on a vastly diminished scale to previous editions.

As to the pubs themselves, allowing for the fact that entries are selected by democratic decisions of CAMRA members in each area, there is a commendably wide range of pubs and styles featured. There are some niggling typing errors however, and I am sure that the drinkers of Hazel Grove will be surprised to learn of a pub called "Grades" in their area. The landlord of the "Grapes" will be similarly surprised. A personal complaint from the writer concerns the large number of entries in London. Do we really need 14 pages of entries for Greater London?

All in all, however, an excellent and invaluable Guide, and well worth the £4.95 cover price. Copies may be obtained from all decent bookshops, and from many of the pubs in Greater Manchester.

ANDY COOPER





Geoff Lees of North East Cheshire & High Peak Branch presenting the 1987 G.B.G. Sticker to Derek and Jen of The Gamecock. Jim, Sal and Joe of TFC were present as was the 'not so young Finch!'

BODDINGTONS IN BURY

THE Bridge Inn, Bridge Street, Bury (off B6222, near Town Centre) has been sold by Thwaites and is now a "free house" serving Boddingtons Mild and Bitter on handpumps. This back-street pub has been re-decorated internally and the price of bitter has been reduced by 5p since the place re-opened early in September, with the unusual result that it is now cheaper than the mild (65p as against 68p). Snacks are available to order at all times and the pub has seen a healthy upturn in trade—unlike Thwaites, Boddingtons is a rarity in this area!

GRAHAM CHINN

STATION UPDATE

UNFORTUNATELY, since publication of October's BEER LINES, Higsons Mild has now disappeared due, apparently, to difficulties of supply. In its place at The Station (Free House) in Ashton-under-Lyne, Oldham Mild is now available from the same, not easily noticeable handpump at the bottom end of the bar. Again, no publicity material is in evidence to promote sales, let us hope that it does not disappear like the Higsons did!



BRADFORD BEER FESTIVAL

Thursday, 27th November to Saturday, 29th November, Queens Hall, Morley Street, Bradford. Admission £1.25, entrance by ticket only. Admission includes souvenir

glass and programme.

The Bradford trip is on Saturday 29th November, and leaves Victoria Railway Station, Manchester at 10.30 a.m., picking up at Oldham Mumps Railway Station at 11.00 a.m. Arriving Bradford, outside the Queens Hall at Midday. The Beer Festival closes at 4.00 p.m. so there will be plenty of time for a curry or something before the Fighting Cock opens at 5.30 p.m. and the pub crawl officially commences.

At the end of the pub crawl we will be picked up outside the Bradfordian at 11.00 p.m. and will arrive back in Oldham at midnight and Manchester for 12.30 a.m.

Overall cost will be approx. £6 per person, including the coach trip and admission to the festival. A deposit of £5 is payable to BEER LINES, 35 Hayfield Close, Pennine Meadows, Moorside, Oldham OL4 2LX.

About Bradford Beer Festival

I'VE lost count over the years just how many B.B.F.'s there have been. My first hazy memory is 1979 (when I first joined CAMRA) when I was nobbut a student at the University. There has certainly been at least one every year since. These are very popular events, admission having to be by ticket only because of the numbers of people wanting to go, which must make this the only guaranteed sell-out beer festival I know of. A couple of years ago the CAMRA Beer Festival moved from the University Students Union building to its present site at the College Union building, but its popularity has not waned. What are the reasons for its great success? The recipe is simple really, a good and adventurous selection of beers and ciders kept in excellent condition. Great entertainment, good food, a lot of hard work and a good local reputation.

There will be 83 different beers this year, this is just a sample of the breweries represented this time.

Alice Cotleigh Archers Bathams Big Lamp Woods

Federation Franklins Donnington Glenny Brains King and Barnes

Miners Arms Oakhill Farmers

Holden Linfit Ning and Barnes
Dasher Downings
Strathalbyn

Add about twenty ciders to this and you will have the full flavour of the event.

