

25p

What's Doing

JANUARY 1996



The Manchester Beer Drinker's Monthly Magazine



THE TIME HAS COME

It's 1996 and the Castle & Falcon and the Coach & Horses (left) are still standing. These two Manchester pubs enter their seventh year of abandonment: could this be the year of reckoning?

Just how much longer can the two properties withstand the effects of neglect? Builders are interested in the Castle & Falcon - will there be a revival of interest in the Coach & Horses? This year sees the demise of the Central Manchester Development Corporation and control over planning matters will revert to the City Council. A new view will prevail and so there could be some positive decisions made about the future of the Coach & Horses.

The end of the line?

The Railway in Broadheath closes its doors on January 5th, when property developers Peel Holdings buy the pub from BodPubCo. The *Manchester Metro News* has reported that Peel Holdings will be selling the Railway as part of the nearby retail park development and that a London-based pension company is interested.

It has been claimed that the pub will be 'closing for repairs', but the chances of these being completed look slim. The Railway is a listed building, so will it be left to rot until it becomes unsafe and has to be demolished, or will there be a quick, Tommy Ducks-type solution? The original plans for the redevelopment showed a fast food outlet on the site.

Play it again

Sam's Chop House is a unique institution in Manchester. Its warren-like interior has been a home from home for a couple of generations of city slickers since it moved from Market Street after the war. The cellar premises in Back Pool Fold, off Cross Street, have an irreplaceable ambience not experienced by your CAMRA stereotype.



Sams is run by Scottish & Newcastle and now that their lease, which costs them some £1,500 a week, is coming to an end, they have bought the building. OK, so it saves them a few bob on rent, but are they likely to want to 'improve' and hence destroy the essence of Sams? Watch this space.

Wigan Beer Festival

This year's Wigan Beer Festival opens on Leap Year Day, 29th February, and continues until 2nd March. The organisers promise hours of fun and lots of interesting beers to try. The venue is the Mill at the Pier, Wigan Pier. Details next month.

Annual Prices Survey

Pete Cash

November 29th, the night of the traditional City Centre Prices Survey, was untraditionally clement. Despite this, the number of surveyors was considerably down on previous years, so only a fraction of the pubs were surveyed. Within the small sample we found the following:

Average Mild: 122.5p \pm 17.0p [standard deviation] (6 milds)

Cheapest Mild: 94p (Holts, Crown & Cushion)

Dearest Mild: 140p (Hoskin & Oldfield HOB, Beer House)

Average Ordinary Bitter: 130.1p \pm 22.4p (15 bitters)

Cheapest Bitter: 99p (Burtonwood, Beer House)

Dearest Bitter: 190p (Boddingtons, Victoria Station Bar)

Average Premium Bitter: 152.6p \pm 19.2p (12 bitters)

Cheapest Premium Bitter: 130p (Strongarm and Pedigree, Smithfields & Wild Boar Full Mash, Hare & Hounds)

Dearest Premium Bitter: 190p (Draught Bass, Victoria Station Bar)

Average Ordinary Lager: 156.2p \pm 21.6p (9 lagers)

Cheapest Lager: 108p (Holtenbrau, Crown & Cushion)

Dearest Lager: 189p (Fosters, Victoria Station Bar)

Average Premium Lager: 180.2p \pm 11.5p (10 lagers)

Cheapest Premium Lager: 167p (Holsten, Swan with Two Necks)

Dearest Premium Lager: 199p (Stella, Victoria Station Bar)



Cheapest mild: Holts at the Crown & Cushion

Some beers were fairly common, enabling comparison between pubs:

Boddingtons Bitter

132p *Hat & Feathers*

140p *Ducie Bridge*

141p *Hogshead*

190p *Victoria Station Bar*

Marstons Pedigree

130p *Smithfields*

149p *Harp & Shamrock*

155p *Marble Arch*

162p *Hogshead*

Also worthy of mention for reasonable value were:

Chesters Mild 111p:

Banks's Bitter 110p:

Fullers London Pride 140p:

Hydes Bitter 128p:

Holts Bitter 100p:

Holts Bitter 104p:

Hat & Feathers

Smithfields

Smithfield Hotel

Dutton

Crown & Cushion

Hat & Feathers

It should be noted that the mild in the Beer House can often be considerably cheaper as this free house has a policy of continuously changing guest milds.

The high prices at the Victoria Station Dome Bar are due in part to an increase to coincide with the opening of the Nynex Arena bar.

Price lists were visible in only eight out of thirteen pubs visited. Reasons why not included 'currently being altered' (Smithfields) and 'range changes too frequently to maintain a list' (Smithfield Hotel). Other outlets where our surveyors failed to see a list were the Hat & Feathers, the Ducie Bridge and the Harp & Shamrock.

A new feature of this year's survey was the question of full measure. We are happy to report that without exception, every outlet served a full pint to the brim (Hydes use oversized glasses) without the need to ask for a top-up. None of the notices referring to the 'traditional creamy head' were spotted.

Finally, thanks must go to Roger Hall, who over the years has put a tremendous effort into planning and organising these surveys. It is a shame that his enthusiasm was not matched by many other members on the night. The future of this exercise is now in serious doubt, unless the format can be revised to ensure a far greater involvement by members of all three Manchester CAMRA branches.

