25p

# What's Doing



FEBRUARY 1996

The Manchester Beer Drinker's Monthly Magazine

# QUEENS HARM

It didn't take Greenalls very long. Boddies aren't famous for their sensitivity to their tied estate but, compared with the Warrington-based ex-brewer, they are paragons of conservation. Boddies might have knocked the Cock in Worsley about, but Greenalls tried to wreck the Holly Bush in Little Legh and they demolished Tommy Ducks in Manchester in the middle of the night. Now they are looking at the Queens Arms in Patricroft.



It's no surprise that they've begun to take a close look at the pubs they acquired in BodPubCo, but why have they chosen to start with a Grade II listed building?

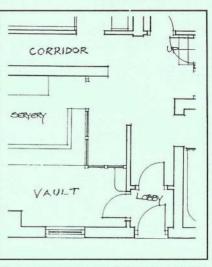
The Queens Arms in Patricroft was listed in March 1989 as a result of an application by CAMRA to English Heritage. It was listed because of its historical interest as the first railway pub in the world, built in 1828 to profit from the opening of the Liverpool & Manchester Railway two years later. It was originally called the Patricroft Tavern and the present name

celebrates the 1851 Royal Visit, when Queen Victoria alighted at Patricroft Station to make a connection with a canal boat taking her to Worsley New Hall.

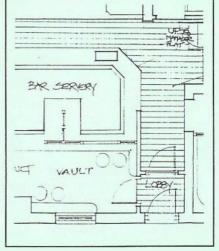
The Queens still maintains its integrity as a four roomed pub. There are signs of some alterations, possibly dating from the installation of a bar counter in the midnineteenth century, and some of the decorations are out of character, but essentially the pub is much as it was over 165 years ago.

To their credit, BodPubCo say they want to restore some of the original features and remove incongruous half-timbering, panelling, gas fires and floor coverings. However, they also want to knock the two back rooms into one and remove the rear corridor so that the bar can serve directly the back part of the pub. Whether this plan is a result of a misinterpretation of licensing law or mere insensitivity is not known, but it is certainly not necessary and threatens to destroy the character of the pub.

When Nasmyth's engineering works was in full production the Queens was much busier than it has been recently, but it coped. Under the present licensees, Chris



The present layout (above) and the proposed, showing the opened up bar serving area



and Lynn, trade has improved and the balance is a little different from a hundred years ago. In the days of heavy manual work, pubs were built with large vaults and often 80% of the bar counter was devoted to the vault. That's certainly the case with the Queens - the vault isn't enormous, but most of the bar is in that room. Customers in the rest of the pub have to make do with a small section of bar in the lobby.

And therein lies the problem. At busy times this small bar area becomes crowded. So, knock all the walls down? Well, no. Think about it a little. If the seats were removed from the bar area and a small section of the wall between the bar and the smoke room removed, the overcrowding would be significantly eased. Some thought might also be given to moving the bar entrance away from this area and into the vault. In this way the problems which are evident would be resolved without destroying the integrity of the pub's interior.

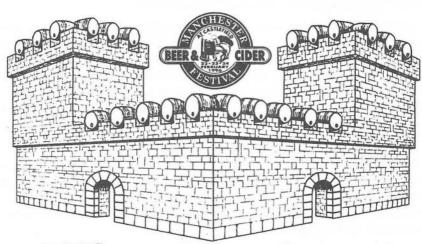
The listing process has proved valuable in this case. The owners have been forced to consult via the local authority, bringing the proposed alterations to a wider audience than would otherwise be the case. Let us hope that the Queens is allowed to continue trading successfully with an improved but largely unaltered internal layout.

# Two more breweries to go

When S&N's acquisition of Courage's breweries was given the Government nod last year, it was inevitable that Scottish Courage would reduce brewing capacity by closing breweries. So it is not surprising, but nevertheless disastrous, that breweries in Halifax and Nottingham are to close. Beers brewed at Webster's Fountain Head Brewery in Halifax will in future come from Tadcaster and those brewed at the Home Brewery, Daybrook, Nottingham, will come from the independent Mansfield Brewery.

CAMRA was founded to fight against the destruction of choice which large brewers threatened. Whilst we pat ourselves on the back for having umpteen members, running wonderful beer festivals and writing lovely articles and books, much of what we fought for is being lost. In recent months we've seen the announcement of the closure of the world's largest real ale brewery in Warrington and the merger of two of the industry's biggest players. Concentration is higher than ever. Over 80% of our beers are brewed by just four companies and choice is illusory. CAMRA has achieved respectability and polished statements by our paid official, Steve Cox, are not sufficient. Perhaps we need to resort to the militancy of the past if we are to retain a brewing industry of any merit at all by the end of the century.

