

25p

What's Doing

MARCH 1996



The Manchester Beer Drinker's Monthly Magazine

Imperial for Holts?

The Imperial Hotel on Piccadilly, Manchester, may yet have a future. Holts Brewery have taken an interest in the former Wilsons house and they would like to turn it back into a pub. Given that the only other plan for the site is to flatten it, this has to be a good idea. Manchester City Council and Planning Department, please take note.



The Imperial (pictured here in the 1950s) is one of the very few pre-Victorian properties to have survived in the 'Piccadilly panhandle', although it has seen some drastic alterations since the fancy frontage was built about ninety years ago.

Unfortunately it isn't in the best of situations and in recent times Wilsons re-launched the pub more than once to try and get the customers in. Now if anybody can make a go of the place, Holts can.



Celebration Time

On Tuesday 5th March the Rochdale, Oldham & Bury Branch of CAMRA will be celebrating the 21st anniversary of the formation of the branch at the very same venue which saw the inaugural meeting all those years ago.

The Kings, Market Place, Heywood, is that place, and the branch invites all members, particularly those who were there in 1975, to come to the Kings and join in an evening of reminiscing.

New Bird?

No sooner had we written off the Bird in Hand on Oldham Road, than signs of activity have been spotted at this shuttered and shattered pub. Will a new Bird arise, phoenix-like, from the ashes? (*You've used that line before. More than once. - Ed.*) A Boddingtons vehicle was recently spotted at the premises - is Miles Platting to get a 'Henry's Table'?

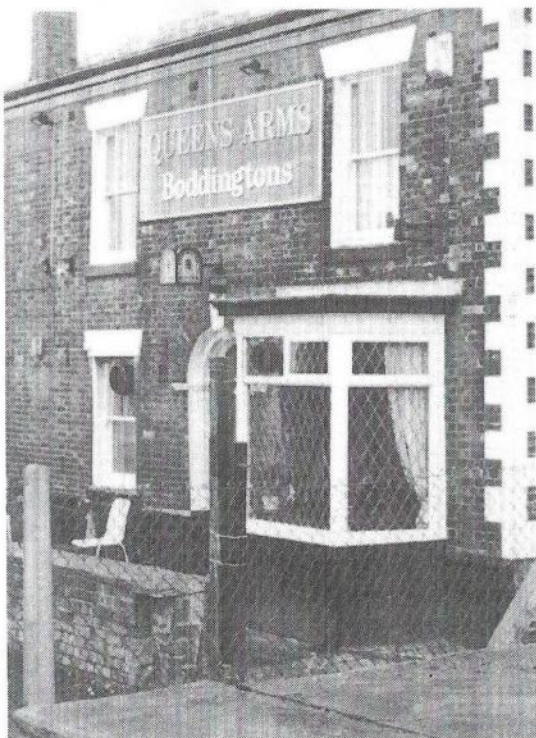
Middleton Irish

It isn't really the best of times to open another Irish theme bar, but John Willie Lees are doing it anyway. The venue is the former Jacques Wine Bar, housed in an old Middleton police station.

Queens Arms - Round One to BodPubCo

At the same time as they applied for listed building consent, the owners of the Queens Arms in Patricroft applied for consent to carry out structural alterations - to the Licensing Committee. Despite written objections from CAMRA and the Victorian Society, the magistrates did not adjourn, but heard the application and gave their consent for the alterations.

However, the owners still have to obtain listed building consent and this hurdle has been raised somewhat through an amended description of the listing, dated 26th January 1996. This covers the interior in more detail than the original 1989 listing and may help to protect the pub's layout from the unnecessary and short-sighted plans of the owners.



25 years at the Pev

On January 25th landlady Nancy clocked up twenty-five years at the famous Peveril of the Peak in Central Manchester. To mark the event the brewery presented her with a silver salver.

Nourishing Nag

The Magic Pub Company, owner of the Jolly Carter at Winton, has acquired another pub in Greater Salford. The Nags Head in Irlam will become a 'Hungry Horse'.

Out of Steam

Sadly, the Head of Steam free house on Whitworth Street, Knott Mill, closed last month. It is expected that the place will reopen as a different kind of licensed premises.



