

# WHAT'S DOING



APRIL  
1988

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

## BOAT SAVED



The extension of the M66 through Blackley and Hollinwood will not now involve the demolition of the Boat & Horses on Broadway, Chadderton, or the culverting of the Rochdale Canal. Representations made by CAMRA and canal groups were evidently successful in influencing the Inspector's recommendations at the Public Enquiry, most of which were



accepted by the Secretary of State. The motorway, which completes the Manchester ring, will not be complete until the 1990s. Several pubs in Hollinwood have already been demolished to make way for the road.

The fact that the Boat & Horses has been saved proves once again the importance of protesting and writing in to make your views known. If you don't like something, don't sit on your backside, bellyaching; get up and do something about it!

## OLDHAM BEER FESTIVAL

Following the success of the Mayor of Oldham's Charity Appeal Beer Festival 1987, the 1987/88 Mayor has asked the local CAMRA branch to help present another beer festival in aid of this year's appeal.

The Beer Festival will take place on the weekend after Easter - Friday 8th to Sunday 10th April - at the Werneth Park Music Room, Frederick Street, Werneth, Oldham.

The opening hours are: Friday evening 6pm to 11pm; Saturday lunch 11.30am to 3pm; Saturday evening 5.30-11pm; Sunday lunch 12 to 2pm. There will be over 20 different real ales and ciders, mostly provided or sponsored by local breweries and other companies.

Food will be available at all sessions, and entertainment, in the form of brass bands, will be featured at both evening sessions. Further details can be had from the Rochdale, Oldham & Bury Branch Contact.

Please note that there will be no Saddleworth Beer Festival this year.



## OLDHAM PUBS SOLD

The Grand Met sale of Wilsons pubs (WD last month) has resulted in the Heron Group's acquisition of several Oldham pubs. Tetleys beers (how exciting) will be replacing Wilsons in the following:

Auld Lang Syne, Manchester Road	Bulls Head, George Street
Bird in Hand, Yorkshire Street	Dog & Duck, St Domingo Street
Elevenways, Featherstall Road	Morning Star, Featherstall Road
Railway, Lees Road	Royal, Horsedged Street
White Hart, Chadderton Way	

# CITY DESK

Peter O'Grady



## DANIEL'S

Thwaites' new cafe bar should be open in Chapel Walks (off Cross Street) before the end of March. Old Half Moon Chambers previously housed the late, lamented "Great American Disaster" hamburger joint and the later and totally unlamented "Upstairs Downstairs" keg Bass joint. Let's hope Thwaites have the foresight to include their delicious traditional beers within their new venture. P.S. Apparently it's not true that Thwaites Mates was a joint venture between the brewery and Richard Branson.

## HITTING THE HEIGHTS

The fame of GBG-listed PEVERIL OF THE PEAK, Great Bridgewater Street, spreads even further. Not only is it listed in local and national beer and pubs guides, but it is to be featured in the soon-to-be published "100 Best City Pubs" and a new international guide to the best drinking spots. Not bad for a pub that was snatched from under the demolition hammer only a few short years ago! Well done Nancy and the boys - living proof that "beer is best".

\* \* \* \* \*

We record with sadness the recent death of Alfred Naunton Evans of the SEVEN OAKS, Nicholas Street. He was a lovely chap, who kept a nice pub.

\* \* \* \* \*

## BARLEY TWIST

I took a friend of mine - a Man of Kent from Shepherd Neame country - to ROYAL COX'S BAR for his first pint of Boddies in many a year. He was appalled to discover that it now tasted as if it were brewed from "stewed toffee papers". His words, not mine!

## CITY SAFE

The CITY ARMS, Kennedy Street, is in the safe hands of an excellent and experienced landlord. The full range of beers has been retained (Tetley mild and bitter, Walkers, Jennings and Burton Ale) and the incredibly good value lunchtime food is, if anything, even better. It's still "a good place to discuss insurance", to quote the Good Beer Guide.

Next door, the VINE looks resplendent following completion of the refurbishment. Directors bitter is eagerly awaited.