# MANCHESTER



# BEER & CIDER



# FESTIVAL



IN BRITAIN'S FIRST HERITAGE PARK - AT CAMPFIELD MARKET HALL MIR&SPACE MUSEUM CASTLEFIELD GREAT BRIDGEWATER STATION STA

 CAMRA MEMBERS
 FREE - JOIN AT THE FESTIVAL

 THURSDAY
 22 nd
 5-11 pm € 2

 FRIDAY
 23 nd
 12-3 pm € 2
 5-11 pm € 3

 SATURDAY
 24 th
 12-3 pm € 2.50
 5-11 pm € 2.50

OVER 100 BEERS & CIDERS PERRIES & FOREIGN BOTTLED BEERS

Later this month there will be a major beer festival in the centre of Manchester - the first for twenty years. The venue is the Upper Campfield Market Hall, an attractive Victorian building of cast iron and glass. It is situated on Liverpool Road, near Deansgate and is big enough to house a festival offering over one hundred beers, ciders and perries from throughout the UK. All will be ably managed by CAMRA's Regional Director, Steve Prescott. Additionally, there will be a large foreign beer stand, run by CAMRA stalwart Ralph Warrington, and the Festival Organiser is North Manchester's Vice-Chairman, Paul Mason.

For CAMRA members wishing to work at the Festival, setting up starts on Tuesday 20th February at 9.00am and taking down is on Sunday 25th February. For a staffing form (and an accommodation guide and map if needed), contact the Staffing Officer, Sue Price, at the Kings Arms, Bloom Street, Salford, enclosing an s.a.e. (If you're not a member, you can join at the Festival.)

The Festival will be opened by the Lord Mayor of Manchester at 5.00pm on Thursday 22nd February and will close at 11pm on the Saturday, or when the beer runs out. (To try and ensure that this doesn't happen, some precautions have been taken with the assistance of the licensees of the Beer House.)

If you are coming to the Friday evening session, make sure you arrive early to beat the rush. Entertainment is being considered, but it will be a 'quiet' beer festival as amplified music is not allowed, which will suit some folk.

If the Festival is full and you don't want to wait around, you might like to try the hundred or so pubs that grace the city centre, details of which can be found in 'Manchester Pubs and Bars'. (Available from Roger Hall, 123 Hill

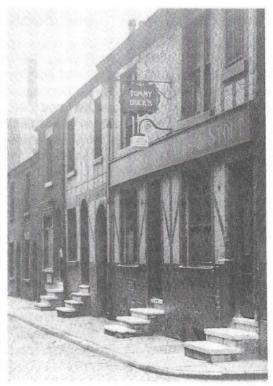
Lane, Blackley, Manchester M9 6PW. Please quote your membership number and enclose cheque for £3 made out to 'CAMRA North Manchester'.) Or you could consider doing the re-issued Metrolink TRAWL (a tram-assisted pub crawl), but the prospect of visiting the nearest pub to each of the 26 stations might put you off.



# Tommy Ducks - the Anniversary

The theme of Manchester Beer Festival is the decimation of city centre pubsand there will be a commemoration of the third anniversary of the demolition of Tommy Ducks at the old pub's site at about 10.30am on Wednesday 21st February. A wreath will be laid and then the party will be led back to Castlefield by a troop of Roman soldiers.

Copies of this old photo of Tommy Ducks will be on sale at the Festival, where we hope a good time will be had by all.



# A Cockney pub in Knott Mill!

The Pack Horse on Lower Deansgate, behind Deansgate Station in Knott Mill, has struggled to stay open over the last couple of years as owners Greenalls decided on a scheme for the site.

First to prepare a scheme were the owners of the Boardwalk Club, who wanted to turn the Pack Horse into a real ale pub with comedy and bands. The old snug, with its old wood and leather seating, would have been preserved. However, this plan did not materialise and a further scheme was prepared by the owners of Planet 4 Studios, situated next to the pub. This, too, was knocked back.

Now Greenalls are tackling the job themselves: the building is covered in scaffolding, the interior has been gutted and the seating from the front bar was recently seen in a skip in the yard. All this is to make way for a 'Cockney theme pub', which must be the next thing after Irish theme bars - will Scruffy Murphy's will become Scruffy Arfar's? The new pub is expected to open in May with a new name. Rumours suggest it will be 'The Mancunian', but if this is so, the London connection isn't immediately apparent. However, there are expected to be several real ales. See you all in the Queen Vic soon!

