

# WHAT'S DOING

DEC  
1987



THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



## NEW WEAVERS

The Weavers Arms on Angel Street, off Rochdale Road, Manchester, is due to open at the beginning of December as "The Beerhouse". It has been bought by Simon Finch, formerly of the Gamecock, Ashton, who is installing Holts mild and bitter, Theakstons and Sair Inn beers. Guest beers will also be sold. Can't be bad.

## NEW HOLTS

Holts' new pub in Levenshulme, the Sidings on Broom Lane, is due to open on 10th December. Holts have also applied for planning permission to convert 477 Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton, into a pub. Real ale in the desert!



## HALF COCK

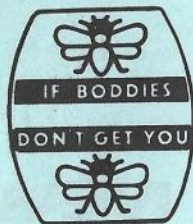
The magistrates' hearing into the proposed alterations at the Cock Hotel in Worsley was adjourned at the request of the brewers. There were some 50 people present at Eccles Magistrates' Court on 20th November to hear the solicitor representing Boddingtons make the request. It was stated that Boddingtons had received so many



representations about their plans (not all against) that they wished to reconsider their proposals and would be submitting revised plans at the next meeting on January 8th. Alan Stewart, chairman of the Save the Cock Campaign, said, "We have won the battle, but not the war."

This is, indeed, the truth. The Cock campaign has generated more publicity and feeling than any other pub campaign. Over 2,000 leaflets were printed and distributed in the area and all other licensed premises in the district were contacted. Terry Lewis, the local MP, wrote to both Boddies and the Magistrates Court, expressing his opposition to the plans. Because of the strength of feeling, Manchester's favourite brewery company has decided to think again. Yet, strangely, no application for planning permission has been submitted to Salford Council. A scheme of this magnitude would not only require the sanction of the licensing justices for internal alterations but would also require formal planning consent for the enormous extensions envisaged at the rear and side of the premises.

If Boddingtons fail to modify their plans in such a way as to accommodate the manifest wishes of their customers - i.e. retaining the vault and much of the character of the pub, the Cockfighters are prepared not only to oppose the plans at the next licensing session, but also to object to planning permission and if necessary to force a public enquiry into the matter. Seldom can there have been such unequivocal opposition to a brewer's plans. Boddies say that some people were in favour of their plans. We've not met any yet and wonder who they are and why.



It is imperative that the Cock regulars do not believe the war is won. It's the easiest thing in the world for Boddies to instruct a solicitor at every licensing session - he's probably there anyway. But to generate the level of feeling where 50 committed people take a day's holiday and turn up to express their concern is more difficult

to sustain. Let's hope this fight can be won and preferably by Boddies changing their tune rather than battling it out over a prolonged period in various courts and public hearings.

Boddingtons' success in the past has been based on their loyal clientele - customers just like those in the Cock who are the backbone of their trade. Several long-attending regulars, aficionados of the beer, have sworn never to drink another pint of Boddies if the Cock is ravaged. We all know that it's trendy to move into catering and no doubt Boddies have got one eye on the stock exchange and potential predators, but they should build on their strengths. Yes, by all means improve the catering facilities at your larger premises, Boddingtons, but don't do that by destroying the focal points of your pubs.

If Boddies change their mind on this one, there's a chance that their whole policy may alter. What's Doing would be pleased to hear from readers who have news of other pubs where similar plans are being drawn up. Those too can be changed.

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### HAPPY HOURS

The strangely-named Castle, Union Street, Oldham (strange, because it used to be called the Grey Horse and there isn't a mediaeval castle for miles), is currently advertising what must be the best reductions in price in town. The Robinsons mild and bitter are discounted by 20p per pint throughout the lunchtime session from Monday to Saturday. Homemade food is also available.

### ALTERATIONS

Salford magistrates have granted permission for internal alterations to Hobsons Choice, the Crescent and the Bridge. The last involves the knocking down of most of the internal walls in what was a badly laid-out and poorly patronised house on Strawberry Road, Pendleton.

### MORE ALTERATIONS

Buckleys on Castle Street, Tyldesley, is expected to reopen before Christmas. This former Whitbread House of Horrors has been closed for many months and now the builders are at work. Will it become a pub again?

### STEAMING AHEAD

"The Old Steam Brewery", York Street, C-on-M, is expected to open in mid-December, selling handpumped Websters.



