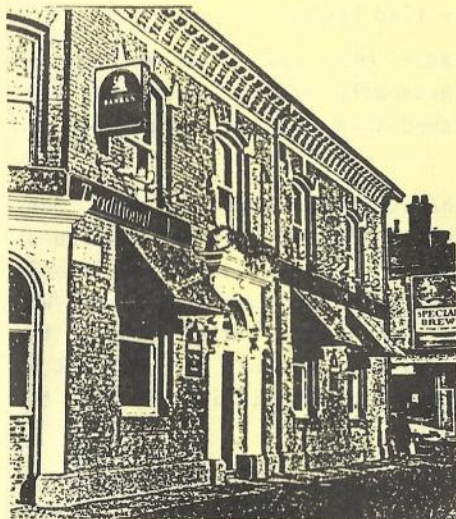


WHAT'S DOING



DEC
1986

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



BANKS'S IN MANCHESTER

The Gransmoor on Ashton Old Road reopened on 26th November after a £125,000 refurbishment. The original young persons' image backfired and the Gransmoor has now a more traditional Edwardian image. On 11th December two other Banks's pubs will be opening. At noon the Albert in Whitefield, a former Whitbread pub, opens after refurbishment, and in the evening the Sparking

Clog on Radcliffe Moor Road in Radcliffe will be open. £750,000 has been spent on building what Banks's promise is a traditional Lancashire pub.

Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries see themselves as fiercely independent and aggressive and take great pride in the technical excellence of their beers, using only the best of traditional ingredients and using only traditional methods of production. They have their own floor maltings, their own borehole for water and maintain a 12 month stock of hops (Fuggles and Goldings) to ensure consistency.

Fermentation is carried out in 15 feet deep, 125-barrel vessels and cask beer is dry hopped, fined and primed at the brewery. Kegging and bottling is carried out at the brewery but there is no lager production; W&D find it cheaper and more convenient to buy from Harp and invest their own money in the brewing of traditional beers and in their tied estate.

There are no depots for the beer. All deliveries are made direct from the brewery and W&D see their trading area as anywhere within two hours by dray. It now includes both Bristol and Manchester and covers 17.5m people or $\frac{1}{3}$ of the UK market.

Advertising of W&D's products started in 1977 with the "Milestone" campaign, followed by the "Unspoilt by Progress" campaign in 1981. Brand differentiation was emphasised and in 1985 Hansons Black Country Bitter was introduced to augment the range of beers. W&D see their marketing advantages as better products at reasonable prices, more comfortable surroundings and a better standard of service than their competitors. They also place great store by full measure, insisting on metered dispense systems in all their tied houses.

Banks's moved into Manchester because they saw it as an area of intense competition but with a generally poor standard of pub. Initially they bought pubs in depressed areas but are now moving into the better areas of Manchester.

Banks's pricing policy varies deliberately from area to area. Some Midlands pubs serve mild at only 64p, whilst in upmarket Collyhurst it's 69p and doubtless more expensive in posher areas. Lager is only 20% of bulk beer sales, compared to a national average of 47%. W&D attribute this to the excellence of their beers rather than to the fact that they have no lager plant. Keg beer accounts for only 10% of their production and the greatest proportion of this is sold into the free trade.



Banks's plan an advertising campaign for Manchester but one disturbing aspect of their marketing ideas is their total opposition to handpumps. Most CAMRA members would recognise the advantage of metered dispense systems, but marketing concerns people's perceptions of reality rather than reality itself. In the North West handpumps are associated with traditional beer, meters with fizz. It took Boddingtons, Holts, Tetleys, Greenalls, Whitbread and the rest an age to realise this, but now the message has got through. I'm afraid that if Banks's really do want to succeed up here they'll have to concede to beer engines or else make their point of sale information somewhat more prominent. Let's hope that their aggressive stance will shake some of the indigenous brewers out of their complacency and get them to spend a few bob sensibly on their own tied estates.

Roger Hall

(Based on a talk given by Adrian Willis, Marketing Manager, Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, on 19th November 1986)

CITY DESK

PETER O'GRADY



SUPER CITY

The magnificent refurbishment of the CITY ARMS, Kennedy Street, is now complete. Congratulations to Derek and Mavis Dearden and Tetley-Walker for a job well done. Tetley bitter and mild, Walkers Best Bitter, Ind Coope Burton Ale and Jennings bitter are all on handpump.

NEW GARRETT

The OLD GARRETT, Granby Row/Princess Street, is undergoing major refurbishment at the moment. Wouldn't it be wonderful if Boddingtons used the opportunity to display the full range of the group's draught beers at this city centre outlet, close to the University, in re-opening? Let's hope Boddies make this dream come true!

BST

Chef and Brewer's BRIDGE STREET TAVERN (formerly GOBLETS, formerly the PACK HORSE) on Bridge Street opened early in November. A tasteful pub, with good food and Wilsons bitter and Websters bitter on handpump.

THT

The Town Hall Tavern, Tib Lane, is due to reopen on December 17th. It is strongly rumoured that when the doors open we will find more than one draught beer on handpump. My hope is that these will be draught Bass, Stones bitter and 4X mild.

BODDY CHARGE

Some staff at the ROYAL CENTRAL HOTEL (Cox's Bar) appear to have difficulty in judging a full pint. Although they are quite happy to "top up", it is best to be wary. Who wants to pay 86p for $\frac{7}{8}$ of a pint?

