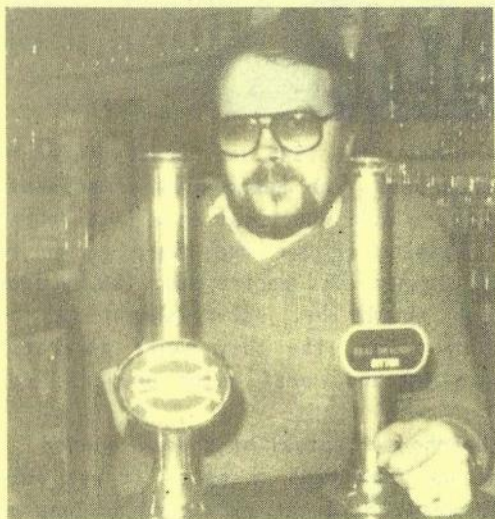


# WHAT'S DOING



FEB  
1986

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

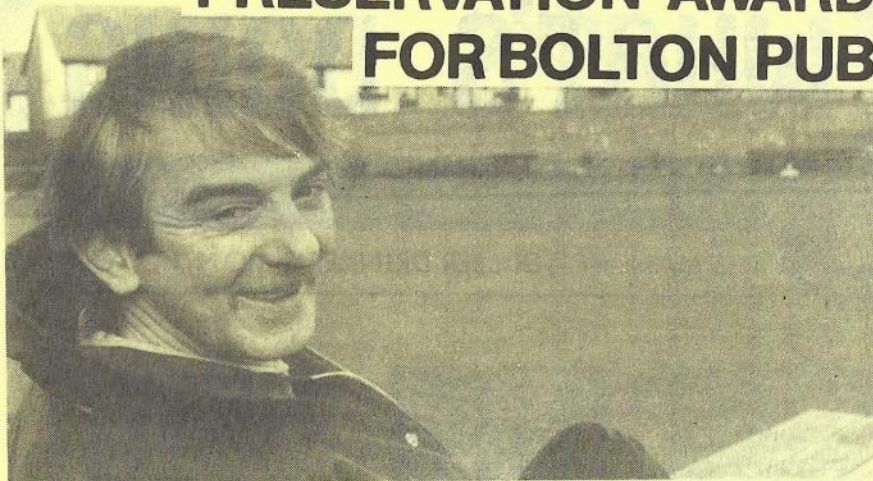


## NEW FREE HOUSE FOR BURY

The Rose and Crown on Manchester Old Road, Bury, is now a free house. Towards the end of last year Geoff Knight (above) bought the pub from Thwaites and in January he was selling Hydes, Boddingtons and Thwaites bitter and Thwaites mild on handpump. Geoff, who has many years experience in the trade, is firmly committed to the idea of a traditional pub selling real ale. There will be some gradual alterations to the Rose and Crown, including the opening up of the hitherto unused back room, but the character of this old local will be preserved (Geoff doesn't like juke boxes!) As trade builds up, other beers will be introduced - Mitchells is a likely candidate for the future. For many years the Rose & Crown has been a rather quiet back-street pub; its future looks promising and it is certainly well worth a visit.



# PRESERVATION AWARD FOR BOLTON PUB



The Howcroft in Bolton is the winner of the 1985 Joe Goodwin Award for the best refurbishment of an urban pub. The award will be presented in London on February 10th but there will doubtless be a local thrash later on. It is particularly pleasing to see the award go to the Howcroft rather than a more prestigious city centre pub. The Howcroft is everything which a good pub should be. Refurbishment has not altered the pub in any significant way, the only major alteration being the addition of a lean-to entrance area which prevents congestion round the bar.

The Howcroft was a back street beerhouse typical of those opened in the 1850s and 1860s except in one important respect. It was built alongside a bowling green which was already in existence as long ago as 1842. The bowling green, which has been enlarged and improved, is still a central feature of the Howcroft today.

It is two years since the licensee Denis Lund (above) and his wife Marion moved from the Raven in Wigan's Wallgate and their involvement has been as crucial as that of Peter Walker's architects in ensuring that the traditional nature of the pub was retained when the improvements were complete. Apart from the better access, the layout has not changed. There are three rooms - a lounge with bay-shaped seating areas, a games room and a snug as well as drinking space round the bar. The fireplaces have all been opened up and real fires are lit at this time of year.

The pub is decorated in Peter Walker's colours of gold, green and burgundy, which is somewhat overpowering in the lounge. A bar billiards table and bar skittles have replaced the pool table and darts, dominoes and cards are also played. A limited range of trad-

itional food is available at lunchtime and private functions are held on the bowling green. A raised patio will be added to the beer garden during 1986 and Denis intends to install a piano in the lounge so that singalongs as well as folk nights can take place.

