

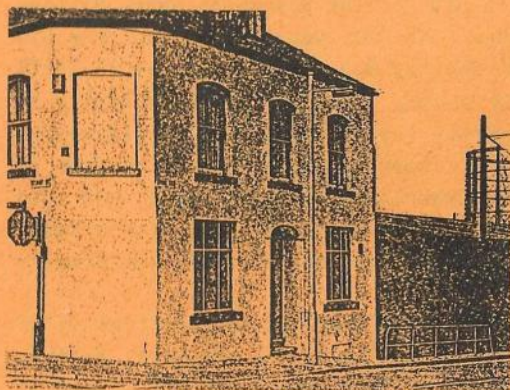
WHAT'S DOING

DEC
1985



THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

SMART ALEX



The Alexandra is a former Wilsons house on Mill Street, Bradford, near Phillips Park. After being closed for some time, the vandalised premises were sold in August into the free trade. The pub was bought by Charles Dunn, a farmer from Bacup whose first venture into pubs was the Jovial Hatters in Colne, which serves cask Tetleys. The Alexandra has

been renovated and redecorated but has not been altered substantially. There is a U-shaped lounge around a central bar and a separate game room at the rear with a pool table and darts board. Although the Alexandra is essentially a local, it nevertheless serves a range of bar snacks and, despite the fact that most of the potential customers are keg drinkers, there is an array of handpumps serving six different cask beers. Tetleys mild sells at 66p and all the bitters are 68p - Samson, Moorhouses and Websters and the two best sellers, Tetleys and Youngers.

The Alexandra is a brave venture. It's a locals' pub, well away from the trendy CAMRA circuit and its success will depend on whether the locals like it. For a pub which was virtually unsigned at the beginning of November and which has only been open since 11th October it was quite busy. It is hoped that this is an early indicator of its potential success.

As if one Manchester pub were not enough, Charles Dunn has two more in the pipeline. He has bought the Ancoats on Great Ancoats Street from Greenalls and hopes to open this in December, licences and

renovations permitting. A longer term project is the Kings Arms/Tavernetta/Desert/Dancing Weasel opposite, which needs considerable structural work before it can be reopened as a pub. Eventually Charles and his barman, Roy Southern, hope to serve more beers in the two pubs than are currently available in Manchester. A difficult aim, this would involve getting on for 30 real ales, but what a boost for the city centre if it should succeed! Look to your laurels, Bence and Worthington!

THE DARING BIDS THAT MAY

November saw two major takeover bids in the brewing industry. Despite considerable opposition, the Monopolies Commission has given Scottish & Newcastle Breweries clearance to bid for the Blackburn based Matthew Brown. S&N, with some 1,400 pubs, are the smallest of the Big Six brewers. Even the acquisition of Matthew Brown's 550 pubs would still leave them in 6th place by quite a long way, but the possibility is nevertheless disturbing. Matthew Brown have 4 breweries, at Blackburn, at Workington (lager) and the two Theakston breweries at Masham in North Yorkshire and Carlisle in Cumbria. Although brands like Old Peculier and Slalom lager are unlikely to disappear, the four breweries would not survive, particularly when we look at S&N's own brewery closure record.

Brewery closures would inevitably be followed by rationalisation of the range of beers and a reduction of choice to the consumer. Matthew Brown and CAMRA are still opposing the bid, which is now valued at £124 million. Apart from the immediate effect on Matthew Brown, a successful bid may also have longer term repercussions. Regional brewers, fearful of their own vulnerability, might be encouraged to merge with, or take over, other brewers to form a wider and more substantial base, as both Boddingtons and Greenalls have already done. The existence of independent brewers is the only guarantee of competition, choice and fair prices. Perhaps the warnings against further mergers by the Department of Trade will be some help.

A much larger bid than the S&N offer for Matthew Brown is the £1.8 billion bid for Allied Lyons made by Elders IXL, the Australian Fosters lager group. At first sight, this bid is less worrying; after all, does it really matter which conglomerate runs the country's biggest drinks group? Sadly, the answer is yes. Allied have been far more progressive in returning pubs to cask beer and in refurbishing pubs in character than any other of the big brewers. Their decentralisation policy has been most welcome and has led to new ranges of beers and a strong emphasis on tradition from new companies like Peter Walker.

There is little likelihood of Allied's policies being continued under the leadership of Elders' John Elliott. Admittedly, some ideas, like encouraging licensees to share in the equity of their pubs, seem reasonable, but can you possibly trust a man who believes, or at least says, that Fosters lager tastes like angels' tears?

Roger Hall

WHAT'S DOING

LEES IN BESWICK

In September, when Greenalls wanted to close the Britannia on Rowsley Street in Beswick, J W Lees stepped in and bought the place. The pub has been given a few licks of paint and re-signed. The Britannia is the only survivor of the terraced houses which once crowded this working class district of Manchester and is now surrounded by modern factories. The street corner local has a vault with a large bar and a bigger lounge served from a hatch to the bar. Mild and bitter are both handpumped in this Lees outpost.

MAXIMS

Maxims (Vaux) on Bradshawgate, Bolton, now sells regular guest beers with four real ales always available. The regulars are Samson and Sunderland Bitter and recent guest beers have been Hook Norton, Taylors Landlord, Darleys, Lorimer & Clark 80/- and Jennings. Maxims is licensed until midnight Monday-Thursday, which is nice for insomniacs and those awaiting the night buses.

ECCLES EXCELLENCE

Until its closure about seven months ago the Bridgewater Hotel, Patricroft, was a contender for the prize for the scruffiest pub in Greater Eccles. Six months of frantic activity at 264 Liverpool Road enabled it to reopen on 25th October, transformed. The vault and lounge have exchanged places and the licensed area has been increased considerably. Licensees Derek and Edith Fenwick are not new to the area, having run the Grapes at Peel Green until two years ago before moving to the Bridgewater in Sale when Holts bought it from Whitbread.