BURTONISED

The WHEATSHEAF on Oak Street, scene of the NW launch of CAMRA'S 1987 Good Beer Guide, has added Ind Coope Burton Ale to its range (Tetley mild and bitter and Jennings bitter). "Burton" is also on sale at the Britons Protection, Great Bridgewater Street, and Smithfields, Shudehill.

REAL ROYAL?

The CAFE ROYAL, Peter Street, is to close for modernisation after Christmas. Some Berni Inns sell real ale - it would be great to add the Cafe Royal to the list.

BITS AND PIECES

The STAGE DOOR, Oxford Street, now sells fizzy Wilsons/Websters

instead of real Stones...The refurbishment of the CHURCHILL, Chorlton Street, is now complete and very nice it is too (so is the handpumped Greenalls bitter)...Handpumped Banks's bitter is now on sale at LANGTON'S WINE BAR, Great Bridgewater Street...Websters Yorkshire Bitter is to be tried yet again at the PEVERIL OF THE PEAK; will it last this time?...and so it goes...

Marston's

Roger Hall

(Based on a talk given to the North Manchester branch of CAMRA by Head Brewer Paul Bailey)

Marstons is still a traditional brewer and much of the beer is still brewed on the Burton Union system - a traditional method using wooden casks. Owd Rodger is brewed entirely this way and so is about 40% of the Pedigree. The Unions have distinct disadvantages; it is a complex system with problems of cleaning, control of fermentation and greater losses than conventional fermenting vessels. However, it does provide for yeast generation which could not be achieved in any other way. The Unions provide a guaranteed supply of the crumbly yeast which produces flavour, and which stands up to infection, although it does not form a head. Now that Bass have scrapped their Unions, the system is unique to Marstons.



Pedigree

Although 15% glucose syrup is used, there are no other adjuncts and only malted barley is used. Some breweries will take any type of barley and adjust by the use of enzymes; with conventional plant this is more difficult and it is important that the product has the right protein characteristics. There has been pressure on farmers to grow for yield rather than quality and there has been a vast increase in the number of new varieties which has led to problems of continuity of supply.

Similar problems have affected the supply of hops. The traditional varieties like Fuggles and Goldings have a well rounded, smooth bitterness which adds drinkability to the pint, but problems of disease have led to the development of new, stronger varieties which impart more bitterness but are lacking in aroma. Hop oils and extracts are not used at Marstons.

The proportion of cask conditioned beer brewed at Marstons has fallen since Border Brewery was closed. 90% of Border's beer was filtered and the move towards more cask beer is slow, depending as it does on the knowledge, skill and pride of the licensee. A tradition, once lost, is difficult to restore. Nevertheless, the pride in their products and a firm commitment to quality, which is evident in the company, should ensure the continuation of a successful formula both in the Marstons houses and, with a bit of luck, in the newly acquired Border houses. Marstons produce a wide range of cask beers and most of their Greater Manchester outlets serve real ale. There is some doubt about the authenticity of Merrie Monk - when asked whether this was Pedigree with added colour, Mr Bailey passed.



HANDPUMPS (1)

Last month the Britannia, King Street, Farnworth, went over to handpumps. The pub, which has regularly sold hand-pumped Chesters bitter for some time, now offers cask Chesters mild, bitter, Trophy and Castle Eden. All the keg dispensers have been removed with the exception of Whitbread Light. The Brit is a well run local and this conversion to cask beer deserves every success.

HANDPUMPS (2)

Greenalls have decided to improve the Narrow Boat (East Lancs Road, Swinton) and handpumps will be installed. The range of beers is not yet known.

NEW PUB FOR CHORLTON

Bass have applied to build a new pub at Orelton House, 175 Manchester Road, Chorlton cum Hardy, after the existing building has been demolished. Also in Chorlton, Tetley have plans to alter and extend Jacksons Boat on the river.

TOWN HALL

Gordon McTear, formerly of the New Inn, Stockport, has taken over as licensee of the Town Hall in Eccles. After major renovations costing £90,000 the pub will open on 16th December and will serve the full range of Wilsons and Websters cask beers: Wilsons mild & bitter, Websters bitter, Green Label and Choice. Real food and a real fire will complement the real ale.

KING'S ALE

LEO KING

The extension of the New York pub on Bloom Street, off Princess Street, Manchester 1, opened last month and is more like a posh cafe than a bar; drinks are sold only to diners. There appears to be no real ale here, although handpumped Wilsons bitter (no traditional mild) is on sale in the main pub and, as the beer mat states - What a liberty! It

costs 82p a pint. The only interesting thing about the place is the collection of photos of the old film stars in the "Star Bar" (in fact, the only bar). The New York has seen better days, much better days.



Further down Princess Street (or Abingdon Street), the New Union no longer has JBA (mock Almonds) bitter on sale. Demand was very poor, and this was blamed on the high price of the product. JBA is still available at the Bulls Head on London Road, where it retails at 82p a pint - 2p cheaper than it was at the New Union.

GREENGATE NEWS (The one in Salford 3)

The Old Shears has come to life yet again. The pub has been thoroughly cleaned, refurbished and nicely redecorated and it's the smartest I've seen it for many years. The decorative tiling in the passage has been retained and the Shears is a no-gimmick pub with the emphasis on comfort and sensibly-priced handpumped beers. The new landlord is a Salford man, Barry Johnson, and the beers are: Wilsons mild (66p), bitter (68p), Websters Green Label (67p) and Yorkshire Bitter (69p). Greengate has lost much of its old appeal by having been vandalised by (you've guessed it) another new road. So maybe the Old Shears can bring back some sparkle to the area.

