

25p

What's Doing

MARCH 1995

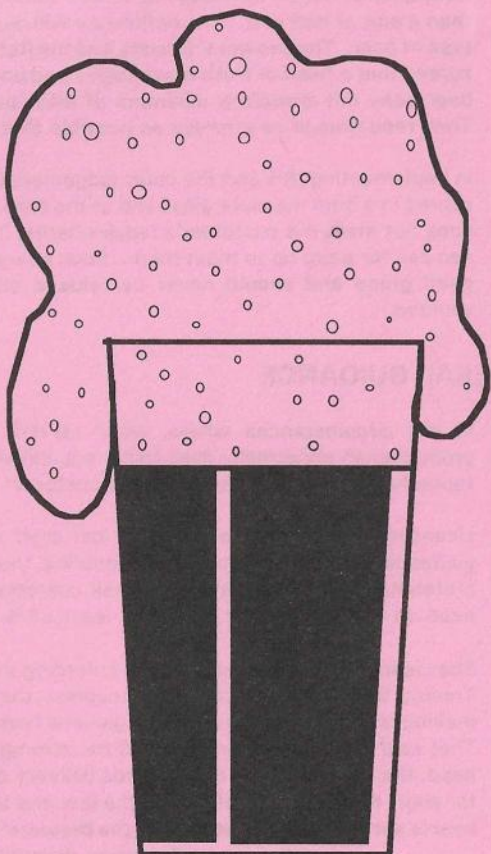


The Manchester Beer Drinker's Monthly Magazine

Short measure

In a letter to their licensees, Whitbread advise that Boddingtons should "ideally" be served with a head of at least 17.5mm. That's about 15% short measure, or about 20p on a typical pint. This falls below the requirements of the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association code (extracts are reproduced on the next page), which in itself is pretty feeble.

If you find your local Boddies outlet serving too much cream, why not write to your local Trading Standards department and complain? For such flagrant disregard of the law, successful prosecution should be fairly simple.



THE LEGAL POSITION

SHORT MEASURE: *Reprinted from the
Brewers & Licensed Retailers guidelines*

4. Whether or not beer is served with a head is dependent upon various factors; the type of beer, the equipment used to dispense it and individual consumer preferences. To be acceptable to some customers certain beers must be served without a head whilst in other situations a head will be a pre-requisite for acceptability of beer. Recognising this the courts have upheld that the head of froth is an integral part of what is purported to be sold provided that it is not excessive or unreasonable in the light of what the customer was to be taken as ordering.

BRIM MEASURE GLASSES

5. When dispensing beer with a head into a brim measure glass the head must reach the brim or above it to ensure that the quantity of beer (liquid and head) dispensed is at least a pint or half a pint. As the head collapses the small proportion of liquid it contains will fall into the rest of the beer and the gas will disperse into the atmosphere. When the head has totally collapsed the amount of liquid may be less than a pint or half pint. The deficiency will depend on the size of the head and the type of beer. **The Brewers' Society and the Retail Organisations have agreed that a head of froth is excessive and unreasonable if the measure of draught beer does not contain a minimum of 95% liquid after the collapse of the head. They recommend as strongly as possible that all licensees follow this principle.**
6. In implementing this and the court judgements referred to in paragraph 4, if beer is served in a brim measure glass and at the time of service the liquid level of the beer does not meet the customer's requirements, it must always be recognized that he can ask for a top-up to meet them. Such a request should always be received with good grace and should never be refused although spillage of liquid should be avoided.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

8. In any circumstances where, when served, a beer is fobbing excessively and producing an abnormally deep head (e.g. initial pulls from casks), the beer must be topped-up before it is served to the customer.
10. Licensees should ensure that their bar staff are fully trained in the law and this guidance and are committed to ensuring that, having regard to the reasonable preferences and expectations of their customers with respect to a head or lack of head on beers, they will receive at least 95% liquid.
11. The Licensed Trade expects that in enforcing the Weights and Measures legislation, Trading Standards Officers will recognise the decisions of the courts as well as making reasonable allowances for genuine human error by licensees and their staff. That said it cannot be emphasized too strongly that, where beer is served with a head, the Trade will not condone the delivery of less than 95% liquid. The remedy for short measure, as defined by the law and the guidance, is prosecution. Where beer is served with a head neither the Brewers' Society nor the Retail Organisations will support licensees defending prosecutions for short measure where the amount of liquid is less than 95% after collapse of the head.

