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# What's Doing

NOVEMBER 1994



The Manchester Beer Drinker's Monthly Magazine

## Guests at the George



The Royal George on Lever Street in the city centre has begun selling guests from the Vaux range on a weekly basis. The beers are Samson, Lorimers Best Scotch, Vaux ESB, Double Maxim, Thorne BB and Sheffield bitter. Landlord Mike Fildes tells us that beers which prove popular will become permanent fixtures on the bar.



## Twenty years on

*Duncan Roberts*

In the autumn of 1974, finding myself "between jobs", I worked for a weekend as a waiter at the Grapes Hotel, Peel Green. At the time the pub was managed by Tom Evans, aided by his wife (who was always referred to as "Mrs E" - few knew her Christian name, I never did).

Recently I came across the price list Tom had written out for me, so I visited the Grapes to compare prices now that twenty years have elapsed. I know I could have looked at the price list in any of Holts' managed houses, but it seemed appropriate to revisit my old haunt and make comparisons on other matters as well.

In 1974 the Grapes, as now, was a busy pub. "Trading well", as Peter Kershaw would say. The vault's regulars consumed a goodly volume of bitter and mild. There were two lounges (where I worked), one of which has since been extended into another room to the rear. The lounges' clientele lived on a more varied diet of mild, bitter, lager, spirits and bottled beer. In those days there were also some seats and two or three small tables in the lobby. Here more bottled beer was drunk than anything else. How many pubs today turn over significant volumes of bottled beers unless the beers are designer lagers? To the rear of the pub was a billiard room with a full-sized table. It is now home for two half-sized pool tables and a significantly younger clientele. The pub's Edwardian grandeur remains.

Below is a summary of the prices then and now. The third column gives their ratio. Thus a pint of bitter today costs 6.4 times the 1974 price.

Drink	Prices (pence)		Ratio
	Sept 1974	Oct 1994	
<b>Bulk Beers</b>			
Bitter	15	96	6.4
Mild	14	90	6.4
Lager	22	102-110	4.6-5.0
<b>Bottles</b>			
Guinness	12	96	8.0
Brown Stout	11.5	59	5.1
Pale Ale	10.5	59	5.6
Lager	12.5	88-125	7.0-10.0
Strong Ale	12.5	68	5.4
Strongbow	12.5	95	7.6
Woodpecker	11.5	83	7.2
Coke	9	55	6.1
<b>Spirits</b>			
Whisky	17	93	5.5
Brandy	17	105	6.2
Rum	15	93	6.2
Gin	15	93	6.2

Holts draught beers and their own spirits are typically just over six times the price they were. Their own bottled beers have fared rather better, being about five and a half times the price they were, and a bottle of Guinness will cost you a staggering eight times the price charged then.



Lagers are less easy to compare. Only one bottled and one keg lager were offered twenty years ago. (Can anyone remember what brands these were? I don't think they were Holts' own.) Comparatively, they seem to be a better buy today. In 1974 keg lager was 57% more expensive than draught mild, whereas today it is at worst 22% more expensive.

Holts prices were competitive and they still are. However, twenty years ago Boddingtons prices were very similar to Holts and those charged in Wilsons pubs were only a little more expensive. Where have they gone wrong?

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## Mikron Theatre

*Stewart Revell*

For over twenty years the Mikron Theatre Company has been touring the canals in their narrowboat 'Tyseley', calling at pubs and presenting live theatre on a variety of subjects. This year one of the plays is 'Beer Street', a lively show telling the story of pubs, beer and breweries and the part they have played in our society. The story develops from the very early days of beer, then depicts the keg revolution of the 1960s and the part that CAMRA has had in promoting real ale.

There will be a performance of 'Beer Street' at Saddleworth Museum in Uppermill on Friday 18th November at 8.00pm For ticket details phone 0457 874093 well in advance.

If you have a pub in the Manchester area (must be real ale!) with a large room and stage, and would like to sponsor the Mikron Theatre's 'Beer Street', please phone them at their base at Marsden on 0484 843701.



## Hindley Happenings

Brian Gleave

A couple of months ago that mighty sage Dave White reported that two former keg bastions in Hindley, the Victoria and the Bird i'th'Hand, are now selling the real stuff. This makes Hindley a good place to visit, with the vast majority of pubs on real ale and offering a fine choice of beers.

If you head into Hindley from Wigan along Manchester Road, the first pub you come to after leaving Ince is one of the best - the Minstrel, a free house usually selling six beers, including Highgate Mild and Toby Light. There's good value food and a pleasant beer garden to the rear. The next pub along is Paramount's Hockery Brook, but sadly there's no real ale here following a refurbishment. Further on into Hindley is the Wiganer, a Whitbread pub themed on Wigan RLFC. There are around four cask beers and usually a couple come from outside the Whitbread stable.

At the traffic lights the Bird i'th'Hand was selling Vaux Samson on my last visit, but the beer can vary. Turn left at the lights and try the Imperial - a basic local and a reasonable pint of Tetleys. The Worthington across the road sells traditional Burtonwood bitter, but more consistent bitter plus mild can be had at the Ellesmere. Round the corner from the Ellesmere is the superb and ultra-traditional Cumberland (Tetley mild and bitter).

