

25p

# What's Doing

JULY 1997



The Manchester Beer Drinker's Monthly Magazine

## THE GREENALLS SELL-OFF

A few weeks ago Greenalls advertised fifty-eight of their pubs for sale by auction. Thirty were in the Greater Manchester area, most of them former BodPubCo houses. In the event, two pubs, the Palatine and the Bee Hive in Salford, were sold before the auction and three were withdrawn from sale. Fourteen failed to reach their reserve price and of the others that were sold, the highest bid was £150,000 for the Wellington on Regent Road in Salford. The Paddock went for £130,000 and the Kings Arms on Bloom Street for £106,000. The cheapest was the Jubilee in Ordsall - just £9,000.

The thirty pubs were as follows...

**Bee Hive**, Holland Street,  
Salford  
**Black Horse**, Crescent,  
Salford  
**Church Inn**, Hilton Street,  
Salford  
**Dover**, Fenney Street, Salford  
**Jubilee**, Phoebe Street,  
Salford  
**Kings Arms**, Bloom Street,  
Salford  
**Old Veteran**, My Street, Salford  
**Paddock**, Cross Lane,  
Salford  
**Palatine**, Edward Street,  
Salford  
**Wellington**, Regent Road,  
Salford





Mechanics Arms, Dudley Street, Cheetham  
Vine, Glendower Drive, Collyhurst  
Lowes Arms, Hyde Road, Denton  
**Cloggers Arms**, Oldham Road, Failsworth  
Two Hundred, Carisbrook Street, Harpurhey  
Grants Arms, Royce Road, Hulme  
**Concert Inn**, Fairfield Road, Openshaw  
**Pretoria**, Spa Road, Atherton  
Homeground, Lancaster Avenue, Tyldesley  
Flamingo, Vauxhall Road, Scholes, Wigan

**White Swan**, Warrington Road, Lower Ince  
**Footballers**, Huddersfield Road, Oldham  
Globe, Huddersfield Road, Oldham  
Live and Let Live, Glodwick Road, Oldham  
New Museum, Henshaw Street, Oldham  
Park Hotel, Park Road, Oldham  
Westwood, Featherstall Road, Oldham  
Hare & Hounds, Belfield Road, Rochdale  
**Newbold**, Church Road, Rochdale  
Victory, Chorley Old Road, Bolton

The pubs in bold type are the ones which were sold - it will be interesting to see what their new owners do with them.

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## Wetherspoons in Middleton

*Paul Roberts*

Perhaps Friday 13th wasn't the best day for a licence application! All seemed to be going well until two days before the hearing, when John Willie Lees lodged an objection to the new Wetherspoons licence in Middleton. They were playing a tactical game, and although Wetherspoons got the hearing to go ahead, Lees managed to force an adjournment until Monday 15th September.

With feelings running so high on this, perhaps we will have tree protesters (the board of JWL?) hanging from the roof of the former Kwik Save building and Swampy and his mates tunnelling under what would be the cellar! Watch this space!

## Greenalls expansion

The Warrington-based pub group has announced plans to expand their business in Manchester. Sites identified so far are on Canal Street next to Via Fossa, the Bauer Millet showroom on Deansgate and somewhere in Castlefield. Also, application 052038/FO/CITY2/97 CENTRAL is for a hotel at Lower Mosley Street. Greenalls used to have a pub there some time ago, but knocked it down in the night, so why do they deserve another? Do we really want a Thomas Duckworth Hotel?

## Altrincham applications

There have been applications for two new licences in Altrincham. Bass are hoping to open an Irish theme bar in the premises of Taylor & Cross on Stamford New Road, although this is meeting with some opposition from local traders, and someone wants to open a café bar on George Street.

## More plans

Chef & Brewer want to bash the Didsbury about again. It's a listed building, so they'll need to be careful.

## Atlas says no to nitrokeg

Paul Mason

Café bars breed faster than rabbits in Manchester and cask ale is a rare animal in all but a few. Atlas Bar and Café, next to Deansgate Station, has sold cask ale since it opened - Tetley bitter and Greenalls Original. The bar reports increasing sales of both, confounding the oft-held view that café bars and real ale don't mix.

Jenny and Samantha of the Atlas Bar won the 1996 Carlsberg Tetley Cellar Master Award for high standards in cask ale presentation. That two women from a café bar should take first prize caused some amazement at the awards ceremony. Allegedly the steward of Skipton Miners Welfare all but fainted. There was also a bit of a panic over the prizes, as Jenny and Sam do not normally wear cravats or ties.

Ever since the awards, Tetleys have been trying to get them to take the gassy stuff, but they are having none of it. There is a new menu at the Atlas, which has this to say about nitrokeg:

*"This is a term for any processed, pasteurised beer which is served using nitrogen and carbon dioxide. Unfortunately, being pasteurised and heavily chilled it does not have a lot of flavour.*

*No skill or effort is required in keeping or serving it. Cheaper to produce and handle than cask ale, it is more profitable to the producer. For those reasons some fear it poses a threat to Britain's cask ale market. Not scared of putting in some effort, however, we would rather sell the real thing ... enjoy!"*

Full marks to Atlas. It brings to mind a remark from a Manchester café bar owner who complained: 'I am absolutely fed up with telling people that there is no demand for real ale.'

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## Sale ale

Work on converting Bugattis in Sale into a Wetherspoons pub is considerably advanced and the premises are expected to be open soon. The Sale Hotel is due to shut for a six-week refurbishment, and it is hoped that this will result in an improvement in both choice and quality of beer.

**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:** £3 for six months, £5.50 for twelve months. Send cheque/PO 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.

## Bolton takeover

Having become seriously disappointed with what was once Bolton's principal traditional boozer, the Dog & Partridge at the bottom of Manor Street, members of the local CAMRA branch have taken over.

After discussions with Thwaites Brewery, Angus Crompton has become the licensee, with Steve Kerry 'living in', 'Fletch' the cellarman and much volunteer help from other members of the branch. They have put their own money into the venture and are determined to make a go of the Dog.