# CITY DESK

Peter O'Grady



## CITY SHOCKER

The GBG-listed CITY ARMS, Kennedy Street, is all set to lose its popular tenants Derek and Mavis Dearden. They have decided to buy the MELROSE HOTEL, Loch Promenade, Douglas, Isle of Man ("Open All Year. Very Comfortable. Good Home Cooking. En Suites Available. Douglas 76269") and will leave the City Arms in early January 1988. It is believed that the City may well become a managed house. Manchester will miss Derek and Mavis who have, in their time, been licensees of the Garrick, Fountain Street (now closed); Golden Lion, Withington (now the Manor House); Britons Protection; Victoria, Crown Square; Beehive, Swinton, and, of course, the City Arms. Best wishes for the future.

TETLEYS are believed to be opening new licensed premises close to the WAGGON & HORSES on Southgate. This could explain the removal of the Waggon's licensee to Zoot's in Moston.

THE MILLSTONE on Thomas Street is up for grabs. Anyone with £18,000 to spare can apply to Samuel Webster & Wilsons to take over this pub, which is to be done up in the next few months - hence the need for £18,000.

## BUCKING THE TREND

Sales of Jennings at the GBG-listed WHEATSHEAF on Oak Street are buoyant. New stillaging and beer lines are expected shortly, which will allow the new licensee to keep his Tetleys mild and bitter in tip-top condition.

## A TASTE OF THE FUTURE?

The Thwaites bitter and mild in MR THOMAS'S CHOP HOUSE, Cross Street, has been of such good quality in the last few months that the pub already seems to be a deserving candidate for the 1989 Good Beer Guide if the standards are maintained. Keep up the good work.

## OLDER AND BETTER

The VINE INN on Kennedy Street has been restored to its former glory. The exterior of the pub has been restored to a high standard. Landlord Peter White deserves to succeed with all the effort he has expended on the pub. He keeps his John Smiths bitter well, too.

## LAST HOPPED?

The TURVILLE (aka Last Hop) is being refurbished yet again. It's not that long ago that Bass spent a fortune on this Chester Road hostelry. But will the inhabitants of Hulme pay £1 a pint? (Sorry, 96p!)

## GOOD BEER GUIDE

Greater Manchester's entries in the 1988 Good Beer Guide confirm the predicted trend away from the Big Seven towards independent brewers. The breakdown looks like this:

<u>BIG SEVEN</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>LOCAL INDEPENDENTS</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
Bass	5	5	Boddingtons	9	9
Greenalls	6	5	Lees	8	10
S&N	1	1	Holts	18	22
John Smiths	1	1	Hydes	8	7
Tetley Walker	20	17	Oldham	1	1
Whitbread	1	2	Robinsons	22	24
Wilsons	20	15		66	73
	<u>54</u>	<u>46</u>			

<u>OTHER INDEPENDENTS</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
Banks's	0	2
Burtonwood	9	11
Marstons	6	6
Thwaites	8	8
Sam Smiths	6	6
Theakston	0	1
Matthew Brown	0	1
free	14	15
	<u>43</u>	<u>50</u>



The appearance of Websters Eurobland in many Wilsons houses may account for the sudden drop in Wilsons entries. Among the local independents the biggest has fared worst. In 1975 Boddies had 18 out of 112 entries. In 1988 they had 9 out of 169. Which just goes to show that the characteristics which are important for growth and market leadership aren't the same as those which contribute to well kept beer in traditional pubs.

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## CHORLEY ROAD CHANGES

Bass appear to be chucking a lot of money at the Red Lion, Moorside, Swinton. A new restaurant is being built at the back and the sign outside promises a range of Bass beers. We'll see. Down the road at the Foresters Arms (handpumped Tetley mild and bitter) builders are at work and the pub is getting a thorough going-over.

# BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

The Stanley Arms (right) on Chorley Old Road was due to reopen as WD went to press. It is now a Peter Walker pub and will be called "Sally up Steps", the nickname the pub has had for many years. Also due to reopen is the Man & Scythe on Churchgate (see WD September).



There are three new outlets for real ale in the Harwood/Bradshaw area. The Old School House, Whitbread's new Beefeater restaurant on Bolton Road, Bradshaw, sells Castle Eden in its public bar, while in Harwood the Grey Mare on Tottington Road is now selling handpulled draught Bass. The White Horse on Stitch-mi-Lane now has handpumps to serve Tetley mild, bitter and Ind Coope Burton Ale.

Another new outlet for Burton Ale is the Three Arrows on the Bury and Bolton Road at Starling. Handpulled Tetley bitter is also now on sale, following a recent refurbishment which has put a few pence on the price of a pint. The mild remains keg.

