# WHAT'S DOING



MAR 1989

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



# TWO MORE PUBS FOR HOLTS

Holts have bought two Manchester pubs from Whitbread — the Crown & Cushion on Corporation Street (opposite the new Parkers Hotel) and the Hipp on Lathbury Street, Monsall. Some renovation work will be done on the Crown & Cushion before it reopens.

Beer production at the Derby Brewery is up by about 6%, partly because of the extended opening hours and partly because the price of a pint of Holts is well below that of other beers.

Hopes for a new Holts pub in Ramsbottom have faded as the brewery were unable to buy the site they wanted. Among other things, the price wasn't right.

Work at the Junction, Cheadle Hulme, is due to start around Easter and finish by Christmas.

Contrary to the report in last month's WD, the Cross Yates and the Navigation in Rochdale are to have new tenants. The Navigation will be undergoing major renovation.

The provision of food is to feature prominently in a number of Holts outlets in the coming months, so keep an eye on your local JH pub.

Stewart Revell, Holts BLO

## **PRICES**

Each February CAMRA branches throughout the country survey prices of not only beer but also lager, wine, spirits and soft drinks. In North Manchester 20 pubs are surveyed, representing a cross section of brewers with a mixture of tenants, managers and free houses. The same 20 pubs are surveyed each year to give a consistent picture. Significantly, beer prices vary by more than anything else. The cheapest beer available now is Holts mild in the vault of a managed house at 66p. The most expensive premium bitter in a free house at £1.08.

The price rises recorded in the last 12 months are as follows:

- 2p Holts
- 4p Tetleys, Hydes
- 5p Greenalls, Boddingtons
- 6p Marstons, SEN, Bass, Wilsons
- 7p Chesters
- 9p Banks's, Robinsons

Most lager is now hovering around £1 per pint, with "premium" lagers 10p-20p more. Again, the only notable exception is Holts, whose lager sells for as little as 77p per pint, much less than most brewers' bitters. Low alcohol beers and lagers continue to be a rip off - 55p a bottle being an average price.

#### MORE TABLES FOR HENRY

Plans are afoot to convert the Butley Ash, a Good Beer Guide listed pub near Macclesfield, into a Henry's Table. The present tenant is on notice from Boddingtons and the conversion should take place later this year. A similar fate awaits the Unicorn at Dean Row near Wilmslow. Once a cosy little pub, this place now comprises an open plan lounge, so there may be an improvement. There is a rumour (unsubstantiated) that the Cock & Pheasant at Bollington is being considered for the Henry's Table treatment. Now that would be really stupid, but such a consideration hasn't stopped a brewery from doing things before!

#### TOAD & TULIP

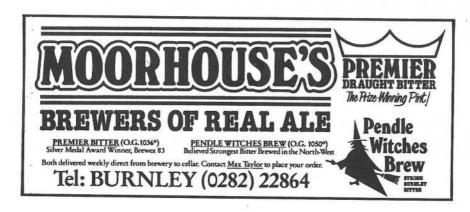
The Toad & Tulip (ex Red Lion) on Stamford Street, Ashton, has reopened and is selling Youngers IPA, No.3 and Scotch bitter. Burtonwood bitter was also on offer recently.

#### RAIL ALE

Gathurst Station on the Manchester-Southport line near Wigan is being turned into a pub. The site has been derelict since the booking office closed about six years ago.

#### TAYLORS TUSSLE

Taylors beers will continue to be sold at the Duke of York in Eccles and the Crown & Anchor, Manchester, after all. Last month we reported that Whitbread had decided to restrict the range of beers at these pubs to their own products, but just as WD hit the streets the brewery thought again and Taylors will remain. A good, regular outlet for Taylors in Manchester is the Queens Arms free house, Honey Street, Red Bank.



### **BREWSPEAK**

Boddingtons were somewhat upset by CAMRA's suggestion to Eccles Licensing Magistrates that the alterations at the Cock in Worsley did not comply with the undertakings made in court. In refuting the suggestion, they mention, inter alia, the lovely decor and furnishings and the games facilities. Because the Cock is now so highly wonderful



it's also very, very busy so at weekend they have to use, no, not a bouncer, no, not a tuxedoed gorilla, but "some door security on the lounge bar in ensuring that the house does not attract an undesirable element".

