

WHAT'S DOING

MARCH
1992



THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

BURTONWOOD MOVE IN



Burtonwood Brewery are leasing 142 pubs in England and Wales from Allied. The ones in Greater Manchester are:

MANCHESTER AREA

Clayton Arms, North Road, Clayton

Grey Mare, Varley Street, Miles Platting

Hilltop, Heaton Park Road, Manchester 9

Millstone, Blackley New Road, Blackley

Moulders Arms, Heyrod Street, Ancoats

Smiths Arms, Sherratt Street, Ancoats

SALFORD AREA

Albert Vaults, Chapel Street, Salford
Brewery Tavern, Adelphi Street, Salford
Pied Piper, Broadwalk, Salford
Lion, Liverpool Road, Cadishead
Spinners, Liverpool Road, Patricroft

WIGAN AREA

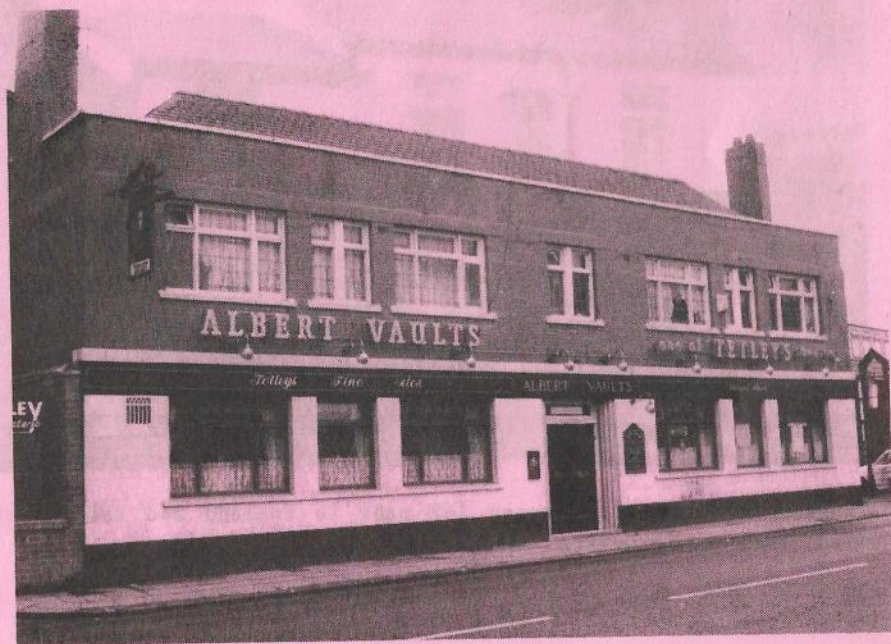
Bush, Belle Green Lane, Higher Ince
Imperial, Manchester Road, Higher Ince
Victoria, Liverpool Road, Platt Bridge

LEIGH

Fleece, Westleigh Lane
Railway, Westleigh Lane

OLDHAM AREA

Medlock Tavern, Crime View



Contributors to this issue: Mike Robinson, Roger Hall, Dave White,
Stewart Revell, Rob Magee, Ron Ricketts, Brian Gleave, Ian Kenny.

WIGAN & DISTRICT

Dave White

Pubs in Wigan are closing left, right and centre. The latest to fall includes the ANDERTON ARMS, Ince Green Lane, Higher Ince. This Thwaites pub has featured in the Good Beer Guide over the years and has rejoiced in the nickname of "The Long Neck" since a landlord of days gone by hanged himself!

Another pub that appears to be boarded up is the KING WILLIAM on Walthew Lane, Platt Bridge. I say "appears to be" because this keg Tetley pub is so rough, it's difficult to tell if it is closed or not!

Following renovation (WD Dec 91), cask mild has returned to the COMMERCIAL HOTEL, Heath Road, Ashton in Makerfield, and a recent visit to this Burtonwood pub revealed the beer to be in fine fettle. A pity, then, that Ashton centre has little going for it, with the keg-only outlets outnumbering the cask by six to five. The other watering holes are the BAY HORSE, EAGLE & CHILD (both Greenalls); KINGS ARMS (Walkers), and ROBIN HOOD (Boddies/free).

