

BEER LINES



10p

GREATER MANCHESTER
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TIME FOR CHANGE

THE licensing laws in this country have long been a subject of contention in CAMRA, now we have been joined by the Berni and Host Group in the campaign for flexible licensing hours. The above mentioned group have gone to a lot of time and trouble to produce a nicely printed leaflet laying out the case for such a change. Such a move is welcomed by CAMRA.

In case you are unaware of the arguments for flexible hours, here is a summary.

The licensing laws currently in force in England and Wales date from an emergency **temporary** measure introduced while the First World War was raging and was designed to prevent excessive drinking by munitions workers. A system of "permitted hours" was consolidated in the 1921 Licensing Act and remains largely unchanged to this day. Pubs in England and Wales are generally allowed to serve alcohol for nine or nine and a half hours a day with an enforced afternoon break.

All the evidence produced over the past twenty years points towards a relaxation in our licensing laws. The 'Erroll' Report in 1972 and the 'Clayson' Report in 1973 came down strongly in favour of change. A number of national surveys, public opinion polls, the brewing and licensee industry and the Tourist Board have all continually favoured change. Even the Police and Justices' Clerks' Society are in favour of change. The most overwhelming evidence in favour in recent times has been the report on the Scottish experience — the result of implementation of the Clayson Committee report of 1973. The Scots are not renowned for their temperance habits, but this report stated that the relaxation of the Law had led to more sensible and civilised drinking, and although there had been a slight increase in average consumption, there was no corresponding increase in drink related crime or other associated problems.

Wouldn't it be better if pubs could open for a maximum say twelve hours a day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 midnight. There need be no afternoon break. If such a system were implemented, licensees could cater for local needs, for example pubs near factories which operate shift systems could open when the workers are coming off duty, while remote country pubs could open when the most trade is likely. Of course opening hours would have to be displayed, but this doesn't seem to cause any problem for shops and garages who open at different times from the normal trading hours.

Any arguments about increasing the amount of drunken behaviour can quickly be dispensed with when you consider these two points. At present you can purchase alcohol from any number of off-licenses and super-markets outside of pub hours now and secondly, the drinking public only has so much money to spend on alcohol, whether they are forced to guzzle their drinks during the restricted hours we have at present or drink leisurely at a pace suited to themselves with flexible hours, the amount drunk will surely be the same.

It is felt that the Government is interested in changing the laws but are a little shy after the failure of the Sunday Trading Bill, what is needed is lots of lobbying by us, the drinking public. Write to your M.P. get his support and surely when the Bill comes up we can score a popular victory. We as a nation have changed since 1915, it's about time the licensing laws of this country changed with us.

SUPPORT FLEXIBLE LICENSING HOURS NOW.

PAULA CARDER

NEWS FROM WIGAN

WIGAN councillors have blocked plans by Whitbread to build a pub in Wigan Lane, near the town centre. Whitbread lost the Saracen's Head (a superb boozer) in January, when it was closed and demolished to make way for the ring road. The new pub would have been on the site of a defunct petrol station, across the road from where the Saracen's Head was. However, the Metro has ruled that there are enough pubs on Wigan Lane already and residents were also against the idea.

What with the Whitesmiths Arms (Boddingtons) closing recently, the once crawlable Wigan Lane/Standishgate stretch is looking a bit sad. On a more cheerful note, the Market Tavern, Mesnes Street, reopened in July. The internal structure of the pub hasn't changed too much, except that the loo has been moved from one side of the pub over to that bit on Marsden Street that used to be a travel agents. Cask Youngers Scotch bitter and IPA are still on sale, and No. 3 is back as well.

DAVE WHITE

OLDHAM BREWERY NEWS

TWO O.B. pubs recently closed their doors, but for two very different reasons.

The Crown and Mitre is now abandoned, awaiting the approach of the M66 through Hollinwood in a year or so's time.

The Summit in Royton has now been demolished and building of the new replacement behind the present site is well advanced. Chance of a real ale gain perhaps?

On the beer side, chilled and filtered O.B. beers are being served through handpumps at the Citizen Inn, Drake Street, Rochdale. Along with Tophams Tavern at Smithybridge, this is the second known O.B. tied house to adopt this misleading practice. This deception is not unknown in the free trade, for example Yate's Wine Lodge, Oldham, but its adoption in the tied house trade is insidious. Perhaps the boys at Greenalls have been offering advice on how to con the public.

STEVE LAWTON

BITS AND BOBS

IT seems a long time since the last BEER LINES and so many things have happened, what with holidays and socials, cricket matches and carnivals, but more of those later. Here are a few snippets which require a mention. One of our favourite pubs and an advertiser in BEER LINES, The Cemetery Hotel have a new addition in the form of Richard Anthony Bell, whose O.G. was apparently 7lb 9oz, congratulations Adrian and Sheena.

The Rose and Crown in Bury, whose opening we announced in February, is closed for refurbishments! You may remember that the well known self P.R. man, landlord Geoff King placed an amusing advert with us last month, which repeatedly referred to these alterations, even though he did deny the existence of such plans in another amusing? advert taken out in *What's Doing*.

John Smiths seem to be doing a naughty with their new pub window stickers. Apparently they read "We're in" in large letters, "Beer Guide", also in large letters, then "John Smiths" in small letters. Come on JS we know what you are implying, we're in the Good Beer Guide, not just our own brewery publication. Speaking of which, I must get one, we're running a little short on Booby Prizes for our raffle.

