

WHAT'S DOING



JAN
1992

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

ANOTHER FREE HOUSE FOR SALFORD



Just when we thought the Borough had had it, we hear that Jo and Andy Davies are taking over and turning it into a free house. This former Burtonwood pub is in Encombe Place, behind Salford Royal Hospital and not far from the Davies's other pub, the Crescent. Beers will be Banks's/Camerons, Theakstons, Matthew Brown, S&N and Marstons. There will be lots of guest ales, but not Holts. You will still have to go to the Crescent for that.

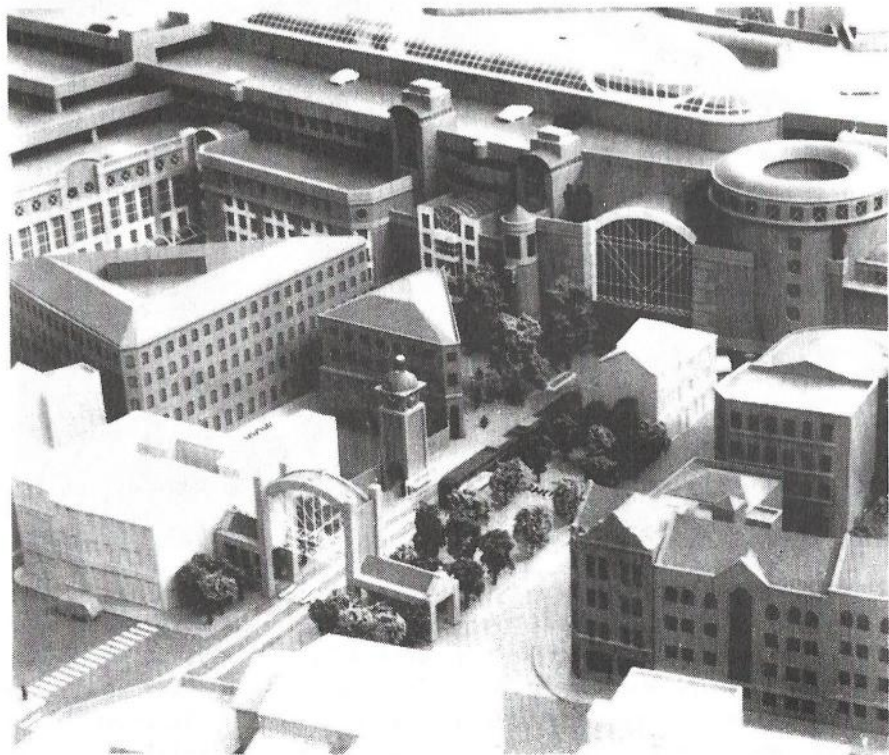
CASTLE & FALCON

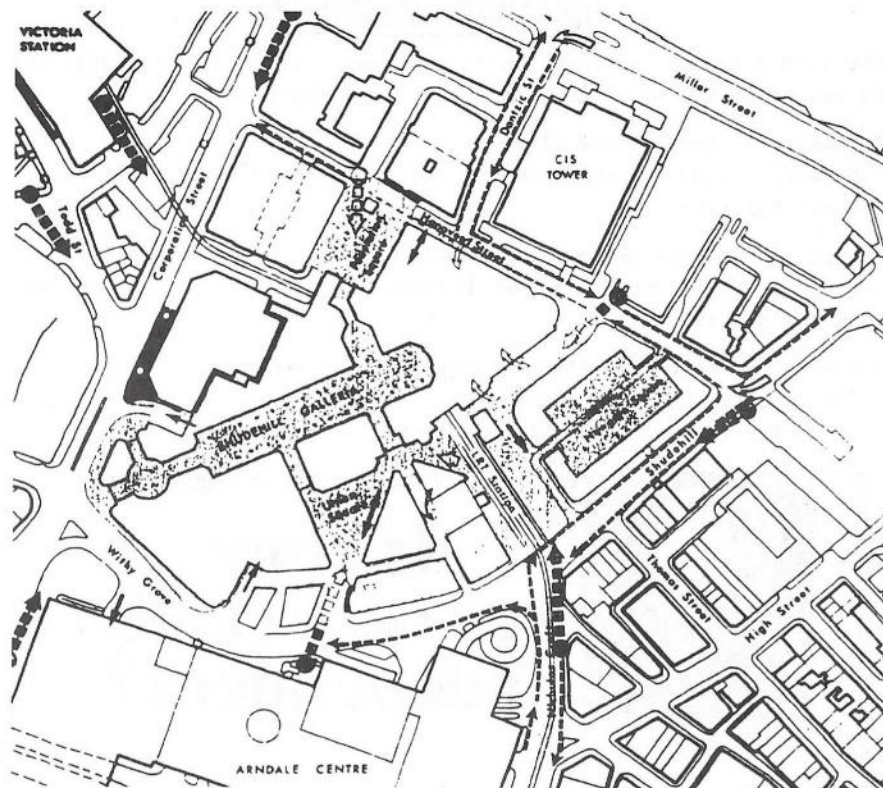
Peter Wadsworth

The photograph shows part of a model of the £100,000,000 shopping development for the Shudehill area of Manchester, as proposed by Shudehill Developments. The 200-year-old Castle & Falcon can be seen centre right, next to where the Metrolink line emerges from beneath the "Shudehill Galleria" (a sort of Arndale Centre). The Metrolink station here is to be called "Shudehill" - but why not name it after the old pub? (Shudehill itself is in the foreground.)

The model, which is on public display in the foyer of New Century House, Corporation Street, shows just what can be done to incorporate this famous pub (which features in a lot of guide books to Manchester) in the redevelopment of the area, now that CAMRA has saved it from demolition.

It is to be regretted that the building itself is not part of the development, in a similar way that the Wellington and Sinclairs were part of the Market Place development. If you feel that the Castle &





Falcon should be included in this grand scheme, write to:
 Dr Ted Kitchen, Chief Planning Officer, Town Hall, Manchester, or