Kings Ale Leo King

In past issues of WD I have featured some of Central Manchester's free houses, such as the White House, Marble Arch, Beer House and Hogshead, but there is one more which deserves a mention. This is the Smithfield on Swan Street, formerly known as Walkers and the Royal Crown.

The owner and licensee for the last eighteen months, Alison, has transformed the place into a lively pub with a great atmosphere and some excellent traditional ales. There are seven handpumps, with one usually reserved for a traditional cider, and prices are reasonable to modest. The Smithfield is residential, there's a small restaurant and there's even a piano. (I am a pianist and organist, but at the Smithfield I prefer to sit back

and sayour the ales on offer.)

From Friday 2nd February the Smithfield will be selling ales from four Whim Hartington, near Buxton. These will be Magic Mushroom (3.8%ABV, £1.35 a pint), Hartington Bitter (4.0%, £1.45), Snow White wheat beer (4.5%, £1.45) and Old Izaak (4.8%, £1.50). In the first week of March there will be a trip from the pub to a Whim Ales hostelry, followed by a visit to the brewhouse. For details, enquire at the Smithfield.



#### Premature lamentation

A last-night wake at the Railway in Broadheath on 4th January proved to be premature when details of a reprieve by Peel Holdings were phoned through to the pub. The Railway is now due to close at a later date to allow demolition of the carpet shop next door. So will it, in fact, survive? Or will there be a demolition accident?

# Last standing orders

An application has been made to convert the former NatWest bank on Whitworth Street (next to the Dominion Hotel) into a pub.

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

# THE BEER HOUSE

Angel Street, Manchester. 0161 839 7019

REAL ALES ON OFFER including
BURTONWOOD BITTER, THEAKSTONS XB and
BEST BITTER, MOORHOUSES PENDLE WITCH
PLUS 8 EVER-CHANGING GUEST BEERS
including a GUEST MILD
PLUS A RANGE OF TRADITIONAL CIDERS,
DRAUGHT BELGIAN KRIEK, LEFFE BLONDE,
HOEGAARDEN & MANY BOTTLED BELGIAN
and other FOREIGN BEERS



# MICRO FESTIVAL

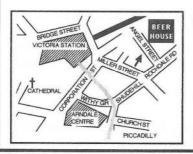
Wednesday 21st - Sunday 25th February

# 50 BEERS

Including many new beers
Open all day

SOMETHING FOR EVEN THE MOST DISCERNING TASTE
Lunchtime food 7 days a week • Try our Sunday Breakfast 12 - 2.30
Evening Meals 5 - 7 Fri • Thurs 5 - 8 Choice of three curries (veg and carnivore) + rice £2.50 • Half price menus Monday lunch

WE'RE IN THE GOOD BEER GUIDE '96



OPEN ALL DAY MONDAY - SUNDAY
Bar Billiards & Darts
THREE TRADITIONAL CIDERS
ALWAYS AVAILABLE
GOOD FOOD - Vegetarians welcome
NOW TAKING CHRISTMAS
BOOKINGS FOR FREE PARTY ROOM

Anvil Tales Keith Egerton

Hydes are continuing with their range of new seasonal brews and mid-February should see the appearance of Westwood's Bitter at 99p per pint. The beer is named after Billy Westwood, who joined the brewery in 1902 at the age of 16 and retired in 1954. He was the mash-room foreman and the only person in the brewery allowed to wear a white biband-brace uniform with white jacket.

Billy taught mashing and brewing skills to the recently semi-retired Neal Hyde and Christopher Hyde, and also to their father, Tom Hyde. When he died his funeral cortège was directed past the brewery, where there was a two minutes' silence as a mark of respect.

When Billy was at Hydes the malt had to be manhandled in large sacks, unlike the automated process of today. That sort of work built up a thirst, so Westwood's Bitter is designed as a 'quaffing ale' at 3.2%.

By now work should have started on the Plough at Ashton-on-Mersey, where a major refurbishment, costing in the order of £400,000 and lasting about four months, is being undertaken. When it reopens the pub will have a new roof, a family dining area, a larger bar area and toilet facilities for the disabled. This is the biggest project of its kind ever undertaken by Hydes.

## One thousand brews

Three-and-a-half years ago they started to keep a record of all the guest beers sold at the Station free house in Ashton and number 1,000 made its appearance just before Christmas. This was the strong and dark Morocco Ale from Daleside Brewery in Harrogate, a one-off which was brewed specially for Levens Hall in Cumbria, to a recipe held at the hall for over 300 years.

The Station promises to seek out more rare and interesting brews in the future and, with a choice of as many as six on handpump at any one time, is probably the leading pub in the North West for guest beers.

There will be a 'Wild and Romantic Week' starting on Valentine's Day, featuring about twenty beers, including one-offs and specially-brewed ales.