Manchester has the best pubs

Peter Barnes

CAMRA has produced an inventory of pub interiors which are considered to be "nationally outstanding". The aim of the exercise is to highlight the relatively few truly outstanding interiors in the country - less than 250 - and thereby raise awareness of the threat to our pub heritage in general.

There are laws to help to protect buildings of architectural merit, so it is important to say which ones we consider are of merit. CAMRA has placed emphasis on the interior because that is what matters to the drinker - not whether a pub has a pretty façade or not. The main criterion is historic intactness - especially the survival of original layout, rarity value and quality of original fittings.

Greater Manchester has the best concentration of outstanding pub interiors outside Greater London. The pubs are:

Altrincham

Railway Inn, Manchester Road

Bolton

Howcroft, Clarence Court

Eccles

Grapes, Liverpool Road

Lamb, Regent Street

Royal Oak, Barton Lane

Gorton

Hare & Hounds, Abbey Hey Lane

Plough, Hyde Road

Heaton Norris

Nursery Inn, Green Lane

Manchester

Britons Protection, Great

Bridgewater Street

Circus Tavern, Portland Street

Crown & Kettle, Oldham Road

Peveril of the Peak, Great

Bridgewater Street

Marple

Hatters Arms, Church Lane

Middleton

Old Boars Head, Long Street

Mossley

Colliers Arms, Broadcarr Lane

Rochdale

Cemetery Hotel, Bury Road

Globe, Whitworth Road

Stalybridge

Station Buffet

Stockport

Alexandra, Northgate Road

Arden Arms, Millgate

Gladstone, Lower Hillgate



Queens Head, Little Underbank

Swan with Two Necks, Princes Street

Wigan

Springfield Hotel, Springfield Road

Guests are
always welcome
at



ASHTON'S PREMIER
FREE HOUSE

With NINE beers on hand pumps
there are always interesting guest
beers - old favourites and also
rare and exotic brews. (BETWEEN-
8 and 12 different ales EACH WEEK.

MONDAY-
FOLK NIGHT

PLUS

LUNCHEONS TRY OUR HOT MEALS
& SUPER COLD BUFFET

Conservatory & Rooms

For Meetings & Parties

OPEN ALL DAY
- MONDAY TO FRIDAY

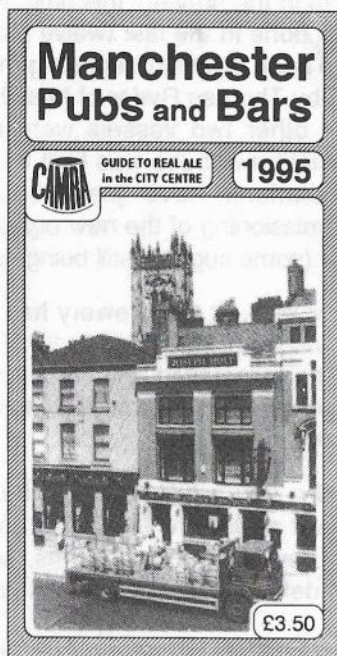
WARRINGTON ST
ASHTON-U-LYNE
NEXT TO
BY-PASS



Central Manchester Pub Guide

The all-new, all-singing, all-dancing comprehensive guide to City Centre pubs will soon be ready. Over 120 emporia (real ale and otherwise) have been investigated by an élite survey team hand-picked from Manchester's CAMRA branches. Those who returned were then persuaded to put it all down on paper in joined-up writing.