It seems we have upset Boddingtons (again I hear you cry). Last issue we reported that Boddingtons were to axe their mild and the O.B. mild in favour of Higsons, this is untrue, very sorry Boddingtons, but at least you have reacted. The brewery has sent letters to its licensees stating that they have no intention of discontinuing the milds and that they are **not** going to close Oldham brewery, also that CAMRA are a set of baddies. Well Boddies, if you talked to us rather than issuing statements through a P.R. firm we might get the truth first hand, rather than relying on rumours.

Speaking of closures Matthew Brown are closing the Theakston brewery in Carlisle sometime next year. This has made them slightly unpopular with local CAMRA people who spent so much time and effort saving Mattys from the tartan terror, Scottish and Newcastle, who still own nearly 30% of shares and could make moves to takeover shortly. Oh dear, who will save Browns now? Whilst we are on about S & N, they have made a £120 million bid for the Nottingham based Home brewery, this is agreed by Home and the deal should go through provided the Office of Fair Trading agrees. However the brewing industry is under scrutiny at present and is about to be investigated by the Monopolies Commission. S & N surely can't fail a third time, can they?

Also on the stock market front, the bid by Elders for the Allied group may well be approved by the powers that be, we have heard that to prevent this Allied are trying to expand and so make it difficult for the Aussies, they have made a private bid for guess who, Boddingtons, whoops I've probably upset them again!

Depressing news for Ruddles fans, Tony Ruddle sold out for £12 million to Grand Metropolitan, look out for Watneys County or could it be Ruddles Choice? Who can tell?

Finally a word about solicitors letters, I'd never encountered one till the onset of BEER LINES, now my house is awash with them. Really people are so touchy. Take the latest one from the landlord of the Britannia Hotel Heywood. He objected to the mention of a resident tramp (as seen in June's issue). He said that it was unclear if the article was referring to the bar persons or the customers. I am informed that there is a doss house next door, known locally as the 'kipper' and at one stage in the history of Heywood both hostel and hostelry were once owned by the same person! Now I understand that solicitor's letters cost about £15 each to send, I'd rather the aggrieved party just send me a cheque direct for a printed apology rather than waste it on solicitors fees.

See you in the libel courts, or is this all just fair comment?

PAULA CARDER

Make an EXCURSION...



REAL ALES

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HIGSONS

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ROAMING THROUGH RADCLIFFE

AS ONE of the lesser visited outposts in the Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch area, a survey of Radcliffe was long overdue. Unfortunately it was a mid 'summer' i.e. cold, wet and windy, Tuesday evening when **three**, yes three! branch members gathered at the Good Beer Guide listed Wellington on Stand Lane. So much for earlier branch enthusiasm, to "get out there and survey these towns and do some real campaigning . . ." So it was, that Chairman Chinn, Rob and myself arrived with maps of the town kindly provided by the late Don Chattwood, ordered our pints of Bass dark mild, light mild and Stones bitter. Very good they were too. The landlord, seeing our proposed itinerary suggested certain pubs to avoid by confirming the absence of any real ale. After partaking of further amber nectar — on the house — we moved next door to Rams, a Pennine Host "Open House". The pub was deserted (8 p.m.) probably due to the full scale battle which occurred the previous night. The hand pumped bitter was pronounced excellent, although there was no mild or Websters products. Fought our way out between the plastic greenery and side-stepped the numerous full length mirrors and there was the door!

By-passing the Woolpack across the road, a Tetley house which used to serve cask beers under air pressure but now all keg, we found our way to Thomas Street and the Morning Star. Once listed in the Good Beer Guide, this Thwaites house was most disappointing. As in most subsequent pubs it was pool league night. After waiting in the doorway whilst one of the regulars sorted out his balls, we got to the bar — unfortunately. The mild had the appearance of mixed and smelt of Sarsons. The bitter was cloudy and flat.

Leaving here in a cloudburst we crossed Blackburn Street and climbed Green Street to the Peel Monument. This recently renovated Whitbread house served a so-so pint of Chesters bitter through handpump. The landlord thought that he had seen the three of us earlier in the day, carrying brief cases, a la Jehovah's Witnesses, so we politely confirmed our faith in real ale and left.

Back downhill to the main road and onto Water Street for our first pint of keg. Lips smacking in anticipation we entered the Lord Raglan. This is an imposing Tetley pub complete with Tower and flagpole. A very large, plush lounge but no customers. Rob, who was driving took the opportunity to sample the tomato juice (excellent) whilst Graham and myself tried the mild and bitter (not over fizzy but bland). Leaving here we passed the Royal Oak, Whitbread fizz, and entered the Colliers. Still in the process of renovation, this multi roomed Thwaites house was probably the best of the night. Drinking our Thwaites mild and bitter (electric pumps) to the accompaniment of the Irish jukebox, we were joined by two of Graham's ex G.M.C. colleagues. One of whom provided us with a lift to the distant George on Cross Lane. Another keg Whitbread house where we sampled the Trophy bitter — ugh! and moved next door to the Staff of Life. Here handpulled Castle Eden was pronounced good. The T.V. and jukebox vied for attention in the two small rooms and all was going well till Chairman Chinn knocked over someone's drink. Fortunately the chap was pissed and it was only lager, so all was forgiven.