Theakston Best Bitter

Black Bull Bitter

One of the special ales from the Theakston range

As supplied by Matthew Brown plc, Chorley, Lancs

Holts Corner

Stewart Revell

During the last few weeks there has been a lot of talk about Holts taking over up to a dozen Greenalls pubs. The truth of the matter is that Greenalls are to dispose of about ten pubs soon, and when the dust has settled after a complicated deal, Holts will end up with about five of them. The others will be sold on to the free trade.

Holts like to take over really big pubs so that they can shift a lot of beer, so it is expected that the Brooklyn (below) on Green Lane, Great Lever, near Bolton, will end up as one of theirs.

Also rumoured to be on the Holts shopping list are the Kingsway, Levenshulme, the Abbey, St Helens, and the Angel, Knutsford.

The palindromic Regal Lager is no more. Holts will be introducing a premium lager called Diamond (about 5% ABV) and this will be available in May. The price will be around £1.20 or £1.25 a pint.



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.

COME TO THE ALL YEAR ROUND BEER FESTIVAL

THE BEER HOUSE

Angel Street, Manchester. 0161 839 7019

12 REAL ALES ON OFFER

including

**BURTONWOOD BITTER,
THEAKSTONS XB and BEST BITTER,
MOORHOUSES PENDLE WITCH**

plus

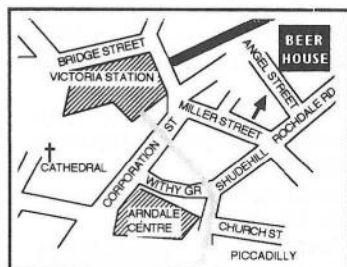
**8 EVER-CHANGING GUEST BEERS
including a GUEST MILD**



**PLUS A RANGE OF TRADITIONAL CIDERS,
DRAUGHT BELGIAN KRIEK, LEFFE BLONDE,
HOEGAARDEN & MANY BOTTLED BELGIAN
and other FOREIGN BEERS**

***SOMETHING FOR EVEN THE MOST DISCERNING
TASTE***

- * Lunchtime food seven days a week
- * Try our Sunday Breakfast 12 - 2.30
- * Evening Meals 5 - 7 Friday
- * Thurs 5 - 8 Choice of three curries
(veg and carnivore) + rice £2.50
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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

Microbrew for Beerfest

The Millgate micro-brewery is to brew the festival ale for the forthcoming Oldham Beer Festival, which this year is the tenth. The Millgate brewer tells us that this will be a 4.2% ABV pale, very bitter beer. (So that should get the beer spotters out to the festival.)

After some consideration by the organising team, the name chosen for the beer is ... **Robin Pendragon!** Yes, it's named after the

person who wrote that criticism of last year's beer festival in the May 1995 issue of this very magazine. You may remember the article didn't half upset a lot of us cloth-capped folk in Owd-am. Well, to show that we hold no malice against anybody, "Wit named fest ale aft-ya!" as we say in Oldham, and we will welcome Robin Pendragon to the Tenth Oldham Beer festival with all the courtesy and deference he deserves.

The Millgate is only a short bus ride (five minutes) from the festival site (Werneth Park), so why not pop down between sessions? It is Good Beer Guide listed and does good food. You'll find the pub on Ashton Road West, Failsworth, and the train station is only five minutes' walk away.

MAYORAL APPEAL 1995/96

10th OLDHAM BEER FESTIVAL

OVER 35 DIFFERENT REAL ALES

29, 30, 31 MARCH 1996

WERNETH PARK MUSIC ROOMS
FREDERICK STREET, WERNETH, OLDHAM

ENTERTAINMENT		Friday Evening - Écoute Saturday Evening - Blue Grass Revival	
OPENING HOURS		ADMISSION	
FRIDAY	6pm - 11pm	FRIDAY EVENING	£1.50
SATURDAY	12 noon - 4pm	SATURDAY LUNCH	£0.50
SATURDAY	6pm - 11pm	SATURDAY EVENING	£1.50
SUNDAY	12 noon - 3pm	SUNDAY LUNCH	FREE

Family room at Lunchtimes ♦ Foreign bottled beers ♦ Ciders

CAMRA members free at all times

Mayoral Appeal is this year supporting: MacMillan Nurses Fund,
Dr Kershaw's Hospice, Oldham Liaison of Ex-Servicemen