The Eagle (Holts) on Collier Street, off Greengate, is being slightly modified and decorated throughout. The beer in Holts' smallest house is priced slightly above average for the brewery - bitter is 64p (62p in most outlets). But we mustn't grumble, as Boddingtons are asking 86p not too far away.

On two separate visits to the King William IV, Springfield Lane (across Greengate, opposite Collier Street), the Banks's bitter has tasted sour, probably due to slow sales. But the bitter it replaced (Holts) was always in fine fettle and a pleasure to drink.

The Three Legs of Man (Greengate) continues to survive - Great!

Robinsons Best Bitter is a reasonable 69p a pint, mild 67p. Old Tom is on handpump and appears to be on sale all the year round.

The Star (Chesters), Greengate, is one of those pubs I occasionally pop into and out of and yet don't have a drink. Guess why! As far as I can make out amidst the confusion of the roadworks, the Star still sports a large handpump on the sign outside, but within there is not a trace of real ale.

The Waterloo (formerly Wilsons), Greengate, closed for some years now, is narrowly missed by the new road. Can there be much more of Salford left to put a new road through?

To the Editor:

375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M27



LETTERS

BASS

Sir - So Bass have finally seen the light and are going to install real ale in several of their pubs. Great - or is it? I'm sure I'm not the only person who thinks that Stones Best Bitter - reportedly being test-brewed at Burton - is a pale imitation of that tangy ale from Sheffield. Are we seeing the launch of yet another bland "national" brew, like Boddingtons, Websters and now (God forbid) Leeds Tetleys? I hope I'm wrong!

Dave White

DISAPPOINTED

Sir - I recently visited the Church Inn in Pendleton, as recommended in CAMRA's 1987 Good Beer Guide. I was appalled to see that the hand-pulled Wilsons mild has been replaced by keg Websters Green Label. It is deplorable that the Yorkshire-based brewers should allow this to happen to a GBG pub and I would hope that the branch responsible for pub selection would bear this in mind when choosing future entries.

Xavier Newton-Heath

REAL ALE IN CENTRAL AND NORTH MANCHESTER

There are considerably more outlets in this month's real ale list than in December 1984/January 1985 when the lists were last printed. There is also more choice. The changes are accounted for by the growth of free houses, particularly wine bar type establishments in the city centre. Choice has expanded to include John Smiths, Banks's, Thwaites, Websters, Fullers, Jennings and Ind Coope. Chesters, Bass and Wilsons have all converted pubs from keg to cask during the last two years and only a couple of pubs have gone the other way. 70% of the pubs in Central and North Manchester now serve real ale, with some areas as high as 90%.

BASS CASK

Bass's commitment to cask conversions has already begun in earnest. In North Manchester and Salford three pubs had been converted by mid-November and a further six are planned shortly. This will bring the number on cask to 14 out of a total of 37, still a poor performance but a significant improvement on their previous abysmal record. The recent conversions are the Old Loom and the Thatched House in Moston and the Bridge in Lower Broughton. Further changes are expected to include the New Inn and the Horseshoe, Little Hulton; the Maypole in Pendleton, the Royal in Weaste, the Derby in Harpurhey and the Mowers Arms in Moston. A similar number of conversions is being carried out throughout the rest of Greater Manchester. Bass Technical Services tell us that the following pubs are due to receive handpumps (or additional handpumps):

Queen Ann, Shaw; Hope Inn, Stockport; Ring o'Bells, Castleton; The Downs, Altrincham; Moss Hotel, Hale; Fobs Wine Bar, Didsbury; Bowling Green, Chorlton; Ben Brierley, Moston; Hop Pole, Ashton-under-Lyne; Bulls Head, Bolton; Pegs Lantern, Ashton; Eight Bells, Failsworth; Derker, Oldham; Black Knight, Dukinfield; Nab Gate, Harwood; Corporation, Guide Bridge; Old David, Alkrington; New Nook, Ashton-u-Lyne.

One disturbing aspect of the conversions is the manner in which pubs have been selected. CAMRA's survey of all Bass pubs in Greater Manchester has revealed that the attitude of licensees towards cask beer varies considerably and that the pubs chosen are not necessarily those where the licensee is in favour. Although CAMRA applauds Bass's belated efforts to increase the availability of real ale, the success of the move must be questioned where the licensee is not strongly in favour of cask conditioned beer.

Roger Hall

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.

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WIGAN & DISTRICT

DAVE WHITE

Bass have reopened the Standard Mower on Chapel Street, Leigh. Real ale has been retained in the form of Stones Best Bitter (which replaces cask Bass) and 4X mild; and now they're dispensed by handpump instead of those confusing illuminated boxes. The interior of the Mower has changed, but remains tasteful.



Still in Leigh, a pedestrianisation scheme could mean the end of two pubs at the bottom of St Helens Road. They are the Woolpack (keg Tetleys) and the Royal Oak, (left) a superb old dive selling cask Greenalls beers. The latter would be a sad loss.

The Enfield Inn, Enfield Street, Pemberton, reopened recently, and now rejoices in the name of the New Enfield. It is now a rather unimaginative open-plan pub

with all the walls knocked in...but then the old Enfield was nothing to write home about. The only real ale is Wilsons bitter (76p a pint), the same as before, on handpumps.

Wilson's bitter is no longer on sale at the Haydock Park Post House, Warrington Road, Haydock. The range is now all keg. Meanwhile in Ince, the Park Hotel on Manchester Road has lost its traditional Wilson's bitter and is now all keg. The Park featured regularly in the GBG at one time.