Openings

Several new pub ventures were launched in December. First came the Overdraught on the corner of Princess Street and Granby Row (opposite the Old Garratt). Occupying the first floor of a former warehouse, this Bass house sells Worthington BB, Stones, Bass and, at £1.60 a pint, London Pride. The interior is decorated in simple style, with wooden furniture, walls in primary colours and rather unusual 'tram-line' lighting. Food and 'sounds' are available, too.

Next came the opening of Wetherspoon's on Piccadilly (below). Formerly a Halford's store, this is the second Wetherspoon outlet in the city.

The beer range (including a cask cider) is very similar to the Moon Under Water, but the building is in no way as extravagant as its Deansgate cousin. Worthy of a visit, nonetheless. It will be interesting to see what sort of clientele the pub eventually attracts.



Meanwhile, over in Worsley, a Tetley Big Steak House called the Barton Arms opened on Worsley Road. Sited by the side of the Bridgewater Canal (no swans, though), this is an entirely new building in a style that could be described as neo-mock-Tudor. And very impressive it is, too - it really does look like one of the quality roadhouses built sixty or seventy years ago.

The emphasis at the Barton Arms is on food, but four real ales are on tap: Tetley bitter, Imperial, Pedigree and Abbot Ale. Prices range from £1.46 to £1.60. The Tudor effect is echoed in the decor and there are plenty of different drinking areas; a non-smoking area, too. The 'main hall' is a nice touch, with its panelled walls, heraldry and paintings of past monarchs. There is even a minstrels' gallery. The Barton Arms is altogether a nice effort and a welcome addition to the Worsley and Winton drinking scene.

The Berwick Arms

FREE HOUSE

21 Carnarvon Street, Cheetham, Manchester. 0161 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

Guest Beer Boddingtons Bitter

Robinsons Best Bitter

Comprehensive range of home-cooked meals.

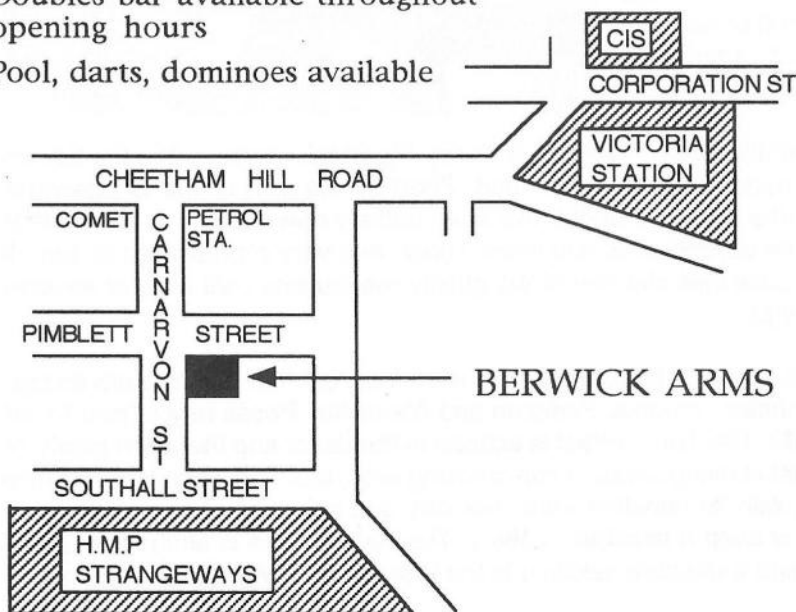
Hot and cold bar snacks

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



Bolton News

Des Nogalski

The **Shamrock** on St Helens Road looks like being Bolton's next pub closure. The former Railway Hotel was deemed surplus to Whitbread's requirements a few years ago and was sold off. Despite the introduction of real ale, the pub is again surplus to requirements and in December plans to convert the building into a homeopathic clinic were put before Bolton Council.

Lower down the road, Lees bitter is on sale at the **RAOB Club** (formerly the Rams Head) on Derby Street, but the **Derby** seems to be closed more than it is open and there are fears for its future. A number of licensees have failed to make a go of it in the past couple of years, the last throwing in the towel before having had the chance to take down the 'Under New Management' signs.

Other pubs closed and boarded up are **Magee's** at the junction of St George's Road and Chorley Street, the former **Wheatsheaf** on Great Moor Street and the **Duke of Clarence** on Bath Street (below), which suffered a fire early last month after being invaded by squatters. It is highly unlikely that any of these will reopen as a pub.

Indeed, the only new outlets seem to be café bars or eateries. Greenalls, owners of both Magee's and the Wheatsheaf, have opened one of their **Henry's** café bars on Mawdsley Street (no real ale there), Tetley are planning to open **Harvey's Café Bar** in the former Kwik Save supermarket on Churchgate, while there are plans to open yet another café bar near the Cannon cinema on Bradshawgate. One trusts that the above will avoid the fate of another new high-class café bar on Bradshawgate, **Cheers**, which is notable only for its fights. Over on Green Lane, the former **Walker Institute** has been sold to Whitbread, who have turned it into a 'Brewer's Fayre' outlet.



