

WHAT'S DOING

JULY
1992



THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



ECCLES PUBS SURVEY

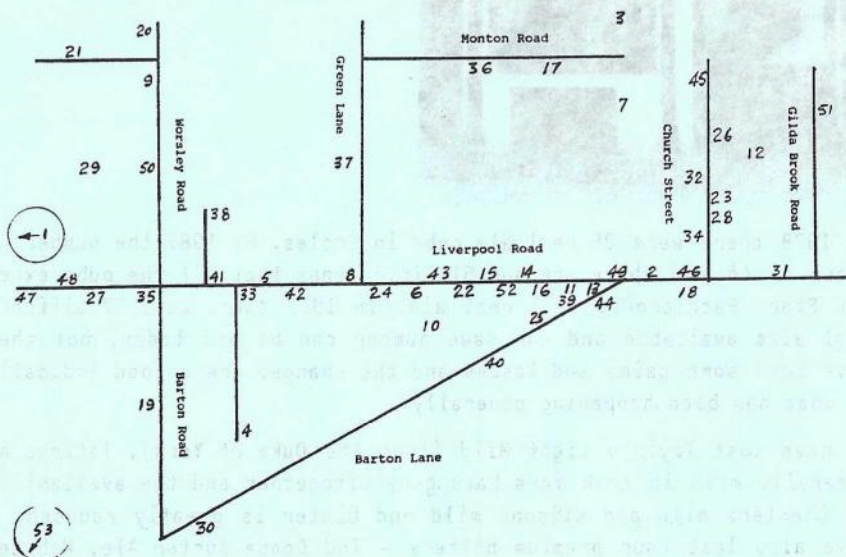
In 1978 there were 35 real ale pubs in Eccles. By 1987 the number had grown to 46 and there are now 51. This means that all the pubs except the Star, Patricroft, sell real ale. In 1987 there were 27 different real ales available and the same number can be had today, but there have been some gains and losses and the changes are a good indication of what has been happening generally.

We have lost Taylors Light Mild (from the Duke of York), Tetleys and Greenalls mild in cask form have gone altogether and the availability of Chesters mild and Wilsons mild and bitter is greatly reduced. We have also lost four premium bitters - Ind Coope Burton Ale, Websters

Choice, Draught Bass and Marstons Pedigree. The Drop Inn and the Swinging Bridge (actually just outside Eccles) were free houses which have since become tied and this has reduced overall choice further.

To compensate for the losses, we have gained Banks's mild and bitter, Burtonwood mild and bitter, Boddingtons Old Shilling, John Smith bitter, Ruddles best bitter and two premium beers - Courage Directors and Greenalls Original. With the new supply deal between Banks's and Marstons we may soon regain Marstons Pedigree (in the Black Boy). Boddingtons bitter is appearing all over - in Chesters, Tetleys and John Smiths pubs as well as in the nine regular Boddingtons outlets. John Smiths bitter is also becoming more widely available.

- 1 Airport, Boddingtons bitter, Chesters bitter
- 2 Albert Edward, Sam Smith Old Brewery bitter
- 3 Bargee, John Smith bitter, Courage Directors
- 4 Barton Inn, Boddingtons bitter, Chesters mild
- 5 Bird in Hand, Holts mild and bitter
- 6 Black Boy, Banks's mild and bitter
- 7 Bluebell, Websters Yorkshire Bitter, Ruddles Best Bitter
- 8 Bridgewater, Holts mild and bitter
- 9 Brown Cow, Robinsons mild and best bitter
- 10 Chestnut Lodge, John Smiths bitter
- 11 Church Inn, Wilsons mild, Websters Bitter, Ruddles Best Bitter
- 12 Cross Keys, Stones bitter
- 13 Crown & Volunteer, Holts mild and bitter
- 14 Devonshire Arms, Chesters (closed - temporarily?)