 Philip Edwards, Public Relations Manager, Shudehill Developments,
 PO Box 53, New Century House, Manchester M60 4ES.

BANKS' S ACQUIRE CAMERONS

Camerons Brewery has been sold by the troubled Brent Walker Group to Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries for £18.7m. The deal includes Camerons brand names and 50 pubs, 18 of them managed. Although there will be some redundancies, W&D have given a long-term commitment to continue brewing in Hartlepool. Mind you, W&D gave similar assurances in October about Hansons, which is now to be axed. CAMRA had hoped for a management buyout at Camerons and feared a sale to Allied who, with spare capacity, would have closed the brewery. A sale to Banks's is certainly better than that. Banks's sales have remained relatively buoyant in a declining market and the capacity of Camerons will be required to continue the supply arrangements with the remaining Brent-Walker pubs.

NATIONAL BRANDING

The marketing of "branded" beers on a national or international basis is now seen as a major evil. National branding leads to:

1 Takeovers, mergers and closures

Breweries will be acquired for their brands and production moved to a central site.

2 Loss of regional and minority beers

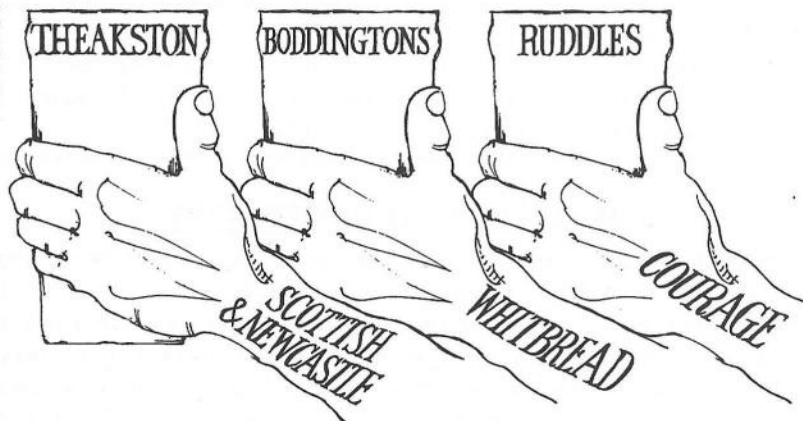
Brewers will concentrate on brands. Low volume beers, like mild, will disappear.

3 Concentration of ownership. Monopoly power and prices

The acquisition of brands will concentrate ownership further, encourage monopolies and raise prices.



**Is your
brewery really
independent?**



**These aren't!
Stop the pint snatchers**

4 Deterioration in Quality

Brands will be prostituted to be sold in keg and can. Taste will be changed to appeal to wider markets.

