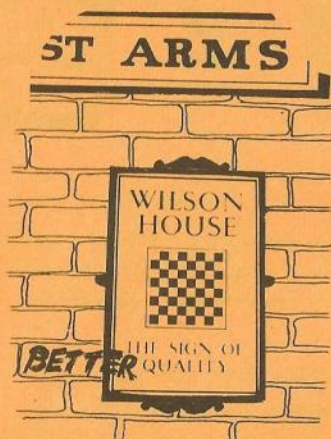


WHAT'S DOING



CHRISTMAS ISSUE 1977

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S NEWSLETTER



WILSONS PUBS GOING BACK TO REAL ALE

Wilsons plan to convert a sizeable number of pubs back to cask conditioned beer. Cellar inspections are being carried out at the moment and the full list of pubs which will be changed over will not be available until the suitability of each outlet has been checked. The pubs selected are distributed throughout the north west, some of them in outlying districts like Holmes Chapel and Macclesfield. The greatest concentration, however, will be in Greater Manchester. The changes will begin in the New Year to the first dozen pubs and more will follow in due course.

Contrary to the reports in the last issue of What's Doing, Wilsons have only seven non-real-ale pubs in Salford. Those intrepid Salford hundreders must have suffered from jaded palates during their wanderings in the summer of '76. According to Wilsons, the Irwell Castle, the Live and Let Live, the Ordsall and the Trafford have always served cask conditioned beer. Subsequent tastings would seem to conform this. When the Angel is converted back to cask, Wilsons will have 34 real ale pubs to 6 non-real in the city.

Some members of the Trafford branch were under the impression at a recent meeting that the Urmston sells chilled and filtered beer. In fact the pub has

been on hogsheads of real ale for about twelve months.

The Oddfellows Arms in Pendlebury also serves real ale and should be included in the North Manchester Real Ale Guide, together with the four pubs in Salford mentioned above.

A new real ale Wilsons pub opens on Irlams o'th'Height on December 6th. The pub has been named the Britannia in memory of its predecessor which was demolished for the new A6.

Roger Hall



STRONG ALE

by Alan Gall

Many brewers have now discontinued the old and venerable practice of selling a strong ale on draught during the long winter months. Happily for Greater Mancunians with a taste for high gravity beers, four local brewers still uphold the tradition.

Robinsons were the first to start the season on October 10th with Old Tom, the strongest of our foursome. Although the recommended price is 41p per pint, drinkers can expect to pay above this in non-managed houses. The Star, Salford, for example, is charging 52p per pint. Old Tom is reported to be very popular, hence the season lasting several months. If it sounds expensive, just compare it with the cost of barley wine in nip size bottles, ($\frac{1}{3}$ pint). Old Tom is now on sale in numerous Robinsons pubs.

Supplies of Boddingtons Strong Ale left the brewery on October 31st. Although the 'weakest' at an original gravity of 1063, it must be good value at 31p per pint. This is the managed house price but prices seem fairly stable. The best way to serve Boddies Strong is straight from the barrel, as I found out from a weak-tasting pint on handpump. Mix it half and half with mild and you have a malty brew, original gravity 1047, for only about 26p per pint.

Lees are waiting for the weather to turn colder before sending out their Moonraker in bulk - 'We like to see some snow on the ground first'. This potent brew is a recent introduction and will be available at the Old Cock, Oldham Road, the Middleton Archer, Middleton and the Lancashire Fold. A typical price per pint last year was 40p and the brewery say that there should be little change.

Anvil Strong Ale on draught has been reintroduced by Hydes after a lapse of

some years. Last year the original gravity was 1068 but it has now been increased to 1078. Managed house price is 48p per pint or 16p per $\frac{1}{3}$ pint in pubs which still have the old nip sized stamped glasses. Again, prices will vary a little. Anvil has been available since early November and is served by gravity from six-gallon casks in a number of outlets. Try it mixed with mild or bitter.

The adventurous might like to try the following recipes. Take care with the sugar for the beer soup as I suspect $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb may be a misprint in the original recipe. A little over $\frac{1}{2}$ lb seems quite adequate.

Beer Soup

$\frac{3}{4}$ pint of strong ale, $\frac{3}{4}$ pint milk, 2 eggs, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb caster sugar (see text), a pinch of nutmeg. Heat the milk to almost boiling in a large pan. Beat the egg, sugar and nutmeg together in a bowl. Pour into the milk and stir until fairly thick. Add to the beer in a bowl and whisk.

Mulled Ale

Heat a pint of strong ale with $\frac{1}{4}$ lb of brown sugar and spices to taste. When almost boiling, remove from the heat and add two ounces of brandy or rum. Serve very hot with pieces of toast on the surface.

Some Outlets

Boddingtons Strong Ale

Union Inn, Stockport Road, Levenshulme
Old Garratt, Princess Street, Manchester 1
Meridian, Bollington
Oddfellow, Openshaw
Oswald Road Off-Licence, Oswald Road, Chorlton
Stamford Arms, Altrincham
Boars Head, Poynton
Ducie Arms Hotel, Great Ducie Street, Strangeways
Wellington Inn, Stalybridge
Buck and Dog, Bridge Street, Stockport

Hydes Anvil Strong Ale

Jolly Angler, 47 Ducie Street, Manchester
Grey Horse, Portland Street, Manchester
Grand Junction, Chichester Road, Hulme
Gateway, Kingsway, Parrswood
Osborne House, Victory Street, Rusholme
Pack Horse, Watling Street, Affetside, Bury

How they compare

	<u>Original gravity</u>	<u>Managed house price</u>
Robinsons Old Tom Strong Ale	1079	41
Hydes Anvil Strong Ale	1078	48
Lees Moonraker	1074	40 approx
Boddingtons Strong Ale	1063	31
Lowenbrau Lager	1050	45*
Stella Artois Lager	1048	42½*
Average Bitter	1036	

*Average National Prices



REAL ALE IN MANCHESTER CENTRAL..... 20p + s.a.e.

