

WHAT'S DOING

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THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S NEWSLETTER

MANCHESTER BEER EXHIBITION



Manchester may soon have its first full-scale real ale exhibition. Negotiations are under way between members of Camra and the management of the Royal Exchange Theatre about the possibility of using the building for the sale of a variety of cask conditioned beers.

The exhibition is likely to be held in late July, for about three days, and it is expected to attract a large proportion of lunchtime drinkers in the city!

MILD MAY, BITTER JUNE

It may come as a surprise to anyone in Greater Manchester that there are many parts of the country where mild is not available, but it was because of increasing difficulty of finding mild in some areas that Camra launched its Make May a Mild Month Campaign.

Before the war, mild tended to outsell bitter in many areas but its position has declined considerably since. Even in Greater Manchester, mild now accounts for less than 20% of total draught beer sales. The reasons for this are not difficult to recognise. Most of the advertising which we see is either for lager or for bitter. Strengths of beers is perpetually mentioned in advertisements as a desirable feature. The gravity or strength of beers has declined gradually over the last 30 or 40 years and many bitters nowadays are no stronger than some pre-war milds. Most of the new beers which have been introduced have been premium bitters or strong ales rather than lower gravity beers. These factors, coupled with the somewhat uninspiring image of mild have contributed to its decline in all areas and its complete disappearance in some.

Mild has many things to be said in its favour and its disappearance represents a loss of choice for the consumer. Mild is brewed in the same way as bitter. It is usually brewed from darker malts which are perhaps roasted. Caramel is sometimes added to give colouring to the beer and hops, which impart the bitter flavour, are used more sparingly. The beer is also brewed at a lower gravity; a figure of 1033 may be typical compared with 1038 for bitter.

Mild is usually a pleasant, tasty beer which can be drunk in reasonable quantities without after effects. As it is less alcoholic than bitter it contains fewer calories and is therefore less fattening, but anyone who's that concerned wouldn't be drinking beer anyway.

Local Camra branches, despite their efforts to publicise mild beer, have not been successful in making May a mild month. During May, two of the breweries operating in this area have restricted their sales of mild.

Sam Smiths of Tadcaster who were praised last year when they reintroduced cask conditioned beer west of the Pennines, have now withdrawn cask conditioned mild from all the outlets in which it was sold. Sam Smiths have spent a considerable amount of money buying and converting pubs and installing facilities for dispensing cask beer, including handpumps in many cases. Now, although the bitter is to remain as real ale, 4X mild will in future only be sold as a container beer.

Far more widespread in its effect is Greenalls decision to discontinue the brewing of light mild. Because the volume of light mild has dropped, it is now considered uneconomic to brew it. The dark mild is identical except for the caramel

*Magees Brewery, Bolton.
Taken over and closed
down by Greenall Whit-
ley in the 1960s, now
a bottle store for
Cambrian soft drinks.*



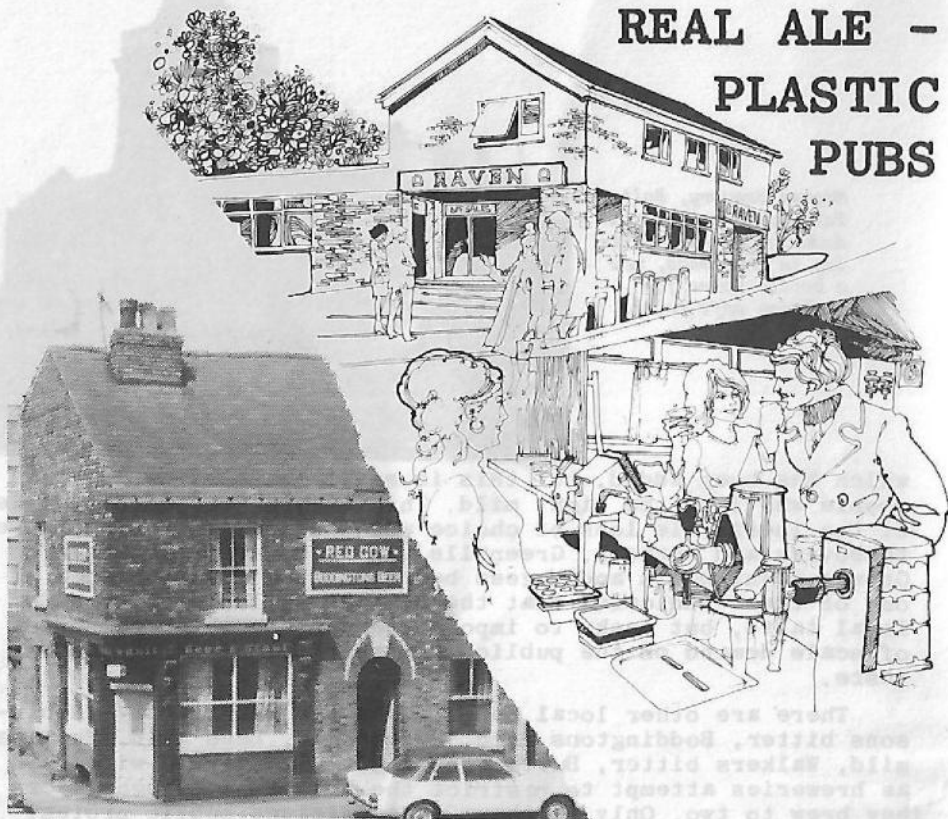
which has been added, but this is small consolation for the people who like the light mild. This is just one more example of the inevitable loss of choice which comes about from brewery takeovers and mergers. Greenalls two milds are remnants of Groves & Whitnalls and Magees beers and the disappearance of one of these indicates that the brewery no longer caters for local taste, but seeks to impose those brews which economies of scale demand on the public, irrespective of variations in taste.

