

WHAT'S DOING

OCT
'77

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S NEWSLETTER



WELCOME TO BE DEMOLISHED



The Welcome Inn on Ordsall Lane, Salford, is to be demolished to make way for an adventure playground. The decision to confirm the Compulsory Purchase Order on the pub and surrounding property was made by the Department of the Environment on 16th September. The Welcome was the subject of much publicity at the time of the public enquiry at the beginning of March, but despite the representations made by J.W. Lees, the Welcome Action Group and CAMRA, the Inspector's recommendations are that the pub should go. In his report the Inspector draws the following conclusions:

1. The council has a housing need and acquisition of the order lands required for the proposed redevelopment would assist in meeting the council's housing need and the provision of an adventure playground as amenity open space is reasonable in a residential redevelopment of this scale.
2. The most suitable site for an adventure playground is as proposed by the council, having regard to the change in levels and comparative isolation from the proposed and existing residential development.
3. I would agree that it is perhaps unfortunate that these proposals involve the only public house of these brewers in Salford, and that the choice of beers may be reduced and I realise that the Welcome Inn provides a community service and serves traditional beer. I nevertheless consider that the need for the proposed residential redevelopment, including the facility of an adventure playground is the more important especially having regard to the number of other public houses remaining in the district.

And so Salford City Council scores yet another victory in its attempt to eradicate all links with the past and destroy the

traditional public houses of the city. All is not black, however. The Welcome fight was lost on two main grounds:

1) the Council has a definite constructive plan for the area which involves housing and a children's playground, both subjects which carry considerable emotional weight against a public house

2) there are a lot of public houses in the area. Within 150 yards of the Welcome there are ten pubs - the Albion, the Bricklayers, the Brunswick, the Greyhound, the Ordsall, the Bridge, the Two Brewers, the Queens, the Globe and the Chequerboard - giving a choice of five beers: Tetleys, Holts, Wilsons, Greenalls and Whitbread. Five of the pubs sell real ale.

In the other two public enquiries at which CAMRA has given evidence these two factors are not involved.

Salford Council has no idea what it wants to do with the land on which the Grey Mare and the Old Veteran are situated. They don't even know whether the land so acquired will be used for housing or for recreational purposes. If these two pubs and the Grapes are knocked down, there will not be numerous pubs left in the district and the choice in Weaste would be restricted to Whitbread, Bass or Sam Smiths, none of it real.

It is possible therefore that objections to these CPO's may be considered more favourably than those to the Welcome CPO and we wait with eager anticipation the result of the deliberations into the future of real ale in Weaste.

ALBERT PARK

In another part of Salford - Broughton - another pub closed its doors for the last time recently. The Albert Park was one of the four Marstons pubs left in the city. Now there are just the Spinners, the Brown Bull and the King William IV.

BOROUGH CLOSED

Less than six months after Burtonwood opened their only pub in Salford, the ex-Whitbread Borough behind Salford Royal, the pub has closed, though only temporarily. It is understood that the interior is to be redesigned and enlarged, although keeping the present two-bar layout. The brewery has yet to find a full time licensee for the pub, which has been run by Peter Macgregor, CAMRA member and tenant of the Castle and Falcon, since Burtonwood took over.

TRAFALGAR

The Trafalgar, a licensed restaurant and sandwich bar on York Street, Manchester, will soon be reopening with a real ale bar.

PUB SWAPS

Although the recently announced pub swaps between Allied (Tetleys), Bass Charrington and Courage (John Smiths) may bring benefits to beer drinkers in some parts of the country, the reduced availability of Walkers bitter in Leigh and Atherton is not good news locally. Among the Tetleys pubs to pass to Bass Charrington are the Spinners, Twist Lane and the Boundary, Manchester Road in Leigh (both of which sold Walkers bitter), and the Albion on Bag Lane, Atherton. Their tenants are keen to continue to sell real ale, and this is theoretically possible, but in practice few Bass houses in the area serve their fine cask-conditioned beers (4X, Toby Light, Brew 10, Worthington Best Bitter and Bass) without carbon dioxide pressure. In contrast, Tetleys are willing to supply more of their cask beers, as shown in the recent trial of Walkers bitter in four additional pubs, the nearest to Manchester being the Courts, Bond Street, Leigh.

Fortunately, no local pubs serving traditional beer are to go to John Smiths, who no longer produce real ale at all, but they are to acquire some Tetley houses in Leigh and Atherton selling only chilled and filtered beer.

THE BEER NOW DEPARTING....

from Victoria Station Buffet is Robinsons best bitter and best mild. The handpumps installed to dispense the beer have been standing idle for several weeks, although Boddingtons bitter (at 27p) and Bass (at 32p) are still selling well.

