

25p

# What's Doing

AUGUST 1993



Britain's Best-Selling Regional CAMRA Magazine

## More Ales in Middleton



Whitbread's Dusty Miller in the centre of Middleton is now selling five beers through handpumps. Recently these were Boddingtons, Flowers IPA, Castle Eden, Summer Ale and Morlands Old Speckled Hen. With Lees pubs selling bitter at under a pound, Middleton is a place worth visiting!



## **City Centre Manchester**

Rhys Jones' well conceived and well organised Independents' Day tour of the City Centre pubs was a clear indication of the choice of beers from independent brewers available in the heart of Manchester. A wide variety of brews is sold in tied houses, free houses and as guest beers in pubs owned by the Big Four.

So Real Ale is alive and well in the City Centre then? This isn't something you'd notice from the Good Beer Guide. The number of entries for a selection of towns and cities in the 1993 GBG reads as follows:

Leeds 19, Newcastle 11, Oxford 15, Liverpool 12, Glasgow 12, Stafford 10, Stone on Trent 11, Swansea 10, Cardiff 11, Bristol 21, Bath 16, Bolton 10, Salford 9, Stockport 7, Manchester 9.

Is this because Manchester's pubs are inferior or because the city's split up into mediæval villages? Not at all. The selections for the City Centre are made independently by three separate branches who cover parts of the city in areas which might also include Altrincham, Eccles or Stockport. Nowhere is an overview given to the metropolitan centre; to the place where most visitors first set foot. It's about time it was. Now that the Greater Manchester Region has constitutional status, it should surely be possible to choose say a dozen pubs in the City Centre which reflect the choice and quality available without thinking about arbitrary and largely irrelevant branch boundaries.

### **Salford's Plan**

Some of CAMRA's suggestions (WD last month) have been taken on board by Salford's planners. Some were outside the rules. All the proposals had the sympathy of the planners and we've reached a new understanding with them (as they say) so that the branch will be consulted on plans which involved the demolition or radical alteration of pubs in Salford.

### **A57 Varieties**

Several pubs still stand in the way of a four-lane dual carriageway from Ardwick Green to Denton, including the Plough near Wellington Street. A fine pub it is too, and a fine spirited defence has been made of it by CAMRA. Yet this arterial route, much like the A57 in Salford, must be a priority. The spirited defence of Regent Road's pubs in the 1980s did nothing to prevent their demise. Sadly, we may expect the same fate east of the city. Plus ça change, déjà entendu.

# King's Ale

Leo King

## Crown & Anchor

Holts have really gone to town on the Crown & Anchor on Cateaton Street, Manchester. The two large areas have attractive wallpaper, thick carpets and cloth seating, and the small room (near the gents') has been done out very nicely with the original lighting and seating retained. A beautiful lighting layout in the middle room (where the bar is) has transformed the place and you would not believe it was the same room. The extension is large and extremely comfortable. The gents' are now of the de luxe variety and there is even a WC for the disabled. The exterior stonework has been cleaned so as to be almost white. Could the Crown & Anchor be the most luxurious of the Holts estate? All I can say is, GREAT!



## Unicorn

The Unicorn (Bass) on Church Street has a guest beer on each week and, as with the usual ales (Draught Bass, Stones Bitter, Bass Light and Worthington Best Bitter, all handpumped) the guest is kept in tip-top condition. Tuesdays and Wednesdays are not only happy hour days, but happy all hour days. Except for the Bass and guests, the beers sell at £1 a pint.



Forthcoming guest ales are: Cains Formidable (29 July), Batemans Victory Ale (5th August), Thomas Hardy Country Bitter (12th August), Morlands Old Speckled Hen (19th August), McMullens Original AK bitter (26th August), Palmers IPA (2nd September).

Incidentally, the Worthington Best Bitter on sale in Bass outlets is brewed, not in Burton on Trent, but at Hancocks (Welsh Brewers), Cardiff. Strange, why not call it Hancocks Best Bitter?

### **Hogshead**

Beer prices at the Hogshead on High Street have been reduced to a more sensible level and the place seems to have much more custom now. As well as the usual Whitbread (own brand and guest ale) range, there are plenty of other guest ales to enjoy. With ten handpumps (five mainly for guests) and up to four ales on gravity, there is always a variety to choose from. The regulars are, of course, Whitbread Trophy, Boddingtons, Chesters bitter, Bentleys, Castle Eden and Pedigree.

I would say that the Hogshead is a vast improvement on Bensons, as the place used to be called, and there are now no bouncers outside. Anyway, I have not noticed any, even late on at weekends. I sincerely hope that this pub stays as the Hogshead!

