# WHAT'S DOING



DEC 1992

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

## GREENALLS DUCK OUT



Greenalls have decided they want to knock down their pub in Central Manchester, Tommy Ducks, so that they can build a nice office block. CAMRA has objected to the planning application and the local branch is firmly committed to saving the pub.

#### PEN & WIG

The Pen & Wig, New Bailey Street, Salford (near Salford Central Station), reopened on 9th November after being redecorated and refurbished. Home made food is available at lunchtimes and occasionally in the early evening. (The dining area is somewhat reminiscent of a farmhouse kitchen.) The pub's range of beers is Wilsons mild (getting rare), Wilsons bitter, Pedigree and John Smiths bitter. Potential visitors to next year's CAMRA AGM may wish to note that the pub offers bed and breakfast. The Pen & Wig is run by Mary and Carl Loftus. Contact them on 834 9493 for details.

Whilst on the subject of B&B, is it worthwhile for Greater Man-chester's CAMRA branches, bearing in mind the AGM, to note any pubs, however grand or humble, that offer this service?

D Busman

#### BEER BASH TIME

The fourth Bent & Bongs Beer Bash (Atherton Festival of Beer and Winter Ales) will take place on 28th-30th January. There will be over 50 real ales, including about 20 stouts, porters, winter warmers and barley wines. Adnams Tally Ho will be available this year for the first time. Sessions are Thursday & Friday 6-11, Sat 12-4 and 7-11. Food and entertainment at each session. The venue is again the Formby Hall, off High Street, Atherton, which is about ten minutes' walk from Atherton Central Station.

#### ROCHDALE NEWS

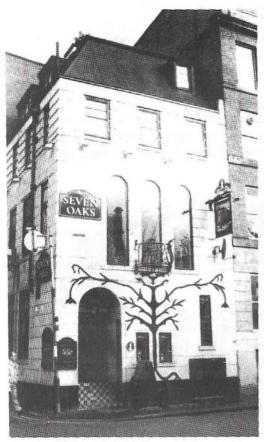
The refurbished Red Admiral (formerly the Ship Inn) on Milnrow Road is now open and selling Boddingtons bitter and Coach House Coachmans Best Bitter. The same combination of beers can be had at the Lark Inn, Durham Street, Deeplish, where the addition of a third, varying guest, beer is being considered.

The Woolpack, a former Bass pub at the junction of Drake Street and Maclure Road, is now owned by the Centric Group and as such can draw on beers from the Bass, Tetley and Scottish & Newcastle ranges. Current offerings are Stones bitter and Theakstons XB.

#### NEW BREW

The new extension at Holts' Derby Brewery is now in use. The first brews appeared in November and Joseph Holt cognoscenti may have noticed subtle nuances in the flavour. There hasn't been a change in the recipe — it's just that new equipment is in use.

First the good news. The extended beer range at the Seven Oaks, Nicholas Street, Manchester, is Boddingtons bitter, Thwaites bitter and Taylors Landlord. The recent refurbishment and change of management has also brought about a smarter appearance and a busier and more lively atmosphere. There have been no major structural alterations, so



it is still a cosy little pub, consisting of a single downstairs room and an upstairs room. The Boddies is a regular beer and the two quests are there for foreseeable future. Food consists of filled rolls and main dishes, including vegetarian and daily specials, at £2.50 or £3. People obviously appreciate the comfortable new style of the Seven Oaks and it is much busier than it used to be.

The trouble is that we have lost a classic 1930s interior (and the mild has also gone). It is a period style which is not in vogue at the moment so the original light oak fittings, such as the old bars (downstairs and upstairs) and entrance doors and the period mirrors have been stripped out. We now have replacement bars and wall and ceiling panelling in the ubiquitous

pretend-Victorian, dark stained finish, with brass embellishment and reproduction Victorian coloured glass. Fancy wallpapers have replaced the simple decor of the period.

I have known the Seven Oaks for thirty years, since the days when it was a rather select little venue with a pianist to entertain in the upstairs room on Friday and Saturday nights. For thirty years it had not changed and, although latterly it had become a bit scruffy, it was one of the last of its genre in Manchester.