Contributors to this issue: Roger Hall, Bernie Jackson, J R Cresswell, Paul Roberts, Stewart Revell, Keith Egerton, Roger Wood, Alan Whitehead, Roger Hall, Dave White, Rob Magee, Norman Tandy, John Rowe, Mark McConachie

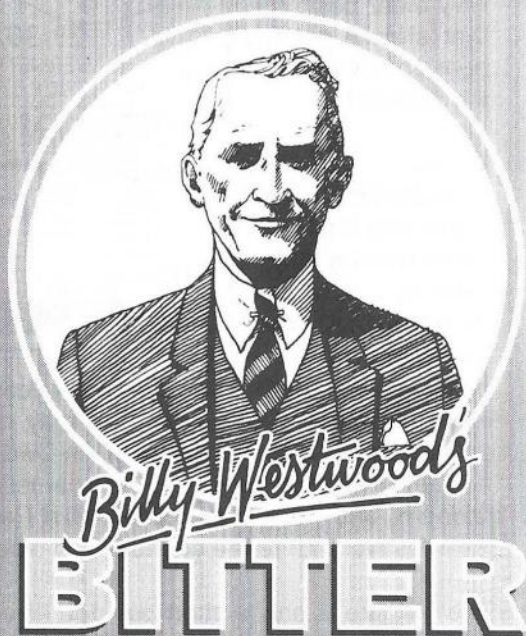
A TRADITIONAL PINT FOR AN OLD FASHIONED PRICE

Here's another winner from
Hydes Anvil Brewery.
A quality bitter, light and
clean tasting at a very
competitive price, under £1
in our managed houses!



Named after
Billy Westwood, our
mashroom foreman for
many years, who was with
us man and boy from 1902
until he retired in 1954.
Billy was held in the very
highest esteem because of
his skill in controlling
the mash.

We are proud of his
contribution to our tradition
of brewing fine ales.
We think this is a pint Billy
would be proud of.



CONTACT: ERIC SCOTT, FREE TRADE DEPARTMENT

HYDES' ANVIL BREWERY LTD, 46 MOSS LANE WEST, MANCHESTER M15 5PH. TEL: 0161 226 1317

Closed and Boarded Corner

It's not often that Robinsons lose a pub, so it's sad to report that the Red Admiral in Hulme is boarded up. Whether this is due to the redevelopment of Hulme, we cannot say.



After the demise of Lees' Pack Horse and Pollard (WD Jan & Feb), does the same fate await the Druids in Salford? What policy does JWL have towards no-hope pubs?

The Bridge on Strawberry Road, Pendleton, has closed. This recent convert to cask beer is owned, not surprisingly, by Ascot Holdings.

Beefy Brew

Last month WD reported the 1,000th guest beer at the Station free house in Ashton was Daleside Brewery's Morocco Ale, supposedly based on an old recipe from Levens Hall in Cumberland. J R A Daglish of the North West Brewers' & Licensed Retailers' Association sends this account of the brew, published in 1889:

A certain very strong ale called Morocco is, or was, made at Levens Hall...Beef, or other meat is an ingredient of this mighty brew, but the exact receipt (sic) is kept a secret. There is a tradition that the method of brewing Morocco was brought by a Crusader named Howard from certain unknown regions beyond the seas, and it is said that the receipt was buried during the Parliamentary wars, and was only unearthed many years afterwards. It is always brought in an immense and curiously wrought glass to everyone who dines at Levens for the first time, and the visitor is expected on no account to refuse the glass, but to take it and say, 'To the health of the Lady of Levens'.



Guests are
always welcome
at



ASHTON'S PREMIER
FREE HOUSE

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

MONDAY-
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PLUS

LUNCHEONS TRY OUR HOT MEALS
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Conservatory & Rooms

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



What's Doing grows up

Yes, that's right, What's Doing is already into its twenty-first year and in November, writs and sanity permitting, will be celebrating its 21st birthday. What's Doing has been published every month since November 1975 except for a slight hiccup in 1977. In July of that year everyone was busy running the first Manchester beer festival in the Royal Exchange and didn't write anything. Mind you, they made up for it with an extra Christmas edition in the same year.