Until trade picks up, only Thwaites bitter is available at £1.40 a pint. The pub is open every evening from 7.00pm, and from noon until 3.00pm Friday, noon until 4.00pm Saturday.

## Maisel in Manchester

Draught Maisel Weizenbier is promised at the Sandbar on Grosvenor Street and will join the host of other draught European beers. Manchester is becoming more cosmopolitan by the month!

## Bigger pubs

There has been a planning application to convert the Swinton Palais Roller Rink into a pub. Since Wetherspoon's attempts to open premises in Eccles appear to have died a death, are they now looking at Swinton? The rather large premises on Station Road have been for sale for months.

Also in Swinton, there has been an application to build a new toilet block and extend the lounge at the White Horse on Worsley Road.



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**FESTIVAL SPECIALS**  
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**SATURDAY EVENING FOLK**

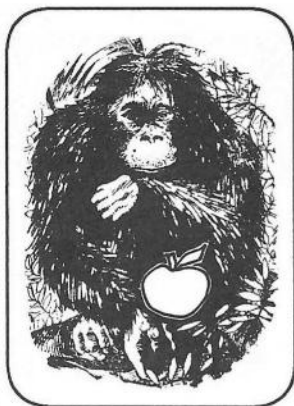
**HOME COOKED FOOD**  
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## Monkey Business

Is the Ape & Apple, Holts' new Manchester pub, the first of an animal'n'fruit theme pub concept chain, as suggested by Rupert last month? Possibly, but it is more likely that the brewery's image consultants selected the name from a list in one of those pub-signs-and-their-meanings books.



The original work on the subject, Larwood & Hotten's *History of Signboards*, was published in 1867 and in the book the authors describe an old London inn which was decorated with a stone carving of a monkey eating an apple. Not much of a Manchester connection there, you might think. But wait, 'Ape & Apple' is a corruption of 'Grapes & Apple', a sign that was sometimes used by wine merchants for their vaults, and guess what? There was once a Grapes & Apple on Ridgefield, only a few yards from the site of the new pub on John Dalton Street. So, for lovers of the traditional inn sign, it could have been worse. More by luck than judgement, Holts appear to have picked a name that has some connection with the area.

There were several licensed houses in the neighbourhood of John Dalton Street before central Manchester was smartened up in the nineteenth century. The sign of one of these - the Ship Inn at the top of Wood Street, near the Sawyers - would have been a suitable candidate for reviving by Holts. In 1855 the Ship was one of the first houses leased by a gentleman who was building up his business at a brewery near Victoria Station. Five years later he moved to a new brewery in Cheetham. His name, of course, was Joseph Holt.

On the other hand, traditional pub names like the Ship Inn can be a bit dull and Rupert's vision of an animal'n'fruit chain may be just the thing for *fin de siècle* Manchester. Tapir & Tomato has a certain resonance to it; so does Wildebeeste & Whimberry. Any other suggestions?

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## No more short pints?

Rural snooties in pink suits murdering the uneatable may be the first casualties of Private Members' Bills. However, Labour MP Dennis Turner also hopes to bring in a Bill to ensure oversize glasses in pubs. Mind you, even if we win that one, the greedy brewerage will no doubt want to ram prices up to compensate for not being able to rob the public any longer.

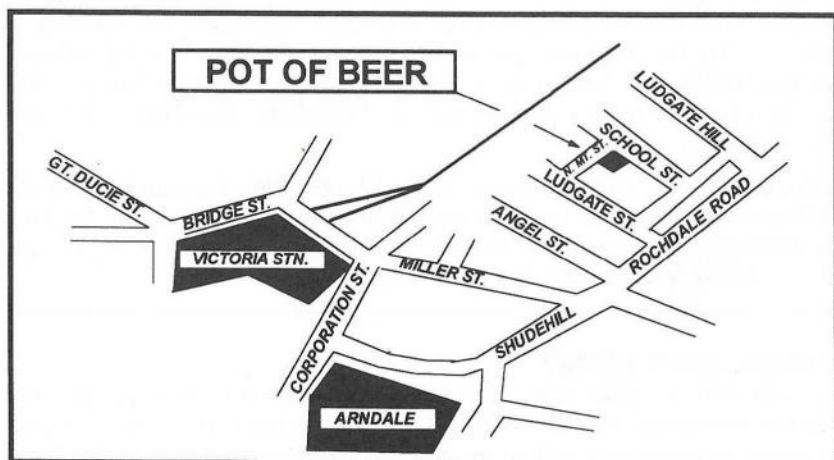
## Crown & Kettle

There are signs that what was one of Manchester's finest gin palaces may be sold - as a pub. The Northern Quarter has become relatively buoyant recently and perhaps it could sustain another pub. Who knows?

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## Footage & Firkin Brewery

*Pete Cash*

Following WD's May cover story, local CAMRA members were invited to the Footage & Firkin on Grosvenor Street, Manchester, to tour the new brewery and to sample a new mild. The mild, named 'Backstage', was in fact brewed at the Foundry & Firkin in Sheffield. At 4%, it was stronger and fuller-bodied than most present day milds - dark but not intensely black.

The grain store for the brewery is on the ground level and can be viewed through windows at the back of the single, enormous room of the pub. Grain is delivered ready crushed and we saw pale malt (the main ingredient), chocolate and crystal malts, malted and torrefied wheat, roasted barley and flaked maize and barley. Built into a corner of the grain store is a large hopper with dust extraction flues, which dumps the grains directly into the mash tun below.

The cellar is vast, since it is below what was once a cinema. There are various rooms and corridors, all white-tiled or white-painted, well lit and spotlessly clean. In the first room were the mash tun, the copper (wort boiler) and heat exchanger. The next room housed four tall, cylindrical ten-barrel fermenters, though the brewer ('Sooty') said that it was possible to squeeze eleven barrels into each.

