

# WHAT'S DOING



FEB  
1991

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



## PUTTING THE CLOCK BACK

Round One in the Battle for Stalybridge has been won by the campaigners. As reported in December WD, the station clock which hung outside the Buffet Bar was taken down and sent to York Railway Museum. But now Tom Pendry, the local MP, has persuaded British Rail Property Board to return the clock to its rightful place. Also, the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority have agreed to fund half of the cost of restoration (£2,500), but the other half will have to be raised from "the community" - further details on this next month.

There is a wider campaign to save this unique buffet bar and valued real ale outlet from being treated like any other bit of British Rail real estate - being revamped into a state-of-the-art 1990s designer

buffet and becoming just another profit centre for a mega-brewery-cum-restaurant chain. Further details on this next month also, but in the meantime, if you have not yet visited the buffet, why not call in and see what all the fuss is about. First licensed in 1860, run by the same family for past 20 years, it is the only station buffet in the country which is completely free of tie. It has retained most of its traditional Victorian features and it is listed in the Good Beer Guide, Good Pub Guide, Classic Town Pubs and Vintage Pubs.

Peter Barnes

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### BEER GUIDE SELECTION

The Final Selection Meeting for entries in North Manchester and Salford for the 1992 Good Beer Guide will be at the Crescent on Wednesday 13th March, starting at 8 o'clock, yes, that's right, 8 o'clock. The shortlist has already been made out, but needn't prevent you surveying your own favourite boozer and bringing along a completed survey form. Only pubs with completed survey forms can be considered on the night. So if you fancy an evening of undiluted acrimony or merely want to see a fair selection of pubs, come along with your CAMRA card and vote.

### QUAY, TOO, SUCCESS

As pubs in Ordsall continue to close, fortunes on the other side of Trafford Road are different. Yet another new pub, the Quayside, has opened in this recently gentrified area of Salford.

### MARKET PRICES

Alan Ratcliffe and his stepson Kevin Fowler took over at the Market Hotel, Brackley Street, Farnworth, just before Christmas. Real ale in the form of Walkers Best (98p), mild (96p) and Winter Warmer (65p per half pint) is available. Ind Coope Burton Ale has made an appearance and they hope to make this premium beer a regular.

During February, CAMRA members are offered 10p off the price of a pint on production of their membership cards.

### AN ALEHOUSE I USED TO FREQUENT

Another Ordsall pub has closed its doors. But this time it's not vandalism which has forced the closure. The Rovers Return on Guy Fawkes Street has closed because the licence was not transferred. It is expected that a new application will be made at the February sessions.

## COACH & HORSES



## FOR SALE

Most of the pubs which were offered for sale by Christie's (WD Jan) were snapped up by an as yet unidentified buyer prior to auction in January. Other pubs in the inner city still remain derelict or unsold. Who bought Mamas?

Left: Star, Greengate. Below: Old Pack Horse, Oldham Rd; Old Shears, Greengate.



## HOLY HOSTELRY

As mentioned last month, the old station approach arches near the former Salford City Transport bus station at Victoria Bridge have been transformed into impressive licensed premises. The ground floor contains a well-furnished pub area with flag floors and photos of old Salford on the walls. Upstairs is a restaurant. The Cathedral Arches is a Whitbread pub, with handpumped Castle Eden, Flowers IPA, Chesters mild, Boddingtons bitter and Whitbread-approved Pedigree.

## COACH & HORSES

The sketches show the proposed setting for the Coach & Horses on London Road, Manchester. Preliminary drawings will shortly be supplemented by a full architect's report which, it is hoped, will persuade the Development Corporation that the pub should remain as an integral part of the redeveloped area. As several millions are being spent on revamping the Joshua Hoyle building, the odd few hundred thousand to ensure a decent outlook wouldn't be out of place.

## THE BOOT

Boarding up of pubs seems to have spread from the inner city to the outer suburbs. The Duke of Wellington in Pendlebury is now closed. OK, so it's not too easy to run pubs like the Town Hall, the Regent or the Sportsman in Salford, but Pendlebury? Whitbread have always had trouble with this pub which has targetted a young market. If Tetleys, Holts, Boddies et al can keep dozens of pubs open in this area, why can't Whitbread?