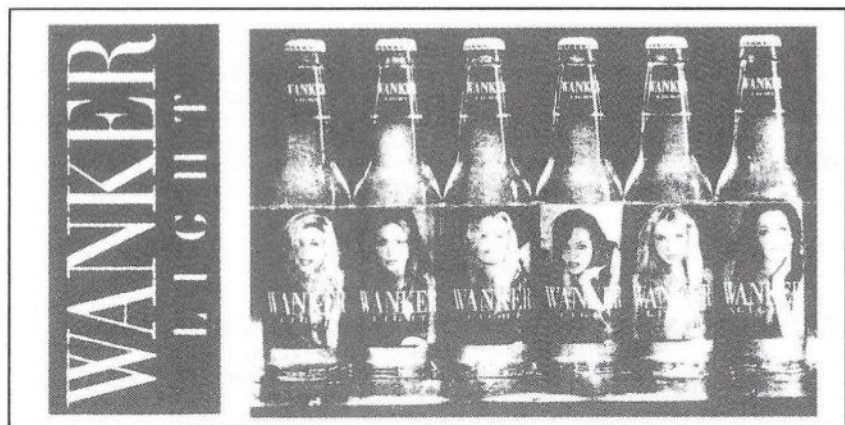
So, What's Doing will publish its 250th edition in August and reach its majority in November. To celebrate the latter event, two things are planned:

- 1. A bumper edition of the organ with plenty of nostalgia and mutual back-slapping.*
- 2. A massive jolly, including eats and a piss up, to which all those who have contributed to What's Doing over the years are invited.*

Entry to the jolly will be by invitation. If you'd like an invitation, please let us know how you've contributed. You may have written articles, provided photographs, collated it, distributed it or sold it for donkeys' years in your pub. You may be a long-standing advertiser or the butt of off-colour humour. Whatever it is, let us know (c/o the editor) and you'll get an invitation.

From November 1996 What's Doing will be a mature publication.

To secure his ticket for the jolly, our North America correspondent sends details of a new beer from the Pittsburgh Brewing Company. 'The Ultimate Six Pack' of Wanker Light, with pictures of 'six top L.A. models' on the labels, is described as 'a sales person's dream'. Coming soon, as it were.



THE FIRST
BHURTPORE INN
BEER FESTIVAL

OR THE REQUEST STOP BEER HOP

At the Bhurtpore Inn, Aston, nr. Nantwich,
JUST 12 MINUTES WALK FROM WRENBURY STATION

27th - 31st March 1996

At least

40 REAL ALES

**From Britain's small independent brewers
including our**

**1000th Guest Beer, over 150 Bottled Belgian, German &
British Beers & Real Cider**

Opening Times: Wednesday 6.30 - 11pm
Thursday, Friday 12 noon - 2.30, 6.30 - 11pm
Saturday 12 noon - 11pm
Sunday 12 noon - 3pm, 7-10.30pm

FREE ADMISSION

On Saturday 30th March CASPA have arranged with South Wales & West Railway Ltd for the 11.33 Manchester - Cardiff train (calls Stockport 11.43) to stop additionally at Wrenbury and a train will stop specially at Wrenbury at 17.05 for the return trip to Stockport and Manchester.

DAY RETURN FARES: MANCHESTER TO WRENBURY £8.70,
STOCKPORT TO WRENBURY £8.40

25% discount is available on these fares for parties of 10 or more travelling together -

Advance Booking for this facility is essential; Tel 0345 125625

OTHER SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE FROM MANCHESTER & STOCKPORT INVOLVING A CHANGE OF TRAIN AT CREWE. CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL RAIL INFORMATION BUREAU.

PLEASE NOTE: If travelling on the local service from Crewe **WRENBURY IS A REQUEST STOP.**
Inform the conductor to alight, Hand signal to stop the train for your return journey.

CREWE & SHREWSBURY

PASSENGERS ASSOCIATION

**PROMOTING LEISURE TRAVEL ON THE CREWE - SHREWSBURY LINE
AND THE BHURTPORE BEER FESTIVAL**

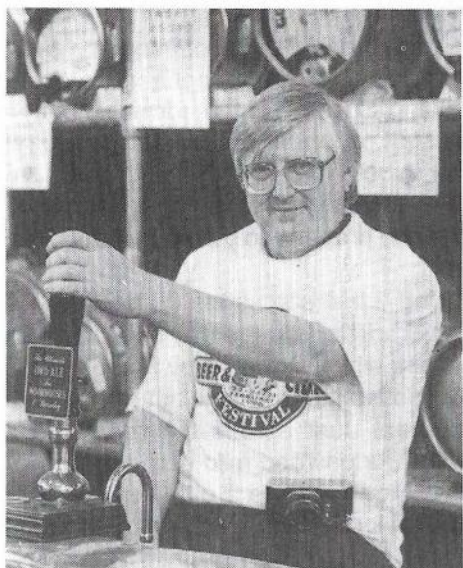
Tel: Bhurtpore Inn 01270 780917 for Beer Festival Details