WHEN IN ROCHDALE

Come and visit

JOHN & CAROL

at the

MERRY MONK

College Road Tel: 46919

Marstons & Guest Beer

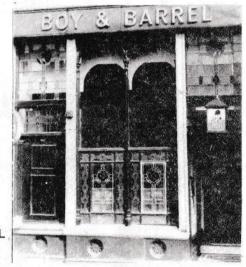




7. WATMOUGH ARMS



2. PEEL



6. BOY & BARREL

CURRIES

THE Bradford curry is part of Yorkshire folklore. The variety of outlets and the excellence and cheapness of the meals make at least two visits on this evening a necessity. I would heartily recommend to you the following:

A) Post Beer Festival

The Kashmir, the Mukdar, Paradise, the Kismet. These are all situated just across the road from the Queens Hall. If I had the time and the constitution I would visit them all!

B) Post Pub Crawl

The Sheesh Mahal. The only curry house to advertise in a real ale magazine. There are others near to the Bradfordian if you wish to try them, but this is the best.

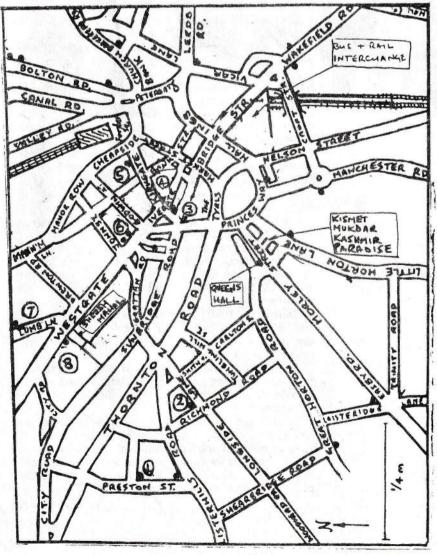
By the way, if curry is not to your taste, don't worry. Bradford is well endowed with Fish and Chip Shops, Chinese Restaurants and Pizza Houses, as well as the odd Greek and Italian cafe!



3. RAMS REVENGE



8. BRADFORDIAN



THE BRADFORD PUB CRAWL

WE'RE going to take it easier this year and only plan to visit eight pubs this year. There are plenty more good pubs that we shall pass by that the more athletic of you may wish to stop off at. However, beware, the eight listed are fairly well spaced out and we must all make the final pub to ensure being picked up, but I will give a few more recommendations after the main list.

Bradford: The Pub Crawl

1. FIGHTING COCK, Preston Street, opens 5.30 p.m. T.F.C. began here three years ago. Vast selection of real ale available. Look out for holes in the bar floor boards, a not-quite-so-young-anymore Finch, the Baddest Bugger of them all and the lovely Sal!

2. THE PEEL, Richmond Road, opens 7.00 p.m. An old haunt of ours during our ill-spent student days. Now thankfully selling real ale. Websters Bitter and Choice, Wilsons Bitter.

3. RAMS REVENGE, Ivegate/Upper Miller Street. Our first major hike of the evening ends here. More bare boards and a good selection of real ales. Clarks Bitter, Tetley Mild and Bitter, Taylors Best and Landlord plus a guest beer.

4. YATES WINE LODGE, Ivegate.
As far as I know, the only YWL to have been voted pub of the month anywhere. Well worth visiting. McEwans 80/-, No. 3, Wilsons Bitter, Websters Bitter.

5. SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Kirkgate. One of my favourite pubs in Bradford. Sam Smiths OBB.

6. BOY AND BARREL, Westgate.
Unique exterior leads you to a little gem. Long and narrow with beautiful Melbourne windows. Tetley Mild and Ritter.

7. WATMOUGH ARMS, Lumb Lane.
Outlet for Bradford's only independent brewery. However, its location is famed for other things . . . Trough Bitter, Wild Boar Bitter.

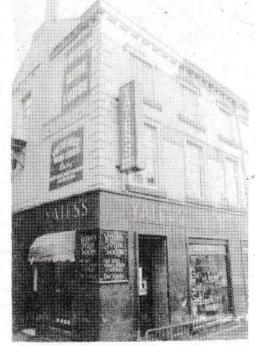
8. BRADFORDIAN, Westgate
Well renovated free house with large selection of real ale
on offer. Boasts a "pink room" (waitress service only,
at least it used to be) and until recently gas lights.