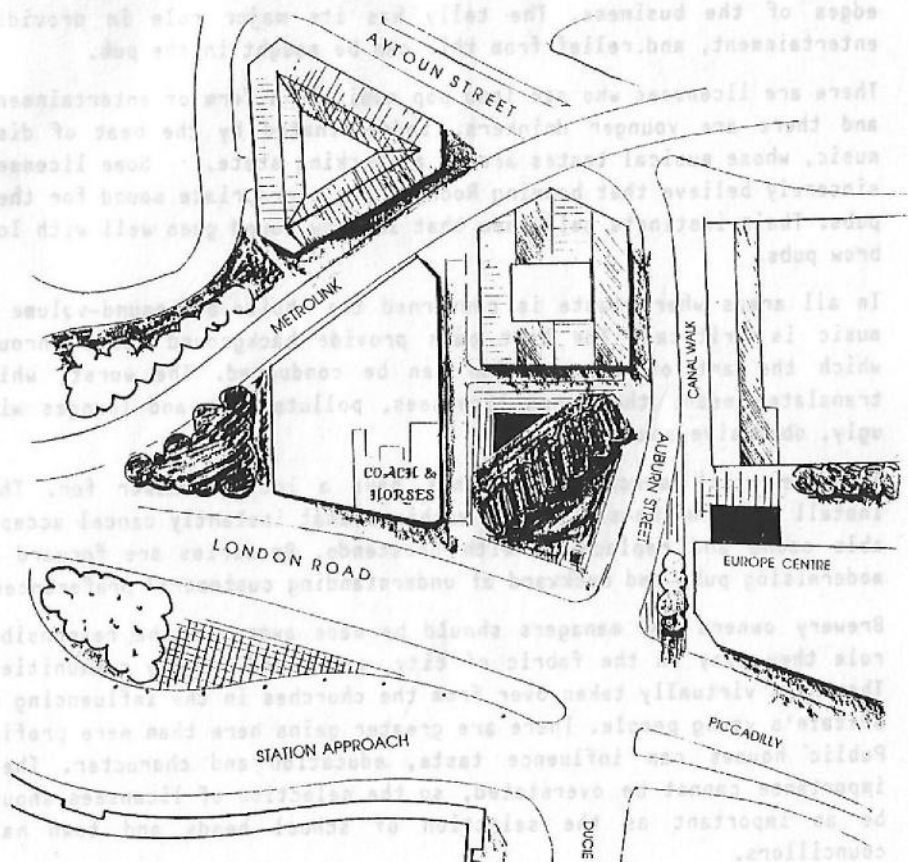
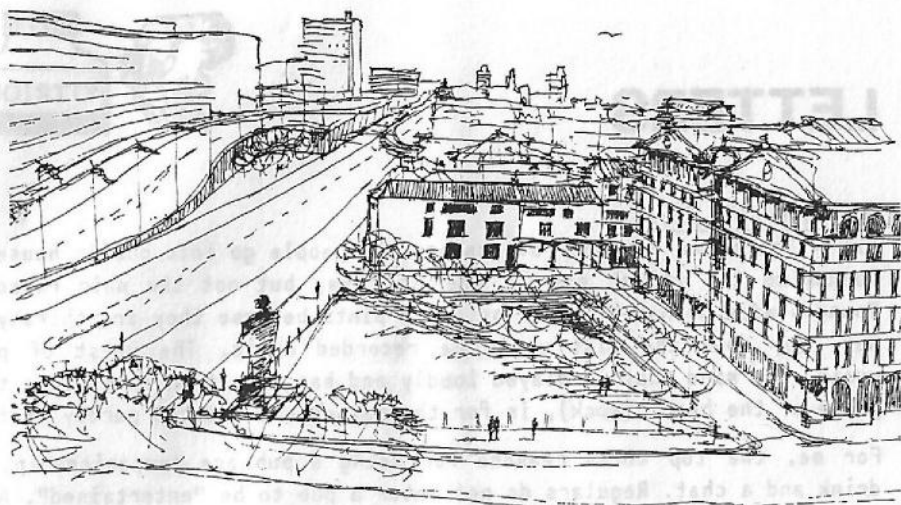
## GOOD BEER GUIDE

The Campaign's Vice Chairman writes. We are asked not to include nominations from Matthew Brown, Shipstones, Davenport's and Greenalls because we won't know what the beers are going to be like. That's OK for the first three but it's difficult to imagine Greenalls being anything other than better when it's brewed by somebody else. We have also been asked to have spare pubs in reserve in case there's an AGM motion against Whitbread. If anything, Boddies has actually improved since Whitbread took over. It would be a pyrrhic irony if we were forced to chuck out pubs from a free house chain selling a variety of cask ales in the furtherance of a wider political purpose.