SHAMBLES ALE

The Wellington Inn, Shambles Square, Manchester, reopened in mid-November after a few days' closure for alterations. The stone floor remains downstairs, plush carpets have been fitted upstairs and pictures of old Manchester are all around the walls. Handpumped Bass and Stones bitter are on sale in both bars at 76p a pint. This makes the Bass very good value as Sinclairs next door charges 75p for a pint of Sam Smiths Old Brewery Bitter.

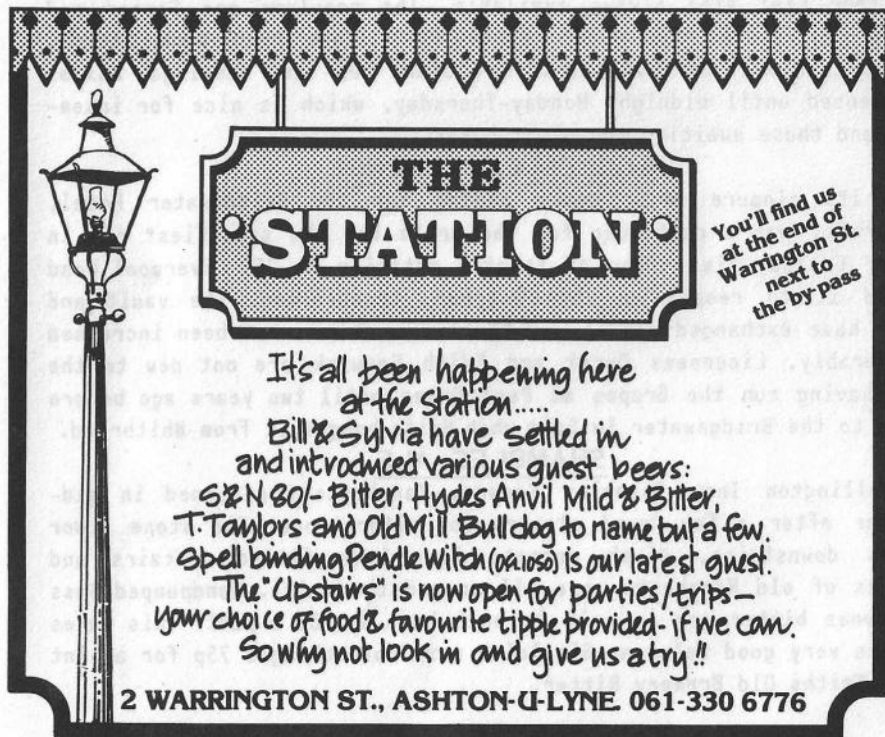
WHAT'S DOING IN WIGAN AND DISTRICT

Not to be outdone by the reopening of the Swan & Railway in Wigan town centre (see WD Nov), landlord Tommy Dickens of the Bowling Green, Wigan Lane, has had Jennings bitter (handpumped) installed, joining Tetley mild, bitter and draught Bass. Tommy's beer has greatly improved of late, especially the Bass, so look out for the Bowling Green returning to the Good Beer Guide in 1987. Wigan CAMRA are holding their Christmas shindig there on Wednesday 18th December. All are welcome to what should be a good night.

CAMRA members everywhere who mourned the closing of the superb Park Hotel in April may be interested - and a little annoyed - to learn that the pub is still standing and looking pretty much the same as it did when boarded up eight months ago.

Paul Gaskell's pub crawl of Standish (WD Oct) has been enhanced by the reappearance of cask Burtonwood mild and bitter in the Black Bull on Market Street - presumably through the same handpumps that served the keg varieties before the pub was renovated.

Longshoot Social Club, near Whelley, dabbled with cask Darley Thorne bitter for a week or two. Despite the installation of a handpump, the real ale idea was hastily dropped and there are no plans to bring it



**THE
STATION**

*You'll find us
at the end of
Warrington St.
next to
the by-pass*

*It's all been happening here
at the Station.....
Bill & Sylvia have settled in
and introduced various guest beers:
S&N 80/- Bitter, Hydes Anvil Mild & Bitter,
T. Taylors and Old Mill Bull dog to name but a few.
Spell binding Pendle Witch (00.10.00) is our latest guest.
The "Upstairs" is now open for parties/trips -
your choice of food & favourite tippie provided - if we can.
So why not look in and give us a try !!*

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

back. A familiar tale in the clubs. The beer won't look after itself, you know!

Greenalls have closed and boarded up the Star Hotel, Wigan Road, Bryn. A shame, but then this fine old boozer seemed to be half empty at the best of times. Besides, Greenalls have several pubs in the Ashton-Bryn-Garswood area, most of which sell at least one cask beer.

NEWBOROUGH CHANGES

The Newborough Inn, a Hydes house on Astley Street, Dukinfield, has recently changed hands. The new licensee is having new electric pumps put in and is redecorating the whole pub.

WICKETS

Marstons Mercian Mild and Burton Bitter at the Cricketers, Bradford Road, Bradford, used to be pretty good through electric pumps but now taste even better since handpumps have been installed.

THE BIRDS HAVE FLOWN

The ducks, geese, chickens and other assorted animals that formed part of the attraction of the beer garden at Ye Golden Lion, Blackley, are now gone, along with their patron landlord. It was a shame, really, that the awful summer hardly encouraged people to make use of the garden.

The good news, though, is that Ken Coldman, formerly of the GBG Derby Brewery Arms, has taken over management of the pub and, as one would have expected, raised the quality of the beer. You will never get a fowl pint here now.

