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What's Doing

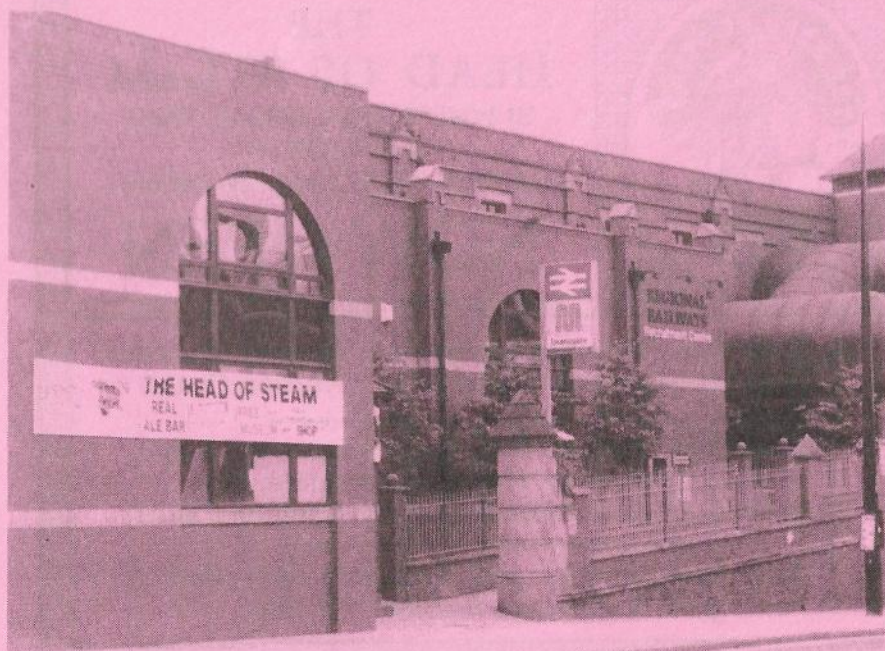
JULY 1995



The Manchester Beer Drinker's Monthly Magazine

Rail Ale

Manchester's latest real ale emporium has opened on Whitworth Street West. The Head of Steam is next to Knott Mill (Deansgate) Station and as well as lots of real ales (see inside) there's a rail enthusiasts' shop and a Victorian restaurant. Oh, joy! The opportunity to discuss LMS wheel configurations with fellow enthusiasts and to bite on a Lyons individual fruit pie as well!



Queens Arms

Readers with children, young-at-heart CAMRA members and, indeed, those in their dotage will be interested to learn that swings, slides and a climbing net have been installed in the beer garden at the Queens Arms free house on Honey Street, Cheetham. The pub has a Children's Certificate and hot and cold meals are available until late evening.

The beer range is now Batemans mild and XXXB, Old Peculier, Taylors Best and Landlord, together with regular guest beers. The Queens will soon be featuring a permanent range of draught Belgian beers. So for a change on those warm summer afternoons you may soon be able to savour the likes of wheat beer, peach, cherry, Kriek and Kwak as you swing around the garden, watching the Metrolink trams go past.

The Queens is now open from 12 noon until 11pm Monday to Saturday and usual hours Sunday.

Cask Beer Festival

H R Fletchers, that instant worn-look emporium at the side of Kendal's in Manchester, is to hold a cask beer festival for four weeks from 10th July. During that period, some fifty different cask ales will be served. The ales will be stillaged in the bar and served on gravity. Ice jackets should ensure their condition.



THE HEAD OF STEAM

2B WHITWORTH STREET WEST
MANCHESTER

(at DEANSGATE railway station)

NOW OPEN

**Real Ale Bar - Victorian Restaurant - Railway Museum
Rail Enthusiast and Model Shop - Auction Centre**

11 Real Ales - regulars from: Shepherd Neame, W&D,
B&T, Caledonian, Hopback, Batemans, Bass
Plus Loads of Guest Ales. Biddenden traditional ciders

July: Ales from 99p a pint. Lots of opening offers
First Breweriana Auction - 2nd July

Pub of the Season

Allan Whitehead

The Millgate on Ashton Road West, Failsworth, is the Rochdale, Oldham & Bury branch of CAMRA's "Pub of the Season" for the summer months. The Millgate is a brew-pub which opened for business last year and the micro-brewery is on full view behind the bar. The one beer it produces at present is "Willy Booths" (named after a local eighteenth century beer lover) which is a 4% ABV pale, hoppy beer selling at £1.10 a pint. The only other outlet for Willy Booths is the Strawberry Duck at Clayton.