There are other local beers which are vulnerable - Robinsons bitter, Boddingtons mild, Hydes mild, Lees mild, Thwaites mild, Walkers bitter, Burtonwood light mild may be withdrawn as breweries attempt to restrict the number of draught beers they brew to two. Only if there is sufficient public protest can the brewers be forced to supply what their customers demand rather than what it is convenient for them to manufacture. The loss of choice which the withdrawal of mild means is deplorable. The fact that Greenall Whitley continues to brew three draught beers at its Wem brewery, which brews only traditional beer, is a certain indictment of oversized breweries like Wilderspool, where consumer preference must be subservient to the economics of the production technology.



*The Windmill, Pendle-
bury. Traditional
draught mild and
bitter was re-intro-
duced here last May.
Now the 4X mild has
been taken off.*

REAL ALE - PLASTIC PUBS



"There's nothing which has yet been contrived by man, by which so much happiness is produced, as by a good tavern or inn."

Dr Johnson.

It was one of those rambling discussions which ambled from topic to topic along a general theme when up came a question of the 'have you stopped beating your wife', or rather of the 'would you rather be shot than hanged' variety. The question was 'Would you rather drink plastic beer in a real pub or real beer in a plastic pub?' Whilst the obvious response is 'neither' or 'I'll never need to make the choice', the question does make interesting discussion.

We are all members of Camra because we prefer real ale to those unpalatable alternatives, but is this the only thing about which we are concerned? Drinking beer is essentially a social activity and the public house offers an ideal environment for meeting friends and enjoying a wide variety of activities which emphasise this social aspect.

A good pub has a hard core of regulars which helps to

determine the atmosphere, but at the same time strangers will be made welcome without their feeling that they are intruding. A pub which caters exclusively for a particular class or section of society is unlikely to qualify, whether it's the city centre haunt of stockbrokers or the archetypal working man's pub.

Above all, the character of a pub is created by the personality of the landlord. The licensee has immense influence over the clientele which the pub attracts and hence over the atmosphere and conviviality of his establishment. I've not yet said anything about the building itself, around which much of the argument revolves. The landlord, the regulars and the welcome are all necessary but not sufficient in themselves to make a pub a good one.

That difficult to define element which makes the difference between an adequate and an excellent pub, lies in the nature of the building itself and the treatment of space within the pub. Possibly the best way of discovering what internal layouts are likely to help in the creation of atmosphere is by first of all examining those features which pubs lacking in atmosphere have in common.

Age in itself seems to confer personality on a pub. In the same way that steam trains, vintage cars, beam engines and windmills have more intrinsic interest than their modern counterparts, so an Elizabethan or Edwardian pub has a more immediate impact than a two year old estate pub. There is however a corollary. If people admire vintage Bentleys, brass oil lamps, scrubbed deal tables and wooden mangles at a distance they nevertheless drive new Ford Fiestas, use electric lights, sit at Formica topped tables and buy automatic washing machines. Is it also true that whilst people say they like old pubs that they actually prefer to sit in modern ones?

There is certainly some truth in this. You only have to look into any new Boddingtons pub to see the popularity of new pubs. But, before we form the conclusion that all old pubs must be replaced, it's worthwhile examining the reasons for the popularity of the new ones. Many new pubs are located in areas where there is no competition from old pubs. In Pendleton, for example, there is only one of the old pubs remaining on the Ellor Street site. When we remember that people like to frequent a local rather than travel miles it is little wonder that the occupants of the flats tend to congregate in the Woodman, the Woolpack, the Champion or the Brass Handles rather than cross Broad Street to the Church, the Unicorn, the Railway or the Priory or walk down to the Corporation, the Falcon, the Wellington or the Paddock on Cross Lane.

Where a new pub is competing with an older pub, it's not unusual to find that the old pub is run down and scruffy. Breweries seem willing to spend thousands on complete renovations but are less willing to spend hundreds on re-decorating a pub. The Vine and the Ark Royal in Collyhurst, the Wellington on the Height, The Mechanics Arms in Hightown

and the Golden Lion in Eccles are all extremely popular new pubs but when you take into account the pubs against which they are competing it is less surprising - the Junction and the Milan Inn in Collyhurst - the Waggon and Horses on the Height, The Waterloo in Hightown and the Royal Oak in Eccles.

Where new pubs are competing against well maintained old pubs their popularity is less marked. In Pendlebury the Windmill, the Albert and the Newmarket don't seem to have suffered because of the existence of the Wellington and the Lord Nelson.

New pubs are popular because the brewers have been very careful about where they've built them. It would be a brave brewer who built a new pub in an area well supplied with well maintained old ones. New pubs with their size and layout offer economies of operation to the brewers who can thus expect a greater return on their capital than from the older and smaller pubs that they've supplanted.



