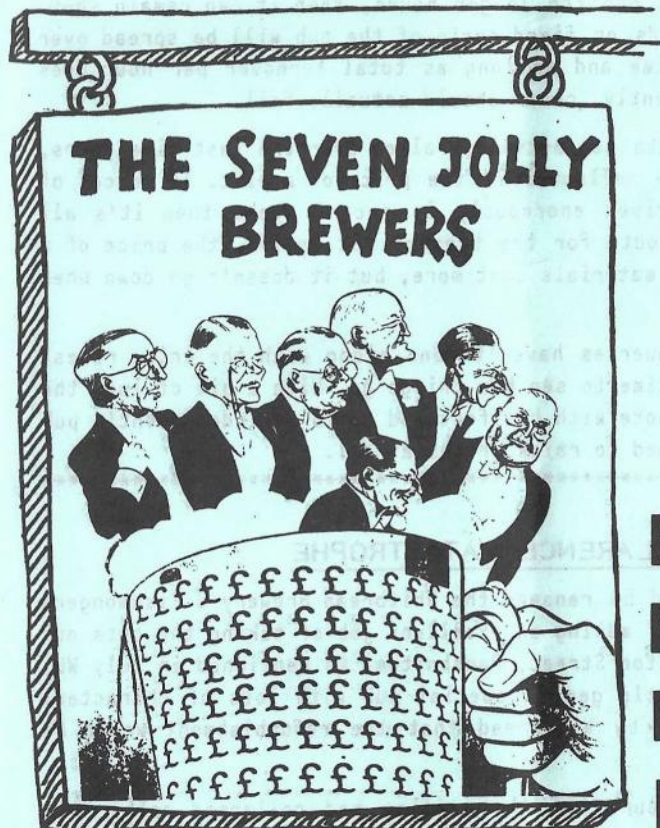


WHAT'S DOING



SEPT
1988

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



BIG BREWERS RAISE PRICES

In a move which coincided with all day licensing on 22nd August, the big brewers increased their prices by as much as 6p per pint. This increase is totally unjustified. It comes only 10 months after the last round of price rises last autumn and is much greater than the

rate of inflation, particularly when we bear in mind that excise duty has not increased at all. The big brewers have made enormous profits but pay scant regard to their customers, tenants or pubs. Their pre-occupation with brands marketing as far as products are concerned, and market segmentation as far as their pubs (sorry, retail profit centres) are concerned, gives little hope for the future of either.

Excuses made by the big brewers for the latest rip off are untenable. The argument that longer hours mean greater expense is nothing less than Alice through the Looking Glass economics. For a start, extended hours are permitted hours, not compulsory hours. If a brewery can't profit from opening a pub for longer hours, then it can remain shut. Secondly, the overheads or fixed costs of the pub will be spread over a longer period of time and as long as total turnover per hour does not diminish significantly, costs should actually fall.

The cost of ingredients has actually fallen over the last five years, but this has not been reflected in the price of a pint. If prices of malt and hops have risen enormously in recent weeks then it's all swings and no roundabouts for the brewers yet again - the price of a pint goes up when raw materials cost more, but it doesn't go down when prices fall.

So far, the local breweries haven't gone along with the price rises. They're biding their time to see how things go. With a bit of luck the hapless drinker will vote with his feet and go to an independent's pub which will not then need to raise prices at all.

CLARENCE CATASTROPHE

Maybe Whitbread should be renamed the Whitbread Brewery & Fishmongers Co. They are certainly making an excellent job of taking the guts out of the Clarence on Bolton Street, Ramsbottom. As mentioned in July WD, this was quite a little gem, a special pub with lots of character. Assurances were given by Whitbread that the refurbishment would be sympathetic...

On checking on a rumour that the ceiling had collapsed rather unsympathetically during the work, a nightmarish sight presented itself. The pub, to put it bluntly, is being ripped apart.

One can only assume that there was an oversight on the part of the architect and that the whole interior of the pub sort of fell down by accident, thereby leaving no choice but to destroy the whole lot. Whitbread, may your sins find you out!

CITY DESK

Paul Roberts



Following the recent change of landlord, the **CASTLE** on Oldham Street is now packing 'em in and continuing to sell excellent Robinsons bitter and mild at prices cheaper than most Robinsons houses in Stockport. Old Tom is now available on handpump and good value home made pies, hotpots and toasties are served lunchtimes and evening.

Continuing up Oldham Street to Swan Street, a lick of paint and a hefty price increase have transformed the rather less than upmarket Old White Bear to **POLARS**, a feeble attempt at a cocktail bar. Scantily clad barmaids serve the usual range of handpumped Warrington Allied beers, with Burton Ale, at sky high prices.