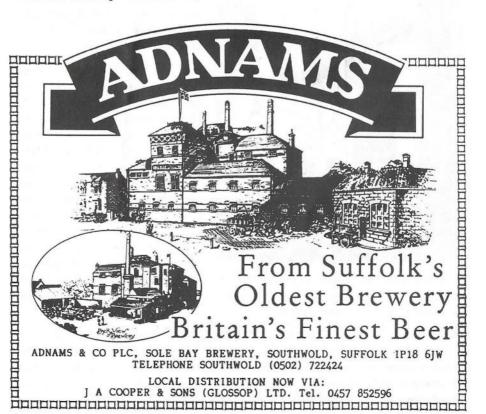
It is not disputed that the place needed something doing to it, but surely Whitbread's interior designer could have achieved the same result by respecting the pub's simple, authentic style and reinstated it, rather than chuck it into a skip and replace it with an inferior version of another age. Just about the time when the last of these 1930s pubs is destroyed they will begin to be appreciated.

#### THREATENED PUB

Ye Olde No.3 (John Smiths) at Little Bollington, which appeared in the 1991 and 1992 Good Beer Guides, is sceduled for demolition for the Western Manchester bypass.

#### PENDLEBURY

The Britannia, Bolton Road, now sells Tetley bitter and mild and Boddies bitter. The Windmill (Sam Smiths) is now the only pub on the road not selling real ale.



#### LICENSING

CAMRA has in the past been opposed to the existing licensing system and many suggestions have been made to replace it - from removal of all controls to licensing by local authorities. A joint meeting of CAMRA's Economics and Industries Group and the Pubs Group reconsidered the subject at a meeting in October and made the following recommendations, which will be put to the CAMRA AGM in March...

- \* Responsibility for licensing to remain with the licensing benches in England and Wales, and with the licensing boards of local councillors in Scotland.
- \* Applications for new licences should be refused on one of four specific grounds:
  - 1. The applicant is not a fit and proper person
  - 2. The premises are not suitable
  - 3. The premises would cause nuisance
  - 4. The new licence would not widen choice and would create overprovision of that sort of premises. (This would favour new licences which offer new choice in terms of products sold or type of premises.)
- \* Oppose the simple "individual licence", as proposed by the Brewers' Society, which would encourage rapid turnover of brewery managers, at brewery convenience. Bad for character of pub.
- \* Work towards variable closing times to reduce late night disorder; Sunday afternoon opening; all districts of Wales able to open on Sundays.
- \* Accompanied children to be admitted to suitable pubs at the licensee's discretion. "Suitable" means that pubs will have to be vetted for the purpose by licensing magistrates.
- \* No conditions on the time children are in the pub. Nor should they have to take a meal to use the pub.
- \* Refurbishments. Magistrates' control should extend to all changes of major character to pub. A requirement to advertise proposed changes and to make plans available. The public should have the right to be heard commenting on the proposals.
- \* Use licensing system to establish local monopoly limit of 25% in any one Petty Sessional Division.
- \* Licence holders should be required to publish their intention to

cease trading. Magistrates should encourage part-time pubs where necessary, and should encourage new pubs to open in pub-depleted areas as a deterrent to closures.

### ARCH ALE

Manchester has a new pub of sorts — the Cats Park under the arches below Oxford Road Station sells handpumped Tetley bitter at £1.35 a pint.

#### PRESTWICH UPDATE

Glenn Worth

The Commercial Inn (Tetley), opposite Heaton Park, has been taken over by Gary and Linda Shufflebotham. It's their first pub and a complete change from their previous occupation as proprietors of a local newsagent's. The pub interior is to be re-styled in a major refurbishment due to start in January or February 1993, when the Commercial will have to close for a short while. The good news is that until then at least, the bitter has been reduced in price from £1.16 to £1 per pint. There are also many other reductions on a variety of drinks.

The Commercial has been a long standing What's Doing outlet, at one period selling 50 copies per month. The architect's plans for the restyling of the pub are on display in the lounge and interested parties are invited to view them. The Rochdale, Oldham & Bury branch of CAMRA wish Gary and Linda every success in their new venture.

#### PARTINGTON PUBS

The Greyhound, Partington, has a new landlord and is now selling seven Vaux cask beers, including the rare Lorimers bitter. The pub has live music on Saturday nights and a karaoke night is among its other attractions.