Followers of the Great Maxims Refurbishment Saga may be surprised to hear that the pub is still open and will remain so until after Christmas. The expensive refurbishment (reputed to be costing over £500,000) which Vaux plans for Maxims has been put back yet again. When complete, the pub will be almost unrecognisable, having been kitted out Victorian-style and with six cask beers. In the meantime, Everards Tiger is the latest guest beer. Maxims closes an hour early, at 11.00pm, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Still with Vaux, the latest addition to their tied estate is the Cardwell Arms at Adlington.

There are now three Tetley pubs in the Bolton area serving Jennings bitter. The Windmill, Manchester Road (A6), Westhoughton, joins the Clifton Arms, Newport Street, and the Lostock Arms, Lostock.

One of the many Tetley pubs to have flirted briefly with Jennings is the King William IV on Manchester Road, Bolton. This has just become the third Regal Knight Hotels pub and, like the others, a Tetley product tie has been retained. We can expect a refurbishment and a



price rise. Only one of the RKH pubs sells real ale - the Quill & Pen on Great Moor Street sells Walkers Best Bitter at 85p a pint.

The Falcon Inn on Kay Street is now a pile of rubble, the victim of the proposed Topp Way extension. Like its ex-neighbour and fellow pile of rubble, the Peel, the Falcon once featured in the Good Beer Guide.

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## HOLIDAY ALE (2)

### STRESSA HOTEL, SCARBOROUGH

The picturesque (!?) harbour at the country's oldest spa holiday resort offers fine views along the South Cliff's terrace of hotels. Just discernible (if sober) is the sign of the Stressa Hotel and Highland Bar. What sets the Stressa apart from all the rest is its home brewed ales. Just behind the hotel Jamie Clark and his son Tim brew four distinctive real ales - Thistle Mild (1033), Bitter (1040), EXB (1040) and No.68 (1045).

The first three are virtually indistinguishable from each other on the bar and make Boddies bitter look like a dark mild. What they lack in colour, they certainly make up for in flavour. The hops leap out of the glass as you quaff. (Dare I say that on return from holiday, Taylors Landlord and Holts bitter seemed bland by comparison?)

In a town dominated by Tetley and Camerons, whose bitters sell at 80p and more, the North & East Riding Brewery's products are a giveaway at 70p (75p for the No.68).

Steve Lawton

### A CANTERBURY TALE

Just as Whitbread Pompey Royal is available in places like Bolton and Rochdale, Chesters bitter has worked its way down South. A visit to Canterbury revealed Salford's pride-and-joy in a couple of Fremlins houses, at inflated prices, even for Whitbread. The Jolly Sailor on Northgate sold a drinkable pint of Chesters bitter for £1.04 a pint, whilst the same beer was absolutely vile at the City Arms, Butchery Lane, for £1.10. Ominously, Flowers Original had replaced Wethereds bitter in both pubs.

The quote of the weekend came from a sage in a free house in nearby Ashford, who was heard to complain about "paying for it down here, so they can drink it cheap up there." The mind boggles...

Dave White

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**Contributors to this issue:** Roger Hall, Pete Cash, Stewart Revell, Dave White, Paul Roberts.

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# NOW & THEN

Rob Magee

No.22

## ALBION INN

1 & 3 HIGH STREET, OLDHAM

The Albion was one of ten Oldham public houses with an official first licensing date of 1763. (Two of these remain open today – the Old Mess House and the One and Three.) In fact, there was a public house on the site of the Albion several decades before 1763; George Hardman's Pack Horse Inn was there in 1736, in the days when good roads were virtually non-existent and the only sure way of transporting goods was by pack horse.

By 1807 the inn had become the White Horse, run by William Bamford. Around 1831 the White Horse was rebuilt as a 20 bedroom commercial hotel, with its own brewhouse and stabling for 40 horses, and it became one of Oldham's principal inns, rivalling the Angel opposite. It was renamed the Talbot for a few years, when John Clay was tenant, but it was the Albion again in 1834 under Richard Wharton. Eight coaches a day changed horses at the Albion. Among them were "The Miller" to Halifax, the "True Briton" to Huddersfield and the "Umpire" to Leeds.

William Boothby took over the Albion Inn about 1850, and he was there until at least 1870. Around 1868 Boothby bought an old hat factory at Coldhurst and opened a brewery which was later known as the Albion





Brewery, named after the inn. He also continued to brew at the inn's brewhouse, despite a setback during a gale in 1859, when the chimney collapsed and brought the roof down. Brewing probably ceased when the Albion Inn was acquired by Oldham Brewery in 1897.