This is an illustrated guide to every real ale outlet within 1 mile of St Peter's square, including map, suggested crawls and brewery information.

REAL ALE IN MANCHESTER AND SALFORD . 10p + s.a.e.

A list of every pub selling real ale in central and north Manchester, Eccles, Salford, Swinton and Irlam.



Available from Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester

SALFORD PUBS – REGENT ROAD

That part of Salford between Regent Road and the Crescent was developed with the coming of the canal, and later the railway in the early 1800s, although Cross Lane, Regent Road, Oldfield Road and the Crescent were in existence – under different names – a hundred years before.

The Windsor Castle was the first pub in this part of Salford. It was there in 1797 when the Bolton and Bury Canal reached Windsor. The first packet boat was launched from here before the Oldfield Road terminus was finished and the landlord also looked after the boathouse.

Some industry then developed on Hope Street, where a cotton mill and a dye works occupied sites now covered by the railway line. The first pubs to appear on Oldfield Road were the Kings Arms in 1820 and four years later the Spinners. Many pubs at that time brewed their own beer and although the Kings Arms was rebuilt in the 1850s, there are still traces of the old well in the yard behind the pub. Next to appear were the Boathouse Hotel, also known as the Oldfield Road Hotel and the Canal Tavern, and the Derby Arms on Hope Street. The strangely named Number 4 Tavern dates from the 1820s and is shown on the first Ordnance Survey map of Salford (1848). This pub stood on Hope Street near the two mills and was closed at the time of the First World War. The Number 5 Vaults, a Groves and Whitnall beerhouse opposite the Number 4, lasted well into the 1920s. Again in the early 1800s, the Barracks Canteen, Regent Road Barracks, appears in the list of licensed premises.



Corner of Regent Road and Oldfield Road in 1908, showing the Lord Raglan. Note the iron-wheeled dray on the right.

The map shows every known pub and beerhouse to have existed in the area, but obviously they were not all there at the same time. Many of the beerhouses never had official names and those whose names we were unable to discover are marked 'B'. One such beerhouse still stands; now Jean's Cafe between the Spinners and the Brown Cow (Hobson's Choice), it stopped selling beer in 1936. It is possible that it had the name the Stag Inn. The pubs on Cross Lane are not marked on the map, as some were covered in the recent Hanky Park article and the rest will be dealt with in a future issue of What's Doing.



The Fox, some time after it was taken over by Greenall Whitley. The houses on Goodiers Lane are bricked up ready for demolition.

Less than five years ago there were over twenty-one public houses on and around Regent Road. Perhaps the most famous – or infamous – was the Fox, on the corner of Regent Road and Goodiers Lane. It was known to dockers and merchant seamen throughout the world since most of its custom came from Salford



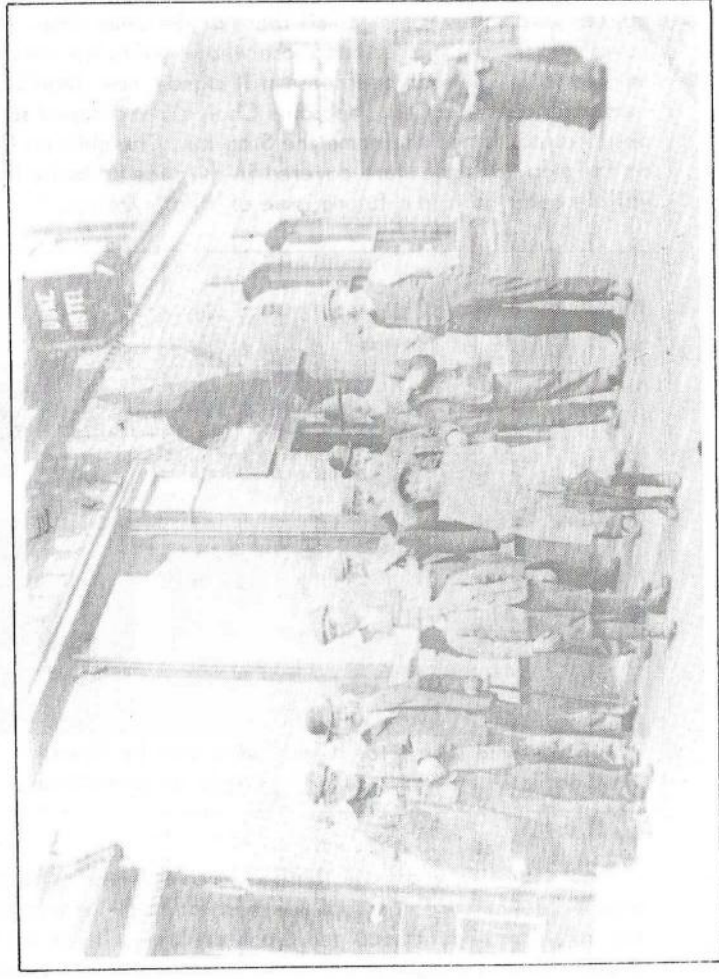
The Royal Albert, still standing.