- 15 Diamond XX, Tetley bitter (Belhaven Inns)
- 16 Dog & Partridge, Greenalls bitter, Original
- 17 Drop Inn, Websters bitter, John Smith bitter, Courage Directors
- 18 Duke of York, Chesters bitter, Thwaites bitter, Taylors Landlord,
Ram Tam
- 19 Dutton Arms, Boddingtons mild, bitter, Old Shilling
- 20 Egerton Arms, Boddingtons mild and bitter
- 21 Ellesmere, Holts mild and bitter
- 22 Ellesmere, Boddingtons mild, bitter, Old Shilling
- 23 Fox Vaults, Greenalls bitter
- 24 Golden Cross, Holts mild and bitter
- 25 Golden Lion, Boddingtons mild, bitter, Old Shilling
- 26 Grapes, Boddingtons bitter (plus keg John Smith)
- 27 Grapes, Holts mild and bitter
- 28 Hare & Hounds, Ruddles Best Bitter
- 29 Jolly Carter, Websters Yorkshire Bitter, Ruddles Best Bitter
- 30 Kings Head, Boddingtons mild and bitter
- 31 Lamb, Holts mild and bitter
- 32 Oddfellows, Boddingtons mild and bitter
- 33 Oddfellows, Greenalls bitter, Stones bitter
- 34 Old Bulls Head, Holts mild and bitter
- 35 Packet House, Boddingtons mild and bitter
- 36 Park, Holts mild and bitter
- 37 Queens Arms, Boddingtons mild and bitter
- 38 Red Lion, Boddingtons mild, bitter, Old Shilling
- 39 Royal Oak, Holts mild and bitter
- 40 Ship Canal, Wilsons mild, bitter, John Smiths bitter
- 41 Spinners Arms, Burtonwood mild and bitter
- 42 Stanley Arms, Holts mild and bitter
- 43 Star, Bass (all keg)
- 44 Star, Greenalls bitter
- 45 Top House, Boddingtons bitter, Tetley bitter
- 46 Town Hall, Wilsons/Websters (temporarily closed)
- 47 Unicorn, Boddingtons (temporarily closed)
- 48 Waggon & Horses, Tetley bitter
- 49 Wellington, Holts mild and bitter
- 50 Wellington, Greenalls bitter
- 51 White Horse, Robinsons mild, best bitter
- 52 White Lion, Holts mild and bitter
- 53 Swinging Bridge, Boddingtons bitter, John Smiths bitter, Theakstons
XB, Courage Directors

Prices for ordinary bitter range from less than 90p for Holts to £1.22 for Thwaites in the Duke of York.

Peter Barnes

THE STATION

*Ashton's Premier Free House
offers a friendly, juke box free
atmosphere with an evergrowing
collection of railway & brewery
bric-a-brac.*

*Handpumped Pedigree, Boddies
and Border Mild are always
available, along with GUEST
beers from smaller or more
distant independant breweries.*

We're open all day ~

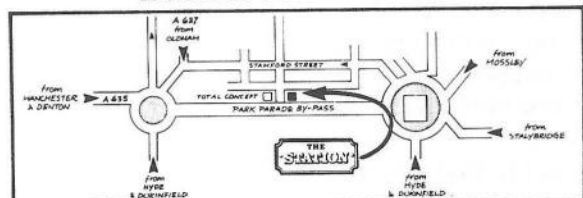
MONDAY TO FRIDAY

SATURDAY 11.30 - 3.00 / 7.00 - 11.00

SUNDAY USUAL HOURS

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for the warmer weather!*

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Best Bitter

Hopwood Bitter

Jolly Roger Ale

Captain Smith's
Strong Ale

Adnem's
Broadside

Wobbly Bob

Smiles
Exhibition

Banks & Taylor
Black Bat

Coachman's
Best Bitter

Titanic
Lifeboat

Robinwood
I.P.A.

REAL ALE GUIDE TO THE TRAMWAYS

Roger Wilson, Phil Stout, Dave Howles, Jonathan Reade and Uncle Tom
PART THREE: G-MEX TO ALTRINCHAM Cobbleigh and all

by Peter Wadsworth,

First, amendments to Part Two, published in WD last month. At MARKET STREET station the Shakespeare is now open (see elsewhere in this issue), so: Right out of tram to Fountain Street, left and you are there. However, the cheapest beer at the Shakespeare is Websters Yorkshire Bitter at 136p. If this frightens you, you may still want to try the Sportsman! Note. The direction to this pub should have read "Right out of tram..." (not left).

The first tram left Altrincham at 6.00am on Monday 15th June and once again (boringly) our chief reporter was on it. Later in the day, at our first port of call, we met Cllr Clarke (Chairman of the Passenger Transport Authority) and Cllr Flanagan (Chair of the Metrolink Working Party) who were pleased to accept a copy of Parts One and Two and wished us a good day's surveying.

Finally, contemplate the fact that Metrolink, the world's latest transportation system, closely follows the line of the world's first purpose-built transport system, the Bridgewater Canal, and some pleasant canalside walks between the stations can be enjoyed.