\*\*\*\*\*





# THE

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Home Cooked Food**

*Opening hours:*

**Mon-Sat: 11.30-3.00pm & 5.30-11.00pm**

**Sun: 12.00-2.00pm & 7.00-10.30pm**

## GOOD BEER GUIDE

After a less-contentious-than-usual selection meeting, the following North Manchester pubs were chosen for the 1989 Good Beer Guide...

### CENTRAL MANCHESTER

Jolly Angler (Hydes)

Unicorn (Bass)

Beer House (free)

Harp & Shamrock (Marstons)

### ANCOATS

Cross Keys (Tetley)

White House (free)

### CHEETHAM

Queens Arms (free)

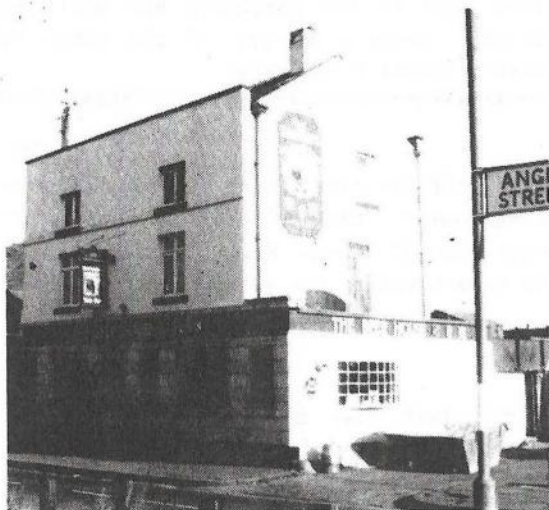
### BLACKLEY

Old House at Home (Wilsons)

Golden Lion (Holts)

### MOSTON

Dean Brook (Marstons)



### NEWTON HEATH

Railway (Holts)

### SALFORD

Crescent (free)

Union Tavern (Holts)

Prince of Wales (free)

Eagle (Holts)

Braziers (Boddingtons)

Duke of York (Holts)

Red Lion (Holts)

### ECCLES

Lamb (Holts)

White Lion (Holts)

Stanley (Holts)

Park (Holts)

### Reserves:

1. Town Hall (Wilsons)
2. Wellington (Holts)
3. Packet House (Boddies)

### IRLAM

Boathouse (Boddingtons)



## SWINTON

White House (Boddingtons)  
Newmarket (Holts)

## WORSLEY

Royal Oak (Wilsons)  
Dukes Gate (Holts)

This list is not immutable but will only be changed if there are drastic changes at any of the pubs. Rather a lot of Holts pubs, aren't there? Wonder why?

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## RED LION

After all the advertising hoo-ha, "Soon to open selling a selection of Bass beers", the Red Lion on Chorley Road, Swinton, sells just one cask beer (Stones). Will it last? The enlarged pub/restaurant appears to be attracting the young, lager-drinking end of the market.

## PLANNING NEWS

Boddingtons have been given permission to turn the former Flixton Station into one of their pub/restaurants. Lucky Flixton.

An application has been made to turn the pavilion on Ten Acres Lane (next to the Canal in Newton Heath) into a restaurant and public house.

Whitbread have submitted plans to build a games room at the Cob o'Coal in Ancoats.

## BEER GONE

Matthew Brown have decided to cease brewing John Peel bitter.

*WHAT'S DOING is edited by Neil Richardson, 375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M27 2AY. News, articles, letters, moans, etc, must arrive by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.*

*SUBSCRIPTIONS: Send cheque/PO for £1.90, together with your name and address, to Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester, for 6 issues. Cheques made out to "What's Doing".*

*BACK NUMBERS: 10p per copy. Send stamped, addressed envelope to Roger Hall, address above.*

*To Join CAMRA send £9 to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW.*

*WHAT'S DOING ADVERTISING: Enquiries to the editor, address above. Full page £25,  $\frac{3}{4}$  page £20,  $\frac{1}{2}$  page £15,  $\frac{1}{4}$  page £7.50. Discount on bookings for 6 months or longer.*

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# THE 2<sup>nd</sup> GREAT NORTH WESTERN BEER FESTIVAL

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120 REAL ALES & CIDERS  
20-24 APRIL 1988 (INC)



