

WHAT'S DOING

OCT
1988



THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

October Ales

Three of the area's free houses have special events this month. First, the Marble Arch, Rochdale Road, is celebrating its 100th birthday. 100 different real ales will be on sale throughout October - 25 per week.

In Salford, the Crescent is holding its third "Oktoberfest", with over a dozen traditional beers, beginning 20th October.

Simon Finch's latest venture, the Auld Lang Syne on Manchester Road, Werneth, has an "Official Opening" on 5th October - Holts, Taylors, etc, and cheap beer (see inside).



BANKS'S

Banks's have obtained a site for a new pub in Howard Street, off Eccles New Road, Salford. (Not far from Holts' Broadway.) They have given Salford Corporation the Druids on Silk Street, together with £10,000, for the site on "prime land". The Druids was originally a Wilsons pub, and spent a few months as a "Websters" outlet before being boarded up. It was one of several in the area acquired by the Heron Group and then sold to Banks's. The building will become a youth centre to replace the closed Peter Green Centre.

Banks's are evidently so impressed with Collyhurst that they've just repainted one of their first acquisitions in Manchester - the Osborne House - and they've also re-signed their newly acquired Robert Tinker over the road.

In the Oldham area, Banks's now own the Church Inn, Lee Street, and Rascals on Manchester Road. Rascals was formerly the Yarn Spinners, first licensed about 1971; before that, the building was a doctor's house.

OB - GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

In the wake of the much needed semi-liberalisation of our licensing laws, Oldham Brewery (Strangeways Office) produced a bold, full page advert in the local paper announcing no price increases to fund the extended hours, and in fact no increases at all until next year.

New focus, new chief for Boddington

EWART BODDINGTON has stepped down as chairman of the Lancashire brewer that bears his family name, and handed over to Denis Cassidy, the former chief of high street retailer BHS.

The move signals a shift of emphasis by Boddington, hampered by an old fashioned "ale house" image for several years. Mr Cassidy said he would "accelerate the move towards pub retailing, which the present management has not been given enough credit for." The new regime would maintain the company's role as a brewer, he added.

INDEPENDENT Friday 23 September

The list of OB pubs included in the ad is interesting since it contains only 81 "OB locals". "Henry's Tables" and other eaterie-style pubs are not listed. However, the list does include pubs where OB bitter is no longer available.

Following the closure of OB and the transference of brewing to Strangeways, the quality of OB bitter has plumbed new depths. So much so that some licensees, fed up with returning cloudy, earthy-tasting beer, wanted no more of it. What could the brewery suggest? You've guessed it - Boddies! So now, licensees and their customers who were vehemently opposed to

Boddies' products in the pre and post-takeover days, are stuck with them, one imagines for good.

The next time a spokesman for the brewery goes on record as saying that OB bitter - as they long suspected - was losing out in popularity to their own wonderful amber fluid, just remember how the market can be manipulated by those pulling the strings.

PRICES

The Boardroom on Portland Street, Manchester, and the Rising Sun on Queen Street/Lloyd Street both sell Ruddles County. Both pubs are similar in facilities, situation and level of posiness, but Ruddles costs 94p in one and £1.18 in the other. That's a price difference of 24p - nearly 5/-! Which is which? Find out for yourself!

CITY DESK

Peter o'Grady

Peter and Clare White of the VINE INN, Kennedy Street, are moving to Oxford on November 1st. City slickers should be ever-grateful to the couple who brought back real ale (John Smiths) to the Vine. They also restored the exterior to its former glory and introduced popular Jazz Nights and Quiz Nights to the pub. We wish them well amongst the sleepy spires. Oxford's gain is our loss.



Next door, the remarkable success story of the CITY ARMS continues unabated. Ged Robinson manages to keep his whole range of cask conditioned beers in tip-top condition - and never seems to "run out", which was a long-standing complaint hitherto. Hot food is now available until 2.30pm and is incredibly good value - a must for CAMRA's new good grub guide. Open 11-11, always busy. No fuss and, contrary to previous reports, NO BOUNCERS!