Roger and Brenda, mine host and hostess at the **OLD WELLINGTON INN**, Shambles Square, for the past year and a half, have left to take over the White Hart on Heywood Old Road, Birch. They had built up a loyal following of Bass drinkers at the Wellington and will be sadly missed. At the moment, the White Hart is all fizz, but we hope that real ale will appear in the not-too-distant future.

August 15th saw a horrific price increase at the Wellington, putting draught Bass up 6p to 95p a pint! The excuse is that this is to cover increased costs of all day opening. As that place is a potential gold mine in the afternoons, a 6p a pint decrease would have seemed more logical, but obviously there was no chance of that!

There is a disappointing lack of meals in city centre pubs in the evening. However, there are a few establishments where the after-work imbibers can put linings on their stomachs. Top marks go to **SMITH-FIELDS** on Shudehill, where a full range of excellent, inexpensive bar meals can be had every evening. The upstairs restaurant is due to open soon for those with an a la carte appetite. Smithfields' new opening hours are the full 11.00am-11.00pm, with happy hours 4.30-6.30 Monday-Thursday and 9.00-9.30, 10.00-10.30 Friday and Saturday.

Just down the road, the **SWAN WITH TWO NECKS** also does bar meals and snacks most early evenings and Ruddles bitter is on hand at the cheapest price in Manchester. Boddingtons' **BREWERS ARMS** serves a range of hot meals, with their usual Beef in Boddingtons heading the menu.

As this issue goes to press, all day opening comes in, with many pubs opening longer hours in the afternoon but closing earlier in the evenings midweek. More happy hours at teatime are promised, and of

course more price rises are threatened. Full details will be available for the October issue of WD.

STOP PRESS: New prices in the CASTLE are 82p for bitter and 78p for mild - still excellent value. John Smiths bitter in the Vine is up to 90p, while across the road at the Crown, draught Bass is £1.02. Bass in the Unicorn is up 6p to 90p.

PLANNING NEWS

Tetley Walker have submitted plans to convert and extend the premises at 9 Whitworth Street West, Manchester, to make a new pub.

BIGGER APPLE

An application has been made to build a two-storey extension on the back of the New York New York on Bloom Street. No doubt it will be as tasteful as the rest of the building and the clientele.

In Ancoats, Whitbread want to chop the top floor off the Green Dragon and fit a new roof. Trusthouse Forte propose to knock down all but two facades of the Grand Hotel and rebuild it. What price beer then? In Audenshaw, Websters have plans for a restaurant extension at the Boundary.

CHESTERS

According to the local press, brewery officials greeted the news that the building was now listed with a mixture of delight and surprise. Delight that their lovely old brewery was recognised as being of outstanding architectural merit, and surprise that CAMRA should have bothered to list it when it was in no danger of being knocked down or mucked around with anyway. How silly of us! As though Whitbread would ever have thought of knocking it down and developing the site. Breweries never do things like that, do they? No, except for Boddingtons, who've applied for permission to develop the Oldham Brewery site as an industrial estate.

FURSTENBURG

This German lager has appeared at one or two beer festivals and speakers have been turning up at the odd branch meeting. (What's odd about North Manchester meetings?) At beer festivals they've served it under air pressure, but it's normally CO2 dispensed. If they're not willing to serve it naturally, then surely they've nothing to say to us. Who wants to drink fizz, however pure? And surely their spokesmen could be slightly more genned up. Even Danny Blyth knows that dark lager isn't made from roasted hops.

BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

According to a report in a local newspaper, Greenalls are about to resurrect the name of former Bolton brewery Magee Marshall in a bid to boost Greenalls' poor image in the town. The report quoted Mr Bill Link, head of Greenalls' Managed House Division, Greenall Inns, as (quite rightly) acknowledging his company's bad name in Bolton. The scrapping of light mild a decade or so ago was given as a contributory factor. Now, however, they are looking to convert some of their local pubs to "Magees Houses", and there's even a possibility of a Magees beer.



In addition, Greenalls are hoping to install a micro-brewery in the forthcoming Bolton Heritage Centre on St George's Street, and one (un-named) pub in Bolton town centre is set to become a Davenports pub.

Just for the record, Magee Marshall was taken over by Greenalls in 1958. The brewery remained open until 1970 and then became a depot for another Greenalls subsidiary, Cambrian Soft Drinks. It was finally demolished a few years ago.