The guide also contains features on City Centre food, cider, pub crawls and more. The price to CAMRA members is £2.50, or £3 by post from Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester M9 6PW. Cheques payable to 'CAMRA North Manchester'.



New Yates's for Sale

A new £1.5m pub should be open and trading in Sale by the end of spring. The building will be located on the site of a former coal merchant's on Britannia Road, off School Road, which places it on the banks of the Bridgewater Canal. We're told the pub will be built by Yates's partner, Watling Street Inns, and furnished in Victorian style. They are to call it the King's Ransom. An indication of the prices, forsooth?

WHAT'S DOING contributions should be sent to the editor c/o 88 Ringley Road, Stoneclough, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 1ET. News and letters 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, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester M9 6PW.

To join CAMRA send £12 to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW.

Lees Corner

Bernie Jackson

We're in the brewery this time, where a considerable amount of work has been done in the last twelve months or so. A new mash tun and copper have been installed, replacing the second pair of original cast iron vessels built by Thomas Ryder of Manchester for the original brewhouse in 1876. (The other two vessels were replaced just over ten years ago.) The original brewhouse was built to produce 100 barrels a week; these latest installations have just about doubled that capacity. Since the commissioning of the new equipment all the bitter has been a 100% malt brew (some sugar is still being used in the GB Mild).

Other work at the brewery has included replacing the malt mill (built by Robinsons of Rochdale in 1945) and, most recently, a brand new washer has been installed and commissioned, reportedly making a much better job of cleaning the wooden casks which still make up about 50% of Lees' stock.

Finally, you will be sorry to hear that Mr Peter Cole, the former Head Brewer at John Willies, died on 30th December last aged 67. Peter left the brewery, on good terms, some fourteen years ago to move to the now defunct Yates & Jacksons of Lancaster.

The BEER HOUSE

Angel Street, Manchester

**IDY & SAL'S
FIRST ANNIVERSARY**

CIDER FESTIVAL

Wednesday 8th to Sunday 12th March

20 FARM CIDERS & PERRIES

including

**BOLLYHAYES
NAISH
COOMBES**

**HARTLAND
RICH'S
THEOBOLD'S**

plus

A LARGE SELECTION OF ENGLISH CHEESES

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)

WE'RE
IN THE
GOOD
BEER
GUIDE
'95

FROM INDEPENDENT BREWERIES

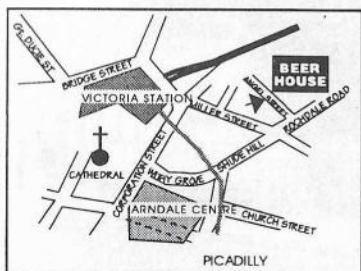
PLUS 3 TRADITIONAL CIDERS,

WE'RE
IN THE
GOOD
BEER
GUIDE
'95

**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



**SUNDAY BREAKFAST 12 - 2.30
EVENING MEALS SERVED 5 - 7
THURS & FRI**

**HALF PRICE MENU EACH MONDAY
FREE CHIP MUFFINS EACH WED 5 - 6**

**PARTY OR MEETING ROOM
AVAILABLE FREE
RING IDY ON 061 839 7019**

Letters

Poor protection?

Sir - As evidence of the alleged prevalence of protection rackets in Manchester's pub trade, we are asked (WD Feb) to ponder the wholesale closure of inner-city Salford pubs. Yet a closed pub produces no revenue and hence can be of no benefit to a protection gang. Surely they can't all have been torched to encourage the others?

Are our racketeers uniquely incompetent? I think we should be told.

Rhys P Jones

Roger Hall replies: Of course not all the closed pubs in Salford are a direct result of extortion and protection rackets, but criminal activity plays a large part in the demise of pubs which are already subject to many other economic threats. Our racketeers may not be uniquely incompetent, but the process is certainly not rational and often leads to acts which are self-defeating.