ATHERTON & TYLDESLEY ROUND TABLE

IN CONJUNCTION WITH CAMRA
PRESENT THE SEVENTH



AT THE

FORMBY HALL, ATHERTON
25th, 26th, 27th JANUARY 1996

"A WINTER ALE SPECTACULAR"

MAIN BENEFICIARY "CHILDRENS WISH"

OPENING TIMES AND ADMISSION COSTS

THURSDAY 25th

6.00pm - 7.30pm : £2.00 7.30pm - 11.00pm : £3.50

FRIDAY 26th

6.00pm - 11.00pm : £3.50

SATURDAY 27th

12 noon - 4.00pm & 7.00pm - 11.00pm £3.00

(Glass, Programme & Entertainment included at all sessions)

ALL CAMRA MEMBERS GET £1.00 OFF ADMISSION COST

FOOD AVAILABLE AT ALL SESSIONS

Swan-necks

At CAMRA's 1995 AGM it was agreed that 'beers should not be listed in pub entries in the Good Beer Guide if served via swan-neck spouts and sparklers which change the traditional character of beers not brewed to be served in that manner.'

What does that mean?

It means CAMRA has found something else to moan about. Once a year stalwarts from all over the country congregate somewhere nice like Birmingham to form Campaign policy and get pissed.

What's wrong with that?

They've been doing it since 1971 and so they are way past the 'Real Ale - Good. Keg Beer - Bad' sort of policy.

So what's a swan-neck? Do I take it that this has nothing to do with those graceful creatures we sometimes glimpse gliding along the Bridgewater Canal?

The swan-neck and tight sparkler system is designed to agitate beer as it is served, so producing a large, persistent head on the beer. The agitation also changes the taste by removing some of the natural condition (dissolved carbon dioxide) and also transferring some of the hop bitterness into the foam. You can confirm this by scooping the froth with your finger and tasting it.

Mmm, yummy. And?

Tight sparklers produce a less bitter beer. Many beers, such as some Northern bitters, are over-bittered with this in mind, and served without agitation they can be offensively bitter.

Offensive? I can name one Northern bitter that used to be really bitter, until the brewery decided to change it so they could sell it down South.

More delicately bittered beers, such as many from the South, will have their characters completely ruined by vigorous agitation.

You don't say.

It is not CAMRA policy to condemn every pub using swan-necks and sparklers. In some cases the use of



these devices will be appropriate for particular beers. In other cases their design or mode of use may not produce excessively vigorous agitation and large heads - slackened sparklers and a gentler handpump action reduce the effect, but you should not have to ask for this.

The problem is the indiscriminate use of swan-necks and tight sparklers on all beers, regardless of their style and character. Beers which you consider are being ruined in this way should not be listed in the Good Beer Guide.

Ah, yes. The Good Beer Guide. I may have missed something, but aren't we back to the Good Beer versus Bad Beer policy of 1971? If pubs sell good beer, put them in the Good Beer Guide. If they don't, leave 'em out?

Er, yes. You could put it that way. But then the Campaign stalwarts have to talk about something at their AGM. One insider likened such policy-making to 'crawling down the boundaries of common sense with an electron microscope'.

White Swan, Swinton

This Holts house was a Good Beer Guide entry for about fifteen years when it was run by George and Ruby Fildes. Several changes of landlord brought mixed fortunes, but happily the beer is back to its former excellence under the management of Eric Lindley.

Now attention is being given to the pub itself. New carpets have been laid, seating re-upholstered and tables repaired or replaced. The biggest transformation is in the large square room out at the back of the main building. The small snooker table has gone and there is now a sumptuous lounge, which is available for functions. There is a strong possibility that CAMRA meetings may return to the White Swan from time to time, after several years' absence.

Wallaby and chips?

1995 was the year of the Irish theme bar, so what exciting new leisure concept will 1996 bring? Well, Bolton could be leading the way this year as it now has an Australian theme bar. Yes, really. It is called Matilda's and is in the old Pink Panther premises on St Georges Road.

Our roving correspondent also tells us that there's now an Indian café in Bolton town centre - the Rice'n'Three on Great Moor Street.

Notts Not

The Notts Castle in Miles Platting did not open in December as had been expected. Details when we have them.

Keg Joeys

Not since the days of Derby Keg Bitter have Holts sold keg bitter in any of their pubs. Until now, that is. The brew turned up unannounced at the Cleveland in Crumpsall for a week. Why? Because the Spread Eagle in Chorlton didn't want it, apparently.

The story goes that the beer had been kegged for the Spread Eagle so that clear beer could be served whilst some work was carried out on the cellar floor. We understand the regulars thought it was awful and very few people bought it. Was the stuff then shoved out to the Cleveland because they wouldn't complain there?

If Holts are prepared to sell keg bitter, could they start producing keg mild for the low volume pubs? Is this the thin end of the wedge?

Stewart Revell, the Holts BLO, asked the brewery to comment and a spokesman has confirmed that a quantity of keg beer was offered to Spread Eagle customers whilst the cellar work was in progress. The customers were made aware that the beer was not the usual traditional Holts ale. But how the keg beer got to the Cleveland is not known.

Holts say the Spread Eagle's keg beer was a one-off and they don't intend producing any more. If the same sort of situation arises in the future they will be looking at other ways of keeping a pub open.

A second class stamp, a pound of pork chops and a pint of foaming ale, please

CAMRA's Pubs Group has drafted a questionnaire for circulation to breweries, asking about their attitude to dual use of pubs and part time pubs. This could be the saviour of our marginal pub stock.

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: Full page £50 or £200 for six months, half page £35 or £150 for six months, quarter page £25 or £100 for six months. All adverts must be accompanied with payment. Cheque payable to What's Doing.