# **BEER FESTIVAL** at **THE ELLESMERE**

**93 Walkden Road, Walkden, Worsley, Manchester**  
**Tel. 061 790 2379**

on  
**27th, 28th, 29th August**

*Six Traditional Beers, including*  
**TIMOTHY TAYLORS LANDLORD**  
**CASTLE EDEN**

*Live band on Sunday Lunch (29th)*  
*Bar Food Available*

## Egerton Repairs

Scaffolding surrounds the Egerton Arms (Holts) in Cheetham, a popular and very busy local, and work on repairing the roof and re-pointing the exterior should now be under way. The pediment at the front of the building may be completely rebuilt.

The work is overdue, as whenever it rained the upstairs living accommodation got a soaking and water ran down into the vault. (Just above the TV, of all things!) An internal refurbishment is promised once the exterior is sound.

In the meantime, don't let the building work put you off - excellent Holts mild and bitter are always available.

## Financial Desk

There has been talk in financial circles that Greenalls have taken over the Cornish pub chain of Devenish (400+ pubs) for around £300m. It has been confirmed that Boddingtons have cashed in their shareholding for £34m.

The poor boozers of Britain paid £2,426,406,900 in beer duty in 1991. That is much more than the duty paid by the whole of the rest of the EEC put together! Germany, with a population over 50% bigger than Britain's and with a much higher beer consumption per capita, collected £618,234,610 - one quarter of our tax!

## Amber Nectar Show

The Bury Beer Festival will take place on Friday and Saturday, 22nd-23rd October at the Metropolitan (formerly the Derby Hall), Market Street, Bury. Opening times are: Friday lunch 12-3pm; Friday evening 5-11pm; Saturday lunch 12-3pm; Saturday evening 6-11pm.



The beer range will be increased this year and there will also be a selection of ciders. There will be entertainment each evening and food at all sessions. A new feature this year will be a downstairs "No Smoking" and "Quiet" zone. Admission is free to CAMRA members.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Contributors to this issue: Roger Hall, Stewart Revell, Roger Wood, Mark McConachie, Paul Roberts, Rob Magee, Leo King, Brian Gleave, Roger Bullock, Barbara Lee, D Busman  
\*\*\*\*\*

# THE STATION

## ASHTON'S PREMIER FREE HOUSE

offers a selection of  
hand pumped traditional ales  
in a friendly atmosphere.

### GUEST BEERS

from the smaller or more distant  
INDEPENDENT BREWERIES  
share the bar with  
Boddies, Pedigree & Chester's Mild  
plus interesting bottled beers.

Superb but inexpensive  
LUNCHEONS

## WE'RE OPEN ALL DAY

Monday to Friday

Saturday: 11.30-3.00/7-11.00, Sunday usual hours

Conservatory, Snug or Function Room

for meetings & parties

Ring Sylvia - 330 6776

**WARRINGTON STREET  
ASHTON-U-LYNE**

(NEAR BY-PASS)



## **Oldham 'Ouse of 'Orrors**

The Hogshead (formerly the Nelson) on Union Street is Whitbread's latest House of Horrors. It sells nine handpumped ales and three more on gravity. The Whitbread range - Boddies, Pedigree, etc, is quite reasonably priced, but guests such as Landlord at £1.50 are vastly overpriced. The usual chalked graffiti and junk shop furnishing ruins what was once quite a decent pub.

The pre-opening banner claimed the Hogshead was to be "Oldham's First Real Ale Pub". This message is repeated on signs inside the pub. A hundred or so Oldham landlords might be a little upset by this claim, having been selling the real thing for years!

## **Hard Cheese**

The Cheshire Cheese on Oldham Road, New Cross, Manchester, seems to be proving hard to let. This may not be unconnected with the fact that the pub comes complete with one of the dreaded Innentrepreneur leases. Anybody fancy the extortionate rent and unrealistic conditions for taking on all the local competition? Applicants must be certified.

## **Holts in Brief**

When the Woodthorpe, Heaton Park, reopens in the autumn the new licensee is expected to be Terry Joy, now at the Legh Arms, Sale Moor and formerly at the Stanley, Patricroft, and the Park, Swinton.

After eight years at the Union Tavern, the Good Beer Guide listed pub on Liverpool Street, Salford, Danny Grayson is moving to the Coach & Horses (Sam Smiths) at Weaste, where the handpumps will be brought back into use.

The third pub Holts are offering as a tenancy (WD last month) is believed to be the Foresters on Bury New Road, Prestwich.