All the beer is put into traditional casks which are stored in a third, temperature controlled room. Here was a cask of 'Footage' bitter, recently stillaged for us to sample. Though Sooty was concerned that it was a bit young, I actually rated the beer better than the handpulled pint available upstairs.

Most of the group went back upstairs to sample more mild, but a couple of us were shown the hop store room. So far as I could see, all the hops, bittering or aroma, were traditional low alpha-acid varieties such as Fuggles and East Kent Goldings.

It was altogether an enjoyable and memorable visit. CAMRA does not always see eye-to-eye with the Firkin chain over some of their insensitive pub conversions, but we have no quarrel with the chaps who brew the beer!

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## Fringe benefits

Although the Amsterdam summit ended without any progress towards further European integration, monetary or otherwise, the Bar Fringe on Swan Street in Manchester will be selling German draught alongside the Belgian draughts by the time this WD is on sale. Warsteiner is promised for the end of June, joining the draught Belle Vue Kriek and Hoegaarden Witbier. The third Belgian draught will not now be available until mid-July and this looks like being Leffe (probably Dubbel). Once this is installed it is hoped that all three Belgian beers will be served the real Belgian way, without CO<sub>2</sub> top pressure.



## Reclaiming the Territory *the Pub Crawl*

*Pete Cash*

On 4th June, no fewer than sixteen members of North Manchester branch turned out to sample the pubs in the triangle between Deansgate, Liverpool Road and the River Irwell. This was an integral part of the branch area during its first decade and many members have continued to regard it as part of the 'homeland', even before the recent CAMRA Regional vote to change branch boundaries.

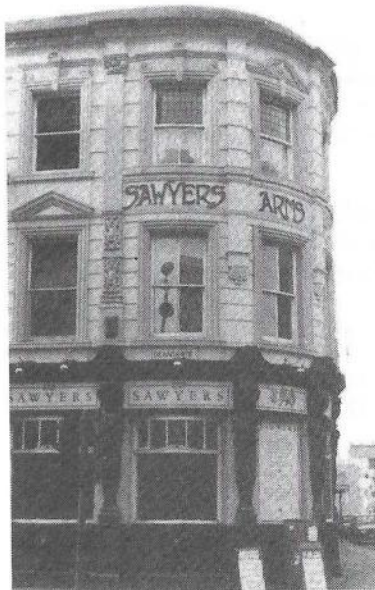
Naturally, it was not possible in one evening to drink in every real ale outlet, especially since a number of café bars have opened since those early days. We started at the largest by far, Wetherspoon's Moon Under Water on Deansgate. Amongst the rather unexciting range of regular beers, Youngers Scotch at 99p was good value and in top form, making it an excellent starter on a hot, thirsty summer's evening. Even better was one of the guests, Schiehallion lager at 4.8% and only £1.06 a pint. This is a properly brewed and matured cask beer made by Harviestoun of Clackmannanshire.

We looked into what used to be the Waggon and Horses (now Mulligans) on Southgate, but were not tempted by the Tetley and Ruddles bitters. We were near to the closing time of the Bridge Street Tavern (8pm Mon-Wed) and just managed to get in a pint of Theakstons Best at £1.60. With its low-

level, narrow interior this pub has a rather womb-like atmosphere.

At the Sawyers Arms (corner of Bridge Street and Deansgate) the most interesting offering was Shepherd Neame Best Bitter at £1.86, which was not too bad after sufficient had been drawn off. The Old Grapes on Little Quay Street had only Boddingtons bitter at £1.45, whilst the same beer in the Pig & Porcupine (Deansgate/Tonman Street) was £1.70, the same as the Wadworth 6X; the Stones was £1.50.

The White Lion on Liverpool Road had Boddies at £1.50, Flowers IPA, Old Speckled Hen, Taylors Landlord and Riddleys Bitter at £1.80, whilst Castle Eden, Flowers Original and Pedigree were £1.90. Taylors Golden Best was also on offer.



### One in the eye

Thwaites have applied for planning permission to make some changes at the Lord Nelson in Ringley, where the North Manchester branch of CAMRA was formed in the 1970s. Not much has changed at the pub since then, but now the brewery wants to knock a bit down in order to build an extension to accommodate a new cellar, kitchen, lounge and toilets.



## Salford Survey *continued*

*Mark McConachie continues the survey (see WD last month) of Salford's inner city pubs...*

The **Kings Arms** (ex-BodPubCo) on Bloom Street has been sold at auction to a firm of builders, we are told. They intend to restore many of the pub's architectural features and carry out repairs where needed. So the future looks good for the Kings. The choice is good, too, with five or six beers always on.

Over on nearby Gore Street (next to Salford Station), the **Egerton** seemed as lively as ever. Beers were Holts mild and bitter, Marstons bitter and Pedigree and Lees bitter (although not on at the time of our visit), all at keen prices. Across the road at the **Pen & Wig** (Websters) you can get J Smiths (£1) and occasionally Thwaites. Not long ago, this pub sold both Wilsons mild and bitter. Oh, well...

Going up the price scale, we come to the **Mark Addy**, overlooking the River Irwell. Owned by property developer and bookie Jim Ramsbottom, this trendy pub is built into arches on the riverside and the terrace is popular on sunny days. Three beers were available on our visit: Boddies, Bass and Fullers London Pride. For the hungry, there are substantial cheese/pâté combinations.

## Independents' Day PUB HUNT

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**Saturday 5th July**  
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Only £1 per team (of one to four people)*

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## Pendlebury pubs

*In a recent What's Doing, commenting on the closure of the Bowling Green on Bolton Road, the writer suggested that it may soon be as difficult to do a pub crawl of Pendlebury as it is to do one in Ordsall. The last survey of Clifton, Newtown and Pendlebury was in the 'A2C2' series, printed in March 1994. Ian Kenny has revisited all the pubs to see what has changed...*

At the **Clifton Park Hotel** (ex Clifton Arms/Gay Willows), both Theakstons Best Bitter and XB were still available. Further down Manchester Road at the refurbished **Robin Hood**, rather expensive Tetley bitter is now accompanied by Marstons Pedigree. Nearby at the **Golden Lion**, Boddies bitter continues. At the **Oddfellows**, John Smiths bitter remains but Websters Green Label has gone. Another handpump sported a John Willie Lees clip, but I was told the beer had not been on sale for months. Shame! The final pub in Clifton - the **Beehive** - is up for sale but is still selling Tetley bitter and mild.