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

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NEXT TO
BY-PASS



Anvil Tales

Keith Egerton

4X Anvil Strong has been well received and the second batch has been brewed and distributed. If demand is sustained, more batches will be brewed and it is hoped that the beer will appear annually. The following outlets were supplied with 4X in Mid-December:

Anvil, Greenwood Rd, Benchill, M22
Astley Conservative Club, Higher
Green Lane, Astley
Black Lion, Bersham, near Wrexham
Cock Robin, Manor Avenue, Sale
Crown, Summerhill, near Wrexham
Crown, High Street, Cheadle
Dutton, Park Street, Cheetham
Friendship, Wilmslow Rd, Fallowfield
Gredington Arms, Llanypwll, near
Wrexham
High Grove, Silverdale Road, Gatley
Hoop & Mallet, Callands Road,
Warrington
Horse & Farrier, Gatley Road, Gatley
Horseshoe Inn, Lever St, Little Lever
Jolly Angler, Ducie Street, Ancoats
Jolly Thresher, Broomedg, Lymm

Junction, Rolls Crescent, Hulme
Linden Club, Linden Avenue, Sale
Moss Rose, Didsbury Rd, Heaton Norris
Newborough, Astley Street, Dukinfield
New Inn, Alderley Road, Wilmslow
Nursery Inn, Green Lane, Heaton Norris
Osborne House, Victory St, Rusholme
Pineapple, Garratt Way, Gorton
Plough, Green Lane, Sale
Prince of Wales, Gatley Green
Quarry Bank, Bloomsbury La, Timperley
Roebuck, Mill Lane, Mobberley
Royal Oak, Whittaker Lane, Prestwich
Royal Hotel, Wigan Road, Atherton
Unicorn, Hale Road, Hale Barns
Victoria, Wilmslow Road, Withington
Windmill, Windmill Hill, Runcorn

For the latest details of 4X outlets, readers are welcome to contact the brewery on 0161 226 1317.

At the official launch of 4X at the brewery, managing director Adam Hyde stressed that the company is embarking on a more 'open' relationship with CAMRA and with customers and they now welcome feedback, including constructive criticism if they get things wrong or if you feel there is room for improvement. Constructive comments can be directed to the Brewery Liaison Officer (Keith Egerton, 0161 477 3939) or to the brewery.

Coronation Street fans will have noticed that Nuttalls beers are regularly mentioned. The electric pump cowns on the bar of the Rovers Return are modelled on Hydes' own, both in shape and colouring. Will Nuttalls take over the account after thirty-five years?

1996 Beerfest

This year's Great British Beer Festival is in London, for a change, from 6th to 10th August

I-Spy

Q: Atop which Manchester building is this piece of decorative stonework?

Oh, come on! It could be anywhere. But at a rough guess, it's on Swan Street, between the Band on the Wall and the Burton Arms.

You've looked at the other picture, haven't you?

Yes. So what is it this time - another former pub?

Not quite. Years ago, the Band on the Wall was called the George & Dragon and belonged to McKenna's Harpurhey Brewery. They set up a wine and spirits stores there and a beer stores behind the Marble Arch on Rochdale Road, then they took

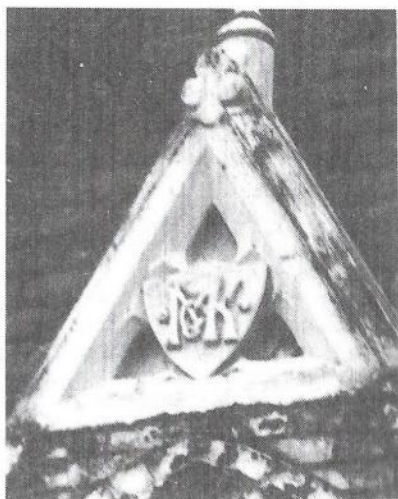
over another building on Swan Street and turned it into a restaurant, hence the 'McK' monogram at the top.

Then what?

After a number of years the restaurant shut and about 1915 the building became the Cosy Corner Cinematograph Theatre. Like the Deansgate Cinema (now Wetherspoon's Moon Under Water), the Cosy was one of the city's first picture houses. However, it was in the old market district, a boozy place, and when the pubs shut in the afternoons, that was the place to go to sleep off the morning session.

High-class, eh?

I don't think Mr Wetherspoon would have liked it.



Letters

Festival Funds

Sir - In the December edition of WD, Rupert made reference to a 'recent amber nectar show not a million miles from here' which had £1,500 stolen from the proceeds.

Given the proximity of an article in the same issue about the Bury Beer Festival, the Rochdale, Oldham & Bury Branch of CAMRA (ROB) would like to make it clear that the reference was not to the recent Bury Beer Festival. All proceeds from the festival are intact, accounted for and banked accordingly. Financial details of all festivals run by ROB are shown in our audited accounts for the year in which they take place. No money has ever gone missing from any festival run by us.

ROB will return to the subject of the appropriateness of Rupert washing the Campaign's dirty linen in public, and to the wisdom of WD supplying a platform for him to do so, in a more fitting forum than these pages.

Peter Alexander, ROB Secretary

Festival Facts

Sir - In reply to Leo King's question in his December article regarding the Great British Beer Festival, yes it will be in the Capital in 1996. Does Mr King realise that all CAMRA festivals are organised and staffed by CAMRA volunteers, giving up time, money, leave, etc? Last year the GBBF was staffed by 850 CAMRA members, serving well over 500 traditional beers, plus cider, perry and foreign beers, to 42,000 customers in five days.