Nearby, the Redbrook is selling Greenalls mild and bitter and Stones bitter - a real ale gain.

#### VAUX

The Ship Canal (ex-Wilsons) on Barton Lane, Eccles, has gone over to Vaux.

Contributors to this issue: Roger Wood, Des Nogalski, Roger Hall, Stewart Revell, Paul Roberts, Rob Magee, Brian Gleave, Pete Cash, Mark Hardman, Peter Wadsworth, Pauline Wadsworth, Glenn Worth, Peter Barnes

#### REAL ALE GUIDE TO THE RAILWAYS Part One

The enthusiasm for quaffing real ale whilst spotting trams/trains, as expressed in the pages of What's Doing, has inspired Brian Gleave to write a series of articles on the Southport to Wigan line, then switching at Wigan to the Manchester line via Atherton. In all these rail-ale excursions, the wearing of beards and anoraks and the carrying of duffle bags is optional...

We start our trail at Parbold, the furthest station within the Wigan CAMRA branch area. Parbold is a pretty village with an individual identity and superb views can be had from atop Parbold Hill. As you alight from the train on to the northbound platform you are practically in the lounge of the Railway, a comfortable and friendly Burtonwood pub offering mild, bitter and Forshaws from handpump.

Turn right out of the Railway and you soon come to the Windmill, next to the canal bridge. This is another smart pub, selling Greenalls bitter and Original (both now, of course, brewed by Tetley). Carry on down the same road and at the junction with the A5209 main road lies the Stocks, a Tetley Walker pub that has appeared in fifteen editions of the Good Beer Guide. The Stocks still has the atmosphere of a good rural local but perhaps the beer quality isn't as consistent as in recent years. Indeed, after my last visit to Parbold I supported the Wigan branch decision not to include any of the Parbold pubs in the Good Beer Guide for the first time since 1975. All three pubs sell basket-style meals and attract a good mix of clientele. Parbold lies outside Greater Manchester so unfortunately you can't use a Ranger ticket for the whole journey.

Next month Appley Bridge and Gathurst, which feature real ale in the station buffet bars.

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## **LETTERS**



#### TRAMS

Sir - I recently visited Manchester for the first time. By way of advance planning, I read the Good Beer Guide and "Classic Town Pubs". In addition, I also had a copy of the Metrolink Guide which had been sent to me by the people I was visiting. Out of the three, it was the Metrolink Guide which proved the most useful.

Consequently, I was amazed to read the abuse which was heaped on it in WD. While it may seem a trivial publication to Mancunians, it is a Godsend to us poor tourists. Please don't let a few bilious locals kill it off.

Finally, may I thank the anonymous CAMRA member in the Peveril of the Peak who, on the lunchtime of Friday 23rd October, kept me supplied with beer and refused to take one in return. The story of Manchester generosity is already being spread around the South.

Dan Allen, Newbury, Berkshire (All right, own up. Who was it? No wonder the CAMRA member in the Pev chose to remain anonymous. Fancy giving free ale to a southerner! Before you know it they'll all be up here, riding on our trams, drinking our beer, eating our curry and getting our sisters into trouble.)

#### TRAINS

- Sir I fully agree with "Thomas the Tank Engine" (WD Nov) that train spotters/rail enthusiasts have taken enough stick by now. A few points to chew over:
- 1. I have always thought that railways and real ale complemented each other as hobbies.
- 2. For the younger enthusiasts, BR termini especially in cities are largely safe places, which is more than sometimes can be said for surrounding streets!
- 3. What about the station bars? We all know, of course, about the excellent one at Stalybridge, but there are also those at former station buildings at Urmston, Broadbottom and Brooklands all with the real stuff, I believe, and worth a visit.
- 4. GMPTE's excellent "Rail Ranger" tickets can take you from Glaze-brook to Glossop, Hale to Hall i'th'Wood, Mossley to Marple all for just £2 for a day.

Add to this the fact that some rail journeys - eg to Buxton or Glossop - are pleasant experiences of themselves. Need I say more?