Another old name being brought back is that of the Crown & Cushion on Mealhouse Lane, which opened up at the end of August. Formerly named Spencers, after its former owner, snooker player John Spencer, the premises have been bought by a Blackpool-based snooker hall outfit which has attempted to turn it into a traditional pub. To this end they have installed traditional ale and traditional fittings, like a traditional dance floor with traditional bouncers at the weekend uttering that now-traditional phrase, "Sorry, pal. No jeans." It's hard to understand this, particularly when you read about glassings and pitched battles amongst the "well dressed" at Bolton's chic-est nightspot, the Ritzy.

Whitbread is the cask beer at the Crown & Cushion, in the form of Chesters bitter, and as the pub has joined the Whitbread Guest Beer scheme, Flowers IPA is also currently on sale at 90p a pint. You can also enjoy something called "Moosehead" at £1.05 a pint. Apparently it's another Canadian excuse for a beer, tasting of nothing at all.

The original Crown & Cushion was actually on the ground floor of the building in what is now a building society. It dates back to the

eighteenth century but was rebuilt in 1900 and closed in 1971. The current Crown & Cushion was the Empress Hall and then the Club Empress before becoming Spencers in 1978.

Vaux's Double Maxim bottled brown ale is available in draught form at Maxims on Bradshawgate for a limited period.

Following the recent price rises, Ruddles County in the Old Three Crowns is a mere £1.14 a pint.

At the time of writing, most Bolton pubs had yet to announce their opening hours from August 22nd, but of those which have, the York Hotel and Clifton Hotel on Newport Street, the Bears Paw on Churchgate and the Sally Up Steps, Chorley Old Road, will be open from 11.00am-11.00pm Monday to Saturday.

JOSEPH HOLT AT THE BELL TOWER

After performing the opening ceremony at the new section of the inner ring road from Gore Street (where 6,000 bodies were found) to Blackfriars Road (where two more Boddies may be found), His Worshipfulness the Mayor of Salford, Joseph Holt, was seen to retire to the Bell Tower along with his entourage for refreshments. Regrettably for Salford drinkers, Joseph Holt left the Bell Tower shortly afterwards, and so the Crescent is still the sole supplier of the real Joseph Holts in this neck of the woods.

NEW NELSON

Behind the scaffolding on Chapel Street, opposite Trinity Church, Salford, the Lord Nelson is being converted into a "new" traditional pub. Landlord Graham Fletcher expects to open around 21st September, when the pub will have a new name and a newish range of beers.

MOORHOUSE'S



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Silver Medal Award Winner, Brewex 83

PENDLE WITCHES BREW (O.G. 1050°)
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WELCOME BACK (3)

The photo shows Salford artist Harold Riley with Alan and Iris Johnson and the Lees-Joneses at the opening of Lees' new Welcome in Ordsall last month.

As well as the Welcome (ex-Chequerboard) and the Druids, Liverpool Street (WD last month), Lees have also acquired the Globe on Bury Street. In the same deal with Wilsons, they now own the Oddfellows, Heywood, where the bowling green is being restored, the Elevenways, Featherstall Road, and the Minders, Huddersfield Road, Oldham.

OWL & SPINDLE

The recently-built Owl & Spindle, Bass North West's new pub/restaurant at the Burnley Lane end of the A627M, seems to have some strange pricing policies. Stones best bitter (handpumped) is 81p in the vault, 91p in the lounge area and a staggering 94p in the "pre food bar" (sic). Locals are calling it the Owl & Swindle.

Other contributors to this issue: Stewart Revell, Barbara Lee, Roger Hall, Graham Mason, Glenn Worth, Peter Wadsworth

To the Editor:

375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M27

LETTERS



RUPERT AGAIN

Sir - Regarding the letters in defence of Rupert's Page in August WD, I would like to make the following observations. Charles Connor agrees that, to the uninformed, Rupert's Page is unintelligible, but seems to enjoy reading things he can't understand. I would submit that most of us do not. As for my contributing to every issue - well, that's scarcely the point either; Rupert does contribute and seems to have some style as a writer. Why does he not use it in a way that everyone can understand?

As for Bruder Beinlos's comments, I can assure him that as a member of Merseyside Branch I have complained about Mersey Drinker's continual Higsonitis and its insulting Graffiti page, but is Bruder Beinlos saying that because other magazines waste space, WD should do so as well?

No, the point remains the same. What space there is in local publications should be used constructively, with humour where possible, but be written in "clear".

Peter Alexander

GROSS SLUR

Sir - So Rupert is a cross between Nigel Dempster, the Telegraph's Peterborough and page three of the Sun. (Letters, last month.) Are we to understand from this that he is in fact a bitchy, middle-class tit? I think we should be told.

