

# WHAT'S DOING

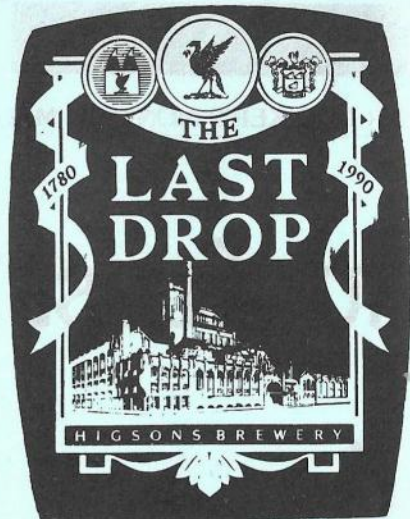
SEPT  
1990

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

## CRESCENT TO CLOSE?



The Crescent free house in Salford is expected to close in the near future. Planning permission is being sought to turn the block which contains the pub into offices. So property values even in downtown Salford are at a level where it makes financial sense to sell up and make way for the developers. Where next?



## THE BITTER END

When the last brew was made at Higsons Brewery in Liverpool before Whitbread closed the place down, the brewery staff produced a bottled "Last Drop" for the company's employees. The labels reproduced here are the last made for the Merseyside brewery.

"Higsons" beer is now brewed by Whitbread in Sheffield, Yorks.

## PRESTWICH PRICES

Further to the price survey published last month, Tetleys has gone up at the Commercial on Bury Old Road, Heaton Park. Mild and bitter are both up 7p to 96p and 99p respectively.

## BOARDED HOUSES

In Newton Heath the White Lion on Droylsden Road is closed and boarded up. Further down Oldham Road in Miles Platting the Lancaster, the Heywood Arms and the Pack Horse are still closed, as are the Pollard in Ancoats and the Foresters in Harpurhey. In Cheetham, Woodies and the Lonsdale are still closed.

In Salford the Vavasour has been demolished and the licences of the Star and the Norwest surrendered. Two further Whitbread pubs, the Sportsman and the Town Hall Tavern, are boarded up; the Sportsman is for sale. Sports on Broad Street (Grand Met) is boarded up. The Albion on Ordsall Lane is to be reopened by Allied but the futures of the Spinners (Marstons) and the St James (Greenalls) seem precarious. Two of Salford's Bleazard/Belhaven/Control Securities pubs are virtually derelict - the Old Shears and the Feathers. Very few of the Control acquisitions in Manchester and Salford have survived.

The Borough in Encombe Place (Burtonwood) is up for sale, with possible use as an office. Even Central Manchester does not escape. The St Vincent at New Cross is also boarded up.



## HOLTS CORNER

With Holts beers appearing in many of the big brewers' pubs, I have been asked "Why the vast price differences between one outlet and another?" One pub in the Stockport area is selling Holts bitter at over 90p per pint whilst others manage to keep the price in the 80-85p range.

I have checked on this point with the brewery and the answer is that Holts supply beer to all free trade outlets at the same price. No gimmicks, no discount, no free gifts of satellite receivers or holidays in Bermuda (which some of the big boys are apparently offering). The retail price is determined by the pub owner, who could pass on the benefit of lower-priced Holts if he wished. However, this would make the difference between Holts beer and the tied house product some 20-30p per pint and result in low (or no) sales of the big brewer's product. So there is a price "adjustment" at each guest beer outlet.

The following pubs and clubs have joined the Holts guest beer list:

Borough Arms, Higher Bridge Street, Bolton (Tetley)  
Royal Oak, Stockport (Wilsons)  
Stretford Royal British Legion  
Crown, Deansgate, Manchester (Wilsons)  
Grange Club, Edgeley, Stockport  
Bowling Green, Marple (Wilsons)  
Levenshulme R C Club  
Victory Hall Men's Club, Mobberley  
Colliers Arms, Tyldesley (Wilsons)

Stewart Revell, Holts BLO

*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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## MIDDLETON & ROCHDALE NEWS

Peter Alexander

A recent random sampling of big brewers' pubs to check the guest beer situation proved disappointing. The GEORGE & DRAGON, Manchester Road, Castleton, an imposing roadside Bass house, had nothing new to offer. Average quality Draught Bass and Stones Best Bitter were the only cask beers. A curious pub this; outside appearance belies a rather small interior with decor reminiscent of the mid-60s. Just along the road, Whitbread's CHURCH INN complements Chesters bitter with Flowers IPA. Not a genuine guest beer, and in any event sour at the time of tasting.

