

WHAT'S DOING



FEB
1987

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



MORE ANCOATS ALE

Until recently the Beswick end of Ancoats offered a poor prospect for the seeker of traditional ales. Now the Falcon on Merrill Street is serving Boddies bitter

and the Bank of England is selling all three Chesters cask beers. It's now possible to start with a pint of Banks's at the Mitchell Arms and by way of Boddies at the Falcon, Chesters at the Bank of England, Lees at the Pollard and Wilsons at the Auld Lang Syne end up for a pint of Holts at last orders in the White House.

The Falcon has not been altered but the Bank of England has been significantly improved and seems incongruously posh for the area. The lounge is carpeted, well furnished and decorated and kept in an immaculate condition. There's a small vault and a stage with a piano in the corner of the lounge for weekend knees-ups.

The Bank of England opened about 1830 and its name probably derives from the Manchester branch of the Bank of England which opened on King Street in 1826.



CITY DESK

Peter O'Grady



THE ANGRY COLUMN

Bass have announced plans to convert the CROWN TAVERN, Booth Street/Fountain Street, Manchester, into yet another cafe bar. The Crown, which was fully refurbished about three years ago and serves handpumped Bass and Stones, is to get "the treatment" in the spring. No doubt Bass will use the cafe bar ploy to increase their prices dramatically - especially if recent experience is a guide. WHEN WILL THEY EVER LEARN? The nearby TOWN HALL TAVERN was refurbished recently (See Jan WD) and is now quite often virtually empty - solely because of the excessive prices being charged. £1 for Bass, 90p for Stones and 86p for mild is plainly scandalous. So much so that the regulars and ex-regulars have started a petition to urge Bass to reduce these extortionate prices. Let's hope it doesn't fall on deaf ears. It really is ridiculous that a hostelry in the Town Hall's prime position should be deserted at lunchtime when the nearby CITY ARMS and THE VINE, both on Kennedy Street, are bulging at the seams. Is it any coincidence that their prices are approximately 20p a pint less?

On the general subject of cafe bars, I feel that these are OK for those who want them, if they are in previously unlicensed premises (or in St Ann's Square), but I disagree with breweries jumping on the bandwagon and converting pubs into cafe bars and then charging 20p to 30p more for a pint. Perhaps the time has come to revive the Prices & Incomes Board.

Prices in general are not just creeping up - in some cases they are rocketing up. In pubs in the city, Boddingtons started the rot by charging what now seems an almost modest 86p a pint at the ROYAL COX'S BAR. The WAGGON & HORSES charged very high prices, but then brought some of them down. Then the TOWN HALL TAVERN and the new BANK on Mosley Street (Tetley) came charging in with 90p a pint for supping bitter. Obviously the brewers are levelling their prices up to those applying in London. I'm sure that the recent "Food and Drink" programme on TV which highlighted the problem did not expect this outcome. 'APPEN WE DON'T NEED TO PAY LONDON PRICES TO PROVE WOT WE'RE SOPHISTICATED.

WINTER WARMERS

There has been some fascinating correspondence in the Manchester Evening News recently about the old practice of plunging a red hot

poker into a pint of ale. Reasons given by readers included: It was good for rheumatism, arthritis or 'flu sufferers; it made the beer stronger (?); it put iron in the beer to cure anaemia. Do any CAMRA members have equally esoteric explanations for this strange custom?

ANOTHER BREWERY LOST

As predicted in these pages not too long ago, Watneys have got rid of Drybrough's Brewery in Edinburgh. They've sold it to Allied, who will be using it as a kegging plant and distribution depot for their own beers. Allied have thus gained 150 pubs in Scotland and 32 in the North East. The deal means that Allied has 15% of Britain's beer business, second to Bass with 21%. Watney's slice of the action may now be smaller than Whitbread's - both had around 13%.

AMBER NECTAR SHOWS

The Bury Beerfest (or "St Valentine's Day Real Ale Massacre") will be held on Friday and Saturday, 13th and 14th February at the Derby Hall, Bury. Thirty real ales from 20 breweries, plus a foreign bottled beer stall. Admission is 30p lunchtimes, 50p before 7.00pm and 70p afterwards.