Over the road at the CROWN CAFE BAR, Fountain Street, the quality of the draught Bass and Stones bitter is consistently good. All credit to the enthusiastic manager and his wife for proving it is possible to keep AND SELL good quality draught beer in a cafe bar. Draught Bass sales are zooming. It's just a pity that the brewery insists on silly prices.

Grand Met have finally started work on the old masonic lodge on Cooper Street which last opened its doors towards the end of 1986 as OSCARS - formerly known and revered as THE WALDORF. Upper floors are to be converted into offices. Let's hope that the brewery learns from its near neighbours that good quality draught beer is essential for the success of any venture in this part of town.

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.

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PREMIER
DRAUGHT BITTER
The Prize-Winning Pint!



*It's October...so
it must be the*

CRESCENT

REAL BEER FESTIVAL

at

THE CRESCENT PUB

on the Crescent

*(continuation of Chapel Street) Salford
Between the University and the Royal Hospital*

OVER A DOZEN REAL BEERS

Oktoberfest returns to Salford!

Starting

20th OCTOBER 1988

* * * OPENING TIMES * * *

Monday-Thursday: 12.00-2.30 and 4.30-11.00

Friday: 12.00-11.00

Saturday: 1.00-4.30 and 7.30-11.00

Sunday: 12.00-2.30 and 7.30-10.30

KING'S ALE

Leo King

For the next few issues I am compiling a guide to the fine, traditional city centre real ale pubs. First, the CASTLE, Oldham Street, Manchester 1. This is a gem inside and out. It is a listed building and the small, terraced exterior belies the size of the place inside, with its front bar and two large rooms. Robinsons best bitter, best mild and Old Tom are dispensed by handpumps. The Castle once had a bad reputation for a rough-and-ready clientele, but the previous landlord, Arthur Hook (an ex-police sergeant), saw to it that changes were made. This paved the way to what the pub is today under its new management. The entire pub has been smartened up and re-decorated; new plush carpeting, draped and net curtains add to the effect. In fact, you wouldn't think it was the same place! The beer is reasonably priced for a city centre pub. Opening times are Monday-Friday 11.00-5.30 and 7.00-11.00; earlier closing on Saturday when there are home football matches; Sunday 12.00-3.00 and 7.00-10.30. A pub of great character.

GULLIVERS, Oldham Street, Manchester 4, is almost opposite the Castle, despite the two being in different postal districts. This was one of the many pubs closed by Wilsons and it is now owned by J W Lees. It was first known as the Albert, then the Grenadier prior to its present unusual name. It is a shame that in the Watneys days the interior walls were stripped of those fine light blue and white tiles.

This pub was formerly the haunt of a clientele similar to that of the Castle, but when a new licensee took over the pub practically reformed overnight. Since the arrival of Martin Flannery the place has had a different atmosphere entirely. There is usually entertainment in some shape or form, although pianists come and go! Entertainment or not, first class traditional mild and bitter are served at sensible prices; Gullivers sells the cheapest tied house beer in the city centre. Opening times are 11.00-11.00 Monday-Friday; 11.00-5.00, 7.30-11.00 Saturday; 12.00-3.00, 7.00-10.30 Sunday. Again, earlier closing on Saturdays for home matches.

WHITE HOUSE, Great Ancoats Street/Laystall Street, Manchester 1. A former Walker & Homfray house (later Wilsons) and yet another Wilsons closure. This fine pub is now a free house and still remains traditional with no alterations or daft gimmicks. The emphasis is on excellent beer and down-to-earth prices. Mine hosts John and Jen run a well-kept establishment with first-class service. Real ale comes in the form of Hansons Black Country Bitter and Holts mild and bitter. When the White House first opened, I'm almost sure the traditional beers were Boddingtons and Stones. Then along came Joe's amber nectar,

the Boddies bitter disappeared and the Stones was demoted to keg and is still on sale. There is a great demand for the Holts products and Hansons also does very well. The White House is the cheapest free house in the city centre, and probably in the whole of Manchester. Holts bitter is 72p a pint.