## BOLTON SPORTS & EXHIBITION CENTRE SILVERWELL ST. OFF BRADSHAWGATE BOLTON

### OPENING TIMES AND ENTERTAINMENTS

Weds 20th April		6-11pm The Urge Blues Band
Thurs 21st April	12-4pm The Little Big Band	6-11pm The Eagley Brass Band
Fri 22nd April	12-4pm Jerome	6-11pm The Brasshoppers
Sat 23rd April	12-4pm Titanic Disaster Band	6-11pm The Oscar Cheerful
Sun 24th April	12-4pm The Horwich Prize Morris Men	Jazz Band

## GOOD FOOD ALWAYS AVAILABLE

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50p Lunchtime Admission only (glass hire available)  
Special Rates for Coach Parties Booked in Advance  
50p Readmission to all sessions  
Card carrying CAMRA members only £1.00

**FURTHER DETAILS FROM THE CENTRE**

**TEL: 0204 33122**

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# BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

CAMRA and Bolton Metro Leisure Services Division are joining forces again to present the Second Great North Western Beer Festival. It will be held at the Bolton Sports & Exhibition Centre, Silverwell Street, off Bradshawgate, opening at 6pm on Wednesday 20th April and continuing until Sunday lunchtime, 24th April. Lunchtime sessions will be from 12 noon to 4.00pm and evening sessions 6pm to 11pm. There will



be food and entertainment at all sessions. Admission is £1.75 (£1 for card-carrying CAMRA members), which includes a commemorative glass and programme. However, lunchtime drinkers can pay 50p admission, plus a glass deposit.

Around 120 real ales and ciders will be on sale from all parts of the country. Alongside perennial favourites like Taylors, Theakstons, Ma Pardoes and Holts, there will be Blue Anchor, St Austell, Min Pin and Coxside from the South West; Fullers, Ringwood, Reepham and Larkins from the South; Banks's, Hoskins, Oldfields and Holdens from the Midlands; Traquair House, Broughton and Big Lamp from Scotland and the North East, and Robinsons, Mitchells, Goose Eye and Hartleys from closer to home.

Elsewhere in Bolton, the Great Maxims Refurbishment Saga is shortly to end. After well over a year in the planning, the pub finally closes this month for one of Bolton's most expensive refits.

The House Without a Name in Harwood has expanded its range of cask beers, with handpumped Chesters bitter and Trophy bitter joining Castle Eden.

The Bolton Castle now has a handpump dispensing Tetley bitter. Still keg mild, though.

"Scarlet's" (formerly the Rose & Crown) on Market Street, Farnworth, has ditched Hartleys XB, whilst across the road the Wellington, which suffered serious fire damage in January, is still boarded up and its future is unknown.

The Duke of Clarence on Bath Street, Bolton, now sells handpumped Trophy bitter.

Bass have applied to turn a derelict farmhouse in Blackrod into a pub. They've obviously twigged that practically all the pubs on the A6 between Westhoughton and Blackrod seem to be doing exceedingly well.



Bolton Metro's plans for the redevelopment of the Ashburner Street area around Bolton Market include proposals for a new pub on the corner of Ashburner Street and Blackhorse Street. No hairdressing salon or hotel bedroom lookalike, but a pub in keeping with the tradition of the area. With brewers like Holts, Banks's and Walkers still keen to break into the town centre, this one may prove interesting.

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### WHAT'S DOING

What's Doing is on sale in the following pubs around North Manchester and Salford:

CITY CENTRE: Castle & Falcon, Coach & Horses, Harp & Shamrock, Gullivers, Wellington, Wheatsheaf, Bulls Head, Crown & Anchor, Beer House, Grey Horse, White House, New Union, Lass o'Gowrie, Jolly Angler, Mr Thomas's

SALFORD: Broadway, Crescent, Derby Brewery Arms, Ordsall, Prince of Wales, Three Legs of Man, Coach & Horses, Waggon & Horses, Wellington

SWINTON: Newmarket, White Horse, White Swan

ECCLES: Egerton, Park, Black Boy, Bridgewater, Railway, Stanley Arms, Wellington, White Lion

IRLAM & CADISHEAD: Boathouse, Coach & Horses

LITTLE HULTON: Duke's Gate

BOOTHSTOWN: Royal Oak

NORTH MANCHESTER: Bluebell, Moston; Duke of Wellington, Golden Lion, Top Derby, Old House at Home, Blackley; Queens Arms, Cheetham; Cross Keys, Ancoats

CHORLTON ON MEDLOCK: Grafton

BURY: Rose & Crown, Trafalgar

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# MOORHOUSE'S

## BREWERS OF REAL ALE

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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.