John Clarke

RUFFLED FEATHERS

Sir - I would like to thank David Jacobs for pointing out that we omitted the Union Tavern from "Vintage Pubs". I know of one or two others which probably should have gone in and, conversely, there are two or three which, with hindsight, maybe should not be in the guide. Which all goes to show that you cannot please everyone, not even the editor. Incidentally, I edited, not compiled, the guide. In fact, Mr Jacobs' own input to it required more editing than most.

Monsieur Jacobs, tu es un ronchonneur. And she is drinking Holts mild, not Guinness.

Peter Barnes

PUB ENTERTAINMENT

Sir - Glenn Worth wants some real pub entertainment (Aug WD). I prescribe a visit to the Spring Vale ("Khartoum"), Burnley Street, off

Middleton Road, Chadderton (near Asda). Try the lounge bar any Thursday night, except perhaps "September Week". Excellent handpumped OB mild and bitter and Boddingtons bitter may also be enjoyed. T Gaunt

HIGH PRICES

Sir - We were interested to read Leo King's remarks in last month's WD concerning the scandalous price charged for Holts' bitter in the High Street Yates's, Manchester. We have discovered an even higher price being charged for our local amber nectar. In Leeds it was on sale at an unbelievable 90p a pint - a 35% increase on the normal managed house price. If this was not enough, the profiteering pirates were charging people £1.50 admission just to be ripped off.

The surprising fact is that this was not a wine bar but the Great British Beer Festival, run by a monopoly - CAMRA Ltd of St Albans. We hope that the Monopolies & Mergers Commission may be called to look at the affairs of this anti-consumer organisation.

Uncle Joe & Auntie Tyke

FINANCIAL NEWS

Despite its massive price increases, Bass must still be hard up. They've sold off Horizon Holidays to Thompson Travel, putting the latter further in the lead as the world's largest tour operator. With a spare £18 million in their petty cash account, will Bass go looking for a small brewery to take over?

Scottish & Newcastle's shares have continued to rise on speculation of a takeover by Elders IXL.

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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KING'S ALE

Leo King

This month's "King's Ale" begins with a gripe. And rightly so, though I say it myself. It concerns those big-headed, big-bellied bullies who revel in refusing admission to "public" houses - bouncers. Not long ago I was stopped from entering the City Arms on Kennedy Street in Manchester by (in my opinion) a scruffy bouncer who was arrogant in every way. I was on my own and very well dressed (if I do say so myself) and I'm certainly not accustomed to such treatment. Those who were waiting for me in the pub spent the evening wondering where the hell I had got to.

I phoned the City Arms the following day to complain. The landlady was apologetic and told me that the landlord would never refuse decent customers. That's all very well, but his doorman's behaviour ruined my evening.

I think I'll start a campaign against the belligerent bouncer. The list of central Manchester pubs where bouncers are employed is growing - all four Yates establishments, Brunswick Tavern, City Arms, King, Polars (ex-White Bear), Rembrandt and Seven Oaks. With all the trouble in pubs these days, it's a pity such characters have to be used. Let's have brains (brawn is not everything) and let the licensees decide who they want in their pubs.

PACK HORSE

The Pack Horse on Oldham Road is a former Wilsons pub now owned by J W Lees and is (or was) selling keg beer. I ordered a pint of bitter and, though handpumps were on the bar, was served with beer from one of those deceiving little box-type pumps. I should have known. You can tell as soon as you touch the glass - freezing cold, lots of tiny bubbles of gas rapidly rising to the top and the beer goes flat before your eyes. It was one of the worst keg beers I have ever had the misfortune to suffer! What a vast difference between this and the Lees ales at Gullivers on Oldham Street. How people can sup keg beer and lager is beyond me!

BEER HOUSE

Simon Finch at the Beer House (formerly the Weavers Arms) is having an upstairs bar/lounge put to good use. It contains a small bar with three handpumps. The room is licensed for 50 people and is suitable for parties, CAMRA meetings, etc. There will be three regular beers on sale - Theakstons XB and Old Peculier and Holts bitter. The handpulls are assisted by an electric motor to lift the beer. Prices will be the same as downstairs.

Asked about the future, Simon mentioned that he may be taking on another free house in Oldham, but regretted that he could do nothing

for me in Chorlton, alas! However, a lot of work has been done on the building in Chorlton which Holts wanted to license in February. I await eagerly!

KINGS ARMS TRIES AGAIN

The Kings Arms, Bloom Street, Salford, has a new manager, Mike Blackburn. He has cancelled the "Happy Hour", which he feels was the reason for the pub's decline, cleaned the place up and re-introduced simple but good value lunchtime cuisine. Resident beers are Websters Choice (80p), Yorkshire Bitter and Theakstons Best Bitter. There is also Youngers No.3, which alternates with Theakstons XB

PACK HORSE

Alterations to the 16th century, Grade II listed Pack Horse, Fails-worth, are now complete. A 6-foot extension, the length of the corridor area to the left of the bar, has been sensitively carried out. The rear entrance has been moved and the old kitchen has been converted into a children's room. The toilets have been decorated and improved.