Kim Rampley

#### ANOTHER BLOODY TRAINSPOTTER

Sir - I am a railway enthusiast and have been for about forty-five years and have read with amusement the recent correspondence about trainspotters which was sparked off by Peter Wadsworth's "Real Ale Guide to Metrolink". The letter from "Thomas the Tank Engine" (WD Nov) has so incensed me that I have to reply.

Although Thomas was trying to be kind, he has the cheek to suggest that we trainspotters do not drink a lot!

Most <u>real</u> trainspotters spent their youth watching Black Fives, Big Eights, Jubilees, Patriots, Royal Scots, Duchesses, etc, passing by and now have to drown their sorrowful memories of favourite locomotives, which have long been cut up (only the lucky ones ended up in Dai Woodham's scrap yard), with copious quantities of real ale. This is usually done in the company of fellow ageing enthusiasts whilst propping up the bar in the pub and reminiscing about the glorious steam era which sadly ended in 1968.

So let's set the record straight - real trainspotters do drink a lot and they still don't fall off platform edges!

#### RED KING

Sir - Glenn Worth's "Whitefield News" (WD Nov) rightly points to the advantages to the discerning drinker given by Holts' quality and price. However, in mentioning the large banner and price reductions at the Red King (Boddies), he is obviously not aware that the credit for the limited £1 per pint is due solely to personal negotiation by the Red King management, Tom and Lou.

T.H, Bury

#### CASTLE & FALCON CLUB

Sir - After reading a couple of letters in WD I would like to put the record straight. As far as Burtonwood beer goes, the Castle & Falcon serves the best pint I have ever had. Every week the beer is in excellent condition and merits ten out of ten for quality. The food is excellent and very good value for money. The club is also very clean and tidy, with pool and Sky TV for anyone who wants it. So the correspondent who wants the old pub to reopen had better try the club - at least there is wallpaper on the walls! At £1.15 a pint, the Castle & Falcon Club is cheaper than the other Burtonwood outlets in town.

P Sidebotham



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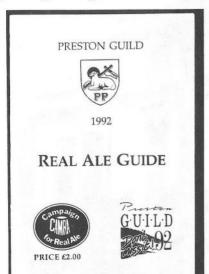
WARRINGTON STREET ASHTON-U-LYNE



Well, we're at the end of 1992 and it's the end of a special year for the good people of Preston and mid-Lancashire. 1992 was Preston Guild Year, an event which has been celebrated every 20 years since 1328.

More importantly, the brewing of real ale began again in Preston in 1992, after a gap of 24 years. Last month the North Manchester and Preston branches of CAMRA got together at the recently opened Preston Brewing Company to sample the beer. It was a particularly cold and wet evening and the brewery had no heating, so thermal underwear should have been compulsory. The conditions were overcome to some degree by a warm welcome and two kils of beer laid on for us to sup, although this was as cold as the blue extremities seen on some of the CAMRA members.

Preston Brewing Company beer is delivered by Beer Bus to about twenty free houses and other pubs which sell guest beers. You can try it at the Kings Arms on Bloom Street, Salford. Pride Ale is the main brew; it's a session ale with an og of about 1038. On the evening of our visit there was a new mild for us to taste and this appeared to go down well. Yet to come is a strong ale in time for Christmas: Atlas Really Strong Export. Bottoms up!



The Preston branch of CAMRA has published a comprehensive guide to real ale in the town. The book deals in detail with all the pubs which serve at least one proper beer and at the back there is a list of the 44 pubs in the area which don't sell any.

The guide can be had for £2 (including p&p) from D L Marsden, 320 Golden Hill Lane, Leyland, Preston PR5 1YJ.

Alternatively, you can ring Tony Buller on 061 247 3204 for Manchester City Centre collection.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

25p

#### PRICE INCREASE

\*

## **NOW&THEN**

by Rob Magee

No.70

### DR SYNTAX

24 Market Place, Oldham

In 1990 Curry's electrical shop in Oldham's Market Place was pulled down to make way for the town's new shopping precinct. This building was originally the Dr Syntax public house, which had its origins in an alehouse which opened in the early nineteenth century. The alehouse was called the College Youth Tavern as it fronted the town's Grammar School. The name was changed to the Kings Arms for a time, then the Iron Duke (or Iron Dish) in the 1820s.