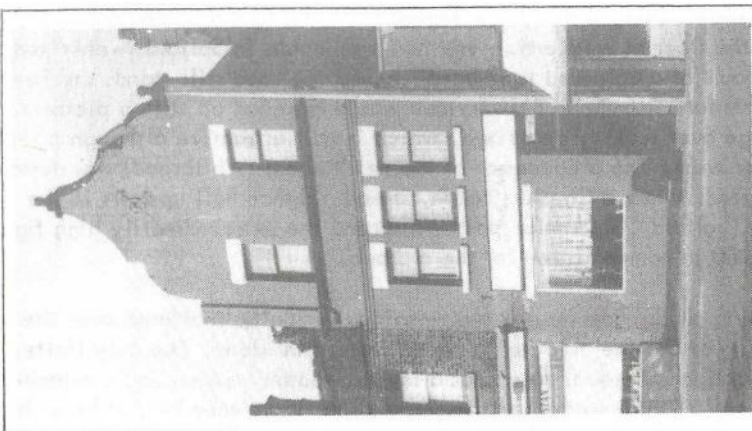
48. Number Five Vaults (GW)
 49. Nags Head (Swales)
 50. Beehive (Lees)

41. Star (G&W)
 42. Lord Raglan (W&H)
 43. Wheatsheaf (Wil)
 44. Founders Arms (-)
 45. Pontack (-)
 46. Seven Stars (-)
 47. Barracks Canteen (-)

34. Albert (Hardys)
 35. Duke of York (Threl)
 36. Sir Colin Campbell (Wil)
 37. Live and Let Live (Wil)
 38. Gas Tavern (G&W)
 39. Borough (G&W)
 40. Peeping Tom (Tet)

1. Black Horse (GW)
 2. Red Dragon (Tet)
 3. Windsor Castle (W&H)
 4. Prince of Wales Feathers (Wil)
 5. Prince of Wales (Tet)
 6. St Phillips Hotel (Wil)
 7. Kings Arms (W&H)
 8. Prince of Wales (Cornbrook)
 9. Railway House (-)
 10. Old British Fleet (-)
 11. Derby Arms (Threl)
 12. Boathouse Hotel (Swales)
 13. Spinners Arms (Marstons)
 14. B (Stag Inn, Swales?)
 15. Brown Cow (Chesters)
 16. Oddfellows Arms (Holts)
 17. Fox Tavern (Burtonwood)
 18. Number Four Tavern (-)
 19. Railway (Wil)
 20. Royal Albert (GW)
 21. Union Tavern (Holts)
 22. Druids Arms (Wil)
 23. Live and Let Live (Bodd)
 24. Duke Hotel (Threl)
 25. Railway (Hardys)
 26. Red Cow (Bodd)
 27. Alexandra Inn (GW)
 28. Regent (Chesters)
 29. Fox Inn (GW)
 30. Wellington (Bodd)
 31. Grove (G&W)
 32. Gloucester (Wil)
 33. Spread Eagle (Holts)





Ex-beerhouse, possibly the Stag Inn?

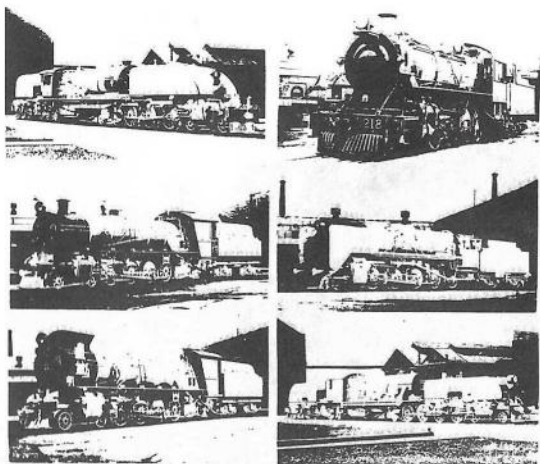
docks. The brawls there were almost legendary – the furniture was reputedly screwed to the floor at weekends – and how many pubs in Salford twenty years ago could boast of a coloured jazz band? Across the road still stands the Peeping Tom. This former Empress Brewery pub was brightened up with a pictorial tiled frontage over seventy years ago, which is still attractive although a little the worse for wear. The predecessor of the new Regent (Whitbread) was demolished this year. Once a Chesters house, it had a dance hall upstairs in the early 1950s. Salford Corporation paid Whitbread the extraordinarily high figure of £46,000 in compensation for the old pub.

The Albert, a tiny Bass house, has remained virtually unaltered over the years. Worth looking at are the coloured, leaded Hardys windows. The only Holts pub on Regent Road, the SpreadEagle, has a large, wooden golden eagle attached to one corner wall. Eighty years ago the Gloucester was owned by J H Lees' Moss Side Brewery and was then called the Cambridge. It was later a Wilsons pub and was closed for some time before reopening as a free house. A former landlord, Billy Watkins, was one of the original Salford Rugby Club 'Red Devils' who won the Rugby League Challenge Cup in 1938 – the last time Salford won it. The only Boddingtons house on Regent Road is the Wellington, just before Oldfield Road. The landlady, Mrs Jessie Valentine, has been at the Wellington for forty-three years, surely a record for one pub.

Many of Regent Road's pubs are scheduled for demolition as part of a new road scheme. In the very near future only a tiny fraction of the ones on this list will still be standing.