You'd have thought that if they were so bloody clever at designing smart eateries, they'd be able to design them in a way that put off the undesirable elements. After all, there must be hundreds of pubs where "door security" has never been necessary. Mind you, we don't know what their definition

of "undesirable elements" might be. At first you might imagine that it's the same as ours - prostitutes, beggars, thieves, men of violence and helpless drunks. Perhaps their category is a little wider? Could it perhaps include:

Local people with only a fiver to spend.

Darts players

People in working clothes

People with dogs

People who might raise their voices in discussion?

Naturally, they've carried out their marketing research, gone for a market segment and now employ a clever bloke with a monkey suit and an earring to discriminate. Watch out the Wilton, Rhodes - you're next!

#### NEW BAR

The "Gemstone Unique Deli and Bars" is central Manchester's newest licensed premises. It's on St Mary Street, off Deansgate and behind Kendals, and sells Stones bitter on handpump.

The old "street cred" took a bit of a knock when the RAVEN HOTEL, Wallgate, reopened recently. Contrary to last month's report, the Raven has not been transmogrified into a Whitbreadesque "House of Horrors". Instead, the bar space has been opened out a bit, making rather more room. Former licensees Ian and Jane Snape have returned, so the beer quality should be up to scratch again. Ind Coope Burton Ale returns too, alongside Walker mild and best bitter. Worth a visit.

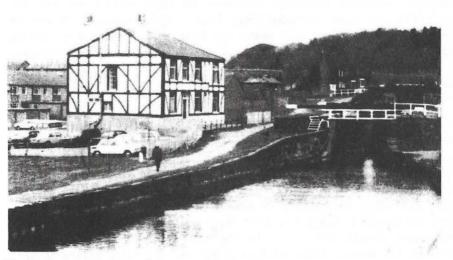
Meanwhile, on the other side of town, an era came to an end in the BOWLING GREEN on Wigan Lane when the new management dropped the popular draught Bass. The Bowling Green, along with the RAVEN and the PARK HOTEL (take your hat off when you mention that pub) were the three Tetley Walker pubs in Wigan that had an old arrangement to sell Bass. Ind Coope Burton Ale is promised, but if its success rate in Wigan is anything to go by, it'll last about three months. Maybe the price puts people off - 98p in the Bird in Hand, Gidlow Lane, and £1.02 in the Raven. Sales of Burton Ale are declining in the former, while the beer has been dropped completely at the COMMERCIAL, Cale Lane, New Springs.

Still with Tetleys, the brewery maintain the cask conversion of pubs that haven't served a drop in years, the latest being the WHITE LION, Ormskirk Road, Pemberton. You lose on the roundabout, though, because the IMPERIAL, Market Street, Hindley, has gone over to Tetley fizz.

Elsewhere in Hindley, the SPINNERS ARMS, Castle Hill Road, has lost its real ale (Greenalls were selling it alongside the keg stuff), while the long-awaited refurbishment at the STRANGEWAYS HOTEL on Liverpool Road is imminent. Will Matty Brown go for 100% keg pubs in Wigan Metro? Watch this space.

In neighbouring Higher Ince, the AMBERSWOOD TAVERN has gone back to real ale in the form of Burtonwood mild and bitter. Indeed, the discerning drinker should stick to the Burtonwood pubs on Manchester Road, as the CO<sup>2</sup> cylinders outnumber the local population, courtesy of Greenalls, Matthew Brown, Tetley, Whitbread and Wilsons.

Still with Burtonwood, the KIRKLESS HALL INN, Albion Drive, New Springs, has reopened, still selling traditional mild and bitter via electric pumps. It's a different story further down the Leeds-Liverpool, alas, as the CROOKE HALL INN in Crooke village is selling keg Greenalls bitter through handpumps. File under "Deplorable".