<u>STATION</u>	<u>PUB</u>	<u>BEER</u>	<u>WALKING TIME (MINS)</u>
ALTRINCHAM	Station Hotel	Greenalls bitter, Stones best bitter	1
	Mon-Sat 11-11		

Left out of station, follow path to end of bus station. Use pelican to cross to pub.

NAVIGATION RD	Packet House	Websters Yorkshire bitter, Wilsons Bitter, Boddingtons bitter	6
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Right at level crossing. Along Navigation Road to junction with A56 Manchester Road. Pub is on right.

TIMPERLEY	Gardeners Arms	Boddingtons mild and bitter, Theakstons best bitter	8
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Out of station, crossing Park Road to Canal Road between tramway and canal. Along canalside, under railway bridge, then left into Deansgate Lane. Under another railway bridge, over level crossing and pub is on the right.

BROOKLANDS	Brook	J W Lees bitter	0 or ½
	Mon-Fri 12-3, 5.30-11. Sat shut lunchtime, 6-11.		

Altrincham-bound tram: Left and bingo! It's part of station.

Manchester-bound tram: Right out of tram, cross tracks via bridge and you are there.

SALE Railway Robinsons best mild, best bitter 2
 Mon-Fri 11.30-3,5.30-11. Sat 11.30-4, 7-11

Straight out of station and across pelican. Left over canal to Chapel Road. Turn right to pub ahead. (Weather permitting, you could walk via the towpath to the next pub.)

DANE ROAD Bridge Boddingtons mild and bitter 1½
 Mon-Fri 11-11, Sat 11-4, 7-11

Left out of station along Dane Road. Over canal and pub is on left.

STRETFORD Robin Hood Boddingtons mild and bitter 7
 Mon-Sat 11-11

Right out of station on to Edge Lane and down to A56 Chester Road. Cross via subway to Kingsway. Straight on to pub at junction with Barton Road.

OLD TRAFFORD Quadrant Wilsons bitter, John Smiths bitter 5
 (Formerly Warwick Rd) Mon & Fri 12-11. Tue, Wed, Thu 12-3, 5-11,
 Sat 12-4,7-11

Leave station via disabled access ramp on Altrincham-bound side. Keep going along Trentbridge Walk (NB Have machete ready) to Great Stone Road. Turn left and pub is on the left.

TRAFFORD BAR Toll Gate Inn Banks mild and bitter 1
 (Formerly Old Trafford) Mon-Sat 11-11
 Straight out of station and across the road.

The fourth and final (for the moment) part of this guide should appear here next month - watch this space.

HOLTS CORNER

Holts have bought four pubs from Tetleys but they don't want anybody to know which ones until early next year, when Holts beers will have replaced Tetleys. Quite a sound policy, really. There is nothing so disturbing as turning up at a far flung boozer to find the amber nectar hasn't arrived yet. But WD's readers are a hardy lot and can take that kind of thing in their stride, so here are the names of three of the pubs: Queens and Three Crowns (Macclesfield) and Sir Charles Napier (Golborne). The fourth pub is in Leigh and there are forty-odd Tetley pubs in Leigh. Finding out which one it is could mean drinking an awful lot of Tetleys. Those of a nervous disposition should consult their stress counsellors.

Two more free trade outlets are the Pineapple in Shaw and Aces in Gorton.

WIGAN & DISTRICT

Dave White

To the dedicated CAMRA member there are few things more angst-ridden in life than a Good Beer Guide entry selection meeting, particularly when a large part of the branch domain is bereft of groovy pubs. Thankfully, the worthies that make up Wigan CAMRA may have beaten their last brow when it comes to finding suitable entries for the S W Lancashire region, as the BEACON INN, for long a keg bastion on Beacon Lane, Dalton, has been transformed into a free house. The new mild from Theakstons is there, as are the best bitter, Old Peculier and Burtonwood bitter and Forshaws; a far cry from the days when the pub sold fizzy Burtonwood via handpump. The Beacon is a bit off the beaten track, but do give it a try if you can.

Another "free house" now selling Theakstons mild is the CROWN, Platt Lane, Worthington. Other S&N products and the occasional guest ale are available.

A number of pubs cited as closed in this column in recent months have reopened with few, if any, changes. They are the ANDERTON ARMS, Higher Ince (Thwaites); the PAVILION, Billinge (Greenalls), and the KING WILLIAM, Platt Bridge (Tetley). The wholesale closure of local boozers that the Jeremiahs in the brewing industry predicted hasn't happened around here yet.