The Oldham Beerfest will be held in the Music Rooms, Werneth, on 7th and 8th March, in aid of the Mayor's Appeal for Cancer Research. There will be three sessions - Saturday lunch and evening and Sunday lunch.

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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FREE HOUSE IN GORTON

The Imperial, a former Wilsons pub on Birch Street, near Belle Vue Speedway, has reopened as a free house selling Banks's bitter, Boddies bitter and Tetleys mild through handpumps. The pub has been opened up to give a single room layout with a vault and lounge area separated by a central bar. The decoration is somewhat spartan but the beers are in good condition.



The Imperial was originally owned by Stopfords, whose Imperial Brewery is still in evidence further along Birch Street - now an industrial estate. The Bulls Head on Hyde Road near the bus depot is boarded up.

MOORHOUSE'S

BREWERS OF REAL ALE



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WIGAN & DISTRICT

Dave White

The empty shell of the once-great Park Hotel - yes, it's still there - serves to remind us that Wigan town centre has lost quite a few pubs in the last couple of years. New pubs such as the Orwell and Charles Dickens sell good beer, sure enough, but are devoid of atmosphere or warmth. Wigan CAMRA branch, therefore, awaits the opening of Gem's Free House with bated breath.

Gem's, formerly a licensed Indian restaurant in Upper Dicconson Street, is the brainchild of one Barry Philbin, currently landlord of the Royal Oak, a keg Burtonwood house in Standishgate. Mr Philbin promises us a truly free house - no tie - with a range of ales not available elsewhere in Wigan. Boddingtons bitter is a cert, with either Holts or Hydes bitter and a guest beer. (Oldham mild would be nice...)

The obligatory petition against the pub was raised by the locals, but Upper Dicconson Street is on the quiet side of town and the protest failed. Gem's - which I think is named after Gemma Philbin, Barry's daughter - is due to open in the middle of February. What with the Swan & Railway on the other side of Wigan, the old town is looking a bit brighter once again.

Still on the subject of free houses, our Unsubstantiated Rumour Dept informs me that the Honeysuckle, Swan Meadow Road, Poolstock, is to be transformed into a free house, of sorts. When the pub re-opened last year, Chesters bitter and Hartleys XB vied unsuccessfully with Whitbread Trophy fizz, so almost any alteration to the Honeysuckle would be an improvement.

It's always nice to hear about John Smiths pubs converting to real ale. Sadly, Banners (formerly the Hand & Banner), Chapel Green, Hindley, has gone the other way. There are one or two pubs in Hindley worth a visit but, alas, the Matty Brown keg stranglehold remains.

If in Hindley, steer clear of the Sir Robert Peel, Manchester Road (See Nov WD). This Whitbread house still does not sell real ale, despite a prominent outside advertisement for "Traditional Ales". Dishonest, that.

Upholland news now, and two pubs have gone over to handpumps. They are the Britannia at Hall Green and the Victoria, Ormskirk Road. As the breweries involved are respectively Greenall Whitley and Burtonwood, I'd better make it clear that both pubs still sell cask ale. After all, you can't be too sure these days, can you?

RUPERT'S PAGE



We hold this truth to be self-evident - that rumours emanating from the cloth-eared are, *ceteris paribus*, lacking in verisimilitude, just as you wouldn't put too much credence in the confessions of a nymphomaniac mermaid. So, stories about my sack-ing by a mercenary Nestfeather eager to see his organ on sale throughout amber nectar shops are sadly without foundation and staff instructions to mine host to sell What's Doing, should I be sacked, will not materialise. I have it on good authority that this cheeky little mag would not appear in those outlets from which it has been banned even if those who caused its banning were to grovel sycophantically for ever and by way of penance daub their naughty parts with fluorescent paint and nude parascend down Grotley Ship Canal every Whit Friday for a decade.

I received a Christmas card full of obscenities from Bogbrush. He accused me of reading the Daily Torygraph when he knows full well I wouldn't be seen dead reading such a pinko shirtlifter scandal rag. He signed his card "Bogbrush & Alice". This, I fear, is an awful acronymic disease from which he is suffering. As I remember, Christopher Robin went down with the same thing some time ago.