Ask yourself why people who deal in drugs or who are involved in other forms of criminal activity congregate in certain pubs. Is it because:



- a) The licensee doesn't know what is going on?
- b) The licensee positively encourages this clientele?
- c) The licensee is coerced into allowing this to happen?

In most cases (c) is the answer. Crime at this level is not highly organised. There is not usually a Mr Big running an Al Capone-style systematic racket, but a number of small-time villains who colonise a pub and demand AT's, free drinks and other privileges. The presence of such unsavoury "customers" results in a decline of other customers and the pub falls into a spiral of decline from which it rarely recovers. Compliance leads inevitably to closure. Non-compliance leads via intimidation, violence and possibly arson attacks to closure.

This cancer is spreading. It began in Ordsall, Hulme, Cheetham Hill and Lower Broughton several years ago. It is now spreading rapidly beyond its breeding ground as pubs disappear. Dozens of pubs in the areas listed have closed as a direct result of what might be described as informal protection. Dozens more may disappear in other areas if the prevalence of criminal activity is not recognised. In many areas of Manchester and Salford extortion and intimidation are the single most serious threat to our pubs. This criminal activity drives licensees from the trade and discourages customers from frequenting pubs in inner city areas. Its inevitable consequence is closure and disinvestment.

It is difficult to exaggerate the impact which intimidation has had in parts of North Manchester and Salford and even more difficult to convince those whose experience is confined to other areas about the pervading contagion of this unsavoury activity. For those of us who have spoken to many victims of this criminal behaviour and witnessed at first hand the effects, it is both real and a matter of great concern.

Gradually, there is an awakening of acceptance of the problem among those who might influence events. Although the police still do not believe there is a serious problem, the deputy chairman of the Greater Manchester Police Authority, Councillor Ernie Johnson, has expressed his concern over what he sees as a major problem. (MEN 17.2.95)

Bill Eccles, the leader of Salford's Conservative group, has expressed his disappointment with the police attitude - "There is a general feeling that there is a protection racket taking place, otherwise why on earth are so many pubs closing their doors?" (MEN 17.2.95)

HARE & HOUNDS

46 Shudehill, Manchester

A Traditional City Pub

Meet John, Marion and Liza

Good Beer Guide '95, Cellarman of the Year

CAIN'S MILD & BITTER

TETLEY BITTER

also LANDLORD'S CHOICE

guest bitters

Daily home-made lunches and snacks

Half price menu Wednesday

Function room available

Ring Marion or Liza 061 832 4737

We are open 365 days a year

More Letters...

Rotten Apples

Sir - I know we're always going on about the greedy brewers, and rightly so, but what about switching the spotlight on to the cider makers for a change? Some of them are quietly getting away with pub prices that make Courage, Bass and company look almost like charities.

Despite carrying a lower excise duty than beer, Strongbow, Scrumpy Jack and the like (ABV 5.3-6.0) have an average pub price of over £1.70 a pint, even in the comparatively cheap North West. Yet supermarkets happily (and, of course, profitably) sell the equivalents for around £1.50 a LITRE. Their equally good own-brands often work out at no more than a pound per litre.

And if you go down to Somerset you can legally buy the real thing (scrumpy) with an average ABV of 6.5 for four pounds a GALLON! That's fifty pence a pint, including excise duty and the farmer's profit!

Geoff Atkins

Deutsch Mark

Sir - Robin Pendragon blaming the Germans for the size of the head on our pints (WD Feb) - whatever next? Blaming the French for his ingrowing toenail?

The majority of drinkers in other countries just get on with drinking their beer instead of whining on that the liquid is not exactly to the appropriate mark.

I suspect that Mr Pendragon is the sort of person who will drive 10km to save a penny on a litre of petrol (or a shilling on a gallon for Mr Pendragon!).

Tschüs!