There is still little to cheer about in the Wigan club trade, but St Jude's Catholic Club on Poolstock Lane, Worsley Mesnes, has taken the plunge and gone over to handpumped Tetley bitter. Apparently, the club steward has been so impressed by the turnover that other cask ales might follow. Suddenly, my thirteen-year-old membership to St Jude's seems worthwhile...


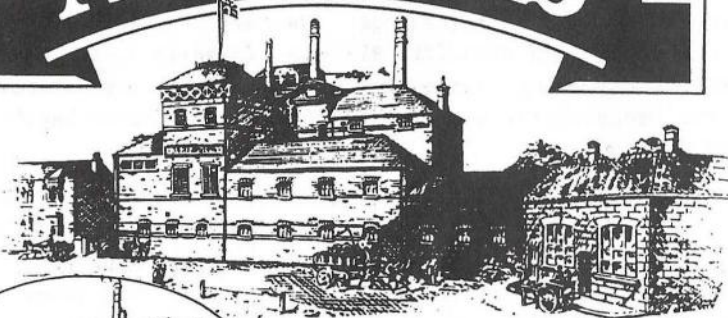
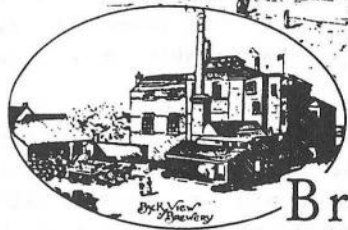
In Standish, the NEW SEVEN STARS on Preston Road (Burtonwood) is being done up for the umpteenth time, but real ale is expected to remain. Elsewhere, Tetley's POTTER'S BAR at Cross Street has recently introduced a guest beer to complement the mild and bitter. Now for the bad news; it's Boddies bitter. Still in the village, two High Street pubs are sporting redundant handpumps on their bars; they are the BEARS PAW (Bass) and the Globe (S&N), so give them a wide berth.

Still on the theme of guest ales, Cains bitter is now on sale at the HARE & HOUNDS, Ormskirk Road, Skelmersdale, but has been dropped from another Greenalls pub, the PAGEFIELD HOTEL, Park Road, Wigan. Some you win...

Allied have leased two more of their estate to Burtonwood, both of which had featured in the Good Beer Guide in happier times. These are

the VICTORIA HOTEL, Liverpool Road, Platt Bridge (formerly a Peter Walker house) and the WALMESLEY ARMS, Warrington Road, Lower Ince. In the case of the latter pub, let's hope that Tetley threw a can of paint in with the deal.

Finally, news in brief. Real ale returns to the HOCKERY BROOK in the form of draught Bass. This ex-Burtonwood pub on Manchester Road, Hindley, went keg after Paramount Inns took over...STEPPE'S, formerly the Market Tavern, Mesnes Street, Wigan, is selling traditional mild for the first time in living memory. 'Matthew Brown' mild is now available alongside Youngers IPA and Theakstons best bitter...as forecast in last month's report, the GUARDIANS INN, Frog Lane, Wigan, now sells handpumped Chesters bitter as well as Tetley bitter. Decisions, decisions!

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Contributors to this issue: Stewart Revell, Dave White, Keith Egerton, Peter Wadsworth, Roger Wood, Rob Magee, Tony Buller, Peter Barnes, Graham Mason, Roger Hall, Jim Bracken.

**CAMRA's
Rochdale, Oldham & Bury
Branch presents the**

1992 *Ale Trail*



**A passport scheme that promotes
Independently owned breweries
which supply pubs in the
R.O.B. branch area.**

**Featuring 21 Pubs
to celebrate CAMRA's
21st Birthday**

You have the month of July to visit the pubs in this passport scheme.
 You have to visit at least one pub from each brewer i.e. a minimum of 11 pubs.
 Everyone will win something; more prizes will be awarded to people who
 complete the passport & visit all 21 pubs., & a chance to win a major prize.