Into Newtown and at the **Britannia**, Tetley mild has disappeared but bitter and Websters bitter are still available. Across the road at the **Showboat** (latterly the Shepherds), the Burtonwood mild and bitter are now keg, as is the Sam Smiths at the **Windmill**. Handpumps have replaced electric dispense at the **Lord Nelson** (Holts) and the **Newmarket** (also Holts, *below*) was in the throes of a refurbishment. Both these pubs sell excellent mild and bitter.

Moving into Pendlebury proper, the **Bowling Green** is still boarded up and over the road at the **Royal Oak** the Stones is now on smoothflow. The Worthington Best Bitter was absolutely undrinkable, but the landlord assured me that this was only temporary since it will be going over to smoothflow, too! Next door at the **Pendlebury** (latterly Butchers Arms), Thwaites bitter was being sold at £1 a pint. The smoothflow version was also available and the staff asked me which I wanted. There was also a Craftsman pumpclip, but the beer was not available on the evening of my visit. Over at the **Albert**, the Boddies bitter is the real stuff again, after a recent licensee sold keg through the handpumps. Nearby at the **Black Horse**, Tetley bitter has been replaced by keg.





At **Halligans** on Swinton Hall Road (which A2C2 wrongly included under Swinton), Tetley bitter remains, but the mild and Banks's bitter have gone. However, there is now a house beer at £1.05. The licensee was somewhat coy about the beer's origin, though it was remarkably similar to the Tetleys Festive I sampled at the Kings Arms, Bloom Street, recently. At the up-for-sale **Station**, Tetley bitter remains, as does the Boddies bitter at the **Henry Boddington**

So the beers lost have been Websters Green Label, Burtonwood mild and bitter, Banks's, Stones and possibly Worthington, whilst Pedigree, Craftsman and the mystery guest are the gains. The biggest losers are in the Tetley estate, which to be honest has too many pubs for the area. Perhaps their rationalisation has enabled the independents to survive in what has become an economically declining area. The only pubs appearing busy were the Robin Hood, the Pendlebury and the two Holts houses. One is basically an eatery, one was offering cheap beer and the other two remain the only community pubs in the area. Perhaps there is a message in there somewhere.

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## Lees in Blackley

Friday 23 May was a day of great celebration and joyousness for the good folk of Blackley - the wonderful products of J W Lees arrived in the village. And not in any old pub, either, but in their very own tied house, the Charlestown on Charlestown Road. This has been bought from Tetleys (it was latterly a 'Mr Q's') and the building is being turned back into a proper local. Early indications are that food will feature and there will be a kids' playground to the side. At the time of writing only the vault is open, selling GB mild and bitter, whilst the rest of the pub is sorted out.

## Time called

Mick Magee's (formerly the Magpie) in Miles Platting is unfortunately closed again following the disappearance of the licensees. Let's hope the place does not go to ruin.

There are stirrings at the closed New Derby Arms on Rochdale Road, Harpurhey. The boards have come down, the windows have been removed and steel roller shutters put in their place. What can be going on? A change to non-pub use, perhaps?

## Branches B-B-Q

On Wednesday 30th July the North Manchester and Stockport branches of CAMRA are joining forces for a barbecue at the Queens Arms, Red Bank, Cheetham, starting at 7.30pm. All members are invited to join us in the garden for some excellent ale and grilled specialities from top TV chef Sue Price.

Views of Manhattan are free, as is the distinct possibility of a certain *What's Doing* contributor slowly browning on the griddle. See you there.

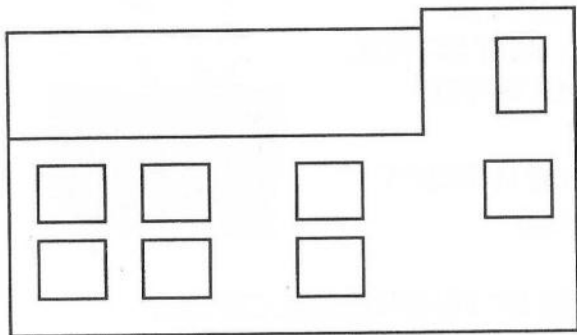
# Letter

## Moving the Shambles *continued*

Sir - May I thank Mr (or should that be Dr?) John Byrom for measuring the Shambles and the proposed new site between the Corn Exchange and the Mitre (WD May).

However, I believe he has made a mistake. Millennium Ltd's plan of the site shows the area at the Cathedral wall taken up by a visitors' centre and so this area will not be available for the Wellington/Sinclairs. How will the two

pubs fit in the remaining space? The model of the new city centre, which can be seen in the Town Hall Visitor Centre, may have the answer. The Shambles property appears as in the drawing on the left. Compare this with the scale drawing of the Shambles, below.



The intention seems to be to discard approximately one-third of each pub. I expressed my fears to 'Forum' of the Manchester Civic Trust and to Millennium Ltd last April, but I have not, as yet, received a reply.

*Dave Bell*

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## 'Worst pub' shut

Turvilles on Chester Road, Cornbrook, once described as the worst pub in the North West by a tabloid newspaper, is closed and boarded. Of the six pubs that were here five years ago, only the Hope and the Pomona Palace remain open.

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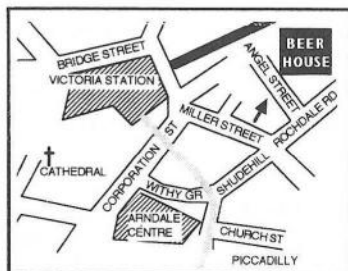
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## Lees Corner

Bernie Jackson

The Lees Passport scheme is doing well, with over 250 people taking part. The brewery has registered 5,000 'stamps' (i.e. pints drunk). To date, only three participants have visited all the 152 pubs: a man from Failsworth (who was also the first to finish the last time, in 1985) and a couple from Rochdale. News for those participating in the scheme is that the Bridge Hall Hotel in Bury is about to be boarded up, but the Britannia in Bradford has had a temporary reprieve because the only other pub nearby has closed.