Neil Richardson & Tony Flynn





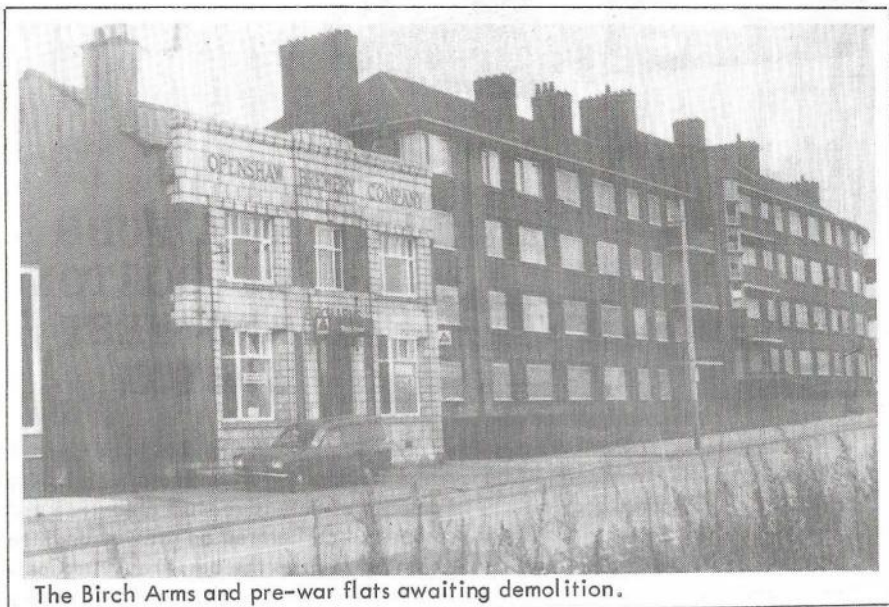
THE PUBS OF GORTON AND WEST GORTON

Gorton and West Gorton lie roughly between Ashton Old Road and Hyde Road. This is one of the many parts of Lancashire transformed from a rural community to an industrial township and latterly to an area of extensive slum clearance and redevelopment. Gorton's industrial prosperity was centred on railway engineering and many of its pubs reflected this with names such as the Bessemer, the Comet, the Vulcan and the Locomotive. Older pubs like the Plough, the Pack Horse and the Waggon and Horses on main carriage routes are reminders of its rural past.

Of the massive Beyer-Peacock works which once built steam locomotives for many countries only a small portion remains, but the Vulcan (Wilsons) and the Steelworks Tavern (Whitbread) are still at either end of the site. Opposite the latter was the Bessemer, demolished fairly recently. In the centre of West Gorton



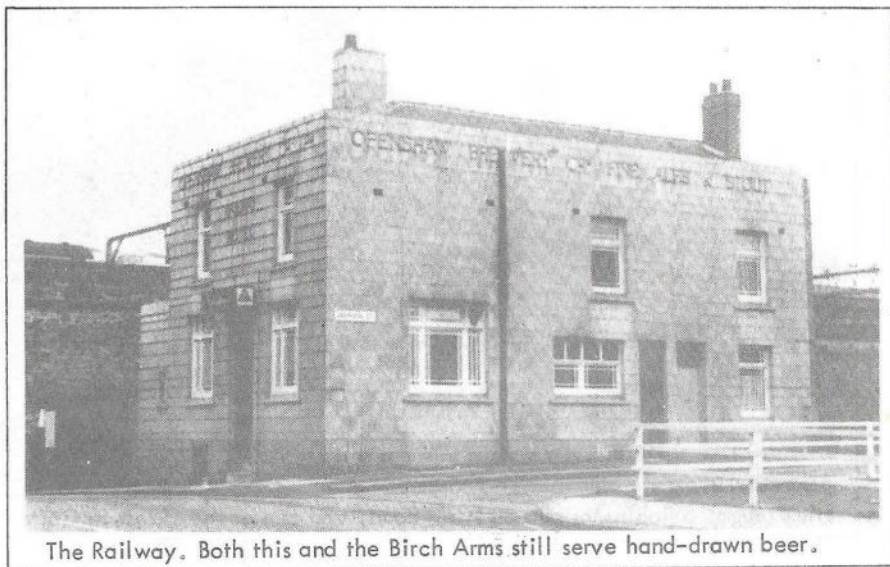
The Plough, a Robinsons pub on Hyde Road, and one of the oldest in Gorton.



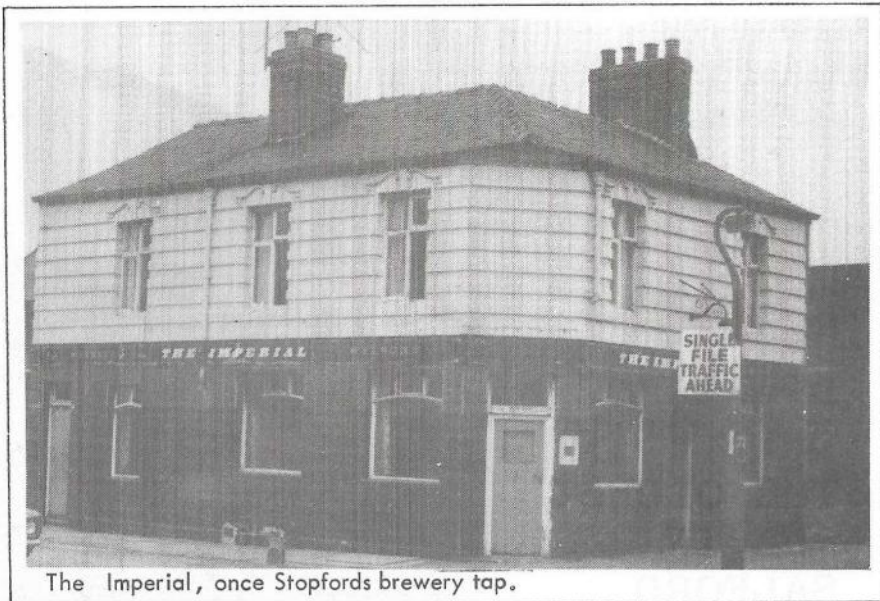
The Birch Arms and pre-war flats awaiting demolition.

there still stands the Gorton Brook, a huge pub now isolated on the corner of Clowes Street and Gorton Road. Further down Gorton Road are the Birch Arms and the Railway, two Bass pubs which still boast Openshaw Brewery tilework and lettering. The brewery itself was behind the Railway.

