

# WHAT'S DOING



JAN  
1988

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

## CITY PRICE SURVEY



On the evening of Wednesday 25th November a survey of beer and lager prices in all the pubs in Central Manchester was made. Once again the Portland Hotel takes the biscuit with beer and lager at £1.70 a pint and once again the White House (left) offers the best value for money with Holts mild and bitter at 66p and 68p respectively. Beer prices generally have risen at about twice the rate of inflation over the last two years, and this at a time when there have been no increases in excise duty and the cost of raw materials (malt and hops) has actually fallen.

Perhaps the most disturbing conclusion to be drawn from the survey is the steady march of

lager at extortionate prices. Mild sales have declined considerably. Only 43 outlets served cask mild, many others served none at all and the first beerless "pub" has emerged - Henri's in the Parsonage. The local independents can no longer be said universally to offer better



value for money. Certainly, on average they're still cheaper than the Big Seven, but when Boddingtons can cost 90p a pint or keg Lees 80p it must be remembered that Tetleys and Chesters can still be obtained for 73p.

The local brewers seem to be jumping on the "pub target marketing" bandwagon - a market segmentation approach to licensed premises. Pubs are no longer simply pubs but retail outlets which can be differentiated in terms of clientele. The new cellar bars with fancy names attract young people with high disposable incomes and can charge what they like for their wares. To a large extent price is no longer a criterion in many of these premises. The brewer's name is no longer an indication of price. There are greater price differences between pubs of the same brewer than there are between different brewers.

The full results of the survey are as follows. K = no traditional mild/bitter.

		<u>Mild</u>	<u>Bitter</u>	<u>Lager</u>
Abercrombie	Chesters	75	80-85	96-105
Ancoats	Free ?	68	K72	88-100
Bank	Tetley	-	K84	98-100
Bensons	Chesters	-	82-90	100
Boardroom	Wilsons	K82	84	102-110
Brahms & Liszt	Free	-	85-98	95-115
Branagans	Free	-	85-90	95-110
Brewers Arms	Boddingtons	73	77	91-106
Bridge Inn	Chesters	-	76	92
Bridge Street Tavern	Wilsons	-	82-84	102-108
Britannia	Wilsons	71	74	89
Britannia Hotel	Free ?	K110	K110	120
Britons Protection	Tetley	-	85-96	100-115
Brunswick	Wilsons	K86	88-96	106-108
Bulls Head	Burtonwood	77	80-87	95
Burton Arms	Bass	K74	76-80	90
Castle	Robinsons	70	74	84-92
Castle & Falcon	Burtonwood	K74	77	90
Champers	Free	-	K86	98-110
Chesters Pie & Ale House	Chesters	77	78-88	93-107
China Garden	Tetley	-	K90	100
Churchill	Greenalls	K78	80	80-100
Circus	Tetley	-	75	-
City	Chesters	-	80 NO	PRICE LIST
City Arms	Tetley	75	78-85	100
City Road Inn	Chesters	K73	75-76	92-104
Coach & Horses	Free	76	80-84	100
Commercial	Wilsons	K76	77	93-100
Conservatory	Wilsons	-	K100	110-120
Corbieres	Free	-	88	100-104
Corner House	Free	-	K84	94-102
Cotton Tree	Chesters	K68	K70	
Crown (Booth St)	Bass	-	90-96	104-112

