

30p

What's Doing

JUNE 1999



The Manchester Beer Drinker's Monthly Magazine

CROWN & ANCHOR REOPENS



After being shut for three months for a complete refurbishment and post-IRA bomb work, Holts' Crown & Anchor on Cateaton Street in Manchester reopened at 11.30am on 12th May.

From the outside the pub seems unchanged, but inside there is a new layout. The old pub had two levels; the right-hand part had the bar along the back wall and the 'lower deck' on the left was just a large drinking area. The upper level is now a wood panelled, mostly stand-up drinking area with a food servery and a long bar to the left. The old 'snug' is still intact to the far right and a new 'No Smoking' room has been added in the old back bar area. The lower deck now has its own bar, parallel to the upper bar, with fixed seating round the room and separate areas created by wood and glass screens.

Before it closed, the C&A had a somewhat downmarket image and the work has certainly moved the pub's status up a few notches. It should have no trouble keeping up with the new 'Shambles' pubs. Holts mild and bitter are the staple beers.

Pubs for sale

Over 200 Nomura pubs are up for sale and among them are...

Albert, Bolton Road, Pendlebury - offers around	£110,000
Black Friar, Blackfriars Road, Salford	£125,000
Braziers Arms, Hodson Street, Salford	£60,000
Britannia, IOH, Salford	£40,000
Corporation, Cross Lane, Salford	£45,000
Old Ship, Chapel Street, Salford	£95,000
Peel Park, Salford	£50,000
Priory Arms, Gardner Street, Salford	£165,000
Railway, Broughton Road, Salford	£125,000
Red Lion, Chapel Street, Eccles	£135,000

Closures

The **Bull** on Briscoe Lane, Newton Heath (handy for the abattoir) is boarded up. This was a rather shabby sixties pub formerly owned by Whitbread. In Lower Crumpsall, Centric's (or whoever the owners are now) **Crumpsall Hotel** was closed for a while and then a fire badly damaged the upper storeys and roof. In an area that lost its only other pub - Vaux's **Swan** - a few years ago, the future does not look rosy.

In the city centre, there has been a measure of activity at the long-closed **Smithfields** (ex-Banks's) on Shudehill. Someone has removed everything from inside, including the wall panelling! What can be going on?

Two become one

The two buildings that were Chorlton's Bar One and Bar Two have been knocked together to form The Bar. This is essentially one large room on two levels, with a bar down one side. Whilst there is now a larger drinking area, the place does seem to have lost some of the character which made the original Bar One something special. From Manchester, buses 16 and 85 stop outside the door.

Halfway to Wardle

J W Lees acquired the Halfway House on Wardle Road, Wardle, from Bass some months ago and cask ale is on sale there once again, in the form of Lees mild and bitter. The Halfway House is a comfortable pub with a vault/pool room and a large lounge. Buses 448-9 and 458 will get you there from Rochdale.

Bolton news

A Trotter

Last month Holly Caulfield celebrated her first anniversary at the **Dog & Partridge** on Manor Street and to mark the occasion the Thwaites horse-drawn dray made a special delivery. Holly took over the running of the pub from Bolton CAMRA member Angus Crompton and has continued the tradition of serving quality Thwaites mild, bitter and seasonal ales. The Dog & Partridge is one of the few pubs in the area to sell cask mild.



On Deansgate, the **Hen & Chickens** continues its guest ale policy and on a recent visit Morland IPA and Bank Top Sir Gareth were available. On the 'coming up' board were Bateman Hillbilly Bitter and Nethergate Golden Gate. The Hen & Chickens is a fine, well kept pub close to the bus station and an ideal starting or finishing point for a tour of Bolton's real ale pubs.

The guest ales available during June at the **Farmers Arms** on Chorley Street will be Nethergate Augustinian, Elgood Greyhound, Beartown Bruin's Ruin and Everards Anniversary Ale.

Finally, there is talk that the **Malt & Hops Bar** next to the Swan Hotel may reopen. This was one of my favourite watering holes as there was always a fine selection of real ales. If it does reopen, let's hope they don't alter the basic interior.