The Millgate also sells Holts mild and bitter, Boddies bitter and occasional guest ales, all on handpump. The pub is well worth a visit (Failsworth BR station is only ten minutes' walk away) and local ROB CAMRA members are invited to the Pub of the Season event at the Millgate at 8.30pm on Wednesday 19th July. I might even buy you a pint.

"Free" Huntsman

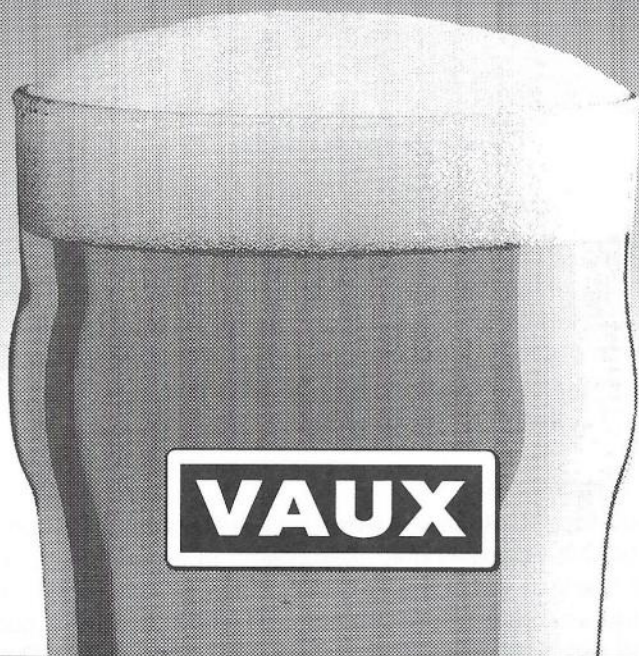
The Huntsman on Catterick Avenue on the Racecourse Estate in Sale, originally built for Boddingtons, now claims to be a "free house" and is badged as Clarkes, but in reality is still owned by BodPubCo. There has been a much-needed refurbishment and there is now a comfortable lounge and separate vault. Cains Dark Mild and Clarkes Bitter (a 4% Whitbread brew) were both on excellent form and well priced at 92p and 99p. The Huntsman is open all day Monday to Friday and closes 4pm to 6pm on Saturday.

NINE OF THE BEST FROM THE VAUX CASK RANGE

VAUX SAMSON
WARD'S BEST BITTER
DOUBLE MAXIM
THORNE BEST BITTER

VAUX EXTRA SPECIAL
WAGGLE DANCE
VAUX MILD
VAUX BITTER

LORIMER'S BEST SCOTCH



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
KATHLEEN ON 01706 353847

Reopening News

It came as a big surprise to see that one of Salford's pubs had reopened. The pub in question is the Golden Gate on Cross Lane and it's nice to see it trading again. It was originally a Whitbread house, but it has been owned by Discovery Leisure for some time.



Still in Salford, the Brewery Tavern (Burtonwood) on Adelphi Street is open once more. For how long, we cannot say... Around the corner in Cleminson Street things may be stirring at the long-closed Town Hall Tavern. If Whitbread (or anyone else) would like to tell us what is going on, we would be most interested.

Another Hungry Horse

The Yew Tree at Northern Moor is now badged as a Hungry Horse Free House, but real ale fans need not rush over there as the staff have got plenty to learn before it will be of interest. On entering the pub one is faced with at least eight handpumps, but the only pump clips in evidence are Boddingtons, Websters Green Label and Draught Bass. When our reporter asked for Bass he was served keg Toby Light and after he pointed out that he wanted Draught Bass he was told, "This is Bass. It's all from the same brewery." What about the handpumped Draught Bass? "Oh, we don't sell that stuff!"

Pack Horse

Latest news on the Pack Horse at Knott Mill is that the people who were supposed to be leasing the building from Greenalls and turning it into a restaurant didn't come up with the money in time so the brewery has sold the pub. Who to? Dunno yet.

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 PLUS EVER-CHANGING RANGE OF GUEST BEERS

(INCLUDING GUEST MILD)
FROM INDEPENDENT BREWERIES
PLUS 3 TRADITIONAL CIDERS

WE'RE
IN THE
GOOD
BEER
GUIDE
'95

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 £1.50/single
ONLY £2.20/double**