It was good to be able to see one's old friends again, albeit through a sea of amateur toppers and tavern visitors. Nora and Bert will not, after all, be deported to Tykeley so we have the prospect of Manky Ale for many moons to come. The future of Opening Tripe is, however,



tinged with doubt. A tavern owner, in his infinite wisdom, has given Mr Dumpty one of his hostelries and the silly celt looks as though he may indulge in imminent troth plighting with the adorable Emily Woodpecker. Wristy Barreler's been kicked up-stairs, so who's left? Ben Chestnut has been suffering a lot of agrimony recently (@ Chestnut Malapropisms Inc 1987) and one wonders who the good lady might be who is referred to by the people of Sticksville as Mrs Chestnut?

I place no credence in a story about a famous amber nectar emporium owner attempting to gatecrash a party at the Pennsylvania Avenue claiming that licensees were allowed in. To whom, I wonder, can the following piece of graffiti, found in a Slumley Parva tavern, refer?

"Oh dear, what can the matter be?

Poor old Robin's locked in the lavatory.

He was there from London to Daventry

And nobody gave a bugger."



WHITEFIELD MODS

Boddingtons' Red King has been extended and renovated to a high standard. The brickwork has been cleaned up and the extension matches the original building in both brickwork and fenestration. Handpumped Boddies mild and bitter are served and food is featured. The renovation has made excellent use of the available space, with a large, well-appointed lounge, a vault and a snug. Across the road,

the Masons Arms, a large Whitbread establishment, is closed for renovation and is due to reopen later this month.

PUTTING THE FRIGHTENERS ON

In January's What's Brewing, consultant shrink Tom Duckfoot outlined the perils of over-indulgence in amber nectar. He produced this table and 10 rules...

DRINKERS PLAY SAFE TABLE

	Male	Female
Safe	Up to 10 pints of bitter per week	Up to 5 pints of bitter per week
OK but beware!	10 to 30 pints	5 to 15 pints
At serious risk	Over 30 pints	Over 15 pints

1. Build several "dry" days into each week.
2. Limit drinking to no more than 5 sessions per week.
3. Don't feel obliged to go drinking.
4. Spend one month or two fortnights completely alcohol-free.
5. Learn to say "No" even if it is someone else's round.
6. Get comfortable with ordering soft drinks if driving or if there is no real ale on offer.
7. Don't drink at times of stress.
8. Don't get drunk.
9. Don't embarrass people who choose to stay sober.
10. Don't force a drink on a friend.

NEW HOLTS PUB

Holts open their latest pub, the Millhouse in Warrington, this month. The name was chosen after a competition in the local newspaper. "Millhouse" was the name of the old house which stood on the site of the pub and the competition was won by a Mrs Walker, who used to live there. (We understand that the prize was not a hogshead of Drabs.) The Millhouse is on Balleter Drive, Cinnamon Brow, Peel Hall, Warrington, and is Holts' second pub outside Greater Manchester. (The other is at Belmont.) Jim and Gwen Etchells will be moving there from the Friendship in Prestwich.

On the subject of Holts prices ("King's Ale", last month), all managed houses charge 64p a pint for bitter. If any managed house is charging more, Holts would like to know about it! Tenanted houses can (and do) charge slightly more.

CHEAPER DRUIDS

The price of bitter at the recently reopened Druids Arms on Liverpool Street, Salford, has been reduced to 70p but as yet cask mild has not reappeared.

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ASIAN CORNER EXTRA

Tarka Dhal



The north side of the city centre is pleasantly well supplied with traditional Asian cafes, if you know where to look. After looking fairly closely no fewer than seven proper cafes (of varying degrees of ethnicity) and a couple of take-aways have been located.

Most, if not all, cater mainly for the locally-based wholesale clothes traders that abound in the area, and may be unnoticed by those who confine their activities to the city's more major thoroughfares. (How many people know of the existence of Soap Street, never mind the This & That Cafe?)