On the other side of Ince, the Manley Hotel, off High Street, is up for sale. Bass reopened this gasworks only a few months ago. It had been shut for several years.

Higsons bitter is to be had at the Plough and Harrow, Ormskirk Road, Upholland. Trouble is, sales are so patchy that by the time you read this, the beer may have been withdrawn! The Plough & Harrow is the only known outlet in Wigan Metro selling real Higsons. Boddingtons mild and bitter remain.

The New Inn, Goose Green, is back on traditional Greenalls beers. The ale had tasted rather fizzy immediately after the pub reopened recently.

Still with Greenalls, the Flamingo Hotel, Scholes, runs a Happy Hour between 9:00pm and 10:00pm on Saturdays. This means 20p knocked off a pint, or just 56p for bitter. The beer's good and if you don't mind estate pubs, the Flamingo is worth a visit.

Walkers Best Bitter is on sale alongside Tetley bitter and mild at the Bellingham Hotel, Wigan Lane, Wigan.

Greenalls Original bitter is no longer on sale at Blairs, Wallgate, Wigan, and the rest of the range is keg, despite the advertisement for Real Ale. But then Blairs has never been much of an attraction.

Finally, as we go to press, the word is on the street that Greenalls are to blitz the interior of the Red Lion, Gerrard Street, Ashton-in-Makerfield, when landlord Ray Doyle leaves shortly. As every other pub in Ashton centre caters for the young and trendy, this is bad news. So come on Greenalls, reply in "What's Doing" next month and tell me I'm wrong!

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Other contributors to this issue: Paul Roberts, Bob Balham, Stewart Revell. Thanks to all those who participated in the Central Manchester survey, particularly Peter O'Grady and Leo King

NOW & THEN

by Rob Magee

No.11

SMUT INN

248 Manchester Road

Mill Lane once wended its way from the newly-built Manchester Road, Hollinwood, to an old corn mill and cottage. Samuel Livesey, destined to be the Smut Inn's first landlord, was born in that cottage in 1800. At the top of the lane, on the Oldham side, stood some old cottages and stables. In 1837 the owner of the property, James Dronsfield, built a new house on the corner of Heron Street and Manchester Road, obtained a beerseller's licence and named it the Forest Bird (later the Yew Tree). Dronsfield sold the cottages on the corner of Mill Lane to Samuel Livesey, and by 1834 he had converted one into a beerhouse and named it the "Smut", after his dog. Smut was said to have been a faithful, intelligent animal, and the story is told of how every day the dog carried dinners to the Liveseys' daughters, who worked at mills in Hollinwood and Werneth. Smut died at a good old age, and was followed in 1866 by his master, Samuel Livesey.

Wilsons Brewery then bought the beerhouse and wanted to change the name, but such was the regard for the memory of Smut that they kept the old name. Mary Livesey was their tenant until Thomas Livesey took

over (1879-1893). Boddingtons bought the beerhouse from Wilsons in 1883 and it was rebuilt by William Ball & Co of Manchester the following year. Alice Livesey was licensee in 1893 and the last of the Liveseys was Thomas H (1900-1905). Samuel Walker then took over (the photo above was taken in 1906). In 1909 Osmond Binns



arrived and the pub has been in his family to the present day. The Smut has the distinction of having had only three names over the door since it opened in 1843 - Livesey, Walker and Binns. Osmond died in 1929, leaving his wife Mary in charge. On Mary's death in 1957 her son Thomas took over.

Tommy has seen the Smut transformed from a basic beerhouse to a thriving modern pub. A full licence was acquired in 1961 and on 29 March 1982 a new lounge, toilets and kitchen extension were opened by the Mayor of Oldham. The extension is one of the best I have seen and Boddingtons are to be congratulated on their taste.

Tommy and his wife Mary sell electric pumped Boddies mild and bitter at 69p and 72p. The Smut inn sign, fitted at the time of the extension, shows faithful Smut carrying a basket containing the dinners for Samuel Livesey's daughters.

FANCY A PUB?

Wilsons have put the Manhattan, Collyhurst, up for sale as a free house. The pub is now closed and awaiting entrepreneurs with the readies.

WHERE TO GET WHAT'S DOING

MANCHESTER

Crown & Anchor, Hilton St
Crown & Kettle, New Cross
Grey Horse, Portland St
White House, Gt Ancoats S
City Arms, Kennedy St
Gullivers, Oldham Street
Millstone, Thomas Street
Wheatsheaf, Oak Street
Crown, Booth Street
Derby Bry Arms, Cheetham
Harp & Shamrock, New Mt S
Jolly Angler, Ducie St
Castle & Falcon, Bradshaw
Coach & Horses, London Rd
Grafton, C-on-M
Bulls Head, London Road
Peveril of the Peak, Gt
Bridgewater Street
Seven Oaks, Nicholas St
Osborne, Rochdale Road

SALFORD

Prince of Wales, Oldfield
Ordsall, Ordsall Lane
Crescent, Crescent
Waggon & Horses, IOH
Wellington, IOH
Broadway

MOSTON

Blue Bell
New Moston

BLACKLEY

Duke of Wellington
Golden Lion
Top Derby
Old House at Home

CRUMPSALL

Legendary Lancs Heroes

ECCLES

Albert Edward
Black Boy
Bridgewater
Coach & Horses
Diamond XX
Kings Head
Queens Arms
Stanley Arms
Swinging Bridge (Barton)
Wellington (Holts)
White Lion
Drop Inn, Monton
Egerton, Winton
Park, Monton
Lancashire Heroes, Monton