In brief: the GOLDEN LION, Atherton Road, Hindley Green, has come up with a first for the district in the form of Websters Green Label; Ruddles best bitter is also on sale...the full Burtonwood range is available again at the CHASERS BAR of Haydock Park Racecourse. Take plenty of cash, though: a pint of mild will set you back £1.35.

It's pleasing that this column has triggered off a countrywide search for revolving doors and what-not. Readers will doubtless be fascinated to learn that the BARLEY MOW in Warrington boasts a stuffed grizzly bear in the lounge. Happy hunting!

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: 15p per copy. Send stamped addressed envelope to Roger Hall, address above.

To join CAMRA send £10 to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW.

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LETTERS



DO YOU KNOW YOUR PUBS?

Sir - If I were to ask the stereotypical Mancunian CAMRA member to name a Hydes pub near the city centre I expect that he/she would suggest the Jolly Angler. If I were to ask for a pub on Portland Street, my guess is that the Circus Tavern would be mentioned. The Jolly Angler is, of course, in useful proximity to Piccadilly Station and the Circus is the smallest pub in the city. There is also a house that satisfies both my criteria - the Grey Horse on Portland Street.

Similarly, if the question were to name a pub serving a selection of ales, then my stereotype might well lift his/her eyes to the inner end of Rochdale Road. When asked to name a Whitbread house, Mother Mac's may spring to mind. Again, a pub that meets both conditions exists - the Crown & Anchor on Hilton Street.

Any reasonable tour of the city centre, organised for the benefit of a stranger, would surely include both the Crown & Anchor and the Grey Horse. Neither pub, however, seems to be mentioned over-frequently in CAMRA publications.



I am not seeking to heap unnecessary praise on either or both of these pubs. They are, as Mr Kershaw would say, "trading well", which says a great deal.

A lot of CAMRA members have their favourite pubs, which they visit frequently, and they neglect others which are not on their regular circuit. My concern is that CAMRA branches may not know their pubs as well as they would like to think and, as the time to select next year's Good Beer Guide entries approaches, it is not a happy state of affairs.

The next time you pop out, don't visit your local, try the Crown & Anchor, the Grey Mare or some other pub that is off your well beaten tracks. You may have a pleasant surprise.

D Busman

ROSES ROUND THE DOOR

Sir - Rhys Jones asks (Feb WD) why a licensee should spend £60,000 on what has turned out to be a dead loss. Well it's not unusual for individuals to be tempted by a pub and to sink their life savings into premises which are unlikely ever to be successful. The brewers don't exactly discourage it, either. The increasing rate of licence transfers is a testament to the vulnerability of licensees and stories of moonlight flits provide anecdotal confirmation. This rose-tinted idea of the pub as a thatched haven with log fires and horse brasses is known in the trade as "roses round the door".

Roger Hall

REVOLVING SNOOKER TABLES

Sir - Roger Wood (WD Feb) is right. There is still a revolving door in use at the Crofters (now called Magees) on St Georges Road in Bolton.

The Junction at Middleton Junction (Steve & Anne's letter, same issue) has a snooker table but does this place really count? Until a few years ago the building was a Conservative Club and J W Lees turned it into a pub when the original Junction closed.

Pedantic Pete

Sir - What's got 10,000 men and an eight-legged table? The Duke of York, I'm reliably informed, has a full size billiard table. With thirteen Holts pubs in Eccles, I've had neither the money nor the inclination to find out if it's true. Perhaps one of our less impecunious readers could check this out.

Reliable Ronnie

HANDY HINT

Sir - What to do with the remains of the plastic bottles of supermarket beer you bought when your husband/wife's sister-in-law/uncle/cousin/long lost chum came round:

Cut the bottom off the bottle. (Pour the left-over beer into a cup first.) Sink the bottle-bottom into your garden with the rim about level with the soil. Fill it with left-over beer. In the morning you'll find it populated with very dead slugs with beatific smiles on their faces. A nice way to go.

We have two slugs in our garden with iron constitutions and bellies to match, who merely imbibe and go away, to munch the lettuce another day. I have christened them Beinlos and Charlie Bass. But the trap gets most of them.

Mr Middleton

PRATT

Did anybody see the BBC2 Food and Drink programme the other week? One Roger Protz was seen comparing draught beer with various canned beers. Those featured included Guinness, Boddingtons and Burton Ale.