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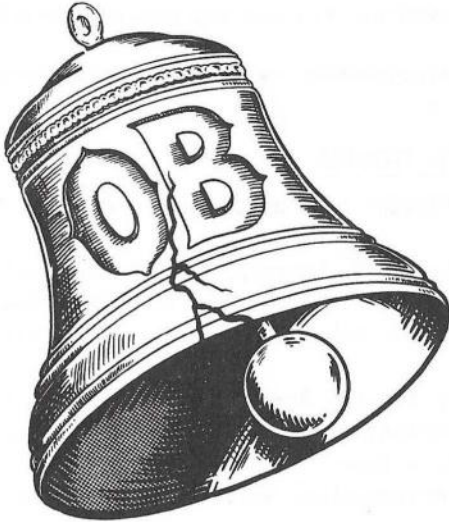
**PREMIER**  
**DRAUGHT BITTER**  
*The Prize-Winning Pint!*

**Pendle**  
**Witches**  
**Brew**  
STRONG  
BURNLEY  
BITTER



## BODDY POLITIC

In discussion with Kevin Buckley and his pals, Boddingtons suggested that CAMRA had begun the Oldham Brewery Campaign too late. Not true. CAMRA has been campaigning actively for the brewery ever since Boddingtons took it over. Every single action of Boddingtons which was



seen as contributing to eventual demise of Oldham Brewery was criticised at the time. The Boddingtonisation of the tied estate, the subtle(?) change of title to "Boddingtons Oldham beers" and the mass marketing of Boddingtons' bitter as the market leader regional beer were all indicators of the inevitable. All were pointed out at the time. Oldham Brewery closed "for economical reasons" we are told. No doubt it would be economical to knock down the Tower of London, Hampton Court, St Paul's, Westminster and Stratford on Avon. Parliament could be held in an

aircraft hangar and what a lot of money we'd save. Doubtless, Boddingtons will save a lot of money by shutting Oldham Brewery, but will the savings be passed on to the consumer? Like as if! The consumer, as always, gets the short straw. How long will Oldham beers last at Strangeways? How long will Higsons Brewery remain? No doubt liaison Officer Kevin has received the usual urbane assurances about both these questions - but unless the leopard changes its spots in mid-stream (© C.J.), there will be further closures and rationalisation of products before too long.

## **NEWS FROM ALKINGTON**

Two of the few pubs in this posh bit of Middleton are to be transformed yet again. The Lancashire Fold is a sixties pub with a restaurant, but John Willie Lees are turning the restaurant into a vault and knocking the old vault and lounge into a new mega lounge. Do Lees know something Boddies don't know? Or Whitbread, for that matter, for lo and behold, down the road, Whitbread's Roebuck, the local teenyboppers' haunt, is being turned into, you've guessed it, a restaurant. A Beefeater steakhouse, to be exact.



## COCKTALE

One of the arguments put forward by Manchester's favourite brewery in support of the proposed alterations to the Cock, Worsley, is the creation of some 45 jobs in the revamped premises. Hang on a minute, isn't this the same brewery that's just sacked 200 people? Well, yes, but Worsley is such a depressed area and Strangeways, Oldham and Liverpool are areas of high employment, aren't they? So it's hardly hypocrisy, is it? It is very noble of Boddingtons to provide employment for the populace.



What's Doing is so impressed with the commitment of Boddingtons' directors to employment that we've arranged for some projects in the Cheshire villages where they live so that they can demonstrate their support in a more direct way. The Marton Community Centre will comprise a Black Lesbian Advice Centre, an Aids Clinic and the Australian Consulate (Sir L Patterson, prop), together with a West Indian Steel Band Outdoor Rehearsal Centre. In Nether Alderley, the gypsy site will be located between the proposed glue factory and nuclear waste reprocessing plant, whilst in Henbury several redundant farms and manor houses will be knocked down to make way for Dynamite Delivery Trucks' new Chemical Waste Division and a 30-bedroomed hotel and restaurant.