New licensees at the Derby Brewery Arms are Paula and Andrew Egerton. They were previously relief managers for Holts and Paula's mother has the Friendship in Prestwich

ATHERTON ALE

Holts have been granted a licence for the Atherton Arms (see last month) and so their latest pub is set to open in January. The premises (formerly the Atherton Labour Club) are to be modernised; the former concert room will become a "function suite" and the lounge will be extended. The Atherton Arms is expected to open around January 7th, which is the day when the club registration certificate will be given up.

SHUT

The Hare & Hounds, Bolton Street, one of Bury's oldest pubs, has closed. Licensing magistrates had asked Wilsons to smarten the place up, but Wilsons decided to give the pub up and spend their readies on the Clarence next door.

HAPPY HOUR

The Clarence, Rusholme, has a happy hour Monday - Thursday when the handpumped draught Bass is on sale at 60p a pint. The happy hour is 9.00pm-10.00pm. Interesting.

JACK HIGH

Stalybridge Recreation and Bowling Club on Lloyd Street, Dukinfield, is now serving cask conditioned OB mild and bitter with a happy hour from 9.00pm-10.00pm (it's catching) when cask beer sells at 50p a pint. The premises are also available for meetings.

PENNINE JOKE

The Golden Lion, Churchgate, Bolton (ex-Berni Inns) is now a Pennine Host house. Modernisation is promised in January. Will the dreary selection of Tetley keg beers be replaced by something better? The Golden Lion is a listed building, so Pennine Joke may be restrained from gutting the place à la Three Crowns down the road. However, historic building listing didn't stop Burtonwood painting the Swan, opposite, a revolting pink, to the displeasure of Bolton Council

OAK TO SHUT

The Royal Oak, opposite Robinsons Brewery in Stockport, is closing for a few months for repairs. It seems that there are structural problems.

JENNINGS

Jennings bitter on handpump continues to appear in Greater Manchester Tetley houses. Latest sightings have been at the Football, Swinton, and the White Horse, Egerton Street, Farnworth. Opposite the White Horse, the Moses Gate Hotel has had its handpumps removed. Redundant since a week or so after its last transformation, its a wonder why Whitbread bothered fitting them at all. The pub tried real ale for a while in its 1983 "House of Horrors" incarnation; now the place is done out like a licensed ladies' hairdressers - will they ever get it right for real ale?

NO BULL

Whitbread are selling the Red Bull (or what's left of it) on Mason Street, Manchester (near the Marble Arch). The place has been derelict for months and looks about ready to fall down.

GRAND

The Grand Hotel, Aytoun Street, Manchester, is now selling handpumped John Smiths and Boddies, replacing Wilsons. Between 5.30 and 7.00pm the beer is 60p a pint (normally 80p)

WITHINGTON ALE

Two guest beers are now available at the Withington Ale House and the Websters has been transferred from electric to handpump dispense. The guest beer handpumps were originally used for Wilsons mild, but the mild is now chilled and filtered, unfortunately. Apart from Websters and the two guest beers (Pedigree appears to be a regular issue), handpumped Wilsons bitter is also on sale. Websters is 78p a pint and Wilsons 76p - dear beer when you compare it to the Crown & Kettle's 71p and 70p, and in a city centre pub at that.

CUE FOR A SONG

The Jenny Lind, which once stood in Chorlton-on-Medlock, was named after a singer; the Paganini on Great Ancoats Street honoured a musician; in modern times the Spinners in Hulme was named after the Liverpool folk singers. What do the following pub signs have in common: the Barley Mow, the Jolly Waggoner, the Jolly Carter, the Old House at Home, Lass o' Gowrie, the Cheshire Cheese, Old School, the Woodman, the Flowing Bowl, Highland Laddie, Death of Nelson, the Bold Dragoon and the Exile of Erin? The answer is that they are also the titles of songs. (The songs are indexed in the Music Library at Central Library, Manchester.)

Broadsheet music of the early nineteenth century began to decline in popularity around the 1850's in the face of competition from music halls. Their music echoed the popular taste - traditional songs, folk songs and minstrel songs were spread by music hall artists, street bands, travelling theatre companies and theatrical songsters. Several authorities have written about the "first" music hall opened at the Canterbury Arms in London in 1852 by Charles Morton. They don't seem to have heard about the Polytechnic Music Hall, attached to the Polytechnic pub in Salford, which was established in 1840, according



to an 1849 Manchester Guardian advertisement. Another bygone pub, the Rising Sun on Swan Street, Manchester, was also a music hall in the nineteenth century. Not only was popular music performed in the music saloons by professional singers, it was also taken up by the customers in the "free and easies" of even the smallest beerhouses; it's hardly surprising then that a number of pubs were named after songs.

The boarded-up Nelson on Oldham Road, Ancoats, was called the Death of Nelson in the early nineteenth century. This is also the title of a patriotic song of that time. Here's the introduction:

"O'er Nelson's tomb, with silent grief oppressed,
Britannia mourns her hero at rest:
But those bright laurels ne'er will fade with years,
Whose leaves are watered by a nation's tears."

If you think that is maudlin, what about "The Old House at Home" for treacly sentiment?

"Oh! The old house at home where my fore-fathers dwelt,
When a child at the feet of my mother I knelt;
When she taught me the prayer, where she read me the page,
Which guides us in childhood and comforts in age;
My heart mid all changes, wherever I roam,
Ne'er loses its love for the old house at home."

Come back, Max Bygraves, all is forgiven!