As new people will be in charge of Watney's brewing perhaps, in the interests of consistency, we should exclude all their pubs as well. We can then change the title of the GBG to "CAMRA's Guide to Good Beer, except Good Beer which is brewed by people who've got on our wick or served in pubs which are owned by people who are unacceptable to us". Catchy, eh?

## STATE OF THE UNION

An application has been made to extend the New Union (Burtonwood) on Princess Street, central Manchester.





# LETTERS



## MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC

Sir - There are a number of reasons why people go into public houses. Quenching the thirst may be one of them, but not the main reason. Young blades do not sink six or seven pints because they are thirsty. Way, way down the list would be recorded music. The worst of pub music, the kind that is played loudly and has a beat which matches the pulse of the heart (Rock), is for the masochists and the partly deaf.

For me, the top three reasons for using a pub are companionship, a drink and a chat. Regulars do not enter a pub to be "entertained". Any hired entertainer is bound to be third rate, from the outer and rougher edges of the business. The telly has its major role in providing entertainment, and relief from this can be sought in the pub.

There are licensees who see loud pop music as a form of entertainment, and there are younger drinkers, indoctrinated by the beat of disco music, whose musical tastes are in a shocking state. Some licensees sincerely believe that booming Rock is the appropriate sound for their pubs. Their instincts tell them that lowbrow sound goes well with low-brow pubs.

In all areas where taste is concerned the choice and sound-volume of music is critical. The best pubs provide background music through which the art of conversation can be conducted. The worst, which translated means the worst licensees, pollute bars and lounges with ugly, obtrusive sound.

Breweries with mercenary leanings have a lot to answer for. They install coin-in-the-slot music machines that instantly cancel acceptable sound and replace it with crescendo. Breweries are forward at modernising pubs and backward at understanding customers' preferences.

Brewery owners and managers should be made aware of the responsible role they play in the fabric of city, urban and country communities. They have virtually taken over from the churches in the influencing of Britain's young people. There are greater gains here than mere profit. Public houses can influence taste, education and character. Their importance cannot be overstated, so the selection of licensees should be as important as the selection of school heads and town hall councillors.

John Lawrance

## **ROBINSONS REFLECTIONS**

Sir - In response to recent correspondence concerning the cheapest pint of Robinsons, I would like to put forward the Grosvenor (many years ago the Heginbotham Brewery tap) in Stalybridge. The best bitter can be had for just 84p a pint every evening. This must surely be the best value pint in Greater Manchester.

Paul Roberts

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## **WHEN GOD WAS A TEENAGER**

Back in February 1981 Holts was even then the best value for money in Greater Manchester. At the White Lion in Eccles mild and bitter were 34p and 35p a pint in the bar. Elsewhere, Wilsons were swapping pubs with Matthew Brown, differentials between mild and bitter were being eroded and the Lord Napier was still there in Hulme. What's Doing was also taking the piss out of Bogbrush and recording the history of Eccles pubs. It seemed to be something of an Eccles edition, as Robin Bence had moved into the Duke of York and Cloudy Brown had retired. Rupert was wandering on about Mole Whalebody, Harry Beandick and the first anniversary of DOGSHIT. Oh, and Humphrey Higgins was a contributor and Robinsons advertised on the back page.

## **THE STONE DUKE**

Manchester's newest pub has opened at Castlefield. The Duke of Bridge-water serves cask Stones, so rush along to savour the real ale aficionado's favourite brew.

## **Kendlegate Wine Cellars Ltd.**

**164 Northgate Rd, Edgeley. Tel: 477 3939**

*Wide range of Belgian & Continental Beers.*

*Cask beers to order, glass hire, delivery service.*

Timmermans, Leifmans, Orval, Chimay, Duvel, Hoegaarden, Rodenbach, Kwak, Westmalle, St Sixtus, Pinkus, and more.

Worthington White Shield, Imperial Russian Stout.

Westons Scrumpy & Vintage Ciders.

Wide Selection of Wines £2 - £20

Parties & Functions supplied.