And so on to the last pub on our crawl. The Old Cross stands majestically at the junction of Cross Lane and Eton Hill Road. The magnificent tile work in this Holts pub must be seen to be appreciated. There are four rooms including a "news room" and a lounge with piano. Unfortunately the bitter was well below par so mild was the order of the day and excellent.

After closing, the long hike back to the Wellington was broken by a call to the local Chinese takeaway on Cross Lane and also, in the case of Chairman Chinn, to the local Indian takeaway.

All in all a successful night despite the weather. We covered about one third of the town centre pubs. With more enthusiasm from the branch members, we may even go back to do the remainder.

STEVE LAWTON

RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

AMONG the Bolton pubs due to be renovated later on this year are the Gray Mare, Westhoughton, the Derby, Halliwell Road and the Stanley Arms, Chorley Old Road, which are all Tetley pubs due to be transferred to Peter Walker. Also, the Clifton Arms, Newport Street, the Saddle on King Street Farnworth, the Golden Lion Churchgate and the Bowling Green and the Hare and Hounds, both on Bury Road, are due for a visit from the decorators.

Meanwhile, the Wheatsheaf, a large Greenall's pub in the centre of Bolton is being turned into what the brewery call 'an exciting cosmopolitan adventure' to be named 'SERENDIPITYS'!

DES NOGALSKI

GOOD-NIGHT VIENNA

VIENNA in summer is a magical place, but for the discerning beer drinker travelling this fair city, noted for its excellent white wines, good beer can be hard to find.

However, all is not lost, for right in the centre of Old Vienna is a rather splendid pedestrian area called 'Graben', surrounded by elegant shops and bristling with talented buskers, beautiful people and general poseurs, and at night time is electric with atmosphere. Situated on 'Rabsteig', just off Graben, is a unique beer cafe, oddly named "krah-Krah".

Tables and chairs spill on to the pavement outside, but it is the interior that fascinates. Dark brown tobacco stained walls and ceilings are littered with posters old and new, advertising events long since gone and current events, concerts and exhibitions. The etched windows with four crows on a wire give away the unusual name of the place.

The choice of beer is staggering (literally). There are six draught beers always available, including Traunsteiner Weisse, a superbly refreshing white beer, that comes to your table in a huge fluted glass decorated with lemon slices. This is a Krausened beer of what the locals call champagne beer. Other beers available were Hakke-beck, a German beer from Bremen and Schlossen, a dark



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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

potent brew. All beers are served in their own individual glasses. Also available are about forty bottled beers from Austria, Germany, Czechoslovakia and other countries.

On every table is a beer card and a very interesting menu, comprising mainly of vegetarian dishes and the best cheese on toast I have ever tasted. These are not full meals but substantial snacks and they go down well with the superb beers and for anyone in that 'neck of the woods' a place not to be missed. STUART JAMIESON

GREENALLS' COTTAGE INDUSTRY

IN Greater Manchester, Greenall Whitley are not renowned for good beer, as most of their pubs offer only keg. However, their subsidiary, the Shrewbury & Wem Brewery, provides a range of four excellent real ales to an estate of 200 pubs in Shropshire, Mid-Wales and the West Midlands. These beers are not available in Greenalls' pubs in this area, although some readers will have been able to sample them at the CAMRA beer tent at the Ashton Canals Festival in July.

On Wednesday 18th June, the High Peak branch of CAMRA — together with a few intruders from Stockport & South Manchester — were treated to a trip around the brewery at Wem, twelve miles north of Shrewsbury. The trip had a possible extra significance, because Greenalls' takeover of Davenports in Birmingham must put the long-term future of Wem, which is not the most modern of plants, in doubt.

We departed from Stockport at 3.30 p.m. on a most luxurious coach hired from Mayne's, very different from the usual elderly, wheezing transport for CAMRA trips. Perhaps Mayne's are using their more mundane vehicles on their expanding network of bus services. An uneventful run ensued to Shrewsbury, passing through some very attractive scenery on the Shropshire-Staffordshire border. We were delayed by a traffic jam on the way into the town, but there was still time to grab a McDonald's before the pubs opened at 6 p.m. Why is it that lovers of real beer have such a liking for keg food?

We had just over an hour for a pint in Shrewsbury, but few pubs seemed eager to open so early. Some of the party found a free house which to their dismay was serving Robinsons — a fine beer, but not one we had travelled 60 miles to drink. Eventually most of us gravitated to the spartan public bar of the Albert, another free house near the station. Here we drank a fine drop of Burton Bridge Bitter and watched the Rovers Return fire on TV — divine retribution for Bet Lynch not serving real ale?

Leaving Shrewsbury at 7.15, we arrived at Wem half an hour later, listening on the way to the radio commentary on England v. Paraguay and rejoicing when Lineker scored the first of his hat-trick. Wem is a pleasant but nondescript little town in the middle of nowhere, where the brewery must be the biggest employer. Once we managed to find the way in, we were given a friendly welcome and split into two parties to take an informal and informative tour of the brewery which lasted an hour.

I am one of the minority of CAMRA members who actually likes the beers produced by Greenalls at Warrington, but I have to admit that Wem operates in an altogether more traditional way. For example, a milling machine dating from 1911 was still in use, although our guide told us that it was shortly to be taken out of service and replaced by a more modern one — made in 1932!