The brewery's latest acquisition, the Charlestown, opened at the end of May (see elsewhere in this issue).

The first seasonal beer from Lees will be produced in September, followed by another in December. They will be available to any of the company's licensees who want to take them and also to the free trade. The styles of the two beers have not yet been finalised.

Finally, Lees are pleased to launch this year's Independents' Day tour, organised by the Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch of CAMRA on Saturday 5th July. Meet at the brewery between 11.00 am and 11.30am.

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Contributors to this issue: Phil Stout, Roger Hall, Pete Cash, Mark McConachie, Andy Davies, Paul Roberts, Keith Egerton, Roger Wood, Bernie Jackson, Ian Kenny, Peter Wadsworth, Paul Mason

### **The BEER HOUSE**

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## **HIGH SUMMER FESTIVAL**

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**+ Leffe Bruin on draught**

**Cider & Perry**

**ALL DAY FOOD + BARBECUE**

**FOLK BAND SATURDAY AFTERNOON**

## Holts Corner

*Stewart Revell*

Among the 120 pubs which make up the Joseph Holt tied estate there are around a dozen magnificent buildings dating from the Victorian/Edwardian era. A television company has chosen to shoot some scenes in one of these, the Grapes Hotel at Peel Green. The filming (part of a four-part drama called 'The Painted Lady', starring Helen Mirren) takes place during August. I don't know the details of the story, or whether Ms Mirren's character gets her kit off, but I've heard that the pub will not be closing during the filming.

The Holts Mild awareness promotion continues. Of the few dozen special mild glasses each Joeys outlet received, I hear that not many are left. 'Breakages' have been higher than expected!

There are over eighty pubs and clubs on the latest free trade list from the brewery. These are the pubs:

Admiral, Rodney Street, Ancoats  
City, Oldham Street, Manchester  
George & Dragon, Ardwick Green South  
Hat & Feathers, Mason Street, Manchester  
Unicorn, Shaw Heath Close, Hulme  
Junction Inn, Queens Road, Hendham Vale  
White House, Great Ancoats Street, Manchester  
Aces, Kinsley Close, West Gorton  
Derby Arms, 41 Exbury Street, Fallowfield  
Jolly Carter, Manchester Road, Droylsden  
Lord Raglan, Ashton Old Road, Hr Openshaw  
Nelson Inn, Barlow Moor Road, Didsbury  
Pack Horse, Stockport Road, Levenshulme  
Queen Victoria, Grey Mare Lane, Beswick  
Sea Hawk, Bold Street, Old Trafford  
Strawberry Duck, Crabtree Lane, Clayton  
Whalley Hotel, Withington Road, Moss Side  
Gems free house, Upper Dicconson St, Wigan  
Masons Arms, Wigan Road, Atherton  
Half Moon, Elliott Street, Tyldesley  
Colliers Arms, Sale Lane, Tyldesley  
Royal Oak, Leigh Road, Boothstown  
Boundary, Manchester Road, Leigh  
Royal Oak, Castle Street, Edgeley, Stockport  
Gardeners Arms, Northgate Road, Stockport  
Park, Newbridge Lane, Stockport  
Magnet Inn, Wellington Rd N, Heaton Norris  
Ash Hotel, Manchester Road, Heaton Norris  
Cherry Tree, Compstall Road, Romiley  
Rising Sun, Stockport Road East, Bredbury  
Jolly Sailor, Station Road, Marple  
Bowling Green, Stockport Road, Marple  
White Lion, Buxton Road, Disley

Witton Chimes, Witton Street, Northwich  
Greyhound, Wilmslow Road, Handforth  
Plough, Rainsough Brow, Prestwich  
New Inn, Bell Lane, Bury  
Oddfellows, Tottington Road, Bury  
Jolly Waggoner, Manchester Old Road, Bury  
Peel Hotel, Rochdale Road, Bury  
Bird in Hand, Manchester Road, Bury  
Towler Inn, Walmsley Road, Bury  
Woodman Inn, 338 Oldham Road, Ashton-u-Lyne  
Hillgate, Pot Hill, Ashton-u-Lyne  
New Inn, Mossley Road, Ashton-u-Lyne  
Angel, King Street, Dukinfield  
Chapel House, Astley Street, Dukinfield  
Ye Olde Man & Scythe, Churchgate, Bolton  
Old Original British Queen, Blackburn Rd, Bolton  
Volunteer, Radcliffe Road, Darcy Lever, Bolton  
House Without A Name, Lee Gate, Bolton  
Canary, High Street, Little Lever  
Old White Horse, Church Street, Ainsworth  
Hare & Hounds, Market Street, Stoneclough  
Plough Inn, Huddersfield Road, Waterhead  
Welcome, Abbeyhills Road, Oldham  
Pineapple Inn, Rochdale Road, Shaw  
Millgate, Ashton Road West, Failssworth  
Oddfellows Arms, Oldham Road, Middleton  
Moonraker, Wood Street, Langley, Middleton  
Waggon & Horses, Manchester Old Rd, Rhodes  
Egerton Arms, Gore Street, Salford  
Church Inn, Ford Lane, Pendleton  
White Lion, Liverpool Road, Irlam  
Tiger Moth, Swallow Drive, Irlam  
Old Mill, Barrington Road, Altrincham

## Over the border

*In June's WD Mark McConachie explored the Summit area of Littleborough. This month he steps boldly into Yorkshire...*

North of Littleborough are the West Yorkshire towns of Walsden, Shade and Todmorden, served by hourly trains from Victoria. Or you can use the trusty 589 and 590 buses from Rochdale, which get you nearer to the pubs. Unless stated otherwise, all the pubs are on Rochdale Road.