The next stop was Wilsons' HOPWOOD ARMS, also on Manchester Road. This offered only "in house" products, as did the BREWERS ARMS, another Wilsons house in Cheapside, Middleton. The Brewers is a basic and depressing boozier currently on offer by Innpreneur for lease. Anyone who takes this pub on has a monumental task in turning its fortunes round.

A final call was made (in desperation) to Boddingtons' ALBION INN, Middleton. I noted the banner outside proclaiming "Tetleys Bitter Available Here", but I was served with a brackish and sour pint. This was exchanged for Boddies with the comment, "No-one drinks that stuff, love. I think it's still the same barrel we were sent weeks ago."

All in all, not a happy scenario. The sample, while not particularly representative, shows we still have a long way to go to persuade local landlords to take up their right to stock a guest beer of their choice.

Readers wishing to sample CAMRA's 1990 Beer of the Year, Ind Coope Burton Ale, should proceed apace to the BRUNSWICK, Townley Street, Middleton. In this pub, popular with bikers, a superb pint of ICBA can be had at a reasonable £1.10. A recent visit noted that Mitchells keg bitter can also be had at a more modest 88p. The writer enquired as to how the Mitchells sales were going and was told, "They aren't - it tastes like piss." Quite!

The Boddington Pub Co has at last removed the Boddingtons Bitter sign from the DOG & PARTRIDGE, Spring Vale, Middleton, and installed the full array of OB trappings. The interior remains simple and unaltered and OB bitter and mild are offered alongside Boddies bitter. The casual visitor is more than likely to be given Boddingtons so be sure to specify.

In the light of the foregoing sampling of big brewers' pubs, it is heartening to note that one of our smaller brewers has adopted the guest beer line. Burtonwood Brewery provide a first for Middleton at the RADCLYFFE ARMS, Middleton Junction. Hook Norton's Old Hookey is the beer, and when sampled on 8th August was in delightful condition at £1.10 the pint. Not an unreasonable price, given that Burtonwood bitter retails at 99p in the same establishment. The Radclyffe Arms can usually be relied upon to provide a reasonable pint, but do the staff have to spoil it by so much smoking behind the bar?

In nearby Alkington the ROEBUCK will hit the unwary in the wallet. Boddingtons bitter is £1.08, Castle Eden Ale £1.17 and Marstons Pedigree an outrageous £1.26 per pint. Does anyone know of a higher price for this beer in the area? The culprits? Yes, you've guessed it - Whitbread.

Lastly, the excellent NEW INN in Castleton now offers traditional Leeds-brewed Tetley at 98p per pint. The beer was recently in good form, as was Robinsons Best Bitter at a bargain 80p. Moving down Manchester Road to Sudden takes you to Burtonwood's WINDMILL INN. Old Hookey has not reached this former Good Beer Guide entry, but a fair pint of Burtonwood bitter can still be had. Otherwise, the pub still fails to impress. Despite its attractive three-roomed layout, the decor and ambience are drab and unappealing. A case for tasteful redecoration but not wholesale alteration?

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### CASTLE STRENGTHS

Sales of the Robinsons ordinary bitter at the Castle on Oldham Street, Manchester, have been very encouraging and the price (84p for bitter and 90p for best bitter) makes this not only excellent value for the city centre but possibly the cheapest Robinsons in a tied house anywhere. Can anybody beat these prices?

### FIRKIN ABOUT

David Bruce of the Firkin Brewpub chain has purchased Riley's Snooker Hall on Oxford Road, All Saints, Manchester. It is due to open in early autumn as a home brewhouse.

### BEERHOUSE

Graham Rawlinson is the new owner of the Beer House free house in Manchester. Two of his other pubs, Brown's No.1 in Heywood and the Railway at Ashburys, have been sold and the Bird in Hand, Miles Platting, is up for sale.