If new pubs are popular then they enjoy the same kind of popularity that television programmes like Crossroads and Celebrity Squares enjoy. They appeal to the lowest common denominator of taste. Thus, whilst few people are positively enthusiastic about new pubs, few are actively offended by them.

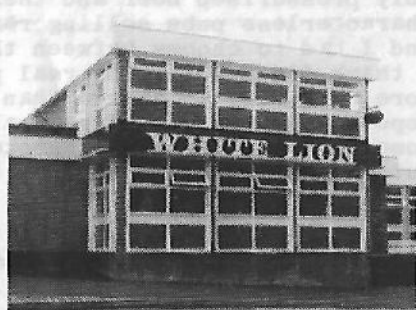
New pubs lack atmosphere for the following reasons. Economies of building mean that pubs are very similar to one another. These same constraints coupled with demands of the licensing magistrates and the police mean that a multi-roomed layout is out. Most new pubs consist of at the most two square rooms with a complete absence of corridors, alcoves, lobbies and hatches. Many breweries have tried to eradicate the vault, which is often the background of the social life of the pub.

Perhaps the greatest indictment of the modern pub is in the use of materials for both constructional and decorative purposes. Few modern pubs seem to bear any relationship to

the area in which they are built. Nor are they evidently pubs, they could as easily be clinics, schools, community centres or church halls. There is nothing inherently wrong with modern building materials but why do they have to pretend to be what they are not? Why does Formica have to look like wood or fibreglass like stone?

It is probably this use of alien materials which more than anything accounts for the lack of character of many new pubs. This is evident to an even greater extent in many converted pubs. Not only do many pub conversions use unsuitable materials but they also take little account of the architectural, structural or aesthetic characteristics of the original building. The result is quite frequently a bizarre marriage of the traditional and modern with the redeeming features of neither. Nor can character be built into a pub as is evidenced by conversions like the Wrecker or the Jules Verne.

What, then, would we expect of a pub which has this elusive 'character'? The pub will usually be old enough to have had the personality of more than one landlord imprinted on it; it will fit in with and be part of the community; there will be at least two rooms with a vault which is separated from but not separate from the the rest of the pub; the pub will be clean and well decorated in a manner which complements the original design of the pub; the fixtures and fittings will be in keeping with the character of the pub and there will be no juxtaposition of contrasting styles; above all the pub will be unique - it will not be one of a dozen identical pubs which could be almost anywhere. Of course, it goes without



saying that those other necessary elements will also be present - the caring landlord, the regulars and the mixed clientele.

Many North Manchester pubs can certainly be classified as good pubs - The Britons Protection, The Castle, The Jolly Angler, The Grosvenor, The Old House at Home, The Mile House, The Lamb, The Football, The White Swan, The White Lion (Little Hulton), The Beehive and The Old Veteran are a few selected from various parts of Manchester and Salford.

There is a close relationship between real pubs and pubs



selling real ale. Of course there are some pubs which are excellent in every way apart from the fact that they sell only pressurised beer and there is a growing number of characterless pubs selling real ale. If it came to the crunch and I had to choose between the two horrendous alternatives I think I'd opt for the real pub. Institutions are always more difficult to change than mere artefacts. I could always hope for the return of real ale. In any case it should never come to that. Camra will protect us from the death of real ale but who will protect us from the death of the good tavern or inn?