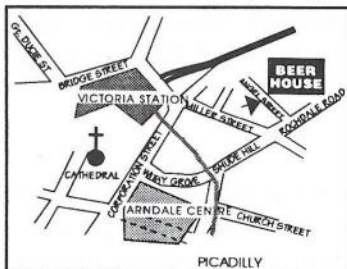
Lunchtime Food 7 Days A Week

INDEPENDENTS WEEKEND

Fri 31 June - Sun 2 July

OVER 30 SCOTTISH & WELSH BEERS

BAR-B-Q AND WELSH & SCOTTISH FOOD



**SUNDAY BREAKFAST 12 - 2.30
EVENING MEALS SERVED 5 - 7
THURSDAY & FRIDAY
HALF PRICE MENU EACH MONDAY
FREE CHIP MUFFINS EACH WED 5-6
PARTY OR MEETING ROOM
AVAILABLE FREE
RING IDY ON 0161 839 7019**

Pubs of the Future

Roger Hall

"10,000 pubs to go" and "Pubs group loses its way" we're told. Well, what are we to do about it? Can those 10,000 pubs be saved or not? I would argue that they cannot. Pubgoing has declined and that decline is irreversible. We know the reasons well - greedy brewers, high prices, competing lifestyles - and we might justifiably criticise them. But we must face the fact that if pubs were overnight transformed into privately-owned, enterprising places selling superb cask conditioned beer at 95p a pint, they would still not regain the custom they have lost.

Many, many more pubs will inevitably close for economic reasons in the next decade and nothing that CAMRA or anyone else can do will change that. What we can do is have a say in which pubs close. We must identify both the ones that we should not lose at any price and those which, in the scheme of things, don't matter. We should not waste valuable time and resources on trying to save pubs that don't have a lot going for them. If the pub closures are spread evenly, we'll probably lose 150-200 in Greater Manchester. I don't think we'd have much trouble in coming up with 200 pubs which won't be missed.



Perhaps a realistic attitude towards prioritising and a move away from politically correct, architectural elitism might help the "relaunched" CAMRA pubs group to find its way again.

1995 Pub Prices Survey

This year 84 CAMRA branches surveyed 1,080 pubs and found that the average price of a pint of real ale is £1.55. It had gone up by 5.4% over the year, which is twice the rate of inflation and continues a trend begun in 1990. (The survey was completed before some brewers put up their prices in April.)

Lager drinkers have seen an increase of 6.1% (lager is now about 11% more expensive than real ale) and keg beers have gone up by 8.7%. The keg average has been driven up by the countrywide promotion of nitro-keg brands such as Caffreys and Kilkenny. A pint of Caffreys is 30p dearer than a pint of ordinary keg and 10p dearer than a pint of real ale.

Real ales cost more than keg beers these days - it's called "premium pricing in the real ale market". In 1990 keg was more expensive, in 1991 they were about the same and the trend is for dearer real ales.

As you would expect, drinking beer in a pub owned by an independent brewer (average £1.54 a pint) will cost you less than in a pub owned by one of the nationals (average £1.57 a pint). Guest independent beers in national brewers' pubs average £1.64 a pint.

The 5.4% national real ale price increase is an average over eleven UK regions. The highest increase is in the East Midlands (11.1%), the North West saw prices go up by 3.9% and the London area actually saw a decrease in average prices by 1.2%, brought about by "discount" pub chains like Wetherspoons (soon to open two outlets in Manchester).

The cheapest pint of real ale in the survey was Ross Casnewydd (85p) in Newport, Wales. The dearest was Marstons Owd Roger (£2.45) in Buckinghamshire.

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: Fully booked for next few months.

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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, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

Railway for sale

The Railway at Cornbrook, a small street-corner Bass pub, is up for sale. It will be a pity if this pub is lost as real ale was introduced a couple of years ago after many years of keg. If the proposed Metrolink station ever gets built, the pubs in this area might see a revival of trade.

Wigan

The former Edisons pub on Market Street has been closed for twelve months and now it has reopened with its original name, the Crofters Arms. The pub is still owned by Cumbria Leisure and is currently selling Tetley dark mild, bitter, Barkers Bitter (brewed by Trent) and a guest beer which changes every fortnight.



The Bath Springs in Bryn was recently voted Wigan's Pub of the Year, while down the road in Ashton the Golden Lion was voted the Best New Cask Outlet (Honeycomb Leisure/Tetley).

Milking the customer

"The cream of Manchester" is proving so expensive that even some BodPubCo pubs are reluctant to serve Boddingtons. The Farmers Arms in Swinton is obtaining beer from Mansfield and this sells alongside Boddies at 6p a pint cheaper. It won't be long before Manchester is the only place you can't buy a pint of the cream of Manchester!

Auld wrong

In last month's WD it was stated that the Sportsman on Market Street in Manchester used to be called the Auld Lang Syne. It was, of course, the Auld Reekie. Disciplinary action has been taken against the research assistant responsible for this error - he has had his earplugs confiscated and been sent on an extended tour of di-diddley bars.