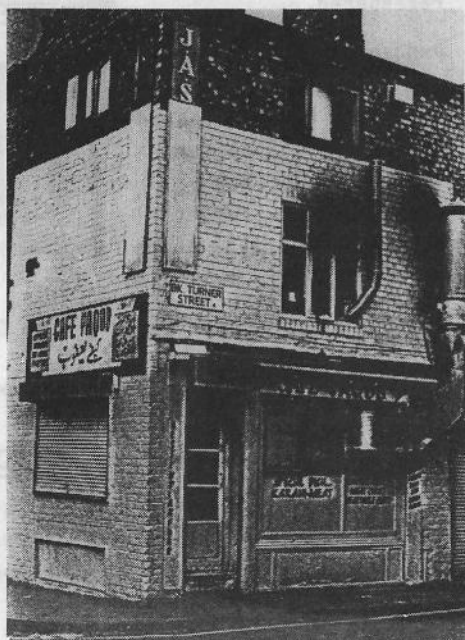
It is unusual to find any of these establishments open into the late evening, nor do many open at weekends, though the more determined gourmet may be able to obtain a Sunday lunch with a difference. Mid-morning to early evening seem typical opening hours.

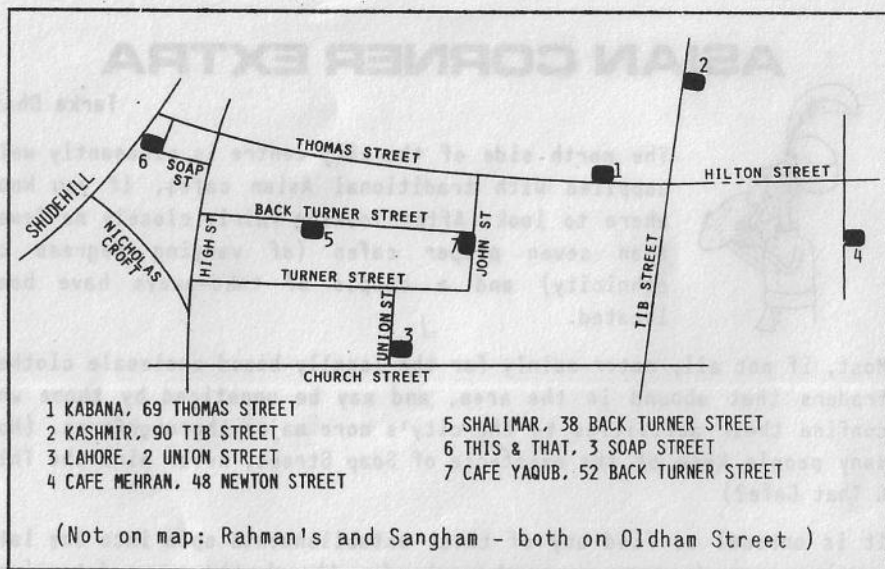
The macho apres-beer curry guzzler (two popadums, Onion Bhaji, Chicken Inevitable with Pilau Rice - £6.50) will be struck by the relative simplicity of the menus and the low prices of the dishes. With curries priced £1 - £1.50 and chapatis at 15p - 20p, a bellyful will rarely cost more than £2.50.

Some cafes offer an additional special dish only on specific days of the week. This is often advertised outside. Chapatis are served more often than rice. (A request for the latter may cause you to have to wait a little longer for your meal.)

Cutlery is generally offered for the use of those whose fingers are less than nimble. (Important Note: If you do not use cutlery, then remember, never use your left hand when eating.)

It would be a rather tedious exercise to list a menu and description of each cafe. Further, I have no wish to spoil the reader's





sense of fun and exploration when they visit these places for themselves. However, the following points of excellence are readily remembered...

Pungent Kebabs - This & That
 Vegetable Curry - Lahore
 Keema Aloo - Shalimar
 Karhi Lamb - Yaqub
 Lamb Nahari with lambs' brains (Sunday lunch special) - Cafe Mehran



(Many thanks to Dave Glass of the Crown & Anchor for help in compiling this article.)

ECCLES

Two amendments to the real ale list published in November: The Albert Edward no longer sells Taddy bitter and cask mild has been withdrawn from the Dog & Partridge on Liverpool Road.