5 Marginalisation of pubs

Brands will carry a premium price and be sold in upmarket establishments - wine bars, restaurants, hotels. Investment in pubs will decline.

Once a big brewer acquires a well known or respected brand, the brewer can go on to bend the truth in its advertising. Thus Scottish & Newcastle pretend, via their advertising, that all Theakstons beer is brewed in homely, rustic fashion at Masham, when much of it is made in a beer factory in Newcastle. CAMRA moaned about this to Newcastle's Consumer and Environmental Protection Department but didn't get very far.

Now they're all at it, trying to pretend that awful tinned beer is "draught". Bass really took the biscuit with an advert in the Mail on Sunday on 24th November which showed tins of Bass being filled from handpumps. Honest? Decent? Legal? Truthful? I should cokey! If you find this or any other advert offensive, why not complain to:

The Advertising Standards Authority, Brook House, Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HN. After all, if an advert's wrong, they're there to put it right.

Roger Hall

IRLAM NEWS

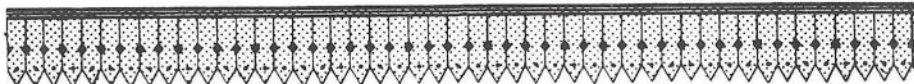
The SHIP has finally gone on to real ale and the pub has been sensibly refurbished. The beers are Greenalls mild (£1.12), bitter (£1.16) and Stones (£1.18). There's a large, comfortable "Nook Shotten" lounge, a separate public bar and pool room. There's also a bowling green at the back.

The BOATHOUSE (BodPubCo) sells guest real ales. Recent examples have been Innkeeper's Special Reserve, Royal Oak Strong Ale, Thomas Hardy bitter, Courage Directors and Shefford Spa Black Bat.

The WHITE LION/SPORTS (Websters) is under new management - FMS Taverns and Inns - and the company has inherited a keg beer/lager policy. This will continue for now, but guest real ales are a possibility in early 1992.

ARRESTED GROWTH

Whitbread have plans to extend the (Sir Ralph) Abercrombie near Bootle Street nick and build a beer garden on the side.



**WE'RE IN
THE
GOOD BEER
GUIDE**



THE STATION

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**NEXT TO
BY-PASS**

WIGAN & DISTRICT

Dave White

As anticipated in last month's column, the PAGEFIELD HOTEL, Park Road, Wigan, has reopened and is selling real ale for the first time in ages. The pub looks little different; the exterior has been spruced up a bit and the interior decor is pretty loud, but the famous revolving door is still there and on recent visits the ale - Greenalls mild, bitter and Stones best bitter - has been on fine form.

On the other hand, STEPPE'S (formerly the Market Tavern) on Mesnes Street has to be seen to be believed. This town centre boozier resembles a Whitbread "House of Horrors" of a decade ago - video screens, stuffed pigeons, a black boy sitting on a barrel, etc. Steppe's even has its own "Time Zones". During Zone A (Tuesday afternoon, say) a pint of Theakstons XB will set you back a modest £1.39. Enter the pub on a Saturday night, however (Zone C) and the same beer will cost 8p more! They were hanging 'em at Nuremberg for less...

The QUEENS ARMS, Warrington Road, Newtown, is open again and hasn't changed a bit. Stones best bitter is now on sale alongside the Greenalls products. Nearby on Ormskirk Street, the BOWLING GREEN is selling a beer new to Wigan in the form of OB mild. Boddies bitter is also available.

There is no truth in the rumour that real ale can be found in the public bar of the Wigan Little Theatre, off Riverway; keg Boddingtons is all there is on. Indeed, there isn't really a public bar, as your roving reporter was shown the door. (I starred in an office pantomime a few Christmasses ago, but it counted as nothing.)

Town centre news in brief. Boddingtons bitter is now on sale at CHEERS BAR on Grimes Arcade, off King Street. This represents a real ale gain...Dwindling sales have led to the loss of cask Tetley mild at the BRICKLAYERS ARMS on Hallgate. Traditional Tetley bitter is still available at £1.22 a pint.

The QUEENS ARMS, Sandbrook Street, Tontine, has opened its doors again as the SANDBROOK HOTEL and has "gone real" at the same time. Tetley bitter, dark mild and Robinsons best bitter are now to be had. Alas, the Robbies best at the SPINNERS ARMS, Bolton Road, Atherton, was proving too popular and has been replaced by the safer Boddingtons bitter.