The best place to end your Hindley crawl is the Edington Arms, handily situated next to the station. This popular free house is still probably the best pub in Hindley, with Holts bitter, Savages Head (the house beer) and a varying range of others. The 1995 Good Beer Guide lists only the Edington Arms for Hindley, which is a shame, given the good range of pubs in the town. It's particularly disappointing that pubs such as the Minstrel should miss out, as well as former Beer Guide entries such as the Ellesmere, the Cumberland and the Alexandra.

*A full list of the pubs in Hindley and the rest of Wigan branch area is available from Brian Gleave. Send a large (What's Doing size) envelope with £1, to 11 Parkway, Westhoughton, BL5 2RY, for the pre-publication "rough" of the next Wigan Beer Guide.*

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### Holts briefly

The Legh Arms is being given the Holts treatment and sadly the revolving door has revolved for the last time. The new licensee at the Dukes Gate is Alan Townley from Salford, who has had many years experience in running pubs, but this is his first Holts house. There's a new licensee at the Red Lion, Irlams o'th'Height, and trade has picked up considerably.

# Now and Then

*Rob Magee*

No.85

## **Malt & Hops**

167 Lees Road, Oldham

The Malt & Hops began life as a beerhouse called the Farewell Inn. When it opened in 1854 it was one of the better appointed beerhouses, bigger than most of the street-corner drinking shops that were appearing in the town, and the first licensee, Joseph Booth, must have thought he had a good chance of getting a full licence. The licensing bench had other ideas and despite repeated applications by Mr Booth and his successors, the Farewell wasn't allowed to sell wines until 1959 and spirits until 1961.

Mr Booth's beerhouse had four drinking rooms, all with fixed seating, three bedrooms and a club room, which he enlarged at a cost of £200. However, in 1868 the police found that a later licensee had partitioned this room and had taken in two families as lodgers to help pay the rent!

By 1894 the Farewell was tied to the Rochdale & Manor Brewery. It was then described as roomy, clean and in good condition, and there was stabling for a couple of horses in the yard. There was a change of beer when Oldham Brewery bought the house in 1929. In those days the building comprised a parlour first left, a pantry and then a kitchen. On the right of the lobby was the small serving bar and tap room, then a concert room complete with small stage and piano in a recess by the fireplace. This layout remained virtually unchanged until 1959, when a bigger bar



was installed, a new kitchen was built on the Jackson Street side and the old kitchen became a living room.

Boddingtons Brewery arrived on the scene in 1982 and seven years later they sold the pub. In June 1990 it became a disco-type establishment called the Malt & Hops, but this wasn't a success and it closed in early 1992, the licence expiring on 4th April. On 20th April 1993 a new licence was granted to Philip Davies and the Malt & Hops free house reopened.

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## **Blackley News**

A number of changes have occurred of late. At the Flying Horse in Crab Village the metered dispense fonts for the Boddies mild and bitter have been replaced by two sets of wickets. The third wicket, at the time our reporter called, was dispensing Pedigree. This change also means the lamentable loss of the oversized glasses. Shame on you, BodPubCo!

Change Two affects the Millstone. Here the Burtonwood mild has become keg but the handpull is now used for Forshaws bitter. This complements the handpulled 'ordinary' bitter.

Over at Blackley's oldest pub - the New White Lion - an additional beer has gone on sale. Besides the Wilsons bitter at £1.15, they are now selling Banks's bitter at 90p! Even at that price, however, the Wilsons still seems to be more popular.

Finally, the Fox Inn has a sad tale to tell. Up to two years ago this once thriving Holts pub enjoyed a good reputation and a healthy, bustling clientele. Things have gone badly wrong somewhere: custom has been so low that mild has been withdrawn from sale! A reversal of this sad state of affairs seems to be taking place, however. We can only hope that this occurs sooner rather than later. Incidentally, our reporter said that the bitter was one of the best pints he had had all year!

## **Supermarket Prices**

Further data from our survey of retail prices includes the following:

<b>Beer</b>	<b>ABV%</b>	<b>Price/Pint</b>
Tesco Best Bitter	3.9	74p
Stones Bitter	3.9	85p
Banks's Bitter	3.8	85p

Meanwhile, you're likely to have to pay around £1.30 for a pint of Boddies (ABV 3.8) in your local pub and the licensee is paying around 67p per pint for that beer. It's hardly surprising that people are drinking at home.

## Book Review

Peter Barnes

### Best Pub Walks in and around Manchester

Colin Speakman, Lydia Speakman & Neil Coates (*Sigma Leisure* 1994)

The latest of the Sigma Pub Walks books covers the Manchester area. Perhaps it should have been one of the first of this extensive series instead of following Cheshire, the Peak District, the Lake District, etc, because, as the authors point out, what's the point of driving out to our overused National Parks to walk on heavily eroded footpaths and queue at stiles when we have such rich and varied countryside on our doorstep?

There are 25 walks, ranging from three-and-a-half miles to ten miles in length, covering Dunham to Tandle Hill and Haigh Country Park to Stalybridge (and including a City Centre Amble as well). The walks are an exploration of Greater Manchester's footpath network and each one takes you past one or two recommended pubs. The pubs have been chosen with care, using the Good Beer Guide for reference and also my "Traditional Pubs of Old Lancashire" (Sigma 1992), which is described as an excellent guide. (Thank you very much.)