CAMRA festivals are not just run for CAMRA members - their purpose is to promote CAMRA and the traditional beers, ciders and perries of Britain's brewers to the public and the licensed trade. When the GBBF was in residence at the Queens Hall in Leeds (a well-known Northern town), the vast majority of volunteers were from below the '49th parallel'. There were also the usual Northern diehards, who will work wherever the GBBF is situated. Without volunteers there would be no festivals. Will Mr King and his 354 signatories be working at the Manchester Festival in February? Or just visiting, moaning about the lack of large festivals oop North?

*Steven Prescott, Great North Western Beer & Cider Festival Organiser,
local festival volunteer, GBBF Bar Manager*

Contributors to this issue: Roger Wood, Bob Potts, Stewart Revell, Pete Cash, Keith Egerton, Peter Wadsworth, Des Nogalski, Roger Hall, Mark McConachie

Holts with pictures

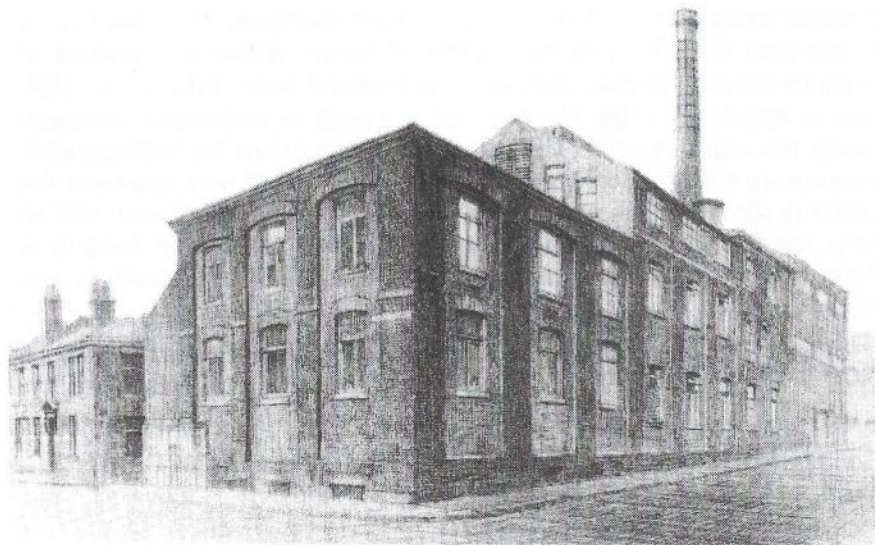
Pete Cash

Joseph Holt's Under Brewer, Dick Venes, treated the North Manchester Branch of CAMRA to a slide show and talk in the splendid Grapes Hotel, Peel Green, in November. It was his second visit to the branch: in 1991 he talked about the history of the brewery and this time he covered beer production.

In the intervening four years, turnover had increased from £21m to £28m (1994/95). Sadly, sales of mild had declined, but canned beer had shown a spectacular growth.

After the slides, which showed the site alterations and improvements in progress, Dick made some important technical points. In particular, Holts do not:

- (a) Chill and acid-wash the yeast with phosphoric acid. This objectionable practice is on the increase, yet is totally unnecessary providing standards of cleanliness in the brewery are maintained. Moreover, it leads to a reduction in the diversity of the yeast strains and a loss of character.
- (b) Rouse (aerate) the fermentation, though the wort benefits from aeration before pitching the yeast.
- (c) Pump beer around the brewery at any stage in the production. Likewise, he was against tight sparklers in the pub.
- (d) Recycle any beer.



(e) Press the yeast. Presses are a potential source of yeast contamination. Holt's is kept as a loose slurry prior to re-pitching.

On a personal level, Dick expressed the following views:

(1) He disapproves of recycling beer in the pubs.

(2) Carrying beer over vast distances is not in the interests of quality.

(3) Nitrokeg is a threat to real ale, particularly with the smaller Southern breweries.

(4) CAMRA members should concentrate on drinking lots more real ale and stop wasting time producing esoteric 'beer tasting notes'. Many members of the branch agreed with him on this.

Finally, Dick showed us some samples of (unmalted) barley and hops. Of the latter, one seedless variety (Target) had a very high α -acid count (11) as well as good aroma, and made an excellent five gallons of home-brewed bitter.

Boat stays afloat

Trafford's planning department has turned down Tetleys application to knock down Jacksons Boat in Chorlton, on the Sale bank of the River Mersey. It is an historic building (although the interior has been well gutted) and the company wanted to build a new pub on the car park. Tetleys claimed that trade would be damaged by building work on the Metrolink line to Wythenshawe, feet away from the pub.

Roaring Trade

Things are certainly looking up in Newton Heath. The White Lion on Old Church Street was closed and boarded up for ages, but now the owners want to extend the vault.

Harp plucked

The closure of the Harp & Shamrock on New Mount Street, off Rochdale Road, Manchester, is imminent. Marstons apparently consider that the site has a rosier future as part of a car park.

Plonker!

Now we know why drinkers of wine sometimes refer to the stuff as 'plonk'. Jilly Goolden, she of BBC2's Food & Drink fame, was reviewing a range of bottled premium beers for Christmas. After correctly elucidating all the good points of Shepherd Neame's bottle-conditioned Spitfire Ale, she suggested fridging it for *an ice chilled real ale*. Plonker!