## PUBS OF THE INNER CITY

Almost a century and a half ago, Frederick Engels, in discussing the condition of the working class in England, wrote of Manchester:

"With the exception of this commercial district, all Manchester proper, all Salford and Hulme, a great part of Pendleton and Chorlton, two-thirds of Ardwick, and single stretches of Cheetham Hill and Broughton are all unmixed working people's quarters, stretching like a girdle, averaging a mile and a half in breadth, around the commercial district."

Engels continues to contrast these districts with areas outside inhabited by the bourgeoisie and the moneyed aristocracy.

It was this girdle which was crowded with pubs and beerhouses catering to the working class population for a hundred years or more until post-war housing policies led to rapid population decline and a decimation of the pubs. The pubs, which together with the village inn may be thought of as archetypal stereotypes of the English public house, are continuing to disappear quite rapidly despite a slowing-down of population decline.

In North Manchester and Salford there are 25 pubs closed at the moment, most of them in the inner city. This represents over 5% of our



total pub stock, but in the inner city the figure approaches 20%. In the inner city areas of Ancoats, Collyhurst, Miles Platting, Cheetham, Strangeways, Lower Broughton, Trinity, Brunswick, Windsor and Ordsall there are now only 120 pubs, 23 of which are closed. And over the years, the number of pubs demolished runs in to hundreds.

Some of the reasons for closure are immediately apparent. There has been a rapid decline in population in inner city Manchester. Between 1971 and 1981 the decline was about 25%, reason enough, perhaps, to account for a similar decline in the number of pubs. Yet the decline in pub numbers has been much greater than this. In April 1976 What's Doing published a list of the 95 real ale pubs in Salford. Of these, no fewer than 47 have been closed or demolished in the last 14 years. No doubt the closure of non-real-ale pubs has been similar. So population decline in itself is not sufficient to account for the enormous fall in the number of inner city pubs. In any case, the inner city is still densely populated, even with the decline. In 1981 it contained 11.2% of GMC's population on 5.1% of its land area. Yet the pub density is lower in the inner city than it is in areas like Eccles or Swinton.

" We must look, therefore, to factors other than population decline to explain the continued closure of inner city pubs. A clue to the real reason can be gleaned from an examination of the ownership of the  
" 47 real ale pubs which have closed in Salford since 1976. Boddingtons have lost 4 out of 15, Robinsons none out of 3, Holts 1 out of 11, Marstons 2 out of 4, Tetleys 5 out of 7, Greenalls 13 out of 21 and Wilsons 19 out of 31. Lees and Bass both lost their only real ale outlet and the city's then only free house has also been demolished. Of the 12 Wilsons pubs which have not closed, 8 are now owned by other brewers.

A clear picture emerges. Local independent brewers have lost 20% of their pubs, big brewers 76% of theirs. The more fiercely independent the brewer, the fewer pubs they have lost. Lees' only pub, the Welcome, was lost to a compulsory purchase order only after a long and spirited fight. The Middleton brewers have since acquired 4 pubs in the inner City of Salford.

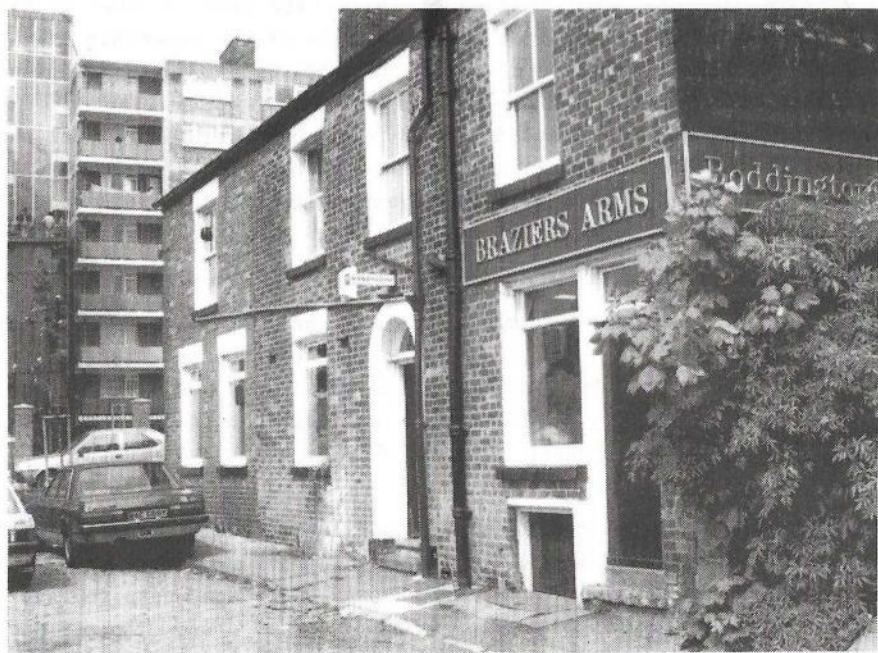
It would seem unlikely that the big brewers were merely unfortunate in the location of their pubs. Evidently the inner city pub market is not where they want to be. One hundred years ago, despite levels of poverty much higher than today, pubs thrived in all these inner