NOW & THEN

by Rob Magee

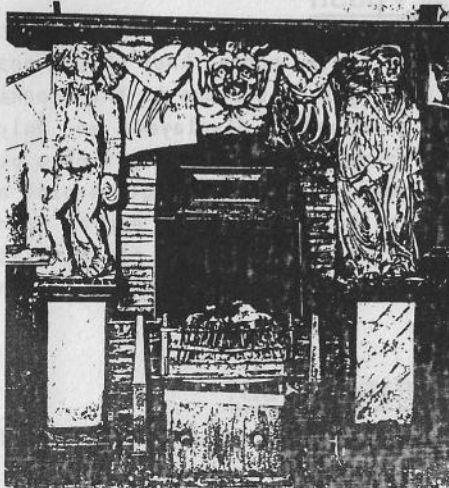
No.13 ABBEY INN
77 West Street, Oldham

This licensed house was opened by Edmund Tetlow on 21st November 1808, and appears in the 1809 alehouse records as "Letters" (an alehouse without a sign). Thomas Jackson, a hatter, took over in 1810 and first gave it the sign of the White Lion, then, in 1819, the Duke of York. In that year an inquest was held there on the body of John Lees, a cotton spinner who died from injuries suffered at the Peterloo Massacre in Manchester. The inn sign depicted the duke astride his white charger, its hind feet on one range of hills, its forefeet on another, a fertile valley beneath and part of the duke's three-cornered hat lost in cloud.



The old, whitewashed stone building was bought by William Cheetham in 1845 and three years later it had been demolished and the Abbey Inn was built on the site. Cheetham was a collector of antiques and is said to have filled the inn with old and curious furniture, carvings and other pieces. One item, which stood in the taproom until rebuilding in 1938, and is still to be seen, is "Th' Owd Lad of West Street" or "Devil's Fireplace" (see photo below). The message is: "The lawyer pleads for all, the parson prays for all, but the devil takes all!"

The Holy Trinity Church at Waterhead, which was consecrated in 1847, obtained its first organ from the Abbey Inn. (Later the organ was moved to St Andrews.) No doubt this was the organ used in the pub's concert room, tokens for which were issued by Cheetham.



In the 1850s the Abbey Inn was one of half a dozen town centre pubs which had reputations for being "houses of low repute". In 1854 a policeman described his visit to the Abbey at 6.30am on a Friday morning. The keeper of the vaults, William Howarth, was drunk and slumped over the bar with three

other men. The floor was filthy and covered in vomit. Must have been a good night!

Things did not improve much when William Robinson took over in 1856. Police objected to his licence because prostitutes were using the place and there had been several robberies. Fred Hopkin took over in 1868 and he didn't do very well either. Magistrates refused to give him a music licence because the Abbey was "a resort of thieves and prostitutes".

Jack Peacock was the next licensee and in August 1885 he tried to liven things up with a red nose competition. There were twelve classes, including "reds with the biggest tinge", "deep reds" (a class confined to professed abstainers, "who might be required to produce temperance pledges"), "purples", "deep purples", "blues with the greatest number of sprouts" and the nose "of the nearest imitation of a tomato in colour and shape". No artificial colouring was allowed and judges were empowered to pull exhibits to prevent forgeries.

The Abbey Inn was acquired by Oldham Brewery in 1892; in 1938 it was demolished and the present pub opened the following year. Today it is run by John Cadwallader, who came from the Railway in Shaw in 1985. It is now a busy pub (refurbished in 1983) and John sells cask OB mild (67p), OB bitter (70p) and Boddingtons bitter (70p). Snacks and lunches are available at reasonable prices. John is the Abbey's 54th landlord - if there's ever a competition for the public house which has had the most licensees, the Abbey would be in the top five!

BUM'S FLUSH

You must have seen it - the latest silly Websters advert about the Spanking Roger - glow to your cheeks, nudge, nudge, know what I mean, eh? Play on words, naughty, naughty. If you do venture to the Spanking Roger you'll see Wilsons handpumps prominently displayed and only a fizzy keg tap for the ubiquitous Europint. Elsewhere, offers of a pint and a bite for a quid have been changed. You can still get a pint and something to eat but the pint has to be Websters. No doubt, eventually, by a combination of brainwashing and offers we can't refuse, the hapless punter will be conned into accepting Superbland so that Wilsons can be dumped for ever.

NEW STALYBRIDGE PUB?

John Smiths have applied for planning permission to convert 124 Mottram Road into a public house.

To the Editor:
375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M27

LETTERS



PURE GENIUS?