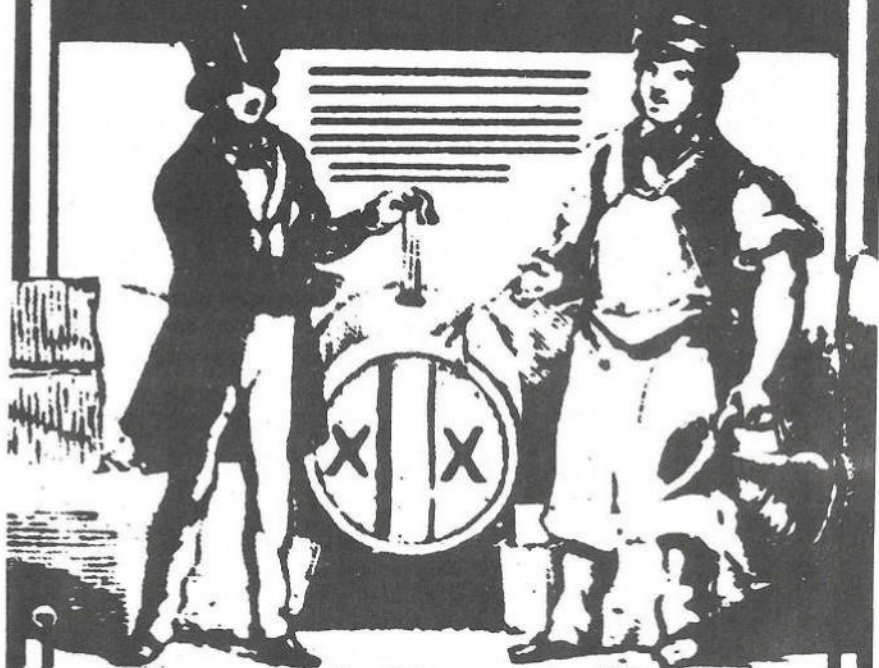
STRAWBURY DUCK

Handpumped Pollards and Bass are now available alongside Thwaites in the Strawberry Duck near Entwistle Station (between Bolton and Blackburn), and according to licensee Denis Hilton they are going down well. When Mr Hilton took over the pub two years ago he straightaway replaced the keg beers with Thwaites draught bitter and best mild, and has tried other traditional ales since - McEwans Scotch and Lees - although neither was successful.

The Strawberry Duck was originally a Hamers pub and when Duttons took the Bolton brewery over in the 1950s they changed the name from the Strawberry to the Station Hotel. After Whitbread took over Duttons the pub was sold and modernised to become the Strawberry Duck. The pub is now enjoying a new lease of life under Mr Hilton, with traditional beer and singalong, jazz and 'Temperance 7' entertainment three nights a week. Mr Hilton is interested in the history of the pub and would like to hear from anyone with information on the old Hamers brewery.

LEES

DRAUGHT BEERS



**Brewed in the traditional
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IRLAM AND CADISHEAD



Higher Irlam is a near beer desert as far as the real ale drinker is concerned. Two Watney-Wilson establishments, the Tiger Moth (a newish estate pub) and the White Lion (on Liverpool Road) are extremely modern, glossy pubs selling the usual variety of untraditional drinks.

The White Lion is a replacement for a traditional Wilsons pub knocked down during the Watneyfication policy of the late sixties. According to a recent television programme, The Philpott File, Watneys are now changing their ways and certainly a lot of Wilsons pubs in the Manchester area have shrugged off their 'Grotney' image. Let us hope Wilsons de-Watneyfy all their beer as well and then we could see some real Great Northern Beer in Irlam.

Opposite the White Lion on Liverpool Road is the Nags Head, a large ex-Chesters house now part of the Whitbread empire. No chance of a pint of real ale here as the company is still intransigent as regards its policies in the North West.

You get your first pint of real ale at the Boathouse at the bottom of Ferry Road. The Boathouse has undergone one of the most thorough and gradual Boddifications of modern times and is still only partially constructed to say the least. In fact it will eventually be a completely new pub and we can only hope that Boddingtons and their contractors get their fingers out and complete the reconstruction sooner rather than later.

Moving down Liverpool Road to Lower Irlam, we come to the Old Ship, a large, traditional looking Greenalls house. You feel that the beer should be traditional but I'm afraid the ale is local in name only. Further down the road, the drinker can breathe a big

sigh of relief. The White Horse and the Railway are two contrasting real ale pubs, both from the beer and the pub point of view. The Horse sells handpumped Tetleys and the Railway is a modernised Boddies house.

Travelling down Liverpool Road to Cadishead we come across another Railway (Greenalls) and the George (Whitbread) and again there is nothing for the real ale drinker except for Worthington White Shield enthusiasts in the George.

Fortunately further along we come to the Lion (Tetleys) and the Coach and Horses (Boddingtons). The Coach is a modernised pub with a tendency to get extremely hectic at times. The Lion is a traditional pub selling real thing through handpumps. Part of the traditional decor in the lounge bar is an old Walkers sign which serves to remind customers of the pub's former suppliers. Perhaps it is also an omen of things to come as according to reports Tetleys are going to follow a more flexible attitude towards the supply of Walkers bitter. Alan, the landlord of the Lion, has said that he hopes to be selling Walkers within the next couple of months. This of course will be an extremely welcome development for real ale drinkers in the area.

So although there is traditional ale in Irlam and Cadishead, the choice is limited to Boddingtons and Tetleys, a far cry from the variety of brews available in Salford, Swinton and Eccles, for instance. Perhaps it is too much to hope that Whitbreads will do anything, but let us hope that Greenalls of Warrington and the increasingly revitalised Wilsons of Manchester will try to contribute beer for the real ale thirst in the area in the not too distant future.

Irlam Drinker



**THE
SWAN,
WEASTE**

THE STRANGE AVIARY IN ECCLES NEW ROAD

Mr J W Hicks, landlord of the Swan Hotel, Eccles New Road, Weaste, possesses - as most of the residents in the district and numerous strangers are aware - a large and fine assortment of birds collected together, under interesting and curious circumstances and conditions. They comprise canaries, bullfinches, brown linnets, paraquets (commonly called love-birds), and a parrot, and they are not confined to cages at all, but fly about the extensive vaults with the utmost freedom, perching themselves at pleasure on the boughs of branches, on the top of doors and pictures, on window sills and chandeliers, and sometimes even hopping about the floor as though no human being were present. Occasionally, too, some of them pay a visit to the smoke room and other parts of the hotel, and there delight the customers with their welcome and splendid music. There are upwards of sixty of them altogether, and they mate and breed like their brothers and sisters who enjoy greater freedom; but at times they quarrel over each other's nests, with the sad result that the eggs come to grief. Although the doors of the hotel are frequently opened, the birds seldom attempt to escape, and it is satisfactory to know that they are scarcely ever stolen. At present they are in grand form, and they pour forth their marvellous thrillings quite as loudly and sweetly as any feathered songsters of the forest. Mr. Hicks spares neither pains nor expense in looking after their varied wants, and he and his friends are well rewarded by the liveliness, uniqueness, and gladness which they impart to the house.

Last month's What's Doing carried a feature on the Swan Hotel, Weaste, and the discovery of old glassware in the attic. This is now on display in Salford City Library. The above item comes from the Salford City Reporter, June 13th., 1891. So Mr Hicks not only bottled his own whisky, gin and Guinness, he was also an ornithologist!