# Swansdown (16)

The Swan in Lower Crumpsall is no more. This ex-Wilsons, latterly Vaux pub, was knocked down just before Christmas.

# The 9th WIGAN EST 1988 BEER FESTIVAL LEAP YEAR BEER AT THE PIER

SPONSORED BY WIGAN MODEL CENTRE

Over 40 Real Ales

Food available at all sessions

Live Music

Traditional Cider & Foreign Beers





# **THURSDAY 29th FEBRUARY**

5:30 - 11:00 50p before 7pm £1.50 after

# **FRIDAY 1st MARCH**

12:00 - 3:00 FREE 5:30 - 11.30 £1.00 before 7pm £2.00 after

# **SATURDAY 2nd MARCH**

12:00 - 4:00 £1.00 7:00 - 11:00 £1.00



# at The Mill at the Pier

(Trencherfield Mill near Wigan Pier)

ORGANISED BY THE WIGAN BRANCH OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE



In recent months Lees have lost two outlets and gained two. The Pack Horse on Oldham Road, Manchester, and the Pollard in Ancoats had to be pulled down as the buildings were unsafe as a result of repeated

vandalism. The brewery says that this line was taken with reluctance, but no viable future was seen for the two pubs.

On the plus side, the purchase of the Royal George at Greenfield (a former Tetley house) has just been completed and it is likely to become a managed 'eating'



house. The ground floor of Jack's Bar in the centre of Middleton has come back under the control of the brewery (they own the whole building) after being leased to Bernard Manning's son for years. What will Lees do with the premises? Some rumours suggest an Irish theme pub - O'Lees! - but there is no official word on the subject.

New pump clips are being introduced to the tied houses. They are made of heavy cast brass, following the likes of Marstons, and the shape is completely different from the old style. Mild and bitter clips are already in quite a few houses and the prototype for Moonraker can be seen at the recently renovated Rose of Lancaster in Chadderton.

The renovation of the Boarshaw Hotel, Middleton, was completed recently and the next pubs to get a facelift will be the Lancashire Fold, Alkrington, and the Horton Arms, Chadderton. Both are Good Beer Guide pubs.

Licensees on the move include Tony Brown, who is leaving the Spring Inn, Rochdale, for the Angel Inn, Royton. Ken Harling, one of the longest serving licensees, has retired from the Wellfield, Rochdale, and has been replaced by the Turners from the nearby Gale. The latter has a very uncertain future - the pub has been CPO'd by Rochdale Council and it looks as if it will be knocked down for redevelopment.



# STARTING ON FEB 14TH GO MAD — GO WILD

WITH A COLLECTION OF WILD 'n' WACKY BEERS INCLUDING ONE OFF'S & SPECIAL BREWS EVEN THE FOOD WILL BE WILD

• WILD GLASSES •

THE STATION • WARRINGTON STREET ASHTON-U-LYNE

## Rochdale News

#### New man at the Mash Tun

Stuart Blackwood took over the Mash Tun on Drake Street just before Christmas and he is looking to develop the pub as a premier ale house. Stuart, an old regular from the time when the pub was called the Tap & Spile, has returned all eight handpumps to regular use and removed the gas pressure which had until recently been applied to the beer.

The Mash Tun is owned by Labatts, so beers from Whitbread, S&N and Tetley, and their 'guest lists' can be called upon. Taylors Landlord, Cains bitter, Marstons Pedigree and Wells Bombardier have been available recently and, from the big brewers, Theakstons beers and Wenlock IPA have proved popular.

Stuart is determined to keep all beers in quality condition and provide as wide a choice as possible, including special brews and those which are not generally available in the area. His approach to quality and variety appears to be paying off, as the pub seems busier than of late and is attracting positive comments. It is hoped that food will also be available from mid-February.

#### More McGuinness

A new music venue in Rochdale is providing an additional outlet for McGuinness beers. The Jazz & Blues Club has been established by a group of enthusiasts who are keen to promote live music in the town. Regular gigs have been arranged at the Arts & Heritage Centre (the old library) on the Esplanade and these have proved very popular.

An insistence on real ale initially caused problems as the Council, who own the building, did not have an arrangement for supplying such beer! However, a deal was quickly struck with McGuinness and Best Bitter or Junction is available at the Saturday evening gigs. Forthcoming musical

attractions are the Harold Salisbury Quartet (jazz fusion) on 17th February and The Backscratchers on the 24th. Tickets are available at the door.

The Club is going from strength to strength, with Sunday lunchtime jazz in the Heritage Centre and acoustic blues in the Flying Horse, Town Hall Square, on Wednesday evenings. Further details, including admission prices, can be picked up from the Heritage Centre and from the Tourist Information Office.