Sir - There must be more people than me who smiled with satisfaction at the news that the price of Guinness shares is tumbling. You see, I don't own any, and I quite enjoy seeing rich and powerful heads roll. Pure envy!

But there are real reasons for all of us to feel glad. In the first place, corruption costs money - a suspected £25m in illegal payments in this latest deal. So eventually we pay more for the product. And sooner rather than later small companies find it impossible to compete - with obvious implications for their employees and for the small investor. Small may not always be beautiful, but the smaller companies in the brewing industry have, on the whole, responded

better to their customers than the largest. If the Guinness fiasco makes large companies more cautious and allows for fairer competition, it can only be a good thing.

The other side of the coin is that most of us already have money tied up in Guinness - if only through pension funds, insurance companies, building societies and other big investors. But I'm prepared to stand that kind of indirect loss and hope for a healthier marketplace - it'll be worth it if it stops other brewing giants trying to be too clever by half.

Moirra Angee

NAUGHTY WILSONS

The incidence of non-cask beer being served through pumps advertising Original Bitter or Original Mild is increasing. There is no attempt now to distinguish between cask and brewery conditioned beer at the point of sale. A very retrograde step. Handpumps are usually a guarantee of real ale but with electric pumps, who knows? Certainly not the bar staff, who still don't know in many cases what cask beer is.

AMSTERDAM BAR

Whitbread's Amsterdam Bar on Chorley New Road, Horwich, closed last month and it looks as if they are turning the place back into the Victoria again. Let's hope so.

KING'S ALE

Leo King

PALACES OF VARIETIES

Thirty-two different breweries supply beers to Manchester city centre, and there is some real ale from all but three...

BANKS'S	B (Langtons Bar, Great Bridgewater Street)
BASS (Burton) Draught Bass	(All, together with Stones, on
BASS (Tadcaster) M, Toby Light	sale at Unicorn, Church Street)
BODDINGTONS	M, B
BROWNS	No real ale yet - possibility at Dancing Weasel
BURTONWOOD	M, B, JBA (JBA at Bulls Head, London Road)
GREENALL WHITLEY	M, B, Original (Original at Tommy Ducks)
GUINNESS	"Draught Guinness" is keg, but bottled stuff is real ale
HIGSONS	M, B (Successfully on sale at the Old Garrett)
HOLTS	M, B (Free houses only. White House only outlet for mild)
HYDES	M, BM, B, SA (Strong ale at certain tied & free outlets)
IND COOPE	Burton Ale (Certain Tetley tied houses)
JENNINGS	B (Certain Tetley tied houses)
LEES	M, B, Moonraker
LOG 35 & 42	Bitter & Strong Bitter (Home brew, Lass o'Gowrie)
MANNS	No real ale
MARSTONS	M, B, Pedigree, Owd Roger (One tied house - Harp and Shamrock, plus free houses)
MURPHYS	Stout Not real ale
OLDHAM	B (Old Garrett. Mild may also be on sale soon)
ROBINSONS	BB, M, Old Tom (One tied outlet - Castle Oldham Street)
RUDDLES	County at Crown & Anchor; Rutland B at Coach & Horses
SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE	YSB, IPA, McEwans 80/- (No real ale at tied pubs)
JOHN SMITHS	B (Traditional bitter only at Vine, Kennedy Street)
SAM SMITHS	OBB, Museum Ale (One tied house - Sinclairs, Shambles Sq)
STONES	B (On sale in Bass pubs)
TAYLORS	Landlord, GB, Ram Tam (Crown & Anchor; Coach & Horses)
TETLEY WALKER	M, B, Walker BB (Walkers at City, Kennedy Street, only)
THEAKSTONS	(No real ale - see Matthew Brown)
THWAITES	B (Chesters Pie & Ale House, Cateaton Street, only)
WEBSTERS/WILSONS	Wilsons M,B: Green Label M, Yorkshire B, Choice
WHITBREAD CHESTERS	M, B, Trophy

THOSE PRICE RISES AGAIN!

Not a million years ago I reported four city centre pubs selling inexpensive beer. The best bitter at the Castle was 70p and the bitter at Gullivers was 68p. Gullivers (Lees) has since added a modest 2p to mild and bitter, but across the road at the Castle (Robinsons) the

best bitter has gone up to 77p. The two free houses (Ancoates and White House) still sell real ales for under 70p a pint.