The refurbishment has included cellar improvements. The cellar cooling ensures that the traditional handpumped beers are always in excellent condition. Walkers mild is 68p and Walkers Best Bitter 70p.

The Howcroft has succeeded as a pub for 125 years. The improvements made by the brewery which have resulted in the Joe Goodwin Award demonstrate a faith and an investment which should ensure its success for a further 125.

Roger Hall,

Greater Manchester Pub Preservation Officer

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### WALKERS DROPS IN ON MONTON

Walkers Best Bitter is due to make an appearance at the Drop Inn, Eccles' latest real ale outlet on Monton Road.

This former wine bar has been extensively and tastefully converted and now has a comfortable pub-like atmosphere. A smart front lounge and bar area lead through to a pool and darts room at the rear, finished in quality brick and substantial wooden beams.

Handpumped Tetley mild and bitter (70p) compliment the best selling Boddingtons bitter at 60p a pint. In fact, Walkers Best has already been on offer at only 50p a pint, but curiously didn't sell as well as might be expected. It was removed before Christmas, as owner John Edington explained, to free all the lines for the faster selling brands.

When it returns, Walkers best will sell at 60p. Let's hope that Monton drinkers and others are appreciative enough to ensure that this time it succeeds as it deserves, adding to the choice of beers available in the Eccles and Swinton area.



# TIME, MAGISTRATES, PLEASE!

In 1985 most districts of Greater Manchester were granted permission for pubs to remain open until 11pm from Monday to Thursday. However, a large central area comprising Manchester, Salford, Eccles and Trafford licensing benches was excluded.

The Manchester and Salford and District Licensed Victuallers Association has applied for an extension of permitted hours in Manchester, Salford and Eccles and CAMRA will be supporting the applications. The thrust of CAMRA's argument is as follows.

1 Greater Manchester is the only major city in Great Britain where some pubs must shut at 10.30pm and others at 11pm.

2 The present situation with some areas closing at 10.30 and some at 11pm is inconsistent and irrational. In fringe areas it leads to customers crossing the border for the last half hour.

3 There is considerable public demand among customers for 11pm closing throughout Greater Manchester.

4 11pm closing would provide a much needed service for cinema and theatre patrons.

5 The more relaxed licensing hours in Scotland have been beneficial to the style of drinking in Scotland's pubs. The licensing trade and the public are happy with the new law.

6 11pm closing in other areas of Greater Manchester has been successful. There has been no increase in drink-related crime and a more relaxed atmosphere in the pubs.

7 Pubs should be run for the convenience of the customer rather than the brewery or the licensee.

In Trafford, CAMRA itself will be submitting an application for the increase in permitted hours. The licensing hearings are on February 6th (Manchester), 7th (Eccles), 11th (Salford) and 12th (Trafford). The results will be published in March What's Doing.

Roger Hall

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\* 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") \*

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\* to Roger Hall, address above. \*

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\* St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW. \*

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### BIG BRINSOP

The owners of the Brinsop Arms, the well known free house on Chorley Road (A6), Blackrod, have been granted planning permission for a 16 bedroom extension and conference suite, subject only to the provision of additional car parking space. The decision, by Westhoughton Town Council, is subject to ratification by Bolton Borough Council, but no problems are expected.

### HONEY STREET QUEENS

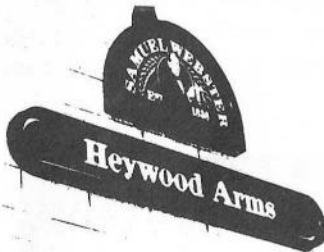
Work has recommenced on the Queens, a former Tetley pub on Honey Street, Red Bank, Manchester. Planning applications indicate that it will operate once again as a pub if and when it reopens.

### BROWN ALE

Matthew Brown are producing a limited edition of 103,000 bottles of a special beer to celebrate their victory over Scottish & Newcastle.

### MILES PLATTING SAMS

The Heywood Arms on Oldham Road is Manchester's first Samuel Webster's house. Despite its proximity to Wilsons brewery, only Websters bitter (handpumped) is sold. The revamped pub, with its expensive signs and plush fittings, looks upmarket, but a quick visit will prove that looks are only superficial in Miles Plating.



### MILD LOSS

After only a few months, traditional mild has been removed from the Crown & Kettle in Manchester. The pub was renovated and reopened last September.

### SHADY DEAL?

The "pub that Barry built", the Shady Oak at Bramhall, a free house built by its landlord Barry Sullivan, has been sold to Tetleys for an undisclosed sum. Already Tetleys have installed their mild and bitter together with Ind Coope Burton Ale, Jennings and Walkers in place of the Theakstons and Taylors. By mid-January the only non-Allied beer available was Thwaites bitter. Though the sale was unexpected, the purchaser should not be too much of a surprise as it was Tetleys who sold Barry the land in the first place. Barry hopes to stay in the trade by opening an off-licence in the area.