Parts of another brewery can still be seen in West Gorton - Stopfords Imperial Brewery on Birch Street. The company was taken over by Walker & Homfray of



The Railway. Both this and the Birch Arms still serve hand-drawn beer.



The Imperial, once Stopfords brewery tap.

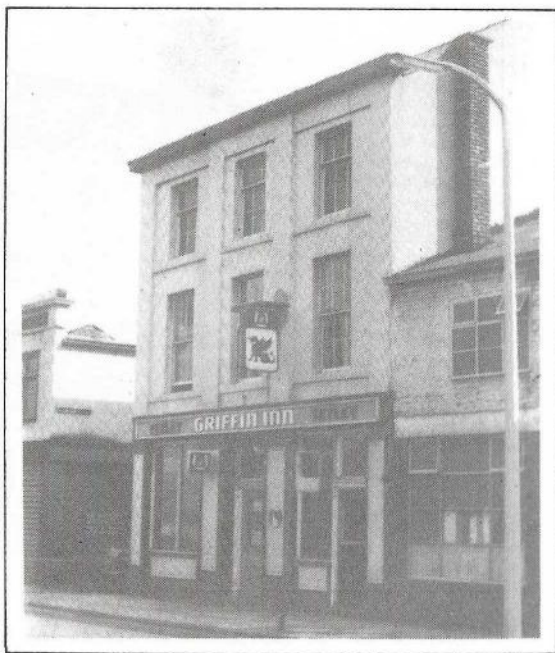
Salford, which was absorbed by Wilsons. The brewery buildings are now part of the Imperial Trading Estate although the brewery tap, the Imperial, still remains with its beautiful, albeit cracked, tiled facade.

There are two pubs whose future is safe since they have been thoughtfully incorporated into new housing development. The Marsland is part of a precinct off what was once Dorset Street and the old natural flag pavement still turns the corner at the side of the pub. The other pub is the Crown in the middle of a housing estate near St Francis' Church and still carries its Chesters illuminated sign.



The Crown, an old pub in a new housing estate.

THE OLDEST PUB IN SALFORD



There are twelve public houses still standing in Salford which were built before 1825. These are the Braziers Arms, the Brown Bull, the Crown, the Griffin, the Lord Nelson, the Old Shears, the Punch Bowl, the Red Lion, the Salford Arms, the Spinners Arms, the Tallow Tub and the Waterloo.

In 1825 the building which now houses the Punch Bowl on Chapel Street was the residence of a surgeon and apothecary - one Thomas Hulme. The pub, which was then known as the Waggon and Horses, was in Booth Street in what is now the back room of the Punch Bowl and did not extend into Chapel Street until 1829. Prior to 1822 the pub was called the Commercial and dates back certainly to 1818 and perhaps earlier.

Greengate still contains two old pubs both of which have changed their names. In 1825 the Old Shears was known as the Iron Bridge Tavern, yet seven years earlier it was the Shears. The Waterloo was called the Duke of Wellington and it seems that the pub may have occupied more of the building than it does at present. The Tallow Tub near Cook Street Brewery has changed its name twice. In recent years it was known as the Queens Arms, but 150 years ago the pub was the Moulders Arms.

The Braziers, the Crown, the Red Lion, the Salford Arms and the Tallow Tub are not included in the 1818 street directory and in 1797 only two pubs appear which still exist today - the Brown Bull and the Griffin. As it seems extremely unlikely that the Brown Bull is an original building, the Griffin is probably the oldest pub in the city. It is unfortunate that Salford's oldest pub does not sell real ale.

Roger Hall

WHAT'S DOING IN TRAFFORD & HULME

The inaugural meeting was held on November 17th and a committee duly elected. Please contact any committee member with questions or suggestions. Their names are given in the Branch Diary.

One cold Thursday night saw a few of us ambling round a corner of Hulme and Salford in the wake of the Gorton Morris Men (contact Chris Cole 061-223-5617 for bookings). We met up with them outside the Cornbrook with blue noses at 8.15 and inside at 8.25 with red noses. Luckily they only went round the real ale pubs so it was to be the start of a good evening. The Cornbrook on Chester Road serves Tetleys through electric pumps and is a friendly, basic, two-roomed pub with an open-top table football game alongside the ubiquitous pool table in the lounge bar. Ronald Mellor is the tenant, having taken it over just over two years ago after leaving the Prince of Wales, Salford (handpumped Tetleys). Unfortunately Mr and Mrs Mellor are leaving the trade in January having found it hard to make a decent living there, largely because of the heavy competition of a lot of pubs in a small area.

We left the Morris Men doing their thing in the icy wind and nipped into the neighbouring Pomona Palace (handpumped Marstons Burton bitter and mild). John Phelan has been the tenant here for some ten years and the beer is consistently good. Like the Cornbrook, the Pomona has two rooms - a pool room and a public bar - and is a very friendly pub. From there it was a minute's dance to the Hope Inn (Hydes best mild and bitter on electric pumps) where we met the Morris Men in the gents before they spilled out on to the pavement to be joined by a little old lady kicking her legs as high as any Tiller girl. Nice pair of legs, luv. Stan Smith has been tenant of the Hope since March 21st of this year, when he left the Darley Lawn Tennis Club in Whalley Range (fizzy Wilsons) to take up his present job. He's now shifting around ten barrels a week, of which mild has the largest share.

Further along Chester Road is the Manchester Regiment (Greenalls, electric pumps) where the Morris Men danced in the carpeted vault and dusted the ceiling with their tickling sticks. Jack Thomas has been manager since the Regiment opened some eight and a half years ago. It is the only link with the now disbanded Manchester Regiment and was built on the lines of the garrison church (St George's, Hulme) and the Hulme barracks.