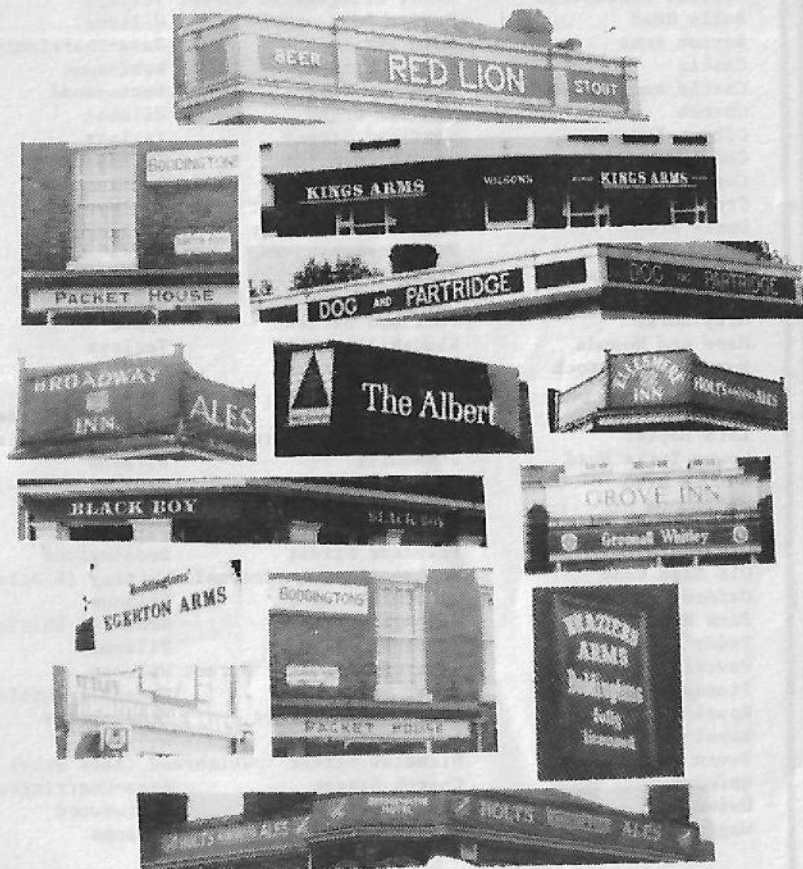
Roger Hall

PUB CRAWL

Stockport, Wednesday 6th July

7.00pm Blossoms	Robinsons	A6/Bramhall Lane
Star and Garter	Robinsons	Higher Hillgate
Golden Lion	Burtonwood	Middle Hillgate
8.30pm Black Lion	Boddingtons	Middle Hillgate
Gladstone	Tetley	Lower Hillgate
Spread Eagle	Robinsons	Lower Hillgate
Turners Vaults	Tetley	Lower Hillgate
George	Higsons	A6/Mersey Square

REAL ALE in MANCHESTER & SALFORD



This is a comprehensive list of all pubs selling traditional beer in the area covered by the North Manchester branch of Camra, correct to May 1977. H - handpumps; E - electric pumps; B - Bitter; BB - Best Bitter; M - Mild; BM - Best Mild.

CENTRAL MANCHESTER

Bolton Arms	New Bridge Street	Youngers (Scotch B)	H
Britannia Inn	Newton Street	Wilsons	H
Britons Protection	Great Bridgewater Street	Tetleys	H
Bulls Head	London Road	Wilsons	H
Burton Arms	Swan Street	Bass-Charrington	E
Castle	Oldham Street	Robinsons	H
Castle and Falcon	Bradshaw Street	Burtonwood	H
Church	Ardwick Green	Wilsons	H
Circus Tavern	Portland Street	Tetleys	H
Coach and Horses	London Road	Tetleys	H
Cox's Bar	Grand Central	Boddingtons	E
Crown	Great Ducie Street	Tetleys	H
Ducie Arms	Great Ducie Street	Boddingtons	H
Dutton Arms	Park Street	Hydes	E
George and Dragon	Bridge Street	Wilsons	E
Grenadier	Oldham Street	Wilsons	H
Grey Horse	Portland Street	Hydes	E
Hare and Hounds	Shudehill	Tetleys	E
Harp and Shamrock	New Mount Street	Marstons	H
King	Oldham Street	Tetleys	H
Lord Clyde	Chester Road	Greenall Whitley	E
Lord Napier	Great Jackson Street	Greenall Whitley	E
Lower Turks Head	Shudehill	Wilsons	H
Marble Arch	Rochdale Road	Wilsons	H
Millstone	Thomas Street	Wilsons	H
New York	Bloom Street	Wilsons	H
Old Garratt	Princess Street	Boddingtons	H/E
Old Nags Head	Jacksons Row	Greenall Whitley (B only)	E
Oxford	Oxford Street	Wilsons	H
Pack Horse	Deansgate	Greenall Whitley	E
Paddy's Goose	Bloom Street	Wilsons	E
Peveril of the Peak	Great Bridgewater Street	Wilsons	H
Pineapple	Water Street	Greenall Whitley	E
Royal Oak	Great Ducie Street	Boddingtons	H
Royal George	Lever Street	Wilsons	E
Seven Oaks	Nicholas Street	Whitbread (Bass only)	H
Unicorn	Church Street	Bass-Charrington	E
Union	Princess Street	Burtonwood	E
Waggon and Horses	Southgate	Wilsons	H

ECCLES

Bird in Hand	Liverpool Road	Holts	H
Black Boy	Liverpool Road	Wilsons	H
Bridgewater	Liverpool Road	Holts	H
Brown Cow	Worsley Road	Robinsons	E
Church Inn	Church Street	Wilsons	E
Crown and Volunteer	Church Street	Holts	H
Dog and Partridge	Church Street	Greenall Whitley	E
Dutton Arms	Barton Road	Boddingtons	H
Egerton Arms	Worsley Road	Boddingtons (BM)	H
Ellesmere Inn	King William Street	Holts	E
Ellesmere	Liverpool Road	Boddingtons	E
Fox Vaults	Church Street	Greenall Whitley	E
Golden Cross	Liverpool Road	Holts	H
Golden Lion	Barton Lane	Boddingtons (M & BM)	E
Grapes	Church Street	Wilsons	E
Grapes Hotel	Liverpool Road	Holts	H
Kings Head	Barton Lane	Boddingtons	E
Lamb	Regent Street	Holts	H
Oddfellows	Church Street	Boddingtons	E
Old Bulls Head	Church Street	Holts	H
Packet House	Liverpool Road	Boddingtons	H
Park Hotel	Monton Road	Holts	E
Queens Arms	Green Lane	Boddingtons	E
Railway	Church Street	Tetleys	E
Red Lion	Chapel Street	Boddingtons	H
Royal Oak	Barton Lane	Holts	H
Ship Canal	Barton Lane	Wilsons	E
Spinners Arms	Liverpool Road	Tetleys	E
Stanley Arms	Liverpool Road	Holts	H
Star Inn	Church Street	Greenall Whitley	E
Wellington	Church Street	Holts	H
White Lion	Liverpool Road	Holts	H