Note: We operate under the Wholesale Licensing Act, therefore minimum purchase is 24 bottles beer or 12 bottles wines/spirits, which can all be different.

Open: 8am - 5.30pm Mon-Fri, 11 - 3 Sat, 12 - 3 Sun

Telephone orders accepted on a COD basis

## HOLTS TON UP YEAR?

The unfortunate closure of the Apollo has deprived Holts of their first century in ages. The acquisition of four pubs has taken their total up to 99. If the Hyde Park Corner opens this year then the intrepid Holts fan may be able to visit 100 pubs in 1991. But make a quick start as the Hollinwood pubs may close before the year ends...

Ashley Brook, Ashley St, Seedley  
Atherton Arms, Tyldesley Rd,

Atherton

Bay Horse, Parr Lane, Unsworth  
Bird in Hand, Liverpool Rd,

Patricroft

Black Dog, Church St, Belmont

Blue Bell, Manchester Rd, Bury

Blue Bell, Moston Lane, Moston

Bolton Castle, Tonge Moor Rd,

Bolton

Bradford Inn, Bradford Rd,

Miles Platting

Bricklayers, Ordsall L, Salford

Bridgewater, Manchester Rd,

Hollinwood

Bridgewater, Liverpool Rd,

Patricroft

Brigadier, Firsway, Sale

Broadway, Broadway, Salford

Bulls Head, Church St, Eccles

Cart & Horses, Manchester Rd,  
Astley

Cheadle Hulme, Station Road,

Cheadle Hulme

Cheetwood, Derby St, Manchester

Church, Bury New Rd, Whitefield

Church, Gaskell St, Newton Heath

Claremont, Claremont Road,

Moss Side

Cleveland, Crumpsall La, M/cr

Coach & Horses, Bury Old Rd,

Whitefield

Cricketers, Manchester Road,

Swinton

Cross Yates, Whitworth Road,

Rochdale

Crown & Anchor, Cateaton St,

Manchester

Crown & Cushion, Corporation St,

Manchester

Crown & Volunteer, Church St,

Eccles





Crumpsall, Bury Old Road,  
 Cheetham Hill  
 Derby Brewery Arms, Cheetham  
 Hill Rd, Cheetham  
 Duke of Wellington, Weardale  
 Road, Higher Blackley  
 Duke of York, Marlborough Rd,  
 Hightown  
 Dukes Gate, Cleggs Lane, Little  
 Hulton  
 Eagle, Collier St, Salford  
 Eagle & Child, Higher Lane,  
 Whitefield  
 Egerton, Hanlon St, Cheetham  
 Hill  
 Ellesmere, King William St,  
 Winton  
 Friendship, Scholes Lane,  
 Prestwich  
 Frigate, Thatch Leach Lane,  
 Whitefield

Foresters, Bury New Rd,  
 Prestwich  
 Fox, Old Market St, Blackley  
 Garratt, Pink Bank Lane,  
 Longsight  
 Goats Gate, Radcliffe New Rd,  
 Whitefield  
 Golden Cross, Liverpool Rd,  
 Patricroft  
 Golden Lion, Old Market St,  
 Blackley  
 Grafton, Grafton St, C-on-M  
 Grapes, Liverpool Rd, Peel Green  
 Griffin, Wilmslow Rd, Cheadle  
 Griffin, Didsbury Rd, Heaton  
 Mersey  
 Grove, Ashton New Rd, Clayton  
 Halfway House, Manchester Rd,  
 Droylsden  
 Hare & Hounds, Outwood Rd,  
 Radcliffe



Hipp, Lathbury Rd, Harpurhey  
 Kings Arms, Manchester Rd,  
    Hollinwood  
 Kings Arms, Oldfield Rd, Salford  
 Kings Head, Market St, Droylsden  
 Lamb, Regent St, Eccles  
 Legh Arms, Northenden Rd,  
    Sale Moor  
 Lord Nelson, Bolton Road,  
    Pendelbury  
 Lord Nelson, Stretford Road,  
    Urmston  
 Melville, Barton Rd, Stretford  
 Millhouse, Ballater Dr, Peel  
    Hall, Padgate  
 Morning Star, Manchester Rd,  
    Swinton  
 Mort Arms, Elliott St, Tyldesley  
 Navigation, Drake St, Rochdale  
 New Grove, Bury New Road,  
    Whitefield  
 Newmarket, Bolton Road,  
    Pendlebury  
 Old Blue Bell, Bell La, Bury  
 Old Cross, Eton Hill Road,  
    Radcliffe  
 Old House at Home, Whit Lane,  
    Pendleton  
 Ostrich, Bury Old Rd, Prestwich  
 Papermakers, Church St East,  
    Radcliffe  
 Park, Monton Rd, Monton  
 Park, Worsley Rd, Swinton  
 Railway, Dean La, Newton Heath