### STRANGWAYS LOCK-UP

The Mechanics Arms, a keg Tetley pub on Sherborne Street, Strangeways, is boarded up, waiting perhaps for a budding entrepreneur to rescue it from oblivion.

## FANCY THAT!

**JIM Scanlon of Northolt in Middlesex, has taken over as the new national chairman of CAMRA. He was elected un-**

**What's Brewing**

**At the recent 'CAMRA' Xmas Social at the Game Cock in Ashton-under-Lyne, it was announced that the Chairman of CAMRA Mr. Tony Millns will be stepping down and replaced by Paul Carter.'**

**Bolton Boozer**

## NEW GROVE

Burtonwood have at long last completed work on the Grove in Blackley, which they acquired from Wilsons. The alterations have made better use of the available space in what is essentially cottage property. The pub is hardwood floored throughout with a vault area at one end and a lounge area around the bar, giving the impression of what might be themed as an alehouse with a larger brewery. Basic but comfortable, with improved toilets, the Grove still serves a good pint of hand-pumped mild and bitter.



## 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.Toylors and Old Mill Bulldog to name but a few.  
Spell binding Pendle Witch (0.01050) is our latest guest.  
The "Upstairs" is now open for parties/trips -  
your choice of food & favourite tibble provided - if we can.  
So why not look in and give us a try !!*

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



# CITY DESK

edited by Peter o'Grady

Popular landlord Peter Gibbs at the Wheatsheaf, Oak Street, City Centre, reports "extremely healthy" sales of Jennings bitter (see Jan WD and Letters). An interesting point is that the Jennings sales are additional business - Tetley bitter and mild sales continue unabated. All the beers are extremely well kept in this Good Beer Guide pub and we can reveal that a bar billiards table is expected before the end of January.

\* \* \* \* \*

Stories abound concerning the impending refurbishment of the Town Hall Tavern, Tib Lane. Bass, who recently retrieved the pub from recalcitrant tenants (or absentee landlords?), plan a programme of improvements. Apart from living accommodation for the new licensee, the plan provides for a smart first floor bar to replace the former "chip shop" and the whole of the ground floor bar will be improved. Work is believed to be starting in March. Best of all, it is strongly rumoured that Stones bitter and 4X mild will appear on handpump to join the well-kept draught Bass.

\* \* \* \* \*

The licence application for the former Portico Library, Mosley Street, will be heard at the February sessions. It is inconceivable that Tetleys will call the pub (previously occupied by Lloyds) "Banks's".

\* \* \* \* \*

The best pub in Manchester not in the current Good Beer Guide - the City Arms, Kennedy Street - should soon be a worthy contender. Beer engines are on order for the Tetley bitter and mild and these will join Walkers and Burton bitter (always in cracking form).

Licensees Derek and Mavis Dearden have a proven track record of service to Manchester beer drinkers, having also been licensees of the Garrick, Fountain Street (no longer there), the Golden Lion (now the Manor House), Withington, the Britons Protection, the Bee Hive, Swinton.

During the summer(?) of 1985 the Deardens created a beer garden in the old back yard of the City and actually had the Lord Mayor of Manchester perform the opening ceremony (a good do it was, too!)

Their son, Steven, has recently been the licensee of the Rock Inn, Hyde Road, near Belle Vue.

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## TOP CAT TETS TOPPED

The Top Cat Tavern, Corporation Street, central Manchester, has had the two handpumps removed and the Tetley beers remain as always - gassy. Why the pumps were ever installed is a mystery; it is doubtful they were ever used. So the nearest pubs for real Tetleys are up Withy Grove to Shudehill and the Hare and Hounds and the new Smithfields.

# NOW & THEN

by ROB MAGEE

MINERS ARMS  
42 GEORGE ST.,  
OLDHAM



In the summer of 1844, ex-coller James Savage went to the local Excise office, bought a licence for two guineas and turned two former cottages in George Street into a beerhouse. He called it, naturally, the Miners Arms, and it was to stay in his family for the next 115 years. After his death, his widow Jane became landlady (from around 1865-71). It was a homebrew pub, and in 1873, when their son Roger was in charge, a new brewhouse was built at the rear. Roger's brother-in-law, Abraham Gartside, took over in 1880 until 1893, when he sold out to the local Jowett & Waterhouse brewery, then situated at the rear of the Snipe Inn in an area called Dan Fold. Abraham's wife took over in 1893, and three years later Wilsons Brewery appeared on the scene, having taken over Jowett & Waterhouse and their 49 pubs (about half of them beerhouses). Wilsons demolished the old cottages and built the pub as it stands today (completed 1898) - quite an improvement if you

compare the photographs! The licence passed to the Gartside's sons, James (1898-1908) and George (1908-28) and then George's wife Ann (1928-35). In 1935 Anne's son in law, William H Halford, took over and in March 1950 he obtained a licence to sell wine as well as beer. The last of the Gartside's was Thomas Arrandale





(1951-59), grandson of Abraham. Thomas obtained the full licence for the Miners Arms on 10th February 1955. This was transferred from the Volunteer Inn (formerly Commercial Inn) across the road, which closed the same day and later that year was turned into Oldham's first Chinese chip shop.