While arriving at the correct conclusion - that canned beer does not taste as good as draught beer - presenter Jill Goulden made the usual mistake of assuming that the entire world revolves around the south of England. The price of a pint may be extortionate in Jill's local, but up in Manchester (a grimy city somewhere north of Watford) it is still possible to buy a pint of Joseph Holts mild for 83p and bitter for 87p.

Four cans of Boddingtons' "draught bitter" cost £3.99 in a supermarket and each can contains only 440ml, therefore the actual price per pint is £1.28. Most pubs in Manchester sell the real stuff for less than this price, so does Jill Goulden really think that we are going to stay at home and drink canned beer?

HANDPUMPS

Handpumps are being installed at the Newmarket in Pendlebury (Holts).

BARGAIN OF THE MONTH

Anybody got £450,000 to spare? That's the asking price for the Cathedral Arches, the restaurant/bar under the old Exchange Station Approach.

BOOTHSTOWN BAR

Property developers have applied to turn an old farm on Vicars Hall Lane, Boothstown, into licensed premises. The good folk of Boothstown are not exactly pleased about the prospect of another one of those awful restaurant/pub joints in their midst.

THE STATION

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We're open all day ~

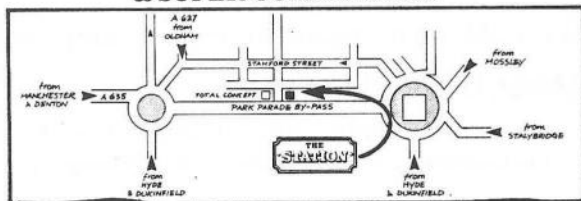
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Pendle Witch

Hilden Ale

Crouch Vale Bitter

Shepherd Neame
Spittfire

Felinfoel
Double Dragon

Double Dagger

Batemans
Victory Ale

NOW & THEN

by Rob Magee

No.63

UP STEPS

21 High Street, Oldham

At the beginning of the nineteenth century an ancient hostelry called the Nags Head was pulled down, probably so that Yorkshire Street could be completed. The last landlord was Edward Abbot and in 1805 he obtained a licence for a wine vaults in a building on High Street next to the old parish vicarage, formerly the residence of one Thomas Fawcett. Richard Fawcett (his son) became the second licensee in 1808. Liquor merchant Jonathan Schofield was the tenant from around 1817 until the 1840s, although a survey of 1829 does not mention a vaults at the property.

When David Boardman took over in the early 1860s the house was given a name, Up Steps, although it was often referred to as "Boardman's



Vaults". It was first listed at 21 High Street, was extended into No.23 in the 1870s and became an Oldham Brewery pub in 1891. A few years later a survey found that Up Steps had three drinking rooms, two bedrooms, no bathroom, no yard, no stabling and no accommodation for travellers - not much to offer, really!

The last licensee of Up Steps was Harry Holland, who took over in 1934. In the following February the police objected to the licences of nine pubs and beerhouses. Six of the properties were deemed to be "structurally deficient and unsuitable" and Up Steps was one of these. At the licensing meeting, Oldham Brewery's solicitor said that "some people like an old fashioned and plain public house". There had been no complaints or convictions concerning the pub and it was in a good state of repair. Trade was good - 313½ barrels and 2,445 bottles of beer a year. It was to no avail - the police got their way and Up Steps closed on 9th July 1935. Harry Holland received £500 in compensation.

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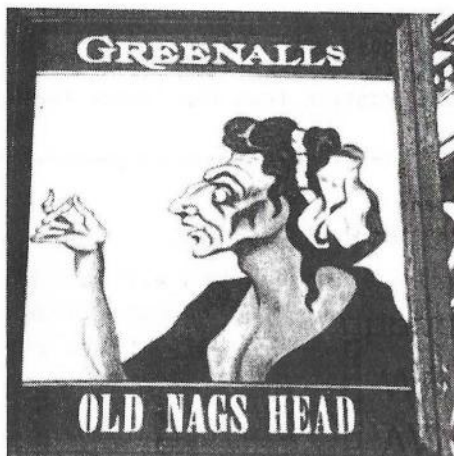
5 shaw hall bank rd. greenfield, oldham ol3 7jz

THERE'S MORE TO A PUB THAN ITS ALE

Ron Ricketts

I can remember drinking beer when it was only 5d a pint (1939), but it is only in the last couple of years that I have taken any notice of the name of a pub and its sign.