DOG & DUCK St Domingo St, Oldham	BANKS Mild & Bitter	
DOG & PARTRIDGE Oldham Rd, Buersil,Rochdale	VAUX Dark Mild Bitter,Samson	
DOG & PARTRIDGE Middleton Rd, Royton	LEES Mild & Bitter	
TRAFALGAR Manchester Rd, Bury	BURTONWOOD Mild & Bitter	
FRIENDSHIP Scholes Lane Whitefield	HOLTS Mild & Bitter	
ROYAL OAK Whittaker Lane, Heaton Park	HYDES Light Mild, Bitter	
BIRD IN HAND (Top Bird) Huddersfield Rd, Newhey	S.SMITH Old Brewery Bitter	
TEMPLE & BOWLING GREEN Huddersfield Rd Oldham	VAUX Mild, Bitter, Samson	
OLDHAM HOTEL Yorkshire St, Oldham	MARSTON Bitter, Pedlgree	
ROYAL OAK Manchester Rd, Werneth, Oldham	ROBINSON Mild & Bitter	

QUEENS, Church St, Littleborough	THWAITES Best Mild & Bitter	
HEALEY HOTEL Shawclough Rd, Rochdale	ROBINSON Mild & Bitter	
CROWN INN Long St, Middleton	LEES Mild & Bitter	
ALBERT HOTEL Manchester Rd, Rochdale	BURTONWOOD Mild & Bitter	
WILTON ARMS Coronation Rd Radcliffe	HOLTS Mild & Bitter	
GOLDEN FLEECE Bell Lane, Bury	HYDES Light Mild, Bitter	
ENGINEERS ARMS Aspinall St Heywood	S.SMITH Old Brewery Bitter	
DUSTY MILLER Croston Rd, Bury	MOORHOUSE Mild, Bitter Pendle Witches	
COTTON TREE Ashton Rd East Failsworth	MARSTON Bitter	
ROYAL OAK Bridge St Ramsbottom	THWAITES Mild, Bitter	
BLUE PITS Manchester Rd Castleton	LEES Mild & Bitter	

Prizes kindly donated by local independently owned breweries. These include T- shirts, ties & pub guides. Each completed passport will be entered in a prize draw & the overall winner will win a polypin (36pints) of beer.

EVERYONE WILL WIN SOMETHING !

There are nearly 150 Independent breweries in Britian, who between them produce over 450 real ales. They are usually better value for money & reflect local tastes. To find out more about these brewers' beers, see the list included in the 1992 Good Beer Guide, which can be obtained from the address below for only £5.00.

This passport scheme has been organised by the Rochdale, Oldham & Bury Branch of CAMRA. If you are interested in finding out more about breweries, beers & pubs in general you may like to become a member. Membership normally costs £10.00 but during July we have a special offer where you can join for only £6.00.

The branch organises events such as beer festivals, brewery trips & social events. We meet twice a month throughout the area. On joining you receive "What's Brewing" each month, keeping you in touch with what is happening in the beer world locally & nationally.

Please send all cheques to the address below, making them payable to: R.O.B. CAMRA branch.

Please return the passport to:
Graham Mason, 760 Rochdale Rd, Royton, OL2 6XG
Completing the following:

Name

Address

.....

.....

Post Code **Telephone**

All passports to be returned by 5th August 1992

We would like to thank all the breweries & the licensees who have supported this passport..

LETTERS



CRITIQUE

Sir - I feel I must write to protest about the content of your execrable magazine. This was once a source of information and no little humour to the large beer drinking community, but now it has become nothing more than a collection of spineless sermons, unfunny and incomprehensible in-jokes and a letters page that has been written by a tiny group of bottom-licking sycophants who inflict upon the poor reader the subjects that they thought up whilst sitting at home sipping cans of Carling Black Label.

I would further like to point out that, judging by the CAMRA Branch Diaries published each month, the committee members must be as closed-minded as they are smug and self-centred. Pubs which have no other virtue other than that of being close to a local branch secretary's girl friend's house are inflicted on members instead of smaller, less glamorous, but fine-aled establishments a bus ride away.

To be specific, I would suggest the following improvements:

(a) Remove Rupert! If the columnist wishes to rubbish other people's efforts he should at least have the courage to name names and specify events, rather than hide behind his puerile nicknames and childish inferences.

(b) Allow letters to be published which express opinions other than those of the local village idiot quorum of Barnes, King and Alexander, whoever they may be. The Campaign should be controversial and hard-hitting, and it is no use spouting on about libel laws as CAMRA started by libelling the products of the big brewers.

(c) Feel free to criticise and praise pubs and publicans with impunity, as all of the issues at stake are subjective in the extreme and one votes with one's feet and one's taste buds when it comes to these matters, not after consultation with collections of chemists, accountants and advertising executives.