So we have, for instance, Sinclairs, Dukes 92, the White Lion, and the Jolly Angler in the City Centre; the Crescent and the Star in Salford; the Queens and the Stanley in Eccles; the Tandle Hill Tavern, Stalybridge Station Buffet, and the Pleasant in Blackley - you cannot quarrel with that.

Each walk is well described and accompanied by a simple map. Photographs enliven the text and details of access by public transport are given. Two of the authors, Colin Speakman and his daughter Lydia, run a tourism consultancy specialising in public transport and the book takes the opportunity to promote this environmentally friendly way of travelling to and from the walks. Without the car you are free of the worry of parking in fairly remote places and you are not tied to a circular route, so virtually all the walks are linear.

You might be familiar with most of the recommended pubs, but you will be surprised at where some of these walks take you and at £6.95 for the book, or 28p per walk, it's well worth it.

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### Worth a Gander?

Paddy's Goose, in the pink quarter of Manchester near Chorlton Street Coach Station, is offering Websters Green Label at 89p a pint. This is a few pence per pint cheaper than Holts at the nearby Monkey.



# *The Minstrel*

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## Wies'n Woffle

Paul Roberts

The first seventeen-day Oktoberfest ended on Monday 3rd October. The 161st (and my 18th) amber nectar gathering had been extended by one day so as to include the Reunification Day bank holiday.

Despite the extra day, less beer was drunk than in 1993 - 4.6 million litres compared to 4.8 million - a decrease of 4%. The price, between DM9.70 and DM9.80, was probably the last sub-10 Mark Maß. The 6.6 million visitors (6.5 in 1993) drank more soft drinks, with milk showing the largest increase.

The chickens were happy, with a fall in consumption of 5%, but the unfortunate pigs lost 6% more of their numbers than in 1993, with increases in sales of sausages, pork knuckles and roast pork. 77 whole oxen were roasted on the spit in the Ochserbraterei (three fewer than 1993) and 64 tonnes of roasted almonds were sold on the fairground.

Spaten reverted to gravity dispense from wooden barrels. Augustinerbräu have always retained this most traditional dispense method. The full range of the excellent Augustinerbräu wares can be sampled in the new Bräustüberl, built into the brewery itself. This offers beer at DM7.90 a litre, which is well below the average price for the city centre, and there is also excellent value food to soak up the beer.

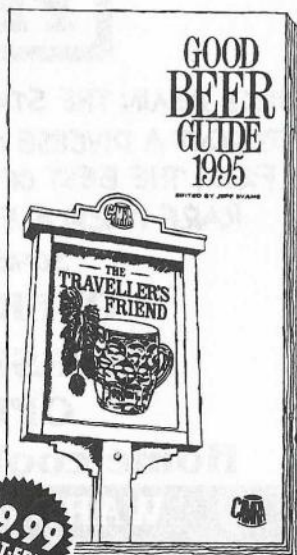
## GOOD BEER GUIDE 1995 IT'S HERE

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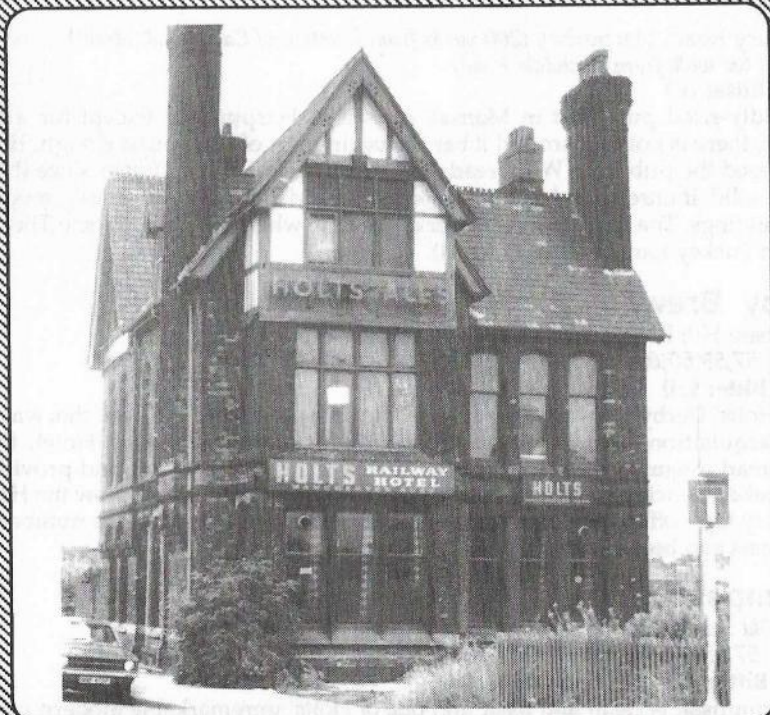


The

No.4

# Manchester Independents

## Holts *in North Manchester*





## Holts in North Manchester

As you would expect from a brewery located in Cheetham, many of Holts' pubs are in North

Manchester. Four of the most local ones - the Hipp, the Derby Brewery Arms, the Crown & Cushion and the Crown & Anchor - were acquired from Whitbread in recent years. The rest are a mixture of old and new in Blackley, Moston, Newton Heath, Miles Platting, Harpurhey, Crumpsall and Cheetham.