Railway, Manshaw Rd, Higher  
    Openshaw  
 Red Lion, Bolton Rd, Salford  
 Red Lion, Bury New Road,  
    Prestwich  
 Roebuck, Church Rd, Flixton  
 Royal Oak, Barton La, Eccles  
 Rosehill, Leigh Rd, Westhoughton  
 Sabre, Taylorson St, Salford  
 Seven Stars, Ashton Old Road,  
    Manchester  
 Sidings, Broom La, Levenshulme  
 Stanley, Liverpool Rd, Patricroft  
 Tanners, Groomsport Drive,  
    Cheetham  
 Union, Liverpool St, Salford  
 Waggon & Horses, Hyde Road,  
    Gorton  
 Waggon & Horses, Bolton Road,  
    Salford  
 Welcome, Bury Old Rd, Whitefield  
 White Horse, Bury New Road,  
    Prestwich  
 Wilton, Coronation Rd, Radcliffe  
 Wellington, Church St, Eccles  
 Wellington, Bolton Rd, Salford  
 White Lion, Liverpool Rd,  
    Patricroft  
 White Lion, Market Street,  
    Westhoughton  
 White Swan, Worsley Rd, Swinton  
 Winston, Churchill Way, Salford  
 Woodthorpe, Bury Old Road,  
    Prestwich

**WHAT'S DOING** contributions should be sent to the editor c/o 88 Ringley Road, Stoneclough, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 9ET. News, articles, letters, etc, must arrive by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Send cheque/PO for £2.40, together with your name and address, to Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester M9 2PW, 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,  $\frac{1}{2}$  page £20,  $\frac{1}{4}$  page £15,  $\frac{1}{8}$  page £7.50. Discount on bookings for 6 months or longer.

## BEER AND BRAWLS IN ECCLES

An investigation into drink-related crime in Eccles is being carried out by a team headed by Mike Chatterton, a lecturer in Criminology at Manchester University. It'll be interesting to see if they discover what many of us have long suspected - that traditional pubs with several rooms and a cross-section of age groups are less likely to be associated with violent behaviour than open-plan keg emporia catering for the under 25's. What we don't know is whether a traditional pub could survive on Church Street.

## WHEN GOD WAS A LAD

In February 1976 What's Doing was concerned with such arcane matters as a proposed beer festival in Farmer Norton's canteen and CAMRA in Oxfordshire. There was a further delay in the first Greater Manchester Beer Guide and Sam Smiths were trying out real ale at the Greatstone Hotel in Stretford. That's it, but we were told that the production team was pissed and better things were promised for March.

## HOLTS CORNER

For the last few weeks Gary and Pauline Humphries have been running the Duke of York at Hightown. Gary is no newcomer to the pub - before taking over he was the cellarman. The original licensees, Eric and Gwen Whitworth, took over at the new Ashley Brook (see WD last month).

There could well be a change of licensee at the Dukes Gate, Little Hulton, for Margaret Bailey has applied to "go back home" to the Lord Nelson at Urmston. Margaret and Phil have been running the Dukes Gate for the last four years and the locals will be sorry to see them leave. A shortlist for a replacement manager is being drawn up. John the cellarman will be staying on to maintain beer quality.

A brewery spokesman has denied that there is anything in the rumours that Holts are taking over any more pubs at present.

Just as we are getting used to 80p a pint for Holts bitter (or 75p for mild) there is the possibility of an unfavourable Budget slapping a further 2p to 5p on the price of a pint. Mind you, the prices of other breweries' beers will also go up.

The new Crown & Anchor (ex-Mr Chesters), Manchester city centre, and the Old Blue Bell in Bury are to be refitted in the near future. The Kings Head in Droylsden will reopen when necessary work has been completed. In the next month or two work should begin on the Hyde Park Corner on Adelphi Street/Silk Street, Salford.