Crown (Deansgate)	Wilsons	-	77-91	93-100
Crown Affair		CLOSED		
Crown & Anchor	Chesters	74	76-86	91-105
Crown & Cushion	Chesters	72	76	90
Crown & Kettle	Wilsons	-	76-89	95-100
Dancing Weasel	Free ?	K70	K72	86
Ducie Bridge	Wilsons	77	78-89	94-96
Dutton	Hydes	70	75	85
Gaythorn	Bass	K74	K76	100
Grand Hotel	Free	K100	100	100-120
Grey Horse	Hydes	76	78	88
Gullivers	Lees	73	75	84-98
Hare & Hounds	Tetley	70	73	88-90
Harp & Shamrock	Marstons	75	77-87	87
Hat & Feathers	Chesters	K	76 NO	PRICE LIST
Henris	Free ?	NO	BEER	112-124
Imperial	Wilsons	78	82-84	100-102
Isadoras	Wilsons	K85	K89	99-122
John Willie Lees	Lees	72	75	84
Jolly Angler	Hydes	71	75	84
King	Tetley	76	78	90-92
Land o' Cakes	Chesters	74	76	91-105
Langtons	Free	-	83	100-105
Lass o' Gowrie	Chesters	80	82-93	97-111
Lord Nelson	John Smiths	K72	K75	86-90
Lower Turks Head	Wilsons	K77	78-80	95
Mamas	Chesters	K74	76	90
Marble Arch	Free	-	78-98	89
Millstone	Wilsons	73	76	88-89
Mitre	Wilsons	K76	80-82	95-104
Mitzi's	Wilsons	-	K90	100-125
Monroes	Chesters	K77	81-83	98-108
Mother Macs	Chesters	73	75	93-103
Moulders Arms	Tetley	72	75	85-91
Nags Head	Greenalls	K77	K80	92-104
New Union	Burtonwood	80	82	95-104
New York	Wilsons	K80	85	100
Nicklebys	Wilsons	K82	84-86	102-110
Old Garratt	Boddingtons	77	78-79	94-108
Old Grapes	Free ?	80	80-85	95-100
Old White Bear	Tetley	K76	78	90
Oscars		CLOSED		
Oxfords	Wilsons	K84	K86	104-112
Oxnoble	Chesters	76	77-78	92-103
Pack Horse	Greenalls	K74	77	80-88
Paddys Goose	Wilsons	K80	82-84	100-102
Peveril of the Peak	Wilsons	80	80-85	100-105
Piccadilly Hotel	Free	-	140	150
Portland Bar	Free ?	-	86-92	96
Portland Hotel	S & N	-	170	170
Rembrandt	Lees	K75	K80	90-100
Ricos		CLOSED		
Rising Sun	Wilsons	-	86-108	104-112
Rosies Bar	Wilsons	K82	K84-86	102-104

Royal Central	Boddingtons	-	90	100-112
Royal George (Lever St)	Wilsons	74	76-78	89-95
Royal George (Rochdale Rd)	Chesters	CLOSED		
St Vincent	Bass	K74	K78	96
Salisbury	Wilsons	80	82-95	100-102
Sams Chop House		CLOSED		
Sawyers Arms	Wilsons	K86	K88	106-114
Seftons	Wilsons	K84	K84-86	102-110
Seven Oaks	Chesters	77	82	96-104
Shakespeare	Wilsons	K86	88-96	106-114
Sinclairs	Sam Smiths	K78	82-97	95-111
Smithfields	Tetleys	78	80-92	95-100
Smithfield Vaults		CLOSED		
Sportsmans		CLOSED		
Square Albert	Tetley	79	82	96-108
Star & Garter	Chesters	K74	73-77	89
Swan	Wilsons	76	78-80	96-98
Swinging Sporrán		CLOSED		
Thomas's Chop House		CLOSED		
Thompsons Arms	Wilsons	K82	84	102-104
Tommy Ducks	Greenalls	K78	82-84	94-104
Top Cat	Wilsons	K68	K70	86
Town Hall Tavern	Bass	86	90-96	104-112
Trafalgar	Free ?	K84	84	98
Unicorn	Bass	74	78-82	94-100
Victoria	Tetleys	K78	K80	90-100
Victoria Station Bar	Free	-	86-92	96
Vine	John Smiths	K75	80	97-110
Waggon & Horses	Wilsons	-	84-110	102-104
Waldorf	Chesters	76	80-82	95-105
Weavers		CLOSED		
Wellington	Bass	K79	83-87	97-106
Wheatshaf	Tetley	71	74-79	87-95
White House	Free	66	68-79	90-100
White Lion	Chesters	78	81	95-105
Yates's Grapes	Free	K80	80-84	92-100
Yates's Merchants	Free	K78	80-82	92-108
Yates's (Oldham St)	Free	-	K80-82	92
Yates's (High St)	Free	K80	K82	94-110

### ASHTON CAFE BAR?

We've seen them in Manchester - but a cafe bar in Ashton? An application has been made to convert an office at 6-8 Old Street into one.

### TOLD YOU

In July 1986 What's Doing suggested that Watneys had made a slight error in selecting the Druids Home on Silk Street, Salford, for Webstering. It lasted longer than we thought but at the beginning of December the pub was boarded up. Where's next?

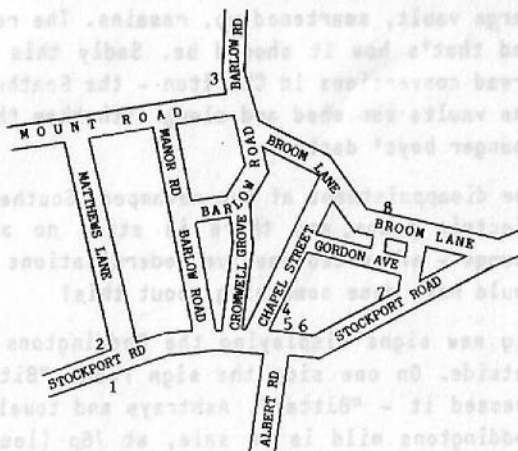


# KING'S ALE

Leo King

Levenshulme's first Holts pub, the SIDINGS on Broom Lane, opened on 10th December. It's a large building with a light, roomy and comfortable lounge - luxurious without overdoing it - and a well-lit vault. Bitter is 67p and mild 65p.