Mild 3.2%ABV Bitter 4.0% ABV
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### Blue Bell

Moston Lane, Moston (*Opposite St Joseph's Cemetery*)

Buses: 79,80,81,88,112,148,160,161

**Mild, Bitter (H)**

This imposing landmark on Moston Lane replaced the original Blue Bell, which was reputedly Moston's first public house. Currently undergoing some external restoration, the pub is much changed internally and now comprises a large lounge (two sections), a smaller, separate lounge and the traditional busy Holts vault - the wonderful original bar was sadly lost some years ago. The stables at the rear have been converted for the use of Salford Harriers and there's a small garden-cum-play area at the side of the building. The Blue Bell dispenses some five barrels of mild and sixteen 'heads of bitter a week, so times have changed since that Christmas Eve some forty years ago, when an elderly regular allegedly arrived at 8pm to find there were only three other customers present!

### Hipp

Lathbury Road, Harpurhey (*200 yards from junction of Carisbrook Street*)

Bus: 80 (*or walk from Rochdale Road*)

**Mild, Bitter (E)**

An oddly-sited pub. Is it in Monsall or is it in Harpurhey? Except for a few houses, there is nothing around it bar the beginnings of Collyhurst clough. Holts purchased the pub from Whitbread a number of years ago and ever since it has been a solid, if unremarkable, outlet that has served locals in comfortable, modern surroundings. The name is a reminder of the time when the Hippodrome Theatre was on Turkey Lane (Lathbury Road).

### Derby Brewery Arms

Cheetham Hill Road, Cheetham (*Corner of Empire Street*)

Buses: 57,59,60,63,134-6,148-9,160,165,167

**Mild, Bitter (H)**

With Holts' Derby Brewery only around the corner on Empire Street, this was an ideal acquisition from Whitbread. It was built as the Knowsley Hotel, then Whitbread renamed it the Nevada Bar, painted the interior black and provided semi-naked dancing girls (according to one of our older reporters). Now the Holts 'brewery tap' (official or otherwise) it appears to do well - in both the number of customers and beer quality.

### Crumpsall

Bury Old Road, Cheetham Hill (*Next to Iceland*)

Buses: 57,59,60,134-6,148-9,160,165,167

**Mild, Bitter (E)**

The Crumpsall is clean and basic and one of Holts' unremarkable modern pubs. The original building was the home of the Crumpsall Brewery, the only brewery company ever taken over by Holts.

## **Egerton Inn**

Hanlon Street, Cheetham Hill (*Behind Woolworths*)

*Buses: 57,59,60,134-6,148-9,160,165,167*

### **Mild, Bitter (E)**

Luxury abounds here - from one of the best pints of bitter you'll ever get your larynx round, to the provision of radiators in the conveniences. (The Egerton is one of the few Manchester emporia to exhibit this feature.) The landlord's commitment makes it a most welcoming pub: it might be termed 'basic' in beer guides, but the clientele could fill a Good Real People Guide! Sunday lunchtime is particularly recommended.

## **Fox Inn**

Old Market Street, Blackley (*Next to Zeneca*) *Buses: 63,79,81,146*

### **Bitter (H)**

The Fox is one of those pubs which have fallen on hard times. This is reflected in the loss of the mild and the less than salubrious surroundings. A saving grace is the bar adorned with 'cask ends', perhaps the only bit of character left in the place.

## **Golden Lion**

Old Market Street, Blackley (*Corner of Lion Street*) *Buses: 63,79,81,146*

### **Mild, Bitter (H)**

A large hostelry with a beer garden at the rear. The large main room tends to be a bit overpowering, with loud music from a number of speakers. To one side there is a smaller 'quiet' room, which is very pleasant and usually packed with locals. The Golden Lion is near the Fox, but there's a completely different atmosphere.

## **Duke of Wellington**

Weardale Road, Higher Blackley (*Off Victoria Avenue, junction of Tweedle Hill Road*) *Buses: 51,57,60,61,149,160,161*

### **Mild, Bitter (H)**

The Duke of Wellington is a traditional locals' pub with a mock Tudor and red brick frontage, typical of many houses of its era. The interior is furnished in the usual Holts decorative style, with a homely and comfortable colour scheme. There are three drinking areas - a large main room, a vault and a snug - and the bar is of fine mahogany and etched glass construction. The pub is close to the main road, but as it is hidden from view you get the impression it is off the beaten track.

## **Tanners**

Fairy Lane, Cheetham (*Junction of Groomsport Drive*)

*Buses: 90,91,96,139,140 (get off at Grove pub and walk up hill to Fairy Lane)*

### **Bitter (H)**

The Tanners is sited on the edge of the soon-to-be improved Fairy Lane estate. The visitor is greeted by grilled polycarbonate windows and a rooftop decorated with razor wire. The inside is a good deal better, if a trifle spartan and open. Recently redecorated, the Tanners is an otherwise ordinary two-room modern pub.