Winstanley, an estate between Orrell and Billinge, gets its first real ale outlet, as the POACHER on Holmes House Avenue is now selling Stones best bitter on handpumps.

Free house news now, and the ORWELL near Wigan Pier has added Walker Best Bitter to its range of Jennings bitter, Tetley bitter and Burton Ale. The CHARLES DICKENS HOTEL, Upper Dicconson Street, has given Youngers IPA the old heave-ho and brought back the Theakstons XB. Great! The TUDOR HOUSE HOTEL, New Market Street, seems set to replace its range of Bass ales with SEN products. WIGAN SNOOKER CLUB, Powell Street, is being done up and may rejoice in the name STANLEY'S. What seems certain is that amber nectar from Tetleys, Taylors and Moorhouses will be available. Good news for an arid part of town.

Finally, some news in brief. The TIPPINGS ARMS, Poolstock Lane, Worsley Mesnes, is selling Tetley dark mild alongside the bitter and ordinary mild, as is the RAILWAY HOTEL, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge. We're on to the Stop Press stuff now... The ROCK FERRY, Warrington Road, Lower Ince, is boarded up. The "Little Rock", as this Youngers pub is known, has been attracting little custom of late (groan!). They can't make a go of Websters Yorkshire Bland at the GOLDEN LION, Atherton Road, Hindley Green, so the pub is now on keg ale.

#### FOR SALE

Catherine Sinclair, formerly of the Kings Arms, Oldfield Road, Salford, has some "breweriana" to dispose of, including paintings and photographs of Salford. Anyone interested phone 795 0895.

#### CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

Real ale has returned to the Oakwood on Lancaster Road, Salford. This Whitbread pub is now selling handpumped Flowers IPA and Boddingtons bitter.



#### PLANNING NEWS

Not content with gutting the Three Arrows and Henry's Tabling the Wilton, Manchester's favourite brewery now want to knock the Flying Horse into the house next door. The two-roomed terraced pub is one of three pubs in Crab Village, Higher Blackley, which is a relatively unspoilt, nineteenth century urban village. Let's hope the alterations aren't too horrendous.

Other contributors to this issue: Roger Hall, Bogbrush, Ken Birch, Keith Egerton, Peter Barnes, Dave Glass, Mike Robinson, B Lca

# **BOLTON NEWS**

Purchasers of the recently published guide to "Beer in Bolton" may be interested to hear of a change of attitude from two of the featured pubs. The much-maligned Man & Scythe on Churchgate is now open to all



comers following a brief flirtation last year with a "no jeans and trainers" rule. Drinkers can enjoy some well-kept Chesters mild and bitter, Castle Eden and Bulmers cider plus a guest beer from elsewhere in the Whitbread empire. The beers aren't cheap but the surroundings are pleasant. Unfortunately a change of management at the Old Three Crowns on Deansgate has seen that pub slap on a "no jeans and trainers" rule, thus proving that as one door opens, another closes.

The Crown & Cushion on Mealhouse Lane now has Marstons Pedigree served through handpump.

Winstons, on the corner of Deansgate and Marsden Road, is closed for refurbishment until later this month, at least. New owners Regal Knight Hotels hope to create a traditional-style pub down-

stairs and a modern function room upstairs. The beer range at the time of closure was changed from Bass/Boddingtons to Wilsons/Websters and more beers could be in the pipeline.

The Sally Up Steps is also receiving the wallpaper treatment, not much more than a year after it reopened.

The Albion Hotel on Moor Lane is due to reopen after a revamp soon. As Tetleys seem to be putting real ale into their refurbished outlets, this could well be a gain for the area.

The Beer List for April's Great North Western Beer Festival is nearing completion. Around 130 real ales plus a good range of ciders will be on sale at the biggest beer exhibition ever held in the North West. The festival takes place from 12th to 16th April at Bolton Sports & Exhibition Centre, Silverwell Street.

Finally, just to show that not all CAMRA members are thick, the Bolton Branch Quiz Team are moving up the Bolton North End Quiz League in fine style. Having been promoted as runners-up in Division Six in their first season, they have now captured the Division Five Champion-ship with 13 wins in 14 games. It's just a pity that most of the Fourth Division teams play in keg pubs!