With the Sidings, an eight-pub real ale ramble round Levenshulme is possible. Begin at the FARMERS ARMS (1), a comfortable Chesters pub - 75p for a pint of bitter, which is not too bad. No traditional mild, unfortunately. Across Stockport Road is the MIDWAY (2), a Chef & Brewer outlet which has seen better days. I believe the original pub on this site was once called the Bowling Green - the car park was the bowling green. The interior of the Midway resembles a large barn - whatever happened to all the ornate woodwork and etched glass of Walker & Homfray and Wilsons days? Handpumped bitter at 80p, no traditional mild. Enough said.



A 7-10 minute walk via Barlow Road or Cromwell Grove leads to the POLYGON (3), a Boddingtons (formerly Clarkes Reddish Brewery) pub with a basic vault and nice room. It's the only real ale pub in the area on electric pumps - Boddies mild and bitter. The HORSESHOE (4) on Chapel Street is a pleasant, busy Wilsons pub. Back on Stockport Road, opposite Albert Road, is Levenshulme's smallest pub, the UNION (5, left). This place never ceases to amaze (or annoy) me! There are two small rooms and a vault, yet the lobby is always crowded. However, it is certainly a pub of character and the Boddies is not bad at all.



A few doors away is SPORTS (6). It's an Americanised bar that was once a sensible pub called the Pack Horse. However, there is handpumped beer (Websters/Wilsons) and the place is bright and has comfortable

seating. Not far away, past the old town hall, is the LEVENSHULME (7) - a Websters/Wilsons outlet which has been transformed from a drab pub to a pleasant one. Wilsons mild and bitter are available (a nice drink, too). Finally, there is the SIDINGS - Holts mild and bitter at 65p and 67p.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Southern Hotel in Chorlton-cum-Hardy reopened on 10th December. There is now a large lounge with restaurant facilities and no gimmicks. The gloomy atmosphere has thankfully been eliminated and the large vault, smartened up, remains. The regular faces are still around and that's how it should be. Sadly this wasn't the case at two Whitbread conversions in Chorlton - the Feathers and the Royal Oak - where the vaults vanished and along with them the old boys' dominoes and the younger boys' darts.

One disappointment at the revamped Southern is the continuing use of electric pumps, and there is still no access to the vault from the lounge - after two massive modernisations I would have thought Boddies would have done something about this!

Big new signs displaying the Boddingtons trademark have been erected outside. On one side the sign reads "Bitter" and on the other - you guessed it - "Bitter". Ashtrays and towels advertise bitter. However, Boddingtons mild is on sale, at 76p (lounge) and 72p (vault). Bitter is 77p and 75p. Beware the keg Higsons and OB.

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### GOING FOR A BURTON

Tetleys have applied for permission to build a pub at the junction of Palatine Road and Burton Road in Withington. The plans envisage the conversion and extension of 8 and 10 Palatine Road with vehicular access from Burton Road.

*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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## FANCY THAT

Dear *City Life*,  
Regarding Mick Peck's review of The Peveril Of The Peak pub (*City Life* 90), perhaps the following may explain.

A "Peveril" was the name of one of the mail coaches which would call at the pub using it as a resting point.

The pub is also reputedly haunted by one of its old retainers, Mr Godfrey Bence, who was unfortunately trampled to death by a mail coach horse.

This particular coach was en route to Liverpool and was due to call at the Duke of York pub, Eccles, to pick up mail and passengers. Local wags say that this particular mode of transport was more efficient than our present day bus service to Eccles since deregulation.

Maurice Elms  
Eccles

CITY LIFE

## OSCARS

At long last it looks as though Grand Met plan to do something with what was formerly the Waldorf Hotel on Cooper Street. The premises have been closed for a long time but permission has now been sought for alterations which may herald a reopening in the not too distant future.

## FREE HOUSE LOSS

The Spinners Tavern, Lees Road, Oldham, has been acquired by Banks's Brewery. It became a free house a year or so ago, but it was perhaps too far out of the town centre to succeed.