#### Fed flies in

A recent change of beers at the Flying Horse has seen the disappearance of all the Bass beers (except for keg Stones bitter), and the introduction of beers from Federation, the clubs-owned brewery on Tyneside! The Federation range at the Flying Horse is Buchanans Mild, Best Bitter and Special. In addition, Lees bitter remains on sale.

# Soccer supping

Beinlos

This June 10,000 extremely thirsty German football fans will be in Manchester for around two weeks. Having this huge captive market of the world's greatest beer drinkers will be a bonanza for local publicans and offers the most entrepreneurial the chance of making a fortune, while giving all drinkers the chance to sample the world's greatest beers.

Gemany's closest cities - Cologne and Düsseldorf - have almost fifty breweries between them, producing top-fermented Kölsch and Altbier, which tend to be served from a barrel on the bar top. FC Köln and Fortuna fans would be made to feel at home if these brews were available for the duration of the Euro '96 championships. As they are the weakest on sale in Germany (around 4.7-4.8% ABV), they are extremely refreshing session beers - Altbier is the nearest to a good English bitter that one would find in Europe, but without any additives. A few dray-loads of Augustiner or Andechs beers would quench the huge thirsts of TSV 1860 and Bayern Munich fans, as would Jever for Hamburg SV and St Pauli fans.

So come on, licensees, don't let this golden opportunity pass you by! Those already serving Bitburger, Krombacher, Becks, etc, can make a start by throwing away the CO2 cylinders and serving the beer under air pressure or on gravity. For the more adventurous, there are almost one thousand breweries out there with wonderful wares on offer, so ring/fax now. 0049...

# Openings, new and old

The **Ducie Café Bar** on Ducie Street, Manchester, is open again, but the real ale has been chucked out and only the keg stuff is on sale. Also in the 'Northern Quarter', **Straight Eights** is a new venture on Tib Street. This is something of a designer bar in the modern idiom, selling Theakstons nitrokeg products. If you wish to visit the place, it's near the back door of the King.

In Cheetham Hill, the Griffin is open once again. Well, there's a thing...

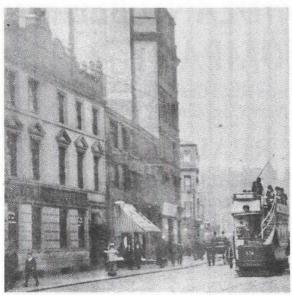
#### Closed and Boarded Corner

Miles Platting is once again in the news. The awful **Bird in Hand** on Oldham Road is shuttered and shattered, but this is no great loss to the drinking public. The opening of the nearby **Notts Castle** has been delayed, as the police have objected to the licence application. So presumably the pub will remain shut until the next sessions.

The future of the **Cross Keys** on Jersey Street, Ancoats, is in doubt. Owners Vaux will sell this small keg beer pub to anyone who is interested, but if the reason for selling is low trade, there won't be many takers.

The long-empty Imperial on Piccadilly may be razed if Central Manchester Development Corporation get their way. They want to pull it down in order to make more room for the conversion of the adjoining Joshua Hoyle building into an hotel. The building is in very poor condition and demolition may prove to be the only viable option, but the Stockport & South Manchester Branch of CAMRA is to pursue a campaign to prevent the pub's destruction, so it ain't over yet.

The building was originally two houses, converted into an unlicensed hotel when the railways arrived in the neighbourhood. The lack of suitable refreshment may have put off some of the first rail-borne travellers, so in 1844 the place had a beer licence and a new name - the Piccadilly Tavern. (For those arriving at London Road Station after chugging along in a glorified cattle truck for an hour or two, a nice cup of tea may not have been enough to restore the equilibrium.)



The beer licence was given up after a few years, but about 1857 the temperance hotel was transformed into a public house called the Imperial Hotel. This photo shows the building with a plain rendered frontage in the early 1900s. The present striking façade (well, it does have a certain charm about it) dates from a few years later, when brewers were thowing their money about.

Work has begun on converting the property in John Dalton Street, near the 'Hidden Gem' church, Manchester, into Holts' 111th pub. Some reports say that this will take quite a long time - so no 'Holy Orders' just yet.

Early in January it was discovered that a bad batch of bitter (cause unknown) had been produced and those quality control chaps at the brewery promptly poured gallons of the stuff down the drain. They also acted quickly in claiming back the excise duty!

I hear that the 'two bottles of Sixex for a pound' offer is doing rather well - pity it's not bottle conditioned.