A high proportion of malt is used in the mash, and it was encouraging to see that the brewery had returned to using "real" flaked hops, after an experiment with hop pellets. However, in common with most other breweries, the mash also included a variety of sugars and syrups in small quantities — a number of sticky fingers were dipped into the caramel jar. Open fermenting vessels are still in use, and the beer is racked directly into casks without spending any time in conditioning tanks. It is a fairly small plant, and must be working close to capacity.

After the tour, we adjourned to the sampling room, which was rather small, but very comfortably and tastefully furnished. An excellent buffet was provided, and all four real draught beers were available — Pale Ale (1032), Mild (1035), Best Bitter (1038) and Special Bitter (1042) — served by electric pump, as in the majority of Wem pubs. Many of us tried the relatively new Special, the only beer of the range to be dry-hopped, but this proved to be rather unsubtle in comparison with the excellent Best Bitter, which is certainly one of the more distinctive bitters available. It is basically a malty beer, with a mellow, rounded flavour, but a distinct hoppy dryness too, and a slight earthy tang appropriate for the product of a country brewery. The fine dark mild is similarly mellow but dry, while the Pale Ale is a lighter, thirst-quenching version of the Best Bitter.

After one and a half hours' sampling — strictly in the interests of research, of course — we set off for home just after 11, reaching Stockport before one, despite a detour to Crewe Station to deposit one member of the party who had to catch a train to London. I succeeded in getting to work on time the next morning, but I can't speak for all the others!

At the Ashton Canals Festival, Wem was the most requested beer, despite competition from many other delights such as Holt's and Marston's Pedigree, many drinkers remembering it from previous years. I wonder if Greenalls realise what an asset they are keeping from us tucked away in deepest Shropshire?

PETER EDWARDSON

GREATER MANCHESTER BEER GUIDE MARK II

AFTER the sell out success of the previous beer guide, willing members of the Greater Manchester CAMRA branches have set in motion the series of events required to produce a new one. As before about one third of the total real ale pubs will be listed, giving approximately 600 real ale pubs throughout Greater Manchester. As you can imagine the task of surveying and filling in all the necessary details is quite a task, especially when you remember that CAMRA members involved are unpaid and do this kind of thing as a hobby. If you have similar masochistic tendencies and wish to argue and squabble, walk miles and drink a lot, then fill in lots of forms, then go along to your next branch meeting and your desires can be fulfilled. See the branch diary on the back page for dates and times of these meetings.

PAULA CARDER

GREENALL'S ORIGINAL IN WIGAN

THE number of pubs in Wigan Metro still selling Greenall's Original bitter appears to have dwindled to two. They are the Punch Bowl in Atherton and the Windmill Parbold. However the ordinary bitter in the Punch Bowl is so good, I'm surprised they sell anything else!

DAVE WHITE

BOLTON NEWS

BOLTON got its first Theakston pub last month when the Hart Common on Wigan Road Westhoughton re-opened after renovations. Theakston's bitter and XB are now on sale alongside Matthew Brown mild, although the Old Peculier is keg.

August saw a number of other Bolton pubs re-open after refurbishments. The Stag's Head on St. Helens Road has now been 'Walkerised' in a six figure renovation which has maintained Walker's high standards, while in Horwich the Good Beer Guide listed Toll Bar, at the end of Chorley Street, is open again after a six week closure. Here too, a tasteful renovation and with the Thwaites Best Mild and Bitter now available on handpump.

Finally the Sunnyside, on Adelaide Street, which has been closed since May should also be open by the time you read this, more next month.

DES NOGALSKI

SAM SMITH'S CON

SIGNS outside the Bulls Head, Oldham Road, Failsworth proclaim "Samuel Smiths Traditional Beers". Don't be fooled into thinking that they are available at the pub though — the beers are all keg!

STEVE LAWTON

WHEN IN ROCHDALE

Come and visit

JOHN & CAROL

at the

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MONK**

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**Marstons &
Guest Beer**



OLDHAM CARNIVAL

FOR the second year, Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch entered a float into Oldham Carnival, and for the second time we felt, at the end of the day, that it was very worthwhile. Lees brewery very kindly agreed to provide us with a dray and driver, plus some bar fittings. I spent the week before the carnival preparing the banners which were to decorate the dray, plus the free handout. This year we took the theme of local brewery closures and how the public can help to prevent this, along with the usual 'join CAMRA now' literature.

When we arrived at the brewery, the weather was very overcast, and it had been raining, but once again when we got to Alexandra Park, the sun began to shine and some of us even got sunburnt.

The dray was set out as a pub, complete with bar and handpulled beers. For some reason everyone wanted to get on with us, especially at pub closing time. Throughout the parade, we distributed our leaflets plus the 'Save Wilsons' cards and some back copies of this fine magazine. We had to be a bit selective as to who we gave the freebies to, as many children on the route wanted one of everything regardless of what it was. I concentrated on the officials, including all the Police and the Mayor.

It does take a bit of effort and planning to run such a venture, but we at R.O.B. feel that it is very worthwhile. The number of people we reached with literature runs into the thousands, plus we were seen to be still active, a thing a lot of people seem to have forgotten.

Because of this little venture, one of the Councillors from Oldham who was with us on the float, has been approached by Mayor Jowett, and we have been asked to run the beer tent at the Mayor's appeal next spring, at the Werneth Park Conservatory. More publicity for CAMRA and Real Ale, and all in the aid of cancer research, can't be bad.