The pub was rebuilt again in 1937, during John Clayton's tenancy (1929-40). It then had the distinction of being the only public house in the Oldham Metropolitan district to have a lift installed. Herman Hilton kept the Albion between 1940 and 1942, and Charles Bickerton from 1942 until 1953. It was then a very busy pub, with regular musical free and easys upstairs and down - Charley saw plenty of demob suits!

In 1972 Oldham Brewery were tempted by a lucrative offer from developers, and on 24th July the Albion closed its doors for the last time.

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## PLANNING NEWS

Fact 201 Ltd want to convert the basement of 28/30 Oldham Street, Manchester, into a pub with restaurant and brasserie. It doesn't look like real ale's going to feature prominently, but you never know.

Down in Strangeways, there's a lot of cash and carries and not a lot of pubs. The Mechanics Arms has been demolished and the Dolphin is now a bullion dealer's. Perhaps it's got something to do with followers of Islam not supping a lot. Anyway, there's an application to turn the ground floor of the Wellington into a cash and carry.

## BODDIES IN THE CLUBS

Boddingtons beers have been sighted in two new club outlets recently - the Bantry Club on Derby Street in Bolton and New Cross Labour Club on Old Mill Street, Ancoats.

# KING'S ALE

## Leo King

The Gateway, East Didsbury's only pub, has had a complete refurbishment. The pub must rate as one of the largest pubs in Hydes' estate, if not the largest. Thankfully, the wood



panelling has remained and the transformation has meant that the pub is more of an upmarket place. Have you ever noticed that many pubs, after being altered, seem to have a somewhat claustrophobic and smoky atmosphere about them? Some typical examples are the Manchester Regiment, St Georges; the Southern, Chorlton, and the Royal Oak, Chorlton. Even the scruffiest to the poshest Manchester transformation – the Wheatsheaf to Bensons – is in this category. The Wheatsheaf, although a rough pub, seemed light and spacious, but Bensons – well, judge for yourself. However, back to the Gateway. I preferred the pub as it was; now there are lights all over the place and all of different types and colours. On a recent Friday evening visit the pub was packed (probably mainly student patronage) and the place was uncomfortable, smoky and the beer was not up to standard. At 76p a pint for a 1036.6 og bitter (electric dispense) I expect better. On the plus side, I would say the furnishings are well-appointed and Hydes haven't turned the Gateway into a freak house. I am sure that Hydes beers (very good stuff) taste better via handpumps – the Jolly Angler proves it!

## DRINK AT JOE'S

It is often said that the city centre of Manchester has higher pub prices than the surrounding districts. This is not really so – don't be fooled! I went on a pub prices tour of part of South Manchester – East Didsbury, Didsbury and Heaton Mersey – with the following results (all prices are per pint of bitter):

**Mersey Vale** (Boddingtons – formerly Dog & Partridge), Heaton Mersey

78p o.g 1035



Gateway (Hydes), East Didsbury 76p o.g 1036.6

(The Didsbury pub bar/lounge was closed)

Ye Olde Cock Inn (Chesters), Didsbury 80p o.g 1033

Crown (Greenalls), Didsbury 84p o.g 1038

Royal Oak (Marstons), Didsbury 84p o.g 1037

Albert (Hydes), Didsbury 82p o.g 1036.6. Yes - even 6p dearer than the Gateway and a price a little higher than the city centre pubs. The Albert's beers have always been priced well above the Hydes average.

Nelson (Wilsons), Didsbury 82p o.g 1036.5

Griffin (Holts), Heaton Mersey 64p o.g 1039

So Joe Holts, the "bitter with the bite", has the highest gravity and the lowest price and was, as always, the bargain of the night. It certainly pays to shop around, and with Holts up to 20p a pint cheaper, I think we should have a sale!

### BODERNISATION

Alterations at the Southern Hotel (Boddingtons) in Chorlton are now well in progress. This large pub (the biggest in Chorlton) is having the "hara-kiri" treatment. The interior of the downstairs lounge is being ripped apart; gone are the toilets and the nearby walls, opening up the former separate room. The whole structure is getting a real bashing. I hear the Southern is going to become a pub/restaurant - how successful it will be remains to be seen. The Princess in Chorlton, half a mile towards Princess Road, was formerly a Whitbread "Beef-eater" establishment. It appeared to enjoy little success and is now back as a pub/diner.