## **Hi-tech at Empire Street**

Cheetham's favourite brewers have applied for permission to build two malt silos. At this rate Joeys will be pensioning off the horses before long.

## **Flying away**

Simon Finch, erstwhile licensee of Dobbins' Kings Arms, Chorlton-on-Medlock, has moved to an area where canaries rule, the mining country of Gloucestershire, as tenant of a free house.

## Real Ale Guide to the Railways

Part Seven

### **Atherton** - *the last stop in Brian Gleave's guide to Great Railale Journeys of the World*

Atherton, once Tyldesley's poor relation as a drinking town, now has an excellent choice of both pubs and beer. As you leave Atherton Central Station, turn right down the main road and on the right is the Station, a largish, smart pub selling Tetley's Greenall bitter and Stones bitter. After wetting your whistle, take the fork opposite the Station down Bolton Old Road where in the shadow of some dark factories lies the Rope & Anchor, a former Tetley pub now selling Vaux bitter and Samson; rare beers for the area.

Continuing along Bolton Old Road to the junction with High Street, one comes to the Bay Horse, a down-to-earth Tetley pub that has graced the Good Beer Guide on more than one occasion. Just along High Street is the Concert, which usually sells keg Burtonwood mild and bitter but on a good day you can get Forshaws from the handpump.

Back up Bolton Road is the Spinners, another Tetley pub that sometimes sells Robinsons and other guest beers. In the town centre, opposite the market on Church Street, is the Red Lion, which has recently been refurbished and provided with a disco room at the rear. The beers are





Tetley mild and bitter and Hydes bitter. Follow the Manchester (Tyldesley) Road round the corner to the Atherton Arms. Large ex-Labour Club with superb Holts beer - need I say more? Back into Atherton Centre, on the left on Market Street is the Kings Head, another youngsters' pub and a recent real ale convert. Worthington bitter is now available on handpump.

Further down Market Street is the Jolly Nailor (keg Greenalls) and opposite this, up a little passageway, is Atherton's newest pub, a Moorhouses tied house called the Pendle Witch. Black Cat Mild, Premier, Pendle Witch and at least one guest beer are normally available. More Tetleys can be had at the Mountain Dew on Market Street and the Wheatsheaf further down sells Theakstons bitter and Old Peculier and Ruddles County.

Down at the Punchbowl end of Market Street are the Letters (Tetley mild and bitter in a pub with a great atmosphere) and the Punchbowl (Greenalls and Stones).

This overview of Atherton brings to an end my guide to Real Ale on the Railways. Readers may wish to contribute further articles to continue the line into Manchester.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Rochdale Ramblings**

*Paul Roberts*

Tap & Spile have moved their Rochdale outlet from the edge of town to the former Drake's Wine Bar on Drake Street in the town centre. Although smaller than the Hope Street premises, the new pub is much cosier. Eight handpumps offer a range of reasonably priced ales.

Drake Street now has a good variety of real ale within a five minute walk. The Cask & Feather sells S&N beers and a guest in addition to the three home-produced beers. Across the road is the Citizen, with Vaux bitter, Wards and Samson. Next to that, the Navigation is one of Holts' two tied houses in Rochdale. The Woolpack is handy for the railway station and sells Theakstons bitter.

The former Tap & Spile has reverted to its original name - the Two Ships - and is selling a range of Thwaites and Allied products at rather high prices. No doubt it is still owned by the Pubmaster Group, which owns the Tap & Spile chain.

Back in the centre, the Flying Horse, opposite the Town Hall, is now selling Ruddles County, John Smiths, John Willie Lees bitter, Pedigree, Holts and Taylors Landlord from the wicket. Unfortunately the Robinsons best bitter has gone.

## **So that's all right then**

The Intrepeneur lease from Grand Met, a sort of 20-year millstone round the neck which replaces the long-established tenancy system, has resulted in ruination and bankruptcy for many who found it impossible to meet the high rents. Some Intrepeneur lessees challenged the legality of the leases and brought the matter to the attention of President Heseltine. But his officials met with Bob Williams, boss of Grand Met, and decided everything was hunky-dory. Caveat emptor, as they say in legal circles. Or, as they say in Salford, watch your arse.

## **Walkden Festival**

For the first time in twenty years, Walkden is to have a festival. It will run from August 19th to the 29th and many different events will be held for all age groups. From the 27th the Ellesmere (Tetleys) on Walkden Road will be joining in with a mini beer festival. Some rather rare (by Walkden standards, anyway) beers are promised, including Taylors Landlord, Castle Eden and, maybe, Old Speckled Hen.