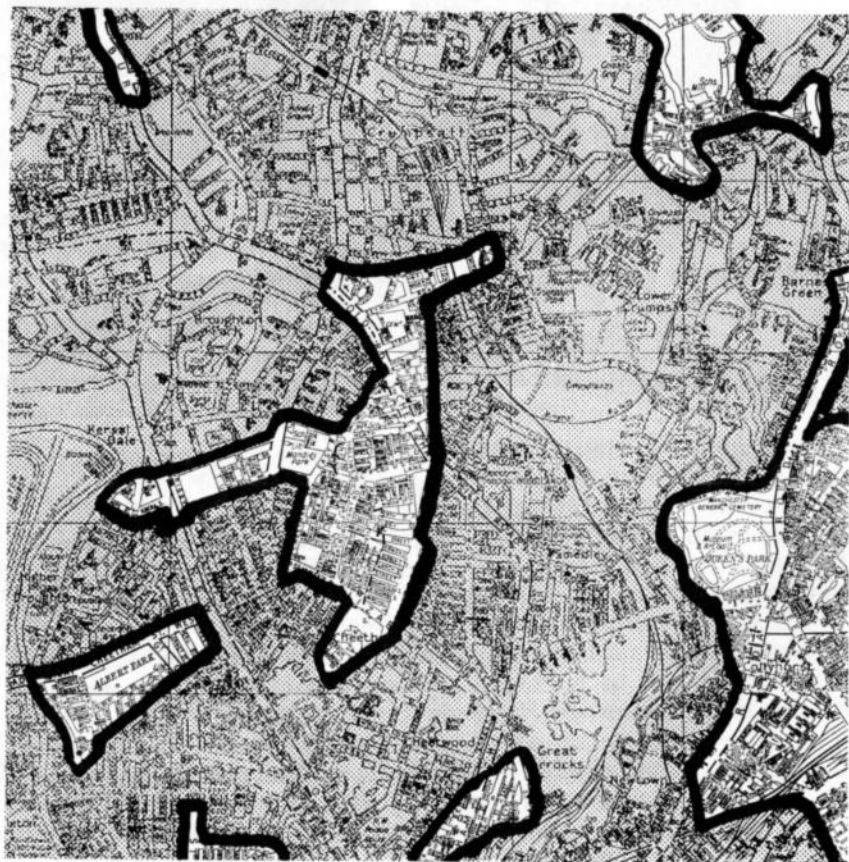
North Manchester's Beer Desert

Roger Hall

The charred shell of the Crumpsall Hotel in Lower Crumpsall made me reflect on the number of pubs which have been lost in the area and the effect on North Manchester as a potential beer desert. If you leave the city centre by means of Corporation Street, you'll pass the Ducie Bridge and the Crown & Cushion. You'll not then pass another pub until you arrive at the Golden Lion in Blackley village, some three miles away.

Woodies and the Swan (*pictured with the biscuit factory*) have both recently been demolished. The Lord Lovat next to Queens Park Cemetery has been closed for some time. The Temple has long since been demolished and the Appleford/53 is no longer a pub. Further afield, the Cheetwood, the Apollo, the Lansdale, the Cavalier and the Penny Black are no more.

The whole of North Manchester now has only a few small clusters of





pubs - in Blackley, Moston, Harpurhey, Cheetham Hill and Cheetham. There are huge areas which are virtually unpubbed. As the map shows, the shaded areas where there are no pubs are significantly larger than the areas where there are pubs. The continued disappearance of pubs is likely to make the situation worse.

Altrincham brewpub?

The former Hogshead in Altrincham has been taken over by its manager, Wayne Reece, and renamed the Old Market Tavern. The pub is now a genuine free house, featuring ten cask beers and one cider (Stonehouses), together with an increasing range of bottled Belgian beers.

Internal and external redecoration is under way, a beer garden has opened and the menu has been totally revamped. (Lunches only at the moment, 12-3 all week.) There are plans to install a microbrewery in the premises, with a local CAMRA worthy in charge of the brews - watch this space!

Early doors

Early in May the licensee of the Salford Arms was prosecuted for allowing consumption outside permitted hours. She was fined and sacked by the brewery. At 10.30am on a Sunday police found between 100 and 150 Manchester United fans enjoying a 'pre match drinking session'.