HOME FROM HOME

On 18th August the Old House at Home in Blackley celebrated a grand reopening after many months of renovation and refurbishment. Although the pub was never closed, the alterations took a long time because they were carried out by the tenants - Linda and Hartley Downs - who've been at the Old House for 17 years, rather than by the brewery. Because they haven't got tens of thousands of pounds to throw at the project, the result is much better than the kind of instant theming we've seen in some brewery poshing-up jobs. The pub is posher, more comfortable and so on, but it hasn't lost the charm and character which is reflected in its name. Carpets, upholstered seats and improved lighting all add to the ambience of one of the most homely pubs in Manchester.

WORSLEY WOBBLER

At the Bridgewater the legacy of the small rude man in the ill-fitting suit lives on. A young man of barely 20 summers entered the premises with his girlfriend and ordered soup and sandwiches. As all the tables in the bar area were occupied, they made their way to the dining area which was relatively empty, only to be told that this was for diners. Politely enquiring where he might eat his soup, our young adventurer had his money slapped down on the counter and was told to leave. In future, perhaps he'll go to the smiling welcome at Worsley's only other pub, the Cock, which seems vaguely familiar.

NOW & THEN

by Rob Magee

No.31

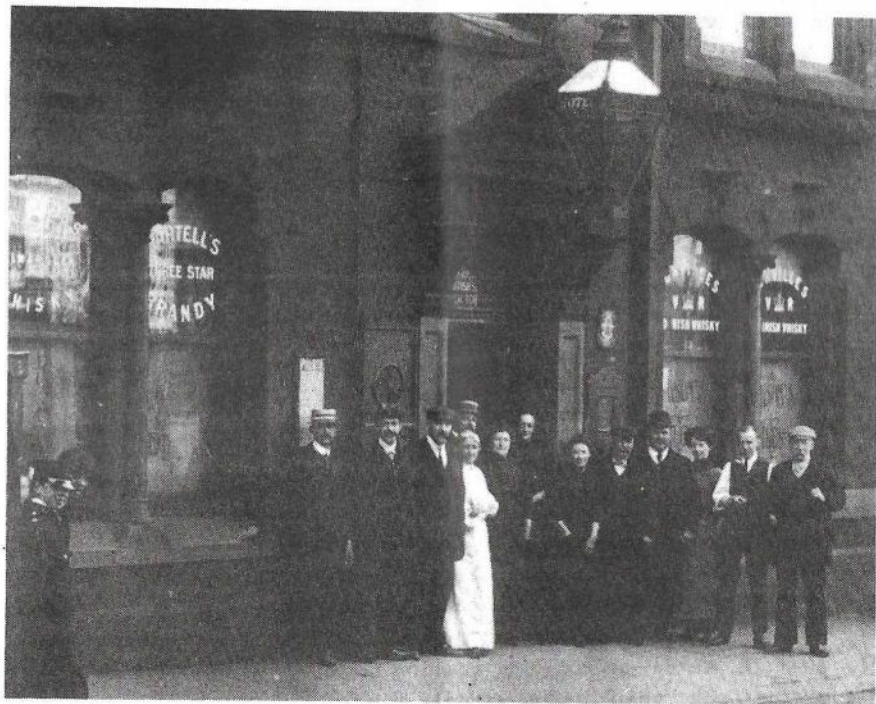
DOG & DUCK

33 St Domingo St, Oldham

The history of the Dog & Duck begins with an alehouse on Eagle Street (the original main road) to the rear of the present pub. This was called the Dog, and was given a full licence in 1803, when Thomas Wolsencroft took over. Sadly, things began to go wrong for him in 1819. On one of his weekly visits to Manchester to collect supplies, he was robbed of £25 - a lot of money then. Then, over the next four years, his five children died. On 20th July 1824, at the age of 51, he hanged himself in the cellar of the Dog.

When Tom's widow left the pub, James Mills arrived in about 1827 and he saw the Dog and its brewhouse rebuilt to face St Domingo Street; there was also a large square yard to the front in anticipation of stage coaches pulling in.

Things ran smoothly at the Dog until 1859, when Elizabeth Lord was fined 10/- for allowing after-time drinking on Sundays, and there was an objection to her licence at the brewster session. Henry Littlewood



took over and by 1868 the Dog & Duck was described as a resort for thieves and prostitutes. Henry absconded with £800 the following year and was never seen again!