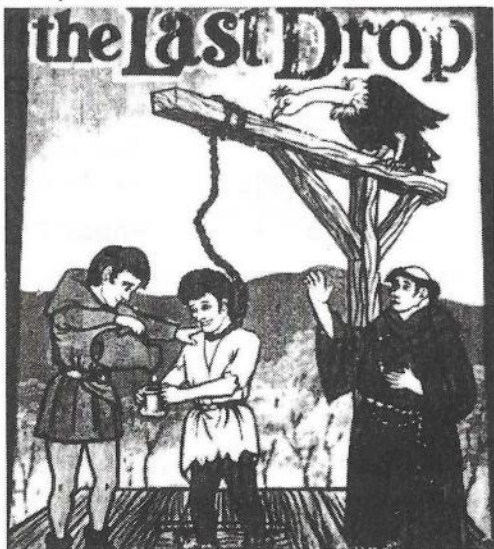
While I was trying out a new camera I photographed, amongst other things, the signs outside some local pubs and that was the start of what has become a hobby and almost an obsession.



The practice of depicting the purpose of a building on a sign goes back at least to Roman times, when terra-cotta relief drawings were let into pilasters at the side of open shop fronts. In the Middle Ages, when the majority of the population was illiterate, trade signs proliferated. Sometimes they were so badly fixed to walls that they were a hazard to passers-by and eventually a law was passed to restrict their size. Most trade signs have disappeared, except

those for inns. These signs progressed from simple designs to elaborate paintings, sometimes executed by well-known artists. The names of the inns themselves also became more varied and while most are commonplace - there are more Red Lions than any other name - some are very obscure.

It is a fascinating subject in itself to try and trace the origins of some of these names, but to me the most interesting aspect of the subject is the way different artists have chosen to illustrate the same name. This can often lead to visual jokes, of which there are a number of examples in the North West.



The Nags Head is a common pub name, usually illustrated by a horse's head. However, in Jacksons Row, Manchester, the sign shows the head of a woman that no dedicated imbiber would ever want to go home to. There is a pub called the Last Drop in Edinburgh and the name is said to refer to the last drink taken by Covenanters before they were hanged. As far as I am aware there was never a gallows near the Last Drop in Bolton, but it has a well "executed" sign. This shows a man about to be hanged, a vulture perched on the gallows and the last drop of ale being poured from a jug.

There are many more interesting signs in the area and while I can't claim that looking at them will improve the taste of the beer, it does make a change as a subject of conversation from the latest football score or what won the 3.30.



OLDHAM BEER FESTIVAL

The 6th Oldham Beer Festival will take place at the Werneth Park Music Room, Frederick Street, Werneth, from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th April. Opening hours are:

Friday 6.00pm - 11.00pm

Saturday 11.00am - 4.00pm, 6.00pm - 11.00pm

Sunday 12.00 noon - 3.00pm

There will be over thirty real ales and ciders, foreign bottled beers and wine. Entertainment on Friday and Saturday evening. Food available at all sessions.

Admission is £1.50 evenings, 50p lunchtimes. Free entry to current CAMRA members. Proceeds to the Mayor of Oldham's Charity Appeal.

BONNET AND DOWN

An application has been made to turn the burnt out Hat & Feathers on Varley Street, Miles Platting, into a day nursery.

ANOTHER ONE GONE

The Griffin on Lower Broughton Road in Salford is now boarded up. The problems of running pubs in Salford seem to be spreading outwards from the inner city. Several pubs in Pendleton have experienced serious difficulties and some remain closed, including the Lowry, the Feathers and Sports.

BEINLOS ABROAD

Paul Roberts

By the time you read this I'll be enjoying the amber nectars of Munich, where I have taken up temporary residence. As an introduction to a series of articles on the delights of Bavarian boozing, I thought I'd start with Munich's Hofbräuhaus...



The Hofbräuhaus claims to be the most famous pub in the world, and judging from the cosmopolitan nature of its clientele, this is probably quite true. First a brief history:

1589 Herzog Wilhelm V founded the Hofbräuhaus (literally "court brewery") but at first no beer was produced there - the stuff was imported from Einbeck in North Germany.