(In last month's WD I wrongly named the City Arms as the pub where I was refused admission by bouncers. The pub was, in fact, the Vine. I apologise for this unfortunate error - the City Arms certainly does not employ bouncers!)

HOLTS CORNER

Between 8th September and 20th October there will be 11 licensee changes. Some are moving from one pub to another, whilst others will be new to the Holts empire. The new manager at the White Swan, Swinton, is Mike Parnell, who comes from the Claremont, Moss Side.

It would appear that in trying to obtain the site in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Holts have been "gazumped" - the price kept on going up to the point of being "silly".

Another setback for Holts aficionados, and the residents of Ramsbottom, is that planning permission has been refused for a pub there. An appeal may be lodged. So, if you live in the area, lobby your councillors!

Work on the Junction, Cheadle Hulme, has been put back for 6-8 months, so you'll just have to be patient for a meal in the promised restaurant.

OLDHAM ROAD

Whilst the brewers fall over themselves to gentrify every pub in Worsley and turn everything in town into a piano bar, Miles Platting dies. In recent years on Oldham Road the O'Connell Arms has become a club and the Nelson and the Victoria have closed. The Pack Horse has closed and reopened more than once and has now been sold to Lees. The Heywood Arms was Manchester's first Websters house - surely the kiss of death - and the Lancaster was closed for some time. Now both the Ram (keg Tetley) and the Bird in Hand (keg Bass) are up for sale, the Ram not even as a pub. Saddest of all, however, is the demise of the Prince of Wales. This archetypal street corner boozer, known affectionately as the Dead House or Deano's, has been knocked down.

It was always a marginal pub - the "lounge" was unused and stacked with crates - and it became more so when the brewery closed. Structural faults meant that the pub was not worth reopening, so it had to go and Deano retired.

THE **AULD LANG SYNE** (A BEER HOUSE)

MANCHESTER ROAD, WERNETH

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OLDHAM'S ONLY FREE HOUSE

BEERS FROM ONLY 68p PER PINT

HOLT'S
BITTER
& MILD

TAYLOR'S
LANDLORD

WADSWORTH 6X
HANSON'S
BLACK COUNTRY BITTER

Plus REGULAR
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**OFFICIAL
OPENING**

WEDNESDAY 5th OCTOBER

DRAUGHT BEER

ONLY
50^p

PER
PINT
PLUS
OTHER
SPECIAL
OFFERS

FREE

DRINK
WITH THIS
COUPON
ONE DRINK PER PERSON

BEINLOS on BEER

ISADORA'S cafe bar on Corporation Street is up for sale as a public house with Chinese restaurant and function room.

All day licensing seems to be good news for most city centre pubs, with most landlords pleasantly surprised after the first month of all day drinking, and food sales particularly good.

WD September reported that the CASTLE, Oldham Street, was increasing its beer by 3p a pint. Good news - it has been decided to keep the price at 79p for bitter and 75p for mild - excellent value.

New Happy Hour on Friday and Saturday nights at Smithfields on Shudehill is 8.00-9.00pm, and the hour will now vary through the week.

The OLD SHEARS on Greengate, Salford, closed most of the time for the last few years, is to be auctioned. Serious offers over £2.50 considered.

The Abergeldie Restaurant on Shudehill is offering excellent value Greek cuisine Thurs/Fri/Sat until 11.00pm, and the best news is that you can bring your own amber nectar and there's no corkage!

Apart from Bass and their rip-off increases, most breweries have kept their prices the same as before all day opening. SINCLAIRS in Shambles Square is still packing 'em in with OBB at 84p a pint. Ruddles bitter in the BRUNSWICK has actually been reduced to 96p a pint - 12p cheaper than it used to be, and still costly compared to the same beer at the SWAN WITH TWO NECKS, Withy Grove, at 84p a pint.

A sign of the times. A new dray wagon sighted at a local Wilsons house was painted black with the Websters Yorkshire Bitter motif. No mention of Wilsons.