SWINTON AND PENDLEBURY

Albert Inn	Bolton Road	Boddingtons	H
Butchers Arms	Bolton Road	Thwaites	E
Cricketers Arms	Manchester Road	Holts	E
Farmers Arms	Manchester Road	Boddingtons	E
Football	Swinton Hall Road	Tetleys	H
Lord Nelson	Bolton Road	Holts	E
Morning Star	Manchester Road	Holts	E

BLACKLEY

The Alliance	Rochdale Road	Boddingtons	H
Britannia	Rayson Street	Bass-Charrington	H
Duke of Wellington	Weardale Road	Holts	H
Flying Horse	Crab Lane	Boddingtons	E
Fox	Old Market Street	Holts	H
Golden Lion	Old Market Street	Holts	E
Grove	Rochdale Road	Wilsons	H
Millstone	Blackley New Road	Boddingtons	H
Old House at Home	Bottomley Side	Wilsons	H
Pleasant	Chapel Lane	Robinsons	H

MILES PLATTING

Apollo	Varley Streey	Boddingtons	E
Bradford Road Inn	Bradford Road	Holts	H
Grey Mare	Varley Street	Tetleys	E
Half Moon	Holland Street	Wilsons	H
Victoria	Oldham Road	Wilsons	H
White Hart	Oldham Road	Wilsons	H
Cricketers Arms	Bradford Road	Marstons	H

CRUMPSALL

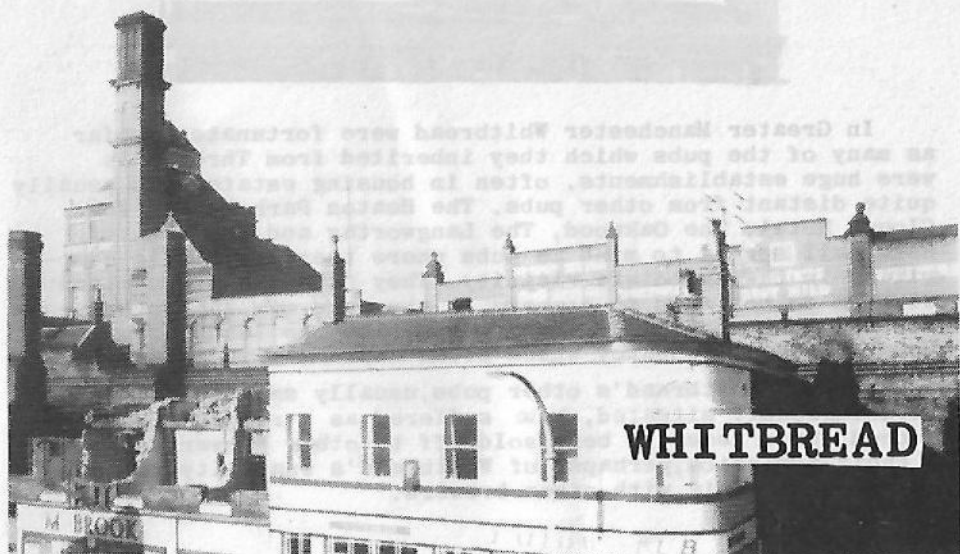
Cleveland	Crumpsall Lane	Holts	H
Swan	Waterloo Street	Wilsons	H

CHEETHAM

Apollo	Heywood Street	Holts	E
Cheetwood Arms	Derby Street	Holts	H
Crumpsall Hotel	Bury Old Road	Holts	E
Egerton Inn	Hanlon Street	Holts	H
George Hotel	Bury Old Road	Wilsons	H
Grove Inn	Bury New Road	Boddingtons	H
Mechanics Arms	Waterloo Road	Boddingtons	E
Mile House	North Street	Boddingtons	H
Queens	North Street	Tetleys	E
Waterloo	Waterloo Road	Boddingtons	H
Dolphin	Broughton Lane	Greenall Whitley	E

Borough Inn	Regent Road	Greenall Whitley	E
Braziers Arms	Hodson Street	Boddingtons	E
Bricklayers Arms	Ordsall Lane	Holts	H
Bridge Inn	Strawberry Road	Wilsons	E
Broadway Inn	Broadway	Holts	H
Brown Bull	Chapel Street	Marstons (BB only)	H
Chequerboard	Tatton Street	Wilsons	E
Church Inn	Hilton Street	Boddingtons	H
Church Inn	Ford Lane	Wilsons	H
Church Inn	Ford Street	Greenall Whitley	E
Clowes	Trafford Road	Wilsons	E
Corporation	Cross Lane	Wilsons	E
Crown	Blackfriars Street	Wilsons	E
Derby Hotel	Derby Street	Wilsons	H
Derby Arms	Derby Street	Boddingtons	H
Dover	Fenney Street	Greenall Whitley	E
Druids Arms	Liverpool Street	Wilsons	H
Duke of York	York Street	Boddingtons	H
Duke of York	Marlborough Road	Holts	H
Eagle Inn	Collier Street	Holts	H
Falcon	Cross Lane	Wilsons	H
Feathers	Laundry Street	Wilsons	E
Flying Horse	Greengate	Tetleys	H
Gas Tavern	Regent Road	Greenall Whitley	E
Globe	Bury Street	Wilsons	H
Globe	Regent Road	Wilsons	H/E
Grapes	Eccles New Road	Wilsons	E
Greyhound	Woden Street	Greenall Whitley	E
Grey Mare	Eccles New Road	Greenall Whitley	E
Grove	Regent Road	Greenall Whitley	E
Grove	Eccles New Road	Wilsons	H
Hyde Park Corner	Silk Street	Tetleys	E
Kersal Hotel	Moor Lane	Boddingtons	E
Kildakin	St Kilda's Drive	Boddingtons	E
Kings Arms	Bloom Street	Greenall Whitley	E
Kings Arms	Oldfield Road	Wilsons	H
King William IV	Springfield Road	Marstons	H
Lord Nelson	Chapel Street	Wilsons	H
Old House at Home	Whit Lane	Holts	E
Old Shears	Greengate	Wilsons	H
Old Ship	Chapel Street	Boddingtons	E
Old Veteran	Duxbury Street	Greenall Whitley	E
Original	Lower Broughton Road	Wilsons	H
Osborne	Eccles New Road	Wilsons	H
Oxford	Bexley Square	Wilsons	E
Paddock	Cross Lane	Boddingtons	E
Palatine	Edward Street	Greenall Whitley	E