Another Robinsons pub, the Three Legs of Man on Greengate, just across the river in Salford, sells best bitter at 69p a pint - 8p cheaper than the Castle.

MATTHEW BROWN

The pub with many previous names, the Dancing Weasel on Great Ancoats Street, was sold by Wilsons some time ago and is now a free house. (The licensee is the brother of Roy Southern, landlord of the Ancoates across the road.) However, unlike Roy, he does not sell real ale - the beers are keg Matthew Brown & Theakstons products. Real ale may be on sale some time in the future; the reason for its absence is given as non-satisfactory conditions in the cellar. When Wilsons closed the pub it was selling traditional mild and bitter - so where's the problem?



JOE'S LITTLE INN

Modifications and redecorating at the Eagle on Collier Street, Salford, Holts' smallest pub, are complete. The former downstairs living room now houses a pool table and a new gents' toilet, formerly in the back yard (the toilet - not the pool table). New lighting adds a Victorian flavour to a Victorian pub and the carved wood and fine etched windows are still intact. The original handpumps remain - the ones that have been in service for many a year. It's a nice little pub all round, except for one thing. Why must we have loud music from a speaker on the wall to enhance (if that's the word for it) the sound from the juke box? It's so unnecessary. After all, the room is not much bigger than an American truck driver's cab!



ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

BOB POTTS

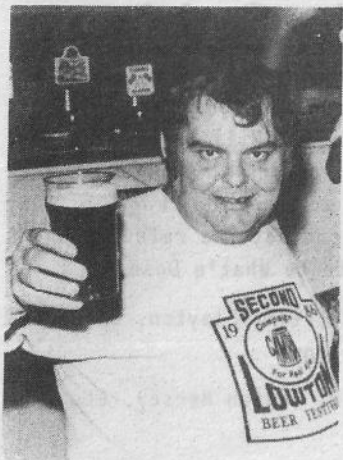
The 1920s photograph shows the Wilton Arms, Ellesmere Street, Hulme. In the doorway is the late Tom Renshaw, who kept this bygone Groves & Whitnall beerhouse for some twenty years between the wars. He left in 1938 to run a newsagent's shop in Northenden. The Wilton Arms was licensed from 1861 to 1966.

Former Groves & Whitnall pubs continue to bite the dust around Hulme. The Albert on Erskine Street was demolished and cleared in two hours flat in 1985. Ditto the Lord Napier, Great Jackson Street, in 1986. The future of the boarded-up Lord Clyde (which opened as a beerhouse in 1859) on Chester Road also looks bleak.

Over in sunny Moss Side is an old GCW house, the Great Western (licensed 1864), looking very ship-shape with its nice paint job. This former beerhouse has outlasted the "Big Alex" (licensed a year earlier), which stood in the way of main road improvements. Another Moss Side pub, Wilson's "Little Alex", was licensed during the late 1850s, so it's older than the municipal park down the road. Towards Brooks' Bar, but still in Moss Side, stands an old Chesters house, the Talbot, originally licensed in 1863. The sign of this pub was changed to "Roots" in 1986. Talk about all our yesterdays!

PEDIGREE

Bensons on High Street, Manchester, has added Marstons Pedigree to its range of Whitbread beers.



PETER RICHARDSON

Peter Richardson of the Railway Hotel, Twist Lane, Leigh, Chairman of the South East Lancs branch of CAMRA, died on 8th January of heart failure. He had been unwell for the last six months but continued to run the pub to the last and passed away within hours of being admitted to hospital.

Peter was a larger than life character whose drinking exploits are legendary. He personally signed up a pub full of customers to form the South East Lancs branch, based at Leigh.

I have organised many local beer festivals with Peter and always found him honest and straightforward to deal with. He was one of the most trusting people I have ever met - as any of the hundreds of people who have served themselves in the Railway can testify.

Whilst his own "fag packet" style of accounting may not have suited everybody, it was as much a part of the man as his ability to remove a donkey's rear leg at thirty paces with one of his many epic stories, or quickies, as he inaccurately described them.

CAMRA has certainly lost a considerable character and I have lost a friend.