Others worth visiting
Flagship Kirkgate
Lord Clyde Thornton
Metropole Sunbridge
Arthurs Bar Lumb La

Lancaster

Kirkgate Thornton Road Sunbridge Road Lumb Lane Westgate Trough Tetley Tetley & Boddington Thwaites & Websters Websters & Wilsons

ROB CARDER



4. YATES WINE LODGE

One simple question from



ALE HOUSES

Could you drink Pendle Witches Brew in the company of a Headbanger. Old Tom. Old Eli, Old Timer. Old Hookey and a Forty-niner whilst discussing simultaneously the finer points of Bishops Tipple. Moonraker or the merits of Varsity and College—without losing your bottle?

Regulars will know the answer.

However, if you don't even understand the question, come and be initiated at

THE GAME COCK

152 Old Street, Ashton-Under-Lyne

Bus Route Nos. 187 216 218 219 345 347 348 349 Stop right outside the door

The Fighting Cock, Bradford The Red Rooster, Brighouse The Woodcock, Halifax The Duck & Drake, Leeds

Birds with all the "right stuff" inn

OPENING HOURS

Monday — Saturday: 11.30 a.m. — 3.00 p.m., 5.00 p.m. — 11.00 p.m. Sunday: 12.00 p.m. — 2.00 p.m., 7.00 p.m. — 10.30 p.m.

Part II of the Brewing Industry in Manchester

The Duke of Wellington's Beer House Act which abolished duty on beer in 1830 was taken for two reasons. Before 1830 the richer or more well off could brew their own beer in their homes without paying duty, yet the poor had to pay duty in the inns and taverns. Also the higher price of beer had led to the doubling of the amount of gin and other spirits (on which duty was not payable). Advocates of a fairer spread of beer tax included factory owners, who were anxious to keep down the cost of living and thus, the wages they had to pay.

With this ending of duty a wider variety of strengths of beers were available. The duty was worked out on the amount of sugars in the 'wort' before yeast was added, before fermentation led to a further increase in beer sales and competition between brewers was really keen.

Beer was an essential part of the everyday diet. Young farm workers living in their master's house drank a bowl of beer with breakfast, after milking, an unlimited supply of beer with a hot meal at noon, with stronger

better beer at busy times and beer with cheese and bread at supper time.

The abolition of beer duty also gave anyone the right to retail beer, on payment of 2 guineas. The motive being to discourage the drinking of spirits. This far from increasing sales led to a dissipation of the trade.

Because innkeepers might not be able to get all their required beer from one particular brewer, this led to brewers' buying inns to safeguard their outlets. As retail sales increased, publicans fell into debt with brewers. (This was because beer was delivered on credit, and after a four week trading period, a collecting clerk visited the inn, and assessed how much beer had been sold and took payment for the beer sold). The brewers found it easier to convert the sum due into a loan, which effectively 'tied' the house. The mortgage of the house was used as collateral, so if the publican owed large sums, the brewers could take over the premises if he wished.

This tied house system brought about one benefit, an end to watering of beer and other malpractices since no self respecting brewer could tolerate such abuses in his own house.

Beer sales were never better, but in 1861 came the U.S. Civil War. This was followed by five years where hardly any American cotton reached Lancashire causing mass unemployment, one sixth of the Manchester population was living on aid from Poor Law Guardians.

Sales dropped, as thousands of families moved away to seek employment (this was 100 years or so before Norman Tebbitt). Once the famine was over the future safety of the brewery was assured, sales trebled. Beer production was more than 50,000 barrels (36 gallons in a barrel). This figure doubled over the next 10 years. The introduction of licence restrictions led to a marked increase in tied houses. With magistrates now controlling licences they were much harder to come by, and therefore more valuable.

But in the 1870's when the beer consumption was at its peak at about 51/2 pints for every man, woman and child in the country, the licencing authorities were using new found legilature powers to close the worst of the beerhouses. In Manchester the brewers reacted to an overzealous Licencing Bench by forming a Brewers' Association to protect their outlets by giving legal assistance to the beerhouse keepers. The decline in the number of public houses and beerhouses continued, however. The next piece of legislation had a much more serious effect on some of the smaller brewers. Around this time there were about 80-90 breweries in the area. In Hulme, in a one mile square area, there were 17 breweries alone. The passing of the Inland Revenue Act, which required brewers to pay tax on all their raw material irrespective of how much beer was brewed. As a result many small less efficient and home brew pubs found they could not compete with their bigger neighbours and sold out. Names such as Empress, Swales and Taylors Eagle Brewery are now just memories.