Lastly, some brewery news. Burtonwood are to lease 150 pubs from Allied Breweries for twenty-five years. The pubs will be roughly in the existing trading area, which could herald changes in Wigan. More news when I get it.

CITY PRICES

On November 27th 1991 a comprehensive survey was made of beer prices in Manchester City Centre pubs. It was exactly six years previously that CAMRA's first City Centre survey was made. How much has changed since November 27th 1985? Six years ago beer varied from 62p to £1.30 per pint, lager was 15p a pint more than bitter, premium lagers were over 90p in many outlets and over 40% of pubs were without a legible price list. The local independents gave better value for money. Out of 107 pubs surveyed, 87 sold real ale and 20 were keg-only. In 1987 only 43% of the outlets surveyed served cask mild and the first beerless "pub" had arrived - Henri's in the Parsonage. Local brewers had jumped on the target marketing bandwagon.

There's been no improvement in the display of price lists. Almost half the pubs surveyed are breaking the law by not displaying prices. Many barstaff reacted to questions about prices as if the surveyors were asking to inspect their underwear. Some of the free houses have commendable comprehensive price lists as well as opening times displayed outside the pubs, something which few other pubs consider worthwhile.

The price of beer in the City Centre in 1991 varied from 79p for Holts mild to £2.10 for keg Tetleys bitter in the Hotel Piccadilly, so over the last six years the cheapest beer is 27% dearer and the most expensive beer 62% dearer. Differentials have widened. If local independents offered value for money then, they offer even better value today. Robinsons in the Castle has risen by 50%, Holts in the White House by 40%, Hydes in the Dutton by 57% and Lees in the John Willie Lees by 56%. In contrast, Websters in Seftons has risen by 72%, Chesters by 65% in the Abercrombie, Stones in the Crown by 66% and Tetleys in the Square Albert by 78%.

If 90p for premium lagers was not uncommon in 1985, then £1.60 is not unusual today. Lagers have risen by around 70% in the last six years. The cheapest lager available in 1985 was Hydes Amboss at 75p. That is no longer available, but Holts' Holtenbrau was on sale in 1991 at 90p, good value if you like that sort of thing. In general, however, the price differentials between bitter and lagers have continued to widen, with 25p being a typical difference. Lager still offers poor value for money.

Only 10 pubs out of the 90 surveyed in 1991 sold no real ale, but only 30 outlets served traditional mild, a further decline from 1987. At this rate traditional mild will have completely disappeared in twelve years time.

This year we didn't have anyone hiding price lists in the back room. Only one licensee refused to co-operate - at the Hat & Feathers on Mason Street - and that was because CAMRA had upset him five years ago when he had the Royal George on Lever Street. We don't know why. Perhaps he'd like to tell us.

THE DOORS

Following on from last month's article on surviving revolving pub doors, Peter Barnes writes to say that revolving doors can still be seen at the Hare & Hounds, Outwood; Roebuck, Urmston; White Lion, Bury, and the Melville, Stretford. Tony Sibson says the last revolving door in an Oldham pub was at the Grey Horse (now Castle) on Union Street. The Bower Hotel on Hollinwood Avenue (a Greenalls hotel with public bar) still has a revolving door but it isn't used.

Peter Barnes also points out that there is only one pub in Greater Manchester with a full size snooker table - the Lamb in Eccles. Anybody disagree?

GUEST ALE

The City Arms (Kennedy Street, Manchester) beer festival proved to be quite a success, so there's going to be another one at Easter. In the meantime, the pub will be selling a second regular guest beer.

Next door in the Vine, Boddingtons is the guest beer, selling alongside John Smiths bitter and Courage Directors.

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LETTERS



BIG BREWERS AND THE MMC REPORT

Sir - Roger Hall's article ("Big Brewers Pass the Buck", WD November) is as elegantly crafted as one could wish, but is so quaintly ingenuous as to read like a 1950s edition of the Daily Worker. If the "ills of the industry" were less serious, the article could be dismissed as mere kowtowing to CAMRA HQ. I have, however, been forced to emerge from my villeggiatura to take umbrage.