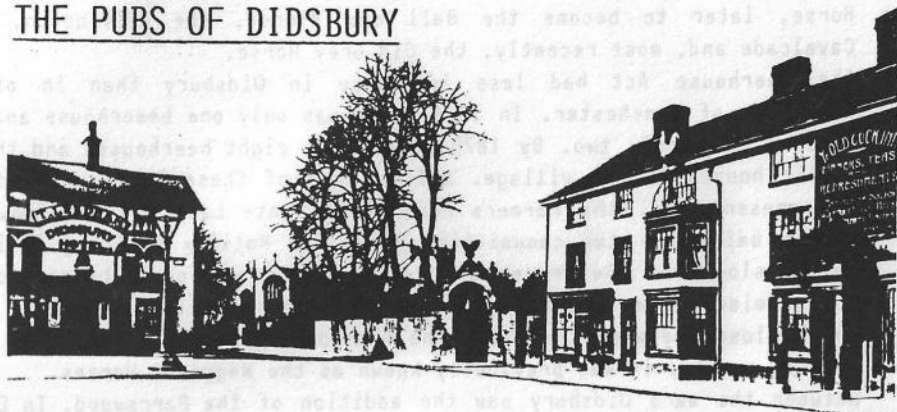
Of the pub signs listed at the beginning of this article, there are still several Old House at Homes around Manchester; the Lass o' Gowrie in Charles Street is still with us (there was also one in Medlock Street, Hulme), and so is the Old School (renamed the Black Friar) in Salford. Cheshire Cheeses, Jolly Waggoners and Jolly Carters can still be seen; there was a Bold Dragoon on Rochdale Road, with an Exile of Erin and a Highland Laddie nearby.

Bob Potts

(Bob Potts is the author of Old Pubs of Hulme (parts 1 and 2), Old Pubs of Chorlton-on-Medlock and Old Pubs of Rochdale Road and Neighbourhood - on sale at the Marble Arch!)

* WHAT'S DOING is edited by Neil Richardson, 375 Chorley Road, *
* Swinton, Manchester M27 2AY. News, articles, letters, moans, *
* etc, must arrive by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the *
* next month's issue. *
* *
* SUBSCRIPTIONS: Send cheque/PO for £1.90, together with your *
* name and address, to Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, *
* Manchester, for 6 issues. (Cheques made out to "What's Doing") *
* *
* BACK NUMBERS: 10p per copy. Send stamped addressed envelope *
* to Roger Hall, address above. *
* *
* To join CAMRA send £7 to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, *
* St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW. *

THE PUBS OF DIDSBURY



Didsbury is one of the oldest villages in Manchester. The church dates back to 1246 and there were probably two inns in the hamlet from about that time. Didsbury was part of the manor of Withington along with Chorlton, Burnage, Rusholme, Levenshulme and Moss Side. Recognizances from 1772 refer to two alehouses in the village - the Ring o'Bells and the Cock. The names of the families associated with the two pubs - Blomeley and Wood - can also be found in the 1629 records and there are references to Blomeley alias Cocke in 1590 and to Thomas Wood of Didsbury, alehousekeeper, in the 1645 burial records.

These two early pubs were located where the Cock and the Didsbury are today - on either side of the road to the church. This path to the church was known as the "Gates of Hell", presumably because the temptation offered by the pubs on each side prevented many from passing through.

The Ring o'Bells seems to have been the more important of the two hostelries. The Didsbury Hunt and the Didsbury Archers met at the Ring o'Bells, which was later to become the venue for a bowling club. The Wood family were for decades parish clerks as well as farmers and licensees. The Ring o'Bells was an eating house and shop as well as an alehouse and was used for holding prisoners during the nineteenth century. The Woods kept meticulous records which give much insight into the life of the village as well as noting everyday details like the price of beer - 3d a pint in 1796.

In 1821 the Ring o'Bells was sold to Samuel Bethell who, during his ownership, enclosed the common land in the front of the pub, which is now the car park. In the eighteenth century this village green had been used for such festivities as bull and bear baiting. Cock fighting was carried out in the cockpit of the Cock. Sam Bethell extended the Ring o'Bells and changed the name to the Church. The Church is now the Didsbury Hotel and is once again undergoing a transformation.

By the early years of the nineteenth century there were three public

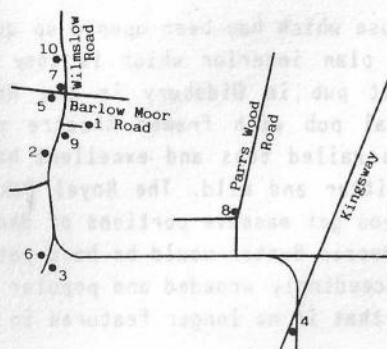
houses in the village with the building at Heaton Moor of the Grey Horse, later to become the Ball and Nimrod, the Wellington, the Cavalcade and, most recently, the Old Grey Horse.

The Beerhouse Act had less influence in Didsbury than in other districts of Manchester. In 1834 there was only one beerhouse and as late as 1843 only two. By 1870 there were eight beerhouses and three public houses in the village. All but two of these have survived to the present day, the Farmers Arms on Millgate Lane and the Crown & Anchor being the two casualties. Above the Halifax Building Society on Wilmslow Road the traces of a hanging sign can still be made out. The premises once housed the Crown & Anchor, a Walker & Homfray pub which closed between the wars. The Station acquired its name when the railway opened; it was previously known as the Waggon & Horses.

Between the wars Didsbury saw the addition of the Parrswood. In East Didsbury the opening of the Mersey Hotel increased the number of pubs in that district to three. The Midland public house and the Railway beerhouse both date from the late nineteenth century. It was not until the 1980's that a fourth pub opened in the district - the Barleycorn on Barlow Moor Road.