## **Church Inn**

Droylsden Road, Newton Heath (*Near corner of All Saints Street*) *Buses: 76,77,87*

### **Mild, Bitter (E)**

This is a replacement for an earlier Church Inn, built to a slightly different, but still utilitarian design from its '70s Holts counterparts. Popular at most times, the Church has entertainments and there's a thriving vault.

## **Bradford Inn**

Bradford Road, Miles Platting (*Between Cambrian and Varley Streets*)

Buses: 76,77,332,336,424,429

**Mild, Bitter (E)**

In the shadow of Bradford Gasworks lies one of Miles Platting's survivors. The area's pub scene has been ravaged of late and there have been some notable losses. The unremarkable design of the present '70s building, a replacement for an earlier structure, will be familiar to travelled Holts drinkers. That said, the pub is enlivened by friendly locals.

## **Cleveland Hotel**

Crumpsall Lane, Crumpsall (*Corner of Cleveland Road*) Buses: 60,61,79,81,149,160

**Mild, Bitter (H)**

A couple of years ago the Cleveland's reputation was none too good, but thankfully all has changed under the tenure of the present licensee. The entire pub and its atmosphere have been rejuvenated and sense and decent folk have returned. In the years since it was built in the 1930s, some things have been lost, such as most of the leaded windows and the 'Outdoor Dept'. The very long bar (over 70 feet) remains and a new stage area is being built.

## **Cheetwood Hotel**

Derby Street, Cheetham (*200 yards from Waterloo Road*) Buses: 79,81

**Mild, Bitter (H)**

Many years ago Holts had a pub called the Blue Bell in the rural hamlet of Cheetwood. With industrialisation came change and the Cheetwood, the Blue Bell's successor, was built in 1907. Thankfully the redecoration of late has left all the wonderful features of this three-roomed Edwardian gem intact and for all to see. Let's keep this alive - why not pay a visit?

## **Crown & Anchor**

Cateaton Street, City (*Near corner of Victoria Street*)

**Mild, Bitter (H)**

Rescued from Whitbread a few years back after they'd tarted it down and renamed it Chesters' Ale House, the Crown & Anchor is once again a popular and busy town pub. It still retains something of the PR man's idea of what an alehouse might be like, but it's since been extended and now exudes Holtishness despite the chequered past. Handy for a swift one for those visiting the nearby Cathedral.

## **Crown & Cushion**

192 Corporation Street (*Beyond Miller Street*)

**Mild, Bitter (H)**

Holts' first central Manchester outlet. Known as 'Muckman's', the Crown & Cushion was acquired from Whitbread and it is a lot smarter now than it used to be. The interior has been opened up a little and mirrors have been added so the bar staff can see round corners. The mild can be variable.

## **Railway**

Dean Lane, Newton Heath (*200 yards from Oldham Road*) Buses: 77,87

**Mild, Bitter (E)**

An imposing triangular Victorian pub somewhat off the beaten track. A lively vault and a lounge with live music make the Railway a thriving pub full of character. The tall beer fonts are unique for Holts. The etched windows feature railway engines sporting the date the pub was built.



# Letters

## Longer Pub Hours

Sir - In response to your request for comments on possible changes to permitted hours, my own view is that the removal of all restrictions would be for the best. Then the needs of the community, coupled to local tradition, would set the opening times. This already happens in most countries, so why not here?

Well, there is the problem that the government receives donations from brewery companies for party funds. Accordingly, the needs and wishes of the public will only be a consideration in the end, not the motive.

Perhaps we really ought to be thinking about the staff. They generally receive lowish pay for working unsocial hours in an industry characterised by very poor conditions. Nearly all of them are exposed to secondary smoking which, particularly following the death of Roy Castle, is an issue starting to lose its jokey political correctness connotations.

The needs of churchgoers are usually overlooked in discussions on Sunday hours. There is an irritating gap between the end of most services and that 12.00 noon start. Those who do voluntary work after the service find the pubs about to shut just after they finish.

So, ideally, we need the abolition of restrictions on opening hours. Breweries should be barred from interfering with the decisions of licensees, and there should be a wages council and staff inspectorate for licensed trade workers, with places on each for the clergy to have their say.

I would add more but a pig has just struck my television aerial...

*Robin Pendragon*

Sir - Not longer hours! Please! I have no objection to people drinking at any hour providing that on their way home they don't (a) run me over or (b) wake me up. Unfortunately, many of the people who want to drink until 3am or all day Sunday are also those who can't hold their liquor, and I fear that an extension of hours will lead both to increased noise at unreasonable times and, more importantly, to an increased number of road accidents - particularly on Sunday afternoons when children are playing out.

There's likely to be little problem with proper pubs inhabited by proper drinkers, but pity the neighbours of the town centre venues patronised by "yoof" and such. It shouldn't be necessary to bring a court case in order to get some sleep, but it may well become so if hours are extended. And how much would that cost?

This is not a jibe at young drinkers. We all have to learn our capacity and I have every respect for the youngsters who manage to weave their way home quietly on foot and throw up on their own stairs. But there are some idiots - not all of them young - who can't keep their mouths shut and their car keys in their pockets when they've had a few. Sadly, restricted hours are the means by which the rest of us are protected from the worst excesses of the minority.