Thanks to an imaginative scheme by GM buses, it's now possible to booze in West Didsbury, curry in Rusholme and travel in the luxury of genuine former London Transport Routemasters.

NEW NELSON

The reopening of the Lord Nelson, Chapel Street, Salford, has been delayed for a few weeks. When all is done, the beers will be Websters and Wilsons bitter, with maybe Wilsons mild and Ruddles County. The pub is near Barlow's Croft, and so the new owners have decided to call it the Rovers Return.

REAL ALE IN CLUBS

Although traditional beer is once again commonplace in pubs throughout the area, keg beer being the exception rather than the rule, the same cannot be said of the club trade, where tank or keg beer dominates. Yet, as long as the club has a regular, reasonably high, consistent turnover, there is no reason why cask conditioned beer should not be



served instead of or alongside keg beers. Some breweries fear that club stewards will not look after cask beer as it should be and that dubious practices like pouring back may occur, but, given a strong enough club management structure and training by the brewery, these fears rarely materialise in practice.

If a club is seriously considering the introduction of cask beer, then a preliminary approach to a

brewery is necessary in order to ensure that there are no serious impediments to its introduction, such as inadequate cellar facilities or insufficient turnover. It is important not to be put off by a dismissive response from the brewery of the "Oh, you don't really want traditional beer - it's too much trouble" variety. That is for the club to decide. All breweries operating in this area do produce cask conditioned beer and most will supply to the free trade, including clubs.

Even the Big Seven brewers - Allied, Bass, Courage, Greenalls, Webster & Wilsons, Scottish & Newcastle and Whitbread - sell cask beer to the free trade, despite impressions to the contrary which may be given by some of their employees. Local brewers are even more keen to sell their products in the free trade. Boddingtons, Holts, Hydes, Lees and other local brewers have all made considerable progress in recent years and are likely to prove helpful in introducing traditional beers.

Cask beer is more trouble but it can be worthwhile in extending choice to the club member and providing a wholesome, value for money product in the club, which reflects the choice in most pubs. Club members

interested in seeing real ale in their club might approach their committee with the suggestion, together with an indication of those brewers whose products might prove popular to club members.

COCKTALE (EPISODE 46)

When the Planning Committee made a site visit to the Cock, Worsley, in August, they still weren't very pleased. New plans with five more parking spaces were submitted and finally passed. So, now, Boddingtons can proceed with their "improvements". Guess what they did first? Yes, that's right, they shut the vault and the hoi polloi had to be accommodated in the "best side" of the pub.

This move was not without its lighter moments. During the campaign, some of those who were originally vehemently opposed to the alterations changed their minds and, believing that little further in the way of concessions could be obtained, became apologists for the brewery and told the magistrates how wonderful everything would be. Imagine, then, the chagrin of one of these so-called turncoats, when, owing to the closure of the vault, he attempted to enter the lounge with his dog, only to be shown the door. Returning curless, he was further mortified to find that the price differential was not there - i.e. he had to pay lounge prices for his beer. What happened to the brewery's promise to maintain a price differential and to retain a locals' bar? Perhaps the magistrates should be told.

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.

BOLTON NEWS

Des Nogalski

The success of the Tavern at Hunger Hill, between Bolton and Westhoughton, has prompted Tetleys to spruce up the nearby Three Pigeons on Wigan Road, Bolton. The pub re-opened on Monday 12th September and is a welcome real ale gain.

News, too, of another new real ale outlet - and a rather unusual one at that. A CAMRA member who popped into the recently-opened Bolton Cricket Village, which has been created out of the old Shiffnal Street bus garage off Bradshawgate, was surprised to find handpumped Burtonwood bitter on sale in the bar. Very palatable it was, too.

Regal Knight Hotels have three ex-Tetley pubs in the Bolton area. The White Hart in Farnworth recently went over to traditional Tetley bitter (WD August) and now the Quill & Pen has extended its range. Drinkers approaching this pub (ex-Railway) on Great Moor Street have been greeted by signs proclaiming "Traditional Ales" (plural) and "Real Ale Free House". Until now, the truth has been that on a good day you'd get Walkers Best Bitter, but now Tetley mild, Websters Yorkshire Bitter and Ruddles County are also on sale.