Didsbury today offers the beer drinker brews from six breweries in a number of deservedly popular public houses. Only one pub in Didsbury village (the Dog & Partridge, Greenalls) serves no real ale. Unfortun-





1 Albert	1 William St	Hydes	MB(E)
2 Crown	770 Wilmslow Rd	Greenalls	MBO(H)
3 Didsbury	852 Wilmslow Rd	Wilsons	B(H)
4 Gateway	882 Wilmslow Rd	Hydes	MB(E)
5 Nelson	3 Barlow Moor Rd	Wilsons	B(H)
6 Olde Cock Inn	848 Wilmslow Rd	Chesters	B(H)
7 Old Grey Horse	700 Wilmslow Rd	Wilsons	MB(H)
8 Parrswood	129 School Lane	Boddies	MB(E)
9 Royal Oak	729 Wilmslow Rd	Marstons	MBP(H)
10 Station	682 Wilmslow Rd	Marstons	MB(H)

ately the village's two oldest pubs - the Cock and the Didsbury - are now fundamentally eating houses, although both serve traditional ale as a sideline. The Old Grey Horse is admittedly an improvement on its previous incarnation as the Cavalcade, with its plastic Dickensian decoration and fake bijou boutiques, but it's still an awful barn of a place with plastic plants, an overloud jukebox and fake "real" fires.

The Station is perhaps the most attractive pub in the village. The tiny vault and small back room make it a most welcoming place but the beer quality, whilst good, is not so consistently excellent as to justify a place in the Good Beer Guide. The Nelson is an uninspiring modernised pub which serves cask bitter only but the Crown on the main road serves three handpumped Greenalls beers in a traditional pub which has not been ruined by recent alterations. Perhaps the most attractive feature of the Crown is that it looks nothing like any other Greenalls pub and owes nothing to Warrington Corporate Imagery.



The Albert is a back street Hydes house which has been opened up quite successfully to create a semi-open plan interior which is cosy and comfortable. Without doubt, the best pub in Didsbury is the Royal Oak. It is a magnificent traditional pub with framed theatre programmes, Britannia tables with brass railed tops and excellent hand-pumped Marstons beers - Pedigree, bitter and mild. The Royal Oak is renowned for its lunches. For £1.60 you get massive portions of cheese or pate with brown bread that even Bessie Bunter would be hard put to shift at one sitting. The pub is exceedingly crowded and popular and it is probably for this reason alone that it no longer features in the Good Beer Guide.

Outside the village, the Parrswood, a 1930's Boddingtons estate pub and the Gateway, a large Hydes roadhouse, complete the picture. Both are less upmarket than the village pubs but are nevertheless pleasant if not exceptional places for a drink. The Parrswood certainly offers the best value for money with bitter at 66p a pint. The pubs in the village charge much more: 73p in the Nelson, 74p in the Old Grey Horse, 75p in the Albert and 76p in the "colonial style" Berni Inn Didsbury. Why on earth should beer in Didsbury be up to 15p a pint more expensive than beer in Eccles?

Roger Hall



ASIAN CORNER

One of the problems with Didsbury is that if you want to get back to Manchester you must either leave before closing time or hang around until 11.45 for the all night

bus. Why not stay till closing time, have a meal and then catch the all night bus? Why not indeed? The Al-Mamoor is on the main road only 100 yards from the bus stop. It is by no means as ethnic as the

restaurants four miles down the road in Rusholme, but offers the standard range of curries, pilaws, birianis and tandoori dishes with a good selection of starters and side dishes. There is a vegetarian section of the "perm any 2 from 4" (Egg, Mushroom, Dal, Vegetable) curry variety. A limited selection of English dishes is available for those with an as yet uneducated palate. Didsbury's pubs may be much more expensive than their counterparts in other districts, but the Al-Mamoor compares favourably in both price and quality with similar establishments elsewhere. A meal with starters will set you back about £5 including VAT and service.

LICENSING RECORDS

Obedient as ever, our scribe set off to Salford Magistrates Court, dutifully to obey CAMRA HQ's latest whim, namely to obtain records of pub ownership. The records in themselves were interesting - lots of prosecutions, licensed church halls, changes of name and so on - but who were the owners? Kay's Atlas Brewery, Wilsons, Chef and Brewer, Watney Innkeepers, Rochdale & Manor Brewery, Taylors Eagle Brewery, Salford Council, Ravenscroft Ltd. The records of ownership were hopelessly out of date and provided no insight into free houses. The Angel, the Prince of Wales and the King William IV have all been sold by the brewers and two further pubs are leased from the brewers by Salford Students' Union (with a tie). Knowledge on the ground is likely to provide much more useful information than the licensing records if Salford is anything to go by.

FINAL PHASE

The Half Moon on Holland Street, Miles Platting - the archetypal Gungesmeare's Arms - has at last been knocked down after being closed, burned and vandalised.

MOORHOUSE'S

PRIZE BURNLEY ALES

PREMIER BITTER (0.G. 1036°)

Silver Medal Award Winner, Brewex 83

PENDLE WITCHES BREW (0.G. 1050°)

Believed Strongest Bitter Brewed in the North-West

Both delivered weekly direct from brewery to cellar

Tel: Burnley (0282) 22864 - ask for Max Taylor

BREWING STRONG SINCE 1870!

ECCLES SURVEY

41 of Eccles' 50 pubs serve traditional beer and all but 7 of these 41 serve cask conditioned mild. All 13 Holts pubs and 8 of the 9 Boddies houses are still serving real mild - so much for OB keg! As for prices, Holts, as always, offer the best value with bitter at 60p in many pubs (59p in the Stanley) and mild for 57p. Boddingtons is typically 6p a pint more expensive - for a lower gravity beer. Manchester's favourite brewery is certainly maintaining its margins. Greenalls and the Wilsons tenancies are similar in price to Boddies but Bass and Pennine Host are considerably more expensive - over 70p a pint more for a standard bitter is not unusual.

There is some variation in differentials between mild and bitter: from 1p (Lamb, Railway, Ship Canal) to 7p (White Horse), with 3p being a typical figure. One disturbing feature is the lack of, or non-visibility of, price lists in a number of public houses - something which is required by law.