Of course I concede that when it comes to a choice between Roger Hall on the one hand, and "The Police, Licensed Victuallers' Associations, tenants, managers, the general public and even members of CAMRA" on the other, then verity will normally reside with your esteemed scrivener. In the present circumstances, however, I regret that he has resorted to dissimulation, periphrasis, syllogistic fallacy and other arcane sophistry peculiar to the demagogic calling. To wit...

Pub Closures: Of course not all pub closures are related to the MMC, but saying that does not prove that none is. There certainly were closures before MMC but they have increased markedly since. As the large brewers have thousands of pubs to dispose of, it is inevitable that there will be a shake-up in the market. The pub-chains and regional brewers will buy some (and get rid of others), and in the general reshuffle the small, the inconveniently sited, and the unprofitable will go to the wall. This explains why the regionals are also putting pubs on the market.

Brewery Closures: The same arguments apply here and the MMC positively encouraged the creation of non-brewery pub-owning groups. Greenalls and Boddingtons have moved into being "PubCo's" as much as they have moved out of brewing. They didn't have to, but they were encouraged to - so we can blame the MMC.

Twenty Year Leases: Fiddle-de-de, Mr Hall! By how long did the Inn-trepreneur Lease Scheme predate the MMC proposals? How many twenty-year leases were in place before MMC? And how many will there be three years after it?

Traditional tenancies are being terminated and replaced by twenty-year leases or management mainly because brewers are attempting to avoid the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Act. The extension of this Act to cover pub tenants was part of the MMC's changes. The delay in

implementing it is what has caused the problems, and was quite iniquitous.

This delay was part of the proposals as put before Parliament.

Rent Increases: Mr Hall attributes these not only to changes in the law of tenancy but also to "provisions of the single market". What provisions? Guest beers? Yep! The MMC boobed again!

In the past, rents were subsidised by hidden surcharges on the beer price - there was even a special term for it, "Wet-rent". This is no longer possible, so we have:

Price Increases: The post-MMC reorganisations have resulted in the separation of brewing and real-estate activities, in some cases by the creation of new companies. Each now must be profitable in its own right, whereas before, in adverse conditions one could lean on the other. The introduction of guest beers has further separated these profit centres, in some cases causing a drop in both brewing and property income. Prices have gone up as a result and again the MMC is responsible.

Maybe some of these changes were inevitable, but they would all have happened more slowly, and we would have had time to adjust and correct.

Evolution is better than Revolution.

I'm not at all sure that it is fair to say that "Big brewers are rapacious and greedy". They are capitalists certainly, and legally and morally bound to maximise profits for their shareholders, but are they worse than smaller brewers or ball-bearing manufacturers or estate agents or foreign brewers?

Take a deep breath and repeat after me...

CAMRA BOOBED!

Magnus Portentous

MUCH ADD ABOUT NOTHING

Sir - My article about the Shakespeare which incurred the wrath of Rhys Jones (letters, Dec WD) was not intended to be a criticism of anyone, merely a wry reflection on how campaigns can become sterile. It is precisely because I see pubs as part of their locale that I question the value of attempting to save a pub which is wanted by nobody. If the Shakespeare were to be spared, what future does Rhys envisage for it? You don't have to go far in the inner city to see dozens of pubs which are closed or derelict. Many of them are of greater merit than the Shakespeare - for example, the Crown & Kettle and the Pack Horse. Yet they closed for economic reasons. It is one

thing to campaign against the short-sightedness of planners or the hare-brained schemes of architects when they concern a viable pub, but quite a different matter to fight the economic conditions which bring about the demise of inner city pubs.

Poverty, planning blight, brewery monopolies and changing social customs all play a part in the process of pub closure. They can be campaigned against, but in a way which demands more subtlety and finesse than the knee-jerk reactions which serve well in battles of the other kind. Ensuring the retention of our stock of public houses is crucial to our campaign, but we must use strategies appropriate to our purpose. Discussions with planners, highway engineers, councillors and MPs can be just as much a campaign as manning the barricades or headlines in the local press.

Roger Hall

ALTRINCHAM ALES UPDATE

Sir - The Stamford Arms, Bowdon, has dropped Cains as a guest beer in favour of Theakstons best bitter. The pub also serves draught Grolsch for people like me who are convinced that any drinkable lager in this country has to be imported. (Having done such a wonderful job on real ale, can't CAMRA do something about the 'orrible artificial stuff which British brewers have the nerve to compare with Continental lagers and PILS?)