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**WILD BEERS, LAMBIC BEERS, FRUITY BEERS,  
ABBEY BEERS, STRONG BEERS, SPECIAL-  
BEERS, ALL KINDS OF BEER**

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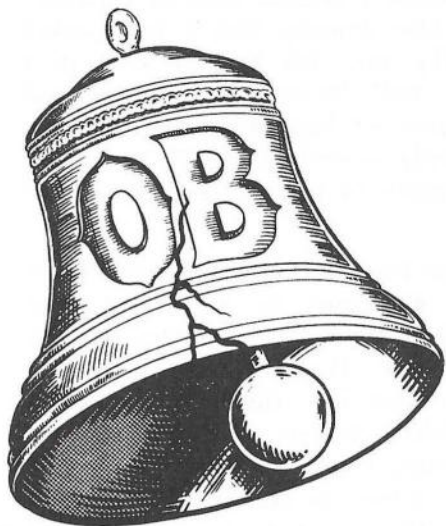
**IMPORTED BOTTLED BEER, FROM THE LAND  
OF VARIETY-DIRECT TO THE TRADE**

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**SEE YOU AT THE BOLTON FESTIVAL**

## WE TOLLED 'EM

It was a miserable day in Oldham on 12th March, but, despite the sleet, well over 100 people assembled at Mumps Station for the protest march against the closure of Oldham Brewery. Headed by a New Orleans jazz band and a black coffin (No Boddies in here), the committed throng marched through the town to the brewery, waving placards, handing out leaflets and ringing bells. After speeches denouncing Boddingtons' actions in closing the 114-year-old brewery, the marchers repaired to the Boltmakers, an Oldham pub where, ironically, Thwaites was on sale. It would seem that the last Oldham-brewed beers have already been consumed.



## HARPURHEY ROUND UP

A recently-returned expedition reports that the Robinsons at both the Milan and the Ark Royal was on top form. The Bottom Derby, the Lord Lovat (both Bass) and the Foresters (Tetley) have all resisted the temptation to sell traditional beer. The 200-year-old Golden Lion was revamped a couple of years ago and doesn't seem to have suffered too badly. Chesters bitter is the only cask beer. The Golden Tavern serves an acceptable pint of Wilsons but doesn't quite measure up to the excellence of the Top Derby across Factory Lane.





# KING'S ALE

Leo King

As a CAMRA member I receive the monthly paper, What's Brewing. I do not usually criticise this paper, but sometimes an article warrants comment! "What makes Banks's boom..." in the March issue gives the brewery an excellent write-up. Banks's managing director, David Thompson, claims, "Everywhere we go, prices tend to be higher," and states, "When you ask for a pint in a W&D house, you get a full pint as we use electric metered dispense with lined glasses, not handpumps."

Both these statements are questionable! First, I would hardly call their prices "value for money". Vault: mild 67p, bitter 70p. Lounge: mild 73p, bitter 78p. Secondly, I have yet to receive a full measure of Banks's mild or bitter (see my article in last month's WD). Why must this company insist on electric pumps, such unreliable methods of dispense?

The News of the World says that Banks's bitter has been voted the Best Value Bitter in Britain by their "investigators". Their verdict: "Excellent bitter - splendid value". There's nothing wrong with the bitter, but it will never rival Holts in taste or price. We need connoisseurs, not investigators!

## CROWN & ANCHOR

The "shipwreck" interior of the Crown & Anchor, Hilton Street, Manchester, has gone. This Whitbread Chesters pub has been smartened up and re-opened on Thursday March 10th. It has been decorated plainly throughout - white walls and green-shaded lamps all the way. Thick carpeting and real upholstery (not that sweaty, squeaky PVC stuff) make the pub much more comfortable.