No sign of Magees yet (WD Sept), and as for the Davenport's pub in Bolton town centre, your guess is as good as mine! However, Greenalls are about to turn Olivers on Deansgate back into the Lower Nags Head, whilst their Boars Head on Churchgate gets a new licensee this month - so those two are as good candidates as any.

KEG ALES

The Finest
BEERS
and
LAGERS
A Selection of
FINE
WINES & SPIRITS
FREE HOUSE

Sign outside the Black Swan, Alnwick

The high standards have been set by relief managers Tim Newbold and Martin Reeves who have previous experience in the watering trade and have recently been awarded the British Institute of Innkeepers' Certificate.

Middleton Guardian

True brew judge

"Why is lager so expensive?" asked Judge David Thomas, when he heard during a licensing appeal at Croydon Crown Court that a local nightclub charged 58p per half-pint. "It's a terrible drink - bitter is much better," he said.

AMBER NECTAR SHOW

The Ninth Annual Bury Beer Festival takes place on 2nd/3rd December at the Derby Hall, Market Street, 11.00am-11.00pm. The festival coincides with the celebration of the 200th birthday of Sir Robert Peel. (That's his statue above the gents at the top of the street.) Admission (to the Festival, not the gents) is 50p lunchtimes and £1 evenings. Free to CAMRA members. There will be entertainment Friday evening, Saturday lunchtime and Saturday evening. Food will be available at all sessions and T-shirts, etc, will be on sale. Organisers of coach parties can phone the ROB branch contact for further details.



PUB TO LET

Quite apart from the recent sell-off of pubs by Wilsons (sorry - Websters), a Middleton pub has come on the market - for letting only. The sign outside the Brunswick on Townley Street says that it would suit "an entrepreneur". Judging by the present clientele, he would have to be built like the proverbial brick sh..... to take the rockers and greasers whose machines regularly grace the pavement outside the pub.

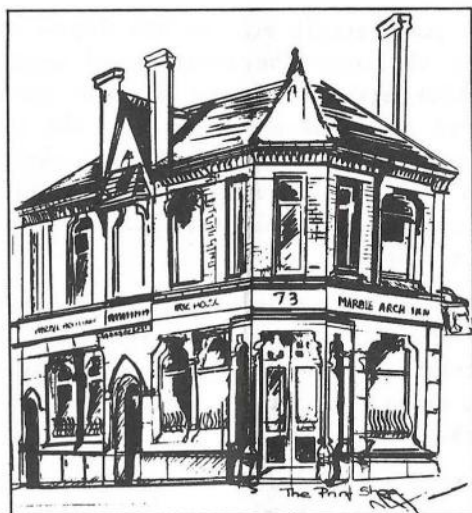
THE FILOFAX & SLAGHEAP

The Banks's pub near the Red Lion at Ellenbrook is well on the way to completion. There was even a sign up saying, "The Ellenbrook", which seemed appropriate until someone said, "Let's have a competition to name the pub." So down came the sign and into the local bugle went the competition. Suggestions so far include The Banksman (a banksman, apparently, was some sort of boss miner) and The Ellenbrook. Suggestions which reflect the phoenix-like yuppie transformation from the area's workingclass origins will probably go down like a fellow in pit boots down the shaft.

HEATON PARK TETLEYS

Peter and Jenny have been at the Commercial, Bury Old Road, Heaton Park, for about a year now. Many readers will remember them from the Wheatsheaf in Manchester. They are now a part of the Prestwich scene and serve good pints of Tetleys handpumped mild and bitter along with tasty meals and bar snacks. What's Doing is back on sale at the pub (to save the lads nipping up the road for a copy).