If travelling by train, alight at Walsden and go left out of the station towards Todmorden. After a good ten-minute walk you'll see the **Woodpecker** (J W Lees) on the left. This is a pleasant two-roomer selling mild and bitter. Now head back to the railway viaduct and underneath you will see the small **Masons Arms** on Bacup Road. It doesn't look very promising from the outside, but inside it's cosy, with all sorts of interesting artefacts. Three cask beers are on: J Smith and Thwaites bitters and very good Barnsley bitter.

Return to Walsden and when you are near the station, cross the bridge over the canal to Marstons' **Hollins Inn** on Hollins Road. This modern pub doesn't offer much apart from Marstons bitter and Pedigree, but it does break the walk. Continue down the hill to the town and go past the Cross Keys (save the best till last). A further ten minutes' walk should get you to the two outer pubs - the **Waggon & Horses** and the **Border Rose Inn**. The former is a Bass house doing Highgate Old (140p) as the sole cask beer. The latter was a Thwaites house and is signed as Tetley now. The bitters of

both brewers are on sale inside this tidily-kept, two-room pub.



Go back towards the station and into the **Cross Keys**. (If you are walking the canal, this pub is between locks 28 and 29.) Up to six ales are available and on my visit Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby mild (6%) was a bargain at £1.50. Formerly a plain Wilsons house (*left*), the rejuvenated Cross Keys has retained its cosy snug, whilst a new conservatory overlooks the canal. Good value food is available at lunchtimes.

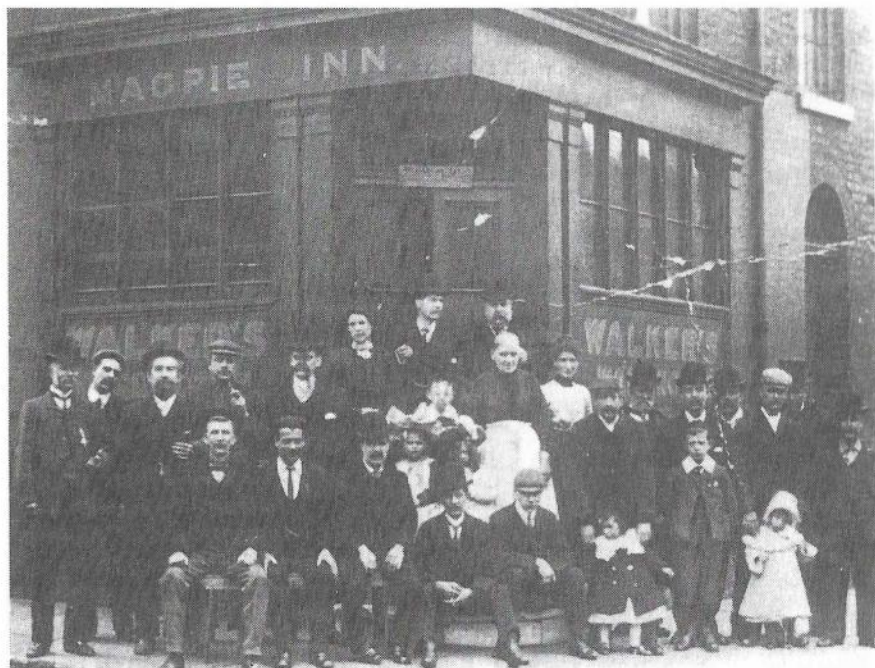


## A day out from the Magpie

Bob Potts

This 1905 photograph of a picnic party outside the Magpie Inn, 63 Bangor Street, Hulme, was very kindly sent to me by Roger Scott Lewis of Toronto, Canada. It was too late for inclusion in the new edition of my book on Hulme and Chorlton-on-Medlock pubs, but timely for this issue of *What's Doing*.

The portly gentleman at the back is believed to be William Cartwright, Roger's great-grandfather and licensee of the beerhouse. Mrs Cartwright is probably the lady in the white apron standing in front of her husband and their son William the smartly dressed man next to his father.



Old photographs of pub outings such as this one are uncommon because until the 1970s their intrinsic interest and historical value were not generally appreciated and many have not survived. In twenty years I managed to acquire only five pictures of pub outings from Hulme.

In 1905 a six-day working week was the norm and a Sunday picnic outing such as this one ready to leave the Magpie would have been a keenly anticipated summer treat. A typical outing was a trip to the countryside for the fresh air and rural delights. As the photograph suggests, the pub was predominantly a male preserve in those days. Women had their own day trips, usually organised by the local Co-op, church or chapel.

The Cartwrights kept the beerhouse for three years until 1906, the year it closed, so the photograph has a certain poignancy because it probably

records the Magpie's last picnic. 1906 was the second year of operation of the Compensation Act, which empowered local magistrates to close down licensed premises they considered were no longer required. Many Manchester beerhouses lost their licences in those first few years; in 1906 forty-nine closed in Hulme alone. As well as the Magpie, the list of casualties included four Queens Arms, three Royal Oaks, two Welcome Inns and the quaintly named Gorilla Inn. I dare say that beer drinkers in Hulme regarded the loss of forty-nine pubs in one year as more than a trifle unsettling!

What with two world wars coming their way, and in some lifetimes the destruction of Hulme as they knew it, it was a mercy that the group of people in the picture could not foresee the future. As it is, they look set for a great day out.

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### **Mistaken Mercury**

Readers who have had occasion to pass the Pikefield in Higher Blackley may have noticed that this Mercury Taverns house was advertising 'Traditional Ales' outside. However, after a recent visit it is sad to report that only keg 'Mercury Bitter' was on sale. The advertised real ale must have been on and off so quickly that we missed it.