Out and About

Grognaard

I've been a bit down this month (emotionally speaking) where the beer's concerned. The Spitfire promotion at Wetherspoons has finally ended and been replaced by Theakstons bitter at 99p, which is no doubt fine for those who like that sort of thing.

I can recall organising a coach trip to Masham in North Yorkshire back in the early seventies when I'd just joined CAMRA and Theakstons was a small local brewery with a handful of pubs in the Dales. A good time was had by all, with the bitter and the Old Peculier, and I was congratulated on my good taste. I returned there about five years ago on a trip with the Fylde branch and found the bitter quite reasonable, but then the Masham brewery only produces for the local area.

Since Scottish & Newcastle gobbled up Theakstons and turned it into a national brand, the rest of the 'nation' has to put up with the stuff dished up by the mega-brewery at Newcastle. So never believe the images of shire horses and drystone walls - it's as believable as Dick Van Dyke's accent in 'Mary Poppins'. Even at 99p, Theakstons is not a tippie I can recommend. Compared to what it used to be, it's rain after sunshine.

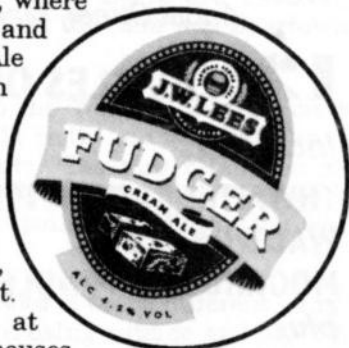
On the subject of cheapish beer, it's always useful to ask if it's a good ale sold at a special price or a mediocre brew offered as bait to bring in the customers. The eponymous bitter at the Goose on Piccadilly at £1 is drinkable, but hardly a class act. Also on offer was Fullers London Pride, which tasted as I remember it - consistency is a quality which should always be appreciated - but as for the draught Bass... I've heard the expression 'a hint of marmalade', but this was dominated by overtones and undertones of orange cordial. One hopes that it was just a one-off.

From the Goose I was persuaded to visit the Fab Café on Portland Street, which is roughly opposite the Circus Tavern. I was amused to be greeted by what any aficionado of Doctor



Who' would recognise as an Ice Warrior. The place tries to show a science fiction theme which, when I was there, consisted of videos of old 'Avengers' episodes. The real ale is supplied by Hydes. I was hoping for Ruby Ratchett, but instead Owd Oak was on offer. I've heard good things about this one, but sadly it was not in good condition and at £1.90 a pint the least you should expect is perfection.

So back to the windy heights of Oldham, where Lees' Archer Stout is now out of season and soon to be replaced by Fudger Cream Ale (4.5%), so called because it has Welsh fudge added during the brewing process. Whatever next? Still, if Budweiser can make vaultfuls of cash brewing beer from rice, then we should allow the Lees-Joneses their little eccentricities. Fudger will be on offer at selected pubs, so if you're desperate, phone up first. Incidentally, it was a recent guest at Wetherspoons at £1.59, but in Lees houses should be about £1.50.



Greggs Discount on Yorkshire Street recently had an impressive ale at a bargain price - Merman from Caledonian Brewery (4.8%). It was surprisingly hoppy for a Scottish beer and only 60p for 500ml. Sadly, someone else found out and purchased the entire stock over a weekend. One more reason for depression.

Anyway, the Stockport Beer Festival should provide an antidote for that. It's twelve months since I've been scribbling for this erudite periodical and my first article was on what to do if you miss the bus to the Stockport Festival. This time I'm fully prepared with timetable and no excuses for failure to attend. I think the quiet session on Saturday afternoon will suit me best.

Windmill

The Windmill (Sam Smiths), a former GBG pub in Carrington, has reopened. The interior hasn't been altered much and handpumped Old Brewery Bitter remains, but now there is much more emphasis on food. And it isn't cheap - £6.50 for plaice and chips...

Making a town halls of it...

Bass are at it again. And it is at the Town Hall Tavern on Tib Lane in the city again. Not too long ago the pub was turned into a keg bar called Copperbutts. This time it is being turned into Flares, a seventies theme bar.