Today the Miners is run by Arthur and Kath Lovell, who have been building up a busy trade since moving in last Autumn. I've been told their Christmas party was second to none! Arthur sells Wilsons hand-pumped bitter at 71p a pint and if sales of mild improve he hopes to replace the keg variety with cask.

(The photos show the Miners in the 1950s and the 1890s)

\*\*\*\*\*



### JENNINGS

Sir - Jennings bitter is still on sale at the Wheatsheaf (Tetley) on Oak Street, Manchester 4, and it is to be hoped that I am not the only one who is drinking it. This darkish, malty bitter is on good form (so there may be a few more trying it). The problem at the Wheatsheaf (and at very many

pubs) is that there is no advertising and customers ordering bitter are not asked "Which bitter?" It is because of this lack of promotion that newly introduced traditional beers are withdrawn from many pubs - and this is more disappointing in pubs which deal mainly in non-traditional tank and keg rubbish.

If Jennings is successful at the Wheatsheaf it will mean more choice in the city and perhaps other Tetley outlets will be prompted to give the beer a try. But new beers should be pushed to survive; it riled me to see all the unnecessary advertising of Fosters Lager (Acid Rain) in Wilsons outlets. There were paper flags by the mile advertising this fizz, not only inside but outside the pubs as well. There seemed to be more flags than on VE Day. I only got to know about Jennings at the Wheatsheaf through What's Doing.

Leo King

### MOSLEY COMMON

Sir - A word about the Yew Tree, Mosley Common, a pub "neglected by local CAMRA people" (Jan WD). For the uninitiated, Mosley Common is a little village in the middle of nowhere, with a poor bus service. To compare it to the Unicorn, a thriving Bass house in the centre of Manchester, is a totally pointless exercise and an injustice to "local CAMRA people".

Dave White, Wigan Branch of CAMRA

## WHAT'S DOING IN WIGAN AND DISTRICT

The Lych Gate, a Good Beer Guide Wilsons pub in Church Street, Standish, is now selling handpumped Websters Yorkshire Bitter alongside Original mild and bitter.

Also in Standish, Tetley bitter is having a trial run in the Dog and Partridge, School Lane. Unfortunately, this is at the expense of, rather than as well as, Walker Best Bitter, which is very popular here. What are Tetley trying to prove?

The Prince William Inn, Dalton, is about to undergo a major facelift. The landlord of this GBG-listed Burtonwood pub assures our correspondent that cask beers will remain, but is hoping to install handpumps. Maybe he'll get them from the Beacon Inn, just down the road. The mild here is keg, despite a pump-clip to the contrary. And we thought Burtonwood had stopped such chicanery!

The Crown free house, Bradley village, has a confusing pricing policy. Theakstons XB, with an o.g. of 1045, is good value at 74p a pint. But the weaker Taylors Landlord (o.g. 1042) is 4p dearer, while draught Bass (o.g. 1044) weighs in at a whopping 81p a pint. Figure it out for yourself...

Hindley lost its last cask Greenalls outlet recently in the Hand & Heart, Market Street. The pub is usually pretty dead. Greenalls also lose their 100% real ale record in Leigh. The Brooklands, an out-of-the-way pub on Pennington estate, went on to the fizzy stuff before Christmas.

The Imperial, Manchester Road, Higher Ince, has reopened, selling keg Tetley products. In its patchy history, th'Imp once boasted the only keg Walkers bitter in Christendom. Fortunately, the Engineers Arms at nearby Ince Bar still serves an excellent pint of Tetley bitter and mild.

The Guardians, Frog Lane, Wigan, no longer sells real ale. This is another of those Whitbread houses where the Trophy bitter has zero promotion and similar turnover.

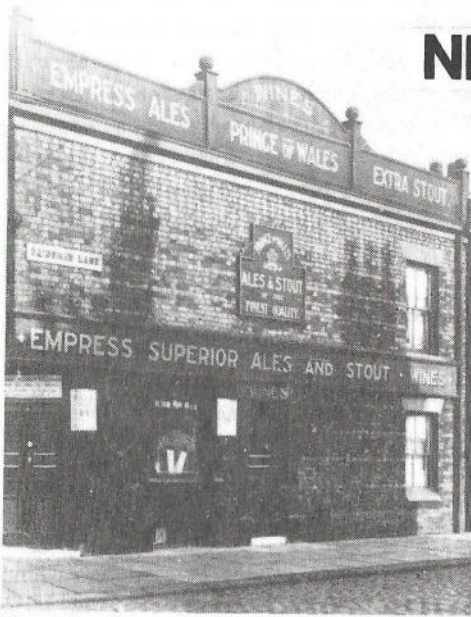
Contrary to reports in the local press, the Underground (formerly Jasper's), King Street, Wigan, does not sell traditional Thwaites beers. A New Year's Day visit revealed a decidedly keg product of lip-numbing coldness.