REAL ALE PUBS

Albert Edward	Sam Smith OBB(H)	Kings Head	Boddingtons MB(E)
Barton Inn	Whitbread B(H)	Lamb	Holts MB(H)
Bird in Hand	Holts MB(H)	Monton Green	Wilsons MB(H)
Black Boy	Wilsons MB(H)	Oddfellows	Boddingtons MB(E)
Bridgewater	Holts MB(H)	Old Bulls Head	Holts MB(H)
Brown Cow	Robinsons MB(H)	Packet House	Boddingtons MB(H)
Church	Wilsons B(H)	Park	Holts MB(H)
Cross Keys	Bass MBBB(H)	Queens Arms	Boddingtons MB(E)
Diamond XX	Wilsons MB(H)	Railway	Tetley MB(H)
Dog & Partridge	GW MB(E)	Red Lion	Boddingtons B(H)
Duke of York Marston	BB Ruddles BB	Royal Oak	Holts MB(H)
	Thwaites B Whitbread MB	Ship Canal	Wilsons MB(H)
	Taylor MBBB (H)	Stanley Arms	Holts MB(H)
Dutton Arms	Boddingtons MB(H)	Star	GW B(E)
Egerton Arms	Boddingtons MB(H)	Town Hall	Wilsons B(H)
Ellesmere Inn	Holts MB(E)	Unicorn	Wilsons MB(H)
Ellesmere	Boddingtons MB(H)	Waggon & Horses	Tetley MB(H)
Fox Vaults	GW B(E)	Wellington	GW MB(E)
Golden Cross	Holts MB(H)	Wellington	Holts MB(H)
Golden Lion	Boddingtons MB(H)	White Horse	Robinsons MB(E)
Grapes	Holts MB(H)	White Lion	Holts MB(H)
		Crown & Volunteer	Holts MB(E)

NON REAL ALE PUBS

Airport	Whitbread	Oddfellows	GW
Grapes	John Smith	Rock House	GW
Hare & Hounds	Wilsons	Spinners	Tetley
Jolly Carter	Wilsons	Star	Bass
		Swinging Sporan	S&N



As Charlie Bass takes 98.32% of the total output of What's Doing and has intimated that he might sell Manky Ale instead if he's pilloried herein, I have taken Mr Nestfeather's advice and decided to be incredibly nice to him. Some people might think that this would give him carte blanche to do what he likes but this will not prove to be the case.

I'd like to start by giving a plug for the most wonderful pub in the whole world, namely Leech's. Once again this magnificent hostelry was selected to host the launch of the Toper's Vademecum. The giant freebie was so highly popular that many people may have been unable to gain entry. Fortunately, I was able to make notes of the major attraction, namely Ben Chestnut's speech, for those like the silly celt who couldn't come.

Ben Chestnut stands with back to real fire with background strains of "Don't put your husband in a pub" emanating from the music machine which is no longer covered in cuckoo droppings since the untimely disappearance of the clock. Ben (for it is he) clearing throat, "Er, mutter, mutter, warm yer bum, real fire, give us the thirty grand, ta very much, free grub, thin end of the wedge, fight until its a foregone conclusion, eggs in one basket, mutter, mutter." Sews ear to shoulder and rushes off to appear on TV.

Secondly, I'd like to clear up a few misunderstandings. The former landlady of Leech's, Ms von Trapp, did not sing "Are You Loathsome Tonight?" to the silly celt. Charlie Bass is not following in the footsteps of Ben Chestnut and Duncan Busman in becoming a bumectomy candidate; nor is his pub to be renamed "The Bunch of Grapes". Furthermore, all otherrumours concerning the world's best pub and the nicest landlord in Christendom are totally foundless. Beinlos has not been seen in the company of Ms von Trapp and if I knew the identity of the anonymous naughties who've sent me scandalmongering tittle-tattle then I'd waste no time at all in sending the fivers back to them.

(Is this OK, Mr Nestfeather? If necessary put in some other sycophantic guff to keep everyone happy.)

It is traditional at this time of the year to let readers try their hands at brewery anagrams. Here are a few I've jotted down. THE NON PENIS, HES TWATI, DISHWATER B, NODDING BOTS, TELLY TWEAKER, RINSO NOBS. Half a pint of Greenalls to the winner.

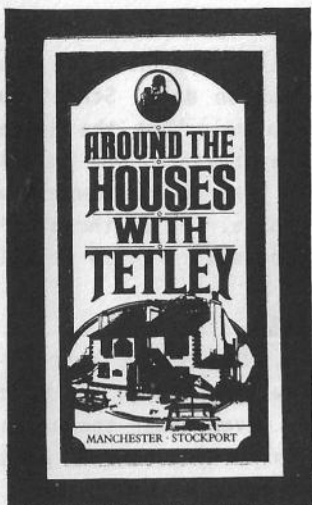
CHRISTMAS CRYPTOGRAMS

set by Leo King

Solve the cryptograms to get the names of British breweries.