MARBLE ARCH 1888 ~ 1988



100 YEARS 100 BEERS

A Minimum Of 100 BEERS
From Around The Country

served Oct 1st to 31st 1988

**73 ROCHDALE RD ANCOATS
MANCHESTER 061 832 5914**

STUDENT ALE

By many I've been proffered a counsel of despair. Why concern yourself with young people - all they're bothered about is following the lager cult. Real ale to them is part of an alien world peopled by boring old farts. Leave it until they're a little older and wean them on to traditional beer. Alas, it might be too late by then. Are we to believe that young people and students in particular are mere indiscriminating fodder for the big guns of the big brewers and their mass media campaigns? Do they accept without question engineered trends? Do they studiously ignore wholesome, value for money products? Are prices, quality and choice of no concern to them?

I would argue that young people must be the future of the Campaign. Youth is a time to challenge the conventional wisdom, to question convention and to kick against received opinions, not a time merely to believe the combined onslaught of the brewers and their advertising campaigns. CAMRA is an organisation committed to choice and value for money. It is not a moribund and outdated group fighting a lost cause, but an active campaigning body which attempts to further the aims of the consumer and pub user.

Big brewers have, over the years, closed down numerous breweries, reduced choice, increased prices, desecrated pubs and adulterated beers. They have tried to pull the wool over the eyes of the punter and are now set to emphasise national branding and ghetto-ise pubs by dividing up the market.

CAMRA has fought their activities in the past. Locally, CAMRA has had some success in preventing pub closures and alterations, in saving breweries and creating an atmosphere in which traditional beer is now the rule rather than the exception in pubs of the area. On a more practical and less altruistic level, CAMRA also produces guides to real pubs which sell real ale in the area and throughout the country. Membership can have distinct advantages in introducing the drinker to pubs of character and in providing an outlet for campaigning positively for something which is a valuable part of our heritage - closer to the average person than a stately home and more relevant than museum artefacts. CAMRA also needs new, young members to inject new life and continue the campaign into the 1990s.

Acker Deem

Contributors to this issue: Glenn Worth, Stewart Revell, Bill Collier, Steve Lawton, Barbara Lee, Roger Hall, Peter Wadsworth, Paul Roberts.

AN INVITATION FROM TONY RUDDLE



Tony Ruddle has pleasure in inviting you and your colleagues to visit our brewery in Langham to see the expansion that has taken place and to sample our 1050° County and 1037° Best Bitter where they are still brewed to our original recipes and process.

Parties of around twenty are welcome and you should make arrangements with Philip Smith at the Brewery.

Ruddles Brewery Ltd
Langham, Oakham, Rutland LE25 7JD
Telephone: Oakham (0572) 56911

ARE YOU READY FOR A RUDDLES?

RUPERT'S PAGE



Mortified hardly describes my feelings. Nestfeather, not content with allowing talentless scribblers unfit to sharpen my pencil to appear in print in this hallowed organ with studied insults of myself, has further distanced himself from me by his less than diplomatic response to my constructive suggestions for improving the flagging fortunes of What's Doing. "Why not introduce some scantily clad maidens pulling pints, like the Tykeley Craprag?" I opined. "Piss off, Rupert. One tit is enough," he muttered off-handedly as he absentmindedly stuffed crisp £50 notes into his filofax.

It's sent Mumy demented. They've had to lock her in the rubber room of the lodge without benefit of clergy. I hope she's all right. Cholmondley blames me, of course. And that's not the only thing that's upset me. I am Chair of the membership committee of PORGI. The Institute recently received an application from a bona fide person of restricted growth who turned out to be a local tavern keeper of ill repute. I was determined to blackball the chappie but there was nothing in the rules to prevent the entry of dishevelled semi-edentates with advanced alopecia and he was duly elected. Never mind, it will give him something to do whilst his hostelry is converted into a smartened eatery.

As Campaign members creep inexorably into their dotage and the age profile resembles a ski jump, there seems to be less scandal of the legover with her indoors next door variety. No more Roue of the Decade awards. Usually a scandal is preceded by observed aberrant behaviour from the contender. Roddy Kepple of Smarmford & Slutch has been seen doing unaccustomed things like going into fizz taverns, buying halves of lager and, the deadeast of giveaways, not drinking at all. It has been suggested that this is not altogether unconnected with the dashing young excise man's recent shipboard romance. What, one wonders, can this presage? Does Rottenbodge stand in danger of losing his crown? Where are you Bazza Primp, Andy Cunningsod, Mr de Vere and Mr Hiccup? I have heard that Scouseley Parva exile Nellie Tweed has been seen staggering round Grotley in manifest obfuscation, but this is no doubt unfounded rumour. Photographs would be appreciated, for which the usual hogshead of Drabs will once again not be forthcoming.