PAULA CARDER

THE FATE OF JENNINGS

JENNINGS bitter is supposedly on sale at the Bird in th' Hand, Gidlow Lane, however, turnover has been a bit dodgy and on a recent visit, the Jennings wasn't "on". The "En Hole" was not really a suitable pub for this brew anyway.

The Bowling Green on Wigan Lane used to have quite a good turnover of Jennings, but on my last two visits, the ale has been "off" and the pumpclip removed. Not promising!

DAVE WHITE

LEIGH NEWS

TWO pubs in Leigh are temporarily closed. They are the Brewery Inn, Brewery Lane (Tetley), and the Standard Mower, Chapel Street (Bass). The closure of the Standard Mower means that Wigan and district has lost 50% of its real Bass pubs. An enviable record indeed — but still better than Matthew Brown, who only supply real ale to one of their pubs, out of about eighteen in the district. Then they say that CAMRA's work is done . . .

DAVE WHITE

LETTERS

Dear Beer Lines,

We are at present preparing for a major new exhibition modelled on a turn-of-the-century Oldham Street Scene, in which we hope to feature both a public house and its cellar.

We are enquiring if any of your readers and fellow CAMRA members could help us by providing any fixtures and fittings, taken from local public houses (for loan or sale), such as mirrors, signs, furniture, photographs, advertisements and bric-a-brac, etc. (c.1900—1940). In fact, practically anything, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated. We would, of course, give full credit and acknowledgement for any assistance given.

As we are working to a very tight schedule, with an opening date of January-February 1987, we should be grateful for an early reply. Please contact either Freda Millett or Debra Walker (address below) if you feel you are able to help.

Yours sincerely,
Deirdre Heywood

Head of Cultural & Information Services
Central Library, Union Street,
Oldham OL1 1DN

Dear Beer Lines,

After reading your article "Drake Street Disaster" I was prompted to put pen to paper. My first thought was to correct you on a couple of points. The first being that Flicks and Whittingtons are not on Drake Street, the second being that I don't think the other four could be classed realistically as "fun pubs". I would however like to make my own views known on the so called "fizzy bars".

In these days of high unemployment and its resultant knock-on effects you above anyone should know the number of pubs that have gone forever. These have gone, in the main, for financial reasons. It is no coincidence that trendy fizzy bars attract large numbers of customers with their flashing lights and booming music.

When DUNPHYS was opened in October 1985 it boasted a good range of traditional beers always displaying at least five and did good business; but the impetus soon wore off. DUNPHYS is a town centre pub, there isn't a house within half a mile, but there are at least sixteen watering holes all chasing the customer going for a night in the town. It is with regret I have to admit that the very large majority of them drink enormous quantities of lager, cider and bottled pils and that I, as a business, supply a demand. Despite my personal love of cask conditioned beer this has meant fitting additional heads to the bar for lager and cider.

At the time of printing DUNPHYS will be selling Matthew Brown keg beers with Theakstons traditional beers ALWAYS on hand pull with other cask beers guesting intermittently.

Please do not class us with our near neighbours. You will always have the choice of cask beer at DUNPHYS while I am around — your main problem will be fighting your way in!

Yours soberly,
Christopher Dunphy

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.

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OPENING HOURS

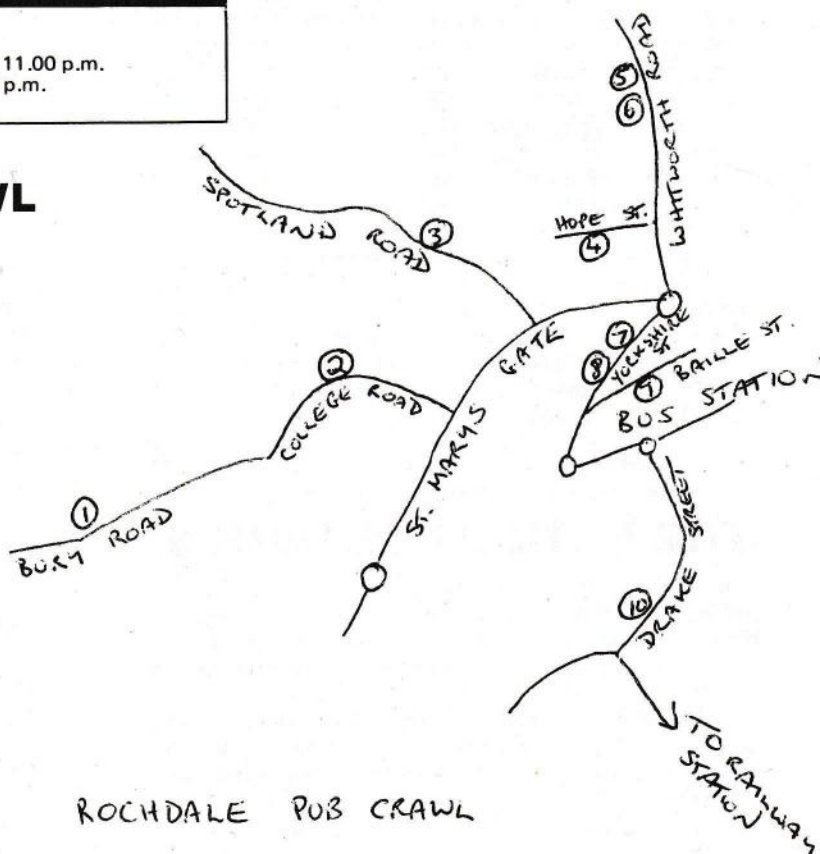
Monday — Saturday: 11.30 a.m. — 3.00 p.m., 5.00 p.m. — 11.00 p.m.
Sunday: 12.00 p.m. — 2.00 p.m., 7.00 p.m. — 10.30 p.m.