Now to the beers. Many fine handpumps adorn the bar and on my Friday evening visit seven different real ales were on sale. The Chesters mild and bitter is quite pricey; the bitter sells for 78p, the Taylors



beers are more expensive and Castle Eden is 88p! Trophy bitter is 79p and Taylors Landlord is 90p a pint! The latter appeared to be the best seller of the evening, and if it is sold at this rate all the time (and I'm sure it is), then surely the price should be drastically reduced. I'll stick to Chesters, for now. But like Oldham ales, the taste will change when the Salford brewery closes - you just can't win!

On the subject of prices, why do we have to pay up to (and sometimes over) 90p for Taylors Landlord (1042 og) and Marstons Pedigree (1043 og)? Robinsons best bitter is 1042 and the beer is moderately priced in their outlets. You don't pay the earth at the Unicorn on Church Street, Manchester, for draught Bass (1044 og).

Most irritating of all, at my local, the Southern Hotel in Chorlton, they've got the impudence to sell Boddingtons bitter (a mere 1035 og) for 80p a pint. I'm sure glad I don't drink lager!

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## ECCLES NEWS

The new licensee of the DUKE OF YORK is ex-policeman Ray Wilson. This is the first pub he has managed, but expertise lies within the family; his father-in-law has the Lass o'Gowrie home-brew pub in Manchester. There will be no change in the range of beers at the Duke of York: Chesters bitter, mild; Taylors Landlord, Best Bitter and Ram Tam, and Marstons Pedigree. Traditional pub food is to be introduced at lunch-times. What's Doing is back on sale. The Duke has been run down a bit of late and Ray aims to put it back on its feet. We wish him well.

The DOG & PARTRIDGE, Church Street, has undergone a transformation. The interior has been gutted. The etched windows still say "Vault", "Lounge" and "Bar Parlour", but the interior is now one open-plan area with a central bar. The pub is bright and comfortable, with much blond timberwork and an open fireplace. Cask conditioned Greenalls mild and bitter is available.

## LOOPYOPTERA

Seen on the Oldham protest march... The former cinema/bowling alley on Union Street is now Butterflies, which is described as a "fun drinkery". As the building is emblazoned with John Smiths and Youngers signs, we can't see it being much fun! Mind you, it probably keeps the indiscriminating clientele out of the pubs.



# NOW & THEN

by Rob Magee

No.26

## MOORCOCK

Greenfield

"The vale of Greenfield was thronged by an immense number of visitors from Rochdale, Middleton, Manchester, Stockport, Ashton, Stalybridge, Oldham and all adjacent towns and villages, besides thousands who came over the hills out of Yorkshire. Every possible conveyance appeared to have been put in requisition... It is computed by those who were on the spot that 30,000 persons visited the place." (Manchester Guardian, 7th April 1832)

No, it wasn't a Royal Visit. The crowds were drawn to Greenfield after hearing reports of two savage murders committed at the Moorcock Inn, better known as Bill's o'Jack's, five days earlier. The victims were licensee William Bradbury and his son Thomas.

Despite the offer of a £200 reward, the crime was never solved, although there has been no shortage of theories. The most popular says that Bill and Tom were murdered by an Irish navvy employed on the construction of the Greenfield to Holmfirth road. The navvies slept in huts made from timber and sods, and it was said that one night some months earlier, a drunken Tom Bradbury was passing the huts and pushed one of them in. Ten or twelve navvies were buried in the mass of dirt and timber and two or three ran after Tom, saying they would murder him if they ever caught him.



Tom was apparently a wild sort of man; it was said he once beat a besom-maker (broom-maker) to death on the moors. Another story told was that at the beginning of the 1829 shooting season he poisoned some dogs in revenge for being fined for illegal shooting the previous year. So there was no shortage of motives for the killing of Tom Bradbury!

The Moorcock was originally the Shooters Arms (1817-25) and then it became the Cherry Tree (1828-30). It had the sign of the Moorcock in 1831, but the house was commonly known as Bill's o'Jack's; Bill being William Bradbury and Jack his father. After the murders another Bradbury, Augustus, took over. The Moorcock was then licensed as a beerhouse, but later became a public house. In 1862 Augustus moved to the newly-built Clarence Hotel and Martha Waterhouse took over until 1875. She was described as a licensed victualler's widow and a farmer of 10 acres.