- 1 Why tile all green (a simple one to get you started!)
- 2 Did this US uncle lead the workers in gold, silver and iron?
- 3 They don't stock potatoes here, only beer, very stout of them!
- 4 Before going for one, shout "Timber" before approaching the brewery
- 5 Common-named part of candle
- 6 Little Alfie names the big guys (another easy one)
- 7 Latest fortress to emerge in front of a brewery
- 8 The learner will feel around for some short inside information
- 9 Catch hold of some letters not delivered to central Northampton
- 10 Arrive at this Roman city before noon to discover a brewery that's not there
- 11 This nutty character represents this brewery
- 12 Alright, make a point 50-50 towards Southend
- 13 Brewery situated in a land of "Know How"
- 14 After a short holiday, the saint returns
- 15 Brewery containing four circles in a town containing a cross. To start with, you
could get caught with this one, initially
- 16 He could show you the way to detect this brewery
- 17 His sphere of knowledge contributes towards a brewery
- 18 Plenty around the Bristol area although not in Greenall Whitley land
- 19 True Naval Laird becomes composed when landing in Jersey
- 20 Secure the 25th letter to arrive at the brewery
- 21 Beer of sound quality placed inside a small steamship
- 22 Not so young amateur radio enthusiast makes his way towards a brewery
- 23 Little Bo Peep's counterpart has a strange name, point taken!
- 24 A pair of hands help to work out fabrics of a synthetic fibre
- 25 A large part of this north-east city adjoins a town with a brewery connection
- 26 Noah's vessel goes to the Orient with a 50-50 chance
- 27 Male deer to be found approaching the far end of Cleveleys
- 28 Half of a team goes forward with a crazy style - mixing beer with tea
- 29 Good man goes to part of Australia to narrate
- 30 A human computer registers real ale in Taffy land
- 31 Part of a vacation starts before Ned returns
- 32 You cannot get this everyday, but you can get it every day - strange, but true
- 33 To start with, ring 50 500 followed by a letter before morning
- 34 These dry ales don't appear to be right, somehow!
- 35 Ain't half a good drink when joined by the Queen
- 36 From a Scottish brewery, the sapper goes to a London brewery, then returns without
noticing the Queen
- 37 Little Jennifer makes a point of mixing gins
- 38 Sounds fishy to me that his beers should make a West Germanic person vexed
- 39 What words could describe the magnificent edifice of this brewery
- 40 Partly not complicated and marked with an X
- 41 After half-an-hour, slide over the snow travelling to the north and ending up on
a famous Salford Road
- 42 Big Matt receives a suntan
- 43 Part of an Irish capital city goes to a place of safety to meet up at a brewery
way up north
- 44 Each single Roman numeral arranged in reverse order denotes the established year
of which brewery?

(for solutions see elsewhere in this issue)



AROUND THE HOUSES

Tetley's pub booklet, "Around the Houses with Tetley" lists the Tetley pubs in Manchester and Stockport. Strangely, these districts also include metropolitan Salford and parts of Wigan, Tameside, Rochdale, Trafford and Bury. Tetley's don't seem to be too sure where their pubs are or whether or not they sell real ale. The Commercial is in Prestwich not Whitefield and the Mawson is hardly in Manchester Central. The Beehive, Cross Keys, Hilltop, Britons Protection, City Arms and the Football all serve real ale - a fact which seems to have escaped the compilers. The guide is divided into four sections - Local Houses, Food Houses, Inn Crowd Houses and Country

Houses. The criteria they've used to put pubs into these categories is impossible to determine. Mosley Common is hardly "beautiful, unspoiled countryside" and at least one of the Inn Crowd Houses would be better described as an Inside Crowd House, crowded as it is with ex-cons and shambling tramps.

Some of the comments are mindless. "This pub is famous for being run by Salford University Students' Union"; "Enjoy a vibrant In Scene and ask about its colourful history"; "A famous meeting place". The guide doesn't even list all Tetley's pubs - the Junction in Smedley, the Albion and the Pied Piper in Salford, the Spinners in Eccles, the Weavers in Manchester, the Dun Mare and the Spa in Little Hulton have all been missed out. The guide is useful in listing facilities like games, food, music, party rooms and, of course, real fires, assuming that this information is correct. The guide can be picked up from your local Tetley pub - probably buried beneath a pile of Castlemaine 4X adverts.

CATS

The short-lived Exchange Inn, Corn Exchange Buildings, Manchester 4, has moved next door and the new establishment is called the Top Cat Tavern (quite apt - there's not enough room to swing one round). Handpumps for Tetley bitter have been installed but were not in use when our inspector called. Before it was the Exchange Inn, the premises once housed Rowntrees' bars, but before that it was a comfortable, normal pub with plenty of atmosphere. Always packed, Wyn's Bar sold great beer in the days when Chesters was an independent company. It was a happy, pleasant pub that could knock spots off

Rowntrees, and as for the Top Cat, seeing the one on telly might be more interesting.

WILSONS DISPOSALS

Wilsons are living up to their promise of selling two or three pubs a year (WD March 1985). In Oldham the Waterloo on Union Street was sold to Duofleet of Liverpool in August and in Helmshore the Holden Arms on Blackburn Road has been sold to Buckley Leisure. The Malcolm on Ashton Old Road has been sold delicensed and the Alexandra on nearby Mill Street is now operating as a free house. Two or three? I'm sure that if we add up the demolitions and disposals for 1985 it will be nearer 20 than 3.

IRLAM BODDINGTONS

Albert Valentine, landlord of the Boathouse, has taken over the tenancy of the Railway in Irlam. This is a new development for Boddingtons' Brewery, whereby proven landlords are given other tenancies. A manager for the Railway will be appointed in early December, hand-pumps will remain and Boddingtons mild will return.

Contributors: Leo King, Bill Collier, Roger Hall, Dave White, Dave Hale, Roger Bullock, Paul Roberts, Duncan Busman, Phil Pearson.