Herr Kurze

Measuring up

Sir - February WD reported that the Grants Arms in Hulme was open again after redecoration. Going back to the 1980s, the standard spirit measure there was one fifth of a gill, rather than the more usual sixth. Does anybody know if there was any particular reason for the larger measure? At the time it was thought to be unique in the area. Perhaps the landlord came from North of the Border. It would be interesting to discover whether they now serve 35mls, rather than 25mls.

Philip Levison

Closed and Boarded Corner

Closures in the inner city continue apace and we begin in Ancoats this month. First, awaiting a new tenant is the Smiths Arms ('Hammer'), a Burtonwood pub on Sherratt Street. Down the road at the Jersey Lily on Jersey Street, things appear more terminal for this troubled house and the building is partially fire-damaged.

Across the Irwell in Blackfriars, Salford, Buskers has now been demolished after lying derelict for some months. There's better news at the boarded Banks's house, the Bird in Hand on St Stephen Street. It has been sold and should be open by the time you read this.

News reaches us that Lees are to "have another go" with the Pack Horse on Oldham Road, Miles Platting (the city's oldest pub, no less). WD welcomes the news and hopes that the Pack Horse is as successful as the recently-opened Phoenix. Any hope of the Fire Brigade reopening?

Beer Festival

The eighth Wigan Beer Festival takes place at the Mill at the Pier on Thursday 2nd to Saturday 4th March. Opening hours are:

Thursday: 5.30-11pm (50p before 7pm, £1.50 after)

Friday: 12-3 (free entry) and 5.30-11pm (£1 before 7pm, £2 after)

Saturday: 12-4 and 7-11pm (£1 each session)

Free entry to all sessions for CAMRA members. *(Note: Friday admission prices in last month's advert were wrong.)*

Among the beers which have been carefully selected to delight the palate of the discerning imbibor are Bunces Pigswill, Hexhamshire Whapweasel, Wychwood Dogs Bollocks, North Yorkshire Flying Herbert, Shardlow Chancellor's Revenge, RCH Old Slug Porter and Linfit Janet Street Porter (yes, really).

Con House

When the Mickey Mouse © bus company failed to turn up at the appointed hour at the Berwick Arms for a tour of North Manchester pubs, the assembled toppers decided on a tour on foot. The spontaneous crawl took us via the Dutton, the Corner House, the Eagle and the Braziers to the Kings Arms. The range of beers at the Corner House included a number of Courage products and, horror of horrors, keg beer served through handpumps (John Smiths Chestnut Mild). The licensee was unapologetic, remarking that people prefer handpumped beer. It makes you wonder what market the pub is aiming for - real ale aficionados are unlikely to cross the threshold ever again!

Greenalls goings-on

The Pack Horse at the Castlefield end of Deansgate is set for a refurbishment. This Greenalls outlet has been down in the dumps for some years and perhaps they feel that knocking things about (and possibly into the next door premises) will change the pub's fortunes. They may be right, as the trendy Atlas Bar is only a cockstride away. Let's hope they don't ruin the Pack Horse in the process.

Mooning

J D Wetherspoons, who are busy converting the Deansgate cinema into the Moon under Water, have applied for permission to convert 49 Piccadilly (between Lever Street and Newton Street) into a traditional ale, food and wine bar. It's a long time since we've seen a proper pub in this neck of the woods.



New Beer Engine

Whitbread's latest 'real ale house' conversion is the George in the centre of Bury. It opened at the beginning of February and was then selling a range of Whitbread beers plus Taylors Landlord.

Naughty Nag

Handpumps in Greenalls pubs are no guarantee of real ale, as a beer guide surveyor discovered at the Nags Head on Jacksons Row in Manchester. There may be handpumps on the bar, but all the beer in the cellar is under blanket pressure.

Aying sweeps the board

Aying, the family-owned brewery south of Munich, has been named Small Brewery of the Year in the prestigious 1995 World Beer Championships. The craft brewery produces classic examples of the most traditional brewing styles. As well as having their own maltings, Aying also farm their own barley and wheat. They won gold medals for their Altbairisch Dunkel and the Oktoberfest Märzen, as well as four silver medals and a bronze. The name Ayingerbräu will be familiar to Sam Smiths drinkers. Sam's lagers are marketed under that name and are brewed under licence at Tadcaster.