We left the Regiment and crossed the frontier into Salford for more dancing in the streets and singing and Holts in the Bricklayers. A good night, lads. Thanks.

In brief: the Valley Lodge Hotel near Wilmslow is rumoured to be getting Boddingtons soon; and a good plug for the Railway Inn, Broadheath (Boddingtons) in the Sunday People of November 27th - voted top of the list for 'cheapest pub nosh in Britain' with meat and potato pie, mushy peas and gravy for 23p, not bad!

Mick Rottenbury



A POEM FOR CHRISTMAS

It was Christmas Eve in the Throstle,
The landlord lay on the floor,
His pump arm were limp and exhausted,
And the buggers were crying for more.

It were just coming up to 10.30,
The extension went on until late,
But the bitter had run out already
And mild would soon share the same fate.

The lads had begun to turn ugly,
For the strong ale were almost gone too,
And young Rodney made the suggestion
Of moving on to t'Waterloo.

At this landlord grabbed for his handpumps
And hauled himself on to one knee,
His eyes were all bloodshot and weary,
But he gave out this heartrending plea.

'Nay, lads, now you cannot desert me,
After all I have kept thee good beer,
You've been drinking owd Drabs since your
childhood

And you've not had a bad pint from here.

Now I know landlord there is me brother,
And I've no wish to run the lad down,
But tha knows that he keeps it on pressure
Since Grobleys shut Diggles Ales down.

So how can you go and drink that stuff?
If your fathers were here you'd not dare,
They fought for the likes of you young 'uns,
You've no respect now, you don't care.'

At this lads were shamefaced and humbled
And a great hush fell over the room,
And no-one could look at the landlord,
There descended a great cloud of gloom.

Then young Rodney, blushing profusely,
His eyes wet with tears of remorse,
Stood up crying, 'Aye, Jack, how could we?
We'll stay on and sup thi White Horse.'

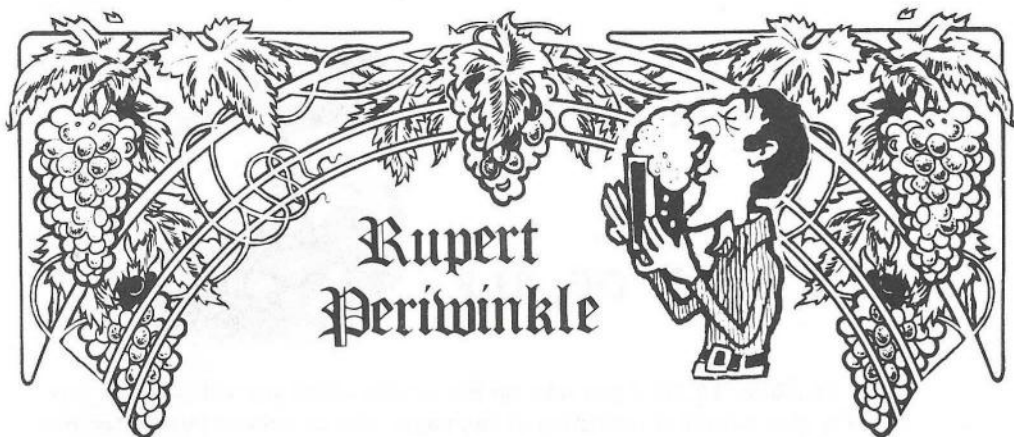
This loyal resolve was prevented
By disturbance and cheering outside,
And in marched the pub's ladies' darts team,
Their bosoms all heaving with pride.

They'd just taken trophy from Bury,
And that was not all, for they'd won
A hogshead of Wraggses from Bacup
Which they'd brought back to add to the fun.

At this the lads broke down like babies,
They laughed and they cried at same time,
'How could we have doubted thee, Jack lad,
Especially at Christmas time?'

The landlord was rejuvenated,
The extension went on until two,
And all swore they'd never touch Grobleys,
So take note - they didn't - would you?





It's good to see that What's Doing is in an onward-going expansion situation. Not that one countenances the premature demise of our sister publication, Opening Times, with such memorable features as the Thingy that Wotsit Built, but it's nice to know that one's mediocrity is being spread more thinly and that more people can be kept totally au fait with misinformed twaddle as of now in a total metropolitan situation. Fiona, who enjoys the undoubted privilege of being the only real ale drinking punk nun in Grotley, had some particularly apposite comments to make about future editorial policy. The strains of the juke-box in the Gungesmeare's Arms playing a track from 'Cut the Crap - it's the Luton Girls' Choir' does tend to intrude into intimate conversations but Fiona expounded volubly on the opportunities which had presented themselves. 'No longer,' she began, 'will we have to confine our wares to unappreciative smelly stevedores in the Dockers Wedge in Grotley. The world is our wheelk - the middle classes are self-evidently the key to success and although we've sold the odd copy in the Fatted Pseud, our campaigning hasn't really taken root in the south. We can now bring our influence to bear in Smarmbury and Snottingham, in Snobley and in Snoot Magna. No longer will we have to be coy about using expressions such as 'jungle juice', 'Kamikaze XXX', 'rocket fuel' and 'well-hopped' which might be howled down with derision in plebeian Greater Grotley but which will be assimilated with ease in more cultured environments.'

'Hear, hear!.' Arbuthnot was heard to mutter in approbation as he extricated his meerschaum from the spittoon. 'Gorton today, the world tomorrow.'



© 1988, The Daily Mirror. The 100 is a game. (Picture: Norman Ackland)



THE TALE OF ALE

For £6.00 (or £5.00 if you take up the special offer) you will receive two 12" LPs, plus a booklet consisting of ten pages with an informative potted history of ale and beer in the British Isles interspersed with old engravings. Hogarth's 'Beer Street', minus the usual rhyme which extols the virtues of beer, occupies the front cover, whilst 'Gin Lane' and various other illustrations are found inside.