The introduction of draught Bass at the Navigation Hotel, Broadheath, proved to be a short-lived experiment. It's gone. "No demand," said the bar staff. Hardly surprising, when it was never advertised and even the tap it came out of was anonymous!

Promotions Dept: The Cheshire Cheese in Broadheath, a Boddingtons house, is offering OB bitter at 99p a pint. And in Altrincham, the Wheatsheaf has Websters Pennine Bitter, also at 99p.

Wishing all your pedestrian readers a very Merry Christmas.

Geoff Atkins

PS. I enjoyed Robin Pendragon's saga on real ale in France, but in the section on wine I think he must have had a bit too much of the grape juice! "Le Piat d'Or," available in Calais and Boulogne supermarkets, "at a modest FF70.00 a throw," it said. That's over seven quid a bottle, or double the UK price! I think ten francs may be nearer the mark. But I'm sure we're agreed that Le Piat d'Or is a highly over-rated, very ordinary bottle of plonk, which clever marketing and heavy advertising has persuaded the gullible British public to shell out well over three quid a bottle for. They should stick to Tesco's, where there is a wide range of very drinkable table wines at under £2.50 a bottle.

PRICES

Sir - May I suggest that local CAMRA branches start 1992 with a campaign against overcharging in pubs? These places should be boycotted by members and omitted from all beer guides. One contender for such action must be a free house in Salford where Crouch Vale Willie Warmer (a 1060 beer) was on sale for £2.04 a pint in November. It must be the dearest pint of mid-gravity beer in the country. Most of the "normal" bitters, with gravities around 1040-1045, were over £1.40 a pint. And that was before the latest round of price increases.

Paul Roberts

GOOD BEER GUIDE

Yes, I know, the ink's hardly dry on the 1992 GBG and we're up and surveying for 1993. Surveys need to be completed by 13th March, so if you'd like to have a pub considered, contact the local CAMRA branch. If you'd like to help or argue interminably about the respective merits of the Rat & Handbag and the Dockers Wedge, offer your services at a branch meeting.

ORDSALL BLUES

Since this time last year, two more Ordsall pubs have closed - the Greyhound and the Rovers Return. In the area bounded by Trafford Road, Regent Road and the river there are now only six pubs. Not so far away on Liverpool Street the Druids is also closed.

FULL CIRCLE

Remember the Saddle on King Street in Farnworth? It was once a good, busy Tetley pub and then, a few years ago, the place was gutted, sprayed pink and renamed Scandals. Now the builders are back and guess what? (Fill in the rest yourself - it's the same old story.)

TYLDESLEY

Skenners (ex Welcome Traveller) on Elliott Street, Tyldesley, is selling Lees bitter at 98p a pint, Ruddles best bitter and County. The pub is now open all day.

SHUT

Two Tetley pubs in Bolton are boarded up - the Albert on Derby Street and the Duke, Deane Road.

SHELF LIFE

Manchester City Council intend to convert the burned-out Bobbin in Beswick into a library.

NOW & THEN

Rob Magee

No.61

BRIDGEWATER HOTEL 197 Manchester Road Hollinwood

From 1836 Joel Carrington is listed in local trade directories as a wharfinger (wharf manager) for the Ashton Canal Company at Hollinwood. After sixteen or more years with the company, Joel must have fancied a change and in 1854 he applied for a publican's licence for a large house on Manchester Road, which was probably his home. The house was part of a collection of buildings on the corner of Chapel Road, at the northern end of the reservoir which fed the canal. The licence was granted and Joel called his new pub the Bridgewater Hotel.

Joel Carrington ran the hotel until 1862 and appears to have crossed the magistrates only once, in 1859, when they were told that he was hiring out boats on a Sunday. No doubt he was shopped by the vicar of St Margaret's, whose church overlooked the reservoir!

Joseph Cheetham was the next licensee, having come from the Railway & Commercial at Werneth. During his time there, the Garibaldi Lodge of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows was founded at the Bridgewater. David T Jones was the owner and licensee from 1879 to 1890 and he sold





out to Taylor's Eagle Brewery of Greenheys, Manchester. A survey of 1894 found the pub had five drinking rooms, four bedrooms, a bathroom, accommodation for travellers and stabling for six horses in an open yard. It was in good condition and repair.