HANKY PARK

by Tony Flynn & Neil Richardson



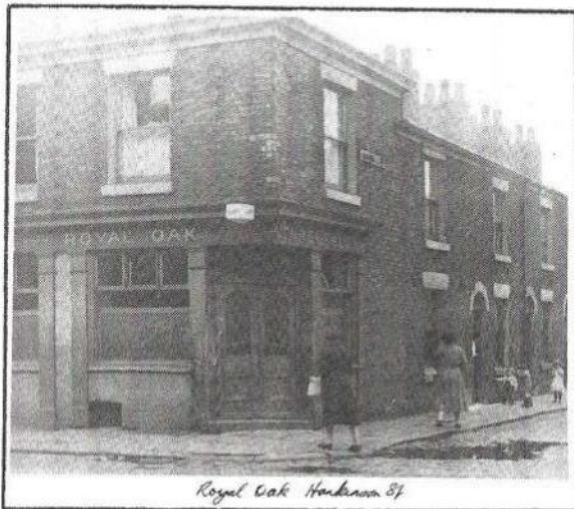
Anyone taking a walk through the multi-storey flats near Salford precinct would find it hard to believe that this area once boasted fifty or so public houses and numerous off-licences in less than a square mile.



Lamb Inn Hankinson St

They were mainly street-corner pubs like many of those which have been demolished in the name of progress. They were more often known by their nicknames than by their original names. The Royal Oak on Hankinson Street was the Brass Handles to generations of drinkers because the vault door had two large brass handles on it. The Kings Arms on Ellor Street was called Casewells after one of its landlords, Samuel Casewell. The Craven Heifer on Cross Lane and the Red Lion on Pimlot Street were both known as the Mad House, and it is rumoured that this is connected with the reputation of Chester's 'fighting' mild. On Florin Street, the Queens Arms

was known as the Stumps because there were two wooden stumps in the side entry. One pub did change its name officially, and that was the Cattle Market Hotel on Cross Lane, which was called the Red Rose for several years in the 1960s. One of the most unusual official names was the Coomassie Hotel on the street of the same name. This dates from 1873 when Field Marshal Wolseley captured the capital city of a West African tribe who had attacked the frontiers of the Gold Coast. Coomassie is a corruption of the city's name, Kumasi.



Royal Oak Hankinson St



Oddfellows Arms Harrison St

BROAD STREET

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Vine Inn (Walkers) | 7 Town Hall (Wilson) |
| 2 Rose and Crown (Hardys) | 8 Horse & Jockey (Walkers) |
| 3 Bay Horse (Groves & Whitnall) | 9 The Tower (Wilson) |
| 4 Cross Keys (Wilson) | 10 Thatched House (Wilson) |
| 5 Greyhound (Hardys) | 11 Horseshoe (Threlfalls) |
| 6 Wheatsheaf (Wilson) | 12 Windsor Bridge (Wilson) |
| 13 Hare and Hounds (Higsons) | |

CROSS LANE

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 14 Corporation (Wilson) | 17 Cattle Market Tavern (Wilson) |
| 15 Craven Heiffer (Threlfalls) | 18 Grapes (Wilson) |
| 16 Royal Oak (Wilson) | 19 Butchers Arms (Sam Smiths) |
| 20 Cattle Market Hotel (Groves & Whitnall) | |

HIGH STREET

- 21 Priory (Threlfalls)

CHURCH STREET

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 22 Royal Hotel (Threlfalls) | 23 Grove Inn (Wilson) |
| 24 Seedley Hotel (Swales) | |

FLORIN STREET

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 25 Coomassie (Threlfalls) | 26 Queens Arms (Swales) |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|

HANKINSON STREET

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 27 The Lamb (Groves & Whitnall) | 28 Royal Oak (Threlfalls) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|

ELLOR STREET

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 29 Fusiliers (Swales) | 34 British Queen (Threlfalls) |
| 30 Welcome Inn (Wilson) | 35 Nelson Inn (Walkers) |
| 31 Wellington Hotel (Wilson) | 36 Victoria Hotel (Wilson) |
| 32 Etwall | 37 Grove House (Groves & Whitnall) |
| 33 Four Horseshoes (Cornbrook) | 38 Kings Arms (Walkers) |
| 39 Joiners Arms (Swales) | |

CHANAY STREET

- 40 Crown Inn (Taylors)

PIMLOT STREET

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 41 Druids Rest (Threlfalls) | 42 Red Lion (Threlfalls) |
| 43 Old House at Home (Groves & Whitnall) | |

HARRISON STREET

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 44 Dog & Partridge (Walkers) | 45 Oddfellows Arms (Groves & Whit.) |
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ALBERT STREET

- 46 Church Inn (Walkers)

BOOTH STREET

- 47 Foresters Arms (Swales)