Stewart Revell

# NOW & THEN

No.53

by Rob Magee

## THE OLD THIRTEENTH CHESHIRE ASTLEY VOLUNTEER RIFLEMAN CORPS INN

Astley Street, Stalybridge

About 1855 Stephen Cliffe left the Union Inn on Brierley Street, Stalybridge, and opened a new beerhouse a couple of hundred yards further up the hill at Spring Bank. He called it the New Inn, and as more houses were built nearby the street in front of the beerhouse was completed and named New Spring Bank Street.

By 1880 the 13th Cheshire Rifle Volunteer Corps Drill Hall had been built between Walmsley Street and Spring Bank Street nearby and New Spring Bank Street was renamed Astley Street. The name of the beerhouse was probably changed at this time - certainly by 1902 it was the Thirteenth Mounted Cheshire Rifleman Inn.

The beerhouse was owned by one Ann Crofts in 1890, then by Frederick



Crofts, and after his death Wilsons Brewery bought the property. A wine licence was granted in 1950 and in May 1956 the Rifleman became a public house when the full licence was transferred from the Floating Light, a former Wilsons pub on Bridge Street.

The first edition of the Guinness Book of Records acknowledged that "The Thirteenth Mounted Cheshire Rifleman Inn" was the longest public house name in the United Kingdom. (Technically, this was wrong as it was still a beerhouse at that time.) The 13th edition in 1966 mentions the fact that "Mounted" was omitted from the pub's name, but came up with no alternative pub. The 20th edition (1973) also mentioned the omission and declared the London, Chatham & Dover Railway Tavern the record-holder.

However, the 27th edition (1980) reinstated the Stalybridge pub - presumably the "Mounted" had been put back! The Rifleman again lost its title in the 1980s, so Webster & Wilsons Brewery decided to do something about it and added three more words. Today the pub holds the record with a name comprising 55 letters.

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# Rose & Crown

*Manchester Old Road - Bury*

**Boddingtons, Thwaites, Pendle Witch,  
Timothy Taylors**

***Plus at least 12 Guest Beers each week  
for the next three months***

**Opening hours: 12-3pm, 7-11pm Monday to Thursday.  
12-3pm, 5-11pm Friday      12 noon - 11pm Saturday  
12-3pm, 7-10.30pm Sunday**



## TYLDESLEY AS IT WAS

A book of photographs of old Tyldesley pubs was published at the end of last year. Approximately half the pubs are still standing. The booklet, which supplements the photographs with information from directories and licensing records, is available from Atherton and Tyldesley libraries for £1.95.

The photograph of the Federal Arms is taken from the book. It was situated somewhere near the Glass Barrel at Hindsford and the photo was recently shown to Hindsford residents in the hope that someone could be identified. "The reply came back: 'No-one recognises any of the people but someone remembered the dog!'"



## MASHTERMINTHE

A Regional Social is to take place at the Marble Arch on Thursday 21st February. Teams of 6 have to drink 8 pints each of Vance's strongest ale and then guess who they are. But seriously, it's a general knowledge quiz with prizes and proceeds to charity. For further details ring Graham Mason on 665 3032.

## GERIATRIC'S LAMENT FOR 1991

'Twas on a Monday morning that the drinker went to town  
He supped the afternoon away in a place named the Red Cow  
It smelt of marijuana and the lavvies were awash  
But 'twas homely-like and friendly and the beer not modern tosh.

'Twas on a Tuesday morning he'd arranged his friends to meet  
In the Big and Little Derby on - guess what? - yes, Derby Street  
But the planners needed 'bed space' and a 'recreation pitch'  
So the pubs went, and the plans went, and the builders got their wish.

'Twas on a Wednesday evening in the Papermakers Arms  
We used to have a sing-song and endearing were its charms  
But it wasn't economic and the area was 'run down'  
So down came pub, and t'nearby Sun of near as much renown.

Remember the old Spinners? Now the lead's gone from the roof  
And gone the Taylors windows, rugby players and the couth  
Young ladies in the darts team who would give you the glad eye  
And proudly sport a tee-shirt which proclaimed 'Eat, Shit and Die'.

That was his Thursday haunt; but on a Friday he would rove  
The length of Regent Road, and sup in t'Star, Borough or Grove  
He even went there once with a young man from t'BBC  
With medals on his chest and dolly birds upon his knee.