In addition there is a well-produced booklet, 'Much in Little' from Ruddles, with a no-nonsense account of brewing, a map and full list of all their real and unreal outlets. Leaflets from Banks's, Batemans and Youngs complete the package.

The songs are in roughly chronological order, from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries, with appropriate musical accompaniment supplied by two groups, Musica Inebriata (fiddle, recorders, cittern, bassoon and percussion) on the earlier tracks and the Pump and Pluck Band (concertinas, banjo, mouth organ, trombone and percussion). My personal preference was for the latter sound.

Much of the singing has what I can only describe as a nasal quality, which seems to be obligatory in modern traditional folk circles. My own favourites were 'London's Ordinary' with its astonishing list of old London alehouses, and the deeply moving Temperance song, 'Don't Go Out Tonight, Dear Father'. Compare three different versions of 'John Barleycorn' (the song, not the Stockport beer) and discover that the ubiquitous 'Ale, Ale, Glorious Ale' of the current folk club scene is of comparatively recent origin.

The songs are punctuated with readings from various writers on the subjects of beer and of drink in general, epitaphs and poems. One of the contributors is Willie Rushton, who to my ears always manages to sound like Harold Macmillan, even when he is doing a Scottish accent!

I would pick one quarrel with the advertisement: nowhere in the booklet could I find the words to the songs, nor the 'History of the Fight for Real Ale'. Minor criticisms, really, of what is quite an interesting and enjoyable double album. As the advertisement says, it is an essential record for the serious beer drinker - as essential, I would venture, as a Banks's tee-shirt or a Ruddles apron, which are also offered in the accompanying booklets.

Pete Cash

REGULARS AND CAMRA



I've heard Camra described as a success. This may be understandable in What's Brewing and other self-congratulatory literature but these sentiments have recently appeared in the hallowed pages of What's Doing. My contention is that the Camra message has not yet got through to the drinking public at large, particularly to regular drinkers of unreal beer and that is what counts.

One of the great stumbling blocks to the resurrection of real ale is that regulars tend to have a loyalty to a particular pub no matter what stuff is served up. Unless the real ale movement gets through to these customers, who are in essence the backbone of the pub trade, the movement will have only limited success and could be doomed to eventual failure. Many experienced regulars of course know their ale and are more important to the real ale movement than Camra itself. 'Unreal' regulars, even though they do not extol the virtue of the beer, feel at home in a particular pub, down the stuff and get on with the doms and darts.

Of course that is their choice and it is dodgy ground to say the least for a single individual to try and tell people what they should and should not drink. If the trendy Rupert Periwinkle went into a Whitbread vault in Salford to try and influence their drinking habits the results would be pretty predictable and somewhat violent.

On the other hand I've never heard lager and unreal beer referred to as nectar. The kindest compliments are that it's 'all right', 'drinkable', 'owt's better than nowt' and so on. The criticisms are many and varied - 'undrinkable', 'gnat's piss' and 'gaseous gut rot' are three of the more printable descriptions of such dreaded liquid.

I've heard Camra described as a racket and a waste of time. The middle class, half-pint-trendy, puffed image still persists, and the basic message, which is to persuade the big breweries to produce and promote top quality real ale, is lost in a welter of irrelevant paraphernalia. Some regulars tend to view Camra with varying combinations of suspicion, hostility, amusement or just sheer apathy. If the word Camra is mentioned the conversation tends to turn to the faults of the organisation itself and to minor

indiscretions of certain members which are blown up out of all proportion. The plain fact is that Camra is composed of a few fairly well aware drinkers, trendies or otherwise who are trying to persuade the brewers to brew the top quality real ale we know they are capable of producing. But unless the drinking public at large and regulars in particular take a serious interest in the beer they drink, the real ale movement will become a trendy little clique and not the mass consumer organisation it should be.

Bill Collier

NEWS IN BRIEF

The landlord of the Union Hotel, Levenshulme, Mr Richard Normansell, is to retire at the end of January after more years at the pub than he cares to remember. There are now fears that this friendly, basic pub is to be 'improved' and it is rumoured that an extension is to be built. Regular customers are concerned that the handpumps may disappear along with the character of the pub. However, the new licensee is to be the present landlord of the Jolly Carter in Northenden, who is believed to favour handpump dispense. He is being replaced in the recently rebuilt Jolly Carter by a manager.

The long-awaited Boddingtons bicentennial ale will not be a cask conditioned or even a bottle conditioned beer. It will be a processed bottled beer with an original gravity of 1090.

Most licensees involved in pub swaps in Leigh and Atherton seem to have forgotten their initial dismay after receiving the big brewers' hospitality. The swaps may benefit the lager drinker - Bass Charrington have the widest choice in the country - but are sad for those who like real ale. Three Tetley-Walker pubs in the area have gone to Bass, who seem more eager to sell keg Stones bitter than their own excellent real ale, and others to John Smiths (Courage), who now brew no cask conditioned beer at all.

CAMRA BRANCH DIARY

TRAFFORD & HULME

Branch Meeting: Thurs Dec 15th Malt Shovels, Stamford Street, Altrincham. 8.00pm.
Speaker: John Hutchinson, Public Relations Manager, Bass N.W.

Pub Crawl: Fri Dec 9th. Pomona 7.30; Cornbrook 8.00pm. Both Chester Road (264 bus)

Social: Thurs Dec 22nd. Carters Arms, 367 Northenden Rd, Sale Moor (41 bus)
8.00pm. By special arrangement, Merrie Monk will be available.