WHERE TO GET YOUR WHAT'S DOING IN NORTH MANCHESTER AND SALFORD

Salford Ordsall Hotel, Coach & Horses, Broadway, Union, Waggon & Horses, Wellington

Irlam Boathouse Worsley Lancs Heroes, Royal Oak, Ellesmere

Swinton Newmarket, White Swan, White Horse

Eccles Lancs Heroes, Park, Egerton, Stanley, White Lion, Bridgewater

Manchester Derby Brewery Arms, Jolly Angler, Crown, Marble Arch, Millstone, Wheatsheaf, Smiths Arms, Harp & Shamrock, Crown & Kettle, Unicorn, Crown & Anchor, Bulls Head, White House, Star & Garter

Blackley Old House at Home, Lancs Heroes, Golden Lion

CHRISTMAS CRYPTOGRAMS - SOLUTIONS

1 Greenall Whitley 2 Sam Smiths 3 Murphys 4 Burtonwood Brewery 5 Smithwick 6 Bass
7 Newcastle Brewery 8 Felinfoel 9 Hook Norton 10 Batham 11 Ansells 12 Okells
13 Morrells (Oxford) 14 Holts 15 Hook Norton (again!) 16 Usher 17 Mansfield Brewery
18 Smiles 19 Randall Vautier (Jersey) 20 Buckley 21 Stones 22 Oldham Brewery
23 Shepherd Neame 24 Hardys and Hansons 24 Castletown Brewery 26 Arkell 27 Hartleys
28 Tetleys 29 St Austell 30 Brain 31 Holden 32 Younger 33 Oldham Brewery (again!)
34 Darleys 35 Fuller 36 Young 37 Jennings 38 Winkles (Saxon Cross) 39 Wadworths
40 Simpkins 41 Hoskin and Oldfield 42 Matthew Brown 43 Belhaven Brewery 44 Trumans



Branch Diary

WIGAN

Wed 11 Dec 8.30 Branch Meeting, Silverwell Hotel, Darlington Street East (Walkers)
Wed 18 Dec 8pm Xmas Social, Bowling Green, Wigan La (Tetley-Bass-Jennings) All welcome
Contact Dave White Wigan 37389 (h) Padgate 826515 x303 (w)

SOUTH EAST LANCs

Sat 14 Dec Day trip to Stoke, surveying town centre pubs and Christmas shopping expedition. Evening visit to Travellers Rest, Burslem, Stoke
Sat 28th Dec 8pm South East Lancs Xmas Party, Railway Hotel, Twist Lane, Leigh
Sun 29th Dec 1pm Branch Meeting, Railway Hotel, Twist Lane, Leigh
Fri 10 Jan 8pm Pub crawl survey of Astley and Tyldesley. Start Coach & Horses (Holts)
Contact Steve Prescott 0942 719037 (h) 0925 834494 (w)

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 3 Dec 8pm Branch Meeting, Albert (Burtonwood), Spotland Rd, Rochdale
Tues 10 Dec 8pm Branch trip to Regional Christmas Social, Gamecock, Old St, A-u-L
Tues 17 Dec 7.30 Branch knees-up, Castle Inn (Wilsons), Manchester Rd, Rochdale.
Buffet & bar arranged, all branch members welcome
Tues 7 Jan 8pm Branch Meeting, Queens (Robinsons), Manchester St, Werneth, Oldham
Tues 14 Jan 8pm Presentation of "10 Years in the Good Beer Guide" certificate to Crooe Keys (Lees), Uppermill
Tues 21 Jan 8pm, Committee meeting, Bank Top Tavern (Lees), King Square, Oldham
Tues 28 Jan 8pm Presentation of "10 Years in the Good Beer Guide" certificate to the Healey Hotel (Robinsons), Shawclough, Rochdale
Contact Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h): 061 928 6311 x7111

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 18 Dec Branch Meeting, White Swan, Swinton 8pm
Fri 27 Dec BRANCH CHRISTMAS BANQUET at Assam Gourmet. Meet Marble Arch
Wed 1 Jan Acronymous Crawl: 7pm Nelson, Chapel St, Salford: Eagle, Wellington, Yates, Edinburgh Castle, Auld Lang Syne, River
Wed 8 Jan Eagle, Collier Street, Salford. Farewell party
Wed 15 Jan Stanley Arms (provisional), Patricroft 8pm
Wed 22 Jan 7.30 Oakwood (off East Lancs Rd), 8.30 Inn of Good Hope, Eccles Old Road.
Finish up in the Lamb, Eccles
Contact Roger Hall 740 7937

BOLTON

Wed 4 Dec 8.30 Branch Meeting, Falcon (Tetley), Kay St
Sun 8 Dec Town Centre Crawl. 7pm York, 7.45 Clifton, 8.15 Ancient Shepherd, 9pm Prince William. The rest of the crawl will be decided on the night. New faces welcome
Tue 10 Dec Regional Social, Gamecock, A-u-L. The branch hope to run a minibus to this event. Interested parties should contact Bert Kerks on Bolton 57781
Wed 11 Dec 8.30 prompt. Quiz Social at Clifton (Tetley/Jennings), Newport St. Support your local CAMRA Masterminds
Sat 14 Dec 8pm Branch Christmas Party at the new-look York Hotel (Burtonwood), Newport Street. All members are cordially invited
Sun 22 Dec 12 noon. Sunday Social at White Horse (Tetley/Jennings), Egerton Street, Farnworth
Wed 8 Jan 8.30 Branch meeting, George (Wilsons), Gt Moor St

ERRATA: Industrial action by What's Doing's typesetters (NOTSOBA) has resulted in two errors in the Didsbury article. The Grey Horse was built in Barlow Moor, not Heaton Moor. The Mersey Hotel, etc, are all in West Didsbury. The Gateway, which was not mentioned, is in East Didsbury.

Apologies to all whose contributions were not included in this issue; some have been held over for next month. Keep the articles and letters coming in!

Have a pint on the House..

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 & XB • Vaux Samson •
Everards Tiger • Taylors Landlord
Porter and Best Dark Mild
& 3 guest beers & 2 Lagers
PLUS - the worlds strongest Ale EKK
+ many foreign & bottled beers

Each of your party receives
THE FIRST PINT ON THE HOUSE!

**The
Cemetery
Hotel**

**BURY ROAD
ROCHDALE
TEL: (0706) 43214**

UNSPOILT BY PROGRESS