#### HIGSONS CHOICE

Boddingtons have bought the ill-fated Kings Arms on Bloom Street in Salford, and plan to turn it into Salford's first Higsons house since the Hare & Hounds on Broad Street was knocked down some 25 years ago.

#### EGERTON ALTERATION

The Egerton Arms at Winton is due for renovation in the near future. Boddingtons say that there are no plans to change the character of the place. Central heating will be installed and the three separate rooms - lounge, snug and vault - will be retained, given a lick of paint and new carpets. The pub was a beerhouse until 1949 and at one time was known as the Bat Inn. Does anyone know why?

#### **PARKERS**

Recently-opened Parkers Hotel near Victoria Station, Manchester, is the latest of the city centre hotels to sell real ale. Handpumped Theakstons bitter, XB, Youngers Scotch Bitter and IPA are available at prices to match the plush surroundings (nothing under £1.02). It is hardly surprising that even on Friday lunchtimes and weekend evenings the handpumps tend to outnumber the clientele. There appears to be an urgent need for happy hours, which have worked wonders for the other hotel bars. The Mitre, Midland, Piccadilly and Grand (soon to close for rebuilding) all offer a variety of real ales in their public bars, leaving only the Portland and Ramada Renaissance as keg deserts.

#### **TESCOS**

Tesco's Superstore, Walkden, already renowned for its vast choice of international bottled beers, now offers two more worthy of special mention. Thurn und Taxis Kristall Weizenbier comes from the famous brewery in Regensburg, East Bavaria. Thurn und Taxis is a famous European prince, one of the richest people in the world, and his much younger wife makes the headlines in the German tabloids almost as frequently as our Royals are mentioned in the Sun. Former President of Bavaria, Franz Joseph Strauss, was at a shooting party with the Thurn und Taxis at the end of last year's Oktoberfest when he was suddenly called to the great brewery in the sky. (It was rumoured that the sight of young Princess Thurn und Taxis in full riding gear was too much for Strauss's already overworked heart!) Back at Tesco's, the beer sells at 89p for a half-litre bottle, which at exactly £1 per pint for the 1049.5 brewed beer, is good value. The other addition to Tesco's range is their own label Dortmunder Pilsner - 79p a half-litre (89p a pint for a 1046 beer).

#### OLD ALE

The belief that Boddingtons had completely distanced themselves from you know - what's it called when you make that stuff they used to sell in what are they called - pubs? Oh yes, brewing, was confirmed last month when the dynamic Strangeways conglomerate bought a chain of nursing homes. Yes, yes, NURSING HOMES. This complements their horrid Henry's Tables and other property developments and no doubt sets the scene for a cradle-to-grave business empire following the demographic map. Tap room wits have already renamed the brewery Dodderingtons, an unkind slur which we must on no account allow to fall into common usage.

# **NOW&THEN**

No.35

by Rob Magee

#### COACH & HORSES

#### 1 Market Street, Shaw

The Coach & Horses is a Websters/Wilsons pub selling handpumped mild, bitter, Choice and Ruddles. The pub was completely refurbished in 1988, the latest change it has seen in a recorded history of over 200 years. James Cooling was an innkeeper at "Four Lane Ends", Shaw, in 1763.

The first coach service between Shaw and Manchester started from here in 1809, run by innkeeper Robert Mellor. The coaching business was expanded by his successor, Jonathan Nield, whose "Royal Defence", "Industry" and "Accommodation" coaches made the trip to Manchester twice a week in the 1820s.

The Coach & Horses was still associated with public transport in the 1890s. Licensee William Hall had a taxi and funeral service, hired out waggonettes, coaches, dog carts and broughams. He owned stables in





Beal Lane and was also a coal and lime merchant. William was the pub's longest serving licensee, handing over to his son James in 1920. The first photograph shows the pub as it was about this time.