city areas. Rents were low and pub-keeping was not necessarily regarded as a full-time occupation. Today the big brewers see pubs as profit centres or units of account. Each one must make a satisfactory return on the capital employed. Inner city pubs can be profitable but are notoriously difficult to run successfully, with problems of violence, vandalism, drug-taking and theft. Big brewers, who are less in touch with local needs, have almost entirely abandoned this troublesome market. Yet local independents have, in many cases, succeeded where Wilsons, Tetley, Bass and Whitbread have failed.

To my knowledge, Holts have only ever had one pub which for a time was closed due to difficulties of the inner city - the Apollo in Cheetham. Lees seem to have given up the Pack Horse and the Pollard, but their four Salford pubs are still trading. Even CAMRA's favourite Aunt Sally, Boddingtons, has an impressive record on its inner city pubs. In Salford, the Wellington has been rebuilt and considerable sums of money have been spent on the Black Friar, the Braziers, the Priory, the Railway and the Paddock.

It is difficult to imagine worse locations for pubs than the area where two Hydes pubs - the Dutton and the Jolly Angler - are located, yet both have managed to survive. Free houses, too, have succeeded in the most unprepossessing locations such as Red Bank or Angel Meadow.





Inner city pubs are as important a part of our heritage as country inns or suburban hostelries. They can succeed in the hands of local brewers who know the areas and the clientele and don't look for unrealistic returns in terms of rent. They are certainly important as locals for residents of the inner city. They are demonstrably not secure in the hands of the big brewers.

Roger Hall

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### COACH & HORSES

After much deliberation, the Greater Manchester branches of CAMRA have sanctioned the spending of a further £1,000 if required on the campaign to save the Coach & Horses, London Road. The pub has been saved from the immediate threat of demolition and the Development Corporation is now on CAMRA's side. Yet the pub is owned by an absentee owner and the building is in a state of semi-dereliction. Possible scenarios include the business closing and the pub falling into ruin; the building being declared unsafe and being demolished; the owner developing the site in an unsympathetic way.

The Coach & Horses is a major flagship on a gateway site. Saving the pub would have much wider repercussions and encourage other developers to consider the merit of retaining existing buildings. The campaign has so far overcome enormous obstacles and it would be a tragedy to allow any of the scenarios outlined to occur for lack of funds. It is important that the Coach & Horses remains as a pub and imperative that any scheme is sympathetic both to the building and the site. Information will be essential to refute possible arguments about structural condition and costs of renovation.

There are several avenues which the Campaign can pursue to ensure the survival of the Coach & Horses as a pub into the next century. Campaigners plan to commission an architect to devise a scheme for the pub which satisfies our criteria and to pay for a structural survey to establish the condition of the building and the cost of renovation or structural repairs. Negotiations with the owner may need to be conducted through solicitors.

Dissenting voices were concerned that these activities would be a subsidy to the future owners of the pub. There is no intention whatsoever that this should occur. Rather than leave developments to the vagaries of a brewer, it is important that the character of the pub is retained. This could well involve a new owner in greater costs. If we are unwilling to support a campaign to save a 200-year-old pub in the centre of our major city, perhaps we should examine our commitment to the Campaign.

# WIGAN & DISTRICT

Dave White

It has been a quiet month but Wigan has been promised a new amber nectar emporium in the form of TRADITIONALS on Woodhouse Lane. Harassed residents remember this place as Clowns Bar and later Red Hot Mommas. However, the man behind Traditionals is Barry Philbin of Gem's fame. Holts beer will be one of the attractions.