The North Manchester branch of CAMRA is meeting at the Ellesmere on the 25th (Wednesday), when Derek Matthews will give a talk on the history of pubs and clubs in the area. Although the beerfest officially starts two days later, there will be an opportunity to preview some of the ales!

## **Guests from Wellington**

Bass's Wellington in the Shambles, Manchester, has always tended to be on the expensive side. But it is a fine pub, serving excellent food, and now it is selling an independent guest beer in addition to the Bass range. Recent examples have been Fullers London Pride and Batemans XB, both kept in excellent condition and sold for only £1 a pint, to boot!

## **Chuffed!**

The Whitechaff, just out of Rawtenstall town centre on the road to Edenfield, is now a Robinsons house, purveying their delightful wares from handpumps.

## **Mitchells**

June's WD predicted that one of Mitchells' beers would soon be available in the Crown & Anchor on Hilton Street in Manchester. Mitchells Fortress went on sale in late June at £1.30 a pint (the beer is 4.2% ABV) and it is selling well.

# Now & Then

*by Rob Magee*

No.78      **Old Post Office**      439 Manchester Road, Hollinwood

Yet another Manchester Road landmark has gone forever. Over the weekend of 17th/18th July the Old Post Office at Hollinwood was demolished for road widening.

This pub began life as a beerhouse and can be traced back to 1863, when William Lawton took out an excise licence for his house next to (or part of) the original Hollinwood post office at the junction of Hollins Road and Manchester Road. (The post office had by that time been moved up the road to a more central site.)

There was probably also a family connection with the first post office, as a John Lawton was the postmaster there in 1831 and a Walter Lawton in 1858. Two other John Lawtons were in business in Hollinwood in the 1830s: one was a druggist, grocer and confectioner and the other was a butcher. Between 1837 and 1850 the butcher also sold beer, but disappears from the records after the latter date and there is no evidence to connect this beer shop with the one William Lawton opened in 1863.

Sarah Lawton, William's widow, sold the Old Post Office beerhouse to Oldham Brewery in 1877 and for some reason OB leased it to William Forsyth & Co, a wine, spirit and bottled beer merchant on Yorkshire Street, Oldham. This company evidently didn't look after the Old Post Office, as a police survey in 1894 noted the property was very old and in





a poor state of repair. Just when Forsyth's gave up the lease isn't recorded, but as I've never met anyone who remembers drinking Forsyth's products, it was probably a long time ago!

The Old Post Office saw some major alterations in 1964 and the following year it became a fully licensed house. In 1982, when Derek Heath was the licensee, the pub was acquired by Boddingtons Brewery along with the rest of the OB estate. Derek left in 1986 to take the Golden Buck (and he's still there). George Drysdale was the last licensee of the Old Post Office and he ran the pub from 1987 until it closed on 31st May this year.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Cask Sams

The Prince of Wales on Lower Broughton Road in Salford has a new manager and he has brought back cask conditioned Sam Smiths Old Brewery Bitter, doing away with the Tadcaster keg. The beer sells at £1.05 a pint.

## Laurel & Hardy

The Sons of the Desert (the Laurel & Hardy Appreciation Society) will be holding a "Laurel and Harday" at the Beer Engine Free House in Wigan on Saturday 4th September. Among the attractions will be six cask beers with Laurel & Hardy associations from independent breweries. The West Coast Brewery will be supplying Laurel Light and Hardy Heavy, which were originally the bottled beers brewed for Stan and Ollie's centenaries in 1990 and 1992. The Ryburn Brewery will be supplying Stan's Mild and Ollie's Mild, the house brews at the Stanley Arms in Stockport.

The house beer at the Beer Engine, where the Sons of the Desert meet every month, is Fin's Beady Eye Bitter, dedicated to James Finlayson, the memorable character actor in Laurel & Hardy films. Stan Laurel was born in Ulverston, so Robinsons Brewery (part sponsors of the event) will be supplying Hartleys XB.

The "Laurel and Harday" will feature many other attractions for Laurel & Hardy fans and tickets cost £5 each from Chris Coffey, 64 Dale Crescent, Sutton Leach, St Helens, WA9 4YE.



## Real Ale in Flixton

The Railway on Irlam Road, a long-time keg Sam Smiths pub, now has a handpump. However, on a recent visit to try the OB bitter, only keg beer from electric dispensers was being served. Our correspondent was told there would be some real ale "at the end of the week". Would Flixton readers check this one out?