Wilsons Brewery bought the Coach & Horses some sixty years ago, and today only the name survives to remind us of the part it has played in the history of Shaw.

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.

#### AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT HOLTS

Together with a posse of fellow Drabs devotees, I recently ventured into the deepest Black Country in search of the 'other' Holts. As previously mentioned in these hallowed pages, Allied Breweries resurrected the former brewery name of Holt, Plant & Deakin in 1984. Like Peter Walker beers, HPD mild and bitter are brewed by Allied at their chemical plant in Warrington.



Unlike Peter Walker, however, Holts Entire, a
delicious, distinctive
1043 quaffable bitter, is
brewed on the premises of
the Holts Brewery Tap in
Station Road, Langley.
Visitors to the Brewery
Tap can see the brewery
at the rear of the pub.
Holts Entire is one of
the few really distinctive beers available in
the UK and it can be
sampled in HPD's 32 pubs.

Allied proved with their Burton Ale that they can produce palatable beer of the highest quality in their Midlands brewery. What a pity their two breweries on either side of the Pennines can't do the same.

Paul Roberts



Cleggs Lane, Little Hulton

HOLTS MILD AND BITTER ON HANDPUMP

Good Beer Guide listed





Overwhelmed by the complete indifference produced by my first curry review, I decided to delve deeper into that wonderful area called Rusholme. This time accompanied by fellow curry enthusiast "Hee-Haw" and several colleagues.

After sampling the excellent but expensive Marstons Pedigree in the Whitworth (how can students afford to pay 95p a pint?) we raced down Wilmslow Road to Shere Khan's.

A word of warning here. Our table was booked for eight o'clock; we arrived at 8.01 just in time to stop the waiters giving away our table to the queuing masses, so make sure you're punctual!

Shere Khan's is unusual in being a purpose-built Indian restaurant on what used to be a piece of waste ground. Consequently the interior is well laid out with a bar (keg Boddies), raised eating areas and a cooking area where you can watch your bhajias and kebabs being prepared on 3' diameter karhais.

A nice touch was the selection of chutneys, yoghurt sauce and salad waiting for us on the table. While Hee-Haw and friends perused the menu, I pondered how I was going to sneak the word "willy" into the review without the editor noticing. The menu provided us with few surprises; the usual array of starters and main courses is available. The adventurous might like to try crab claw or quail tandoori starters at £3.50 each; the ever-popular karahi "sizzlers" are also available in a variety of guises.

The basic curry dishes were all around the £3.50 mark, with rice being 70p extra, slightly above the norm, but remember you're paying for the privilege (?) of being able to drink keg Boddies.

The faithful and reasonably priced onion bhajias proved to be a tasty starter with lots of cumin seeds evident; both the lamb and chicken tikkas also received favourable comment. I'd like to have been able to comment on the shami and seekh kebabs but some greedy bastard beat me to them.

For main course I opted for a chicken dhansak. I've always understood this to be a hot and sour dish with lentils in it, but in Rusholme "dhansak" means anaemic korma with pineapple chunks — a bit of a disappointment.

Not to be put off, I donned my curry-samplers cap and tried a bit of everybody else's. Hee-Haw's rhogan josh was a nicely spiced example and the bright red tandoori chicken masalla seemed to be well marinated. "Steve-the-Huey" had been blowing his nose several times while ploughing through his chicken Madras, so that was obviously on form, and "Yer Man" down at the end was guzzling an excellent keema bhuna positively brimming with spices and a lovely slightly sour taste - definitely the winner.

So, to sum up, Shere Khan's proved to be not quite as good as the Sanam and slightly more expensive, but certainly well worth trying. You pays yer money.....

#### TAP & SPILE

On 24th February members of the Rochdale, Oldham & Bury branch of CAMRA were invited to the former Two Ships on Hope Street, Rochdale. This pub has become part of the Tap & Spile chain of free houses owned by Camerons of Hartlepool. Harry Costigan of Camerons explained that part of the Tap & Spile estate had been acquired from a group called Craven County Estates, which had a tie with Bass. When Camerons bought these pubs, Bass had made it a condition that they could not sell their own beers in them, and so Tap & Spile houses have a range of traditional ales from all over the country.