Matthew Brown re-opened the Bird i'th'Hand, Gathurst Road, Orrell, recently, re-naming it the Kingfisher. Alas, the brewery did not increase cask Lion outlets in Wigan Metro by 100%, as keg beer remains.

The Saracens Head, Wigan Lane, Wigan, closed for good on 8th January. This former cask Whitbread pub is the last casualty of the ring road. Now for the good news. The public bar of the Cranberry Hotel, Wigan Road, Landgate, is now selling handpumped John Smiths bitter.



# NEWTON HEATH



The "Deadhouse" 50 years ago

Newton is an old township which at one time included part of Stockport Road (Newton detached). It might be imagined that the earliest pubs would have been around the Church in the old village, yet licensing records suggest that this was not the case. At the beginning of the seventeenth century there were three alehouses in an area which also included Bradford and Mon-sall. In 1772, when the records first named the alehouses, there were three - The Dog & Sheares, the Three Crowns and the Anchor.

The Shears and the Three Crowns survived well into the second half of this century and were both on Oldham Road. It seems likely that the Anchor was in the same area. The name is puzzling, as the pub predated the canal by several years. Perhaps the Anchor was a temporary name for the Black Horse, another Oldham Road pub, the licence of which dated back to 1731.

An 1825 directory shows that there were at that time 7 alehouses in the township, including the Bay Horse at Clayton Bridge. The Church Inn had opened some five years earlier on Droylsden Road in Newton village. The other five pubs were on Oldham Road. The Shears, the Three Crowns, the Dog & Partridge, the Woodman and the Kings Arms. The licensee of the Kings Arms was Widow Houlton, presumably a member of the same family from whom William Thomas Rothwell bought the somewhat run-down Heath Brewery in the early 1870's.

There is one further entry in the 1825 directory of some interest. William Hooley is described as a Wholesale Brewer in the village. This ties in with an 1818 Rate Book which mentions a mill and brewery on Old Church Street, west of the canal, belonging to Arthur Holt. This early brewery was also known as Beswick's Brewery and later as the Victoria Brewery.

The 1830 Beerhouse Act led to a proliferation of beerhouses all over the country. Newton Heath was no exception and by 1873 there were 59 beer retailers and 12 public houses in the township. Despite the growth of both Rothwells and Wilsons breweries some pubs continued to



brew their own beer. In the 1871 census Joseph Harmer of the Church Inn on Droylsden Road is described as an Innkeeper and Brewer. Nevertheless, Newton Heath is still dominated today by pubs owned by Wilsons and Marstons, who took over Rothwell's Heath Brewery in 1961.

Newton Heath has suffered a loss of pubs and beerhouses on a scale similar to Salford, Oldham and other towns which were once crammed with terraced houses. There are now only 18 pubs in the area compared with 71 a hundred years ago. Many of the losses are recent. Names like the Burns Tavern, the Cloggers, the Woodman and the Shears will be familiar to many people, but there are many more names which people may not remember of pubs which disappeared many years ago - Turf Tavern, Peel Inn, Birmingham Tavern, Masons Arms, Toll Bar Inn, Shakespeare and the strangely-named Pedestrian Tavern.



Pubs have been demolished, mainly on Oldham Road where there were at one time 27, but also from the side streets and terraces of the old village.

Today traditional beer is available from 6 different breweries in 15 of the area's 19 pubs. The beer in all the pubs is of

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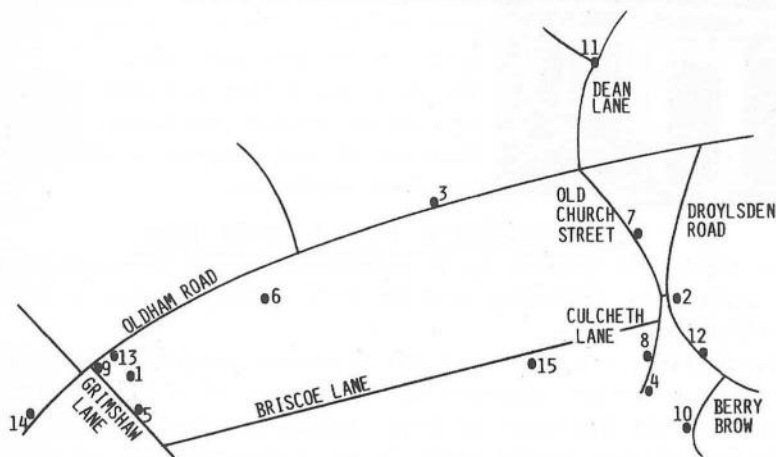
(The photos on this page show the Swan, Robin Hood, Railway and Copenhagen.)