CASPA 01743 358179 for local Train Information

CASPA STEWARDS WILL MEET TRAINS ON FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Castlefield Festival

Last month's Manchester Beer Festival, the first for many years, was a success, with over three thousand visitors over the three days.



On the campaigning front, a record 234 new members were signed up, which is the second highest recruitment figure for any regional CAMRA beer festival.



Wigan and District

Dave White

J D Wetherspoon is coming to Wigan. The town centre properties earmarked for transmogrification are the former home of the Halifax Building Society on the corner of Library Street and Market Place (long disused), a former photography shop (also closed for some time), and a tailor's, both further up Market Place. This is as fine an architectural mish-mash as you will find in Wigan, and it will be interesting to see what JDW do to the property to give it that aura of quintessential pubness.

Blazing a trail across the B5375 now, we find that Holts are still haggling over **Traditionals** (below) on Woodhouse Lane, or rather the adjoining car park which is owned by Pemberton Caravans. The free house usually sells Holts bitter anyway, but a drop of the dark stuff would be more than welcome. Just across the road, the **Prince of Wales** has stopped selling Burtonwood mild owing to falling sales, though the bitter remains cask. However the **Belle Vue**, a cockstride from the PoW, sells the rarest of local milds, Boddingtons, in pretty good nick.

The village of Standish sells cask conditioned beer in all its pubs, as the **Boars Head**, Wigan Road, now has the full Burtonwood range, save the mild, after donkey's years on the fizzy stuff. Heading back into Wigan from there, the same range of ales can be found at the **Cherry Gardens**,



Wigan Lane; Shepherd Neame Bishops Finger was the guest beer here recently.

Alas, not everything in the town centre is rosy. On Standishgate the **Mabs Cross Hotel** is down to just one real ale, the defiantly mediocre Worthington Best Bitter, whilst the nearby **Royal Oak** has renounced wickets altogether.

"Think only this...that there's some corner of Lower Ince that is forever Ireland." The pub on Warrington Road variously known as the **Rock Hotel**, the **Rock Rock Cafe** and **Madison's**, has re-emerged as **Bridie Donnelly's**. The place was closed on the afternoon that I passed by, but peering through the darkness I could see nothing resembling a handpump on the bar, despite the advertisement for real ale on the exterior of the pub. Perhaps traditional beer is served through fake nitrokeg fonts?

Not far away, **Lower Ince Labour Club** now sells handpulled Tetley bitter, though it has to compete with an impressive array of keg Bass products. They don't take kindly to beers with daft names round these parts, and Vaux Waggle Dance has died the death at the **Black Diamond**, Warrington Road, leaving only fizz on offer. Over the bridge



Belle Vue and Prince of Wales, Woodhouse Lane

and past the railway station, traditional Thwaites has disappeared from the **Anderton Arms**, Ince Green Lane. The pub, known locally as the "Long Neck", featured in the Good Beer Guide during the 1980s.

News in brief. The managers of the **Victoria** and the **Embargo**, both on Wallgate, Wigan, have bought the **Gathurst Station Buffet Bar**. Closed for most of 1995, the bar now sells a range of Whitbread-approved beers ... the **Mount** at Orrell, by the M6/M58 junction, is now known as the **Priory Gate**; otherwise, no change ... the **Brown Cow**, Rainford Road, Billinge, lost its cask Greenalls bitter, but went over to Greenalls mild instead - the only real ale on offer. Give it a try.

'Terrible Trafford' update

Since the original 'Terrible Trafford' article appeared in these pages, bemoaning the absence of guest beers in the area, the situation has improved considerably. Guest beers from independent breweries are now available at the following.