The company anticipates an expansion from 18 pubs in 1989 to 50 by the end of 1990. There are plans for seven pubs in the Preston area and locally they have acquired the Rose & Crown in Bury, which they hope to open in the spring. The Tap & Spile chain have a good relationship with Hadrian Brewery, which brews special ales for various occasions as well as supplying its regular brews. There are no plans for 'image branding' pubs, apart from putting a few taps and spiles on the walls.

The beers were in fine condition on the night of our visit to the Two Ships and Mr Costigan answered all questions openly. One note of caution — take plenty of money if you visit a Tap & Spile house!

To the Editor: 375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M27





# LETTERS

#### THE PRICE OF BEER

Sir - May I take just a few moments of your time to expand upon one of life's great mysteries - the price of beer.

Consider first of all a commodity sold by volume - let's say petrol. At enormous expense, a vast city of steel is constructed. This leviathan is towed a couple of hundred miles off the east coast of Scotland, then lashed firmly to the sea bed in order to ride out all that the predictably unpredictable North Sea can throw at it. Drilling commences. If found, oil is pumped back to the refinery. A fleet of tankers then brings to you, the customer, four star petrol at the often quibbled-at price of £1.70 per gallon.

Now let us consider beer. What does the brewery have to do to provide the discerning ale-can with their daily sup? Basically:

- Bung a few hops into a barrel full of water, to which is added a few bits of yeast.
- 2. Leave it a couple of weeks.
- 3. Stick it in another barrel and fire it off to the nearest hostelry.
- 4. Er ...
- 5. That's it.

All this for the jolly price of AT LEAST £6.40 per gallon. Shurely shome mishtake!

<del>\*</del>

#### OLDHAM BEER FESTIVAL

In aid of the Mayor's Charity Appeal, 7th-9th April. Opening Friday evening, Saturday lunch and evening, Sunday lunch. Food will be available at all sessions. Entertainment on Friday and Saturday evenings. Full details next month.





# **JOIN CAMRA NOW**

Just fill in the form below and send, with a cheque for £9 (payable to CAMRA Ltd) to Sally Bennell, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 3BW.

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I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree
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# **RUPERT'S PAGE**

The early months of the year are always fairly quiet in the brewing trade. The brewers are planning their next round of price increases whilst counting the bunce from the last. Surveyors are busy sizing up pubs with a view to their trans-

formation in line with this year's post-modern trend. Kepples sell off another bunch of taverns but they do that every week — soon they'll have less real estate than a bedouin— not that there's anything at all wrong with bedouins, I hasten to add. Goosegrease & Dishwater close another brewery. Some cynics have suggested that the brewery must be run by the Salvation Army, because the policy has been one of acquiring small brewers of quality ales, closing them down and replacing the delectable amber nectars with their own brand of brackish dishwater, thus turning people off beer for ever. If this is the case then perhaps they should be warned that this has not happened in the old U S of A, where people's tastebuds have atrophied but where just as much "beer" is drunk as hitherto. The only difference is that people take crates of six packs home because it's cheaper. If that were to happen here, all the pubs would close and where would they sell "War Cry" then?

Campaign members are poised for the launch of a season of amber nectar shows where no doubt once again they'll take the opportunity to snipe at the brewers. What they should not forget is that profit is the only yardstick which can be used. We are part of a highly popular capitalist society where only the fittest survive. Fitness for survival has got nothing at all to do with the manufacture and sale of wholesome quality products or indeed with the management of establishments which cater for all sections of the community in a responsible and socially ordered manner. No, the spoils go to the strong who can then move the goalposts where they will. Monopolisation, manipulation and rationalisation together with hype, price hike and glitz get you where you want to go much quicker than service, quality and value for money.