The ROYAL OAK, Wigan Road, Standish Lower Ground, is another Burtonwood pub selling Hook Norton Old Hookey. Recently the mild here was in immaculate condition, but the Old Hookey was decidedly warm. Regulars at the OLD PEAR TREE in Wigan haven't exactly been queuing up at the bar to drink this excellent tipple either, and I can't see Old Hookey lasting long in a conservative town like Wigan. Does anybody out there know of any other outlets for this beer in the area?

The men that go round boarding pub windows up seem to be on a roll at the moment. Now it's the turn of the HAND & HEART, Market Street, Hindley. The only consolation is that this Greenalls pub was keg anyway.

Still with Greenalls, their Original bitter has turned up at the HARE & HOUNDS, Aspull. The 'Local' mild and bitter are keg, however, so make sure you ask for the right one.

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## HOLTS IN HINDLEY

The Edington Arms free house (formerly the Leigh Arms) opened on 22nd August. Mine hosts are John and Moira Edington, formerly of the very successful Drop Inn at Monton. The beers on sale are: Holts bitter (79p), Holts mild (76p), Boddingtons bitter (92p), Hydes bitter (92p), Tetley bitter (96p), Walkers bitter (96p), Marstons Pedigree £1.10. There is also a mystery brew, Savage's Head, at 89p.

## GOING UP

The Oxford in Bexley Square has been acquired from Innentrepreneur by a company which already operates the Adelphi Riverside and the Kersal Cell. The pub has suffered from a distinct lack of customers in recent years, although the Church nearby does fairly well. The creeping gentrification of Trinity does hold out some hope for the Oxford. Wonder if Harold Wilson's picture on the hanging sign will remain?





# NOW & THEN

by Rob Magee

No.51

## WHEATSHEAF

Stamford Street,  
Ashton-under-Lyne

This engraving of the Wheatsheaf, one of Ashton's oldest public houses, was made about 1830 and the inn was first recorded in 1784. It was also known as the Buck & Breeches and the Hare & Hounds before settling down as the Wheatsheaf about 1822.

The Wheatsheaf became the property of John J Nelson in 1877. He also owned the Golden Lion next door and obtained permission to demolish this pub and rebuild the Wheatsheaf on both sites in 1879. He had the licence of the Golden Lion transferred to a new hotel on Victoria Street, which was something of a financial disaster. However, the Wheatsheaf didn't do badly. The rebuilt pub had 20 rooms, including billiards rooms and smoke rooms.

William Yates of the Yates's Wine Lodges family bought the property in 1896, but in the following year there was an objection to the licence because, among other things, there was no accommodation available. In defence of the Wheatsheaf it was pointed out that the pub sold 305,736 pies, 7,317 lbs of cheese, 8,277 lbs of biscuits and 1,541 cakes a year. The licensing authority, suitably impressed, renewed the licence and later in the year accommodation was available at the Wheatsheaf.

William Yates's brother Peter became licensee in 1898 and remained so until 1945. Peter's son-in-law Alfred Dickinson took over until his death in 1972. Since then the co-licensee (with a series of managers) has been Richard M Bird, who joined Yates Brothers in 1936 and became chairman of the company in 1971. Until recently you could still see a wheatsheaf depicted in the etched windows of this well known Yates's Wine Lodge.

## OKTOBERFEST 1990



This year's South Krautley Amber Nectar Show takes place from 1200 Saturday 22nd September until 2230 Sunday 7th October. Those wishing to experience real Bavarian atmosphere away from most of the tourists should try the following:

Komödiantenstadl, Brauhausstrasse 8 (just by the rear door of the Hofbräuhaus.) Open 1900 until 0300, with Aying Weizen, Pils and Helles on draught plus their full range of speciality bottled beers - a local with true Bavarian humour.

Bayerische Donisl, Weinstrasse 1 (at the side of Marienplatz). Hackerbräu is served in this two-storey traditional Munich beer hall with a 'between the floors' accordionist!

Platzl Traditionally Bavarian, with Aying served in the famous miniature barrel for each table. Entrance fees can be quite high as this is a beer hall complete with theatre - it is usually free at lunchtimes, when a Bavarian band plays.

Just outside the city, the following homebrew pubs are worth a try...