Papermakers	Clifden Place	Greenall Whitley	E
Peeping Tom	Regent Road	Tetleys	H
Post Office	Hilton Street	Wilsons	E
Prince of Wales	Oldfield Road	Tetleys	H
Priory Arms	Gardner Street	Boddingtons	E
Punch Bowl	Chapel Street	Tetleys	E
Railway	Broughton Road	Boddingtons	E
Railway	Liverpool Street	Wilsons	E
Railway	Cross Lane	Greenall Whitley	E
Red Cow	Albion Street	Boddingtons	H
Red Lion	Bolton Road	Holts	E
Red Lion	Chapel Street	Wilsons	H
Spinners Arms	Oldfield Road	Marstons	H
Spread Eagle	Regent Road	Holts	H
Star	Back Hope Street	Robinsons (B, BB & BM)	E
Star	Regent Road	Greenall Whitley	E
Sun	Great Cheetham Street E.	Boddingtons	H
Three Legs of Man	Greengate	Robinsons (BB & BM)	H
Unicorn	Broughton Road	Greenall Whitley	E
Union Tavern	Liverpool Street	Holts	H
Waggon and Horses	Bolton Road	Holts	H
Waterloo	Greengate	Wilsons	H
Welcome	Ordsall Lane	Lees	H
Wellington	Bolton Road	Holts	E
Wellington	Regent Road	Boddingtons	H
Wellington	Cross Lane	Wilsons	H
Wellington	New Bailey Street	Wilsons	H
White Horse	Gilda Brook Road	Robinsons	E
Windsor Bridge	Broad Street	Wilsons	E
Winston	Churchill Way	Holts	E



Whitbreads have emerged as the major enemy in the battle to preserve real ale. Their policy is of particular importance in this area because they are the only brewery with a sizeable number of public houses in Greater Manchester which serves no traditional beer at all (Courage, in the form of John Smiths, don't either but they are poorly represented.



Whitbread do brew and serve cask-conditioned beer in some parts of the country but their policy is one of concentration of brewing activities and the phasing out of traditional beer. In Greater Manchester, since they took over Duttons in 1964 and Threlfalls in 1967, they have eradicated real ale and their subsequent actions may make its reintroduction impossible.



Whilst other brewers, such as Watneys and Courage, have reacted to Camra's influence and now recognise that there is a nationwide demand for traditional beer, Whitbread have totally ignored the existence of the campaign and have pursued their own objectives which seem to involve achieving economies of scale in all their operations - large breweries, large tankers and huge pubs with massive cellar tanks and a vast turnover.



In Greater Manchester Whitbread were fortunate insofar as many of the pubs which they inherited from Threlfalls were huge establishments, often in housing estates and usually quite distant from other pubs. The Heaton Park Hotel, The Clough Hotel, The Oakwood, The Langworthy and the Weaste Hotel all spring to mind as pubs where there is little competition in the immediate vicinity. They have a captive clientele and do not need to compete in the same way that other pubs do; this has encouraged them to maximise the turnover per square foot, a tendency which seems universal in these places.

Many of Whitbread's other pubs, usually smaller and less advantageously situated, have suffered as a result. Some, indeed, have recently been sold off to other breweries, as a tacit admission, perhaps, of Whitbread's inability to compete on an equal basis with other brewers.



*The Rawson's Arms,
Farnworth. Sold to
Burtonwood in Dec-
ember last year.*

Whitbread has also attempted to confuse the public with its recent advertising. The Trophy adverts and adverts which have suggested that there is no pressure group speaking for pub customers, have been extremely misleading.

Camra mounted a full scale campaign against Whitbread, to inform the public about the brewery's policies, to discredit the claims made in advertisements and to oppose the

actions of the brewery in an attempt to prevent the closure of the remaining real ale breweries and to reintroduce traditional beer into those outlets from which it has long since disappeared.

Here in Greater Manchester, the campaign is concerned with identifying those Whitbread outlets which are still capable of serving cask conditioned beer and asking licensees if they would be willing to serve it. At the moment only one Whitbread house in Greater Manchester - The Seven Oaks in Nicholas Street - sells real ale - draught Bass. Encouraging landlords to sell another beer under a trading agreement could be the first step in persuading Whitbread that there is real consumer demand for traditional beer and that the time is ripe for a reconsideration of their ostrich-like pose. Whitbread might then introduce their own real ale into their tied houses and perhaps even start to brew cask conditioned beer at breweries like Cook Street, Salford, which are still theoretically able to revert to traditional brewing. Who knows, we may yet see the rebirth of Chesters Fighting Mild.