## SHORT BLOOM

The Kings Arms on Bloom Street, Salford, which opened in a blaze of glory selling a range of cask beers, had none at all in the middle of December. Despite its proximity to Manchester, the new free house has never really caught on. Pubs

only a cockstride away, like the Salford Arms, are quite busy, so what's wrong with the Kings?

## CUE JUMPING

Crucible Snooker Clubs have applied to change the Grove Snooker Club on Plymouth Grove into a pub with a function room and to convert the garage next door into a snooker club.

# MOORHOUSE'S

## BREWERS OF REAL ALE

PREMIER BITTER (O.G. 1036°)  
Silver Medal Award Winner, Brewex 83

PENDLE WITCHES BREW (O.G. 1050°)  
Believed Strongest Bitter Brewed in the North-West

Both delivered weekly direct from brewery to cellar. Contact Max Taylor to place your order.

Tel: BURNLEY (0282) 22864

PREMIER  
DRAUGHT BITTER  
*The Prize-Winning Pint!*

Pendle  
Witches  
Brew

STRONG  
BURNLEY  
BITTER



## WILSONS

At the end of October John Longden, Wilson's Property Director, talked to the North Manchester branch of CAMRA about Wilson's rebuilding and refurbishing policy. John is now responsible for Pennine Host as well as Wilsons tenanted houses and with a budget of £3m has to contend with a repair liability of £30m.

He explained some of the conflicts involved in his work. Location and building styles impose considerable restrictions - some Victorian buildings with elaborate turrets could cost fortunes to maintain, yet alterations to elevations may destroy the integrity of the building. Exteriors may clash with interiors, particularly where the tenant considers him- or herself as an arbiter of taste. Whether to repair or refurbish could also prove to be a dilemma, whilst marketing considerations have important implications for the property department. Other factors which need to be taken into account are the licensee and his staff, the increasing presence of women in public houses, the de-emphasising of alcohol, return on investment, asset value and short-term versus long-term strategy.



Wilson's envisage a future with less pubs and certainly less ordinary pubs, but with those remaining pubs more interesting and of better quality. Pub Target Marketing seems to be the buzzword. The JR's in Stockport, for example, had cost £50,000 to tart up but the barrelage (kegage?) had increased from 3 to 18 barrels a week. Mind you, we did wonder how long it would last. We were also given one or two interesting glimpses of the market place. In the North West, lager accounts for 35% of pints drunk in tenanted houses, against 55% for bitter. In the managed houses lager has edged in front of the bitter at 46%. Mild is 10% in the tenanted trade and less than 5% in the managed trade.

Generally, we were impressed with the improvements in Wilson's treatment of its tied estate. Recent examples like the Peveril, the Ordsall and the Corporation were vastly superior to balls-ups



like the Northumberland. The property department evidently cares about the pubs, but perhaps they are sometimes overruled by marketing men of doubtful provenance. There is some evidence from licensees that area managers are pressurising tenants to "get rid of the vault" as well as to introduce Websters Eurobland.

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### TOP HOUSE

Ind Coope Burton Ale is on sale at the Railway, Church Street, Eccles, at 87p a pint. Jennings bitter was expected before Christmas and it is hoped that Walkers will be joining the Tetley range in the New Year.

### PLANNING NEWS

Bass, who are well on the way with alterations to the Red Lion in Swinton, have plans to alter the Royal Oak in Pendlebury. New roofs, toilets and elevational changes are envisaged.

## Barrel of confusion for bitter boozers

By Brian Hope

**THERE are bitter problems ahead for lovers of one of Manchester's best-known real ales.**

**They now have to decide when Boddington's Bitter is not Boddington's Bitter.**

**The answer: When the sign on the pump says Boddington's Bitter!**

The Strangeways Brewery, for the first time in its long history, has launched a keg beer called Boddington's Bitter.

The real stuff is also called Boddington's Bitter, but drinkers will have to look for the small print on the new pump clips, which explain it is either "natural cask" or "traditional cask".

The situation is further complicated by the fact that the brewery has not yet got round to providing each outlet with the correct pump logo.

A brewery spokesman said the new, bright "brewery conditioned" beer was intended only for the free trade — such as clubs — and would not be offered in Boddington's own 550 pubs.

He agreed that, for more than 200 years, the natural cask beer had been



*The new pump clip.*

known simply as Boddington's Bitter, but rejected the suggestion that the new beer should be designated "keg" or "brewery conditioned" beer.

"Other breweries do not make that distinction" he said.

# BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

The MAN & SCYTHE on Churchgate, Bolton's oldest pub, reopened amid some not unexpected controversy. The refurbishment itself is very tasteful, giving the pub a very cosy feel, and more real ale is available - handpulled Chesters mild and bitter (at 80p and 85p a pint) having joined the Castle Eden - and the traditional Bulmer's cider remains (up 9p to £1.05 a pint). However, there have been mutterings in the local press from disgruntled former regulars who find they can't gain entry to the pub thanks to the ridiculous "no jeans, no trainers" rule.

The Man & Scythe was formerly frequented by motorcyclists and rock music aficionados who, according to new licensee Gary Osborne, discourage other customers. So the bikers had to go. Mr Osborne said, "The pub is a flagship" and neither he nor the brewery could accept its former clientele.

Really? Not according to Whitbread's Paul Ibbotson who, when contacted by CAMRA shortly after the pub closed for the refurbishment, stated that, "All former clients will be welcome" and that "Whitbread aren't in the business of banning people from their pubs".

Untrendy punters should try the Scythe during the week or before 8pm at weekends, when the bouncers aren't on duty, and displaced bikers should head for the GBG-listed Dog & Partridge on Manor Street. There they are assured a warm welcome and good ale from new licensees Tony and Rose Thompson, who recently moved in from the Atherton Botanical Club.

Another reopening took place recently at the SALLY UP STEPS, Peter Walker's latest pub on Chorley Old Road, Bolton. The old pub is unrecognisable, having been knocked into three adjoining cottages to make a comfortable, split-level pub. Walkers mild (74p) and bitter (80p) are on sale. Unfortunately we now hear that bouncers are on the door at weekends here, too. So there you have it, the Man & Scythe and Sally up Steps, both well worth a visit providing your face fits and your timing is right.

Handpumps have been spotted in a number of Greenalls pubs throughout the area. As usual, there is a catch; they are false. One pull activates a microswitch, although the flow of beer can be altered by moving the handpump, making it very deceptive. These new "electropulls" are, according to licensees, a replacement for the old Metron diaphragm electric pumps. Despite this, Greenalls have advertised "handpulled cask ale" at the BRIDGE on Blackburn Road, a pub which uses the new pumps.

Briefly, the GREY MARE in Harwood now serves handpulled Bass Light alongside draught Bass, but Bass has disappeared from two Deansgate pubs, the GREYHOUND and WINSTONS free house, which has also lost its Stones bitter. Across the road, the WHITE LION now sells four cask beers: Wilsons bitter, Websters bitter and Choice and Ruddles County. The WHITE HORSE on Manchester Road, Westhoughton, will serve five cask Grand Met beers plus a traditional cider after its forthcoming re-furbishment, Websters mild being the fifth ale. The GBG-listed LODGE BANK TAVERN on Bridgeman Street is soon to be extended on to reclaimed land next door. A car park will also be added.

Watch out for an announcement concerning the sale of the BRINSOP ARMS, Bolton's premier free house on the A6 at Westhoughton. It is widely believed that the only possible purchasers would be a brewery or a leisure group. Landlord Jim Hardy has indicated in the local press that he is ready to sell up.

The RAMS HEAD, Derby Street, Bolton, is now the RAOB Club. The Buffs have moved from the former CROWN HOTEL down the road and the Crown, once the Magees Brewery tap, has been demolished. Between the two, the FARMERS ARMS now sells Castle Eden at a very reasonable 76p a pint.

# WIGAN BEER FESTIVAL

The Mill at the Pier, Wigan Pier

3RD - 5TH MARCH

Thursday: 5.30pm-11.30pm

Friday/Saturday: 11.30am-3.30pm  
5.30pm-11.30pm

Admission: Free before 7.00pm  
£1.00 after 7.00pm

*Free to card-carrying CAMRA members*

**EVENING ENTERTAINMENT - FOOD AT ALL SESSIONS**



# WIGAN & DISTRICT

Dave White

Wigan's nice new bus station has opened in Hallgate. The bus services are still as good as they ever were and suddenly all the pubs around Hallgate want to sell traditional beer. The **TUDOR HOUSE HOTEL**, New Market Street, has a large eye-catching banner at the back of the pub advertising the Draught Bass and Stones bitter. (The latter is as good a pint of Stones as I've had anywhere.) Now, the nearby **GRAND HOTEL**, Dorning Street, has gone over to the real stuff as well. The part of the Grand that used to be the **NALGO** club and, before that, the **ALL SAINTS TAVERN**, is now known as **RILEY'S BAR** and sells Vaux Samson and Burtonwood bitter, and sales are said to be healthy and improving; cask mild may be added in the future. The Grand Hotel proper, however, still sells keg-only products, so stick to Riley's.