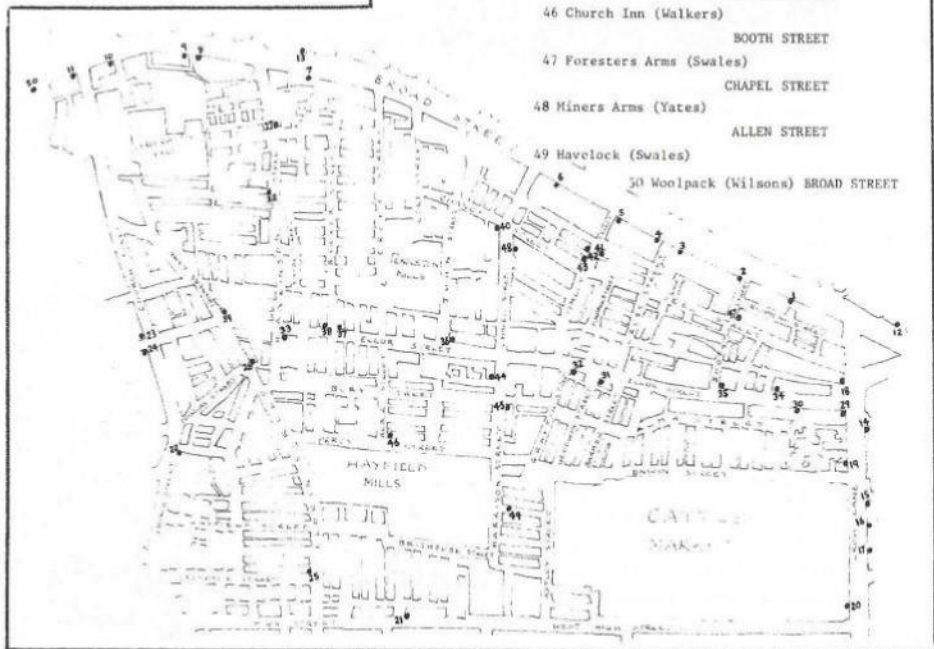
CHAPEL STREET

- 48 Miners Arms (Yates)

ALLEN STREET

- 49 Havelock (Swales)

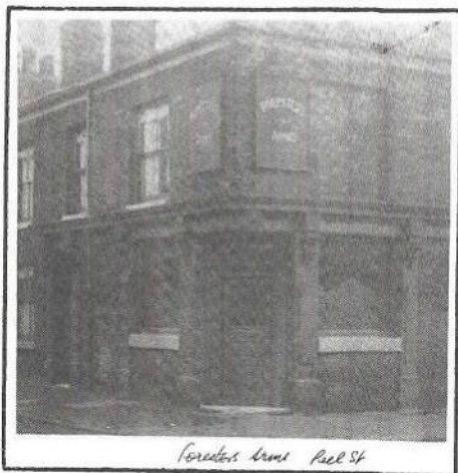
- 50 Woolpack (Wilson) BROAD STREET



Broad Street had 14 public houses including the only Higsons pub in Salford, the Hare and Hounds. Pimlot Street had four with two next door to each other, the Old House at Home and the Red Lion. Ellor Street had 10, with a variety of beer from almost every local brewery. In fact, a century ago the Wellington was registered as a brewery for seven years.



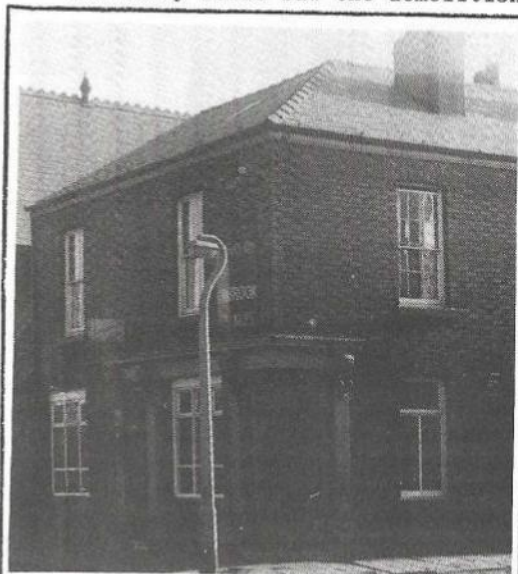
Most pubs in their later years were affected by brewery takeovers. Probably all the Wilsons houses were originally tied to nearby Walker and Homfrays, and Walkers of Warrington were taken over by Tetleys. Hardys and Cornbrook were absorbed by Charrington United Breweries in 1961. Interestingly enough, Cornbrook themselves had taken over a Salford brewery back in 1897, Mottrams St. Stephen's Brewery on Brewery Street.



Foresters Arms Peel St

Some pubs changed breweries more than once. The Greyhound on Broad Street went from Hardys to Cornbrook to Tetleys and then back to Cornbrook. Such Tetley-Cornbrook-Hardys exchanges were common in Salford at that time. Groves and Whitnalls Salford brewery was taken over by Greenalls. Threlfalls-Chesters sadly went to Whitbread. Boddingtons took over Swales, Marstons took over Taylors and Yates's went to John Smiths.

The early 1960s saw the demolition of Hanky Park. Families



Four Horseshoes, Ellor St.

were uprooted and sent off to council estates in Little Hulton. Pubs like the Horseshoe on Broad Street, the Lamb, Hankinson Street, the Four Horseshoes, the Etwall and the Grapes on Ellor Street are now just memories. All that are left are the Royal on Church Street, now modernised and called the Flat Iron, the Fusiliers on Cross Lane, again modernised and called the Paddock, and the Craven Heifer on Cross Lane, now the Golden Gate. The only two unchanged are the Corporation and the Windsor Bridge Tavern, two Wilsons pubs near Cross Lane roundabout. Nine new pubs have been built on or near the precinct, and none of them could ever hope to attain the character or the atmosphere of those which have gone.

ASHTON OLD ROAD

Walking up Ashton Old Road through Openshaw to Fairfield, you see about 35 pubs. Many now stand isolated awaiting the development. One of the advantages of their limited life expectancy is that brewers have allowed traces of their history to remain visible.

Former Chesters pubs are by far the most in evidence, followed by Wilsons, although all of these seem to have suffered from Watneyfication. There are a few street corner Boddingtons pubs which still have their original signboards, three pubs still boasting 'Openshaw Brewery Fine Ales' and the odd Tetley, Holts, Marston, Groves and Whitnalls house as well as a lone 'Kays Atlas Ales'. Despite the Whitbread, Watney and Bass Charrington takeovers of Chesters, Wilsons and the Openshaw Brewery respectively, nearly half the pubs serve real ale and Openshaw is still a good bet for traditional beer drinkers.