Burtonwoods have recently taken over the last of the five pubs bought from Whitbread. This is the Borough, a small ex-Chesters house in Encombe place, behind Salford Royal Hospital. New handpumps have replaced Whitbreads pressure pumps and the pub now sells Burtonwood bitter and dark mild.

The other five pubs involved in this 'package deal' over the last six months are; Rawson's Arms, Farnworth; Golden Lion, Stockport; Crown, Tarporley; Royal Oak, Hazel Grove.

A recent visit to the Star, Back Hope Street, Salford, revealed that the handpumps were replaced with diaphragm electric pumps some two months ago. The old pumps needed frequent maintenance and were unable to cope with the heavy demands often put upon them. A set of two handpumps has however been kept in the bar for use in emergencies.

In the early hours of Friday 27th May a fire broke out at the Harp Lager manufacturing plant at Moss Side. Firemen were called, and according to at least one daily newspaper the fire was extinguished by using the next best thing to water - Harp Lager.

How unfortunate then for Harp's latest advertising line to appear last week. It depicts a man crossing a desert, sun beating down, with the caption 'Harp puts out the fire'.

→

LETTERS

Dear Sir,

As two members of Camra who have recently moved to South Manchester, we cannot help but to have been most impressed by the selection of ales and pubs in the area. One of the pubs which we now visit regularly, and where we always thoroughly enjoy ourselves, is the White Gates at Hyde. We were therefore somewhat surprised, not to say amazed, by the article by Paul Roberts in the last issue of What's Doing. We can only conclude that he must have visited the place on a very odd occasion, or that the derelict station waiting rooms that he visited have had a great deal more atmosphere than any that we have ever visited. The White Gates is an excellent, very busy public house and can well do without people like Roberts, who might do well to read The Column That Jack Built in 'Opening Times'

Yours faithfully,

M J Walker, M J Shipley

Dear Sir,

My attention has been drawn to the derogatory remarks made about the Fatted Pseud in What's Doing. As vice-captain of the pub's embroidery team and assistant secretary of the Fatted Pseud Dwarf Reform League, I feel I must protest about this unwarranted and scurrilous attack on what is arguably the best public house north of St. Albans. The Fatted Pseud is a natural meeting place for a wide cross section of local societies, including The Marple and District Effete Poseurs Society, The Stoke on Trent Verbal Ramblers, The Ashby de la Zouche Drabs Ale Appreciation Group and the Stockton on Tees Tripe Dressers anti-leprosy campaign.

The pub thrives on local involvement and engenders

a unique community spirit. The marvellous atmosphere of the Fatted Pseud is further enhanced by the unforgettable characters one meets, all of whom merit inclusion in the Readers Indigestion. There's Elsie the unicycling nun whose conjuring tricks and unusual method of removing Guinness bottle tops make the mind boggle. Eric the Hun with his belt of shrunken heads and the Hitler twins with their Glockenspiel and Alpenhorn are often to be seen playing Russian roulette over a pint of Courvoisier in the vault. The Marx brothers, Lourenço, Deutsch and Karl drink pints of Drabs mild and blackcurrant and sing amusing folk tales about General Amin and the IRA. Doris Morris, 'the bionic woman', leans her artificial limbs against the bar as she drinks her customary six pints of Throwups 4X mild. The list is endless but the Fatted Pseud gives a warm welcome to all visitors.

If you were to stop making defamatory innuendoes about my favourite local and come down and meet some of the characters in their matching ties and cufflinks chatting amiably about well hopped beer and nectar, your attitude would soon change.

Yours, Rupert Periwinkle

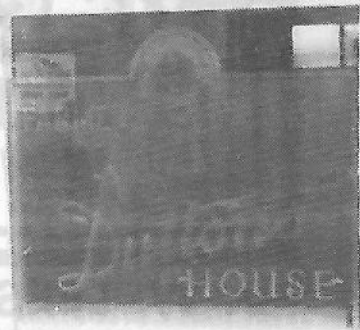
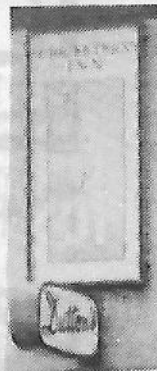




Dutton's brewery started life in 1797, founded by a Robert Bannister on land owned by the Vicar of Blackburn, and was known as the Salford Brewery. Thomas and William Dutton took over in 1799, and towards the end of the last century the firm was incorporated as Dutton's Blackburn Brewery Limited.