There is still no word from Holts regarding the purchase of a pub in the Wigan area, believed by many to be 'Traditionals' on Woodhouse Lane.

#### Mild return

In February 1989 we reported that cask mild had been withdrawn at the Axe & Cleaver, Dunham Massey, owing to low sales. Well, now it's back. Theakstons mild is on sale alongside Theakstons and Websters bitters.

Now open

# THE MIDLAND BEER COMPANY

826 Manchester Road Castleton, Rochdale Near Castleton BR

# SIX REAL ALES

Burtonwood 99p a pint
Theakstons, Taylors and three Guest Beers

plus German and Belgian Beers

Lunchtime food Monday - Friday

01706 750873 Open all day

# Liverpool Road pubs - the history

Today the Liverpool Road area of Manchester is designated a heritage park, but years ago it was a very different and a very busy place. The canal and railway warehouses were going strong, there were numerous other industries and at the Campfield markets you could buy anything from a horse to a teapot.

All this activity supported a good number of licensed premises in the area and in Victorian times a range of pubs and beershops existed along Liverpool Road. There were fourteen houses in nearby Tonman Street (by the side of the Pig & Porcupine) and seven of them became pubs or beerhouses. Tonman Street and other streets nearby were also noted for their knocking shops, but as What's Doing is essentially a family CAMRA magazine, we'll stick to the pubs...

One of the first maps of this part of Manchester was published in 1794 and it shows the Bridgewater Canal terminus, warehouses and a few streets near Deansgate. Castle Field was just that - a field - and there were more fields sloping down to the Irwell, upon which swans glided. What became Liverpool Road was then a short street called Priestner Street, edged on the north side by some gardens and ending at Collier Street, where the White Lion is now. Manchester's licensing records show that in the 1770s and 1780s an Abraham Collier kept an alehouse called the White Lion, which may have been the one on the corner of Collier Street and Priestner Street.



The former Black Horse beerhouse (left) and the White Lion in 1995

This pub was certainly in business by 1804, when it was called the Trafford Arms; it became the Lord Nelson after the death of Nelson at Trafalgar the

following year and then the White Lion in 1812. The Oxnoble (also known as the Coopers Arms for a time) opened in 1804. and some twenty years later the Quay Tavern (renamed the Railway & Quay Inn and then the Market Hotel) opened lower down the road. Next, the Railway & Commercial Hotel was licensed just in time for the official opening of the station in 1830.

After 1830 these first four pubs were joined by a variety of beerhouses, ranging from off-licence shops to more substantial establishments. Some

Sale by Auction.

Valuable Public-house Property.—Exempt from Duty. By Mr. MORRIS (by order of the assignees under a fiat in bankruptcy, dated the 30th day of July, 1839, awarded and issued against George Warburton, late of Manchester, in the county of Lancaster, victualler, since deceased, at the Railway and Quay Tavern, in Liverpool Road, in Manchester aforesaid), on Tuesday the 11th day of Feb. 1840, at six o'clock in the evening, unless previously disposed of by private contract, of which due notice will be given, subject to such conditions as shall be produced at the time of sale:

A LL that the above-mentioned INN or PUBLIC-HOUSE, called the Railway and Quay Tavern, with its Appurtenances, situate in Liverpool Road aforesaid, and now in the occupation of Mrs. Raby, as tenant thereof. The site of the said premises contains 195 superficial square yards, or thereabouts, and is subject to the payment of the small annual chief rent of £11. 10s.

The Railway and Quay Tavern has been occupied by the present respectable tenant and her late husband during a

The Railway and Quay Tavern has been occupied by the present respectable tenant and her late husband during a period of two ve years, and is known to be a well-accustomed and commodious house; particularly convenient for travellers by the Manchester and Liverpool line of railway, being situated within about 300 yards of the station. The present rental is £120 per annum.

The Quay Tavern was opened by George Warburton in 1825 but he didn't do too well out of it, as this 1840 sale notice shows

survived only a few years, one or two managed to get full public house licences and others only just made it into the twentieth century. The following is an account of what was where on Liverpool Road, starting at the Deansgate end...

The motorbike shop on the corner of Southern Street is on the site of the Britannia Tavern, one of the first beerhouses to open on the road. It was part of a row of eight houses and closed about 1870. In the same row there was a shop with a beer licence and next door but one to that, on the Barton Street corner, where the chippy is now, was a greengrocery with a beer licence.

The row of shops between Barton Street and the White Lion is still standing and two of these shops, the insurance broker's and the sandwich bar, were once beerhouses. The latter was called the Black Horse and closed in 1906.