Richard Siddle took over and was granted a music licence to liven things up. However, the following year James Worsnop was in charge, and he was refused the music licence as the place was popular with dancing prostitutes!

A second rebuild took place around 1898 and the photo shows the pub when Margaret Cheerham was landlady (1898-1910), by which time it was a Wilsons house.

The present tenants, Michael and Pat McGinn, have run the pub since 1976 and were surprised when Websters took over Wilsons Brewery in 1985. They were even more surprised when the pub became Heron Group property earlier this year, and then it was re-sold to Banks's Brewery.

Pat thinks the pub has a friendly ghost, which seems to spend most of his time in the cellar. Could it be Thomas Wolsencroft of long ago, or perhaps John Radcliffe, a blacksmith who was killed in a fight here in February 1854?

WATNEYS RED RUDDLES

Websters' 150th anniversary cannot have escaped the attention of anyone who visits Wilsons/Websters pubs in the area. Mind you, last time one of their breweries celebrated such an anniversary (Wilsons), they shut it the following year. The main fear of the Websters hype is the possibility that this will be a launch for the rationalisation of the range of beers which we have been predicting for a long time. Once again Brands Marketing raises its ugly head. It would make economic sense for Watneys to sell just three beers nationally; say, Ruddles County, Websters Yorkshire Bitter and Green Label. All could be marketed nationally and they could discontinue Choice, Wilsons and one or two others. Lovely - more money for Watneys, less choice for Joe Public. The only way to resist this state of affairs is to demand Wilsons beers. Don't accept what many people feel is a mediocre substitute.

On 5th October, the North Manchester branch of CAMRA will be surveying all its Wilsons outlets to determine exactly what has happened to the range of beers on sale. We would be pleased to see returns from other areas.



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

JOE 93

Since 1986 Holts have gained three pubs and lost one. The Spread Eagle on Regent Road was knocked down for the new road and was replaced by the Dukes Gate in Little Hulton. The Millhouse in Warrington is Holts' second pub outside Greater Manchester and the Sidings in Levenshulme strengthens their representation in South Manchester. For the first time, fewer than half their tied houses are in North Manchester and Salford (46 out of 93). At this rate they'll top the ton by the end of the millenium (31.12.1999 or 31.12.2000?) unless Mr Richard sells out to Anheuser Busch or Kirin or some as yet unheard of Korean mega-brewery.

SALFORD

Eagle, Collier Street
Duke of York, Marlborough Road
Old House at Home, Whit Lane
Wellington, Irlams o'th'Height
Waggon & Horses, I-O-H
Red Lion, Irlams o'th'Height
Winston, Churchill Way
Sabre, Taylorson Street
Bricklayers, Ordsall Lane
Union, Liverpool Street
Broadway, Broadway
Kings Arms, Oldfield Road

ECCELES & PATRICKROFT

Lamb, Regent Street
Bulls Head, Church Street

Wellington, Church Street
Crown & Volunteer, Liverpool Rd
White Lion, Liverpool Road
Bridgewater, Liverpool Road
Royal Oak, Barton Lane
Golden Cross, Liverpool Road
Stanley, Liverpool Road
Grapes, Liverpool Rd, Peel Green
Bird in Hand, Liverpool Road
Ellesmere, King William St, Winton
Park, Monton Road, Monton

SWINTON & PENDLEBURY

Newmarket, Bolton Road
Lord Nelson, Bolton Road
Cricketers, Manchester Road
Park, Worsley Road
White Swan, Worsley Road



WORSLEY

Morning Star, Manchester Road
Dukes Gate, Cleggs Lane

NORTH MANCHESTER

Fox, Blackley
Golden Lion, Blackley
Duke of Wellington, Hr Blackley
Bluebell, Moston Lane, Moston
Railway, Dean Lane, Newton Heath
Church, Droylsden Rd, N. Heath
Bradford, Bradford Road
Cleveland, Crumpsall Lane
Crumpsall, Bury Old Rd, Ch. Hill
Egerton, Hanlon St, Cheetham Hill
Derby Brewery Arms, Cheetham Hill Road
Cheetwood, Derby Street, Cheetham
Apollo, Heywood Street, Cheetham
Tanners, Fairy Lane, Cheetham

PRESTWICH/WHITEFIELD/RADCLIFFE

Friendship, Scholes Lane
Woodthorpe, Bury Old Road
Ostrich, Bury Old Road
Red Lion, Bury New Road
White Horse, Bury New Road
Welcome, Bury Old Road
Coach & Horses, Bury Old Road
Eagle & Child, Higher Lane
Church, Bury New Road
Frigate, Tatch Leach Lane
Foresters, Bury New Road
New Grove, Bury New Road
Hare & Hounds, Outwood
Old Cross, Cross Lane
Papermakers, Church Street
Wilton, Coronation Road
Goats Gate, Radcliffe New Road