good quality but two pubs deserve particular mention. The Prince of Wales is Wilson's brewery tap and is a tiny pub of tremendous and unique character. Only the front vault of "The Deadhouse" is used and the tiny room holds a dozen or so people. Mild is no longer on sale but the bitter is excellent and the cheapest Wilsons for miles. The Railway on Dean Lane is a monolithic Holts emporium with some of the best etched windows in Manchester. The Railway, along with the Church, appears in the 1986 Good Beer Guide.

### REAL ALE IN NEWTON HEATH



- 1 Britannia, Robert St, Tetley MB(H)
- 2 Church, Droylsden Rd, Holts MB(E)
- 3 Copenhagen, Oldham Rd, Wilsons MB(H)
- 4 Culcheth Gates, Culcheth La, Wilsons MB(H)
- 5 Gibraltar, Grimshaw La, Wilsons MB(H)
- 6 Grosvenor, Eldridge Drive, Lees MB(E)
- 7 New Crown, Old Church St, Marstons MB(E)
- 8 Newton House, Culcheth La, Marstons MBOR(H)
- 9 Prince of Wales, Oldham Rd, Wilsons B(H)
- 10 Railway, Berry Brow, Boddies MB(H)
- 11 Railway, Dean La, Holts MB(E)
- 12 Robin Hood, Droylsden Rd, Marstons MB(H)
- 13 Royal Oak, Oldham Rd, Wilsons MB(H)
- 14 Swan, Oldham Rd, Wilsons MB(H)
- 15 Grenadier, Briscoe La, Wilsons MB(H)

#### Not Real Ale

Bull (Whitbread), Briscoe Lane  
 Horseshoe (Bass), Droylsden Road  
 White Lion (Tetley), Old Church Street  
 Bay Horse (Tetley), Berry Brow



Britannia, 50 years ago



### JOHN WILLIE'S TRAVELS

The Grenadier, the former Wilsons house on Oldham Street in Manchester city centre, has reopened after a lengthy period of closure. The pub, now renamed Gullivers, was sold to John Willie Lees and has become that brewery's third central Manchester tied house.

Notwithstanding the length of time it has been closed, Lees don't appear to have done an awful lot to the pub, which was gutted by Wilsons years ago.

The mild and bitter are cask conditioned and served through handpumps, and on the occasion of our reporter's visit were in excellent condition.

### MANCHESTER'S FIRST JUKE BOX?

If you think the jukebox is a relatively recent nuisance in pubs, think again. The following article from a 1907 Manchester Guardian will enlighten...

"A curious point was raised at the licensing sessions yesterday. The Corporation solicitor objected to the renewal of a licence to James Whitehead of the Old House at Home, Ashton Old Road, on the grounds that he had allowed public music in an unlicensed room on a Sunday. A police inspector had visited the premises and found music being played on a piano in the bar parlour. He cautioned the licensee and playing was stopped for the night. The piano was played by electricity and was set in motion by the putting of a penny in a slot. The piano played selections from "The Belle of New York", a comic opera. The Chairman of the licensing bench observed that the electric piano may be a nuisance to other people. Putting a penny in the slot starts the piano, and other people had to put up with it whether they liked it or not. On the other hand, if a gentleman came in and played a penny whistle through his nose...someone can always throw him out!"

### NEW SALFORD PUBS

Work has started in Regent Road to build the new Wellington next to the existing pub. Further down the road, the Old Veteran near Langworthy Road is making some progress towards completion.

### PIG'S EAR?

Holts have applied for permission to build a public house on Silk Street in Salford. Can they succeed where dereliction is the norm and where Tetleys failed with the Hyde Park Corner?



# DON'T PASS THE ROEBUCK

The Roebuck in Strinesdale, Saddleworth, a former free house selling Matthew Brown beers has been bought by the Walters family from North Manchester with a little help from Boddingtons.



Mary Walters, her husband Peter, son John, daughter Sue and son-in-law Des Pritchard have all moved into this isolated moorland pub. Peter is the only family member with no pub experience but has ploughed his redundancy money from Thomson house into the business. Mary has worked as a barmaid in Manchester for the last 18 years at the Swan with Two Necks, the Douglas and, most recently, the Hare & Hounds on Shudehill. Des, the licensee, was a waiter at the Midland Hotel. When he was made redundant, he applied to Boddingtons and after training at the Bridgewater, he and his wife Sue managed the Three Arrows at Heaton Park. Both Sue and her brother John have been trained in catering.