The Berwick Arms

FREE HOUSE

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* * * * *

Open 12.00 until 11.00 Monday to Saturday
12.00 until 3.00 Sunday

* * * * *

Range of traditional ales includes:

John Willie Lees Bitter

Guest Beer Boddingtons Bitter

Robinsons Best Bitter

Comprehensive range of home-cooked meals.

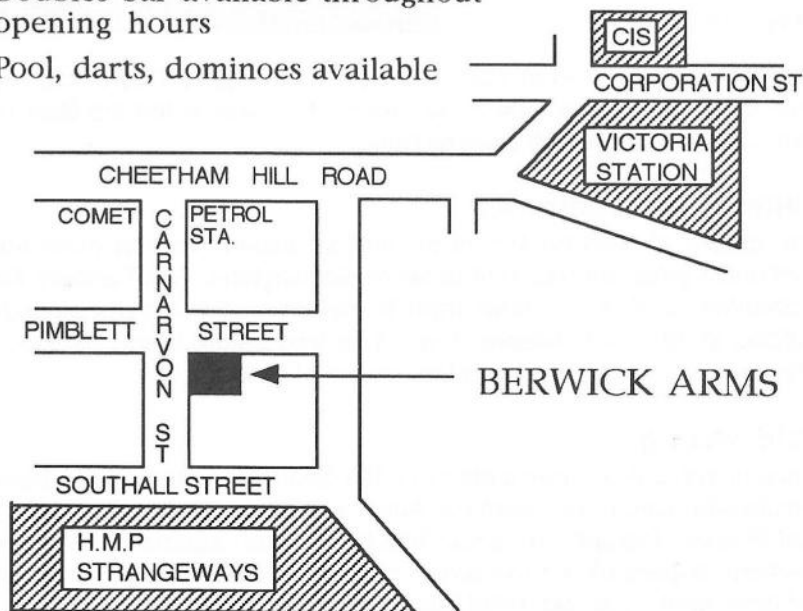
Hot and cold bar snacks

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



Handpump vs Electric

Mark McConachie

I am writing this whilst having a drink in the Drop Inn, Monton, in response to Sean Kilgariff's letter (June WD) about handpumps. I agree that the handpump is indeed a symbol of cask beer and is a very welcome sight to the stranger in an unfamiliar pub. But when it comes to the service and presentation of beer, the benefits of electric pumps should not be overlooked.

Free flow electric pumps...

- * Faster dispense - service is quicker.
- * Easy to use - allowing relatively inexperienced staff to produce professional results.
- * Tend to give less overflow (if any) because beer is not forced as hard as it is through a handpull.
- * The resultant pint (or half) will taste no different from this type of pump.

Metered electric pumps...

- * All the benefits of free flow and a full measure.

Given that beer from a handpump is often poorly presented by being pulled too hard (often as not through a tight "dog's dick" sparkler), resulting in lots of spillage, let us not be dismissive of electric pumps. If brewers made it clear on the founts that the beer within is cask conditioned, I don't think there would be too many complaints. Personally, I would rather have a decent pint by an electric pump any day, than crap pulled through the most elegant of handpumps.

Ashton on Mersey

After several years of planning and licensing applications by various concerns, the Mersey Farm has now been opened by Brewers Fayre (Whitbread). It is a large pub at the junction of Carrington Lane and the Carrington motorway spur road, there's a pleasant rustic interior, a playground and outside seating area, a large car park, dining areas, family area and no smoking area. The pub is aimed at the eating and family trade and the real ale choice is not very adventurous. There are six handpumps, but only Boddingtons bitter (£1.40) and Flowers IPA (a hefty £1.51) are on sale and the quality is no more than acceptable.

Taking Stock

The Stocks Hotel at Walkden is being refurbished and the word is that the pub is being "put back" to its former glory. Before Greenalls got their hands on the place, the Stocks belonged to Magees of Bolton.

Lees Corner

Bernie Jackson

Just as this WD goes to press, Lees's latest refurbishment at the Who'd a Thowt It, Wood Street, Middleton, should be completed. This is the first pub to feature the brewery's new livery which is, would you believe it, green! They tried maroon in a couple of houses, but apparently it was unpopular, so they've decided to revert to their traditional colour but to use a darker shade. The next pub to receive the treatment will be the Rose of Lancaster on Haigh Lane, Chadderton, which is to have a new licensee as well as what is described as a major redevelopment. Lees are usually sympathetic and traditional in their schemes and they have promised to retain the vault.

One of Lees's houses, the Cross Keys at Uppermill, is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year. A new bar and much-needed kitchen will be built and the brewery is to produce a celebration bottled beer for the occasion (sadly, not bottle conditioned).