TRAFFORD

Melville, Stretford
Lord Nelson, Urmston
Roebuck, Flixton

Legh Arms, Sale Moor
Brigadier, Sale

WIGAN DISTRICT

Atherton Arms, Atherton
Cart & Horses, Astley
Mort Arms, Tyldesley

BOLTON DISTRICT

White Lion, Westhoughton
Rose Hill Tavern, Daisy Hill,
Westhoughton

SOUTH MANCHESTER & TAMESIDE

Seven Stars, Ashton Old Road
Grafton, Chorlton-on-Medlock
Grove, Ashton New Road, Clayton
Halfway House, Droylsden
Waggon & Horses, Hyde Rd, Gorton
Sidings, Broom Lane, Levenshulme
Garratt, Pink Bank La, Longsight
Claremont, Moss Side
Railway, Manshaw Road, Fairfield

BURY

Bluebell, Manchester Road
Bay Horse, Unsworth

STOCKPORT

Junction, Cheadle Hulme
Griffin, Wilmslow Road, Cheadle
Griffin, Didsbury Road, Heaton
Mersey

OLDHAM

Bridgewater, M/cr Rd, Hollinwood
Kings Arms, M/cr Rd, Hollinwood

ROCHDALE

Navigation, Drake Street
Cross Yates, Whitworth Road

Over the borders

Black Dog, Belmont
Millhouse, Cinnamon Brow,
Warrington New Town

HOLTS CORNER

Holts was founded in 1849, so next year sees their 140th anniversary. Knowing Holts as we do, probably not a lot of celebrating will be done this time. We may have to wait a further 10 years (to 1999 - their 150th) for the launch of a new beer mat or something equally exciting.

Whilst other breweries are using all day drinking as an excuse to put up prices, Holts are not expected to increase their beer prices until a few weeks before Christmas (the usual time). Good news for Holts drinkers.

RUPERT'S PAGE

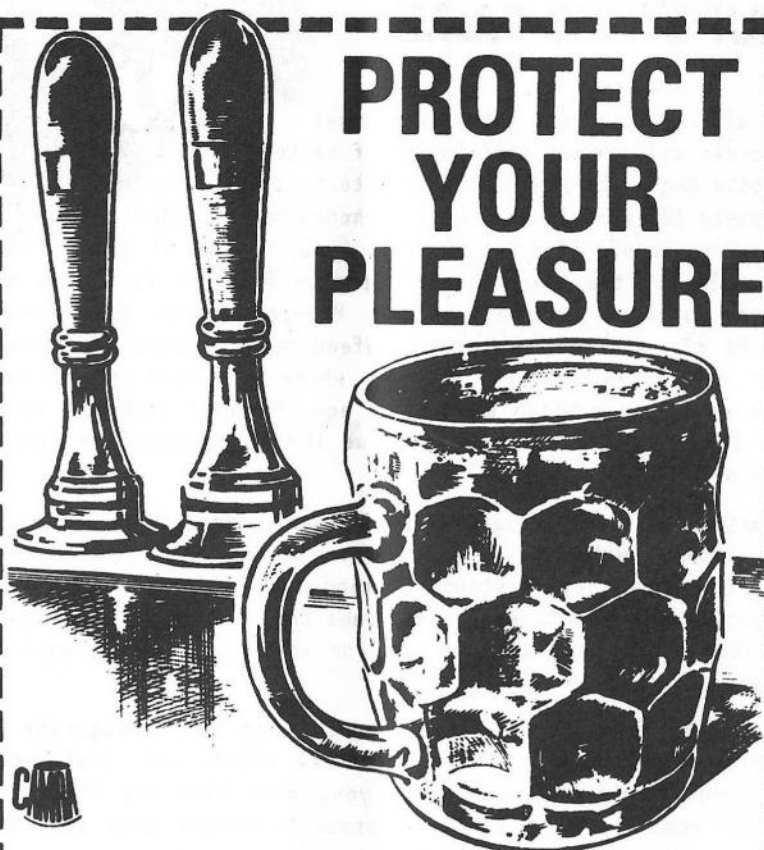


I'd all but forgotten about televisual divorcee and amateur sociologist of hostelrys, Sweetie Bogbrush. How nice it was to hear his dulcet Scousely tones again when he telephoned me the other day. I never did find out why he'd rung. Perhaps it was to apply for the editorship of Opening Tripe or to be the new link-person for East Pennine Joke Inc. However, I took the opportunity to invite him and his circus of Defenders of Grotley Slum Hostelrys, Inns and Taverns back to Grotley, where they have not set foot since that memorable meeting many moons ago. It seems that all the activity and imbibing upset them as much as the post-meeting collapse of the tavern.