The Roebuck is now selling the beers it was selling some six years ago - Oldham mild and bitter and Boddingtons bitter (allhandpumped). Since the pub changed hands on 6th December it has been opening at 5.00pm instead of 7.00pm. There is a separate restaurant room at the rear and a wide range of bar snacks and meals is served at both lunchtime and evening. The food is home-made from fresh ingredients and is well prepared and most appetising. The new owners plan to put greater emphasis on facilities for children and will be extending and improving the beer garden and play area when the weather improves. With their enthusiasm and experience the Walters and the Pritchards deserve to succeed.

The Roebuck is on Brighton Road, Strinesdale. It is advisable to book if you're thinking of dining at weekends.

# FAIR SHARES

Matthew Brown live to brew another day and Scottish & Newcastle lick their wounds whilst looking for another brewery to mop up (for its pubs rather than its brewing capacity). Not too many years ago Allied Breweries thought they would make a meal out of Boddingtons, who at the time were enjoying a popularity similar to that of Holts and Hydes now. Fortunately (for the consumer) Allied had not reckoned with the typical Boddingtons shareholder. Unlike most shareholders (then and now), these folk were more interested in Boddingtons and its beers than in making a fast buck.

Most shares are owned by individuals or groups whose main interest in them is the income that shares provide, and who care rather less for the company, its products and the security of its employees. I understand that a large proportion of Boddingtons shares were, untypically, owned by Boddingtons customers, tenants and employees. Hence Allied's distinct failure to acquire a controlling interest.

There is no mystique about share ownership nor any great difficulty in obtaining them. If your favourite brewery is a Public Limited Company (PLC), then you may buy shares in it. The easiest way (and usually the cheapest in terms of handling fees) is simply to write to your bank, explaining which brewery's shares you want to buy and how much you want to spend.

Several small breweries have been lost in recent years. Greater Manchester's public have more to lose than consumers in other areas.

There is nothing to prevent brewery employees, tenants, social clubs, pub sports teams and customers either as groups or as individuals obtaining shares in their local brewery.

## JOSEPH HOLT LIMITED

(INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACTS 1908 TO 1917)

This is to Certify that *is/are the Registered*  
*Holder(s) of*  
*fully paid Ordinary Shares of 25p each in Joseph Holt Limited, subject to the Memorandum*  
*and Articles of Association of the Company.*

*GIVEN under the Common Seal of the Company*  
*this ..... day of April 19.....*

It needs only an additional 2% of shares in sympathetic hands to prevent a predator's potential 49% acquisition becoming a controlling 51%. Remember, your shareholding may ultimately prevent a takeover, thus maintaining the choice of beers you drink and probably saving jobs as well.

I D Roberts





The "fat bum" libel case has certainly put the frighteners on Nora Tackler once and for all. I have received from her a nicely typed letter with few spelling mistakes. In rejecting my contribution to Manky Ale, she says that it is "superfaecal peurile drivle" but, reading between the lines, I can see she is fearful lest "big bum" epithets should be applied to others. Attempts to assure her that her fears are groundless have fallen on stony ground. Mind you, I'm not alone in receiving an orange rejection slip from Manky Ale. Guess who got 7 for his highly Mogadonic series "What we did on our hols at the Taffy singing do"?

Not everybody is giving Manky Ale the support they threatened. Smarmford and Slutch has all the signs of a branch about to fold up and the Scotton and Fartworth boys have started their own magazine - Pee Break - masterminded by Kurt Berks. It's really very good - the first issue missed out only 6 of the 8 hostelries selling XXXXXXXX strong ale and got the new supreme boss-person of CAMRA wrong.

All of this augurs badly for Bert Tackler, who, in a momentary vino veritas lapse, let slip his embryonic plans for world domination. The early parts of the scheme involve taking over What's Doing from a panic-stricken Mr Nestfeather and his bum-sucking acolyte Royal Hall and supplanting the sartorially inelegant Ben Chestnut as regional mandarin. I fear that if he is to achieve these ambitions he must take his wife in hand to improve his mouthpiece.