Across Collier Street from the White Lion was the Oddfellows Arms (later the Corporation), which survived until the 1970s, and a few doors down (where the small garden area is now) was the Alton Castle. When this beerhouse lost its licence about 1890, the tenant moved two doors down to the shop on the next corner and opened an off-licence. This shop had been a beerhouse twenty years earlier, and second time around it lasted until about 1914.

Next is the Oxnoble, which has been surrounded in scaffolding for the past few months and appears to be the subject of Whitbread's gradualist approach to rebuilding.

Past Duke Street and the old school building, there were once five short rows of houses running from Liverpool Road to Rice Street. Licensed houses fronted four of the rows - the Market Hotel public house (closed in the 1920s), the Napier Inn (closed in the 1930s) and two other beerhouses.

On the other side of Liverpool Road, the old railway company's building (now the Museum of Science & Industry) extends up to Lower Byrom Street, but the original building was shorter and there were some houses between Lower Byrom Street and the end of the railway shed. One was a beerhouse near the corner of Lower Byrom Street and lower down, near where the big museum window is now, were the Spread Eagle and the Railway Arms. The latter managed to get a full licence about 1840, but four years later it had closed.

Across the road, the new Castlefield Hotel covers the site of another beerhouse which became fully licensed. The Pink Eye Tavern opened in the 1830s and the name was changed to a more decorous Queens Arms before the pub licence was granted in 1839. ('Pink Eye' was the name of a dog, not a guide to the clientele.) The Queens closed about 1930.



The Corporation Inn in the 1950s

The last pub on Liverpool Road, the Commercial was Manchester's first railway hotel, but it suffered a downturn in fortune when Victoria and London Road Stations opened (see WD Oct 1995). It lost its licence for a time. then in the 1860s it became a licensed hotel again and now, with the White Lion and the Oxnoble (one hopes) it is one the three surviving pubs on Liverpool Road.



# Theakston Best Bitter

Black Bull Bitter
One of the special ales from the Theakston range

As supplied by Matthew Brown plc, Chorley, Lancs

# Letters

#### More Festival Facts

Sir - I refer to Steven Prescott's letter in last month's WD in response to my efforts to get the Great British Beer Festival mobile. I am very well aware that to arrange any beer festival is hard work, and I know only too well that beer festivals are not run solely for CAMRA members. I have invited many non-CAMRA members along to beer festivals and the majority have become members - a 75% success rate, in fact.

I did not 'moan' about getting large festivals up North. Back in 1993 I collected those 354 signatures in support of getting the GBBF mobile through hard work and with the help of Sue Price (Kings Arms, Salford), Vance de Bechevel (Marble Arch) and Peter Caton (Beer House). No CAMRA branch member contacted me to give me assistance, and when I asked for a mention in 'Opening Times' (Stockport & South Manchester branch), the reply was that getting the GBBF mobile was not suitable material for 'Opening Times', but the branch would be informed. But again, no help. Why?

My view is that the GBBF should be brought out of the capital, not just to the North but to other British cities - there are, after all, CAMRA members and non-members living in places like Glasgow, Aberdeen and the far reaches of Cornwall. One GBBF in Birmingham and three in Leeds is not good enough. Who knows, if the GBBF is held in different places around the country and everyone has a chance to see what a great occasion it is, we could get more new members. And that, after all, is what it is all about, isn't it, Mr Prescott?

Leo King

#### ...And More

Sir - The organisers of the Great British Beer Festival are looking at the Manchester Beer & Cider Festival with interest, particularly in relation to staffing levels, because the problem of insufficient staff is the main concern when considering moving the GBBF north.

I assume that all those who want to see the GBBF moved out of London will be rushing to the Kings Arms in Bloom Street, Salford, to see staffing officer Sue Price, or calling for staffing forms on 839 4338. We need your help.

Paul Mason, Organiser, Manchester Beer & Cider Festival

### What Survey?

Sir - I agree with Pete Cash (WD Jan) that CAMRA's City Centre Prices Survey is worthwhile and should not be allowed to fade away. Telling people when it's on might help.

Rhys P Jones

# Rupert

I'd half expected to get a P221/2, but no; Eddy Nestfeather must have become benign as his beard greys. Perhaps he knows that imagined variations on enigmatic remarks might themselves be guilty of what they denounce. But, enough of this. It's good to see that Honker & McNasty are getting rid of one of their Tykeley beer factories and shutting the Hood brewery in Dottigub. Kepples has never been the same since it went from Grotley, so it's good news that it might be brewed under contract by a local brewer just as Hood's beers will.