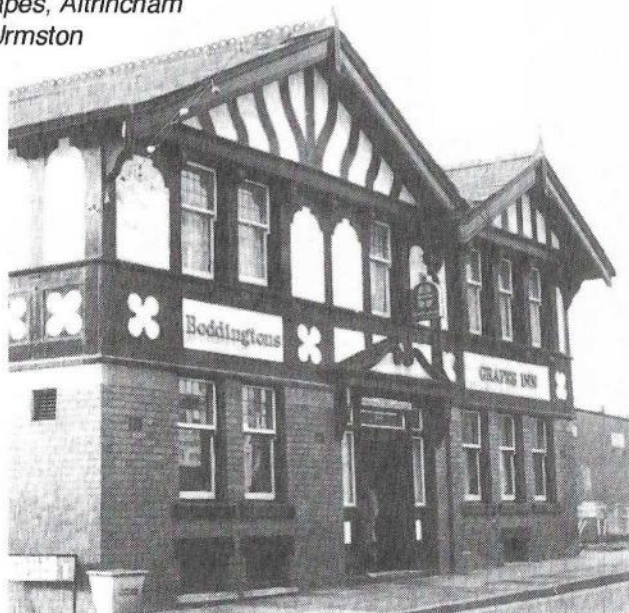
Whitbread houses: *Hogshead, Altrincham; Bleeding Wolf, Hale*
Courage houses: *Temple, Sale Moor; Orange Tree, Altrincham*
BodPubCo/Greenalls: *Rope & Anchor, Dunham Massey; Church, Flixton; Grapes, Altrincham*

S&N: *Manor Hey, Urmston*

Tetley:

Stonemasons Arms, Timperley

The following occasionally sell independent guest beers:
Robin Hood, Stretford; Station, Flixton; Bridge, Sale; Gardeners Arms, Timperley; Tatton Arms, Altrincham (all BodPubCo).



The Request Stop Beer Hop

The Bhurtpore Inn, a pub in the heart of the Cheshire countryside and a winner of the CAMRA South Cheshire Pub of the Year Award, is holding its first Beer Festival from Wednesday 27th to Sunday 31st March. The Bhurtpore is in Aston, near Nantwich and not far from Wrenbury Station, which is served by local trains on the Crewe - Shrewsbury line.

Wrenbury is a request stop - you have to tell the train conductor you want to get off there and, coming back, put your hand out to signal the driver you want to get on. Travelling from Manchester, you would normally have to change at Crewe, but on Saturday 30th March the Crewe & Shrewsbury Passengers' Association has arranged for the 11.33 from Manchester (11.43 from Stockport) to Cardiff train to stop at Wrenbury. For returning festival-goers, an express to Stockport and Manchester will stop at Wrenbury at 17.05.

Forty real ales are promised, together with an extensive range of continental bottled beers. As this is probably the first CAMRA beer festival with special trains laid on, it should be a good day out - and visitors will be doing their bit for rural rail travel.

For further information, details of cheap day return fares (available Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday) and party booking, see the advertisement elsewhere in this issue.

Cakes and Ale



The Land o'Cakes on Great Ancoats Street is expected to reopen as a Tap & Spile outlet later this month.

Now and Then

Rob Magee

No.93 **Welcome Inn and Brewery** *Henshaw Street, Oldham*

The photograph below shows the Welcome Inn and part of the Welcome Brewery on Henshaw Street a few years before they were demolished. These buildings dated from about 1900 and they replaced the original beerhouse, which was converted cottage property. The cottages were owned by a gentleman called William Ashcroft and after his death Oldham Brewery leased the Welcome Inn from his estate. It seems to have been a reasonably-sized beerhouse for the time, having five drinking rooms and three bedrooms, but in the 1890s the place was old and in poor condition.

At that time the local brewing companies were expanding, raising capital and buying pubs and beerhouses in order to build up their tied estate. Many private owners didn't have the cash to spend on bringing their pubs up to date and so selling out was the best option. For some reason this didn't happen with the Welcome, and instead of becoming an Oldham Brewery pub it was rebuilt by the private owners, complete with a brewhouse, trap house and stables. Their planning application was approved in 1898 and two years later the new Welcome Inn opened.



Arthur J Hyde was both owner and licensee in 1913 and in 1919 Charles F Hyde and Charles W Battersby registered the Welcome Brewery as a private company. Charles F Hyde took the beerhouse licence the following year and was in charge until 1929, when Gilbert W Hyde took over and carried on the business until 1943.