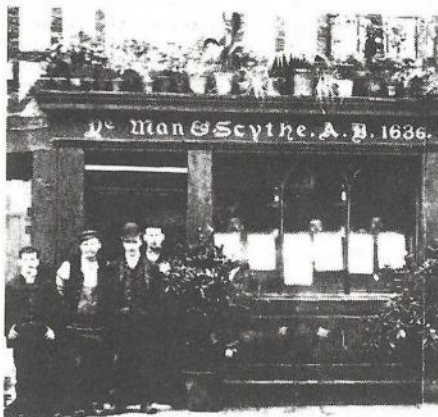
Bert's done his best to stamp out this feeble organ by telling people that What's Doing was disappearing to be replaced by Manky Ale. Nevertheless, contraband copies have been smuggled out of Slumley Parva to be sold in nether regions. Even Stan Craap's friend Olly is selling them in the Iron Horse alongside his illicit Pendle Witch. Bert must ensure that What's Doing does not escape from Slumley if progress towards global subjugation is to continue. Successful monomaniacs wouldn't allow such a small matter to stand in their way. To be fair, he's really tried hard in places. He's ordered some hostelries not to give Kurt's Pee Break away unless the punter buys a Manky Ale. It's not done much for sales but it's really got up the noses of the Scotton branch.

I had hoped to bring a report on Ancoats' only Tibetan restaurant

which we visited after the abortive party to say bye bye to Alf and Doris at the Rat & Handbag. Unfortunately, Steve Scousa, thinking he was in Peruvia, ordered a Dhal Llama and we were forced to leave quickly, stuffing doggy bags of Kangin-Ra Lhasa into our handbags.

**RUMOUR DENIAL:** The Chairperson of the Laurel & Hardy branch has not run off with the wife of the de facto secretary. He has not jacked in his chairpersonship and mass elections are not being held either now or in the immediate future.

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### TRADITIONAL BEER FOR BOLTON'S CIDER PUB?

Bolton's famous Man & Scythe on Churchgate is to see some changes in the near future. The pub, which sells keg Whitbread beers but traditional cider, is to revert from being a managed house to a tenancy. The new landlord, John Woods, intends to introduce cask conditioned ale, probably Castle Eden, when redecoration of the old pub and necessary cellarwork are complete.

### £88,000 ARMS DEAL

Little Hulton, part of Worsley, seldom makes the news with its pubs, so it is refreshing to comment on one of the real ale outlets in the area. Just in time for Christmas, the Kenyon Arms reopened after seven weeks of alterations. Scottish & Newcastle have spent £88,000 on improvements, and it certainly shows.

What was once the Best Room (concert room) is now a vault (two pool tables, etc) and what was the vault at the front of the building is now a very comfortable and plush lounge with a hint of 1930's decor. Pastel colours and artificial greenery now make the Kenyon Arms the best pub in Little Hulton.

The Kenyon sold 70/- real ale before the improvements and now hand-pumped No.3 is on sale as well (74p and 76p a pint respectively). For those who must have German lager, there's Becks at £1 a pint.

(The North Manchester branch of CAMRA will be holding a meeting at the Kenyon around April - check Branch Diary for details - all welcome.)

**Contributors:** Leo King, Roger Hall, Jim Davies, Steve Scousa, Stewart Revell, Pete Cash, Dave White



## BEYOND A JOKE

"We're giving the people of Tottington what they really want," say Pennine Joke. "The whole image of the pub might change again in three years," say Pennine Joke. The pub in question is the Printers Arms, once an excellent local with a well-regarded restaurant. But now the place has been gutted (in the full sense of the word) and turned into a Pennine Joke "Sports" emporium - only the shell of the old building remains.

You may as well be in the Woodman in Salford, and in fact the licensee told the Bury Times, "It's what you go to the city for, right here in the centre of Tottington". People who live in Tottington presumably chose to do so for very good reasons - not least that they would be well away from the vulgar amusements of the metropolis.

Pennine Joke's conversion is an affront to the old pub. All the "Sports" paraphernalia are there (including a video quiz machine for patrons with more money than sense). It is to be hoped that when Pennine Joke come to knock the place about in three years time, Tottington's planning committee will have gained a modicum of sense.

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### WHAT'S DOING ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page £25.00 for 1 insertion: £20.00 per month for six insertions  
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Advertising enquiries to Phil Pearson, 16 York Street, Atherton,  
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## **Branch Diary**

### NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 12 Feb ASH Crawl of Broughton. 7.30 Albert Park, Gt Clowes St. 8.30 Star, 9.30 Horseshoe, Back Hope Street.

Wed 19 Feb White Swan, Swinton, 8pm. Speaker from Holts

Thurs 20 Feb Social with Stockport & South Manchester Branch. Britannia (Lees), Rowsley Street, Beswick, 8pm.

Wed 26 Feb Bolton Crawl. George, Great Moor Street, 8pm

Wed 5 Mar Crawl of GBG central Manchester pubs. Marble Arch 7pm, Unicorn 8pm

Wed 12 March Committee/Social, Railway, Dean Lane, Newton Heath 8pm

Wed 19 March, Bridge, Fairfield Street, Manchester 8pm

Contact Roger Hall 740 7937

### WIGAN

Wed 19 Feb AGM, Bowling Green, Wigan Lane, Wigan. All members welcome. 8pm

Contact Dave White Wigan 37389 (h) Padgate 826515 x303 (w)

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