Bill's o'Jack's was owned by the Ashton & District Joint Waterworks Committee by 1897 and by 1915 the Water Board wanted the licence removed. The pub survived, however, and finally closed on 21st April 1936, when hygiene was cited as a problem (the water supply came from a well). The last tenant was Charles Haigh (1928-36). The building was demolished the following year.

The Bradburys' grave can still be seen in Saddleworth Churchyard. Part of the epitaph on the gravestone reads:

"Throughout the land wherever news is read,  
Intelligence of their sad death has spread:  
Those now who talk of far fam'd Greenfield hills,  
Will think of Bill o'Jacks and Tom o'Bills.

Such interest did their tragic end excite,  
That, ere they were remov'd from human sight:  
Thousands on thousands daily came to see,  
The bloody scene of the catastrophe.

One house, one business, and one bed,  
And one most shocking death they had:  
One funeral came, one inquest pass'd,  
And now one grave they have at last."

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## THE END OF THE WORLD IS NIGH?

Has anybody else noticed? Holts' brewery chimney appears to be falling down.

# RUPERT'S PAGE



No sooner does one centre of scurrilous rumour disappear than another emerges to fill the gap. All the generators of gossip seem to have moved from Leech's, down the road to Simples. Even Charlie Bass has been seen propping up Nigel Hummingbird's bar and the enigmatic Ms Von Trapp has seemingly forsaken the doubtless manifold attractions of globetrotting Beinlos to serve Charlie Bass et al with a range of Simple's amber nectar from the wickets. The Boss Persons Group has even met there. In fact, Eddy Cook ran out in tears. Despite some consolation from Albert Mucklethwaite, who said, "Nay, lad, there's nay need fer thee skrikin' when tha's got a missus as makes Dolly Parton look like a bean pole," Eddy was still desperately upset at the less-than-couth behaviour of the assembled inebriates.



An indication of the level of insobriety may be gleaned from the subsequent behaviour of Stan Craap's mate and putative boss person, Gerald Nodding (left). Tired and emotional, Mr Nodding engaged in an altercation at the Friggin Amber Nectar Show and had to be helped to the floor. He was later seen in the Goose & Iron Horse being comforted by Stan, who helped him compose a grovelling letter of apology.

What's Doing and Opening Tripe have both been banned from The Olde Grottery. Apparently Snoot Magna has chosen this unexceptional hostelry as their Tavern of the Nanosecond and it fell to Rumpleshirtscream to present the much-coveted award. He was warned that it wouldn't be very polite to mention Fuddy's Brewery. However, whilst screaming down the wrong end of a megaphone, the Silly Celt inadvertently referred to the late brewery and the teenage area manager and new licensee threw instant fits and attempted to gag him and inject him with an untruth drug.

Shrugging off these unwelcome adversaries, our Celtic hero imagined that the rule book had been thrown away and embarked on a megadecibel prolonged critique of Efrem and his pals. When Percy Nightingale turned up with the "Boddy Odour" edition of What's Doing, he was presented with buckets of CAMRA tee shirts, What's Doings, Opening Tripes, Manky Ales, dispensers, CAMRA mirrors, etc, and thrown into



the gutter. Whatever next? We'll have to be very careful. We must be very nice to Perry Drab for it would indeed be a disaster of the greatest magnitude if we were denied our regular fix of Drab's East Grotley Ales.

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### ECCLES EXTRA

New tenant at the Star Inn, Barton Lane, is Stephen Jones. The Star sells Greenalls cask bitter (73p a pint).

### GRAND MET TENANCY CHANGES

After disposing of several hundred pubs, Grand Met have announced radical changes to its tenanted house system. They are to introduce 20-year assignable leases which are designed to encourage greater commitment and involvement of the lessees. Grand Met will save on repairs and on overheads and supervisory management. The new system will operate initially for pubs which become vacant or on change of tenancy. Eventually it is hoped that all 3,600 pubs will operate on the 20-year lease system.

Perhaps a cautious welcome is the appropriate response to this move. The new system should allow more scope for individuals to develop public houses and to profit by assigning the lease. But we can't help wondering who will gain when the 20 years are up!