Das Kleines Brauhaus, Brunnerstrasse (the old park pavilion in Luitpoldpark). Produces unfiltered dunkles Weizenbier and pils in its cellar brewery. It is owned by Prince Luitpold of Kaltenberg fame.

Grosshesselohe Isartalerbahnhof This homebrew pub (owned by Traunsteiner Hofbräu) produces a Weizenbier in the magnificently restored railway station, now on the S7 (direction Wolfratshausen).

Forschungs Brauerei, Perlach (S1 - direction Aying). Unkindly described by Michael Jackson as a cross between an ice cream parlour and an aircraft control tower. Produces a powerful Pilsissimus and an even more powerful St Jakobus blonder bock.

Those just wishing to get pleasantly inebriated at the Oktoberfest should try to visit during the first few days and get down there very early (before 1600) to be sure of finding a place in the beer halls.

Paul Roberts



Editor:

375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M27

# LETTERS



## GOOD BEER GUIDE

Sir - Without wishing to spark off another Great Debate, may I just reply to the criticism in last month's WD of my good beer guide?

First of all, I would point out to Roger Hall that Wilsons bitter and mild ceased to exist several years ago when production was transferred to Grand Met's Yorkshire factory and the flavour immediately became unrecognisable. This loss of flavour is also true of all the other brand names Roger mentioned - OB, Higsons, Boddingtons, Chesters and Stones. The only exception is John Smiths, which is still brewed in Tadcaster and still has taste.

Jeff Evans questions my choice of free houses. My selection was for a 1991 Good Beer Guide - the Crescent will then be an office block, subject to planning permission; the White House has been let down by the inconsistency of Holts, as have many of the brewery's tied houses. Although I no longer frequent the Marble Arch, I have been informed by reliable sources (including the previous incumbent) that the beer has not been of Beer Guide standard in recent months.

Alan Unsworth states that all beer must be served through a tight sparkler. That is a typical Northern fallacy. Southern beers possess enough body and taste to be served without a head - so do brews such as Lees and Robinsons. The use of sparklers detracts from the taste of any beer, adds to wastage and in some cases leads to the returning of slops to the barrel.

Beer is my hobby. I choose to travel the UK, Europe and North America in search of the perfect pint. Therefore I set far higher standards for the beers which I consume and the pubs which I would recommend than certain local members of CAMRA who travel no further than Newton Heath or Eccles. If CAMRA continues to praise inferior "chemical" beers and overpriced, poor quality outlets, there is little hope of any general improvement in the overall quality of beer in the vast majority of North Manchester public houses.

Paul Roberts

## BOYCOTTING BREWS

Sir - To drink or not to drink. (Wilson's, Higsons, OB, Boddingtons, etc.) That seems to be the question. (WDs July & August) Sorry, but it doesn't much matter.

To boycott brews like these (where the original breweries have been closed or taken over) only accelerates their demise and reduces choice more quickly. Yes. But in practice the taste soon gravitates towards that of the big brewer's products/some sort of bland 'norm', not unpleasant but utterly lacking in character. When this happens, the brew declines in popularity and the brewery has an excuse to withdraw it. Either way, the rest is silence.

It's the big brewery's fault in the first place, of course. But you can hardly expect them to listen to opinions on a matter as nebulous as taste. (Yes, that used to be important. Now - for the big boys, at least - it's the balance sheets, and customers will drink what the advertisers tell them to.) Roger Hall (WD Aug) is right - preventative measures are the only ones which really work.

By all means continue buying your favourite brew while it remains drinkable. But spend your energy scanning the financial pages or the planning applications - don't dither about, arguing. Hamlet dithered - and he got poisoned.

Pessimistic Prudence

#### HOLTS CORNER (Perhaps!)

Sir - More and more pubs seem to be inviting Holts bitter as a guest beer, but are you aware that Holts themselves are introducing "guest" beers into some of their hostelryes? The only trouble is that Holts have forgotten to inform their customers of this anomaly! In my local Holts emporium in Moston the regulars don't have a football buster anymore: they run a sweepstake on "Guess the guest beer"! Personally, I don't know what the hell we are drinking, but it is a long way from being Holts!

Bemused Boozer

#### BOGBRUSH WRITES

Sir - Recent experience of the Coach & Horses, London Road, during a (very) fleeting Central Manchester stopover has prompted reflection on whether this place is really worth keeping, in its present form. Memories and preservational/sociological criteria tell me it is, but reality leads me to wonder whether some kind of surreptitious market segmentation is being attempted.