COME TO THE ALL YEAR ROUND BEER FESTIVAL

THE BEER HOUSE

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including

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THEAKSTONS XB and BEST BITTER,
MOORHOUSES PENDLE WITCH**

plus

**8 EVER-CHANGING GUEST BEERS
including a GUEST MILD**

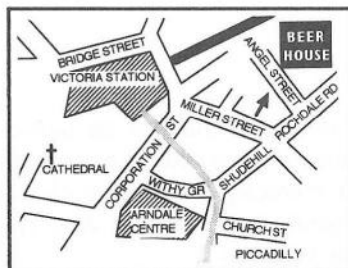


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Footy Guide

In 1997 *CAMRA Books* will be publishing a new guide to real ale pubs near football grounds and WD readers are invited to contribute. If you know of an interesting little boozer tucked away in a back street near a football ground anywhere in the country, especially one that is not usually found by visiting fans, why not tell the guide editor about it? The recommended pubs must welcome away supporters (and in the case of certain districts, have a less than even chance of being torched on a Saturday afternoon).



Fill in the form below (incomplete entries are acceptable - it's the ideas the editor is after) and send it with a description of the pub (100 words maximum) to Chris Rowland, 13 Barton Turn, Barton-under-Needwood, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs DE13 8EA. The description should include directions from the football ground and the railway station if appropriate.

Name of Pub.....

Address.....

.....

Postcode.....Telephone.....

Opening Hours.....

Beers.....

.....

Cider/Perry.....

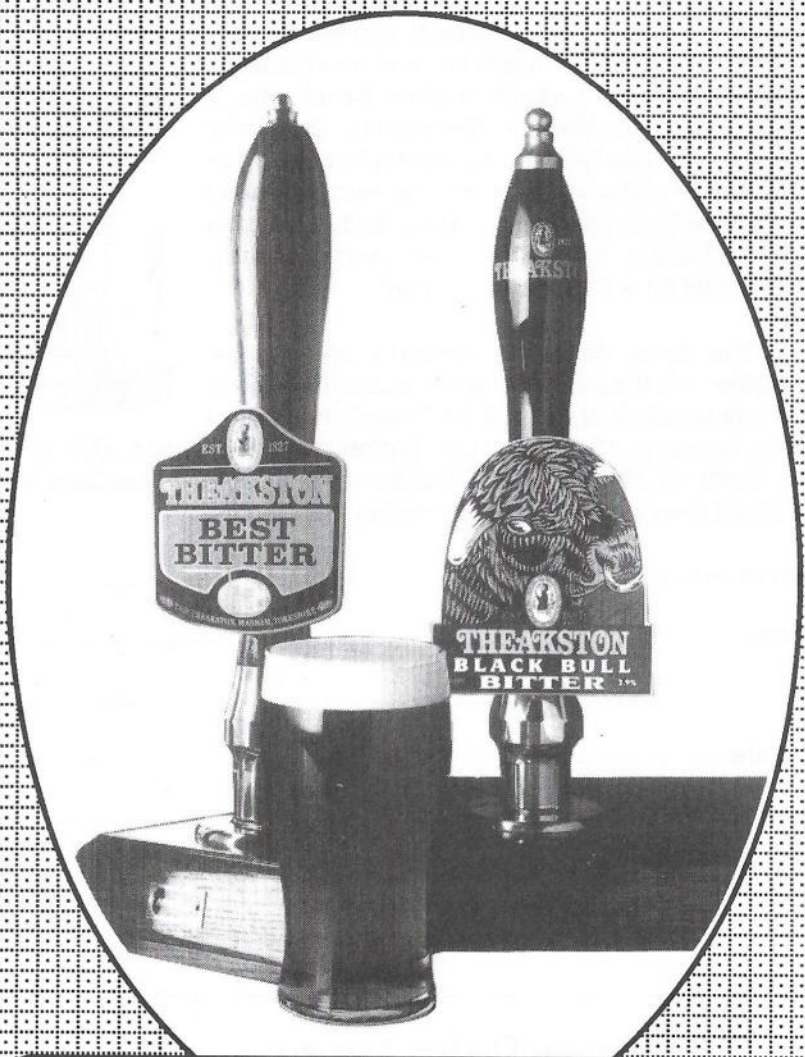
Free House ☐ Brewer ☐ which, if not obvious.....