In the first three decades of the 20th century, beer sales throughout the country were declining and the consumption per head of population was only half that of the 1870 level. Many more breweries, hit by increased taxation closed.

During the 1960's and 1970's came company mergers and takeovers, which set the pattern as it is today. Companies such as Bass, Whitbread and Watneys tried to monopolise the area.

So over 200 years or so out of over 120 breweries only half a dozen breweries are left. Indeed recently Wilsons brewery, who have traded for 152 years, has been closed.

Never again will there be such a wide variety of beer and pubs as those in Victorian times. Judging by the state of some of the establishments, social deprivation and the statistics for alcoholism and deaths from poisoned beer, vividly described in the newspaper of the day, perhaps it is just as well.

GRAHAM MASON

"A PRINCELY REFURBISHMENT INN GLOSSOP"

A VERY pleasant refurbishment has recently taken place at the "Prince of Wales Inn", Mill Street, Milltown, Glossop (just off the A57). New carpets and fairly plush seating have been installed, and, although the rooms have been opened up a little more, the pub still retains a convivial atmosphere with several alcoves and coal fires burning brightly when required. There is also a separate games room provided for pool and darts players. Upstairs is a small function room, with waiter service if required, catering for approximately 24 people seated. In the event of the local summer weather proving kind, customers may also take advantage of a pleasant beer garden.

The Prince of Wales has been a success story in Glossop for several years. Having once been a Bass pub, sold into the Free Trade, it has been very successfully run by proprietors David and Joan Hughes — so well that Marstons Brewery made them an offer they couldn't refuse, on condition that they stayed on to run the pub! So in recent years they have been serving consistently good Marston's beers on handpumps. Currently available alongside Mercian Mild and Burton Bitter are the ever popular Pedigree and Merrie Monk, with Owd Rodger on sale in winter months. A good selection of lunchtime meals are available (to soak up the beer of course).

Although the "Prince" has not been closed during the refurbishment, a formal re-opening will take place on Sunday evening November 9th, when there will be a jazz band to entertain us. So come along and try it for yourselves. A warm welcome awaits everyone at the Prince of Wales, which has been selected for entry in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide 1987.

OUT OF TOWN NEWS

THE Railway, Mobberley, Knutsford, has introduced Greenalls Original by handpump alongside the electrically pumped real bitter and sales are said to be steady. Hopes are that real mild will also reappear in the future. In the meantime the pub hosts a quiz night every alternate Monday which anyone can enter in teams of four.

Round the corner at the newly pink painted interior of the Chapel House, Higsons bitter is now supplied alongside the existing Boddingtons bitter and lunchtime snacks are now available.

The Save the White Lion, Knutsford, campaign has temporarily quietened down due to difficulty in obtaining plans from the brewery that were promised weeks ago. Investigations suggest that the brewery did not have any plans of the existing structure and therefore has to start from scratch before they could decide how to alter it. More news when progress is established.

KEITH EGERTON

SPOTTED ON HOLIDAY



Now thankfully no longer true, John Smith's is real.

WIGAN SNIPPET

The Sir Robert Peel, Manchester Road, Hindley, loudly proclaims "Real Ale" on the exterior, don't be fooled—it's just the usual range of Whitbread fizz. Try instead the Derby Arms on Castle Hill Road, where Chester's Bitter is available on handpump.

Real Ale in Central and South Manchester: Update 8

THREE new outlets to report this month, all of them reopening after a greater or lesser period of closure. In the City Centre the Burton Arms on Swan Street, sells handpumped Bass Mild, Stones and Draught Bass; in Beswick the Queen Victoria (formerly just the Victoria) on Greey Moor Lane sells handpumped Chester's Bitter; and in Clayton the Church at the junction of Clayton Lane and Croft Street sells handpumped Bass Light and Stones.