Nevertheless, this would be an ideal opportunity to renew our acquaintance with Seamus Spud, Peter Hammerstein, Ms Prune and the rest now that they've stopped biting each other's noses and stabbing people in the front. After all, pubs can be open all day legally now, so there will be little excuse for anybody to remain even slightly sober.

This could form part of the dynamic plan to reinvigorate the activities of Greater Grotley branches, which some feel have grown moribund in recent years. Mind you, when this was brought up at a recent seminar, most of those present thought that everything was hunky dory and nothing need be done. I don't think that even if those who were asleep had been woken up it would have made any difference to the vote. So the massed branches of Grotley will continue (with the absence of Smarmford & Slutch) to make decisions about campaigning which they never fulfil. And why not? Surely the semblance of campaigning is enough. We're all sick and tired of actually trying to influence events and change people's minds. It's such hard work trying to save pubs, beers and breweries. Much better, surely, to operate as an alcoholic talking shop and organise freebies, jollies and other social events where active campaigning doesn't get much of a look in.

I'm hoping that a visit from DOGSHIT will continue this valued tradition. There's been too much pub preserving going on in Grotley and a breath of fresh air is much needed. Perhaps they can tell us how to bestow prestigious awards on chintzy, smartened hovels, which it looks like they're pretty good at. I just hope that Simples won't fall down.



JOIN CAMRA NOW

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APPLICATION FORM

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PRESTWICH SALES SOAR

After a few years' gap owing to distribution difficulties, What's Doing is back on sale in several Prestwich pubs. The Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch wish to thank the following for their support in selling the magazine:

Colin and Vivian at the **Welcome Inn** (Holts), Bury Old Road
Tony and Josie at the **Eagle & Child** (Holts), Higher Lane
Ken and Alma at the **Farmers Arms** (Lees), Simister village
Kevin and Lynn at the **Ostrich Hotel** (Holts), Bury Old Road
Alf and Joan at the **Royal Oak** (Hydes), Whittaker Lane
Arthur at the **Coach & Horses** (Holts), Bury Old Road



Branch Diary

BOLTON

Sat 10 Sept, Preston trip. Meet 11.00am, York, Newport Street
Tues 13 Sept, 8.30pm. Branch Meeting, Derby Arms, Derby Street
Fri 16 Sept, Manchester Crawl. Meet 7.30pm Lass o'Gowrie, Charles Street
Wed 21 Sept, 8pm, Social. Jolly Carter, Little Lever. Possible speaker from Whitbread
Fri 23 Sept, Jim Sods Off. Meet 7pm Dog & Partridge, Manor Street
Tues 11 Oct, 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, White Lion, Westhoughton
Contact: Dave Fleming, Bolton 389918

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 7 Sept, Red Lion, Ellenbrook Road, 7pm; King William, Mosley Common, 8pm
Wed 14 Sept, Saddleworth trip
Wed 21 Sept, Branch Meeting, Crescent, Salford, 8pm
Wed 25 Sept, Old House at Home, Blackley, 8pm
Wed 5 Oct, Wilsons Survey
Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Thurs 1 Sept, Meeting to discuss Bury Beer Festival. Napier, Bolton Street, Bury, at 8.30pm. All welcome
Tues 6 Sept, Branch Meeting, Eagle & Child, Higher Lane, Whitefield. 8pm
Fri 16th - Sun 18th Sept, Weekend trip to Wales. Phone for further details
Tues 20th Sept, Committee meeting. Woodthorpe Hotel, Bury Old Road, Prestwich, 8pm
Tues 4 Oct, Branch Meeting, Bridge Inn, Manchester Road, Castleton, nr Rochdale, 8pm
Contact B Lee 0706 82 4407

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 1 Sept, Committee meeting, Yates Wine Lodge, Urmston Precinct, 8pm. All welcome
Thurs 8th Sept, Old Trafford survey night. Commence 8pm at Tollgate, opposite Old Trafford Station
Thurs 15 Sept, Branch Meeting, Melville, Barton Road, Stretford, 8pm
Thurs 22 Sept, Altrincham Survey Night. Commence 8pm at Orange Tree, Old Market Place; 9pm Victoria or Malt Shovels
Thurs 29 Sept, Sale Survey Night. Commence 8pm at the Bridge, Dane Road
Thurs 6 Oct, Committee meeting at Quarry Bank, Timperley, 8pm. All welcome
Contact: David Shelton 061 224 7341 x27 (w), 061 795 2113 (h)

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