The Bridgewater was a prominent hotel and so it has had some noteworthy landlords, such as Frank Wolstencroft (1924-27), chairman of the Licensed Victuallers' Association in 1925. By this time the Bridgewater had become a Holts pub. Taylor's Brewery was in difficulties in 1922 and so sold off some tied houses.

In the late 1960s it was decided that Hollinwood needed some redevelopment and a road widening scheme and so Compulsory Purchase Orders were issued in anticipation of a rush job. Today, nearly a quarter of a century later, quite a lot of the plan has been completed, except the road widening. The last of the buildings are now being demolished and, in the case of the Bridgewater, Holts have built a large modern pub well off the road and on the edge of the former canal reservoir, long since drained. The old Bridgewater closed in September 1991, when the new one opened, and it was demolished in the same month. The photo of the old pub was taken in 1972.

LANCASTER TAVERN

The Lancaster Tavern opened on December 5th in a former office block (part of the Refuge Building) at the junction of Whitworth Street and Princess Street, central Manchester. Beers are handpumped Tetley, Walker and Jennings bitter at £1.05 and Burton Ale at £1.30. Our reporter says the Burton Ale was not very good (or words to that effect) on his visit. The surroundings are of the "spartan nouveau" design, with the inevitable very loud music. Evening meals are served.



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BENT & BONGS BEER BASH



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FORMBY HALL, ATHERTON

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OPENING TIMES

THURSDAY 23rd - 6.00 pm to 11.15 pm

FRIDAY 24th - 6.00 pm to 11.15 pm

SATURDAY 25th - 12.00 pm to 4.00 pm AND 7.00 pm to 11.00 pm

HOLTS PRICES

As expected, Holts increased their beer prices by a modest 4p a pint at the beginning of December. This represents just under 5%, well in line with inflation. The managed house price is now 88p for bitter, 83p for mild. Only the government - via the budget next March - could increase it further.

As we go to press, we hear that Holts are looking at another pub in the Oldham area. Details as and when.

BULLS HEAD REFIT

The Bulls Head (Whitbread) in the centre of Walkden is undergoing another refit. It is thought that the place will become an "over 21" club.

GREENALLS GONE

The Unicorn, Ford Lane, Pendleton, is no longer a Greenalls pub and Tetleys is now on sale there. Over in Bolton, the Victoria on Bridgeman Street also sells Tetley bitter. The mild is keg.

LAUREL & HARDY

Members of local branches, or "tents", of the Sons of the Desert, the Laurel & Hardy Appreciation Society, will be celebrating Ollie's centenary in fine style on Saturday 18th January. At 12 noon they will be visiting Brendan Dobbin's Kings Arms, C-on-M. There they will partake of draught versions of the commissioned bottled beers, Laurel Light and Hardy Heavy. Then they will head for the Cornerhouse Cinema for a Saturday afternoon matinee of the boys' films. However, as the Flea & Firkin is en route and the Full Mash Magical Mild is only 75p a pint, some sociable absenteeism is expected!

Catching a train from Oxford Road after four o'clock, the Stan & Ollie fans will make for Stockport and descend upon the Stanley Arms to enjoy Stan's Mild and Ollie's Mild, as brewed by the Ryburn Brewery.

The beer adventures end at seven, when they board a coach to take them to the Centenary Banquet in Widnes, organised by the North West Tents. All who like Laurel & Hardy will be most welcome on the Saturday afternoon and early evening tour.

For further information ring Chris Coffey on 0744 817130

FOOTNOTE: Each "tent" is named after a Laurel & Hardy film. One such tent, "Blotto" of Droylsden, hopes to be in a Manchester free house when the new Franklins premium ale is available, just for the headlines in tent magazines: "BLOTTO blotto on 'BLOTTO'!"

rupert

I think football clubs have probably got it right. If, by some quirk of fate, Slumley Academicals end up at Wembley, then you're not going to get a Cup Final ticket unless you've built up a bit of credit by turning up on foggy November nights to watch third rate league matches against Polperro or Tower Hamlets reserves. I really believe that our inns and taverns should do the same. After all, I spend all year being dragged into sordid hostleries in every part of our fair city. From January to November every single one of them is deserted. Impecunious landlords stand shivering in Fagin gloves and even topless mud wrestling, wet underpants competitions and strip karaoke evenings will not wrench the miserable bastards who form much of our population from their Mon Repos and Dunboozins.