During alterations at the Southern the upstairs lounge is open, as is the vault. I hope that the vault remains intact, as this large room has always had character. These current alterations follow £250,000-worth not very long ago which resulted in the pub being taken out of the Good Beer Guide after quite a long run as "a pub to suit all tastes". Let's hope the emphasis at the new Southern will be on the beer. Let's have handpumps, a selection of the Boddington group beers, a brighter outlook than of late, the retention of the vault and, of course, good beer. The curried chicken and pizzas can take second place for once.

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### BLOBS

Yates's have acquired the lease of Lissell's Wine Bar in the old Fallowfield Railway Station. Blobs should inundate the area from March onwards. It will be a new-style blob shop, of course, similar to the one which opened in Stockport's Market Place recently.

To the Editor:

375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M27

# LETTERS



## STUDENT GUIDE

Sir - I was disappointed by the feature "Real Ale - A Students' Guide" (WD November) and note the author is not named. Whilst it may be fair to exclude such Yuppie haunts as Tommy Ducks, Sam's Chop House and Portland Bars (to name but three) on the grounds of price if nowt else, what has the landlady of the Grey Horse done to upset you?

Why include the Booth Street Crown, Smithfields and the Waggon & Horses if price is a criterion? What about Sinclairs (the only Sam Smiths)? And the Old Garratt (OB without a trip to Oldham, Higsons without going to Stockport or Scouseville)?

On Monday 20th July, myself and five colleagues - some of them for the first and last time - visited the Jolly Angler and the Coach and Horses. All the beers sampled were in very poor condition.

The map has some mistakes, too: 45 is the Lower Turks Head; 64 is Paddy's Goose. The last time I drank Greenalls in the Kings Head it was on Chancellor Lane. The Crown & Anchor also sells Castle Eden. Finally, I think the Marble Arch deserves more than a passing reference.

I Gaunt

(The information used for the maps in the Students' Guide was based on the never-to-appear Greater Manchester Guide and the selections were made by the branches involved. In fairness, both the Crown and the Old Garratt have changed somewhat since selection. Significantly, the Grey Horse has been dropped from the national Good Beer Guide and the Coach & Horses hasn't featured for several years. The Jolly Angler merits re-examination. The cartographical errors are ours, as is the incorrect address for the Kings Head. We are unsure of the permanence of Castle Eden at the Crown & Anchor. The Marble Arch is actually pictured on the front of the guide, hardly a passing reference!)

## BANKS'S

Sir - Re the item in November WD concerning Langtons Wine Bar. It is not, in fact, the only outlet in Greater Manchester selling handpumped Banks's bitter and hasn't been for some time. The bitter is permanently on sale at the Why Not, Ashton New Road, Bradford, and the Imperial, Birch Street, West Gorton. In addition, Adswold Working Mens' Club in Stockport sells both handpumped bitter and mild.

John Clarke



# WIGAN & DISTRICT

Dave White

To begin with, an update on a couple of last month's items. LET'S WINE BAR, the Wiend, Wigan, reopened on 12th November. Now rejoicing in the name DOLLARS, the establishment serves keg Tetleys.

The TUDOR ARMS HOTEL, New Market Street, Wigan, is actually called the TUDOR HOUSE HOTEL. Sorry! It is sad to see this pub empty so often, particularly as the landlord was once mine host at the PLOUGH AND HARROW (Boddingtons), Upholland, formerly one of the busiest pubs on Earth. Things will doubtless improve when the nearby bus station in Hallgate opens. (Before Christmas, we are assured.)

On the subject of Christmas, the Festive Season means the return of winter ale. GEM'S Free House, Dicconson Street, Wigan, should be serving Hydes Anvil strong ale, barring snags, while Youngers No.3 will be back on at the nearby MARKET TAVERN, along with cask YSB and IPA.

Out-of-town now, and the MILLSTONE, Hervey Lane, Golborne, has been converted to handpumps. The landlady of this Greenalls pub insisted on genuine handpumps, unlike the electrically-assisted ones appearing in some Greenalls cask outlets (such as the RAMS HEAD, Slag Lane, Lowton).

Real handpumps are believed to have been installed at the WINDMILL, Station Road, Parbold. This is one of the few pubs in the area to sell all three of Greenalls cask beers - mild, bitter and Original. People who maintain that Greenalls can't brew good beer should visit the Windmill.