On Wednesday nights, all drinks at Riley's Bar are 60p. This means that you can stagger from the **RAVEN** on Wallgate (Walkers) when the Happy Hour ends at 9.00pm (again all drinks at 60p). over to the Grand Hotel and get as drunk as a lord for less than a fiver!

Still with Vaux, Lorimer's Best Scotch is available at the **MANLEY HOTEL**, Ince Green Lane, Ince. The handpumped beer was on good form when your correspondent visited the pub, but it has to compete against a lot of keg Vaux products. The Manley is right near Ince BR station, less than five minutes from Wigan Wallgate, so give it a try.

Traditional Vaux ales are advertised outside the **NORLEY HALL HOTEL**, Severn Drive, Norley Hall, though this wasn't evident when I ventured that way recently.

On the subject of Rail Ale, Greenall's **BRITANNIA**, near Bryn railway station, has lost its traditional bitter and is now a keg-only outlet.

Ind Coope Burton Ale is now available at the **SIR CHARLES NAPIER**, Church Street, Golborne. This Peter Walker house was also selling Winter Warmer over Christmas.

The quaintly-named **OUR HOUSE**, a John Smith pub on Leigh Road, Leigh, has gone over to traditional handpumped bitter.

Jennings bitter keeps popping up in Tetley pubs, the most recent being at the **GENERAL ELLIOT**, Lord Street, Croft. One pub in the Wigan area that sells a consistently good pint of Jennings is the **WHITE LION**, Church Street, Upholland.

Knock-about time again, as the **WHITE DUCK**, High Street, Standish, is about to be transformed into the **BEARS PAW**. The application to turn this ex-Burtonwood pub into a bistro was turned down, but I am told

that the Bear's Paw will be very different from the lovely old **WHITE DUCK** that we used to know. The pub is supposed to be haunted, so a little exorcism could be in order? Bass beers - traditional, we hope - are expected.

The **WHITESMITHS ARMS**, Standishgate, Wigan, has been bought by Cafe Inns, a consortium which owns a dozen or so pubs in the Chorley area. The Whitesmiths is a Grade Two listed building, so some careful re-structuring is sure to take place. Cafe Inns usually supply their pubs with beers from Bass and Boddingtons, which would be very appropriate here as the Whitesmiths used to be a Boddingtons house which, about twenty years ago, was also renowned for its Draught Bass.

Rumours are flying about that the **BRICKLAYERS ARMS**, Hallgate, Wigan, is to be substantially renovated to woo the weary travellers around Wigan bus station. (We're back to that again.) This excellent Tetley Walker house is one of the last, nay, the last old boozer in the town centre. Sacrilege, if true.

Lastly, the following Greenalls pubs have gone over to the new "electric handpumps", in line with company policy.

**RED LION**, Lane Head, Lowton

**BRICKMAKERS ARMS**, Woodhouse Lane, Wigan

**COMMERCIAL**, Victoria Road, Platt Bridge (Real ale gain)

**DOG & PARTRIDGE**, Chapel Street, Pemberton

**WHITE SWAN**, White Street, Pemberton

**WINDMILL**, Mill Street, Parbold (originally on handpumps)

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### NEW WINTER ALE

Burtonwood have quietly introduced "Brewer's Reserve", a 1065 og winter ale. It is apparently available to any of the brewery's houses in polypins and sells at 70p per half pint. The lack of publicity suggests that this year's brew is a trial one - if the beer goes down well it may be launched properly next Christmas.

### SQUARE BRASH

The Square Albert, Albert Square, Manchester, has been refurbished and is now brasher and even noisier than before. If you want to be served within ten minutes of arrival, don't bother! However, if you want a quiet pint of Banks's try Langton's Wine Bar, opposite the Peveril of the Peak, Great Bridgewater Street. It is normally deserted in the evening, for some reason, and now opens Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons for diners.

# WALKER *Winter* WARMER

A dark rich ruby-coloured extra strong ale, sweet to the palate with a distinctive taste.

Original Gravity 1058°-1062°

## WHERE TO GO FOR A WARMER WELCOME.

Listed here are the selected Walker Pubs where our strong ale is exclusively available.

Don't say you haven't been warmed.