I first went in the Welcome in 1954 and I learned to play crib with the old-timers in the tap room. This was mainly because my parents also used the house; my father stood in the hall while my mother sat in the lounge. As I was not quite old enough to drink I thought it prudent to go in the tap room!

The Welcome Brewery was taken over by the Hope & Anchor Breweries of Sheffield in 1959 and brewing ceased in the November. More brewery takeovers led to the Welcome becoming a Bass pub in 1967, but a year later it closed.

New bar

Unicorn Inns are converting part of the old YMCA building on Peter Street (Museum Street corner) into licensed premises, to be called the Wig & Pen.

New King

A few years ago David Perkin sold the King on Oldham Street to Tetleys, but the pub didn't do very well with them. It had 'a pool table, but little else, including atmosphere,' according to the 1995 Manchester Pub Guide. Now David has taken over again and the place is doing better as a traditional pub.



CAMRA Membership gives:

- ★ Monthly copies of *What's Brewing*, CAMRA's entertaining and highly-regarded newspaper.
- ★ Generous discounts on CAMRA products and publications (including the best-selling *Good Beer Guide*).
- ★ Advance warning of beer festivals throughout the U.K. and Europe - and discounts when you get there.
- ★ An invitation to join CAMRA's activities such as brewery trips, meetings and socials.
- ★ **ABOVE ALL**, you will belong to a flourishing and successful consumer movement which is acting as a champion for beer drinkers and pub users.

APPLICATION TO JOIN CAMRA

I/We wish to become members of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

Name(s)

Address

Postcode

Signature

Date

I/We enclose the remittance for individual/joint membership:

	Individual Annual	Joint Annual	Individual Life	Joint Life
UK and EEC	£12	£14	£120	£140
Rest of the world	£16	£18	£160	£180
Student/Unwaged	£6	£7		
Disabled	£6	£7	£60	£70
Retired	£6	£7	£60	£70

Send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Ltd) with this application form (or a photocopy) to:

The Membership Secretary,
CAMRA Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road
St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW



Finn Beer

A Finnish brewery near Helsinki, Sinebrychoff, is testing a radical new fermenting process which claims to cut the secondary fermentation period from two weeks to two hours, without altering the main fermentation of the beer! If the process works, it would mean that the size of fermenting tanks could be reduced significantly, with huge savings in space and capital.

Apparently it is all to do with a substance called diacetyl, which is the main agent for an 'immature' flavour in beer. By heat treatment and immobilizing yeast particles, the whole system is speeded up and what comes out the other end is foaming amber nectar, or so the trade blurb would have us believe.

In addition to Sinebrychoff, breweries in Germany and Brazil are testing the process, which it is thought will be of particular use to developing micro-breweries in places such as Germany and the USA. Here in Britain, beer is not fermented out to such a degree anyway, therefore our breweries do not need the colossal fermentation vessels as used in Germany and other lands producing fuller strength beers.

Now open

THE MIDLAND BEER COMPANY

826 Manchester Road Castleton, Rochdale
near Castleton BR

FOUR REAL ALES

Burtonwood 99p a pint

Theakstons, Taylors and Guest Beers

Thatchers Cider

plus German and Belgian Beers

Lunchtime food Monday - Friday

01706 750873

Open all day

Rupert

"I say, Mr Goosegrease, what a lot of sordid taverns we've inherited from Brobdingnags. What on earth are we going to do with them all? Most of them don't comply with our corporate image of mega-eatery fun pubs. What's the use of a couple of hundred basic working class boozers with tiny rooms full of people drinking and generally having a good time without spending megabucks and contributing to our bottom line? Just look at them!"

Nigel Dishwater stabbed an exquisitely manicured forefinger at a display of photographs of the newly acquired hostleries. Jasper Goosegrease shifted uneasily as he surveyed this prospect of doom. It was upon his recommendation that the takeover had been launched. He'd done his homework, though, and had plans to convert or dispose of many of the out-of-date premises which they'd taken over.