Congratulations go to the staff and customers of the ENFIELD INN, Enfield Street, Pemberton, who between them have helped to raise over £1,500 towards Muscular Dystrophy research. The pub serves handpumped Wilsons bitter.

Another Wilsons pub in the area, the Lych Gate, Church Street, Standish, is now serving Websters Choice, alongside Yorkshire Bitter (yum-yum!) and Wilsons mild and bitter. While it may be admirable of CAMRA to try to keep the Wilsons name alive, I would argue that there is little to distinguish Wilsons bitter from Websters bitter these days.

The BOARS HEAD, Boars Head village, near Wigan, no longer serves Burtonwood JBA Premium, or any other cask beer, for that matter.

The BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Hallgate, Wigan, was recently selling Jennings bitter on a trial basis for 50p a pint, but the beer hasn't proved a

success and will almost certainly be dropped. (The "Brickies" sells immaculate Tetley mild and Walker best bitter via air pressure.) Some would argue that Tetley's lukewarm promotion of Jennings bitter made its demise in Tetley pubs inevitable. But is this the whole story? CAMRA HQ is calling for each licensee to have the right to stock one extra bulk beer of his/her choice, free of tie. A nice idea, to be sure; but while many landlords find it difficult to sell even one bulk beer in the face of lager sales, a plea for guest beers in tied houses can be a little unrealistic. Food for thought?

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### AUF WIEDERSEH'N, LUITPOLD!

As a result of a bet with Dieter Soltmann, manager of Spaten-Franziskanerbräu, Prince Luitpold marched 60 kilometres from his castle-brewery at Kaltenberg, complete with dray and massed bands, to the Theresenwies'n grounds in Munich. The prince was intent on breaking the Oktoberfest rules, which state that only Munich-brewed



beers may be served at the world's biggest amber nectar show. However, things went sadly wrong for Bavaria's most colourful prince (left) and, instead of being warmly received by half a million grateful imbibers, he had a less hospitable reception from the assembled masses of the local Polizei. He had broken five byelaws and was banished from the 'fest until the turn of the century!

Not even the excitement over Luitpold's invasion could make up for the much cooler than usual weather, and sales at the Oktoberfest were well down on previous years. 5.2 million litres were consumed (5.38 million in 1986); 1,400,000 half chickens (1,396,000); 70,000 pigs' trotters (73,500); 348,000 pairs of sausages (363,000), and 76 oxen (75).

### DROP INN

Monton's former celebrated free house, now owned by John Smiths, is selling just one real ale - John Smiths bitter. It is priced at 69p a pint, which is quite cheap for Smiths, but then Holts's Park isn't far away!



# TAKEOVERS

Paul Roberts

## MATTHEW BROWN

With help from the collapse of the world's stockmarkets, Scottish & Newcastle managed to take control of Matthew Brown at the third attempt. There really was no question about it - the only surprise was that it was done by such a narrow margin. S&N offered 750 pence for every Matthew Brown share. If the bid failed the market price would have fallen to half of that price, so no shareholder in his right mind could possibly refuse S&N's offer. Although a guarantee has been given over the short term future of the Blackburn brewery, no such assurance has been given over Workington's plant. As S&N already have a modern distribution depot just off the M61 at Chorley, it seems likely that some distribution jobs will disappear from Blackburn.

## BEAR WITH A SORE HEAD

While the falling stockmarket helped S&N in their bid for Brown, Midsummer Leisure did not fare as well. After paying over 220p a share for a sizeable number of Boddingtons shares prior to their unsuccessful takeover bid, they had to off-load them to Whitbread for just over 140p a share - a third loss on the transaction. Let's just hope that the failed bid shakes Boddingtons up and gives them an incentive to brew distinctive beers again instead of the bland amber liquid they've produced for the last decade.

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## NO BULL

Robinsons plan to alter the Bush on Market Street, Hyde, and extend the pub into the property next door.

*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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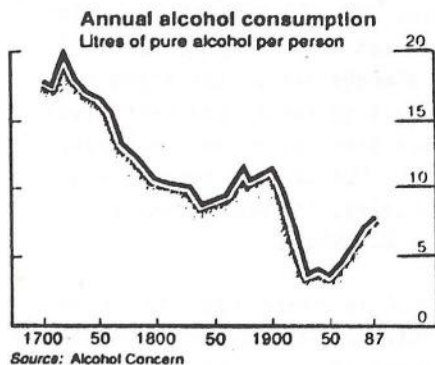
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## DON'T KNOCK THE PUB

Bill Collier

The anti-alcohol brigade are at it again. Their main worry this time is the planned extension of pub opening hours.