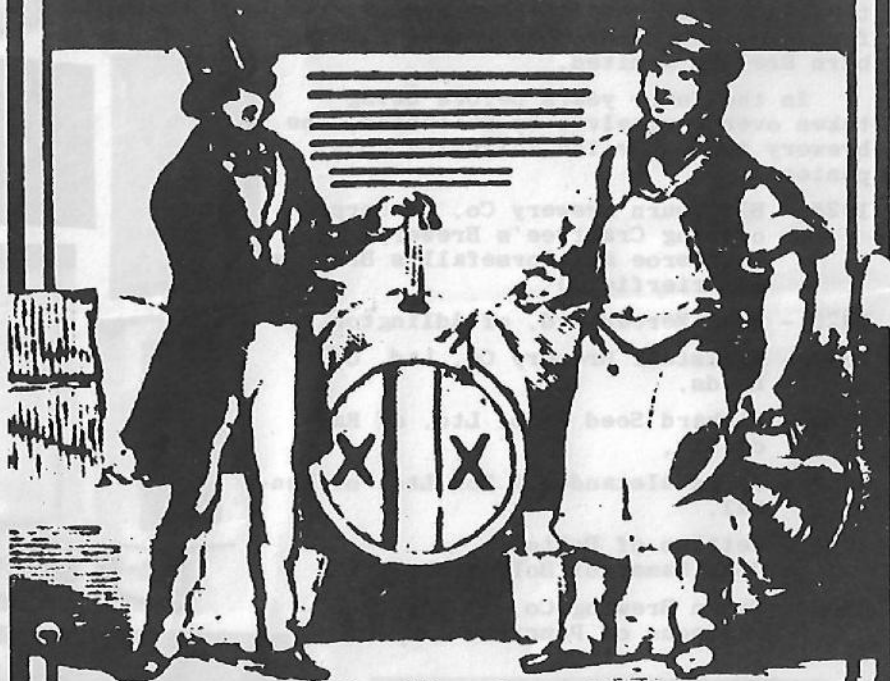
In the forty years before being taken over themselves by Whitbread, the brewery took over the following companies:

- 1928 - Blackburn Brewery Co. (incorporating Crabtree's Brewery, Clitheroe and Horsefall's Brewery of Brierfield)
- 1929 - John Mercer Ltd. of Adlington.
- 1936 - Kirkstall Brewery Co. Ltd. of Leeds.
- 1938 - Richard Seed & Co. Ltd. of Radcliffe.
- 1947 - Jonas Alexander & Son Ltd. of Kendal.
- 1955 - Settles of Bolton.
John Hamer of Bolton.
- 1959 - Crown Brewing Co. of Bury.
Glassons of Penrith.



LEES

DRAUGHT BEERS



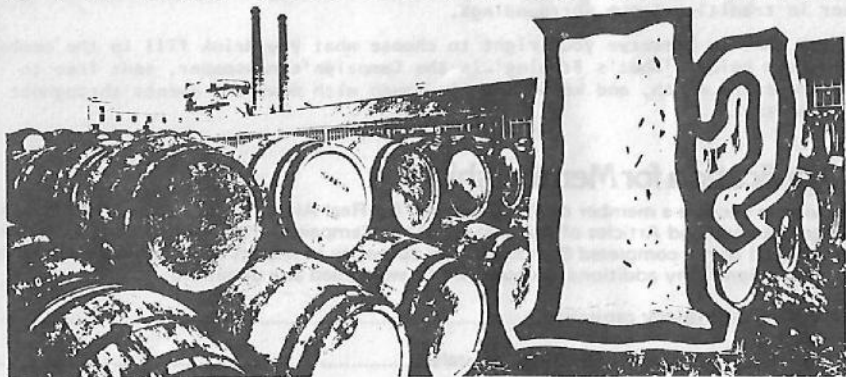
**Brewed in the traditional
way since 1828**

J. W. LEES & CO (Brewers) Ltd
Middleton, Manchester. Tel: 061-643 2487



Further copies of 'Real Ale in Manchester and Salford', the centre section of this issue of What's Doing, can be obtained for 10p plus a stamped addressed envelope from Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester, who would also like to be kept in touch with any developments (demolitions, conversions, new pubs, acts of God) which affect the list.

Marston's BURTON- ON-TRENT



... The Home of Traditional Beer



What's Doing is published on the third Wednesday of every month to coincide with the meeting of the North Manchester Branch of Camra. After the meeting it can be obtained from several pubs in and around Manchester or by post, £1 for six issues, from Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester.

What's Doing is edited by Neil Richardson, 94 Leach Street, Farnworth, Bolton

Camra North Manchester

Chairman: Robin Bence 061-794 6461, 061-236 4571 (day)
Secretary: Jem Callaghan 061-736 5843 (day)
Press/Publicity: Roger Hall 061-740 7937, 061-736 3065 (day)

The next meeting of the North Manchester branch of Camra will be in the Castle, Oldham Street, Manchester, on 20th July.

CAMRA

Camra is a national consumer organisation concerned with maintaining the choice of beer and preserving the variety of pubs throughout the country. Until recently takeovers by the six major brewing companies resulted in the closure of local breweries and the loss of many draught beers. The threat is still there but as a result of Camra's efforts many pubs have gone back to serving cask-conditioned beer, and the big brewers are slowly realising that there is a demand for good beer in traditional pub surroundings.

If you want to preserve your right to choose what you drink fill in the membership form below. 'What's Brewing' is the Campaign's newspaper, sent free to members every month, and keeps them in touch with news and events throughout the country.

Application for Membership.

I wish to become a member of The Campaign for Real Ale Limited. I agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign, and I enclose £4 (£6 for overseas members) or my completed Standing Order authority in respect of my annual membership subscription. (Any additional amount will be welcomed as a donation).

FULL NAME (Block capitals)

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS (Block capitals)

.....COUNTY.....

SIGNATURE..... DATE