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

* * * * *

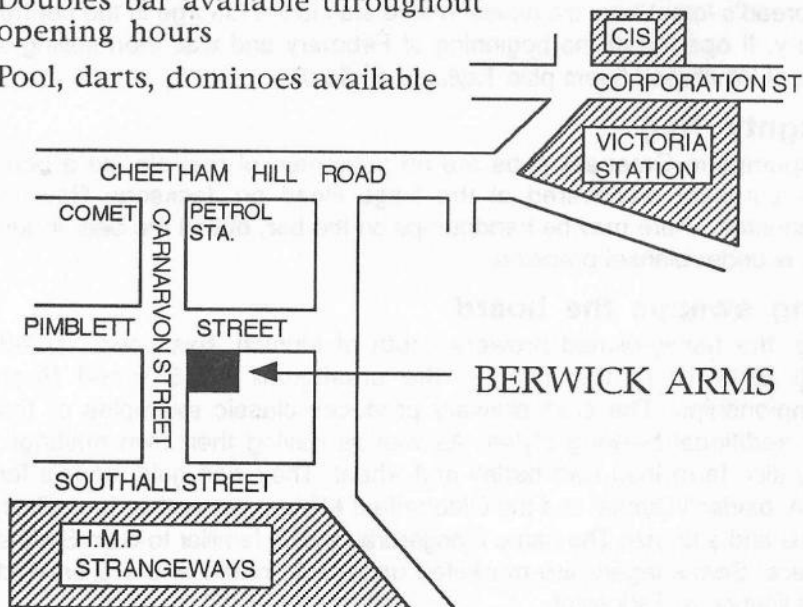
Range of traditional ales includes:
John Willie Lees Bitter and Mild
Guest Beer Boddingtons Bitter
Robinsons Best Bitter

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



Holts Corner

Stewart Revell

The chances are that if you go into a Holts pub you will pay 93p for mild and 99p for bitter. However, there may be the odd occasion when you pay a few pence over the norm - say 95p for mild and £1.02 for bitter. If this happens, you have entered a tenanted Holts house.

These days there are 97 managed houses and 12 tenanted ones, although not many years ago (about 1985) over 30% of the Holts estate was tenanted. Pubs are converted to management because the brewery is able to give the property the financial commitment that a tenant is unable to do. (Or in some cases, unwilling to do!)

The last twelve tenancies in the Holts estate are the Black Dog, Belmont; Coach & Horses, Whitefield; Cricketers Arms, Swinton; Cross Yates, Rochdale; Crown & Volunteer, Eccles; Golden Cross, Patricroft; Grove, Clayton; Old Cross, Radcliffe; Ostrich, Prestwich; Stanley Arms, Patricroft; Union Tavern, Salford; White Horse, Prestwich.

Park carp

The Park in Monton is undergoing something of a transformation. Recent visitors might have thought they'd imbibed too freely of the Holts if they spotted a bulldozer, a dumper and a JCB in the vault. But no, there they were - mini versions, but there, nonetheless. The JCB dug itself into a hole so deep that it couldn't get out, so they brought a crane in to lift it out and the crane went through the ceiling. Never mind, it'll be nice when it's finished.

Kiddypubs

At the February licensing sessions in Salford there were four applications for Children's Certificates - from Swinton Leisure Centre, the Golden Lion in Clifton, the Swan in Weaste and the Copthorne in Salford Quays. Structural alterations are planned at the Robin Hood in Clifton, the Vulcan in Walkden and the Jolly Carter in Winton.

New brews

At a recent meeting of the North Manchester CAMRA branch, Steve Collinge gave details of a range of Enville beers soon to be made available in the North West. Steve was eleven years with Mitchells of Lancaster and is now an agent for the Enville Brewery at Stourbridge on the Staffordshire border.