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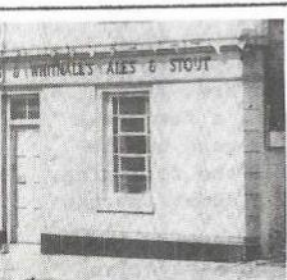


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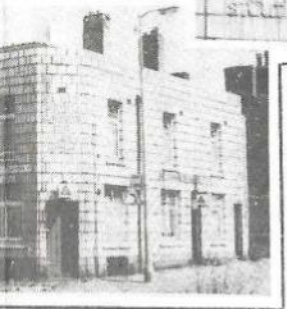
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*the Pack Horse, a lone
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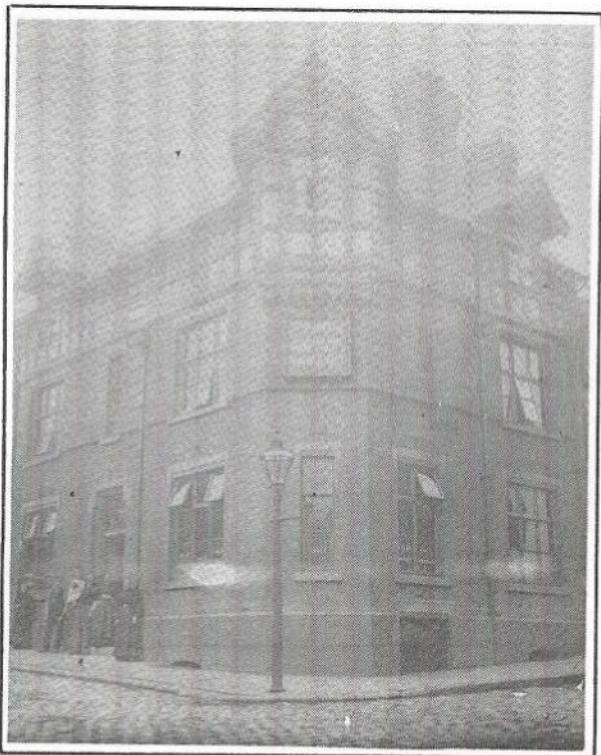
*The Clock Face, one of the bigger
Chesters pubs.*



*Painted Chesters sign
on The Star, Pottery Lane.*

*Tilework outside the
Forresters, Openshaw,
advertising Kays Atlas
Brewery, since absorbed
by Robinsons.*





MOUNT TAVERN

The Mount Tavern shown on this photograph was built in 1894, replacing an earlier pub demolished because a local works wanted the land for expansion. Mrs. Ben Wilson, the last licensee, moved into the pub with her parents when she was two weeks old and is shown as a child on the photograph. We spoke to Mrs. Wilson, now retired, a few weeks ago and she gave us the picture and the following information about the pub.

The pub started its life tied to Kays Atlas Brewery, but in 1929 Robinsons of Stockport bought Kays and the Mount

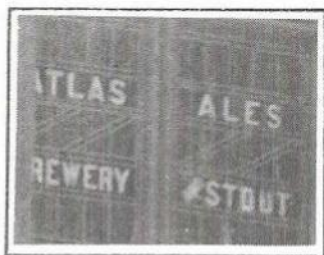
remained one of the few Robinsons houses in Salford for the rest of its life. When her mother died in 1916, Mrs. Wilson became the youngest woman licensee in Salford at the age of twenty-two. The licence was transferred to her husband when he returned from the war.

The Mount was a beer house selling only beer and porter. Typical prices before the war were: mild - 5d, best mild - 6d, bitter - 7d and best bitter - 9d. The first three were served from handpumps and the best bitter brought up from the cellar by the jug. Draught stout was also sold, as were bottles of Bass, Worthington and Guinness. Mrs. Wilson can remember the very old days when the pub was open from six in the morning until eleven at night, but this was changed during the First World War to the present licensing hours. The Mount was a family pub with no dart board, although dominoes and cards were played - but not on Sundays, Christmas Day or Good Friday.

The pub came to an abrupt end when it was hit by a bomb in the early hours of June 2nd., 1941. This was the same air raid which damaged Salford Royal Hospital and was the last time Salford was bombed. Mrs. Wilson applied to keep the undamaged vault, smoke room and kitchen as a 'lock-up' pub, but the borough engineer would not approve the plan.

There were many other pubs in the immediate area - the Trav-

ellers Rest and the Rob Roy (both Walker and Homfray's); the St. Stephen's Tavern and the George Inn (Hardy's); the Pemberton Inn, the Fawn's Head and the Manor, the last being connected with Salford's Manor Brewery of the 1890s. Only a handful of pubs have survived to the present day, one being the Borough, Encombe Place, which was recently sold by Whitbread to Burton-wood.



Tony Flynn & Neil Richardson

TRAFFORD & HULME DIARY

Hulme pub crawl: Friday, September 30th. Meet 7.30 at the Cornbrook (Tetleys) or 8.00 at the Hope Inn (Hydes), both on Chester Road.

Second meeting to test support: Malt Shovels, Stamford Street, Altrincham, on Thursday, October 20th., 8 p.m.

Even before the first test meeting, considerable interest has been shown in the formation of a Trafford and Hulme branch of CAMRA and we are confident that it will not be long before the inaugural meeting. We hope as many people as possible will turn up on the above dates, particularly to the Hulme pub crawl, as this area has some excellent pubs but little CAMRA activity. We are looking for a suitable venue for a meeting there in the near future.

Wilsons are building two new pubs in Trafford; one, on Bold Street, Stretford, is to serve tank beer, but the other, in the new Altrincham town centre complex, is to serve real ale.

Handpumped Thwaites has made a welcome appearance in Sale in Metrovics Rugby Club, Finney Bank Lane, off Glebelands Road. This replaces the range of Youngers kegs previously on sale. The club welcomes new members, both playing and social.

Pete Cathcart, landlord of the Old Roebuck in Altrincham (real Wilsons), is shortly to move to the Vine in Sale, which was in the Good Beer Guide until it went over to cellar tanks. There is now a good chance that cask-conditioned beer will be reintroduced.

Mick Rottenbury

Tel: 061-969-7013



REAL ALE IN MANCHESTER CENTRAL..... 20p + s.a.e.

This is an illustrated guide to every real ale outlet within 1 mile of St Peter's square, including map, suggested crawls and brewery information.

REAL ALE IN MANCHESTER AND SALFORD . 10p + s.a.e.