ROCHDALE PUB CRAWL

Friday September 12th

ALTHOUGH this crawl was originally intended as a rematch with North Manchester Branch and Rochdale, Oldham and Bury Branch, everyone is welcome to join in one of the most popular crawls in Greater Manchester. Starting at 8 p.m. at the Cemetery Hotel, one of the most Dynamic free houses (8 different beers) and continuing to the Merrie Monk (5 different beers) for 8.30 p.m. The rest of the pubs will then hopefully be visited before closing time. There are late buses back to Manchester, so you have no excuse, come along and join us.

1. Cemetery Hotel (free house) Bury Road
2. Merrie Monk (free house) College Road
3. Albert (Burtonwood) Spotland Road
4. Two Ships (free house) Hope Street
5. Baileys Arms (John Smiths) Whitworth Road
6. Cross Yates (Holts) Whitworth Road
7. Spread Eagle (Wilson's) Cheetham Street
8. Reed Hotel (Bass) Yorkshire Street
9. Brunswick (Thwaites) Baillie Street
10. Navigation (Holts) Drake Street



ROCHDALE PUB CRAWL

ROB CARDER

M66 — LOSS OF CANAL AND PUBS

AT THE last Regional meeting of CAMRA Greater Manchester, a speaker from the Rochdale Canal Society, Mr. Bill Marsden highlighted a problem with the plans for the M66 motorway. We know only too well of the pubs who will be obliterated under the building of this motorway, but now we discover that the Rochdale Canal will be rendered totally unnavigable, and all the millions of pounds and all the time and effort put into restoring this Canal will come to nothing.

How is this so? Well, the plans shows no bridge, navigable channel or aqueduct for 1000 metres of the Rochdale Canal. The Department of Transport believe that because of existing problems, the Canal may never be re-opened. They have totally disregarded the statement by the Rochdale Canal Company, and the Councils of Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, Calderdale, Manchester City, Oldham and Rochdale where they undertook to protect the Canal by resisting further infilling or building development along the line of the Canal, that would add to the cost of restoration for navigation.

What about the pubs I hear you asking, well most of those will go for good I'm afraid, but we can still save one. The Boat & Horses, situated at Broadway near Chadderton can be saved by the building of a navigable channel 16 feet wide, rather than blocking the canal. The brewery, (Lees) and the local CAMRA branch have entered the campaign, why don't you? Write to your M.P., asking for such a channel, point out that over half the canal is already fully restored, that the benefits seen in West Yorkshire, such as new permanent jobs, marina etc. should not be denied Oldham and Manchester, and finally the motorway plans at present would kill off for all time the Rochdale Canal as a through Lancashire—Yorkshire link.

If you are interested in lending your support to this cause contact the Rochdale Canal Society Ltd., 24 Passmonds Crescent, Rochdale OL11 5W.

PAULA CARDER

REAL ALE IN CENTRAL & SOUTH MANCHESTER UPDATES 5 & 6

ONE new outlet from last month is the City on Oldham Street in the City Centre, it is selling handpumped Chester's bitter. Changes include The Ancoats which have dropped Websters bitter in favour of Holts bitter, the Crown on Deansgate has added Wilsons mild and Websters bitter, the Oxenole has added Chesters mild and Sam's Chop House has dropped Manns bitter. In Victoria Park, the Rampant Lion is now selling Walker's ordinary bitter and has not, for some considerable time, sold Jennings bitter.

Bad news for this month — the loss of a real ale outlet. The Clarence in Rusholme has removed the handpump which used (though never on a totally reliable basis) to dispense Draught Bass. Wake up Bass — all the other brewers serving Rusholme shift copious quantities of cask beers, so how come your pubs are all fizz?

That apart, just a few more changes to report. In the City Centre, Paddy's Goose now has Websters bitter alongside Wilsons, while at the Royal George on Lever Street, Wilsons mild and bitter, which vanished when the pub was Websterised, have reappeared on handpump, though sadly availability has not been 100% reliable. In Beswick the admirable Travellers Call has added Tetley Bitter to the range, while in Clayton the Boddingtons beers at the Folkestone are now on handpump.

Finally, I repeat my request to keep the information flowing in on pub changes anywhere in the City Centre and South Manchester. In the fight for better beer, knowledge is power — let's pool our knowledge for the general good.

RHYS P. JONES

BATTLE OF THE ROSES

A REQUEST by York branch of CAMRA for a cricket match was made to John Clarke of Stockport and South Manchester branch, poor John didn't even know how many were on a team, but he agreed to organise it all the same. Unfortunately it was scheduled for the same day as the North West Regional Conference, so most of the CAMRA cricketers whizz-kids were obliged to be coupled up in the Marble Arch for an eternity rather than show their mettle on the pitch.