The beers are Enville Bitter, Ale, White and Gothic (all brewed using honey) and Simpikiss bitter. Details of local outlets as and when.

Now and Then

Rob Magee

No.88

Primrose View

27 Ashton Road, Oldham

The present Primrose View was built in 1966/7 on a site behind the original pub, which was one of a number of properties on Broadway Lane (Ashton Road) dating from the first part of the nineteenth century. Records show that a plot of building land there was staked out about 1827 and made the subject of a 999-year lease. The leasehold was transferred to a local farmer, brickmaker and shopkeeper called Thomas Brooks in 1840 and by 1862 one of his properties had a beer licence.

It also had a brewhouse and stable, and in fact it had been built as a public house - all that was lacking was a public house licence. This first Primrose View had four drinking rooms and three bedrooms, but it must have been a well appointed place because four years later the tenant managed to get his full licence. A music licence was also obtained and as an added attraction "Sunday readings" were introduced to educate and entertain the patrons.

Ownership passed to Herbert Fletcher and John Travis, proprietors of the Royton Brewery, in 1889, then Oldham Brewery took over in 1895. O.B were responsible for the rebuilding in 1966/7 (the old Primrose View had to go for road widening) and in 1982 the current owners, Boddingtons, arrived on the scene. The photo was taken when the new pub was under construction behind the original building.



Dance, Copenhagen style

February 1st saw the launch in the North West of the new Vaux beer, Waggle Dance. The ever-improving Copenhagen on Oldham Road, Newton Heath, was an obvious choice for this 5% beer flavoured with honey. Sales in the pub are healthy, and why not at just £1.40 a pint! The Copenhagen has been thoroughly redecorated and still retains some original Wilsons windows. Waggle Dance joins Vaux bitter, mild and Samson on the bar.

The name Waggle Dance is a reference to the behaviour of bees when they locate a source of nectar - the cunning little things waggle their rear ends in a distinctive manner. If you want to try the new brew, get your own arse in gear and boogie on down to one of the following outlets, which Vaux tell us were supplied with Waggle Dance last month:

Black Diamond, Warrington Road, Wigan
Britons Protection, Manchester
Bulls Head, Oldham Road, Failsworth
Cale Green, Stockport
Clarence, Silver Street, Bury
Copenhagen, Oldham Rd, Newton Heath
Gibraltar, Grimshaw Lane, Newton Heath
Godley Hall, Godley, Hyde
Hollies, Old Street, Ashton-u-Lyne
Maxims, Bradshawgate, Bolton
Red Rose, Liverpool Road, Irlam
Shoulder of Mutton, Holcombe
Sump Hole, Walsh Street, Chadderton
Tame Valley, Park Road, Dukinfield



New café

Manchester's newest Indian café opened in January. Described as "exquisite" on the menu, the Green Chilli is a bit posher than your average caff. The range of food is much the same as that on offer in other premises in the area, with "rice and three" at £1.95, naan at 40p and lamb tikka at £2.25. On our visit the naan was a bit doughy and we were disappointed to discover that the owner was an entrepreneur rather than a chef. It may be relatively easy to employ talented staff, but excellence usually depends on the passion of the owner for things culinary. That said, the food was of high quality and the surroundings pleasant. The Green Chilli is at 8-12 Turner Street, just off High Street.

Rupert

Time for a story. Once upon a time the town council decided it would be a good idea to have playgrounds all over the town where children could play safely. Playgrounds were built in all the parks and even in poor areas of the town on spare plots of land. There were swings and roundabouts, slides, sandpits and paddling pools. Park keepers patrolled the playgrounds and the cleansing department kept them clean and safe. The playgrounds were a great success, full of the joyous laughter of little children.