The chart shows the incidence of annual alcohol consumption since the beginning of the eighteenth century. There is a general decline from 1700 to 1950. During this time beer drinking gradually replaced the consumption of spirits - gin shops disappeared and the pub became the main source of social imbibing. Beer was considered socially beneficial and instead of people being totally sloshed all the

time they tended to be half-sloshed on less numerous occasions. This is roughly the position today, but the post-war rise is perhaps a cause for concern, especially amongst the temperance movement.

The later post-war years have been the era of the big brewer. Using new technology they have produced an amazing array of alcoholic products, many of which CAMRA has campaigned against, fearing they may eventually replace traditional beer itself. These dubious beers and lagers have been complemented by the increased availability of wines and spirits. All these products have been mass-marketed in an increasing number of non-pub outlets.

So DON'T KNOCK THE PUB. Faced with this barrage of competition, the numbers have actually gone down and there has been a decline in traditional beer sales.

History indeed throws up strange bedfellows. CAMRA and the temperance movement both want a ban on the television advertising of alcoholic drinks. From CAMRA's point of view the adverts tend to glamorize drinks it detests, like lager, and drinks it couldn't care less about, like wines and spirits. The temperance movement sees a ban on television advertising as a means of reducing the general consumption of the evil liquid.

CAMRA purists and the more moderate members of the anti-alcohol brigade have more in common than they realise.



## PROBLEMS WITH REAL ALE (1854)

The following comes from "Wild Wales" by George Borrow, who took a walking tour through Wales and visited many inns on the route..

Of my dinner at the White Lion, Bala, I had nothing to complain, but the ale which accompanied it was very bad. This was the more mortifying for remembering the excellent ale I had drank at Bala some months previously. I had as I came along the gloomy roads been

promising myself a delicious treat on my arrival.

"This is very bad ale!" said I to the freckled maid. "Very different from what I drank in the summer when I was waited on by Tom Jenkins."

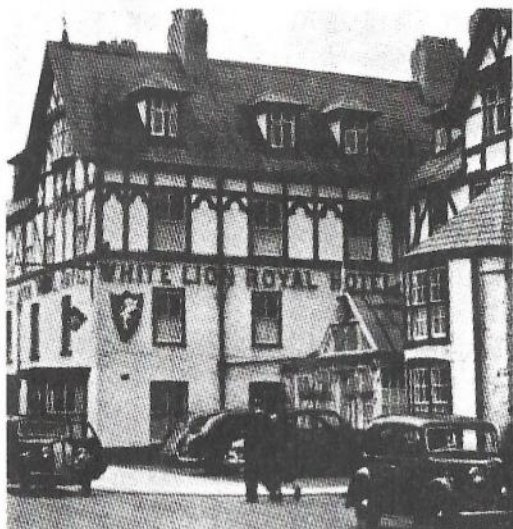
"It's the same ale, sir," said the maid, "but the last of the cask and we shan't have more for six months when he comes again to brew for the summer. But we do have a very good porter, sir, and first rate Allsopp."

"Allsopp's ale," said I, "will do for July and August, but

scarcely for October. However, bring me a pint. I prefer it at all times to porter."

How about that? A choice of three ales, one local, one Burton and a porter, with a freckled maid thrown in. Those were the days.

Bryan Jackson



# MOORHOUSE'S

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# RUPERT'S PAGE



And quite right too. There he was, stood outside his pub, glass of beer in hand in a natural pose, bemoaning the fact that the vindictive naughties who compile the toppers' vademecum hadn't seen fit to include what must be, without any doubt at all, the best hostelry in Christendom - the veritable essence of pubness. I quite concur. The fact that he named a hitherto anonymous cloth-eared barperson and put words into the mouth of his former employee is neither here nor there. The truth of the matter is that this Buck House of taverns is not in the bibulous bible and is a testament to the gerrymandering activities of the so-called selectors. It's painfully obvious that the quality of the beer doesn't enter into their consideration at all. He's got lots and lots of CAMRA approved beer, as he says himself, so it can't be that. All the surveying of every pub and the democratic selection of pubs by vote at a public meeting was an elaborate sham. The meeting was peopled by plants and anyway he got all the votes and they fudged the results so that he wouldn't get in. It's pretty obvious that because he won't sell this pathetic organ they had a tiff with him and chucked out his megastar hostelry for no other reason. I can never understand why they didn't chuck Bilko out when he fell out with them for pretending a diatribe of mendacious bilge was the truth. Perhaps its because he wrote the branch constitution and they're eternally grateful.