As it was we only had nine a side when we turned up at the Civil Service cricket ground in Timperley. The York branch were well organised, in full kit and with excellent equipment (well it looked O.K. from where I was sitting!) We on the other hand only had half sized bats, borrowed from a social services contact.

We lost the toss and were made to bowl. Amazingly we did quite well, Tim Jones of High Peak branch took three wickets, Rob Carder took two and Tommy Jackson another, for a final score of 84 all out.

The rather tetchy wicket keeper from York proclaimed that they were better bowlers and they'd have us all out in an hour, he was right about the hour, but it was not quite as they had planned. Tommy Jackson was out first, then we sprung our surprise attack, Ian Hazlehurst and Paul Fish, acquaintances of Sue Cunningham and of no fixed CAMRA branch started the white wash (or should it be the red wash?). Ian ended with the fine score of 49 not out and Paul was 24 not out. We won! 89 for 1 (Humphrey got a little confused with the score card so we played longer than we should have). We were delighted, not least John Clarke, who had stepped in for Humphrey when he had twisted a knee. York were a little upset, no wonder, they play twice a week at least, most of our lot haven't played since schooldays.

To round off a pleasant day we did a mini crawl of Stockport, meeting up with some of the poor souls who had been incarcerated in the Regional Conference. The York bunch were a little subdued and tended to stay together, yet we had a great time. There was even talk of a return match next season, we must burn something so that we have a trophy to play for, for next year. Greater Manchester triumphs again!

PAULA CARDER

BEWARE THE S.S.

REPRESENTATIVES from three of the Greater Manchester branches of CAMRA were present to mark the tenth anniversary of the Stockport Stagger which featured in the September 1976 edition of "Opening Times" and which should reappear in the September 1986 edition. (N.B. "Opening Times" is one of the few things to have fallen in price in the last ten years: from 5p (dirt cheap) to free!)

Stalwarts from Stockport & South Manchester; Trafford & Hulme and Rochdale, Oldham & Bury branches gathered together at The Crown Inn on Heaton Lane, Stockport at 7.00 p.m. on Friday evening, 1st August, 1986. The beer had the same name as in 1976, cost more than three times the price, and was less distinctive than previously. All credit to Boddingtons, however, as the mild which I tried was very nice indeed. Pleased to hear that there are no plans to cease its production...

We dashed off to The George (erstwhile Higsons outpost in the area) where a request for bitter was dealt with by the production of a pint of Boddies! A splendid pub — interior was designed by the same persons who 'did' The Queen Mary cruise liner — lovely panelling. Handpumps proclaimed the availability of Higsons Mild also but, unfortunately, we did not put this to the test.

The Manchester Arms on Wellington Road was the next port of call. A comfortable back room was found. Nice to notice Old Tom on draught here all the year round. Then, on to The Nelson's Ale House (as pub no. 4 on the 1976 crawl "The Grove" had closed down). Here I made a special note of the Olde Worlde historic menu. (I could quite have fancied a meal of split pea soup (the speciality); Whitstable Natives "Au Naturel" (!!!), bread and dripping then fig(!) and cornflour (?) fool (yes — you said it!) at a total cost of three shillings, nine pence one farthing the lot.

Next on the itinerary was The Black Lion — a Boddingtons bitter-only pub with lovely engraved front windows and a wood-panelled ceiling. Here a copy of the stagger route was left with the landlord who had expressed an interest in the proceedings. Here we were also advised that Boddingtons had just put up their prices — but bitter was still reasonable at 67p a pint.

We then went to visit a friend of St. George at The Gladstone. Roger tried to crack a joke but the landlady was obviously still in the era of the said statesman and was not amused. The Tetley Bitter was OK but we were not made to feel welcome. A change of licensee is imminent...

The next call en route was Robinsons' brewery tap The Spread Eagle. Aptly named perhaps! If this is Robinsons' flagship God help the tugs! Absolutely no atmosphere — thank goodness that Roger was well lubricated and verbose at this point to entertain us. This, however, is where the party broke up. The scouting party (the wimps on halves only) headed for The Queens which the man (ha!) thought to be shut. This was a real gem — but is due to close very soon for tasteful refurbishment. Let's hope so as I've seen nothing like it elsewhere. It's a keg Sam Smith pub familiarly called Turners and we therefore consumed a bottle of Guinness apiece. Lots of pictures taken of spirit taps, cosy snug, cramped layout and miniscule Gents! (How'did Sue know? The Ed)

We then headed (we three kings) to The Old King (Bass). Large, plush pub, OK if you like that sort of thing — before a last dash to the condemned Buck and Dog. We arrived just about in time for a bottle of Guinness each, a tour to look at the stained glass windows on the stairs, a play of Chris De Burgh on the jukebox and a few pics before another once great hostelry bites the dust.

I think that a good time was had by all — at least four of us survived to head either southwards (for the GBG at Brighton) or northwards (for an abandoned Roses match at Old Trafford)!

SUE CUNNINGHAM

TRAFFORD & HULME

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 4th: 8.00 p.m. Committee/Social, King William IV, Manchester Road, Partington. All welcome.
 Thursday 11th: 8.00 p.m. Informal visit to the Axe and Cleaver beer festival. Details from branch contact.
 Thursday 18th: 8.00 p.m. Branch meeting, The White Lion, Liverpool Road, Manchester.
 Sunday 21st: Noon, Social and games event versus Sale Wardens and Sale Home Brew society, Sale Wardens Club, Wardle Road, Sale.
 Thursday 25th: 8.00 p.m. Hulme survey. Start from the Ducie, Devas Street, calling at Old Abbey, 8.30 p.m.