Pub Chain/Operator ☐ Please state which

Food: Meals: Lunchtime ☐ Evening ☐ Restaurant ☐
Snacks: Lunchtime ☐ Evening ☐

Family room ☐ Outside seating area ☐ Disabled access ☐ Car park ☐

Well known football fans' haunt ☐ Near Station ☐ Hidden Gem ☐



Theakston Best Bitter

Black Bull Bitter

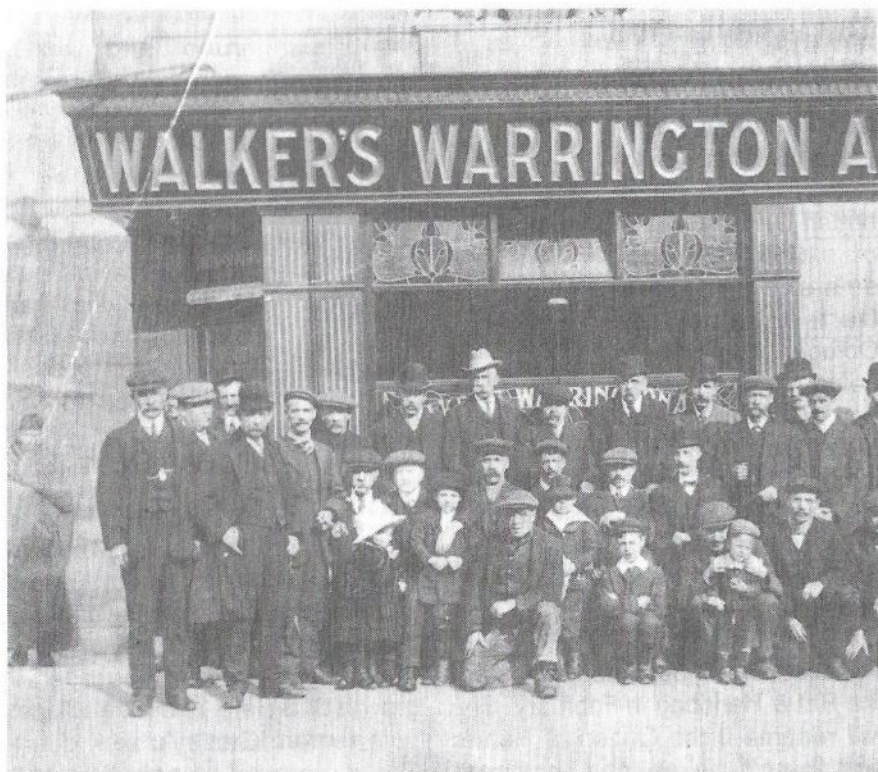
One of the special ales from the Theakston range

As supplied by Matthew Brown plc, Chorley, Lancs

Harp & Shamrock, Hulme

Bob Potts

This recently discovered photograph shows a band of regulars outside the Harp & Shamrock on George Street, Hulme, dressed for a Sunday outing in 1911. The landlord, 47-year-old Joe Clarkson, is the little bloke in the flat cap at the back, next to the 'W' in the window. Walker's Brewery had rebuilt the pub the year before, but just a few years later the building was pulled down. Joe had been there since 1898, he didn't take another pub afterwards and when he died in 1920 it was said that the loss had killed him.



The pub was demolished because the land was needed for an extension to nearby Macintosh's (later Dunlop's) factory. In 1917 this was on war work and under the emergency regulations (the Defence of the Realm Act) the company was able to take over the site.

Many years afterwards Joe's daughter Elizabeth told me: 'He never got over losing the Harp & Shamrock. Our days there were the happiest time of our lives.'

Old Roop's Almanack

As a new year dawns, my thoughts are drawn to my gift of prophecy which has manifested itself from time to time. I have always resisted pressures to formalise my predictions as this can ruin people's lives. There's not much fun in knowing with certainty that you're going to be head-butted by the Captain of the Gunge-smearer's Ladies' Darts Team on October 13th prior to being stripped naked and thrown in the canal. Much better to let it happen in blissful ignorance. 'Enjoy!' as they say. So in order not to ruin people's lives, such as they are, I have confined my predictions for 1996 to largely happy events.

Princess Di will become landlady of the Rat & Handbag in February. She will rename it the Queen of Hearts and there'll be an end to arson, intimidation and protection rackets in Slumley. Perry Drab will succeed to the Drab empire in May and immediately sell out to a Japanese Kuretsei, which will paint all the hostleries and chuck out the vagrants who currently frequent them. Although the Campaign's annual beano will be saddened by a

sudden violent death, there will be surprise changes in the composition of the boss group, incorporating a dearly-beloved Grotley stalwart.

Glossing over a prosecution and conviction for serial child molestation and various appearances before Masters of Lunacy, I turn to romance.

Rumpledshirtscream will become betrothed to a launderama heiress in June and will be married in September. Charlie Super will be the patron of honour and Nora Tackler the best lady. 1996 promises to be a good year for Trevs. One will become a local branch chairperson and another will publish a well-received tome on hostleries.



On the hostelry scene there will, sadly, be further closures. The Lunar Sea will become a cinema and the prizewinning Eierwells a bank. But the relaxation of laws on sado-masochism will encourage the growth of a black-and-blue village to complement Grotley's pink quarter. Centred around Mangle Street, this new development will incorporate a range of new pubs and café bars, mostly owned by chains, but also including such enterprising ventures as 'The James Bond Age', 'Piercy's', 'The Penis and Porcupine', 'The Marble Arse' and, of course, 'Dick Naylor's', owned by the Spanner Corporation.

Branch Diary

Rochdale, Oldham & Bury

Tues 2 Jan 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Success to the Plough, Bolton Road, Rochdale

Sat 6 Jan 12 noon, Bury Beer Festival post mortem meeting, Tap & Spile, Bury Centre

Thur 11 Jan 8.30pm, Initial Oldham Beer Festival Organising Meeting, Beer Emporium, Union Street, Oldham

Sat 13 Jan, Railway Buffet Social Trip by Train. Ring Contact for details

Tues 16 Jan 8.30pm, Committee Meeting, Merrie Monk, College Road, Rochdale

Wed 24 Jan 8.30pm, Winter Pub of the Season, Dusty Miller, Middleton Gardens, Middleton

Contact: Peter Alexander 0113 232 4023(w), 0161 655 4002 (h)

North Manchester

Wed 3 Jan: Irlams o'th'Height Crawl: Dog & Partridge 7pm, Wellington 8.30pm, Red Lion 9.30pm.