*Alcoholic Annie*

Sir - I read that CAMRA wants to extend licensing hours, and I also note that CAMRA is in favour of allowing children in pubs. May I suggest the following compromise?

1. Permit pubs to stay open until 6am.
2. Ban children from pubs, except between the hours of midnight and 6am.

Perfect, eh? We can thus enjoy our ale in peace during normal hours, and to deter us from staying out too late, there is the thought that at midnight we may be joined by some sad people and their offspring.

*Sensible Sam*

### **Matters Mild**

Sir - I share the concern of Messrs Cash and McConachie about the varying quality of Holts mild. If all Holts draymen sing as badly as the one who crooned karaoke at the Bury Beer Festival last month, the racket could create a "sonic haze" peculiar to Holts mild. One yearns for a laryngitis epidemic on Cheetham Hill and a resultant return to good beer.

On a more serious note, what is happening to Tetley ordinary mild? When on form, Tetley "Light" is one of the finest milds in the area, yet it appears to have been displaced in many outlets by Tetley Dark, a pleasant but unexceptional brew. Tetley Walker deserve much praise for converting several long-time keg pubs to cask conditioned beer, but when this happens, Dark is invariably seen on the bar. Are TW phasing out their most distinctive tipples? We should be told.

*Dave White*

### **Cask Conditioned**

Sir - I refer to Roger Hall's article on semi-cask-conditioned beer in last month's WD. The day following publication of the magazine I attended "Host '94" at G-Mex and came across a device being marketed under the name "BrightAle" - "The Publican's Widget". This £25 device consisted of a plastic tube with a float attached, so when inserted through the tap hole of a barrel stood on its end, beer could be drawn off within about an hour. I quote from the advertising blurb: "This revolutionary system allows

*cask conditioned ales* [my italics] to be drawn in a significantly different manner, from the top of the barrel as opposed to the bottom".

When questioned about time being allowed for the beer actually to condition in the cask, the salesperson pointed out that he was only in the business to make money and, quite honestly, I don't think he had the first idea what cask-conditioning really is!

Peter Wadsworth

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## Labatts Magic

The effects of the Scottish & Newcastle disposal of the Chef & Brewer estate to Labatts and the Magic Pub Co are beginning to emerge. In the North Manchester area Labatts are now in control of the Red Lion in Blackley and the Bricklayers in Moston. Despite the change of ownership, the Red Lion is still keg. The range at the Bricklayers has changed from solely Wilsons bitter to that plus Tetley bitter (albeit 12p dearer than the Wilsons).

Meanwhile in Winton, the Jolly Carter has become a Magic Pub. We expect the beer range to be Websters Green Label, Boddies and Bass. If you know different, tell us.

## Staff of Death

The inner city malaise has spread to the leafy suburbs - well, Prestwich anyway. The Staff of Life on Rainsough has been boarded up since the end of September and Marstons don't seem to be making any great efforts to reopen it. With a burglary at the Prince of Wales, an attempted murder at the Albert Park and an attempted robbery at the Welcome, what is the world coming to?

## Chocks away

The Hogshead on High Street in Manchester is selling Fuggles Chocolate Mild at £1.50 a pint (4.6%ABV). Whitbread have been making a bit of a song and dance about this new brew, which a member of our tasting panel avows is "interestingly different". If you like the stuff, ask for a card from behind the bar. This is stamped every time you have a pint and when you've supped 24 pints you get a T-shirt. Generous, eh? Spend thirty-six quid for a free T shirt.

\*\*\*\*\*

Contributors to this issue: Mark McConachie, Roger Hall, Stewart Revell, Peter Barnes, Paul Roberts, Duncan Roberts, Brian Gleave, Paul Jordan, Steve Smith, David Miles, Peter Wadsworth, Dennis Hart.

\*\*\*\*\*



# The Berwick Arms

FREE HOUSE

21 Carnarvon Street, Cheetham, Manchester. 061 832 4708

\* \* \* \* \*

Open 12.00 until 11.00 Monday to Saturday  
12.00 until 3.00 Sunday

\* \* \* \* \*

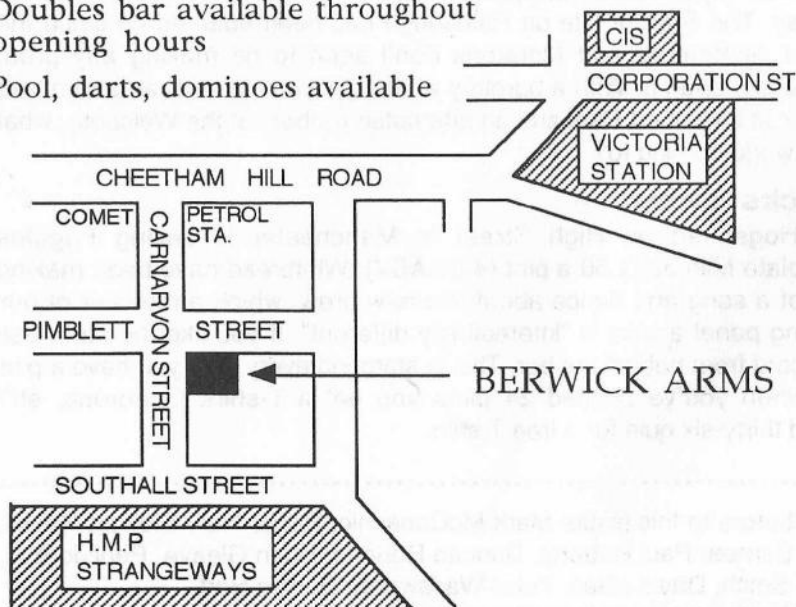
Range of traditional ales includes:  
**John Willie Lees Bitter and Mild**  
**Cains Bitter      Boddingtons Bitter**  
**Robinsons Best Bitter**