A real ale loss, of a sort, is the Stage Door bar attached to the Palace Theatre in the City Centre. O.K., I know traditional Stones was only available every other Shrove Tuesday, but the loss of the solitary handpump is a reminder of the dismal record of Manchester's places of culture and entertainment when it comes to real ale. It need not be so, as witness such diverse examples as the old Victoria Theatre in Stoke, which in the unpromising setting of a converted cinema sold a range of cask beers in good condition (and ran nights when you were positively encouraged to take your ale into the auditorium), and Neuadd Dewi Sant in Cardiff, a purposebuilt concert-cum-conference complex that won a deserved place in the 1984 Good Beer Guide.

Having sounded off, back to Manchester, and changes in beer. The major item is the introduction of handpumped Ind Coope Burton Ale to no fewer than four pubs in the City Centre - the Ancoats, the Briton's Protection, the Coach and Horses and the Wheatsheaf. The Ancoats has also gained handpumped Boddingtons Bitter and lost Youngers Scotch Bitter. The Crown and Kettle has gained handpulled Wilsons Mild and the dispense method of Tetley Bitter in the nearby Old White Bear is now handpump. In the suburbs, the Church in Ardwick now has handpumped Webster's Choice, the Mauldeth in Burnage has lost its Websters Bitter, lost cask mild and switched its Wilsons Bitter from electrics to handpumps. Finally, the Concert Inn, Openshaw, does not sell mild, but the Whitworth in Rusholme has gained Marston's Mercian Mild on handpump.

RYHS P. JONES



For a night to remember in a cosy, unspoilt traditional pub, The Cemetery is unbeatable.

Bring a party and we can provide you with a private room — bar sports as required, food to your liking — and even the ale of your choice within reason!

Our selection of handpumped beers is

Boddington's Bitter - Ruddles County Theakstons Old Peculier - Taylors Landlord Best Bitter and Porter - Thwaites Mild and Bitter Oak Old Oak - Shipstones Bitter - Old Mill Bitter West Riding Tyke

PLUS - The world's strongest ale EKU
+ many foreign & bottled beers

UNSPOILT BY PROGRESS



BOLTON

NOVEMBER

Sunday 9th: Social, Poacher, Blackrod 12 noon, Brinsop 1.00 p.m Wednesday 12th: 8.30 p.m. A.G.M., George, Great Moor Street. All branch members please attend.

Saturday 29th: 8.30 p.m. 10th Anniversary Party, York Hotel, Newport Street. Pie and Pea Supper. All branch members, past and present welcome.

DECEMBER

Sunday 7th: Social, Stoneclough, Nr. Kearsley 12.00 noon, Lord Nelson 1.00 p.m.

Contact Dave Fleming 0204 75111 X207 (W) 0204 389918 (H)

TRAFFORD & HULME

NOVEMBER

Thursday 6th: 8.00 p.m., Committee/Social at the Cheshire

Midland, Ashley Road, Hale, All welcome. Thursday 13th: 8.15 p.m., City Centre Crawl, meet Peveril of the Peak, Great Bridgwater Street, Royal Central Hotel 9.00 p.m. Thursday 20th: 8.00 p.m. Branch Meeting, Roebuck, Victoria Street, Altrincham.

Thursday 27th: 8.00 p.m. Pub of the Month, Tatton, Tipping Street, Altrincham.

DECEMBER

Thursday 4th: 8.00 p.m. Committee/Social, at the Mancunian, City Road, Hulme.

Saturday 13th: Altrincham Crawl, meet Bakers Arms, Pownall Road 6.00 p.m., Grapes, Regent Road, 8.00 p.m.

Contact David Shelton 061-795 2113 (H) 061-224 7341 X27 (W)

HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

NOVEMBER

Thursday 6th: 9.00 p.m., Committee meeting, Crown and

Cushion, Victoria Street, Newton, Hyde (Wilsons)
Tuesday 11th: 8.30 p.m. Branch Meeting, Dog and Partridge, Denton (Robinsons)

Saturday 22nd: Proposed trip to London for a pub crawl. Full details from the "talking timetable" Tom Lord.

DECEMBER

Tuesday 2nd: 9.00 p.m. Committee Meeting, Crown, Bredbury (Boddingtons).