Licensees on the move include Liz and Chris Cummings from the Middleton Archer to the "Glue Pot" (the Grosvenor Arms) at Newton Heath.

Lees have decided to develop the Brewery Cottage on Grimshaw Lane adjacent to the brewery into a combined training centre for licensees and visitors' centre, although there are no plans to increase the frequency of brewery visits from once a week.

That's all for this month, except to note that after keeping some Harvest Ale in casks for six months at the brewery, they were late delivering it to the Stockport Beer Festival!

Holts Corner

Stewart Revell

Holts' AGM took place on 14th June at the Roebuck in Flixton and a final dividend of 41p per share was announced.

The Old House at Home on Whit Lane, Pendleton, is closed and awaiting a new licensee at the time of writing. Let's hope it is open again by the time you read this!

The latest "free trade" account is the Hare & Hounds (Tetley) at Stoneclough, a mile or so down the road from Holts' own Hare & Hounds on t'other side of the river at Outwood.

McGuinness

Mark Herdman

The range of beers brewed at the small McGuinness Brewery behind the Cask & Feather in Rochdale has recently been extended with the introduction of a stout. Coming in at 4%ABV, it is sold under the simple and obvious (and marketable!) name of McGuinness Stout. The pump clip, which differs from the usual McGuinness style, has an interesting design - go and check it out!

The Stout joins the already well established Dark Mild, Best Bitter, Junction Bitter, Special Reserve and Tommy Todd Porter, which are augmented by occasional/seasonal brews, such as the recent Victory Ale and the current Summer Tipple.

The beers are sold through a wide range of agencies and now appear across the country. Locally, they turn up in a variety of free houses and are available regularly in outlets such as the Green Ash Hotel near Delph and the Castleton Conservative Club. With an eye to the future, a further representative will soon be seeking to extend sales. Whether any new outlets will be as prestigious as the House of Commons bar, where the Best Bitter recently made an appearance, remains to be seen!



The range of McGuinness beers is of course always available at the Cask & Feather at the junction of Drake Street and Oldham Road. Brewery visits can be arranged by phoning the brewer, Eric Hoare, on 01706 711476.

More Banks's

The Lindow Tavern at the edge of Sale Moor, for many years a keg Bass pub, is now sporting Banks signs. There are no handpumps evident and the electric pump boxes look like the keg versions.

Guests are
always welcome



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
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For Meetings & Parties

OPEN ALL DAY
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ASHTON-U-LYNE
NEXT TO
BY-PASS



Pub Crawls

Roger Hall

Years ago, pub crawls served a purpose for CAMRA branches. Nowadays, I wonder. In the old days pubs were more densely packed, we didn't know them so well and many of them provided a direct link with our industrial past. Pub crawls were generally interesting, with a variety of pubs and ale.

We've now lost so many pubs that a lot of today's crawls are route marches through urban deserts. We know most of our pubs well and, quite frankly, there are many of them where you wouldn't want to take Desperate Dan, let alone your maiden aunt.

Visiting half a dozen grotty pubs in unsalubrious areas doesn't do much for campaigning. Lots of CAMRA members and potential members don't want to visit nasty pubs in nasty districts and the turnout on trips to Cheetham Hill, Newton Heath, Abbey Hey or Little Hulton is usually derisory. Nor are we likely to do much for the hell holes visited by those campaigning stalwarts who do turn up. I don't think many of us would shed a tear if such pubs were to disappear.



Of course there are areas like Eccles or Stockport where pub crawls still provide variety and choice. But for most places they're a dead duck and should be abandoned in favour of visits to selected pubs of merit. If we are to lose 10,000 pubs, let them be those undeserving ones which most right-minded people shun.

Saddleworth Adventure

Ian Mitchell

On Saturday 3rd June a select band of Rochdale, Oldham & Bury CAMRA members went in search of the source of the Huddersfield Canal. We met the local guide at the Uppermill base camp (the Waggon & Horses), where Robinsons beers were obtained. It being June, the monsoon season had commenced so the team produced their rainproofs and umbrellas rather than their sun hats and Factor 8.

The search along the towpath began in a drizzle and as civilisation receded, huge railway viaducts towered over our progress. The rain intensified as we climbed a lock or two. Just when we thought the expedition would be washed out, a source of dry warmth was found. The Navigation at Dobcross provided us with fine food and GBG-rated Banks's and Camerons beers. The size of our party was increased when we were joined by members who had covered the first stage by bus.