**Comprehensive lunchtime menu**  
**of home cooked meals & meats**  
**Served Mon-Fri 12.00-2.15**

**Large selection of bottled beers, lagers, ciders,**  
**etc.**

Doubles bar available throughout  
opening hours

Pool, darts, dominoes available





# FREE

## LEGAL HELP

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### PERSONAL INJURY

- AT WORK
- MOTORING
- PEDESTRIAN

### EMPLOYMENT DISPUTE

- DISCRIMINATION
- UNFAIR DISMISSAL
- REDUNDANCY

**WHY PAY UNNECESSARY FEES !**  
for **FREE** immediate case assessment

### RING THE LEGAL RESPONSE LINE

# 061 929 1039

*for an informal and confidential discussion*

**THE U.K.  
LEGAL RESPONSE  
GROUP** Ref WD

**MILLER HOUSE, 19 MARKET STREET,  
ALTRINCHAM, CHESHIRE WA14 1QS.**

### **Clarence Cheer** *Dennis Hart*

The Clarence (Vaux) on the corner of Silver Street and Bolton Street in Bury reopened on Friday 14th October and now sells real ale in the form of Vaux Bitter (£1.30) and Vaux Samson (also £1.30). Unfortunately, the only mild on the bar is keg, but cask mild will be tried in the near future.

The pub has been tastefully refurbished - there's a new bar and bare floorboards in the bar area, which is just what a good pub should be like, and there's a carpeted upper level room for those who like that sort of thing.

The licensees are not new to the area, although they've been in South Africa for the last thirteen years. The landlady's father used to have the Boars Head (now the Halifax Building Society) on the Rock. Does anybody remember the Boars Head? *(Yes. It fell down early one morning in January 1970. I recall most of Bury turned up the following day to have a look! - Ed)*

The food at the Clarence is restricted to cold snacks only at the moment, but hot meals will be available when the kitchen has been fitted out. Opening times are 11-11 Mon-Sat and Sunday evening (closed Sunday lunch).

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Cinema Verité**

J D Wetherspoon, who have made a virtue out of converting buildings into pubs, are hoping to transform the former Deansgate Cinema into a wine bar serving traditional ale and food.

**COME TO THE ALL YEAR ROUND BEER FESTIVAL**

# **THE BEER HOUSE**

**Angel Street, Manchester (off Rochdale Road)**

**12 REAL ALES ON OFFER FROM 95p / PINT**

**BURTONWOOD BITTER, THEAKSTONS XB, BEST  
BITTER, OLD PECULIER & PENDLE WITCH  
+ EVER CHANGING RANGE OF GUEST BEERS  
(INCLUDING GUEST MILD)**

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**FROM INDEPENDENT BREWERIES**

**PLUS 3 TRADITIONAL CIDERS,**

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**DRAUGHT BELGIAN KRIEK &  
LEFFE BLONDE AND MANY  
BOTTLED BELGIAN AND  
OTHER BEERS**

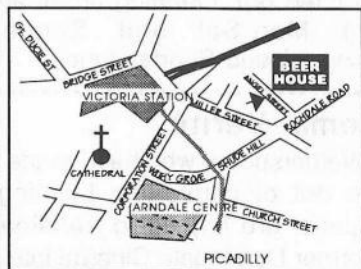
**EVER INCREASING RANGE OF  
SINGLE MALTS at £1.40 / single  
ONLY £2.00 / double**

**Lunchtime Food 7 Days A Week  
NOW TAKING BOOKINGS FOR  
CHRISTMAS LUNCH**



**SUNDAY BREAKFAST 12 - 2.30  
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PARTY OR MEETING ROOM  
AVAILABLE FREE  
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# Rupert

## Spot the odd one out

Yes, it's another competition from the What's Doing Stable. Win a gallon of Websters Yorkshire Bitter in the hostelry of your choice. All you have to do is use your skill and judgement to spot the odd one out in the following quotations. (Clue: there are two.)