Mind you, I blame the overtall. When the branch has selected its pubs, the Grotley supremo has an overriding dictatorial say in what goes in the vademecum. Why didn't Mr Barreler slap their wrists and put it in anyway? We should be told. And then there's the almost equally overtall Nellie Oogley, who's now left his editorial chair to work for the Real Peat Marketing Board (haven't I heard of them before?) He could have put it in because he is, or was, boss of the whole caboodle. He even launched the vademecum from the very same super pub one year when it wasn't even in it. So he does know about it.

It's about time posturing berks stopped touring pubs and selecting them - what do they know about them anyway? Pubs should be chosen by mine hosts who know everything about everything and could make lots more lucre. Mind you, a pub which has been in the guide for 10 years doesn't always get as much publicity as one which is left out out of malice, so what's to do? Not worth being a landlord, is it?





# Branch Diary

**REGIONAL MEETING:** Weds 9 Dec, Brewers Arms, Great Ducie Street, 8pm prompt.

## WIGAN

Wed 2 Dec 8.30. Beer Guide meeting. Bowling Green, Wigan Lane, Wigan  
 Wed 9 Dec 8.30 Branch Meeting, Tudor House Hotel, New Market St, Wigan  
 Sat 19 Dec Wigan Pub Crawl. Bowling Green, Newtown 7.30. Seven Stars 8.45  
 Sat 2 Jan Manchester Crawl. Castle & Falcon, Bradshaw St 7.30.  
 Contact Brian Gleave Atherton 892965 (h), Atherton 876200 (w)

## BOLTON

Tues 8 Dec 8.30. Branch Meeting, Rawsons Arms, Peel Street, next to Farnworth Station  
 Sun 13 Dec 12 noon. Social, Farmers Arms, Darcy Lever  
 Mon 14 Dec Xmas Beer and Curry Social. 8.30 Howcroft, 11.30 Shimul's Indian Restaurant, St George's Road  
 Contact Dave Fleming Bolton 389918 (h) 75111 x207 (w)

## TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 3 Dec 8pm. Committee/Social, White Lion, Liverpool Rd, Manchester  
 Thurs 17 Dec 8pm. Branch Meeting & Christmas Dinner, Railway, Mobberley. Details from branch contact  
 Thurs 7 Jan 8pm. Committee/Social, Sale Wardens Club, Wardle Rd, Sale. All welcome  
 Contact: David Shelton 224 7341 x27 (w). 795 2113 (h)

## NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 16 Dec Branch Meeting, White Swan, Swinton. 8pm  
 Sat 19 Dec Branch Christmas Crawl and Curry in Eccles. 11.30-12.00 Packet House, 1.00 Bridgewater.  
 Wed 23 Dec Hightown Crawl. 7pm Waterloo. 8.30 Robin Hood  
 Wed 30 Dec. Derby Brewery Arms, Cheetham Hill Rd, 7.30. Queens Arms, Red Bank 8.30  
 Wed 6 Jan. Chapel Street, Salford. Salford Arms 7pm, Punch Bowl 8.30  
 Wed 13 Jan Astley. Miners Arms 8pm, Cart & Horses 9pm  
 Wed 20 Jan Branch Meeting, Crescent, Salford 8pm  
 Wed 27 Jan, Cock Hotel, Worsley, 8pm  
 Contact Roger Hall 740 7937

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**WALKERS** Winter Warmer is now on sale in the following:

Eagle & Hawk, Chapel Street, Leigh  
 Miners Arms, Manchester Road, Astley  
 Stags Head, St Helens Road, Bolton  
 Ainsworth Arms, Halliwell Road, Bolton  
 Church Inn, George Street, New Bury  
 Lower Angel, Buttermarket St, Warrington  
 Market, Brackley Street, Farnworth

Raven, Wallgate, Wigan. Springfield, Springfield Road, Wigan



# THE QUEENS ARMS

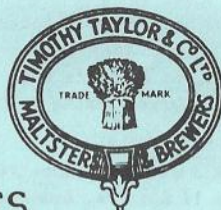
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12.00 to 2.00 Sunday

EVENING: 7.00 to 11.00 Monday to Saturday  
7.00 to 10.30 Sunday

A selection of hot and cold food at lunchtime  
and early evening, including chilli and curry

Special menu for weekends available