We rejoined the towpath on what we hoped would be our final march and much joy was shown when it was seen that a way had been cleared for our passage. One day soon boats may even follow our course. The rain started again and we came across the place where canal and railway disappear into the bowels of the earth, to resurface at "tunnel end at Marsden". The place of interest here was the Diggle Hotel, with its Taylors ale.

The guide then announced the true aim of our expedition - to scale the East Face of Saddleworth to a destination high above the village of Uppermill. Our departure from the Diggle Hotel was delayed to give the rain a chance to abate and when we left the party was soon spread out behind the guide. In the distance was a church spire, marking our next place of refuge. The weather was now in our favour - even the sun came out - and we turned a corner to find the Church, the pub which was our final camp before the climb to the summit. Morland Speckled Hen was the only beer of interest here.

From the Church the road climbed steeply, but we soon reached the Cross Keys, a GBG Lees house. This is the home of the local mountain rescue team and a warm atmosphere greeted us. Our guide departed (his house was close by) and after beer (and a sleep for some of us), it was all down hill to the bus and civilisation.

As a form of gentle exercise with the odd beer thrown in, the ramble provided us with a very enjoyable day, thanks to our guide, ROB Social Secretary Ken Holt.

Closed and Boarded Corner

It is sad to report that a once great institution has been demolished. The wrecked remains of Holts' Sabre in Ordsall have been swept away for good (and apparently before Christmas - sorry for the delay).

Also in Salford, the Wellington on Regent Road remains shut, whilst along Oldfield Road on the corner of Liverpool Street, the Railway suffered a fire and is boarded up. In Weaste, the closed Waverley (Whitbread) is boarded up, too.



In the north Manchester area, the big Whitbread house in Moston, the Lightbowne, may be transformed from pub to pulpit. Moston Evangelical Church are looking for larger premises and have applied for a change of use.

The Swan (Vaux) on Hazelbottom Road, Crumpsall, has closed. Unfortunately, two days later the building suffered a bad fire. Now it is slowly being stripped of anything valuable (the slates have gone already).

Up the valley in Harpurhey, the awful Lord Lovat on Kingsbridge Road is also closed and fire damaged. By coincidence, the closure of this Centric/Gibbs Mew house seems to have occurred roughly at the same time as the death of the 17th Baron Lovat, after whom the pub was named. Very strange.

HARE & HOUNDS

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A Traditional City Pub

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Half price menu Wednesday

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Letters

Dear Beer (2)

Sir - I enjoyed the recent West Country Ales Festival at the Beer House tremendously, and moreover was very impressed by the arithmetic employed. In many establishments the price of a pint can be readily calculated by taking the price of a half and doubling it. The Beer House employed a different logic, where a half listed at 80p is charged at £1.55 a pint.

At the present time, with independent breweries needing all the help we can give them, the prices at the Beer House are more than reasonable, with a 95p a pint brew always on offer. At the festival, an event with forty or so beers, pints were the rule rather than the exception. (The only reason half pint glasses are used so quickly is because they are emptied so quickly. Most drinkers still won't touch a half pint glass even when it is full of ale.) In view of this I consider the pint drinkers' discount excellent practice.

Maria Victoria

Pub Grub

Sir - Readers in search of an excellent but very reasonably priced pub lunch are recommended to try the GBG-listed Morning Star at Wardley, between Swinton and Worsley. I tried the gammon with pineapple, egg, chips and tomato. The gammon was juicy, tender and tasty, and the accompaniments were all well cooked, especially the chips. These were crisp and flavoursome, unlike most pub chips, which are frozen and like a cross between sawdust and cardboard.

The portion was very large, all for only £2.25. The other main meals are the same price and include roast beef, home-made steak and kidney pie, cheese and onion pie, and chilli or curry on a Friday. There are also sandwiches and snacks.

With well-kept Holts ales to wash it down, you can't go wrong. Three pints and a main meal for around a fiver! Meals are served from 12-2 Mondays to Fridays.

Jim Bracken

Kids

Sir - May I say how much I enjoyed Crighton Rugrat's contribution to last month's WD. For too long you have neglected your younger readers and now that more and more children are going into pubs, thanks to Children's Certificates, I think Crighton would be a welcome addition to your editorial team. Why not give him his own monthly column?

Violet Elizabeth Bratt, aged five-and-three-quarters

(Over my dead body - Ed)

Now and Then

No.89

Swan Inn

Rob Magee

89 High Street, Lees

Just over two hundred years ago a new turnpike road was constructed through Lees, from Oldham to Standedge. As a result, some new licensed houses were built to cater for the developing village and the increasing numbers of travellers on the turnpike system which linked Manchester with the industrial centres of Yorkshire. John Howard's Seven Stars was one of these and it opened in 1792, the year the road reached Lees.