1591 A brewhouse was built and a brown beer was produced for consumption by the local court.

1604 Beer was exported to the nobility of Landshut, Straubing and Regensburg.

1610 For the first time the beer was sold to local pubs and so the common folk could drink it.

1614 A type of beer similar to that supplied from Einsbeck was produced - the forerunner of bock beers.

1897 The brewery moved to new premises at Wienerstrasse, about a mile away.

1945 Sixty percent of the Wienerstrasse brewery was destroyed by Allied bombing. The Hofbräuhaus itself was badly damaged.

1958 More or less completely rebuilt in the original style.

1963 Top fermented "Weizenbier" produced for the first time for three centuries.

End 1988 The brewery moved again to a modern complex not far from the airport. Its capacity is 4½ million gallons.

The present-day Hofbräuhaus covers an area of 35,000 square feet and over 200 staff serve the equivalent of up to 18,000 pints a day. The total seating capacity is 4,500 in a labyrinth of rooms.

The Schwemme on the ground floor is the main tourist part of the building and seats 1,300 people. In summer and at Oktoberfest times 1,299 of these appear to be Americans and Australians. At the back of the Schwemme is the Stadelheim (literally a barn or shed). It appears that in pre-war years a local prison was known as the Stadelheim and

as the warders used to congregate in that part of the Hofbräuhaus, the name Stadelheim was given to it.

A large beer garden adjoins the Schwemme, as does the main kitchen. This had the largest cooker in the world until modern catering equipment was installed. In the corridor by the kitchen are the Masskrug (litre pot) lockers, where 424 locals can store their pots. Owning a locker here is something of a status symbol.

On the first floor is the Wappensaal, named after the "wappen" (coats of arms) which adorn the walls. Next door is the Trinkstube, for weddings and other functions. The Weihstephaner Stube holds 40 people and is named after nearby Weistephan, home of the world's oldest brewery and famous brewing university. Schöfflerstuben is a former student hostel, incorporated into the Hofbräuhaus in October 1971. Two other famous rooms on the first floor are the Jägerstüberl, with its hunting trophies, and the larger Fischerstube, with its fishing trophies.

On the second floor is the very impressive Festaal, a 1,000-seater hall with a large stage where "Bavarian Evenings" are put on in summer and at other peak times. It is certainly worth the DM7 entrance fee, if only to escape the loud Americans and Australians in the Schwemme. The Hofbräuhaus has one more room - the Eskerzimmer, overlooking the famous Platzl Square.



The Hofbräuhaus is a unique institution and despite its prime location and popularity offers the best value food and drink of any Munich beer hall. So next time you're in the beer drinkers' capital of the world, visit the upstairs part, especially the Festsaal.

DEANSgate DOOR SECURITY

The Sawyers may be serving a decent pint again in what looks a bit more like a pub than it did, but why the plethora of doorpersons sitting on barstools, sipping tea and staring goggle-eyed, along with most of the clientele, at Blind Date on the telly? Do we really need bouncers in ordinary pubs?

HOLTS NEWS

It was reported in these pages a couple of months ago that Holts had applied for an on-licence and planning permission for a pub on the corner of Portland Street and Princess Street in Manchester. Well, the licence has been refused. Holts are considering what to do next.

There have been, or are in progress, a number of licensee changes. The Crown & Anchor in Manchester has a new licensee from one of the Irlams o'th'Height pubs. The Sabre in Ordsall has a new manager and Peter Abell is leaving the Grafton for a pub in Stockport.

BULL

The licensee of the Bulls Head in Walkden has contacted us to say that there is no truth in Jan WD's story that the pub is to become an "over 21" club.

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rupert

And so the Campaign celebrates its coming of age. The difficulties of early growth and the pubescent traumas of the early 80s have been overcome and the Campaign has emerged as a mature and professional body ready to fight at the drop of a cloth cap for the interests of the amber nectar lover everywhere. Early doyens of the Campaign have progressed to become internationally acclaimed pundits, scribes and business magnates. What could be more appropriate than that this milestone should be celebrated by the production and sale of commemorative memorabilia and the organization of a series of self-congratulatory jollies and junkets? St Allballs have not let us down. They have done just that.