And no-one turned a hair - well that was Salford for you then.  
But first there was a road scheme, then an enterprise zone; men  
Who knew the Fox, Spread Eagle or the Gloucester Arms of yore  
Would weep salt tears to see it now - a travesty of before.

But what about a Saturday down Ellor Street, my dear?

A concrete jungle towers o'er t'few pubs remaining there  
And half of those are shut; the other half survive with boards  
Up at the windows, or a bouncer on the door.

Well, on a Sunday lunchtime you could have a quiet pint  
In t'Feathers down in Brindleheath or the Pack Horse on the Height  
One's demolished for a roundabout, the other derelict  
And now this year there's sixteen more - it really makes you sick.

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## CHINESE-LEAVE

Mr Cheung has applied to change the use of the St Vincents Tavern at  
New Cross, Manchester, to retail and offices.

# PROTECT YOUR PLEASURE



## JOIN CAMRA NOW

Just fill in the form below and send, with a cheque for £10 (payable to CAMRA Ltd) to Fiona Gibbons, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3BW.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

..... POST CODE .....

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 £10 (£14 if overseas).

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

# RUPERT'S PAGE



It's only once in a Preston Guild that Drabs open a brand new hostelry. Some taverns are replaced after decades of heavy use but an amber nectar outlet where none has been before is as rare as rocking-horse dos. It was, therefore, with particular delight that many of us visited the newly-opened Grimestream in downtown Spermlay. All the crowd were there. Even Ophelia Hampton had taken time off as editrix of a Dick-nailer's guide to be present. The Grimestream had a particularly interesting genesis. Drabs had been lobbied by a certain Reverend Donald Toper, the swinging Methodist, who, rarely for a man of the cloth, saw the positive aspects of a community alehouse. Don was there together with Perry Drab and offspring, giving succour to our fondly-held beliefs that our favourite amber nectar purveyor would survive, nay, even thrive, into the next generation.

Unusually the assembly was graced by the presence of Beinlos and Charlie Bass. Charlie has been seen prowling around the slum hostelryes of Slumley and Grotley with the intention of purchasing a suitable emporium from the impecunious megabrewers who haven't yet learned how to run them. Beinlos has usually been in tow as his personal adviser. Why they'd wandered into a pub nouveau is beyond me, unless they had erroneously imagined that this was the final selection of emporia for the toppers' vademecum.

After only one pint each our two intrepid imbibers departed and there was speculation as to why. Had they been upset by one of the branch elders or refused AT's somewhere? But no. It seems that the quality of the amber nectar was not up to their own exacting standards. Those of us who'd quaffed several pints without noticing its inherent inferiority must really get our act together. Our failure adequately to discriminate is down to our predilection for remaining within the confines of Greater Grotley and allowing our palates to become jaded. What is necessary is that we all should become globetrotting knowalls. Only by sampling Maori maize beer, sorghum beer from the Kalahari, Siberian moose ale and the monastic yeti ales from southern Tibet will we be able to judge what we're drinking in a knowledgeable way and to choose entries for the toppers' vademecum which truly reflect the excellence of their wares. Pontificating from a warehouse of ignorance is hypocrisy writ large.

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## Branch Diary

### TRAFFORD & HULME

Thur 7 Feb, 8pm, Committee Meeting, Railway, Hale  
Thur 14 Feb, 8pm, Stalybridge Railway Station Buffet Bar for a Valentine's Evening (check with branch contact for train times, etc).  
Thur 21 Feb, 8pm, GBG Selection Evening, Kings Arms, Salford. Come early and register your vote!  
Thur 28 Feb, 8pm, Manchester Real Ale Wine Bar Survey Night. Starting at Crown Piano Bar on Fountain Street, then visiting Rosie's at 8.30 and Green's 9pm, etc.  
Thurs 7 Feb, 8pm, Railway, Broadheath; Committee Meeting to collate and finalise GBG forms and comments, etc.  
Contact: Allan Glover 061 962 9890 (h) 061 876 0340 (w)

### ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 5 Feb 8.30, Branch Meeting and Good Beer Guide Selection Night, Masons Arms, Sion Street, Radcliffe  
Sun 10 Feb 12noon, Lunchtime Social, The Swan, Dobcross, Saddleworth. Full range of food available.  
Tues 12 Feb 8pm, Regional Meeting, Marble Arch, Rochdale Rd, Manchester  
Tues 19 Feb 8.30, Committee Meeting, Old Cross, Eton Hill Rd, Radcliffe  
Thur 21 Feb 8pm, Inter-Branch Quiz, Marble Arch, Rochdale Road, Manchester  
Tues 5 March 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Bank Top Tavern, Oldham.  
Contact: B Lee 061 766 6601 (w) 0706 824407 (h)

### NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 6 Feb, Blackley. Old House at Home 7pm, Golden Lion 8pm  
Tues 12 Feb, Regional Meeting, Marble Arch, 8pm  
Wed 13 Feb, Peel Green & Patricroft. Unicorn 7pm, Packet House 8pm  
Wed 20 Feb, Branch Meeting, Crescent, Salford, 8pm  
Wed 27 Feb, Ordsall and Oldfield Road. Bricklayers 7pm, Wellington 8pm  
Sun 3 March, Beer Festival Meeting, Castle, Oldham Street, Manchester, noon.  
Wed 6th March, Pendlebury. Halligans, Swinton Hall Road, 7pm. Butchers 8pm.  
Wed 13 March. Good Beer Guide Final Selection Meeting, Crescent, Salford, 8pm.  
Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

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Contributors to this issue: Rob Magee, Paul Roberts, Peter Barnes, Stewart Revell, Alan Gall  
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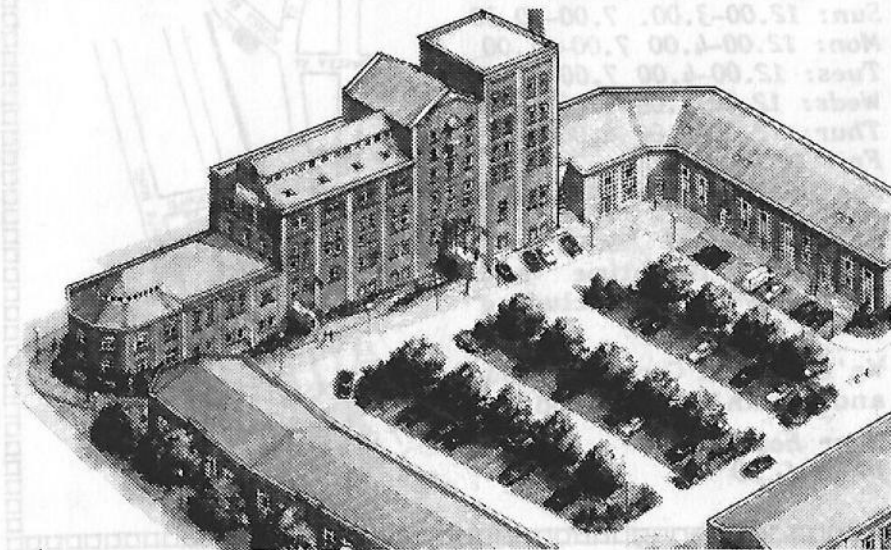
### BEINLOS'S BIRTHDAY BINGE

Friday 8th February. Persons of a weak disposition attend at their own risk. All those who drink three pints in each of the pubs will qualify for a free vindaloo afterwards.

<u>Venue</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Arrive</u>	<u>Depart</u>
Vine	Kennedy Street	1815	1842
City Arms	Kennedy Street	1843	1908
Crown	Fountain Street	1909	1931
Bank	Mosley Street	1933	1951
Grey Horse	Portland Street	1956	2047
Portland Arms	Portland Street	2051	2106
Waldorf	Gore Street	2109	2131
Crown & Anchor	Hilton Street	2136	2154
Royal George	Lever Street	2156	2215
Castle Hotel	Oldham Street	2218	2319

### EMPRESS BREWERY

Once one of Manchester's old breweries closed, that was usually it. Scarcely had the last barrel been rolled out of the building when the place was demolished, the site cleared and something nice and new put in its place. By some twist of fate, the old Empress Brewery building on Chester Road, Old Trafford, survived the ravages of the 1960s and 1970s and a few years ago the developers moved in. As the drawing reproduced here shows, part of the Empress Brewery has been incorporated in the new "Empress Business Centre".



# THE QUEENS ARMS

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**Tues: 12.00-4.00 7.00-11.00**

**Weds: 12.00-4.00 6.00-11.00**

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