(d) Sort out the Good Beer Guide entries. There should be no sacred cows here. A prime example appeared to be the proposed launch of Cains bitter in the Kings Arms on Bloom Street, Salford, which was the first pub selling the beer, at least in my area. This had to be abandoned because, apparently, the GBG listing committee, to its eternal shame, had managed to omit one of the leading free houses in the North West from that meaty tome. Excellence is everything,

regardless of geography, as people will travel surprisingly large distances in order to enjoy the best. This would have made a good national story on the demise of organisation and fair play in the Campaign, but was unfortunately missed. Another example is the blind worshipping at the court of the Crescent!

This pub deserves respect for being the first of its kind in my area, but the unreliability of some of the beers, which has been all too common recently, and the quite appalling staffing levels make it an easy place to ignore. Surely a well written, kindly article in WD would at least underline our worries about the demise of a much lauded enterprise. It still remains the only pub where I have waited for fifteen minutes for a drink, with a crowd of students present, only to see the landlord appear, pull himself a pint and promptly disappear again! The barman, myself and various disenchanted potential customers were somewhat put out at this and most left quickly and noisily.

This is a pub crying out for possible deletion from the Guide and even from the list of venues for CAMRA branch meetings, although some committee members may well deserve all they get. It was with some dismay that I discovered that the Borough, a place of sausage butties and fine Burtonwood ale, has been taken over by the Crescent. I fear they may try the first ever pub barman-sharing scheme, with one barman covering both pubs at the same time!

(e) Spread your net further afield. The Holts news spot recognises that brewery's special relationship with the wallets and taste buds of its customers, but perhaps a focus on other breweries would help to spread wider understanding of the problems of running a brewery in these troubled times.

Finally, on a positive note, may I suggest a taking off of hats to the new landlord of the City Arms in Manchester. This small pub has always been a favourite of mine, with excellent lunchtime food and Tetley/Jennings beers. The addition of a landlord with a sense of humour commensurate with his waist measurement and superb Moorhouses Premium and Pendle Witches Brew make it a jewel in the tarnished crown of Manchester boozers.

S J Hayward

BRITONS PROTECTION

Sir - Your Mr Bracken, writing on behalf of CAMRA in your 'Letters' section for June 1992, indicates that CAMRA disapproves of something called Irish mathematics. Whatever these are, they have nothing to do with the pricing policy at the Britons Protection.

Mr Bracken has on more than one occasion been advised that we price our beers by the half pint, discounting when serving a pint.

Naturally, if CAMRA is not happy with us giving discount we could always consider the remedy - raising the price of a pint to the full amount of two halves! - and still be competitive with other outlets selling Tetleys.

Mr Bracken really should direct his energies to establishing the correctness of our prices. DBA is £1.50 a pint or 80p a half and guest beers vary in price dependent on brew, strength and wholesale price. Boddingtons (low OG) was sold at £1, while Old Tom (high OG) was £1.60 a pint.

On a more positive note, it was kind of Mr Bracken to praise the excellence of the Britons Protection. Yes, we have five traditional beers, three permanent guests and one guest beer which changes either weekly or monthly, dependent on the time of year; also a wide range of wines and spirits (over 150 whiskies). Food is served on weekday lunchtimes and a function room is available. We are also one of the few houses still open on Sunday evenings and the nearest house to the Albion Street exit of the Metrolink Station at G-Mex.

The Management, Britons Protection

FLYING HORSE

Sir - After reading your Rochdale News item in the June edition, I decided to give the Flying Horse a try. Your contributor's glowing account failed to mention that jeans are not allowed and, furthermore, a very large bouncer is employed to stand across the doorway to acquaint you of this.

I would have thought your average "What's Doing" reader would consider this piece of information of equal importance to whatever beers are available when he is deciding if the place is worth a visit.

A Goss

NIT WIT

Sir - Accuse me of nit-picking if you will, but where are the local breweries that Roger Hall said were jeopardised by the Whitbread sell-off (WD June)? Morlands, Marstons and Brakspear brew a nice drop of beer, to be sure, but they're hardly on the doorstep, are they? Better watch out, Roger - you'll start taking yourself too seriously if you're not careful.

Dave White

SUMS

Sir - Paul Roberts (Beinlos in Bavaria) must have supped a few litres before working out the £ per pint price of his Maibock. At the current exchange rate of DM2.92 to £1, and 1.76 pints to a litre, DM11 a litre

equals £2.14 a pint! (I worked that out after drinking Sainsbury's lager. Does anyone round here sell Maibock?)