OLDHAM

Smut, Manchester Road
Miners Arms, George St
Royal Oak, Union Street
Spinners, Lees Road
Hark to Topper, Bow St
Black Horse, M/cr Road

LITTLE HULTON/WALKDEN

Dukes Gate, LH
Ellesmere, Walkden
Kenyon Arms, LH
Lancashire Heroes, LH
Royal Oak, Boothstown
Spa, LH
Welcome, LH

WIGAN/ATHERTON/LEIGH

Half Moon, Tyldesley
Worthington, Hindley
Swan & Railway, Wigan
Atherton Arms, Atherton
Railway, Leigh

BOLTON

Alma, Bradshawgate

BURY

Rose & Crown, M/cr Old Rd

PRESTWICH

Friendship

IRLAM

Boathouse

SWINTON/PENDLEBURY

Newmarket, Pendlebury
White Horse, Swinton
White Swan, Swinton

WHAT ARE YOU DRINKING?

Peter Barnes

October and November issues of WD outlined CAMRA's aims and achievements over the last decade or so. Much has been accomplished but there is a long way to go. Even "the most successful consumer movement in Europe" finds it hard to make headway against a brewing industry ethos created by economists and accountants who have no interest in their product. Nonetheless, the basic tenets of CAMRA's ideals are becoming accepted and real ale is becoming more widespread than it once was. The emphasis is now switching to the quality of the product and an important determination of quality is ingredients. The problem here is that we do not know what they are because beer is exempt from the labelling requirements which apply to most other food and drink products.



Apart from malted barley, hops, yeast and water, what else goes into your pint? We know there is widespread use of adjuncts - substitutes for malt - such as maize, rice and potatoes which are cheaper but rob the beer of flavour and body. In most other European countries the proportion of adjuncts is legally controlled but in the UK a brewer can replace malt altogether and still call the result beer. Some beers also contain additives. Which beers? What add-

itives? To what extent? We do not know. The requirements for additive labelling under British law are lax compared to other countries. Whatever labelling improvements have been brought about in recent years have been as a result of EEC initiatives. There is much scope for reform of the food industry in general in this respect.

CAMRA is calling for point-of-sale display information indicating the percentage of malted grain used in the brewing; a list of the other grain or mash adjuncts and the percentage alcohol content. Also a schedule of permitted additives should be approved by Government and the list of additives used in any beer should be available to the public.

No doubt there will be resistance to these proposals. Even some drinkers may say, "Why all the fuss?" "Too much regulation already." "Anyway, beer is 98% water." - but so is the human body. Ergo, you are what you drink. WHAT ARE YOU DRINKING?

AND NOW THE BAD NEWS

Holts went up 2p a pint in mid-November - the less-than-60p pint is now a thing of the past.

RUPERT'S PAGE



This was to have been another Fairy Story but Mr Nestfeather warned me off - "Nothing but a thinly veiled allegory, the identities of all your hobgoblins and pixies are obvious to all but the gormless and Australians. Everybody knows who's being stabbed in the back and which pub hasn't been hoovered for decades. I'm getting pretty tired, tirade, strop, minor bollocking, etc." So, I'm afraid the decline and fall of Mrs Tiggy-winkle's cake shop will remain unsung as we turn our attention to more yawnful matters.

It's surprising how supremoship of the toppers' vademacum bestows power crazy beastliness on the incumbents. Grotty Hardman and Boris Pratt were both like an amalgam of Himmler, Amin, Ned Kelly, Vlad Dracula, Montezuma and Julie Andrews. Our latest scribe is made in the same mould. Having sent out stickers with letters saying, "Hello, tavern-keeper, super - you're in the Guide" to a hostelry which wasn't, he then tried to blame this on those who'd complained and asked him to grovel to the said tavernkeeper.

Not that Ben Chestnut could give a monkeys. He's demob-happy and busy planning his resignation pub crawl with all his toadies from HQ. His last act as Regional Boss-person has been to sort out the constitutional problems of the Laurel & Hardy branch. Olly's still the chairman but Stan Craap and the rest of the former pie-eaters won't go in the Iron Horse and Olly won't go to any other hostelry where they meet. Impasse? Or a simple problem for Ben's diplomatic skills? Time will tell.

Ruffley Dikheit'd been telling me a strange story which stretches credulity to its limits about the ethnic origins of a certain pretend celt. At a Masonic dinner Ruffley was eating a custard pie and, being mistaken for a dangerous penguin, was deported to the Falklands. He found himself locked in the cellar of the Upland Goose with an Argie deserter, one Dafyd ap Maradona from Patagonia who, imbibing freely of the gin, told a tale of his upbringing on Tiger Mountain near Portmadryn. One of his schoolfellows was a child who had been found in the jungle and brought up by Jesuit missionaries by the name of Coes Uwch Dafad. He was nicknamed Rumbledshirtscream by his classmates, had a marked stentorian stutter and, after joining the Argentinian Secret Service, was trained in espionage and sent to England as a sleeper masquerading as a Welshman until the 1988

nvasion of the UK by the Argentinian SAS, when he would show his true colours and run the revolutionary government.

Mind you, Nora says he was born in Hereford, but that sounds too far fetched to me.