## Things they didn't say

*"Pour me another pint of Scrumpy Jack"* - Rumpledshirtscream

*"No, I won't have another, thanks very much. I'm visiting my dentist before delivering the proofs of A2C2"* - Tubs Caries

*"The reason our prices are higher than say, Drabs, has nothing to do with excise duty. It's because we're greedy, rapacious, inefficient and incompetent"* - Colonel Dillon

*"£2 + £2 = £4"* - Nora Tackler

*"People bringing beer from Frogley and flogging it off in Grotley hasn't made a lot of difference to our trade in pubs. We flog beer off cheap to the supermarkets ourselves and it's damaged that a bit. If Ken removed duty, we'd really be able to clean up and stuff the punter."* -

Spokesperson for Greater Grotley Amber Nectar Manufacturers Union

*"Cogito ergo sum"* - Billy Bog

*"The Dick & Puppet is open for business"* - Mr Grimm, proprietor

*"I have devised a foolproof stock-taking system which removes all the headaches from cellar work"* - Ben Chestnut

*"'Opening Tripe' is a wonderful publication"* - Eddie & Glenys Nestfeather

*"Billy Shippon fondles his own naughty parts and is altogether a less than splendid chap"* - Hattie Nightingale

*"Please come to the wedding"* - Billy Cosh

*"The semeiotics of hegemony: archetypal pubness and postmodernism"* - Bogbrush

*"Il faut boire pour vivre et ne pas vivre pour boire"* - Beinlos

*"Certainly, Mr Heffner, but where will the staple be?"* - Lady Bog

## Tiebreaker

In case two or more people get the answer right (like as if!), use your creative genius to say who didn't say what in no more than 20 words.

Answers on the back of Royal Divorce papers should be received by the editor no later than 20th November.

*When in Manchester City Centre  
visit the*

# **HARE & HOUNDS**

46 Shudehill

**A Traditional City Pub**

*Meet John, Marion and Liza*

\*\*\*\*\*

**CAIN'S MILD & BITTER  
JENNINGS BITTER  
TETLEY BITTER**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Daily home-made lunches and snacks**

**Half price menu Wednesday**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Function room available**

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**Ring Marion or Liza 061 832 4737**

\*\*\*\*

**We are open 365 days a year**

# Branch Diary

## Bolton

Thur 10 Nov 8pm, AGM & Branch Meeting, York, Newport Street. Includes election of Branch Officers. Current membership cards must be produced to vote. Note early start.

Thur 1 Dec 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Sweet Green Tavern, Crook Street. Includes nominations for Good Beer Guide 1996

Wed 14 Dec, Trip to Cains Brewery. Depart Bolton 5.30pm. £3.50 plus transport. Includes two free pints and light buffet. Minimum 12. Non-members welcome. Book with Paul Warbrick (01204) 708645

Wed 28 Dec, Crawl & Curry. 7.30pm Dog & Partridge, 8pm Man & Scythe, 8.30 Malt & Hops, 9.30 Clifton, 10pm York, 10.30 Sweet Green Tavern. Then 11.15pm Sunar Gaw, Manchester Road. Book for curry with Richard Spedding (01204) 61244

Contact: Judith Spragg 01204 595342 (h), 01204 397350 (w)

## Rochdale, Oldham & Bury

Tue 1 Nov 8.30pm: Branch Meeting, High Sheriff, Halifax Road, Rochdale

Fri 4 Nov: Metrolink Pub Crawl. Meet Tap & Spile, Bury, 7.30pm. Church, Whitefield, 8.30. Royal Oak, Heaton Park, 9.30

Tue 15 Nov 8.30pm, Committee Meeting, Marston Tavern, Rochdale Road, Royton

Sat 19 Nov 10am. Meet Piccadilly Station for 10.17 train to Macclesfield for crawl.

Tue 29 Nov 8.30pm. What's Doing collation, Flying Horse, Town Hall Square, Rochdale

Tue 6 Dec 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Gardeners, Mill Bottom, Waterhead

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

## North Manchester

Wed 2 Nov, Miles Platting/E Ancoats Crawl. Apollo, Varley Street, 7pm; Bradford, Bradford Road, 8.15pm; Admiral, Rodney Street, 9.30pm

Wed 9 Nov 8pm, Committee & Social, Star & Garter, Fairfield Street (followed by probable visit to Moulders, Heyrod Street)

Sun 13 Nov 12 noon, Sunday Social, Watergate Toll, Watergate Lane, Over Hulton

Wed 16 Nov 8pm, Branch Meeting, Kings Arms, Bloom Street, Salford

Wed 30 Nov, Whitefield 'trawl': Wheatsheaf 7.30pm, Church 8pm (both Bury New Road), Coach & Horses 8.30pm, Commercial 10pm (both Bury New Road)

Wed 7 Dec, Swinton Crawl: Foresters, Chorley Rd, 7pm; Moorside Farm, Moorside Rd, 8.30pm; White Horse, Worsley Road, 9.30pm

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

\*\*\*\*\*

**WHAT'S DOING** contributions should be sent to the editor c/o 88 Ringley Road, Stoneclough, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 1ET. News, letters, etc, must arrive by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

**WHAT'S DOING ADVERTISING:** Enquiries to the editor, address above. Full page £35 or £150 for six months, half page £25 or £110 for six months. 10% discount if you pay up front.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Send cheque/PO for £2.70 together with your name and address to Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester M9 6PW, 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.



# THE QUEENS ARMS

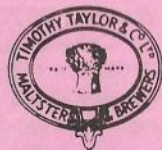
## FREE HOUSE

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

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Serving a large range of  
traditional ales  
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### THEAKSTONS & TIMOTHY TAYLORS

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Hot snacks available until late evening

### WESTON'S TRADITIONAL CIDER ON HANDPUMP

*A selection of Continental  
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### Opening Hours

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