Brian Shaw

(Editor's Note: "DM11" should have read "DM4". Herr Roberts's dispatches are sometimes a little difficult to read. Something to do with the air in Bavaria, I believe.)

TRAFFORD NEWS

Banks's mild has replaced Border mild at the King William IV, Partington, Marstons Brewery having advised the pub that Border mild is no longer available.

Meanwhile, the guest beer policy continues very successfully at both the Rope & Anchor, Dunham, and the Orange Tree in Altrincham. Also in Dunham, the Axe & Cleaver has dropped Wilsons bitter and Ruddles County in favour of John Smiths bitter and Courage Directors. Similarly, the Wheatsheaf in Altrincham now has John Smiths Magnet Ale.

The Gardeners Arms, Timperley, has reverted to handpumps and the Boddingtons mild is cask again. Over in Stretford, there is the surprise appearance of Theakstons bitter in the Robin Hood.

The Brook on Brooklands Station Approach now sells cask Lees bitter.

CITY CENTRE REFITS

After a short period of closure, two Manchester city centre pubs reopened recently. The Sir Ralph Abercromby on Bootle Street has been done up less extensively than was first intended. The bar has been moved along to create a pseudo 'snug'. The beers are Chesters mild at 115p, Boddingtons bitter 121p, Marstons Pedigree 141p and the fruity Castle Eden at 130p. Food at lunchtime only.

The Shakespeare on Fountain Street, on the other hand, was completely gutted and £300,000 has been spent to create a mock Tudor interior. To save money, no carpet has been laid and to further help foot the bill the beers are priced as follows: Websters Yorkshire Bitter 136p, John Smiths bitter 138p, Courage Directors 150p. However, the bar meals seem good value at £2.95 for most dishes.

ANNIVERSARY ALE

Whitbread are celebrating their 250th birthday with a new brew called porter from the Castle Eden brewery. The Crown & Anchor, Hilton Street, Manchester, is expected to be one of the selected outlets.

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

During the incumbency of a previous manager at the Legh Arms (Holts), Sale, a "No Dogs" notice was put up in the vault. Now a number of the regulars liked taking their dogs with them when they went for a pint. And one of them was so miffed by the exclusion order on his canine companion that the following day he turned up without his dog, but accompanied instead by his goat, six chickens and a ferret! After all, only dogs were barred from this amber nectar emporium. (Oh yes, and children.) The ferret in particular had a fine old time with the pool table, scampering in and out of its various holes and tunnels, whilst the chickens managed to flap their way over the bar and into the plush surroundings of the music room. We won't go into details about what the goat got up to; suffice to say that it wasn't very polite, and the animal clearly had not been toilet trained!

But the point was made and the ban on dogs in the vault was lifted.

CHORLTON CHOICE

Chorlton town centre is now blessed with some less common real ales for the area. Whitbread Castle Eden can be had at the Royal Oak and Worthington Best Bitter has joined draught Bass at the Lloyds. The Beech now sells Taylors Landlord and Theakstons XB and the Horse & Jockey offers John Smiths Magnet.

Kendlegate Wine Cellars Ltd.

164 Northgate Rd, Edgeley. Tel: 477 3939

*Wide range of Belgian & Continental Beers.
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SUMMER SAVERS ON

**La Trappe Dubbel, Sailer Brau, Andreas Pils &
Imperial Russian Stout**

Summer Break: Closed 5pm Friday Aug 21st

Re-open 8am Tuesday September 1st

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

**Open: 8am-5.30pm Monday - Friday; 11am-3pm Saturday
Closed Sunday and Bank Holiday Weekends**

Telephone orders accepted on a COD basis

rupert

"A lot of power corrupts a lot". Beppo Marx, 1947. Yes, it certainly does. The dozy sods at HQ thought nothing could come of Greater Grotley being granted branch status. What a bunch of softies! No sooner was the constitution nailed to the mast when, kerzapp! A broadside was sent zooming towards St Allballs and the boss squad. The alleged crimes were myriad; buying designer water cooled blousons for all the barrelettes at the amber nectar show, eating Boluga caviar by the bathful in Prague and enjoying massive freebies at the Hotel de Plush with jacuzzis full of pink Bollinger and asses' milk. In the end it turned out that there wasn't a lot of truth in any of them. Gordon Brickie and his mates must have forgotten to unplug their data suits from the virtual reality machine. Either that or they were all on Ecstasy.