Brian Gleave

BURTONWOOD BREWERY DEVELOPMENT

The Burtonwood main board recently gave their approval for the £2½m second phase of redevelopment to replace the ageing brewhouse. Phase 1 (nearly finished) consists of relocating the service department (brewery engineers, cellar services, commercial vehicles garage) to allow construction of a new block to house cask washing and filling and new kegging equipment. In conjunction with this there will be a temperature-controlled warehouse for full casks, an associated yard and loading dock improvements.

Phase 2 will commence in Autumn 1988 and the new brewhouse will be in production at the end of 1989. Head Brewer James Dick assures us that "the traditional approach to brewing will be maintained".

Other contributors to this issue: Stewart Revell, Roger Hall, Steve Byrne, Brian Gleave, Duncan Busman.



Real Ale Guides

The following publications are available from Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester. The guides are updated from time to time so if you know of any changes please contact the relevant CAMRA branch - or write to What's Doing.

REAL ALE IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH MANCHESTER - Gorton, Clayton, Openshaw, Didsbury, etc. 10p + stamped, addressed envelope.

REAL ALE IN STOCKPORT - Hazel Grove, Cheadle, Heaton Mersey, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN SALFORD - Swinton, Eccles, Irlam, Worsley, etc. 10p+s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN ROCHDALE - Heywood, Littleborough, Middleton, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN ROSSENDALE - Bacup, Haslingden, Helmshore, Rawtenstall, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN TRAFFORD & HULME - Altrincham, Urmston, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN OLDHAM - Failsworth, Royton, Shaw, Chadderton, Saddleworth, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN BURY - Ramsbottom, Radcliffe, Tottington, Whitefield, Prestwich, 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN CENTRAL AND NORTH MANCHESTER - City Centre, Newton Heath, Ancoats, Collyhurst, Moston, Blackley, Cheetham, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN CENTRAL AND NORTH CHESHIRE - Warrington, Widnes, Runcorn, Lymm, Frodsham, Northwich, Middlewich & Winsford 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN GREATER GROTLEY - Slumley, Smarmford & Slutch, Poshton and Pseudley. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN N.W. DERBYSHIRE - Buxton, Glossop, New Mills, Whaley Bridge, Disley, Chapel-en-le-Frith, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN HIGH PEAK & N.E. CHESHIRE (TAMESIDE) - Dukinfield, Ashton, Marple, Hyde, Denton, Stalybridge, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

1984 - THE ROAD TO WIGAN BEER Comprehensive guide to South Lancs CAMRA pubs - Wigan, Leigh, Ashton, Newton, Atherton, Tyldesley, etc. Maps, illustrated. 65p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN MOSTON

The Thatched House and the Old Loom have been joined by the Ben Brierley and the Mowers Arms dispensing cask conditioned Bass beers through handpumps. Two pumps in the Ben Brierley were without pump clips and drip trays on a recent visit, but the Mowers Arms is selling both Bass Light (72p) and Stones (74p). Although the corresponding keg pumps are still on the bar top, they are not illuminated and are not being used.

The availability of real ale in the area has vastly improved, although there are still no signs of change at the Moston (Whitbread), the Shiredale (Wilsons) or the Jolly Miller (Greenalls).



Branch Diary

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 11 Feb. Monton Green 8pm, Drop Inn 9pm.

Wed 18 Feb, Branch Meeting, White Swan, Swinton, 8pm.

Wed 25 Feb Eccles New Road crawl. Coach & Horses 7pm, Royal 8pm.

Wed 4 March Ancoats Crawl. 7pm River, Palmerston Street, 8pm Falcon, Merrill Street.

Wed 11 March to be arranged

Wed 18 March Branch AGM. Lamb, Eccles, 8pm

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

WIGAN

Wed 4th Feb 8.30 Worthington Hotel, Market Street, Hindley. To lay down plans for a 1987 Wigan Beer Guide.

Wed 11 Feb 8pm. AGM, Bowling Green, Wigan Lane, Wigan. All members kindly attend.

Wed 18 Feb 8pm. Branch meeting, Dog & Partridge (Jem Lowe's), Chapel Street, Pemberton - followed by Pemberton pub crawl.

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



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