We're in the 1999 Good Beer Guide

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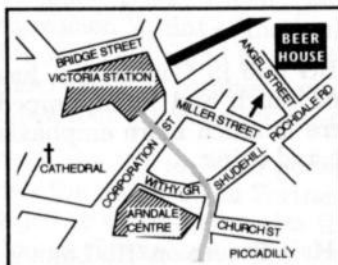
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Irlam

Mark McConachie

A limited crawl of this westerly part of Salford was undertaken in early May, beginning at Greenalls' **Boathouse** on Ferry Road. The pub has had a thorough refit of late and is now styled a 'Country Ale House'. The decor involves much exposed woodwork and brickwork, barrels, bric-à-brac and suchlike - the usual stuff, really. It is very much food orientated, but remains a comfortable enough pub with a pleasant view of the old course of the river. Beers are Festival, Boddies (141p) and a guest at 153p, which at the time was Beartown Polar Eclipse at 4.8%.

A walk to Liverpool Road brought us to the **White Lion** (a JonJo Green's pub, we were told) which once sold Holts and now has Grays bitter at £1 - the cheapest pint in Irlam. The pub retains some vestiges of the ghastly 'Sports' theme, although mercifully these are now mostly masked by an attractive green paint. The White Lion was very busy and deservedly so.

Across the road at Greene King's **Nags Head** it was a different story. Not so busy and no cask ale, despite advertising outside and an IPA pump inside.

As we walked to the Tiger Moth, the last pub on the crawl, our Irlam guide informed us that the Steelworks Social Club (opposite Tesco) was selling cask J W Lees at 120p. Also, in Barton, the Airport (J Smiths) was selling Websters Green Label and Theakstons Old Peculier (at 180p). When we reached the **Tiger Moth** it appeared to be styled as a Joseph Holt free house. Holts mild and bitter were advertised on the bar, but only the bitter was on sale (113p) and the mild had not been sold for ages, apparently. Both beer and pub were fine - a suitable ending to a fine evening.

White Lion

Landlord Mike Dilger was not impressed with a recent *City Life* review of the revamped White Lion on Liverpool Road. Go and have a look and make your own mind up. The pub feels more spacious and there haven't been massive changes - the external alterations are the most obvious. The menu has been changed and the beer is in good nick, although a more adventurous choice would be welcome.

Heaton Park refit

The large 'Beefeater' house, the Heaton Park on Middleton Road, Crumpsall, has been closed for the best part of a month for refurbishment and possibly the addition of a Travel Inn. Any work should be a great improvement!

Certain Uncertainties

Roger Hall

As *What's Doing* went to press the future of Allied Domecq's pub estate was still uncertain. May began with suggestions that Whitbread were to buy the pubs and sell off their own breweries. The deal for 3,600 pubs was worth £2.3 billion. Later in the month there was a rival bid from the Bass management buy out company Punch Taverns for £2.7 billion and speculation that Bass itself might mount a bid. Along the way, Scottish & Newcastle announced the closure of their Bristol brewery, established in 1702 and still brewing real ale including Directors bitter.

An analysis in the *Guardian* (5th May) blamed the upheaval in the industry on the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's 1989 Beer Orders which broke up the tie between brewing and retailing in an attempt to ensure competition. Taking issue with this, Roger Protz blamed monopolisation of beer on 'the rapacious greed of brewing giants'. To my mind this is rather like paying somebody to build a fence to keep out a man-eating tiger and then blaming the tiger when it gets in and eats someone.

Of course brewers are greedy and rapacious, that's the nature of the beast. The point is what might be done about it? One thing which is certain is that the changes in the industry in the next five years will make the 1990s seem like an era of stability. The trend towards massive pub owning groups on the one hand and huge beer producers on the other seems certain to continue. Regional brewers will become more impotent. If they keep a low profile they are increasingly marginalised. If they themselves merge or make acquisitions they make themselves more rather than less vulnerable to takeover. Nitrokeg continues to make inroads and the fringe micro breweries come and go.

Not such a bright future for real ale, eh? Retailers don't care what they sell as long as it's profitable; they've not got a brewery to keep going. Big brewers will not want to mess around with small volume beers which are difficult to manufacture, transport and store. The CAMRA firebrands of yesteryear seem content to relax in their middle class middle age and write glossy coffee table books. The Campaign itself runs self-congratulatory beer festivals where box tickers sample the wares of the latest micro breweries to surface and shacks up with establishment groups to present design awards to minimalist sheds in Walsall.