A list of every pub selling real ale in central and north Manchester, Eccles, Salford, Swinton and Irlam.



Available from Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester

REAL ALE



IN THE ISLE OF MAN

"There's no politics on the island, no Conservative or Labour, no left or right. All that matters is what's good for the island. The only bone of contention is which is better, Okells or Castletown"

-Irishman in Bay Hotel, Port Erin

Despite a somewhat turbulent boat journey the morning after the Central Manchester Beer Festival, we were among the few people not to be sick, and having arrived in Port Erin we set off to explore the local pubs. The Station at Port St. Mary has been included in the Good Beer Guide since it started in 1974. I also remember the pub well from holidays in Port St. Mary in 1961 and 1962. The hand drawn Castletown bitter was excellent and the pub itself was friendly and well-kept. It's surprising how opinions formed about pubs and beer some fifteen years ago are frequently confirmed on subsequent visits even though the opinions were formed in ignorance of what real ale was or what constituted a good pub.

Our idyllic reverie did not last long. We went in the Albert - an Okells house in Port St. Mary - at six o'clock. Few people on either side of the bar seemed capable of standing and the beer was absolutely vile. We declined a game of darts from a customer who asked hesitantly through rotting teeth, "Zyer wan err averr gaymer zubbles?" and left for the Station, Port Erin, another pub which has appeared in the last four Beer Guides, and where the Okells bitter served through pillar taps was excellent. Mild is still served through handpumps.

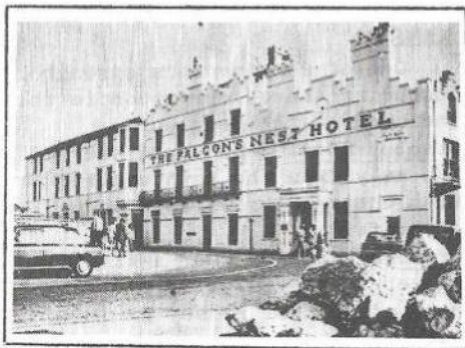
Okells, having suddenly soared in our estimation, suffered an immediate decline in the Falcon's Nest. Not only was the beer cloudy and revolting, but the barman sipped it and declared it to be OK. No wonder nobody was at the disco which had been going on since eleven that morning. Everyone was at the Eagle (Okells). The beer here was well served but the pub with its punk rock jukebox attracted a rough and rowdy clientele. There is an interesting collection of pub flasks, bottles and stone containers over the bar.

Our first day's researches had given us a taste for Castletown, a wariness of Okells and a liking for the pubs which have not undergone the devastation wrought on English pubs. It was impossible in a week to visit some two hundred real ale pubs in the island and our researches were of necessity selective. One advantage of the Isle of Man is that you can dispense with the Beer Guide and compare notes with it afterwards.



PORT ERIN

Four real ale pubs - the Station, the Falcon's Nest, the Eagle and the Bay. The Bay Hotel is a free house selling Castletown Ales through unusual handpumps. The hotel is residential and seems totally unaltered. There is a huge mirror behind both bars and a selection of spirit bottles in the lounge bar. Wood panelling and cigarette advertisements from the 1950s complete the picture. The pub is an excellent local and should perhaps replace the Falcon's Nest in the 1978 Guide.



One of the saddest things about Port Erin is the transformation of two of the largest hotels. The Ocean Castle now serves only keg Castletown amongst keg Tetley etc. The Belle-Vue is sadder still. This large hotel used to have a public bar. This has now been converted into a CHILDREN'S PLAY ROOM (Salford Corporation would be delighted). There is a slide where they used to play darts and there are kids crawling over the pillar taps and playing with the optic stands.

In the main bar, however, the bank of three Gaskell and Chambers handpumps still remains - unused. Instead, beneath a notice declaring, "OKELL'S REAL ALES," chilled and filtered bitter is dispensed through free flow electric pumps.

PORT ST. MARY

Five real ale pubs - the Station, the Albert (in all fairness the beer was quite palatable when we revisited), the Shore, the Bay View and the Carrick. The Shore is a plush, handpumped Castle-town house on an isolated stretch of beach some distance from the village. The Bay View is a comfortable pub in the village and probably the most popular of the five. It has a wide range of spirits on optics, handpumped Okells and good food. We'd heard about Big Phil at the Carrick from a landlady in Douglas - "It's always effin' this and effin' that." Indeed it was. Even the



graffiti seemed to bear this out - "I choked Linda Lovelace" was one contribution in the Gents. The beer wasn't up to scratch either.

CASTLETOWN

Not, strangely enough, a Castletown stronghold. There are as many Okells pubs in the town including the Castle Inn or Glue Pot opposite Castletown Brewery and the Ship Inn only a short distance away, both of which served a good pint through handpumps.

RAMSEY

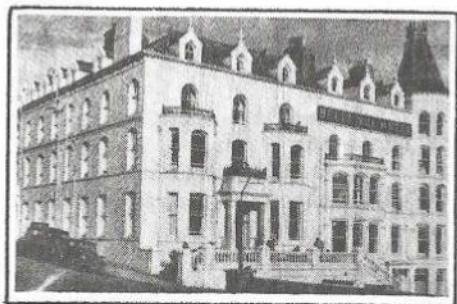
One of Castletown's strongholds. They have six pubs in Ramsey including these four opposite the harbour, three of which are not included in the Beer Guide.

Stanley Hotel Handpumped beer of questionable quality in a run down pub away from the town centre. The landlord's son is a technician with the Red Arrows and the pub was festooned with photographs of aircraft.

Crown Handpumped beer again in a pub which runs from the main street to the quayside and which has confused many a pub crawler. Headquarters of Ramsey Drinking Club, who drink crates of Tennents out of a skull-shaped, carved coconut.

Mermaid Inn Handpumps. Huge, framed nude and bar billiards in the vault. Good sandwiches. Worth visiting.

Royal George The etched windows still say 'Royal Hotel Vaults' and the pub is much as it was forty years ago. There is a collection of old bottles and pub flasks over a traditional mirror bar with hand-pumps.