To the Editor:

375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M27

LETTERS



THE OTHER JOSEPH HOLT (2)

Sir - His worshipfulness (WD Sept) was again in the public eye when he appeared in a recent Manchester Evening News. He was pictured with a lady from Boddies' Take Home department, prior to his official week-long visit to Lunen in West Germany. Mayor Holt's itinerary included



a tour round a brewery there, and in an effort to show the Germans (who, incidentally, bombed our chippy in 1943) what keeps the North West "Ale and Hearty" (his, or the MEN's words), Joe contacted the brewers of his favourite tipple, Boddingtons. They obligingly provided several cases of the canned variety for the trip. Come on, Joe! There's more to the North West brewing industry than tinned Boddingtons bitter! Whatever will those Germans think of us?

Prost! Glenn Worth

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Sir - I note from the listings in "City Life" that the Triangle Club for deaf lesbians and gay men meets at the Rembrandt. I also note that in your real ale guide to Greater Grotley (Feb 1979) there is a Pseudley pub called the Cucumber and Hearing Aid. Are the two in any way related?

Dilly Pardon

BOATHOUSE

Irlam's best pub is now open all permitted hours. The change has proved successful and should become permanent. Situated as it is by the old river course, and surrounded by a fair amount of greenery, the Boathouse is well suited to the "daylight hours". There's an outdoor drinking area, plus a very large enclosed play area for families. Pub lunches are served 12.00-2.00 Monday to Friday. You can also obtain a mug of tea rather than coffee, which seems to have cornered the hot drink market in pubs.

NOW & THEN

by Rob Magee

No.32

COLLIERS ARMS

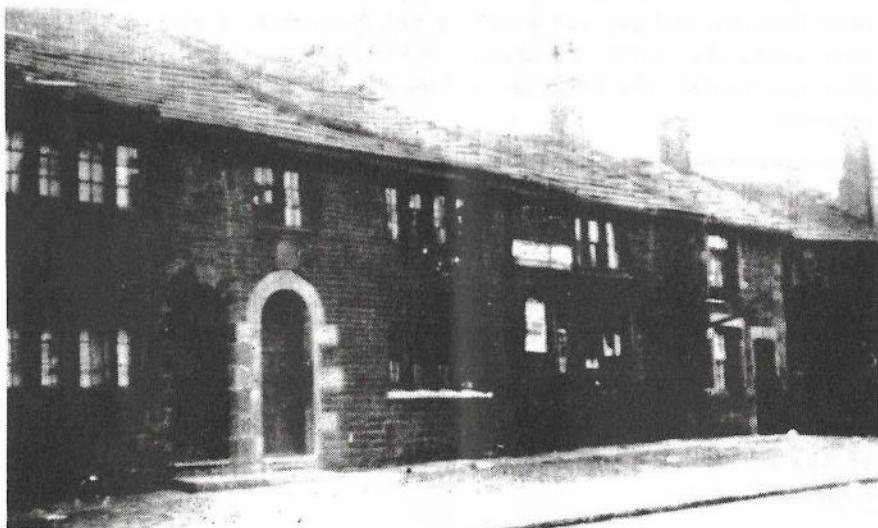
607 Rochdale Road, Shaw

The Colliers Arms opened near the small hamlet of Stockfield, between the villages of High Crompton and Burn Edge, in the early 1800s. The innkeeper in 1822 was Richard Fitton, who was also a farmer. On summer Sundays four or five men would arrive early in the morning to help with the haymaking. Unfortunately, a local policeman suspected they were there for other reasons, and caught five men with ale in the barn one Sunday in 1860. Mr Fitton explained to the court that they were there to collect the hay in and he was not convicted.