The big brewers can shrug off our sniper fire whilst they're rolling in spondulicks, so those ungrateful souls who don't like what's happening must either emulate the Vietcong or the Mujahideen and increase their fire power or take a lesson from our own history and change the rules. I apologise for being so negative and depressing, but it's pretty miserable sat here in a sodding monastery. Is there no

good news? I suppose, with remission, I might get out to visit the taverns which Perry Drab has bought from Dillons before we end up like Canada, which is like a monastery with a lot of grass.



#### BOLTON

Tues 7 Mar 9pm, Branch Meeting, York Hotel

Wed 15 Mar, North Manchester's 15th Anniversary Social (see N Manchester)

Fri 17 Mar, 8pm, St Patrick's Night Social, Derby Arms, Derby Street

Tues 4 April, 9pm, Branch Meeting, Church, Kearsley

Wed 5 April. 8pm. Regional Meeting, Castle, Oldham Street, Manchester

Tues 11 April, Beer Festival set-up.

Wed 12 - Sun 16 April, GREAT NORTH WESTERN BEER FESTIVAL, Bolton Sports & Exhibition Centre.

Contact Barbara Kerks, Bolton 658458 (h)

#### NORTH MANCHESTER

Tues 7 Mar 8pm, Farewell to Don and Marian at the Royal Oak, Boothstown Wed 8 Mar 7pm, Grove, Bury New Road; 8pm Tanners Arms, Fairy Lane Wed 15 Mar 8pm, AGM and 15th anniversary of the branch, White Swan, Swinton Wed 22 Mar 8pm, Good Beer Guide Final Selection, Crescent, Salford Wed 29 Mar, Pendleton. 7pm Old House, Whit Lane: 8pm Beehive, Holland Street Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

#### WIGAN

March 2nd-4th (Thurs-Sat) WIGAN BEER FESTIVAL, The Mill at the Pier. BE EARLY! Hours are: Thurs 5-11.30: Fri 12-3, 5-11: Sat 12-4, 7-11.30.

Wed 15 March, Branch Meeting, Tudor House Hotel, New Market Street, Wigan 8.30

Wed 22 Mar, Pub of the Year/GBG Selection Meeting, Colliers Arms, Wigan Road, New Springs (Burtonwood) 8pm

Contact: Brian Gleave, Atherton 892965 (h), 876200 (w)

#### ROCHDALE. OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 28 Feb 8.30, New Members social, Hark to Towler, Market Street, Tottington, near Bury

Tues 7 Mar, Branch Meeting, 8pm, Blue Bell, Market Street, Shaw

Tues 21 March, Committee Meeting, 8pm, Clarkesfield, Ronald Street, Oldham

Tues 4 April, Branch Meeting, 8pm, Kings, Market Place, Heywood

ADVANCE NOTICE of Branch AGM: Tues 2nd May, 8pm, Parkside, Bury Old Road, Heaton Park, Prestwich. All members please attend.

Contact: B Lee 0706 824407

#### TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 9 March 8pm, Timperley Social, Gardeners Arms, Deansgate Lane. 8.45 Moss Trooper, Moss Lane. 9.30 Quarry Bank, Stockport Road

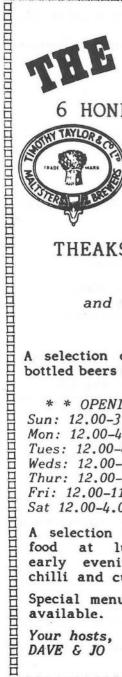
Thurs 16 March 8pm, Branch Meeting, Melville Hotel, Barton Rd, Stretford

Thurs 23 March 7.30. Knutsford Social, Builders, Mobberley Rd. 8.30 Cross Keys, King Street

Thurs 30 March 8pm, Didsbury Crawl. Meet Station, Wilmslow Rd. 8.30 Dog & Partridge, 9.00 Nelson

Thurs 6 April 8pm, Committee Meeting, Vine, Kennedy St, Manchester.

Contact: Peter Forshaw 755 2351





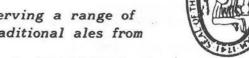
# HOUSE

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#### THEAKSTONS & TIMOTHY **TAYLORS**

Best Bitter, XB, Landlord YOUNGERS No.3 and weekly guest beers from around

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\* 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