Tuesday 9th: 8.00 p.m., Branch Meeting, Gamecock, Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne (Free House). Please come early so that essential business may be dealt with before joining the Regional Social.

Saturday 13th: Branch Christmas Party, The Station, Ashtonunder-Lyne.

See branch contacts for further details.

Contacts Tom Lord 061-427 7099 (H), 061-832 8686 X358 (W) Geoff Williamson 06632 5634 (H), 061-234 4034 (W)

CAMRA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Are you a real ale drinker? Do you feel strongly about your local being turned into a disco fun pub? Does the current spate of brewery takeovers worry you? Then why not join CAMRA and help with the struggle against the profit makers.

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Sally Bennell, CAMRA Ltd., 34 Alma Road, St. Albans,

Herts. AL1 3BW.

SOUTH EAST LANCASHIRE

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 11th: Branch Meeting, Vulcan Village. Pre branch meeting drink 8.00 p.m. Sunbeam, Earlstown. Meeting starts

Wednesday 19th: Inter-branch social with Wigan. Worthington Hotel, Hindley. To be confirmed.

Contact Steve Prescott 0942 719037 (H), 0925 835481 (W)

STOCKPORT & SOUTH MANCHESTER

NOVEMBER

Monday 3rd: 8.30 p.m., Social, Ye Olde Vic, Edgeley. Tuesday 4th: 8.00 p.m. Committee Meeting, Longsight, Kirkmanshulme Lane.

Friday 7th: Weekend trip to Hereford and environs. Details from John Clarke 061-477 1973 (H)
Thursday 13th: 8.00 p.m. Branch Meeting, Blossoms, Heavily.

Monday 17th: 8.30 p.m. Social, Stockport Arms, St. Petergate, Stockport

Monday 24th: 8.30 p.m. Social, Albert, Withington.

Thursday 27th: 8.00 p.m. Pub of the Month, Swan with 2 Necks, Stockport.

Monday 1st: 8.30 p.m. Social, Florist, Shaw Heath. Saturday 13th: Advance notice, Branch Christmas Dinner, Bakers Vaults, Stockport. Guest speaker Michael Jackson. Details from John Clarke.

Contact Andy Cooper 0625 872641 (H), 061-477 2959 (W)

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

NOVEMBER

Saturday 1st: Pub Crawl with North Manchester Branch round Eccles. All welcome. Start 11.55 a.m. The Lamb, Regent Street. Monday 3rd: Quiz night at the Diggle Hotel, in aid of charity. Teams of three welcome. 7.30 — 8.00 p.m.

Tuesday 4th: 8.00 p.m. Branch Meeting, Blue Bell, Sunnybank, Bury

Thursday 6th: Radcliffe Survey night. 7.30 p.m. The Wellington, the more the merrier.

Tuesday 11th: 8.00 p.m. Bury Beer Festival Meeting. The recently refurbished pub at great expense (Rose and Crown) Manchester Road, Bury

Tuesday 18th: Committee Meeting, 8.00 p.m. Masons Arms, Nangreaves, Bury. Saturday 29th: World Famous Bradford Beer Festival Trip, see

inside for details.

Tuesday 2nd: Branch Meeting, 8.00 p.m. Railway and Linnet, Middleton.

Tuesday 16th: 8.00 p.m. Branch Christmas Social, Bank Top Tavern, Oldham. Free food, come and join us.

Sunday 28th: Editors Birthday, party for invited few.

Contact Steve Lawton, 061-620 9239(H), 061-928 6311 X7111(W)

REGIONAL

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 23rd: Regional Meeting, 8.00 p.m. Unicorn, Manchester.

DECEMBER

Tuesday 9th: Regional Christmas Social, Gamecock, Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne. Free food and good ale, come and join us.

Stockport and South Manchester Hillgate Crawl

FRIDAY, 19th December sees the annual jaunt of the Stockport & South Manchester Branch down the infamous Hillgate. The Crawl departs from the Blossoms on Buxton Road, Heavily at 7.00 p.m. and will be passing the Star & Garter at approximately 8.30 p.m. Why not come and join a crawl to some of the most famous landmarks in the area?

ANDY COOPER

Editor: Paula Carder

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