What message should the visitor take, for example, from a pint of Tetley bitter for £1, which seemed to taste like the Dallam product? The presence of characters who resembled past known paradigms of Bunty Fortescue's social scene seemed to militate against protest - considerations of self-preservation prevailing over the more orthodox factors still considered by some to contribute to "quality of



pubness". So, after five minutes of sitting next to the front window (where the nature of the net curtains gave a new meaning to any concept of household dust), I prised my shoes away from the stale beer coating the rubber tiles around my table and left - cursing inwardly that I hadn't used my 27 minutes in Manchester between trains to visit the Jolly Angler.

Could you guide my troubled mind to positive action? Should I

- (a) lobby Greater Manchester PTE and try to make them aware of the detrimental effects of rapid transit schemes on thirsty visitors to Manchester - maybe putting in a word to local licensing magistrates?
- (b) press British Rail to relocate all services to Manchester Victoria?
- (c) route my future journeys from Derbyshire to Liverpool via Crewe?
- (d) in similar travel circumstances, sit on platform 14 at Piccadilly with a bottle of White Shield?
- (e) just stop writing letters like this?

Ian Macmillan

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### PUB CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

A "hands-on workshop" on problems of pub conservation will be held on Saturday 24th November at the Crescent, Salford. The day will start at 11am with brief introductions to some major problems of pub conservation from planners, architects and other "experts" within the Campaign. The "attendees" will then divide into six groups, each of which will consider a particular problem area. It is anticipated that these will include, inter alia, change of use, structural alterations, dilapidation, transport schemes, brewery policies and listed building consent. After lunch (1pm-2pm) the bar will close and the syndicates will spend some two hours drawing up comprehensive action plans for their projects. Each of these will be presented and discussed at a plenary session. The workshop will finish at 6pm. Numbers are limited to 48 people on a first come, first served basis. There is no cost involved, apart from lunch and refreshments. If you would like to attend, please write to Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Manchester M9 2PW, indicating any particular interest which you have.

(The editor apologises for the jargon in the above item, which is printed as submitted. Henceforth, any reference to a "workshop" in these pages will be limited to the sort which contains lathes, drills and spanners.)

# PROTECT YOUR PLEASURE



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I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. I enclose a cheque for £9 (£12 if overseas).

Signed ..... Date .....



# RUPERT'S PAGE



Prague: August 20th 2020

War in Central Europe seems inevitable as the build-up of troops continues. Since Chancellor Hundscheiss invaded Switzerland at the beginning of the month and moved several divisions from the Polish border to the Bavarian border with Czechoslovakia, United Nations forces have built up in Austria, Italy, France and Czechoslovakia itself. Sanctions have certainly begun to bite. Germany controls over 40% of world beer production, dominated by the Munich-based Kirin-Löwenbräu brewing company. Switzerland, which since its membership of the EEC has attracted significant international investment in brewing, produces a further 10% of world output, led by Anheuser Bass International which is headquartered at Basle.

Although beer is Germany's major export and sanctions have begun to bite with a blockade of tankers in the North Sea and the Baltic, the inability of other countries to produce their own beer has led to considerable difficulties and riots throughout the world as pubs and bars have closed. Czechoslovakia has increased its own production at Pilsen in an attempt to compensate for the shortfall, but this has done little to alleviate a desperate world-wide shortage.

There are still international plants producing in Milwaukee, Adelaide, Copenhagen, Moscow, Seoul, Mombasa and Sao Paulo, but most countries have lost their entire production to enormous plants strategically located and owned by the world Big Four - Kirin Löwenbräu, Anheuser Bass, Grand Allied Foster Courage and Carlsberg Castlemaine. Membership of the worldwide International Independent Brewers' Association has dwindled so that now there is only one member, Drabs Crown Brewery from East Grotley, and Sir Peregrine Drab is its President.

Demand for Drabs' characteristic ales is unprecedented. Output has been unable to keep up with demand and riots have erupted throughout Drabs' Slumley heartland as those who have shunned Drabs Ales have invaded their charismatic hostelries in an attempt to obtain beer of any sort, even stuff with that antiquated characteristic - taste. Sir Perry can see no way out of the problem and is in discussions with the Home Office on the possibility of quotas.