"I agree with your sentiments, Nigel," Jasper ventured. "We're not a charity and should not be seen by our shareholders to be supporting what amount to subsidised social clubs for the grubby and impecunious. I don't see why we should regard ourselves as custodians of a working class culture which is alien to all we stand for. Happily most of the buildings are well constructed and can be gutted to provide a welcoming ambience for the better-heeled class of customer

that we're looking for. Catering and machine income can be increased enormously and we can switch the emphasis from low margin draught beers to upmarket designer labels and cocktails. All the pubs are capable of doubling their contribution to our profits within the year. I recommend that we press ahead with a refurbishment programme to eradicate the outmoded image of the Brobdingnag boozier."

"Quite so," Dishwater rejoined. "But how are we going to get round the planning laws and licensing regulations?"

"Easy," said the Properties Director as he gazed with affection at an architect's model of a revamped Ye Olde Three Crowns. "We'll employ the best solicitors around and bamboozle them all with panoramic vistas, sample fabrics and exquisite menus. The local beaks are a soft touch, anyway. Most of them never go in a pub and have a patrician disdain for working class locals. We'll just tell them that the pubs will be a lot posher, not full of riff-raff, and that you can see all over the premises from the bar to stop drug dealers. They'll buy that. It should be a pushover."

"Well, you've certainly eased my mind, Jasper." The Chairman removed the roof from Ye Olde Three Crowns and pointed to what used to be the vault. "My first wife's grandfather played dominoes in here. I could never stand the fellow."

Branch Diary

Rochdale, Oldham & Bury

Tues 5 March 8.30pm, Branch 21st Birthday Meeting, The Kings, Market Place, Heywood.

Sat 9 March. Social trip to Keighley & Worth Valley. Contact has details

Thur 14 March 8.30pm, Oldham Beer Festival Planning Meeting, Beer Emporium, Union Street, Oldham

Tues 19 March 8.30pm, Committee Meeting, Dusty Miller, Crostons Road, Bury

Tues 26 March 8.30pm, What's Doing Collation, Flying Horse, Town Hall Square, Rochdale

Tues 2 April 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Royal Oak, Union Street, Mumps, Oldham

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

Trafford & Hulme

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

Thur 7 Mar 8pm, Legh Arms, Sale Moor. Discussion of GBG entries

Thur 14 Mar 8pm, Hogshead, Altrincham. Final selection for GBG and last day to hand in completed survey forms

Thur 21 March 8pm, Ancoats Walkabout. Commencing Jolly Angler, Ducie Street, followed by White House, Great Ancoats Street; Land o'Cakes, Smithfield Vaults and Hare & Hounds, Shudehill

Thur 28 March 8pm, Knutsford Walkabout. Commencing Builders Arms, then on to Legh Arms, Cross Keys, Freemasons, Kings and White Bear

Thur 4 April, Flixton/Urmston survey. 8pm Church, Flixton Road, followed by Roebuck, Lord Nelson and Manor Hey

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

North Manchester

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

Wed Mar 13 8pm, Committee/Social, Bridgewater, Barton Road, Worsley. Meet in the vault.

Sat Mar 16, Regional Meeting, Edington Arms, Hindley, 12.30pm

Wed Mar 20 8pm, Branch Meeting and AGM, White Swan, Worsley Road, Swinton

Wed Mar 27 8pm, Social, Mitchell Arms, Every Street, Ancoats

Wed April 3, Higher Blackley Crawl. Wellington, Weardale Road, 7pm;

Pleasant, Chapel Lane, 8pm; Old House at Home, Bottomley Side, 9pm;

White Lion, Middleton Old Road, to finish.

Contact: Roger Hall 0161 740 7937

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**



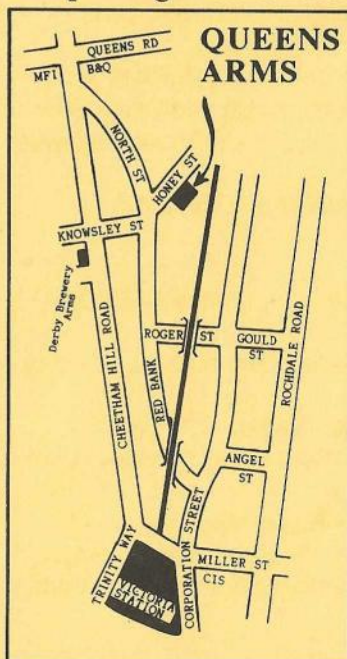
Bitter from 95p a pint

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***