Branch Diary

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 17 Dec: Branch Meeting, White Swan, Swinton 8pm

Wed 29 Dec: Branch Christmas Banquet. Meet Crown, Booth Street, 7.30

Wed 7 Jan Pub crawl, Barton & Eccles. Swinging Bridge, Redcliffe Road, 7.30. Kings Head, Barton Lane 8.30

Contact: Roger Hall, 740 7937

WIGAN

Wed 10 Dec 9pm Branch Meeting, Swan & Railway, Wallgate, Wigan

Fri 19 Dec 8pm Xmas Social. Colliers Arms, Wigan Road, New Springs (Burtonwood). Food & Jazz Band. Tickets £1.50

Fri 2 Jan Salford & Manchester pub crawl. 8pm Three Legs of Man, Greengate

Contact Brian Gleave Atherton 892965 (h) Atherton 876200 (w)

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CHEETHAM HILL, MOSTON,
STRANGWAYS, ANCOATS,
NEWTON HEATH, MILES
PLATTING, COLLYHURST,
BRADFORD & HARPURHEY

KEY

H=Handpump, E=Electric pump, G=Gravity
M=Mild, B=Bitter, BB=Best Bitter, BM=Best Mild, SA=Strong Ale

BASS: DBass=Draught Bass, TL=Toby Light

CHESTERS: T=Trophy Bitter

MARSTONS: Ped=Pedigree, OR=Old Roger
MM=Merrie Monk

ROBINSONS: OT=Old Tom

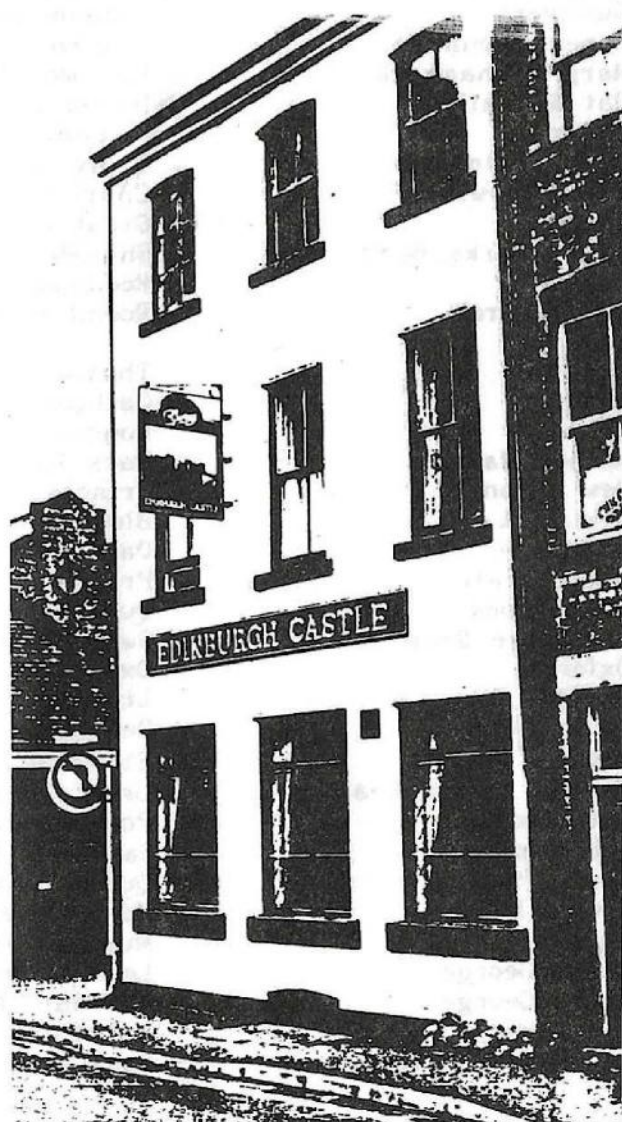
RUDDLES: C=County

SAM SMITHS: OBB=Old Brewery Bitter

TETLEY: BA=Ind Coop Burton Ale

TAYLORS: LL=Landlord, GB=Golden Best
RT=Ram Ram

WEBSTERS: GL=Green Label



CENTRAL MANCHESTER

Abercrombie	Bootle Street	Chesters	M,B(H)
Bensons	High Street	Chesters	M,B(H)
Boardroom Tavern	Portland Street	Wilsons	B(H)
Brahms & Liszt	Brown St	Ped, Wilson B, Yngrs Scotch, IPA(H)	
Branagans	Royal Exchange Arcade	Wilson B, Web GL	(H)
Brewers Arms	Great Ducie Street	Boddingtons M,B(E/H)	
Bridge Street Tavern	Bridge Street	Wilsons B, Websters B	(H)
Britannia Inn	Newton Street	Wilson M,B, Websters GL	(H)
Britons Protection	Gt Bridgewater St	Tetley B, Jennings, BA	(H)
Brunswick	Piccadilly	Wilsons	B(H)
Bulls Head	London Road	Burtonwood M,B, JBA(H)	
Burton Arms	Swan Street	Bass DBass, Stones(H)	
Castle Hotel	Oldham Street	Robinsons M,BB(H); OT(G)	
Castle & Falcon	Bradshaw Street	Burtonwood	B(H)
Chesters Pie & Ale House	Cateaton St	Chesters M,B, Thwaites B, Ped	(H)
Churchill	Chorlton Street	Greenalls	B(H)
Circus Tavern	Portland Street	Tetley	B(H)
City Arms	Kennedy St	Tetley M,B, Walker BB, BA, Jenn	(H)
Coach & Horses	London Rd	Bwood M,B, Bodd B, Tet B, Winkles B, Taylors LL, Ruddle C	(H)
Conservatory	Old Bank Street	Tetley	M,B(H)
Corbieres	Half Moon Street	Marstons Ped(H), OR(G)	
Crown	Booth Street	Bass DBass, Stones(H)	
Crown	Deansgate	Wilsons M,B, Websters B, Choice(H)	
Crown & Anchor	Hilton St	Ches M,B,T, Tay GB, LL, RT Rud C	(H)
Crown & Cushion	Corporation Street	Chesters	B(H)
Ducie Bridge	Corporation St	Wilson B, Webster GL, Choice	(H)
Dutton Arms	Park Street	Hydes	BM,B(E)
Grand Hotel (Vineyard Bar)	Aytoun Street	Boddingtons B, John Smiths	B(H)
Grey Horse	Portland Street	Hydes	BM,B(E)
Gullivers	Oldham Street	Lees M,B(H): Moonraker (G/E)	
Hare & Hounds	Shudehill	Tetley	M,B(H)
Harp & Shamrock	New Mount St	Marstons M,B, Ped, MM	(H)
Hat & Feathers	Mason Street	Chesters	B(H)
Imperial	Piccadilly	Wilsons	M,B(H)
John Willie Lees	Withy Grove	Lees	M,B(E)
Lass o'Gowrie	Charles Street	Chesters M,B, LOG35, LOG42	(H)
Langtons	Great Bridgewater Street	Banks	B(H)
Lower Turks Head	Shudehill	Wilsons B, Websters B	(H)
Mamas	Rochdale Road	Chesters	M,B(H)
Marble Arch	Rochdale Road	Holts B, Hydes M,B, Marstons Ped + guest beers	(H)
Millstone	Thomas Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Mitre	Cathedral Gates	Wilsons B, Websters B	(H)
Monroes	London Road	Chesters	B(H)
Mother Macs	Back Piccadilly	Chesters	B(H)
New Union	Princess Street	Burtonwood	M,B(H)
New York	Bloom Street	Wilsons	B(H)
Nicklebys	Dale Street	Wilsons	B(H)