## Altrincham News

The Victoria (Bass), on Stamford Street is back on real ale again, selling Tetley bitter and Stones bitter on handpump. The Downs (Bass) on Railway Street is selling Worthington Best Bitter - a real ale gain.

The highly successful guest beer policy continues at the local CAMRA branch Pub of the Year, the Orange Tree (Grand Met, on the A56). Marstons Pedigree is a regular and there is a changing guest beer, normally from a small brewer. However, prices are a bit on the high side - the cheapest beer is Websters Green Label and that costs £1.30 per pint.

Next door to the Orange Tree is the Hogshead, formerly the Unicorn, Peppard's and Hickory's. This offers a variety of session beers in lively surroundings.

## Pink House

The White House on Great Ancoats Street, Manchester, has recently been refurbished inside and the outside has been painted white and an unusual shade of pink. The beers continue to be Holts bitter and a varying guest.

**WHAT'S DOING** contributions should be sent to the editor c/o 88 Ringley Road, Stoneclough, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 9ET. News, articles, letters, etc, must arrive by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Send cheque/PO for £2.70 together with your name and address to Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester M9 2PW, for six issues. Cheques made out to "What's Doing".

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

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

**WHAT'S DOING ADVERTISING:** Enquiries to the editor, address above. Full page £30 or £135 for six months, half page £20 or £90 for six months. 10% discount for advance payment.

# Letters

## **What's in a Name?**

Sir - Whilst appreciating the sentiments expressed in Glenn Worth's letter regarding mild (WD July), I think it is time that CAMRA clarified what a mild beer actually is. Mild is generally regarded as a low gravity, dark beer. Yet there are several light milds still in existence. Is a low gravity bitter a 'light mild'? In recent times, many new 'stouts' and 'porters' have appeared. Some of these are dark beers of low strength, such as Heskett Newmarket Porter (2.6%ABV) and Holden's Black Country Stout (3.2%ABV). Aren't these really milds? Highgate Mild is currently being marketed down South as 'Dark' - as has long been the case with Brains Mild.

Conversely, some dark beers sold as milds are strong beers, such as Merrie Monk (4.5%ABV) and Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby (6%ABV). Fullers have recently reintroduced their dark mild - Hock.

Finally, I think it is rather extreme of Glenn to suggest that CAMRA meetings should not be held in 'mildless' pubs, or Good Beer Guide entries be awarded to such places. This would result in some CAMRA branches not having anywhere to meet, or any entries for the GBG! Wiltshire, for example, would be reduced to one pub - the Wyndham Arms (Hop Back Brewery) in Salisbury, where an excellent dark mild is produced.

*Jamie Frotter, East Titley*

## **Food for thought**

Sir - I had occasion recently to pop into a wonderful street-corner local I know for a pint and a butty. Imagine my surprise and hunger when I discovered that food was no longer available. "Food Hygiene Regs!" said mine host sadly.

It transpired that it would have cost him an arm and three legs to bring his kitchen up to the latest standards. So, out went the food followed by a good deal of his lunchtime trade.

"Surely," I thought afterwards, "if food is prepared in kitchens that do meet the latest regulations, is sealed before it leaves the premises and is transported and stored at the correct temperature, then it would be acceptable to the powers-that-be. Is this not what Sainsbury's, Marks & Spencer and British Rail do?"

I spoke to a prominent, popular and experienced Manchester landlady. She confirmed that this was in fact the case. Supplying all those barmcake-free pubs (and their starving customers) with butties and the like would provide quite an opportunity for the budding entrepreneur, or a pub with surplus capacity in its kitchen. Are there any takers?

*Hungry Horace*



## The Café Bar

Sir - I have been a reader of What's Doing for many years now - indeed, it is my second-favourite organ - but some bits I still don't understand. Leaving aside the unfathomable Rupert page (the product of a seriously disturbed mind if ever there was one), what I didn't follow in the latest issue was this business about café bar licences (*Licensing Reform*, WD July).

What's the difference? If a place has a licence to sell booze, with or without crisps, meat pies or caramelised carrots, then it's a pub, isn't it? Let us suppose I am in a licensed house with one of these licences, and let us say it is the tenth boozier of a ten-boozier pub crawl. Assuming all primary mental faculties are functioning (I can remember my name and whose round it is), how will I know the place has a café bar licence rather than the usual sort?

*Confused, Cheadle Hulme*

\*\*\*\*\*

## John Willie marches on

A very welcome addition to the already varied ale scene in Stalybridge is John Willie Lees bitter. Two John Smiths houses - the Stocks on Stocks Lane and the Sportsmans on Mottram Road - are selling the amber nectar from Middleton Junction at 99p per pint. Lees is becoming even more widespread across the region and at around £1 per pint it is excellent value. The Fleece on Market Street, Stalybridge's other John Smiths pub, is selling Boddingtons and John Smiths bitters at 94p a pint.