OCTOBER

Thursday 2nd: 8.00 p.m. Committee/Social at Stretford Cricket Club, Lesley Road, off Urmston Lane, Stretford. All welcome.
 Thursday 16th: 8.00 p.m. Advance notice of the Trafford and Hulme AGM at the Melville, Barton Road, Stretford. Please attend.
 Contact David Shelton 061-224 7341 X54 (w) or 061-795 2113 (h)

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 2nd: 8.00 p.m. Branch meeting, Railway, Littleborough with guest speaker Bill Marsden from the Rochdale Canal Society
 Friday 12th: Rochdale pub crawl. Start 8.00 p.m. Cemetery Hotel, Bury Road, 8.30 p.m. Merrie Monk, College Road.
 Tuesday 16th: 8.00 p.m. Committee meeting, Queens, Littleborough.
 Thursday 18th: Joint social with Bolton branch, 8.00 p.m. at the York Hotel.

OCTOBER

Tuesday 7th: 8.00 p.m. Branch meeting, the Queens, Werneth.
 Tuesday 21st: 8.00 p.m. Committee meeting, Rams Head, Denshaw.
 Contact Steve Lawton 061-620 9239 (h) 061-928 6311 X7111 (w)

DUNHAM FESTIVAL

THE Axe & Cleaver at Dunham, near Altrincham is hoping to hold a mini beer festival commencing Friday 5th September. Being a Pennine Host house the range will include Wilsons Mild & Bitter, Websters Yorkshire Bitter & Coice and the guest beers planned are Taylors Landlord, Everards Tiger, Ruddles County and Theakstons Old Peculiar. So, well worth a visit to sample these beers and the pub also sports a bar billiards table plus children's room and outside playground.

KEITH EGERTON

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.

Name(s)

Address

Postcode

I/We enclose my/our remittance for Full/Husband & Wife membership for one year £7.00

Signature(s)

Date

Please send this form with your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd.) to:
 Sally Bennell, CAMRA Ltd., 34 Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts. AL1 3BW.

BOLTON

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 3rd: 8.30 p.m. Branch Meeting, Cross Guns (Walkers) Deane Road.
 Sunday 7th: Social 12 noon York (Burtonwoods) Newport Street, 1.30 p.m. Lodge Bank Tavern (Lees), Bridgeman Street.
 Thursday 18th: Joint social with Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch, 8.00 p.m. York, Newport Street, 9.30 p.m. Clifton Arms (Tetley) (if open!)

OCTOBER

Wednesday 1st: 8.30 p.m. Branch meeting, Crofters, St. Georges Road.
 Throughout September — surveying for the Greater Manchester Beer Guide. If you are interested in helping us out phone our branch contact.
 Dave Fleming 0204 75111 X207 (w) 0204 389918 (h)

STOCKPORT AND SOUTH MANCHESTER

SEPTEMBER

Monday 1st: Social 8.30 p.m. Northenden (Boddingtons)
 Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th: CAMRA stall at the Castlefield Carnival.
 Wednesday 24th: Visit to Sam Smiths brewery, Tadcaster. Phone John Clarke for details.
 Contacts: Business — Andy Cooper 0625 872641 (w) or 061 477 2959 (h)
 Socials: John Clarke 061-831 7222 X275 (w) or 061-477 1973 (h)

HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 9th: 9.00 p.m. Committee meeting, Dog and Partridge, Denton (Robinsons)
 Tuesday 16th: 8.30 p.m. Branch meeting, Old Hall, Chinley (Free House)

OCTOBER

Tuesday 7th: 9.00 p.m. Committee meeting, Northumberland Arms, Compstall, (Robinsons)
 Tuesday 14th: 8.20 p.m. Branch meeting, Crescent, Disley (Robinsons)
 Tuesday 28th: Evening trip to Matthew Brown brewery, Blackburn, see branch contacts for details.

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 4th: Day trip to Marstons brewery, see branch contacts for further details.
 Contact: Tom Lord 061-427 7099 or Geoff Williamson 06632 5634

CASTLEFIELD CARNIVAL & REAL ALE LISTS

MEMBERS from Stockport and South Manchester can be found at the Castlefield Carnival on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th of September. This will be the second year they have had a stall at this event. On sale there will be a number of beer guides and lists of real ale outlets, including the new 'Stockport Comprehensive List'. If you miss this fun event you can still get hold of a copy via Jim Flynn, Treasurer of Stockport and South Manchester Branch, 13 Styal Avenue, Reddish, Stockport, Cheshire. Price 10p per copy.

On the subject of real ale lists Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch have prepared new lists of all real ale outlets in these three towns. They are being published monthly in our fellow CAMRA magazine *What's Doing* (August, September and October) and in BEER LINES (September, October and November) but if you miss them or cannot reach a copy of these mags. then send a stamped addressed envelope to our BEER LINES address and we will send you copies FREE.

PAULA CARDER

Why not advertise in BEER LINES? The rates are reasonable and there is a discount for a block booking of six months. Half page ads are £50, Quarter page £30, Eighth page £15 and Sixteenth page £10. Contact The Editor, 35 Hayfield Close, Pennine Meadows, Moorside, Oldham OL4 2LX.