Old Garratt	Princess Street	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Old Grapes	Quay Street	Wilsons B, Websters B	(H)
Old White Bear	Swan Street	Tetley	B(E)
Oxfords	Oxford Road	Wilsons B(H) (downstairs bar)	
Oxnoble	Liverpool Road	Chesters	M,B(H)
Pack Horse	Deansgate	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Paddys Goose	Bloom Street	Wilsons	B(H)
Peveril of the Peak	Great Bridgewater St	Wil M,B, Web B, Choice	(H)
Portland Bar	Portland Street	Tetley	B, BA(H)
Rembrandt	Sackville Street	Lees	M,B(E)
Rising Sun	Queen Street	Wilsons B, Websters Choice	(H)
Rosies Bar	York Street	Wilsons	B(E)
Royal Central	Museum Street	Boddingtons	B(H)
Royal George	Lever Street	Wilsons M,B, Websters B, GL	(H)
Royal George	Rochdale Road	Chesters	M,B(H)
Salisbury	Wakefield St	Wilsons M,B, Websters B, Choice	(H)
Sams Chop House	Back Pool Fold	Wilsons B, Websters B, Choice	(H)

Schnapps	Old Bank Street	Wilsons B, Websters B (H)
Seftons	Corporation Street	Wilsons B(E)
Seven Oaks	Nicholas Street	Chesters M,B(H)
Sinclairs	Old Shambles	Sam Smiths OBB, Museum (H)
Smithfields	Shudehill	Tetley M,B, Jennings, BA (H)
Smithfield Vaults	Swan Street	Boddingtons B(H)
Square Albert	Albert Square	Tetley M,B(H)
Swan	Withy Grove	Wilsons M,B(H)
Thompsons Arms	Sackville Street	Wilsons B(H)
Tommy Ducks	East Street	Greenalls B, Original (H)
Trafalgar	York Street	Tetley B(H)
Unicorn	Church Street	Bass: DBass, Stones, TL, M(H)
Victoria Station Bar	Boddingtons B, Thwaites B (H) (occasionally)	
Vine	Kennedy Street	John Smith B(H)
Waggon & Horses	Southgate	Wilson B, Web B, Choice, Rud C (H)
Waldorf	Gore Street	Chesters M,B,T(H)
Weavers Arms	Angel Street	Tetley B(H)
Wellington	Old Shambles	Bass: DBass, Stones (H)
Wheatsheaf	Oak Street	Tetley M,B, Jennings B, BA (H)
White Lion	Liverpool Road	Chesters M,B(H)
Yates (Grapes)	Great Ancoats Street	Holts B(E)
Yates (Merchants)	Oldham Street	Tetley B(H)
BLACKLEY		
Alliance	Rochdale Road	Boddingtons M,B(E)
Berkshire	Victoria Avenue East	Wilsons M,B(H)
Clough Hotel	Hall Moss Road	Chesters M,B(H)
Duke of Wellington	Weardale Road	Holts M,B(H)
Farmyard	Rochdale Road	Chesters B(H)
Flying Horse	Crab Lane	Boddingtons M,B(E)
Fox	Old Market Street	Holts M,B(H)
Golden Lion	Old Market Street	Holts M,B(H)
Grove	Rochdale Road	Burtonwood M,B(H)
Heaton Park	Middleton Road	Chesters B(H)
Hilltop	Heaton Park Road	Tetley M,B(H)
Lion & Lamb	Victoria Avenue	Wilsons B(H)
Millstone	Blackley New Road	Tetley M,B(H)
New White Lion	Middleton Old Rd	Wilson M,B, Web Choice (H)
Old House at Home	Bottomley Side	Wilsons M,B(H)
Pleasant	Chapel Lane	Robinsons M,BB(H)
Red Lion	Rochdale Road	Wilson B, Websters B (H)
Top Derby	Rochdale Road	Wilsons M,B(H)
CRUMPSALL		
Belmont	Middleton Road	Wilsons M,B, Websters B (H)
Cleveland	Crumpsall Lane	Holts M,B(H)
Swan	Waterloo Street	Wilsons M,B(H)
Woodies	Woodlands Road	Wilsons B(H)
CHEETHAM HILL / STRANGWAYS		
Apollo	Heywood Street	Holts M,B(E)
Cheetwood Arms	Derby Street	Holts M,B(H)
Crumpsall	Bury Old Road	Holts M,B(E)
Derby Brewery Arms	Cheetham Hill Road	Holts M,B(H)
Egerton Inn	Hanlon Street	Holts M,B(E)
Empress	Cheetham Hill Road	Chesters B(H)
Griffin	Cheetham Hill Road	Wilsons M,B(H)
Grove Inn	Bury New Road	Boddingtons B(H)
Mechanics Arms	Waterloo Road	Boddingtons M,B(E)
Mile House	North Street	Boddingtons M,B(H)
Robin Hood	Cheetham Hill Road	Wilsons M,B(H)
Tanners Arms	Fairy Lane	Holts M,B(H)
Waterloo	Waterloo Road	Boddingtons M,B(H)
MOSTON		
Bluebell	Moston Lane	Holts M,B(H)
Bricklayers	Moston Lane	Wilsons M,B(H)
Broadway	Broadway	Chesters B(H)
Gardeners Arms	Chain Bar	Boddingtons M,B(H)
Kestrel	Hugo Street	Wilsons M,B(H)
New Moston	Belgrave Road	Marstons M,B(H)