Limited  
Availability

50p  
per half pint

**EAGLE & HAWK**  
Chapel Street, Leigh.

**MINERS ARMS**  
Manchester Road, Astley,  
Manchester.

**STAGS HEAD**  
St. Helens Road, Bolton.

**AINSWORTH ARMS**  
Halliwell Road, Bolton.

**CHURCH INN**  
George Street, New Bury,  
Farnworth.

**LOWER ANGEL**  
Buttermarket Street,  
Warrington.

**MARKET**  
Brackley Street,  
Farnworth, Bolton.

**RAVEN**  
Wallgate, Wigan.

**SPRINGFIELD**  
Springfield Road, Wigan.

**CROSS GUNS**  
Deane Road, Bolton.

**SIR CHARLES NAPIER**  
High Street, Golborne.



# NOW & THEN

Rob Magee

No.23

## WHITE LION

29 MARKET PLACE, OLDHAM

In 1827 Rowbottom, the Oldham diarist, recorded that two new licences were granted that year, one to "Mills, for a house at the back of the Red Lion." This was the White Lion, and the name Hannah Mills appears in the alehouse records of 1827-28. (An earlier White Lion, kept by James Dawson 1758-67, is also recorded, but this may not have been the same place.)

The White Lion was owned by James Milne, and by 1832 he was listed as the licensee and also as a woollen manufacturer at Junction House, Saddleworth. Henry Hallsworth was running the White Lion by 1833 and he hosted a celebration of Queen Victoria's Coronation, which was described by Edwin Butterworth: "The spacious and handsome room at the White Lion was the scene on Coronation Day of highly convivial proceedings. About 50 gentlemen, chiefly of sound Constitutional principles, assembled and maintained the pleasures of the occasion to a late hour."

Edward Barlow was the next recorded licensee (1842-45) and during his time there the pub seems also to have been known as the Old Manor Inn. Richard Barker (1847-48) issued a 2d copper token bearing his name and the design of a lion rampant. By 1857, during Sylvester



Wrigley's tenure, the White Lion achieved notoriety with its drunken brawls.

The inn reached its lowest point in the 1860s, when Sarah Taylor kept it. Magistrates described the White Lion as a house of low repute and a resort of thieves and prostitutes. Eleven other pubs in the town centre were similarly described, so thieves and prostitutes were well catered for!

James Hitchen had taken over by 1870 and he was the White Lion's last landlord. In 1894 the building was described as old property, in fair condition. In 1898 the licensing magistrates came to an agreement with the owners, by then Oldham Brewery. The White Lion was to be closed and demolished and the land given to Oldham Corporation. In exchange for this, and the surrendering of an off licence on Jones Street, Oldham, the brewery would be permitted to build a new, fully licensed public house.

Two years later Oldham Brewery opened the Hathershaw Hotel on Ashton Road, its licence coming from the old White Lion. The photograph shows part of the White Lion, with its unusual castellated roof, behind the Red Lion. The site of the old pub is now behind the Wimpy food bar.



## THE BEER HOUSE



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To the Editor:

375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M27

## LETTERS



### JOLLY ANGLER

Sir - Why do you consider that "The Jolly Angler merits re-examination?" Surely you don't base this on just one letter stating that "...the beers sampled were in poor condition." (WD Dec 1987) There seems to have been a very sudden change of CAMRA opinion regarding that most excellent, welcoming hostelry. I have always found the bitter, mild and, recently, strong ale, to be in perfect condition. A cursory glance through some back issues of WD will reveal that the Angler has previously been held in fairly high regard. Why the turn about? We should be told!

In reply to T Gaunt, I suspect that the condition of the beers on his visit was as excellent as usual. I certainly can't remember any off days. I am speaking as a relatively new regular, and my custom was obtained because the beer is always perfect.

From time to time I visit other pubs - I'm partial to Timmy Taylors - but this just confirms the superiority of the Jolly Angler. CAMRA's old cliché, "unique ambience", is just as valid today as it ever was. So come on, CAMRA, what's bugging you?

John M Green

(The suggestion was that T Gaunt should "re-examine" the Jolly Angler, not that CAMRA should do so - CAMRA members visit the pub regularly in any case. Sorry for the ambiguity.)

### FAC 201

Sir - I read with interest your "Planning News" in the December WD relating to Fac 201 Ltd. The bar in question at 28/30 Oldham Street will be selling hand pulled ales from the Chesters range, with Marstons Pedigree as a guest beer. Fac 201 Ltd is an associate of Fac 51 Ltd which operates the Hacienda on Whitworth Street West. The Hacienda sells no keg bitter at all, only Chesters best bitter and Marstons Pedigree. It is apparently the only city centre discotheque which feels that its customers deserve a decent pint!

Paul Mason, General Manager

\*\*\*\*\*  
Other contributors to this issue: Keith Egerton, Peter Dolam, Paul Roberts.  
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## DRABS UP

In order to pay for their new beermat, Holts put 3p on bitter and mild on 1st December. The new prices are 63p mild, 66p bitter in the vault, 3p dearer in the room. It's their first price rise since 15th November 1986 and slightly less than 5%, in line with inflation.