Perhaps in recognition of the ageing profile of Campaign stalwarts, the portfolio of products differs somewhat from the mundane sweatshirts and T-shirts of yesteryear. Among the items which the proud member can now purchase to proudly display his or her dedication to the cause are cummerbunds (XXXL and XXXXL), monogrammed bricks from defunct beer factories, incontinence pads, Zimmer frames, spats, monocles, prostate and liver transplant operation certificates and stuffed miniature dray horses. To reflect the wealth of the

membership, slap-up feasts will be held at the Hotel de Posh in the Smoke, so the sensibilities of the membership will not be affronted by having to throw pie and mushy peas down their throats, washed down by a gallon of Drabs in some backstreet Grotley hovel.

Although national heroes are often unsung in the village of their birth, sometimes being viewed as traitors to their heritage, it nevertheless comes as a great surprise to me that Grotley members are not best pleased with their bosses at St Allballs. Fiona and Tish planned to go to one of the beanfeasts, slip some Ecstasy in the Chateau Latour and sign up what they referred to as the besuited has-beens for a sado-masochist snuff movie in a fermenting vessel. Bunty was all for setting off down the M1 with a pair of dray horses which Messrs Shame and Dibdaughter would need rectal surgery to remove. I have been prevented by peer group pressure from purchasing some very collectable articles and from attending the odd fifty guinea dinner in the metropolis. I've had to settle for the same old diet of a crawl round the sordid hostleries of Grotley, where the Campaign began, in the company of silly folk who won't grow up.

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Branch Diary

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Sun 1 March 12.00. Lunchtime social, Royal Oak, Heights, Delph
Tues 3 March 8pm, Branch Meeting, Moulders Arms, Milnrow Road, Shaw
Tues 10 March 8pm, Social Evening, Bridgewater, 197 Manchester Road, Hollinwood, Oldham
Weds 11 March, Evening trip to Lees Brewery. Numbers limited. Tel. Alan Whitehead for details on 061 628 3218
Tues 17 March 8pm, Committee Meeting, Waggon Inn, Butterworth Hall, Milnrow, Rochdale.
Tues 7th April 8pm, Branch Meeting, Wishing Well, 89 York Street, Heywood
Contact: B Lee 061 766 6601 (w), 0706 824407 (h)

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 4 March, Irlams o'th'Height: Dog & Partridge 7pm, Waggon & Horses 7.30pm
Wed 11 March, GOOD BEER GUIDE FINAL SELECTION: Kings Arms, Salford. Assemble 7.30pm. Voting starts at 8pm
Wed 18 March, Branch AGM, Crescent, 7.30pm
Wed 25 March, Pendleton & Brunswick Crawl. Church, Ford Lane, 7pm; Unicorn, Broughton Road, 8pm.
Wed 1 April, All Fools Tram Trip to Besses o'th'Barn. Meet Crown & Anchor (Holts), Cateaton Street, Manchester, at 7pm.
Wed 8 April, Committee/Social, Ashley Brook, Seedley, 8pm.
Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thur 5 March 8pm, Committee Meeting, Orange Tree, Altrincham
Thur 12 March 8pm, Urmston Survey, starting at the Station 7.30pm, then Church 8pm, Roebuck 8.45pm, Nelson 9.15pm and Manor Hey 10pm.
Sat 14 March (lunchtime), Branch visit to Wigan Beer Festival. Details from branch contact.
Thurs 19 March 8pm, Branch Meeting, Railway, Broadheath
Thur 26 March 8pm, Dunham Survey. Starting at Saracens Head, then Rope & Anchor for 9pm, Vine at 10pm.
Thurs 2 April 8pm, Committee Meeting and Cornbrook survey. Starting at Pomona Palace, then visiting the Cornbrook, the Hope and the Toll Gate
Thur 9 April 8pm, City Centre crash survey: City Road Inn 8pm prompt, Pack Horse 8.30pm, Crown 9pm, Britons Protection 9.30pm, Pev 10.15pm.
Contact: Allan Glover 061 962 9890 (h) 061 428 7930 (w)

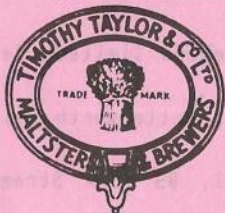
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Mon:	12.00-4.00	7.00-11.00
Tues:	12.00-4.00	7.00-11.00
Weds:	12.00-11.00	
Thur:	12.00-11.00	
Fri:	12.00-11.00	
Sat:	12.00-4.00	7.00-11.00

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