### RUMOURS

Stories that untrained draypersons have been cocking up orders and bouncing barrels into cellars and breaking people's limbs are surely malicious lies, nor can there possibly be any foundation in the story that a soon-to-close brewery has just entered into an irrevocable 10-year contract with a German hop firm for a supply of hops which cannot be used at the parent brewery.

### PUBS WITH NO BEER

Even as CAMRA were marching through the streets of Oldham, protesting about the impending closure of the brewery, the pubs of Oldham were running dry. Boddies' new Antipodean dray facility had got it wrong. TNT hadn't delivered the goods, ie the beer, so post-march thirsts were slaked on Thwaites, Lees and Robinsons - all in OB pubs!

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Other contributors to this issue: John Burns, Steve Lawton, Peter Barnes, Roger Hall, Simon Finch

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# Branch Diary

## **BOLTON**

Thurs 7 April. Stockport Beerex Social. Meet York Hotel 6pm

Tues 12 April 8.30, Branch Meeting, Lodge Bank Tavern, Bridgeman St

Tues 19 April All day Beerex set-up

Wed 20 - Sun 24 April. **THE SECOND GREAT NORTH WESTERN BEER FESTIVAL**, Bolton Sports & Exhibition Centre, Silverwell Street, off Bradshawgate, Bolton. Volunteer bar staff still needed. Phone contact.

Tues 15 May, 8.30. Branch Meeting/Beerex post mortem, Sally Up Steps, Chorley Old Rd, Bolton.

Contact: Dave Fleming, Farnworth 75111 x207 (w); Bolton 389918 (h)

## **REGIONAL MEETING**

Wed 13 April, Three Legs of Man, Greengate, Salford

## **ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY**

Tues 5 April Branch Meeting, Old Dun Horse, Bolton Street, Ramsbottom

April 5 - April 7, Mayor of Oldham's Charity Appeal Beer Festival, Werneth Music Rooms, Oldham

Tues 19 April Open Committee Meeting, Help Me Thro', Crostons Road, Bury

Tues May 3rd Branch AGM, Cemetery, Bury Road, Rochdale

Tues 17 May Open Committee Meeting, Healey Hotel, Shawclough Rd, Shawclough, Rochdale

**ALL MEETINGS START AT 8pm. MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS WILL BE MOST WELCOME - ESPECIALLY AT THE BRANCH AGM**

Contact: John Burns 061 653 8361 (h)

## **TRAFFORD & HULME**

Thur 7 April 8pm, Committee/Social, White Lion, King Street, Knutsford

Thur 14 April, Timperley Trundle: Stonemasons 8pm, Moss Trooper 9pm

Thur 21 April 8pm, Branch Meeting, Malt Shovels, Altrincham

Thur 28 April 8.25. Mobberley Meeting: Railway and Chapel House

Thur 5 May 8pm, Committee/Social, Melville, Barton Rd, Stretford

Contact: David Shelton 061 224 7341 x27 (w), 061 795 2113 (h)

## **NORTH MANCHESTER**

Wed 4 May Cadishead. Coach & Horses 7.35, George 8.30

Wed 11 May 8pm, Punch Bowl, Salford. Tetley speakers

Wed 18 May 8pm, Crescent, Salford

Wed 25 May 8pm, Duke of York, Eccles

Wed 1 June Newton Heath. New Cross, Old Church Street, 7.15. Robin Hood, Droylsden Road, 8.15.

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

## **KNOW YOUR WRIGHTS**

Former Northern Correspondent of the Morning Advertiser and now PR man for Boddingtons, Wes Wright, was spotted on the Oldham Brewery protest march - at a discreet distance, mind you, skulking in a junk food shop.

## **A MILD BULLOCKING**

The first pint of real dark Burtonwood mild at the Castle & Falcon for eons was served to Councillor Roger Bullock at six o'clock on 9th March. Let's hope it stays.



# THE QUEENS ARMS

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12.00-2.00 Sunday

**Evening:** 7.00-11.00 Mon,  
Tues, Weds & Sat  
5.30-11.00 Thurs  
& Friday  
7.00-10.30 Sunday

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