All that the boss persons were guilty of was execrable penmanship. The otherwise lovely pouting and gorgeous Ms Shame is to letter writing what Robert Maxwell was to ethics. Her tone, a mixture of Saddam Hussein, Lucretia Borgia and Eric the Daft, can reduce some men to gibbering wazocks within seconds. Democracy, reason, consultation, courtesy and brevity are not within the ambit of her vocabulary. Sad. But not the sort of thing for which a staggeringly upright member of the Campaign should be pilloried by an upstart branch. Campaign, don't whinge!

I've always believed that organizations should move with the times, and change their names to reflect the shifting



mores of society. The group of which I'm Life President began as the British Shortarses Society, changed to the Dwarves and Midgets Alliance in the 60's and to the Persons of Restricted Growth Institute (PORGI) in the late seventies. It is now known as Vertchall to reflect the belief that lack of vertical attainment is a challenge, rather than the conventional heightist "disability". Similarly, CAMRA should change its name to encompass the new causes which it has espoused. I suggest CAMRACAPASM, which includes our interest in Cider and Perry and Single Malts.

I've not seen many of Bilko's buses in Slumley Parva recently. Some unkind voices have suggested that this is because they're all knackered but this is far from the truth. Something more sinister is afoot. Could it presage a return to tavern-keeping?

It's a sad world where you can't dress up like Baden-Powell and have 12 pints of Carthorse's Old Nobthrutcher without being set upon by footpads at the tram stop. Laugh not. This really happened to Jamie Frotter, a lovely man who deserves better than this. What's Doing offers its condolences.



Branch Diary

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 2 July, 8pm. Committee Meeting, Cornbrook, then surveying the Hope, Pomona and Toll Gate.

Thur 9 July, 8pm. Dunham Survey. Rope & Anchor then Vine and Railway, Altrincham

Sat 11 July: Branch trip to Ashton Canal Festival

Thur 16 July, 8pm. Branch Meeting, King Billy, Partington, then Windmill and Plough, Ashton on Mersey

Thur 23 July, 8pm. Mobberley Survey. Railway and Chapel House

Thur 30th July, 7.30pm. Metrolink Crawl to Whitefield and Prestwich.

Contact: Allan Glover 061 962 9890 (h), 061 428 7930 (w)

NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 1 July, Ringley Crawl: Spread Eagle 7pm, Lord Nelson 7.30, Horse Shoe 8pm

Wed 8 July, City Centre Crawl. White House 7pm, Jolly Angler 7.30, Crown & Anchor (Hilton St) 8pm, Castle 9pm, John Willie Lees and Crown & Anchor (Cateaton Street) to finish.

Wed 15 July, Branch Meeting, Beerhouse, 8pm

Wed 22 July, Rochdale Road Crawl. Junction (Queens Road) 7pm, Milan 7.30, Ark Royal 8pm.

Wed 29 July, Tyldesley Crawl: Colliers 7pm, Gatehouse 7.30pm, Half Moon 8.30.

Wed 5 August, Altrincham Crawl: Meet at Crown & Anchor (Cateaton St) at 7pm. Tram to Altrincham to arrive at Malt Shovel at 8pm (approx)

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Sat 4th July: **BUS TOUR OF INDEPENDENT BREWERY PUBS.** To reserve places on the bus ring M Robinson 061 620 0717 (H), 678 4525 (h). Commences at 11am, J W Lees Brewery, Middleton Junction. 12 noon Black Horse, Failsworth; 12.45 Dog & Duck, Oldham; 1.30 Temple & Bowling Green, Waterhead (lunchstop); 2.30 Blue Bell, Shaw; 3.15 Bird i'th'Hand, Newhey; 4pm Waggon, Milnrow; 5pm Church, Whitefield; 5.45 Wellington, Radcliffe; 6.30 Dusty Miller, Bury; 7.15 Kings, Heywood; 8pm Oak Brewery, Heywood. Join and leave where you wish. Come along and help promote the independent breweries.

Tues 7 July 8pm, Branch Meeting, Ring o'Bells, Middleton

Tues 14 July 8pm, Social, Gamecock, Rochdale Old Rd, Fairfield, Bury

Tues July 21 8pm, Committee M'ting, Dog & Partridge, Roundthorn, Oldham

Tues Aug 4 8pm, Branch Meeting, Old Blue Bell, Wash Lane, Bury

Contact: G Mason 061 665 3032

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Fri: 12.00-11.00
Sat: 12.00-4.00 7.00-11.00

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