LAXEY

The Wheel, the Snaefell Mountain Railway and the Manx Electric Railway make this village an overcrowded tourist centre. The pubs are best avoided in the summer but are probably worth a visit out of season, particularly the Mines Tavern.

PEEL

There are nine pubs in Peel, none of which is particularly spectacular. The Marine is not as bad as the G.B.G. makes it out to be.



DOUGLAS

Most of the eighty-two pubs in Douglas are either brash, garish and plastic or seedy and decrepit. The New Strand described in the Good Beer Guide as "An Inn of Character in a noisy street full of bingo halls, Chinese restaurants and chip shops" has about as much character as the candy floss and hamburgers which surround it. There are however some exceptional pubs around the Quay and Railway Station including the Star, the Saddle, the Bridge, the Railway, the Foresters and the Grosvenor. As Okells Brewery is in Douglas, there is a preponderance of Okells' houses.

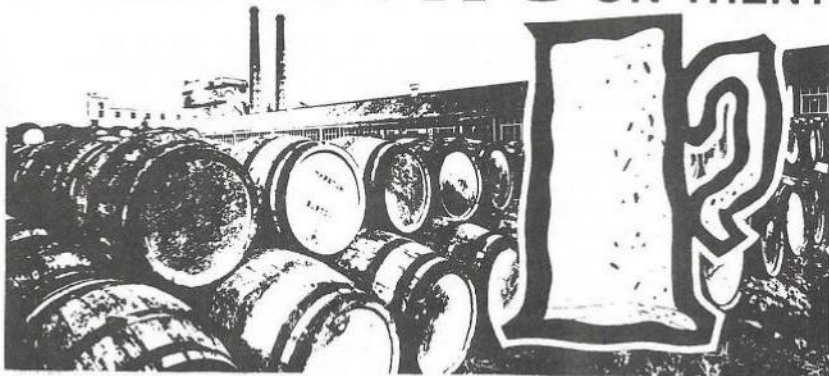
The Isle of Man is still a "beer drinker's paradise". Virtually every pub sells real ale and the price is still only 23p a pint. There are indications however that some of the tendencies we saw in this country ten years ago are occurring in the Island. The Manx Brewers' Act protects only the ingredients of the beer. There is no stipulation about bright beer or pressurisation. So whilst the ingredients may remain unadulterated, we are likely to see an increase in chilled and filtered beers on free flow pumps and keg beers from both breweries. Mild beer is also likely to disappear. Very few pubs still serve mild and in those that do the quality often leaves a lot to be desired.

Many of the visitors to the island come from areas like Glasgow, Belfast or Dublin where real ale is not abundant and consequently there is little demand from visitors for the island's own ales. It's a long way off yet, but I think we may have seen the beginning of the end of this beer drinker's paradise.