Old Loom	Moston Lane	Bass	Stones(H)
Thatched House	Moston Lane	Bass	Stones(H)
Zoots	Moston Lane	Wilsons	M,B(H)
NEWTON HEATH			
Britannia	Robert Street	Tetley	M,B(H)
Clarendon	Pinehurst Road	Marstons	M,B(H)
Church	Droylsden Road	Holts	M,B(E)
Copenhagen	Oldham Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Culcheth Gates	Culcheth Lane	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Dean Brook Inn	St Mary's Road	Marstons	M,B(H)
Gibraltar	Grimshaw Lane	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Grenadier	Briscoe Lane	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Grosvenor	Goddard Street	Lees	M,B(E)
New Crown Inn	Old Church Street	Marstons	M,B(E)
Newton House	Culcheth Lane	Marstons	M,B,OR(H)
Prince of Wales	Oldham Road	Wilsons	B(H)
Railway	Dean Lane	Holts	M,B(E)
Railway	Berry Brow	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Robin Hood	Droylsden Road	Marstons	M,B(H)
Royal Oak	Oldham Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Swan	Oldham Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
MILES PLATTING AND BRADFORD			
Apollo	Varley Street	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Bradford Inn	Bradford Road	Holts	M,B(E)
Cricketers	Bradford Road	Marstons	M,B(H)
Grey Mare	Varley Street	Tetley	M,B(H)
Heywood Arms	Oldham Road	Websters	B(H)
Lancaster	Oldham Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Magpie	Bradford Road	Chesters	B,T(H)
Navigation	Holland Street	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Pack Horse	Oldham Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Spanking Roger	Sawley Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
White Hart	Oldham Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
COLLYHURST AND HARPURHEY			
Ark Royal	Conran Street	Robinsons	M,BB(E)
Boddingtons 200	Carisbrook Street	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Golden Lion	Rochdale Road	Chesters	B(H)
Golden Tavern	Rochdale Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Junction	Queens Road	Tetley	B(H)
Manhattan	Collyhurst Street	Wilsons	B(H)
Milan Inn	Rochdale Road	Robinsons	M,BB(E)
Osborne	Rochdale Road	Banks	M,B(E)
Robert Tinker	Dalton Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Swan	Hamerton Road	Greenalls	B(E)
Vine	Glendower Avenue	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
ANCOATS			
Ancoats	Great Ancoats St	Holts B, Tet M,B, Jenn	(H)
Bridge Inn	Fairfield Street	Chesters	M,B,T(H)
Brown Cow	Woodward Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Church	Jersey Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Cob o'Coal	Winder Avenue	Chesters	M,T(H)
Cross Keys	Jersey Street	Tetley	M,B(H)
Crown & Kettle	Great Ancoats Street	Wilsons M,B, Web B	(H)
Edinburgh Castle	Blossom Street	Chesters	B,T(H)
Jolly Angler	Ducie Street	Hydes M,B(H)	SA(G)
Land o'Cakes	Great Ancoats Street	Chesters	M,B(H)
Mitchell Arms	Beswick Street	Banks	M,B(E)
Moulders Arms	Heyrod Street	Tetley	M,B(H)
Pollard	Pollard Street	Lees	M,B(H)
River	Palmerston Street	Greenalls	M,B(H)
Shamrock	Bengal Street	Burtonwood	M,B(H)
Smiths Arms	Sherratt Street	Tetley	M,B(H)
Star & Garter	Fairfield Street	Chesters	B(H)
White House	Great Ancoats Street	Holts M,B, Boddies B	(H)