Meanwhile, cheeky conservationists with their heads in the sands of time are attempting to halt progress on a number of fronts. Goosegrease & Dishwater are trying to improve the Brobdingnags taverns they've inherited or sell them if they're irredeemable grot-holes. Let them get on with it. Buildings which were suitable for the toiling masses of the era of the early iron horse are hardly commensurate with the expectations of a post modern culture and must be radically reformed or die. Another bunch of anachronists is unwilling to allow the demolition of an unused stucco-fronted

monstrosity of a former hostelry to permit a development of vision on one of the gateways to Grotley centre. Should they be allowed to stand in the way of progress?

#### Answers to the Christmas Quiz:

1. Trev and Son of Trev.

- 2. (a) Rumpledshirtscream. (b) 123 decibels. (c) 3 miles.
- 3. Neither of them will be in next year's Beer Guide.
- 4. £1,528.90.
- 5. Jamie Frotter (in shorts, at a tram stop).
- 6. Boris Pratt (Golden Beerbore of the Millenium).
- 7. The Fortlea Amber Nectar Show (no deaths from poisoning).
- 8. Opening Tripe (Anorak Monthly, Bar Codes Quarterly, Watchtower and Poodle Knitting Patterns are not on the Internet).
- 9. VAT 69 (not in the Kama Sutra).
- 10. The Friendliest Licensee in the World Award, 1995.

Rumour denial: There is no truth in the story that Rumpledshirtscream bought the large hands used in the vicar sketch by the late Kenny Everett, in case he was invited to give a talk in sign language to a deaf audience.

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.

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To join CAMRA send £12 to Membership, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW.

# **Branch Diary**

Rochdale, Oldham & Bury

Thur 1 Feb 8.30pm, Oldham Beer Festival Organising Meeting, Beer Emporium, Union Street, Oldham

Sat 3 Feb 12 noon, GBG 1997 Selection Meeting, Hogshead, Union Street,

Oldham - all members welcome

Tues 6 Feb 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Two Tubs, The Wylde, Bury Centre Thur 15 Feb 8.30pm, Oldham Beer Festival Organising Meeting, Beer Emporium, Union Street, Oldham

Tues 20 Feb 8.30pm, Committee Meeting, Blue Bell, Market Street, Shaw Tues 27 Feb 8.30pm, What's Doing Collation, Flying Horse, Town Hall Square, Rochdale

Thur 29 Feb 8.30pm, Oldham Beer Festival Meeting. Details as above Tues 5 March 8.30pm, Branch 21st Birthday Meeting, The Kings, Market Place, Heywood. All members new and old invited.

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

#### Trafford & Hulme

Thur 1 Feb 8pm, Unicorn, Hale Barns, followed by Bulls Head, Bleeding Wolf and Railway, Hale

Sat 3 Feb, Chester trip by train. See Branch Contact

Thur 8 Feb 8pm, Tatton, Tipping Street, Altrincham, followed by Grapes,

Bricklayers, Pig & Porcupine and Malt Shovels

Thur 15 Feb 8pm, The Bar, Chorlton, followed by Beech

Thur 22 Feb, Castlefield Beer Festival

Fri/Sat/Sun 1/2/3 Mar, Trip to Brussels for Cantillon Brewery Open Day

Thur 7 Mar 8pm, Legh Arms, Sale Moor

Thur 14 Mar 8pm, Hogshead, Altrincham. Last day for submission of GBG entry forms

Contact: Roger Wilson 0161 827 0765 (w) or 0161 941 5602 (h)

#### North Manchester

Thur 1 Feb 7.30pm, Beer Festival Meeting, Beer House, Angel St, Manchester Wed 7 Feb 8pm, GBG (City Centre) Final Selection Meeting, Kings Arms, Bloom Street, Salford

Wed 14 Feb 8pm, Branch Meeting, Beer House, Angel Street, Manchester Wed 21 Feb 8pm, Festival Social, White Lion, Liverpool Road, Castlefield Wed 28 Feb 8pm, GBG (non City) final selection meeting. Unicorn, Church Street, Manchester

Wed Mar 6, Ancoats Lane Crawl. White House 7pm, Smithfield 8.30pm, Marble Arch 9pm, Beer House to finish.

Contact: Roger Hall 0161 740 7937

#### Bolton

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

#### Wigar

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

Contributors to this issue: Roger Hall, Paul Mason, Leo King, Bernie Jackson, Peter Wadsworth, Paul Roberts, Mark Herdman, Keith Egerton, Roger Wood, Mark McConachie

# **QUEENS ARMS**

# **FREE HOUSE**

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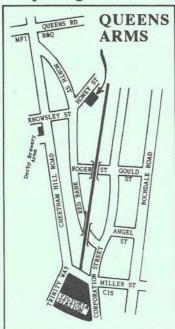
Bitter from 95p a pint

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