## Kendlegate Wine Cellars Ltd

164 Northgate Rd, Edgeley. Tel: 477 3939

Wide range of Belgian and Continental Beers  
Cask beers to order, glass hire, delivery service

Timmermans, Leifmans, Orval, Chimay, Duvel, Hooegarden,  
Rodenbach, Kwak, Westmalle, St Sixtus, Worthington White Shield,  
Imperial Russian Stout, Taddy Porter  
and Vintage Ciders

Wide selection of Wines £2 - £20  
Parties and Functions supplied

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 August 21st - September 1st inc.  
Telephone orders accepted on a COD basis

## Where's it from?

*Beer from small breweries all over the country are often guests in the area's free houses. Usually only a pumpclip advertises the ale and unless you are equipped with a magnifying glass to read the small print, it is often impossible to identify the town of origin. As a guide for those of us who want to know such things, Leo King has provided this up-to-date, comprehensive list of the small breweries. Those marked \* are often available in the leading free houses - the Beer House and the Marble Arch in Manchester and the Crescent and Kings Arms in Salford.*

### England

Archers, Swindon, Wilts\*  
Ash Vine, Trudoxhill, Frome,  
Somerset\*  
Aston Manor, Aston, Birmingham  
Ballards, Petersfield, Hants  
Banks & Taylor, Shefford, Beds\*  
Beer Engine, Newton St Cyres, Exeter  
Berrow, Burnham on Sea, Somerset  
Big End, Harrogate, Yorks\*  
Big Lamp, Newcastle upon Tyne\*  
Blackawton, Totnes, Devon  
Black Sheep, Masham, Yorks  
British Oak, Dudley, Worcs  
Bunces, Netheravon, Wilts\*  
Burton Bridge, Burton on Trent, Staffs\*  
Butcombe, Blagdon, Bristol\*  
Butterknowle, Bishop Auckland,  
Durham\*  
Cains, Liverpool\*  
Chiltern, Aylesbury, Bucks\*  
Chiltern Valley - see Old Luxters  
Clarks, Wakefield, Yorks\*  
Coach House, Warrington\*  
Commercial, Keighley, Yorks  
Cotleigh, Wiveliscombe, nr Taunton\*  
Cropton, Pickering, N Yorks\*  
Crouch Vale, Chelmsford, Essex\*  
Daleside, Harrogate, Yorks  
Dent, Dent, Cumbria\*  
Dobbins (West Coast), C-on-M, M/c\*  
Dunn Ploughman, Leominster  
Earl Soham, Woodbridge, Suffolk  
Eastwood, Huddersfield, Yorks  
Enville, Enville, Staffs  
Exe Valley, Silverton, nr Exeter\*  
Exmoor, Wiveliscombe, nr Taunton\*

Featherstone, Leicester  
Forbes, Lowestoft, Suffolk  
Franklins, Harrogate, N Yorks  
Freeminer, Forest of Dean, Glos\*  
Fergusons, Plympton, Plymouth  
Goachers, Maidstone, Kent  
Goldfinch, Dorchester, Dorset  
Hadrian, Byker, Newcastle on Tyne\*  
Hampshire, Andover, Hants  
Hanby, Wern, Salop\*  
Hardington, Bristol\*  
Heritage, Burton on Trent, Staffs  
Hesket Newmarket, Cumberland  
Hop Back, Salisbury, Wilts  
Hoskins & Oldfield, Leicester\*  
Hull, Kingston upon Hull, Yorks\*  
Jolly Roger, Worcester\*  
Judges, Rugby, Warwickshire  
Kelham Island, Sheffield\*  
Keystone, Sherburn in Elmet, N Yorks  
Larkins, Tunbridge Wells, Kent  
Linfitt, Linthwaite, Huddersfield\*  
Lions Original, Burnley\*  
Little Avenham, Preston\*  
Lloyds, Ingleby, Derbys\*  
Longstone, Belford, Northumberland  
Malton, North Yorks\*  
Marston Moor, Kirk Hammerton, N  
Yorks\*  
Mauldons, Sudbury, Suffolk  
McGuinness, Rochdale\*  
Mill, Newton Abbot, Devon  
Miners Arms, Somerset\*  
Moles, Melksham, Wilts\*  
Moorhouses, Burnley\*  
Nethergate, Sudbury, Suffolk  
New Forest, Cadham, Hants