## SMARMFORD NEWS

Disappointing sales of less than 18 gallons per week have meant the loss of Wilsons mild at the Roebuck in Mobberley. It may be tried again this year, but unless there is an improvement in throughput the loss will be permanent.

In contrast, the Axe & Cleaver at Dunham is selling Old Peculier over the Christmas and New Year period. The last time this was tried sales were tremendous - let's hope it happens again.

## BILKO BUSCO



### WHY can't an Eccles bus company be called the Eccles and District Omnibus Company Limited?

Because passengers might think it was run by the council.

So say Salford Council, and for that reason they've refused permission for a new bus company to take on the said name.

The would-be proprietor Robin Bence, of Eccles' Duke of York pub, had to ask for the green light for the name for his fleet of minibuses before they could hit the road.

But when the case went before finance committee last Wednesday, chairman Councillor Bernard Pennington said: "It will be dangerous to allow the name 'Eccles' because people then think it is a local authority effort."

Mr Bence disagreed. He said: "I find it rather extraordinary. There are scores and scores of companies around the country whose name reflects the area in which they are based. For any one council to say that a part of their council area should not be used in a local company's name seems extremely short-sighted."

The Advertiser, 19 November



# Branch Diary

## BOLTON

Tues 12 Jan, 8.30. Branch Meeting, Old Cross, Radcliffe  
Wed 20 Jan. Trip to Beer House and Marble Arch, Manchester. 1930 train from Trinity St  
Sun 24 Jan, 12 noon. Brinsop Arms  
Tues 9 Feb, 8.30. Branch Meeting, Crofters Arms, St Georges Road  
Contact: Dave Fleming Bolton 389918 (h), 75111 x207 (w)

## NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 6 Jan. Chapel Street, Salford. Salford Arms 7pm, Punchbowl 8.30  
Wed 13 Jan, Astley Anschluss: No.26 bus from Manchester Arndale at 7.25 (Swinton 7.45). Miners Arms 8pm, Cart & Horses 9pm.  
Weds 20 Jan, 8pm. Branch Meeting, Crescent, Salford  
Wed 27 Jan, 8pm. Cock, Walkden Road, Worsley.  
Wed 2 Feb, Swinton Crawl. Red Lion 7pm, Foresters 7.30, Bulls Head 8pm.  
Wed 17 Feb, 8pm. Branch Meeting, White Swan, Swinton  
Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

## WIGAN

Sat 2 Jan, Manchester Pub Crawl. Castle & Falcon, Bradshaw St, 7.30  
Sat 9 Jan, Wem Village Wake (afternoon). Further details to be confirmed  
Wed 13 Jan, 8.30. Branch Meeting, Walmsley Arms, Warrington Road, Lower Ince  
Wed 20 Jan, 8.30. Beer Festival Meeting, Charles Dickens Hotel, Dicconson St, Wigan  
Contact Brian Gleave, Atherton 892965 (h), Atherton 876200 (w)

## TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 7 Jan 8pm, Committee Meeting, Sale Wardens Club, Wardle Rd, Sale  
Thurs 14 Jan 8pm, Sale Moor Survey. Yew Tree. Call at the Legh Arms, 9.30  
Wed 20 Jan, 5pm. Trip to Whitbread, Sheffield. Details from Branch Contact  
Thurs 21 Jan, 8pm. Branch Meeting, Robin Hood, Urmston Lane, Stretford  
Thurs 28 Jan, 8pm. Eccles Crawl. Details from Branch Contact  
Thurs 4 Feb, 8pm. Committee/Social, Victoria, Victoria Street, Altrincham  
Contact: David Shelton 061 224 7341 x27 (w), 061 795 2113 (h)

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## NAME CHANGE

From the town that gave the world Bananas, Scandals, Brandos and Chuffers, comes Scarlets. The Rose and Crown, Farnworth, has been transformed into an emporium of noise, guarded by large gentlemen in suits. Funny thing is, there still seems to be a vault with Chesters on handpump.

## ANOTHER HERO DIES

The Urmston branch of Legendary Lancashire Heroes is due to close at the end of December. The dry cleaners/laundrette next door is expanding into the premises. This shop has been struggling along with poor sales and inadequate stock for some time, so it does not come as any great surprise. Does this signal the long-term contraction of the Heroes chain? Let's hope not; they were pioneers in the field of real ale off licences.



# THE QUEENS ARMS

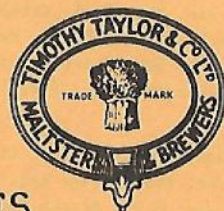
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## OPENING HOURS

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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