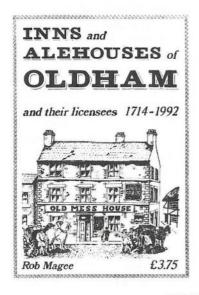
William Whittaker became the owner and licensee in 1826 and he must have been a follower of the gee-gees, as he changed the name to the Dr Syntax and then, for a year or two, to the Filho. Both these are names of racehorses — Dr Syntax won the Preston Gold Cup in 1815 and 1821 and Filho da Puta won the St Leger in 1815. Daniel Wild, who kept the



pub in the 1850s, had a run of bad luck which may or may not have been connected with the sport of kings. In 1859 he had stock worth £299 and debts totalling £1,200. He was made bankrupt, sent to prison and died in Lancaster Castle.

The old building was taken down in 1872 so that a way could be made through from Peter Street to High Street. A new Dr Syntax was built and this was purchased by local brewers Jowett & Waterhouse in 1874. A report of 1894 noted the building had six drinking rooms, four bedrooms, no bathroom, no accommodation for travellers and no stabling. Oldham Brewery took over in 1896 and they carried out major alterations in 1928.

I remember the Dr Syntax in the 1950s when, along with other town centre pubs, it was the venue for concerts and later catered for the Rock'n'Roll craze. The looming building had a sinister quality at night - a green and red neon "Dr Syntax" sign on the wall never seemed to work properly and flickered at passers-by!



#### NEW BOOK

Rob Magee's latest book is his biggest so far - a history of all the inns and alehouses which have existed in Oldham. The book tells the story of each pub from the year it opened and lists all known licensees and owners. It is well illustrated with old photographs and plans of the pubs.

"Inns and Alehouses of Oldham" is on sale in several Oldham pubs and all good bookshops for £3.75.

A second volume, detailing Oldham's beerhouses, is due out next year.

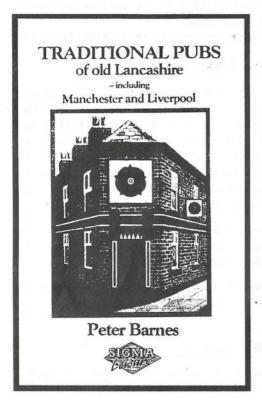
### CHRISTMAS CHEER

During December, card-carrying members of CAMRA can sample the real ales at the Market Hotel, Farnworth, at 10p a pint discount. The beers are always in good condition and comprise Walkers dark mild, bitter and best bitter, together with a guest beer (Boddies bitter, Robinsons best bitter, Jennings or Ind Coope Burton Ale).

#### BOOK REVIEW

TRADITIONAL PUBS OF OLD LANCASHIRE including Manchester and Liverpool
Peter Barnes Sigma 1992 £7.95 228pp

"The documentation of our existing pubs is an important strand of a strategy to retain and conserve pubs of character. By making these pubs accessible to a wider audience their value will be more appreciated and, perhaps, their slow demise may be arrested. Peter Barnes' compendium of Lancashire's traditional pubs demonstrates the variety of premises which we still possess. Peter's enthusiasm for his subject shines through and will, I feel, prove contagious and encourage customers, licensees and brewers alike to take a fresh look at what they have and how they may best ensure its survival, other than in museums and heritage parks."



That is part of the foreword I wrote to Peter's book and I have now had the opportunity of seeing the fruits of his research in full glossy form. The book is broken down into four main areas which constituted Old (pre-1974) Lancashire -Manchester: Liverpool and South Lancs: Ribble, Calder, Pendle; West Lancashire and Furness. Within each of these areas there are main listings of pubs of character which include details of real ale, opening times, food, family facilities and entertainment. There is also a further suggestions section which is quite extensive and which contains the basis for an extended second edition. The guide is well illustrated with both interior and exterior photographs. Unfortunately, the maps from the Cash Cartography stable

largely confined to Manchester, but I, for one, expect to use proper maps or A-Z's as well as a beer guide if I'm trying to find a particular pub.

One of the inevitable bellyaches about a selective guide is that your own little gem has not been included, whilst some featureless barn down the road has got in. I make no complaints about the omission of some of my own favourites, but I feel that the exclusion of full entries for Lancaster is a serious omission. It is, after all, the old County town and does contain pubs of character worthy of more than a few lines in the further suggestions section. Certainly the Golden Lion and the John O'Gaunt are worthy of consideration.