Nix Wincott, Turvey, Beds\*  
 North & East Riding, Scarborough  
 North Yorkshire, Middlesbrough\*  
 Oak - see Phoenix  
 Oakhill, Bath, Somerset  
 Old Luxters Farm, Henley, Oxford  
 Old Mill, Snaith, Goole\*  
 Otter, Honiton, Devon  
 Paradise, Hayle, Cornwall  
 Parish, Melton Mowbray, Leics  
 Phoenix (Oak), Heywood\*  
 Pitfield London - see Premier  
 Pilgrim, Reigate, Surrey  
 Poole, Poole, Dorset  
 Premier, Stourbridge, Worcs\*  
 Preston, Preston, Lancs\*  
 Reepham, Norfolk  
 Reindeer, Norwich  
 Ringwood, Hants  
 Rising Sun, Audley, nr Stoke  
 Robinwood, Todmorden, Yorks\*  
 Roosters, Harrogate, Yorks\*  
 Ross, Bishopston, Bristol  
 Royal Clarence, Burnham, Somerset  
 Rudgate, Tockwith, Yorks\*  
 Ryburn, Sowerby Bridge, W Yorks  
 Sarah Hughes, Sedgley, Worcs  
 Scotties, Lowestoft, Suffolk  
 Smiles, Bristol \*  
 Springhead, Sutton on Trent, Notts  
 Steam Packet, Pontefract, Yorks\*  
 Stocks, Doncaster, Yorks\*  
 Summerskills, Plymouth, Devon  
 Sussex, Emsworth, W Sussex

Thompsons, Ashburton, Devon  
 Titanic, Burslem, Staffs\*  
 Tring, Tring, Herts  
 Trough, Idle, Bradford  
 Uley, Dursley, Glos  
 Wheatwood, Northwich, Cheshire  
 Whitby's Own, Whitby, Yorks  
 Wickwar, Wickwar, Glos  
 Wiltshire, Tisbury, Wilts\*  
 Woodfordes, Norwich  
 Woods, Craven Arms, Salop\*  
 Worldham, Alton, Hants  
 Wortley, Wortley, Sheffield  
 Wychwood, Witney, Oxon  
 Wye Valley, Hereford  
 Yates, Aspatria, nr Carlisle\*

#### Scotland

Borge, East Lothian  
 Broughton, Biggar, Lanarkshire\*  
 Harviestoun, Dollar,  
 Clackmannanshire\*  
 Orkney, Quoyloo, Orkney\*  
 West Highland, Taynuilt, Argyll

#### Wales

Bullmastiff, Penarth, S Glam\*  
 Pembrokeshire Own, Narbeth, Dyfed  
 Plassey, Wrexham  
 Powells, Newtown, Montgomeryshire\*

#### Northern Ireland

Hilden, Lisburn, Co Antrim

#### Isle of Man

Bushy's, Braddan

## Hightown

The Waterloo on Waterloo Road, once a Boddingtons pub, is now owned by Bass and sells Boddies, Worthington and Stones bitters at £1.15 a pint.

## Spot the Differential

The house beers at the Market on Brackley Street, Farnworth (Walkers bitter and mild) are 2p a pint cheaper in the vault. How many other pubs still have this once traditional differential?



# Rupert

It was clear that Bunty hadn't really understood what we were talking about. Prison does that to you - atrophies the brain. Mind you, it was late. The conversation had focussed mainly on dinosaur DNA and the genetic basis of homosexuality. Bunty's first remark might have been made jocularly when he asked if gay genes were the faded blue ones with white key holders dangling from a belt loop, but his second statement was less than incisive. "It's no wonder all them dinosaurs died out if they were all raving pooftahs," he announced to a stunned silence as "last orders" was called. Billy Cosh was incensed and at great risk to his personal safety retorted, "Bunty, your homophobic attitudes are appalling. They're merely a screen for your own latent homosexuality." "Are you calling me a puff, you balding dwarf?" Bunty bellowed. The escalating situation was saved by Royal who, to the surprise of everyone, announced, "Yes, it's time we all came out and admitted what nature has made us. I've been living a lie. My life has been a sham. I'm organising an "Outing" for members of the Campaign - a catharsis and soul-baring experience. All are welcome."