Newly elected committee: Chairman, John Curry, 65 Edge Lane, Stretford. Tel 372 2181 ext 266 (work). Treasurer, Dave Ward, 2 Thelwall Close, Altrincham 928 9826 (home). Secretary, Mick Rottenbury, 50 Poplar Grove, Sale. 969 7013 (home). Committee, Ian McDermott, 3 Firwood Avenue, Urmston. Dave Shelton,

16 Fir Tree Avenue, Knutsford. Peter Delaney, 25 Brunswick Road, Broadheath, Altrincham. 962 2231 ext 411 (work). Alan Hurdle, 213 Manor Avenue, Sale 973 2013 (home). Please contact any of the above with questions or suggestions.

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Branch Meeting: 8pm Thursday 12th January 1978, Gateway Hotel, Parrswood, East Didsbury.

Social Evening: Wednesday 14th December. Bridgewater Hotel, Chestergate, Stockport. Brewers Bitter, food, etc. Officials from Wilsons Brewery will be present.

NORTH MANCHESTER

Pub Crawl: Weds 4 Jan 1978 Cross Lane, Regent Road. 7.00pm Paddock, 8.30pm Star Hotel, Regent Road.

Social/Cttee Meeting: Weds 11 Jan. Cricketers, Bradford Road.

Branch Meeting: Weds 18th Jan. The Lamb, Eccles. 8.00pm.



Editor: Neil Richardson, 94 Leach Street, Farnworth, Bolton.

Subscriptions: £1 for 6 issues from Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester.

Contributions are invited from readers on all things to do with pubs and beer in Greater Manchester. If you have an article to submit, or an idea for one, get in touch with the editor.

CAMRA

Camra is a national consumer organisation concerned with maintaining the choice of beer and preserving the variety of pubs throughout the country. Until recently takeovers by the six major brewing companies resulted in the closure of local breweries and the loss of many draught beers. The threat is still there but as a result of Camra's efforts many pubs have gone back to serving cask-conditioned beer, and the big brewers are slowly realising that there is a demand for good beer in traditional pub surroundings.

If you want to preserve your right to choose what you drink fill in the membership form below. 'What's Brewing' is the Campaign's newspaper, sent free to members every month, and keeps them in touch with news and events throughout the country.

Application for membership

I/We wish to become a member(s) of the Campaign for Real Ale Limited. I/We agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the campaign.

I enclose £4 (£6 Overseas) for full membership ☐

We enclose £5 for husband and wife membership ☐

Application for Associateship

I wish to become an Associate of CAMRA Ltd.

I agree to abide by the aims of the organisation and enclose my fee of £1 ☐

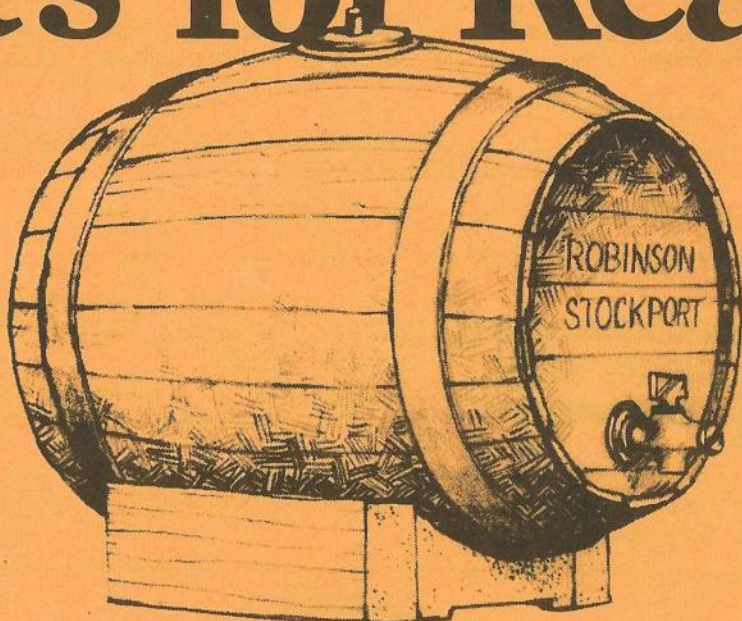
FULL NAME (Block capitals)

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS (Block capitals)

SIGNATURE..... DATE.....

Cheques should be made payable to Campaign for Real Ale Limited. Applications should be sent to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts. AL1 3BW.

It's for Real



We, at Robinson's, think that what matters most about beer is its flavour. That's why we are still brewing beer the same way that we did a hundred years ago. Natural ingredients, the same time-honoured brewing ways, even on the same site — not many can say that!

And you can buy at least one, usually two and sometimes more of the traditional Ales listed here in any Robinson's pub within 100 miles of Stockport. Not many can make that sort of claim either.

Now you can have Real Ale at home for parties or just for your own enjoyment. Available in Firkins and Pins*, complete with tap, stillage and detailed instructions. You can order

from any Robinson's On or Off-Licence or Unicorn Wine Shops.

Always available from Unicorn Wine,

Old Tom Ale
Best Bitter Ale
Bitter Ale*
Best Mild Ale



Lower Hillgate, Stockport, (just by the Brewery) 061 480 6571. And its the cheapest way of buying beer. A little more trouble perhaps but we think you will agree with us that it is worth it.

There are deposits on the casks, stillages and taps, returnable in full when you bring them back. You can borrow glasses, paying only for those you break or fail to return providing you also make appropriate purchases of items to fill them.

We strongly recommend that you place your order as soon as possible for Christmas or New Year use.

It's Robinson's . . . for Real.

*Bitter Ale not available in Pins.

**When you buy any of these Robinson's Ales,
you are buying Traditional Draught Beer
~at its very best.**