The playgrounds in Slumley were no exception, until, that is, the town fell on hard times and money was scarce. Gradually older children began to meet in the playgrounds, playing on the equipment, bullying the younger children and demanding sweets from them. There were fewer park keepers now to keep an eye on things and those there were would not always chase the older children out in case there was trouble. At one time the police would stroll through the parks and playgrounds, talking to mothers and children. Now they were all in cars and rarely passed the playgrounds. The town cleansing department had gone and all the parks and playgrounds were untidy and covered in litter. The older children had damaged much of the equipment which the council couldn't afford to repair.

Mothers and fathers no longer let their little children play in the playgrounds, which were dangerous. The big children frightened them. It wasn't long before no children at all played in the playgrounds. The big children grew up but still met there, drinking tins of lager and larking about. The Director of Leisure, Recreation and Cemeteries decided that she would carry out a recreational facility utilisation survey. One of the facts which came out of the survey was that the playgrounds were not being used by little children to play in. Furthermore they attracted youths who were a nuisance. So she closed them all down. She would have shut all the parks as well, but for the vocal protests of the well-to-do who lived nearby.

Now the town has no playgrounds and little children have nowhere to play. The town has saved a lot of money. The bullying children have grown up to become bullying youths and violent young adults. They have turned their attention to the playgrounds of the adult world. The police are still busy driving about in cars and the council is still short of money. But then, play doesn't matter that much, does it?



Branch Diary

Rochdale, Oldham & Bury

Tue 7 March 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Boundary, Shaw Road, Higginshaw, Oldham

Tue 21 March 8.30pm, Committee Meeting, Dusty Miller, Crostons Road, Bury

Sat 25 March, Social/Coach trip to Sowerby Bridge/Halifax area - meet Calderdale Branch.

Tue 28 March 8.30pm. What's Doing collation, Flying Horse, Town Hall Square, Rochdale.

Fri 31 March 6.00pm, Oldham Beer Festival, Werneth Park Music Rooms, Oldham. Finishes Sunday 3pm.

Tues 4 April 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Flying Horse, Town Hall Square, Rochdale

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

North Manchester

Wed 1 Mar 8pm, GBG '96 Final Selection Meeting (non-City), Unicorn, Church Street, Manchester

Wed 8 Mar 8pm, Regional Meeting, Beer House, Angel Street, Manchester

Wed 15 Mar 8pm, **Branch AGM, Kings Arms, Bloom Street, Salford**

Wed 22 Mar, Farnworth Crawl. Church, Church Street, 7.30; Clock Face, Old Hall Street, 9pm

Wed 29 Mar 8pm, Social, Corner House (ex Three Legs of Man), Greengate, Salford. Eagle 8.30

Wed 5 April, Ellenbrook & Boothstown Crawl. Boundary Stone, Bridgewater Road, 7pm; Woodside, Newearth Road, 8pm; Royal Oak, Leigh Road, 9pm.

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

Bolton

Thurs 2 March 8.30pm, Branch meeting, Nightingale, Lever Street. GBG '96 VOTING - VALID MEMBERSHIP CARDS REQUIRED TO VOTE!!

Wed 8 March 8pm, Regional Meeting, Beer House, Angel Street, Manchester (chaired by Bolton)

Contact: Richard Spedding 01204 61244 (h), 01204 521771 x2305 (w)

Trafford & Hulme

Contact: Roger Wilson (0161) 832 8237 (w) or (0161) 941 5602 (h)

Contributors to this issue: Mark McConachie, Roger Hall, Paul Roberts, Bernie Jackson, Peter Barnes, Stewart Revell

THE QUEENS ARMS

FREE HOUSE

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

Tel.061 834 4239



Serving a large range of
traditional ales
including



THEAKSTONS & TIMOTHY TAYLORS

*Mild, Bitter, XB, Old Peculier, Taylors Best Bitter
and Landlord and weekly guest beers*

A large and varied menu plus home-made specials
available seven lunchtimes

Cold snacks available day and night

Hot snacks available until late evening

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-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*

**Large Panoramic BEER GARDEN
with BAR-B-QUE FOR HIRE
(FREE of charge)**

Your hosts, Dave & Jo