## **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

# Home Brewing Revisited

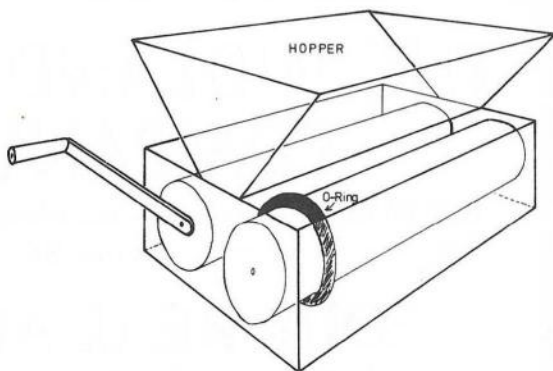
*Humulus Lupulus*

## Part 4: The Home Beer & Winemaking Show

This month I am taking a break from my step-by-step look at home brewing to report on some of the more interesting items at this show, held in Sheffield on 7th June. It was a three-day show, but for trade only on the second and third days and for this reason it was difficult to get firm prices, let alone buy anything, from many of the stallholders. They were there primarily to present their wares to home-brew shops. However, for a home beer maker with a strong bias towards full grain mashing, it was an enlightening view of the state of the hobby today.

Altogether there were thirty-four stalls: five had nothing to do with brewing whatsoever, five were concerned exclusively with wine, about ten dealt in both wine and beer, either kits or equipment, whilst some twelve were solely to do with beer. The other two were the HomeBrew Publications stand and the Trade Association shop. Outstanding amongst these were Brupaks of Huddersfield (mentioned last time), Brewferm of Belgium\* and Clive La Pensée on the Publications stand.

Following directly from last month's article on malt mills, I discovered on the Brewferm stand what must be one of the best malt mills yet offered to the home beer maker. The diagram shows the essential features. It consisted of two cylindrical rollers about 4cm diameter and 25cm long. Each had a knurled surface and one was turned by the attached handle; I tried it and the action was quite smooth. The second roller was driven by the simple expedient of a rubber O-ring around its circumference which pressed against the first roller. Because its effective diameter was slightly greater by dint of the ring, the rotation rates of the two metal surfaces would be different, producing the slight shear necessary for effective milling. I assume the gap could be varied by using different thicknesses of O-ring. Unfortunately there was no back-up literature, but I did manage to squeeze out of them that the expected retail price for the mounted version with hopper would be around £140.



On the same stand was a lot of very serious looking gear for the brewer. A seamless stainless steel boiler of about 10 gallons capacity sat on top of a large gas ring mounted in a sturdy steel frame some 2 feet square. There was a steel and brass bodied pump with a shaft that could be attached to your electric drill and much, much more. Again, no literature or prices.



Brupak also do a lot of brewing hardware: mash tuns, boilers, wort chiller, sparging arms, mills, false bottoms, gas burners, fermenters and casks. Of equal interest is their extensive range of grains (over 30 types), vacuum-sealed hops (again, 30 plus) and special liquid yeast cultures (over 20 strains). For the masher who wishes to try some unusual styles there are ready made all-grain kits including the appropriate hops: about 20 types including many continental styles.

The other beer-related stalls divided into malt, hops, yeast, hardware and malt extract based kits. Tots of beer (and wine) samples made up from kits were on offer and we did our best to taste quite a few. Generally, the wines were quite acceptable and some were very good indeed. I wish the same were true of the beers; they were all made from extract, and gas cylinders and pressure valves were everywhere. Whether this was to stop them 'going off' I don't know, but most of the beers we tried ranged from mediocre to downright nasty. My colleague commented that these had been brewed by the makers themselves, and they still tasted that way.

The noble exception was again Brupak. Although their offerings were brewed from the 'Fine Yorkshire Ales' extract kits, they were quite quaffable and had no hint of the dreaded 'home brew tang'.

In the first part of this series, I said that I thought beer kits had improved in recent years. I now wish to modify this to say that a few have improved. If anything, after visiting this show, I have become a more entrenched 'masher' than before.

And Clive La Pensée? Well, he writes about mashed beers for the *Home Wine & Beer Maker* magazine. Just before leaving we discussed with him our opinions of the samples on offer. I somehow got the impression that he agreed with us. Ah well - on to the Fat Cat and the Cask & Cutler.

\* *Brewferm Products, Burg. Heymansplein 45, B-3581 Beverlo-Beringen, Belgium.*  
*Tel. +32-11.40.14.08. Fax. +32-11/34.73.79*

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## Intimidation

On June 3rd and 4th the Manchester Evening News carried articles about three pubs in Partington closed because of the activities of 'drug barons'. The King Billy, the Greyhound and the Squire are all closed as a result of racketeering. *What's Doing* has been banging on about intimidation and protection rackets for ages, but nobody seems to have believed us. The inner city syndrome has moved out to the overspill estates. Will it stop there?

## Morlands come to Manchester

Abingdon brewers Morlands are venturing a long way from their normal territory with a development in Manchester called the Pen & Wig. This is to be in the ground floor of the YMCA building on Peter Street, already the home of Pierre Victoire. The builders are on site and the Pen & Wig is expected to open in the autumn.

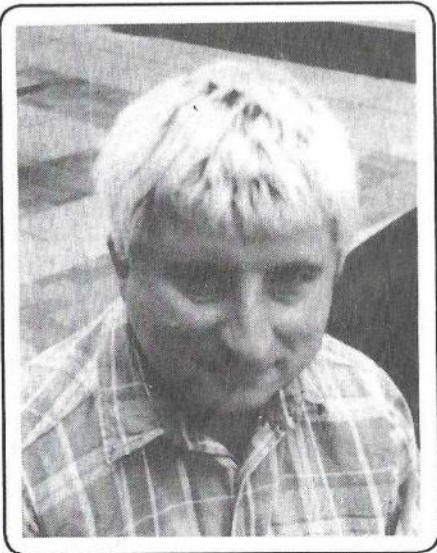
# Rupert

I'd like to make one thing clear from the very start. The tabloid headlines which read, 'Real Ale Beer Buff Editor in Road Rage Shock Horror Scandal' did not refer to Eddy Nestfeather. Eddy is a gentle chap who cannot drive and is usually carried about in a sedan chair. Nor did they point to Charlie Super, who has shown signs of paranoia recently. Incensed by thoughts of publicans binning *Opening Tripe*, he has expressed a wish to see a Rupert Roast at the barbecue. Gratitude indeed! I'm sure *What's Doing* readers would much rather see a Rumpleshirtscream Roast or a Tubby Bleachhead Roast. There'd be more to go round.