"Traditional Pubs of Old Lancashire" is a book to be read for pleasure and to be used as a guide to the best of the pubs we have left. If it encourages people to visit pubs of character and to argue about their merits it will have served its purpose. If it helps to save one traditional pub from desecration or destruction, that will be a bonus.

#### TRAFFORD CHANGES

The Victoria, Altrincham, once a Good Beer Guide pub, has gone against the national real ale trend and has dropped cask Stones bitter in favour of the keg version.

But there are real ale gains at a revolving door pub - the Old Cock, Stretford (Worthington Best Bitter), and an untouched gem, the Railway at Cornbrook (Stones bitter and Bass Light). The Railway is well worth visiting, being one of Manchester's best classic pubs. Nearby at Turvilles (described in a tabloid newspaper as Manchester's worst pub), Worthington Best Bitter has joined cask Stones. Whilst it is no classic pub, Turvilles is undeserving of the tabloid slur.

A CAMRA/Metrolink Guide pub, the Robin Hood in Stretford, has added both a guest beer and Theakstons Best to its Boddingtons range. A minor refurbishment has left the multi-room layout unchanged, but the dreaded karaoke makes an appearance on some nights in the week.

The Seahawk (Wilsons), Old Trafford, has apparently been selling Holts bitter as a guest beer.

#### LESS FOR LEES

Round about now the brewing companies (even Holts) bang up their prices, but this year one of our local breweries has done the opposite. Instead of their usual October price increase, Lees have reduced the price of a pint by around 10p. In managed houses and some tenancies the bitter is now 99p and the mild 95p.

# rupert

It had been my intention to provide readers with information extolling the virtues of our erstwhile Regional Bossperson in support of her quest to join the boss group. After her narrow failure at Titley, the 1993 Slumley Jamboree will provide an ideal launching pad for a meteoric rise to fame. In her home ground, Nora Tackler's talents are known to wide audience beyond her immediate branch where she was a figure of adulation. However, the dithyrambs must wait. Her multifaceted skills as editrix of millenium and Maxwell accountancy scholar must remain unlauded for the time being as more pressing news commands.

Tiggywinkle's, it seems, has lost yet another mine host Ben Chestnut leaves for pastures new. Exact details of his going are unclear and subjudice, yet suffice say, that treble bookings of CAMRA meetings, West Indian bands and follically challenged lesbian coprophagy sects have not entirely been discounted. As Mr Chestnut helps to reduce the average tenure of tavernkeepers into the fentosecond realm, expect to see popping up selling mini beer factory wares.

Disturbing as this news is, it pales into insignificance compared with the recent antics of one Hattie Nightingale. Hattie

has recently been promoted to after dormant Campaign members in the Slumley area. Recognising that these gentle souls might be disconcerted by the excessive behaviour branch eccentrics, Hattie wrote to them all, promising to keep everyone under control, to be nice to everyone and inviting them to a jolly at the Super in North Grotley. Normally, Hattie can be relied upon to keep her knickers on and be circumspect in both behaviour and vocab-However, Hattie ulary. overwrought by the success of the occasion and ale flowed like ale down her neck, causing exuberant behaviour which resulted in a collision between Hattie's ample posterior and a glass-fronted display cabinet result - Hattie's bum 1, Display Cabinet O. The assemblage of aspirant activists was shocked and horrified by this bumptious conduct and ran off, weeping.

I fear that we may never see them again and that if these pioneering socials continue the entire branch may follow in the footprints of Eastwood Chef and Pooh and be banned from every hostelry in Christendom. Hattie is in charge of accommodation Slumley for '93 and already booked Nora into the Zeppelin Suite. I fear for her survival if the Shames end up sharing a room in a bawdy house with a blow-up kangaroo.



#### WIGAN

Wed 16 Dec, Branch Meeting, Swan & Railway, 8.30

Friday 18th December: Xmas Social and Curry Night, Beer Engine, 8pm. Sat 2nd Jan. Annual Rape and Pillage of Manchester. 7pm Queens, 8.15 Marble Arch.