When Nestfeather heard about this he said, "Right, Roop, you're the nearest we've got to a mincing queen, get along and report it." I was greeted by Royal and his in-vitro love child Luke in the banquetting suite of the Cale des Debradeurs. They wore matching voluminous red crinoline frocks to hide respectively their large belly and colostomy bag. Luke's deformed,

polydactylic, webbed hands were concealed by tailored white gloves. Rumpleshirtscream was there complete with his winner's medal from the Wisconsin 1988 smoothing iron championships and his commendation from the Burhino Faso Talking Quietly in Libraries Competition, 1991. He was telling anyone who's listed how perry always made him throw up. Several people, including Ben Chestnut, Charlie Bass and Tubs Caries were sporting Salvation Army Six-hour Sobriety Certificates, whilst Billy had come in a suit made entirely from adverts he'd placed in the lonely hearts columns of the Catholic Herald and Scallywag. Jamie Frotter, who was up in Grotley on a Holifrott, had come as a teapot, but that was nothing new. Bunty was nowhere to be seen. Hattie had brought with her her Carmelite wimple and a photograph of her winning the 1965 Biafran Slimmer of the Year Award. Even Humphrey Dumpty turned up with some polygraph recordings, I don't know why.

It was an entertaining if somewhat insular event. If this column is to continue syndication in California it is essential that our activities have a more cosmopolitan flavour in future. Royal has promised to repeat the event with some famous guests whose skeletal uncupboardings will have more intrinsic interest. I look forward to reporting on that.

*Late News:* I understand that the launch of "Ale of Two Cities" is being delayed so as to coincide with the opening of the Dick & Puppet.

# Branch Diary

## Region

Regional Meeting, Sat 14th Aug, noon, Edington Arms, Hindley.

## North Manchester

Wed 4th Aug, Whaley Bridge Trip

Wed 11 Aug, Crawl of Eccles. Grapes, Peel Green, 7pm. Bird in Hand 8pm, White Lion 9pm.

Wed 18 Aug, Branch Meeting, Crescent, Salford 8pm. There will be a short EGM to elect two new auditors.

Wed 25 Aug, Ellesmere, Walkden Rd, Walkden, 8pm. Guest Speaker, Derek Matthews on the History of the Pubs of Walkden

Wed 1st Sept. Swinton Crawl. Buckley, Partington Lane, 7pm. Football, Swinton Hall Road, 8pm. White Lion, Worsley Road, 9pm.

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

## Bolton

Thur 12 Aug 8.30pm. Branch Meeting, Churchills, Manchester Road (upstairs).

Thur 26 Aug. Social and Crawl of Westhoughton. Meet White Lion 7.45pm, then on to other pubs. Finish at Rose Hill Tavern.

Contact: Judith Spragg 0204 595342 (h), 0204 397350 (w)

## Rochdale, Oldham & Bury

Tues 3 Aug 8pm, Branch Meeting, Royal Oak, Manchester Road, Werneth, Oldham

Sat 14 Aug. Coach Trip to Pubs of Rural Lancs. *Phone Ken Holt 045 787 4268 for details*

Tues 10 Aug 8.30pm. Bury Beer Festival Organising Meeting, Napier, Bolton Street, Bury

Tues 17 Aug, Committee Meeting, Royal Oak, Mumps, Oldham

Tues 24 Aug 7.30pm. What's Doing Collation followed by Bury Beer Festival Organising Meeting, Flying Horse, Rochdale.

Advance Notice: Belgian Brewery Visits departing 14th November - *phone Ken Holt for details.*

Contact: Peter Alexander 0532 324023(w) 061 655 4002(h)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Oldham Update

As forecast in the June WD, Marstons' former One & Three reopened as the Three Crowns. The pub is much larger than before and has a plush, well furnished interior. Handpumped Marstons Pedigree and bitter are supplemented by Banks's mild from the wickets. Marstons have done up and reopened two other pubs recently - the Dog & Partridge, Woodhouses, and the Pack Horse, Failsworth.

Camerons Strongarm is now on handpump at Banks's Dog & Duck. The Banks's beers are served through very keg-like dispensers and only close examination reveals the magic words, "traditionally brewed". Why are Banks's so opposed to handpumps?



# THE QUEENS ARMS

## FREE HOUSE

4/6 Honey Street (off Red Bank), Manchester

Tel.061 834 4239



Serving a large range of  
traditional ales supporting  
the independent breweries,  
including



## THEAKSTONS & TIMOTHY TAYLORS

Mild, Bitter, XB, Old Peculier,

Taylor's Best Bitter and Landlord

and weekly guest beers from around the country

## WESTON'S TRADITIONAL CIDER ON HANDPUMP

*A selection of Continental  
bottled beers also available*

### Opening Hours

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

Wed: 12.00-3.00, 7.00-11.00

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*