No, the tabloids had in mind a much more exalted editor - one Boris Pratt, aged 58, who lost his rag and booted a motor. Mind you, he did it to protect his children who had been frightened, but as Fiona said, 'How old are his bleedin' children? They're probably massive bruisers of around 28 or 30. I can't imagine someone as manly and attractive as Boris hanging around till he's 46 to have children, can you?' There was some speculation as we drank a round of Drabs mild to steal the glasses as to which car he ought to have kicked. To maintain his Marxist street cred, Boris drives a T-reg Lada, which doubles in value every time he fills it up. Tish thought he'd have been better off kicking his own car to bits as it wouldn't have cost him more than a tenner whereas, as it is, he's going to have to scribble a few more *bonnes paroles* for the middle classes to pay

for what he did. Mind you, that would have frightened the children, fifteen stone or not. Boris defended himself and kept himself out of gaol, not that they'd want to send an old man to gaol, angry or not. At that age you've got to be into child molestation to get locked up. Let's hope we don't see any tabloid headlines linking Campaign stalwarts with anything like that.

Hiding our monogrammed glasses, we left the Vapid Toad and caught the iron horse to Scrotton where, we understood, the local branch had dissolved itself and bought a tavern. They were no doubt overjoyed at the success of the Scrotton amber nectar show. The words, 'piss up' and 'brewery' came to mind just as 'cage' and 'rattled' are conjured up by thoughts of Charlie Super.



**Prize winner:** Quaffoor Muggee (*pictured*) wins the hair assault section. Police are looking for a mad barber and half a bottle of Wimsol.



# Branch Diary

## **Rochdale, Oldham & Bury**

Tues 1 July, 8.30pm, Branch Meeting, Two Tubs, The Wylde, Bury  
Sat 5 July, Independents' Day Tour. Meet at Lees Brewery between 11.00am and 11.30am

Sat 12 July, 12noon. First Bury Beer Festival Organising Meeting, Tap & Spile, Manchester Old Road, Bury

Sat 19 July, Rail Social on the Wigan Line

Tues 29 July, 8.30pm. What's Doing Collation, Flying Horse, Town Hall Square, Rochdale

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

## **Trafford & Hulme**

Tues 3 July, Independents' survey. 8pm Unicorn, Hale Barns, followed by Bulls Head, Bleeding Wolf, Cheshire Midland and finish in the Railway.

Thurs 10 July, Countryside survey. 8.30pm Farmers Arms, Heatley, then into Lymm for Bulls Head and Spread Eagle, returning to Heatley for the Railway and finish in the Vine at Dunham.

Thurs 17 July 8pm, Survey of New Hulme. Grand Junction, Royce Road, Hulme, then to Ducie Arms, Devas Street; Church, Cambridge Street, Thirsty Scholar and finish in Peveril of The Peak.

Thurs 24 July, Triangular tour of Sale. 8pm Brook (Brooklands Station), then on to Legh Arms, Sale Moor; Wetherspools (if open), Kings Ransom, Bank and finish in Railway.

Thurs 31 July 8pm, Tatton, Tipping Street, Altrincham, followed by Bakers Arms, Faulkners, Railway and Malt Shovels.

Thurs 7 Aug 8pm, 'Conserving the Territory'. Pack Horse, Deansgate, followed by Crown, then on to Liverpool Road for Commercial, Oxenoble & White Lion.

Contact: Roger Wood 0161 747 3987

## **North Manchester**

Wed 2 July, Two Station crawl: Station, Warrington Street, Ashton; Buffet Bar, Stalybridge. Train 1855 from Victoria, 2006 from Ashton

Sat 5 July, Independents' Day Pub Hunt: Beer House, Angel Street, 12 noon

Wed 9 July, 8pm, Committee & Social: New Moston, Belgrade Road, New Moston.

Sat 12 July, 12.30pm, Regional Meeting: Swan & Railway, Wallgate, Wigan

Wed 16 July, 8pm, Branch Meeting: Welcome, Robert Hall Street. Ordsall

Wed 23 July, Harpurhey crawl: Hipp, Lathbury Road, 7pm; Golden Lion, Rochdale Road, 8.30; Junction, Queens Road, 9.30.

Tues 29 July, 6pm onward, What's Doing Collation: Queens Arms, Honey Street, Cheetham

Wed 30 July, 7.30pm, Branch B-B-Q: Queens Arms, Honey Street, Cheetham

Contact: Roger Hall 0161 740 7937



Dave and Sue 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*

**Batmans Mild & XXXB - Mitchells  
Bitter - Old Peculier - Taylors Landlord  
& Best Bitter - Bantam Bitter £1 a pint  
plus weekly guest beers**

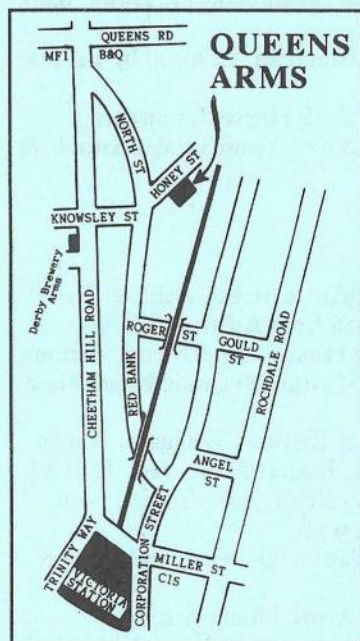


*Westons Traditional Cider on handpump*

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

Hot and cold food available until early 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.*

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Bar-B-Que for hire free of charge.

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Bar Billiards, Backgammon,  
Chess, etc.

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General Knowledge Quiz Night  
Tuesday. Beer Prizes

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