Contact: Brian Gleave 0942 840658

#### NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 2 Dec, Eccles Crawl. Top House, Church Street, 7pm; Bulls Head, Church Street, 8pm; Crown & Volunteer, Church Street, 9pm; Lamb, Regent Street, to finish.

Wed 16 Dec, Christmas Meeting & Social, Crescent, Salford 8pm
Wed 23 Dec, Duke of York, Marlborough Road, Hightown, 8pm
Wed 30 Dec Annual Christmas Curry Crawl: Jolly Angler 12pm, White
House 1pm, Castle 2pm, Unicorn 3pm.
Wed 6 Jan, Membership Social Evening, Castle, Oldham Street, 8pm
Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

#### REGION

Mon 7th Dec, Metrolink Guide Meeting. Welcome (Holts), Bury Old Road, Besses o'th'Barn, 8pm Wed 9th Dec, Regional Meeting, Marble Arch, Rochdale Road, 8pm.

#### TRAFFORD & HULME

Thur 3 Dec 8pm, Committee Meeting, Crown, Deansgate.

Thur 10 Dec 8pm, Sale Metrolink Crawl. Commencing at the Brook, then Tap. Legh. Railway and Bridge.

Sat 12 Dec, Branch Christmas Dinner at the Market Restaurant, Manchester. 8pm

Thur 17 Dec 8pm, Branch Curry. Meet at the Albert, Rusholme Tues 22 Dec 8pm, Altrincham Survey, starting in the Grapes. Thur 7 Jan 8pm, Committee Meeting and Hale Barns Survey. Unicorn 8pm, Bulls Head 9pm, Bleeding Wolf 9.45pm, Railway 10pm. Contact: Allan Glover 061 962 9890 (h), 061 872 2373 (w)

#### BOLTON

Thur 3 Dec 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Howcroft, Pool Street Sat 5 Dec, Beer & Curry trip to Bradford - details from contact. Tues 29 Dec, Christmas Crawl and Curry. 7pm Dog & Partridge, 8pm Malt & Hops, 9.30pm Clifton, 10pm Sweet Green, 10.45pm Sunar Gaw, Manchester Road Contact: Judith Spragg 0204 595342 (h), 0204 397350 (w)

#### ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 1 Dec 8pm, Branch Meeting, Blue Bell (Robinsons), Market St, Shaw Tues 8 Dec 8pm, Committee Meeting, Lord Raglan (free), Nangreaves, Bury Tues 15 Dec 8pm, Christmas Social, Flying Horse (free), Town Hall Square, Rochdale. Large attendance requested.

Tues 5 Jan 8pm, Branch Meeting, Blue Pitts, Castleton, Rochdale

Contact: Graham Mason 061 665 3032

#### BOLTON NEWS

The Railway at 2/4 St Helens Road has a new name and new owners — it is now a Matthew Brown pub called the Shamrock. Theakstons Best Bitter has replaced Boddingtons bitter as the pub's resident real ale.

On the guest beer front, Holts bitter has been spotted on sale for 95p a pint at Whitbread's House Without a Name, opposite Harwood Precinct. The Cattle Market on Orlando Street, again a Whitbread pub, now has Thwaites bitter as its guest beer alongside Boddingtons bitter. Sadly, the Castle Eden Ale, a fixture at this fine pub for many years, has had to go. Not far away, the Sweet Green Tavern on Crook Street has Hydes bitter as its guest beer alongside Tetley products and a second, changing quest beer.

Finally, the "For Sale" signs have been taken down at "Mr D's" on Thynne Street. This pub/club was recently advertised in the local press as offering "the campest night in town"!

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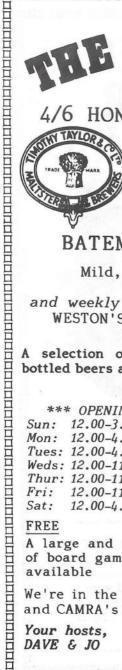
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Sun: 12.00-3.00 7.00-10.30 Mon: 12.00-4.00 7.00-11.00

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

#### FREE

A large and varied selection of board games always available

We're in the Good Beer Guide and CAMRA's Good Food Guide

Your hosts. DAVE & JO