And then what happens come December? Yes, that's right. It's office party time and every unprepossessing tavern is crammed with screaming amateurs who think there's no tomorrow and want to drink for England. Fresh from their offices, where they've photocopied their arses and faxed them to Melbourne, they come tumbling into our pubs wearing silly hats, blowing feather trumpets and groping one another to fuel their masturbatory dreams. And the

likes of us who have a god-given right to be miserable if we want can't get a bloody drink.

And what do the landlords and landladies do, them who've been like death all year? They turn into sycophantic drooling toadies, ignore their regulars and smarm to the ephemeral parvenus who have deigned to grace their establishments. Scrooge was bloody right.

It's fortunate that some of us have found better things to do. Rather than fight for a half of Drabs, a number of us spent Yuletide at a mountain retreat with crates of Ould Throbbers Barley Wine. We have successfully stitched up the Regional Meetings so that small branches won't have a say and will be dictated to by Oberst Wilhelm Super. Billy Bogg and Billy Shippon also spent some time stitching up the 1993 Slumley AGM. All the jobs with kudos have been given out to their mates. All that remains to be done now is to give this fait accompli the semblance of democracy by announcing a meeting to discuss the AGM and then vote themselves in and get it endorsed by the emasculated Region. Sensible, really. Referring to the two Billys as Stitch up and Stuffem is cruel and unhelpful.

Contributors to this issue: Rob Magee, Paul Roberts, Peter Barnes,
Roger Hall, Keith Egerton, Frank Heaton, Andy Davies, Stewart Revell,
Bert Kerks, Bill Collier, Tony Sibson, Terry Batty



Branch Diary

WIGAN

Wed 15 Jan 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Beer Engine, Poolstock Lane.
Contact: Brian Gleave, Atherton 876200 (w), 840658 (h)

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thur 2 Jan 8pm, Committee Meeting, Queens Arms, Red Bank, Manchester
Thur 9 Jan 8pm, Hale Survey. Starting at Silks (Bowden Hotel Bar), then the Railway, Cheshire Midland, Tatton, Bakers Arms
Thur 16 Jan 8pm, Branch Meeting at the Melville, Urmston
Fri-Sun 17th-19th Jan, Branch weekend trip to Oxford. Details from contact
Thur 23 Jan 8pm, City Centre Survey, starting at City, then Vine, Tommy Ducks, Britons Protection and the Pev.
Thurs 30 Jan 8pm, Sale Survey, starting at the Carters Arms, then Legh, Temple, Sale Hotel, Brooklands Tap, Railway
Thurs 6 Feb 8pm, Committee Meeting, Orange Tree, Altrincham
Contact: Allan Glover, 061 962 9890 (h), 061 872 2373 (w)

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 8 Jan, Committee/Social. Crumpsall, Bury Old Road, 7.30; Egerton, Hanlon Street, 8.30.
Sun 12 Jan, Great North Western Beer and Cider Festival, Arden Arms, Stockport, 12.30pm
Wed 18 Jan 8pm, Branch Meeting, Royal Oak, Eccles
Tues 21 Jan 8.15, Brewery Action Group meeting, Castle, Oldham Street
Wed 22 Jan 7pm, Broadway, Salford; Welcome, 8pm; finish Bricklayers, Ordsall Lane.
Wed 29 Jan, Peel Green & Patricroft. Unicorn 7pm, Grapes 7.30, Packet House 8pm.
Sat 1 Feb, noon. Regional Meeting, Queens, Honey Street, Manchester
Wed 5 Feb, Clifton. 7pm Robin Hood, 8pm Oddfellows, 9pm Lord Nelson.
Wed 12 Feb 8pm, Good Beer Guide shortlisting meeting, Moulders Arms, Heyrod Street, Ancoats.
Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 7 Jan 8pm, Good Beer Guide 1993 selection meeting. Tap & Spile, Hope Street, Rochdale. All welcome
Tues 21 January 8pm, Committee meeting, Royal, Rochdale Road, Buersil, Rochdale
Tues 4 February 8pm, Branch Meeting, Napier, Bolton Street, Bury
Contact: B Lee, 061 766 6601 (w), 0706 824407 (h)

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