Meanwhile the situation in Central Europe seems intractable as over 200,000 United Nations troops face Chancellor Hundscheiss's army of

2,000,000. Korean and Taiwanese hostages have been taken to the major breweries in Dresden, Berlin, Munich and Basle and may make offensive measures impossible.

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Campaign for  
Real Ale

**Rochdale, Oldham & Bury Branch**

## **CHANGE OF VENUE**



The forthcoming 11th **CAMRA** Bury Beer Festival will be staged **Fri 7th December** and **Sat 8th December** at a **NEW, BIGGER, AND EVEN BETTER** venue.

This now famous annual event is moving to the **DRILL HALL** which is just 3 minutes walk from the Derby Hall - (old venue).

After 10 successful years at the Derby Hall, the move has been necessitated by Public Demand. The festival has become so popular over the years that the increased attendance just will not fit into the **DERBY HALL !!!**

Also, **CAMRA** wishes to make future festivals more enjoyable by offering an even wider selection of **REAL ALES** in more comfortable and spacious surroundings.

**CAMRA** would like to assure all visitors to the December Festival, both old and new, that at the new venue - **THE DRILL HALL**, - **THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEMS WITH ENTRY AND THERE WILL BE AMPLE ROOM FOR EVERYBODY.**

See you there.....







# Branch Diary

## ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 4 Sept 8.30, Branch Meeting, Robin Hood, Lees Road, Oldham

Tues 18 Sept 8.30, Committee meeting, Woodman, Manchester Road, Hollinwood

Sun 30th Sept 12noon. Lunchtime Social. Rose & Crown, Manchester Old Road, Bury

Tues 2nd Oct 8.30. Branch Meeting, Healey, Shawclough Rd, Rochdale.

## ADVANCE NOTICE OF BURY BEER FESTIVAL

Fri/Sat 8th December, lunchtime and evening.

New venue - Drill Hall, Castle Street, Bury - **BIGGER & BETTER!**

More details next month.

Contact: B Lee 0706 824407

## NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 5 Sept, Ancoats. 7pm River, 8pm White House

Wed 12 Sept, Newton Heath. 7pm New Moston, 8pm Railway

Wed 19 Sept 8pm, Branch Meeting, Hare & Hounds, Shudehill, Manchester. (Tetley speaker)

Wed 26 Sept, Middleton. 7pm Middleton Archer, 8pm Assheton Arms

Wed 3 Oct Salford & Eccles. 7pm White Horse, 8pm Bulls Head.

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

## TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 6 Sept 8pm, Committee meeting, Rope & Anchor, Dunham

Thurs 13 Sept 8pm, Cornbrook Survey, starting at Star.

Thurs 20 Sept 8pm, Branch Meeting, Orange Tree, Altrincham.

**Note:** Excellent guest beers available.

Thurs 27 Sept 8pm, Sale Moor Survey, starting at Jacksons Boat, then visiting the Carters Arms, Lindow, and finishing at the Legh Arms

Thurs 8 Oct 8pm, Visit to Knutsford, starting at White Bear.

Contact: Allan Glover 061 962 9890 (h), 061 876 0340 (w)

## WIGAN

Thurs 6th Sept, Visit to Thwaites Brewery, Blackburn. Leave Stanley's, Powell Street, 6.25pm

Wed 19th Sept, Branch Meeting, Silverwell, Darlington Street East, Wigan. 8.30

Contact: Brian Gleave, Atherton 876200 (w), 840658 (h)

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## PROBABLY KEG

The Claybank (ex-Wilsons) on Rochdale Road, Bury, is now part of the Control Securities (Belhaven) Group.

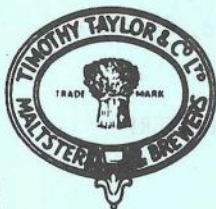
# THE QUEENS ARMS

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*Serving a range of  
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**THEAKSTONS & TIMOTHY TAYLORS**

Best Bitter, XB, Landlord

YOUNGERS No.3

*and weekly guest beers from around  
the country*

**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.**

**We're in the Good Beer Guide  
and CAMRA's Good Food Guide**

**Your hosts,  
DAVE & JO**