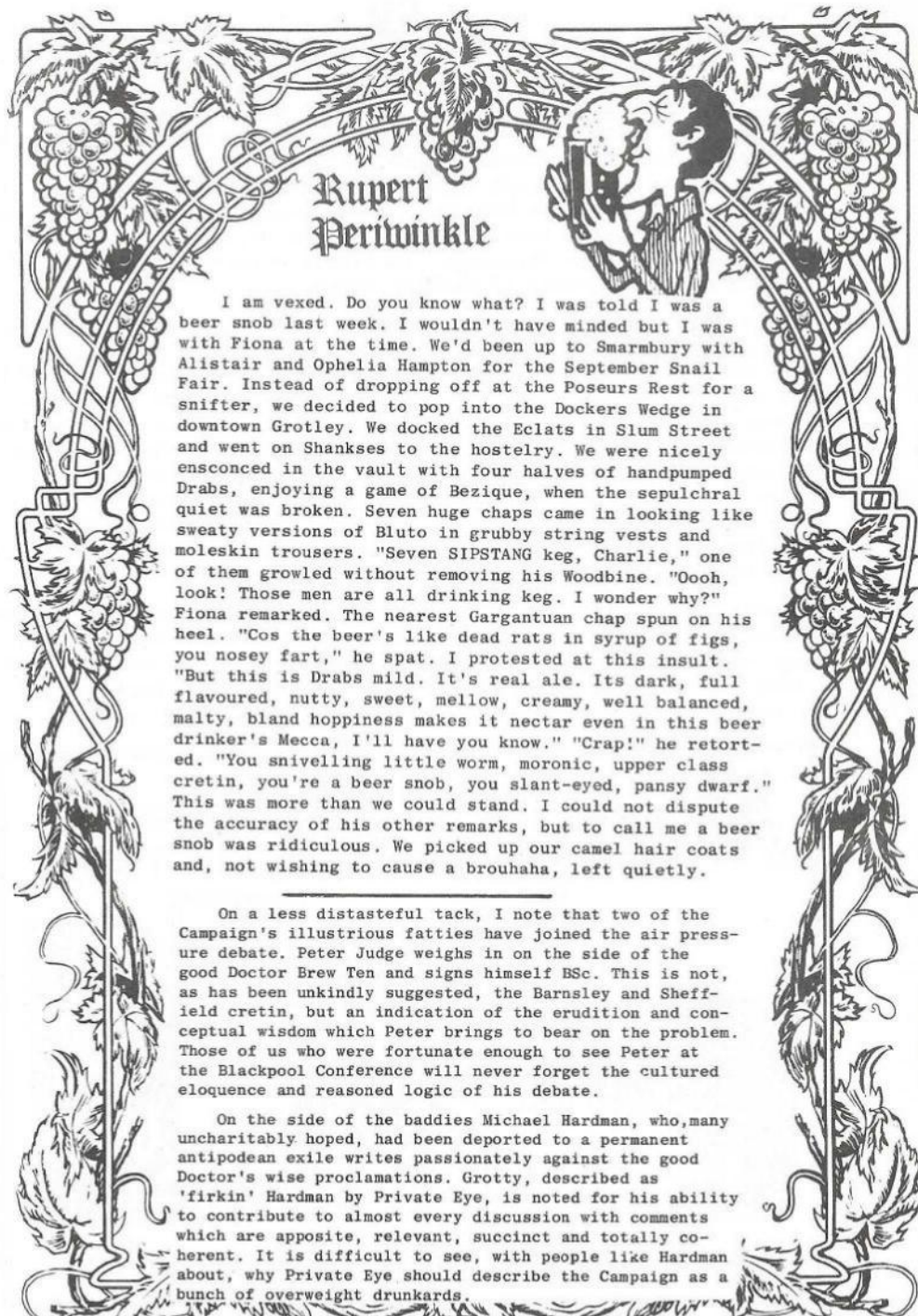
Roger Hall

Marston's

BURTON-
ON-TRENT



... The Home of Traditional Beer



Rupert Periwinkle

I am vexed. Do you know what? I was told I was a beer snob last week. I wouldn't have minded but I was with Fiona at the time. We'd been up to Smarmbury with Alistair and Ophelia Hampton for the September Snail Fair. Instead of dropping off at the Poseurs Rest for a snifter, we decided to pop into the Dockers Wedge in downtown Grotley. We docked the Eclats in Slum Street and went on Shankses to the hostelry. We were nicely ensconced in the vault with four halves of handpumped Drabs, enjoying a game of Bezique, when the sepulchral quiet was broken. Seven huge chaps came in looking like sweaty versions of Bluto in grubby string vests and moleskin trousers. "Seven SIPSTANG keg, Charlie," one of them growled without removing his Woodbine. "Oooh, look! Those men are all drinking keg. I wonder why?" Fiona remarked. The nearest Gargantuan chap spun on his heel. "Cos the beer's like dead rats in syrup of figs, you noseey fart," he spat. I protested at this insult. "But this is Drabs mild. It's real ale. Its dark, full flavoured, nutty, sweet, mellow, creamy, well balanced, malty, bland hoppiness makes it nectar even in this beer drinker's Mecca, I'll have you know." "Crap!" he retorted. "You snivelling little worm, moronic, upper class cretin, you're a beer snob, you slant-eyed, pansy dwarf." This was more than we could stand. I could not dispute the accuracy of his other remarks, but to call me a beer snob was ridiculous. We picked up our camel hair coats and, not wishing to cause a brouhaha, left quietly.

On a less distasteful tack, I note that two of the Campaign's illustrious fatties have joined the air pressure debate. Peter Judge weighs in on the side of the good Doctor Brew Ten and signs himself BSc. This is not, as has been unkindly suggested, the Barnsley and Sheffield cretin, but an indication of the erudition and conceptual wisdom which Peter brings to bear on the problem. Those of us who were fortunate enough to see Peter at the Blackpool Conference will never forget the cultured eloquence and reasoned logic of his debate.

On the side of the baddies Michael Hardman, who, many uncharitably hoped, had been deported to a permanent antipodean exile writes passionately against the good Doctor's wise proclamations. Grotty, described as 'firkin' Hardman by Private Eye, is noted for his ability to contribute to almost every discussion with comments which are apposite, relevant, succinct and totally coherent. It is difficult to see, with people like Hardman about, why Private Eye should describe the Campaign as a bunch of overweight drunkards.

CAMRA

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

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

Application for Membership.

I wish to become a member of The Campaign for Real Ale Limited. I agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign, and I enclose £4

FULL NAME (Block capitals)

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS (Block capitals)

.....COUNTY.....

SIGNATURE..... DATE

Cheques should be made payable to Campaign for Real Ale Limited. Applications should be sent to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts. AL1 3BW.

Camra North Manchester

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

The next branch meeting will be in the Dean Brook Inn, St. Mary's Road, Newton Heath, on Wednesday 21st October 1977 at 8.00 p.m. Members and non-members welcome.

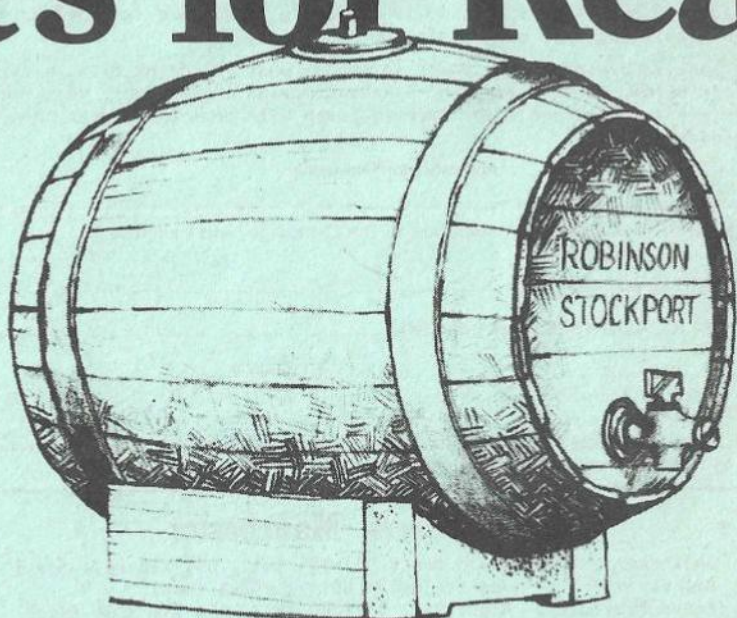


Tony Flynn, address 18 Gilda Crescent Road, Eccles, telephone number 736 1575, would like to hear from readers with recollections of old Manchester and Salford pubs and breweries. Readers' photographs would be copied and returned immediately and credited if used in publications.

What's Doing is published on the third Wednesday of the month and is sold through pubs in Manchester and Salford and at local Camra meetings. It can be obtained by post from Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester, £1 for six issues.

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

It's for Real



We, at Robinson's, think that what matters most about beer is its flavour. That's why we are still brewing beer the same way that we did a hundred years ago. Natural ingredients, the same time-honoured brewing ways, even on the same site — not many can say that!

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We strongly recommend that you place your order as soon as possible for Christmas or New Year use.

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