In the 1820s the inn had the sign of the Coach & Horses and it was the starting point for a coach service to Manchester. The turnpike had replaced or bypassed the old muddy trails and so a regular service was possible - starting at 7.00am and returning at 8.00pm three days a week. The inn's stables were also a picking-up point for a local shopkeeper who operated a carrying service to Manchester.

After a few years the Coach & Horses had become the Swan Inn and by 1831 a machine maker and blacksmith called James Knott was in charge. Mr Knott was also the village postmaster and the Swan must have been a busy place then. The toll gate was just outside and the inn was a



rendezvous for carters, coachmen and travellers as well as the growing local population.

Perhaps James Knott worked too hard as he died in 1845 at the age of 44, but his descendants ran the Swan well into the twentieth century. His daughter Sarah had the licence for five years, corresponding with some boisterous times. One Sunday in 1861 she was caught serving drinks at two o'clock in the morning. When the police arrived they found a number of men with black faces fighting over which pot of beer was whose! The magistrates fined Sarah five shillings for serving in prohibited hours and having a disorderly house. Unfortunately she was caught again in the early hours the following Sunday and this time the fine was doubled - ten shillings plus costs.

The black faces in the fracas belonged to some Lees coal-wheelers - men who made their living by delivering coal from the pit head to local households. They had recently moved from the nearby Bulls Head to make the Swan their headquarters. One thing was for sure - Sarah must have had some roaring fires as well as roaring drinking sessions!

Sarah died at the age of 36 in 1863 and the licence of the Swan was then taken by Henry Houldsworth, her sister's husband. Under Henry, unseemly conflict between coal-wheelers was replaced by more respectable pursuits at the Swan. The Lees & Hey Building Society held a dinner there in 1871 and the inn was also a meeting place for a lodge of the Independent Order of Oddfellows. William Shaw of the Dukinfield Brewery now owned the property and a police survey in 1890 noted that the inn could provide overnight accommodation for four travellers, meals for up to thirty people and there was stabling for two horses.

When William Shaw died the Dukinfield Brewery and its tied houses, including the Swan, were inherited by his son Henry. He died in 1911 and four trustees (Henry's three sons and the former manager of Williams Deacons Bank in Ashton) were appointed to look after the business. Major Peter Shaw was one of these directors and his son, Latham Shaw, became involved with the management of the brewery until 1939, when John Smiths of Tadcaster took it over.

In 1970 John Smiths Brewery became part of the Courage group, then in 1989 Courage sold the Swan to John Willie Lees of Middleton Junction, who refurbished the pub throughout. The present licensee is Michael Edwards, who is now in his second year of serving frothy pints of Lees beers.

Rupert

So Ms Shame is jacking it all in to breed progeny. Putting aside the question as to whether they'll be born with silly beards, the query we all must have is "What's going to happen to the Amber Nectar Show?" Well, worry not, gentle reader, it'll all be in good hands. The ubiquitous Nora Tackler, she of Manky Ale fame, is ready to don the mantle of suprema. The only impediment to this selfless act is a niggling proviso in the rules that the Amber

Nectar Boss should be a member of the boss group. No problem, co-opt her and it's all hunky dory. "Hang on, wait a minute!" I hear you cry, "Didn't Manky Ale collapse under Nora's stewardship?" Well, yes it did, but it wasn't her fault, honest, so she ought to be given the benefit of the doubt.

I've always been disappointed that she failed on her own merits to join the boss group and this seems an ideal solution. Could she possibly be worse than the rest of the bunch? I think not. Rumours that a raffle has been conducted to see who would impregnate Nora so she too couldn't

run the show are completely unfounded. Mr Shame and his pals would be delighted to have her on board.

Hattie was delighted about the coverage of her mammarial tattooing last month and has been showing off her adornment to anyone who'll look. The poor tattooist, bless his soul, has run out of ink and gone bankrupt.



The results of last month's competition have been held over until next month. There were hundreds of entries, many of which tested the bounds of decency and good taste. Although both Eddy and myself are convinced that neither Tubs nor Charlie would sue, the most promising balloons are still with our libel

lawyers.

For the seventh year running the winner of the "stuff yourself with free grub and booze at the Drabs annual binge" award goes to Mr Bolero of Bogden. Congratulations!