Richard Fitton died in 1867, by which time he was known as "Owd Dick of the Hee Corsay" (High Causeway was the pub's official address in the 1870s).

In the 1890s the Colliers could put up one traveller and entertain six, as well as stabling two horses. The overall condition of the premises was only "moderate", according to the Chief Constable's report, but this didn't deter J W Lees' brewery, which bought the pub.

Lees planned to demolish the old Colliers and build a new one, but the Second World War got in the way and so, with beer in short supply, the Colliers closed in January 1943 and the licence was suspended. The building became a boarding house for a time, and Polish refugees were accommodated there about 1947. Afterwards, it stood empty until it was demolished in the early 1970s.



The suspended licence came to life again on 3rd September 1983, and Stockfield folk had a new local - the Colliers Return. The present landlord is Derek Jolly, who serves Lees beers in a pub where the decor matches the rural setting, and where the beer garden awaits the day the rain stops.

PLANNING NEWS

Greenalls still want to build a 27-bedroom extension to the New Ellesmere (né Narrowboat) in Swinton, but there's also a planning application for a petrol station and car wash, no doubt designed to allow the planners to choose the lesser of two evils.

Whitbread have applied to alter the George Hotel, Liverpool Road, Cadishead, and to build a single storey extension at the back for an enlarged games room.



Branch Diary

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 4th Oct. Branch Meeting, Bridge Inn, Manchester Rd, Castleton, Rochdale, 8pm
Mon 17th Oct. Trip to Thwaites Brewery, Blackburn. Coach departs approx 6pm. A few places left. Ring contact for further details.
Tues 18 Oct. Committee Meeting, Baths Hotel, Smith Street, Rochdale, 8pm
Tues 1st Nov. Branch Meeting, Royal Oak, Union Street, Mumps, Oldham, 8pm
Contact: B Lee 0706 82 4407 (h)

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 19 Oct, "Meet the Students", Crescent, Salford, 8pm
Wed 26 Oct, Patricroft: Grapes 7pm, Bridgewater 8pm
Wed 2 Nov Dun Mare (Little Hulton) 7pm, White Lion 8pm
Wed 9 Nov Miles Platting. 7pm Swan, 8pm White Hart
Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

BOLTON

Sun 9 Oct, Beer Festival Meeting, York Hotel, Newport Street, Bolton
Tues 11 Oct, 8.30, Branch Meeting, White Lion, Market Street, Westhoughton
Wed 19 Oct, Farnworth Crawl. Meet 8pm Clock Face
Fri 28 Oct, Wine Bar Survey. Meet 7.30 Boars Head, Churchgate
Sun 30 Oct, Social. 12noon Three Pigeons, Wigan Rd; 1pm The Tavern, Hunger Hill
Tue 15 Nov, 8.30pm. AGM, York Hotel, Newport St. All local members please attend
Contact: Dave Fleming, Bolton 389918 (h)

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 6 Oct, Committee Meeting, Quarry Bank, Timperley, 8pm. All welcome
Thurs 13 Oct, Knutsford Crawl. 8.30 Builders Arms
Thurs 20 Oct. Branch AGM, Beerhouse, Manchester. 8pm
Thurs 3 Nov 8pm, Committee Meeting, Legh Arms, Sale Moor. All welcome
Contact: David Shelton 061 224 7341 x27 (w), 061 795 2113 (h)

THE QUEENS ARMS

FREE HOUSE

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MANCHESTER

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*and weekly guest beers from around
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**A selection of Continental
bottled beers also available**

*** * OPENING HOURS * ***

Sun: 12.00-3.00. 7.00-10.30

Mon: 12.00-4.00 7.00-11.00

Tues: 12.00-4.00 7.00-11.00

Weds: 12.00-4.00 6.00-11.00

Thur: 12.00-4.00 6.00-11.00

Fri: 12.00-11.00

Sat 12.00-4.00 7.00-11.00

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

**Special menu for weekends
available.**

**Your hosts,
DAVE & JO**