Wed 10 Jan 8pm, Committee & Social. Moulders Arms, Heyrod Street, Ancoats. **This meeting to include GBG shortlisting.**

Thur 11 Jan 7.30pm, Beer Festival Meeting, Beer House, Angel Street

Wed 17 Jan 8pm, Branch Meeting, Castle, Oldham Street, Manchester

Wed 24 Jan, Little Heaton/Crumpsall Crawl. Three Arrows 7pm, Heaton Park Hotel 8pm, Halfway House 9.30pm (all Middleton Road).

Wed 31 Jan, Beer Festival leafleting event. Beer House 8pm, H R Fletcher 9.30pm

Wed 7 Feb 8pm, GBG (City Centre) Final Selection Meeting, Kings Arms, Bloom Street, Salford

Contact: Roger Hall 0161 740 7937

Shurfing

Yes, CAMRA's on the Internet. Anoraks can consult at:

<http://www.camra.org.uk/>. Nuff said.

What's Doing Competition

Holts have lost fewer pubs recently than any other brewer. Only the Apollo in Cheetham and the Sabre in Ordsall have fallen into disuse in the last decade or so. Surely this can't go on for ever? Will 1996 see the demise of another Holts pub? Send your guess to the editor. If and when a pub closes this year, the names of those who guessed correctly will go into a hat and the winner will receive a valuable prize.

Dave and Jo welcome you to the

QUEENS ARMS

FREE HOUSE

Tel. 0161 834 4239

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

Serving a large range of traditional ales supporting the independent brewers

Batemens Mild & XXXB - Mitchells

Bitter - Old Peculier - Taylors Best

Bitter & Landlord - weekly guest beers



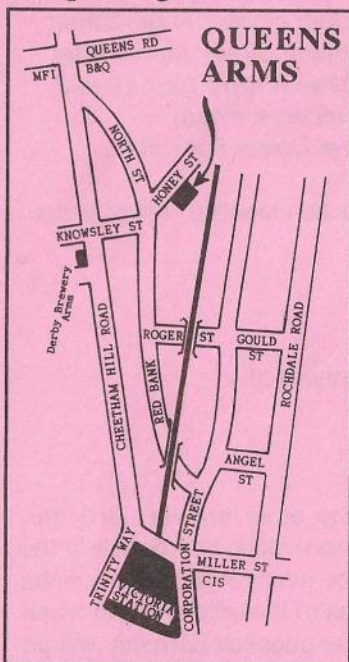
Bitter from 95p a pint

Westons Traditional Cider on handpump

A large menu plus home-made specials
available seven lunchtimes a week

Hot and cold food available until late evening

Opening Hours: 12.00-11.00 Mon-Sat; 12-10.30 Sunday



Children's play equipment in the Beer Garden, with swings, slides, climbing net, etc.

We have a Children's Certificate so families are welcome inside or in the Beer Garden.

Bar-B-Que for hire free of charge.

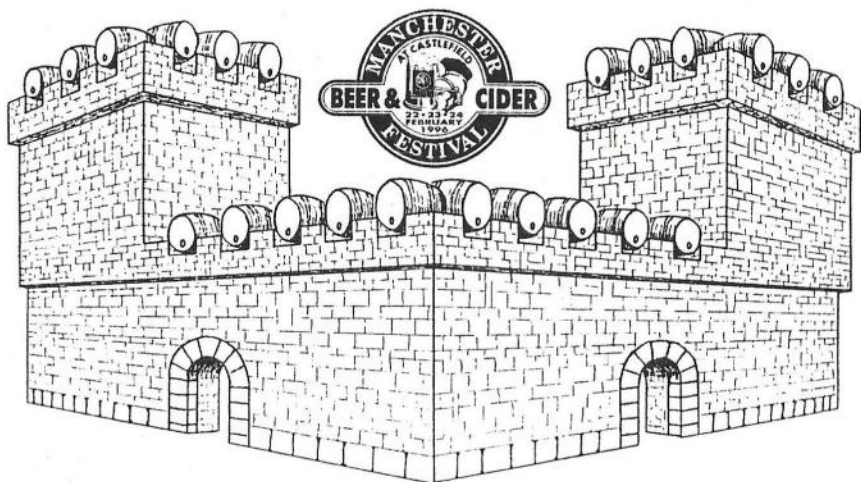
A permanent range of draught
Belgian beers including Kwak, Le Trappe & Riva Blanche, not forgetting the Continental bottles

Bar Billiards, Backgammon, Chess, etc.

General Knowledge Quiz Night
Tuesday. Beer Prizes

We're in the Good Beer Guide and CAMRA's Good Food Guide

MANCHESTER



BEER & CIDER



FESTIVAL



IN BRITAIN'S FIRST HERITAGE PARK - AT
CAMPFIELD MARKET HALL

CASTLEFIELD

22-23-24 FEB



CAMRA MEMBERS FREE - JOIN AT THE FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 22ND

5-11 PM £2

FRIDAY 23RD

12-3 PM £2

5-11 PM £3

SATURDAY 24TH

12-3 PM £2.50

5-11 PM £2.50

OVER 100 BEERS & CIDERS
PERRIES & FOREIGN BOTTLED BEERS