Contributors to this issue: Rob Magee, Bernie Jackson, Allan Whitehead, Mark Herdman, Keith Egerton, Nigel Wood, Stewart Revell, Mark McConachie, Roger Hall

Branch Diary

Rochdale, Oldham & Bury

Sat 1 July 11am. Indies Day Tour. Meet Lees Brewery, then coach to Oddfellows, Heywood. 1pm Dusty Miller, Bury; 3pm Royal Oak, Ramsbottom; 4.15 Old Blue Bell, Bury; 5.30 Millgate, Failsworth; 6.30 Hark to Topper, Oldham; 7.30 Marston Tavern, Royton; 8.30 Cask & Feather, Rochdale. Join the coach anytime.

Tues 4 July 8.30, Branch Meeting, Blue Pitts, Manchester Rd, Castleton. *Please note change of venue*

Sat 15 July 12 noon, Bury Beer Festival Organising Meeting, Tap & Spile, Manchester Road, Bury

Tues 18 July 8.30, Committee Meeting, Cask & Feather, Drake Street, Rochdale

Wed 19 July 8.30, Pub of the Season, Millgate, Ashton Road West, Failsworth

Tues 25 July 8.30, What's Doing Collation, Flying Horse, Town Hall Sq, Rochdale

Tues 1 Aug 8.30, Branch Meeting, Brunswick, Moorgate, Bury

Contact: *Peter Alexander 0113 2324023(w), 0161 655 4002 (h)*

North Manchester

Sat 1 July, Independents' Day Pub Hunt. Beer House noon. Finishes mid-evening. Beer Prize.

Wed 5 July, Higher Broughton Crawl: Horseshoe, Back Hope Street, 7pm; Albert Park, Gt Clowes Street, 8pm; Star, Back Hope Street, 9.30.

Wed 12 July, Regional Meeting, Beer House 8pm. North Manchester to chair

Tues 18 July, Farewell to Lil and Paul, Ellesmere, Winton, 8pm

Wed 19 July 8pm, Branch Meeting, Hare & Hounds, Shudehill

Wed 26 July 8pm, Social, Millgate, Ashton Road West, Failsworth

Wed 2 Aug, Radcliffe Crawl. Old Cross, Eton Hill Road, 7pm; Wellington, Stand Lane, 8.15; Woolpack, Stand Lane, 9.30pm

Contact: *Roger Hall 740 7937*

Trafford & Hulme

Sat 1 July, noon. Independents' Day Treasure Hunt. Meet Beer House, Angel Street (off Rochdale Road), Manchester

Thur 6 July 8pm, Altrincham Crawl. Meet Tatton Arms, Tipping Street, then Bakers Arms, Park, Faulkners Arms, Grapes, Orange Tree

Thur 13 July 8pm, Stalybridge Crawl. Meet Railway Station Buffet Bar, then Q Inn, Rose & Crown, Old Fleece and White House. Branch Contact for train times.

Thur 20 July 8pm. Manchester City Centre Crawl. Meet H R Fletchers, St Marys Street; Ganders Go South, Mr Thomas's Chop House, Grinch, Rothwells.

Thur 27 July 8pm, Castlefield Crawl. Meet Commercial Hotel, Liverpool Road, Castlefield Hotel, Oxenoble, White Lion, Crown

Thur 3 Aug 8pm. Altrincham Crawl. Railway, Stamford Street, then Malt Shovels, Old Roebuck, Hogshead, Orange Tree.

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

Wigan

Tues 4 July, Independents' Day Crawl of Standish. 7pm Shamrock, 7.30 Black Bull, 8pm Lych Gate, 8.30 Potters Bar, 9pm Horseshoe, 9.30 Globe, 10pm Standish Arms, 10.30 Dog & Partridge

Wed 19 July, Branch Meeting, Cumberland Arms, Hindley

Wed 9 August, Eccles Crawl (Contact Social Secretary)

Wed 16 August, Branch Meeting, Manley Hotel, Ince.

Contact: *John Barlow 01257 427595 (h) 01257 426464 (w)*

Dave and Jo welcome you to the

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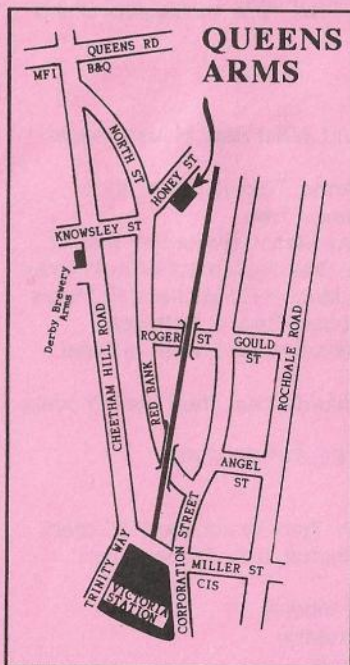


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Tuesday. Beer Prizes

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CAMRA's Good Food Guide*