Meanwhile, the availability of good quality real ale declines, prices escalate and demented designers destroy the character of some of our best loved pubs. If CAMRA is still a campaign then we should ensure that new legislation is introduced which addresses the problems of monopoly in a vigorous way. We might expect a Tory Government to bring in laws which line the pockets of the rich under the banner of

competition. Is it too much to ask a Labour Government to legislate to curtail the social and economic damage which has been the aftermath of the Beer Orders? Surely the newly named Competition Commission has some teeth.

Above all what we seek from CAMRA leaders is a vision of how best we may help to shape a future which we can all enjoy. If that means changing our focus and activities to strengthen our influence then that is what needs to be done. People are allowed to become middle aged and comfortable; campaigns aren't.

Swan & Cemetery

This Thwaites pub on Manchester Road, Redvales, Bury, is open again. The whitewashed, weatherbeaten look has gone and the frontage is now a pleasant shade of beige, complete with new signage. The leaded windows have been retained, as has the porch entrance, and there is a new doorway at the side.



Inside, the pub is furnished in the country style - chairs and tables of different shapes and sizes in varying shades of light brown wood and a bright floral decor. The floor coverings go from rich carpeting and varnished wood to stone flags. There is a 'snug' area with television set to the left of the bar and to the right is the 'parlour', a quieter room away from the bar. A new restaurant has been built at the rear. Cask Thwaites bitter has been retained, although at £1.54 a pint, customers appear to be subsidising the refurbishment.

Samoyed corner

The licensee of Nicklebys (demolished last month) has moved to the Cheshire Cheese on Oldham Road, a keg John Smiths outlet. Will there be a change to real ale, and what news of the big dog?

Letters

Carbuncle corner

Sir - So, Groggnard thinks that Oldham Civic Centre lacks architectural merit (*WD May*). He wants to have a look at the Lancastrian Hall and Central Library in Swinton. A functional public building certainly, but from the outside it appears to have been designed by a four-year-old with a ten-piece Lego set. No wonder it's kept in the dark at night, while the Town Hall and St Peters Church are floodlit; even the Bulls Head has some external illumination. The Lancastrian Hall must also have the worst beer in Manchester - cold, stale, keg Tetley bitter when I last had to drink there.

Dave Crookell

Wetherspools

Sir - A lot has been written in *What's Doing* about Wetherspools, some good, some bad. After visiting about eighty of their outlets throughout the country, the main problem I found was that they served their real and bottled ales far too cold. But it seems the message is starting to filter through. In March I visited all the Greater Manchester Wetherspools apart from the Bocket Arms in Wigan (I didn't have time) and all the beers I tried were excellent and at the right temperature, in marked contrast to my previous visits.

A Wetherspoon pub is a place where you can talk unhindered by the constant racket of music, there is food available nine hours a day and a good range of guest beers, but I do wish the staff would learn to turn the pump clips round when a beer runs out - that does drive me mad!

Graeme Tonge

Little Ol'Lees Drinker

Sir - For those discerning drinkers who wish to escape the flashing lights and din of modern pop music, the Hare & Hounds on Shudehill provides a perfect refuge on Saturday evenings. After 8.00pm the only music to be heard is the best of Dean Martin, Nat King Cole and Old Red Eyes. With John Willie Lees bitter now on sale at £1.15 (alongside Holts at £1.15 and Tetley bitter at £1.47) an enjoyable evening is guaranteed.

The Hare & Hounds is one of Manchester's few remaining traditional pubs, inside and out. Less than an hour away, the city of Liverpool offers dozens of such gems.

Paul Roberts

Rupert

Sir - Poor old Rupert! He's so upset at the idea of a pub designed by women that it's sent him off into a surreal fantasy (*WD last month*) in which he muddles up gays and sado-masochists, temperance reformers and toddlers. Must be the Alzheimer's coming on.

Could his carer explain to him that women make up 50% of the

population and haven't been 'disenfranchised' for quite a few years? And there have been women publicans around since Harold had his hawk in his hand. (They used to call them alewives.) Even Rupert must have a mother. Mustn't he?

Fiona

Gricing

Sir - 'Gricing' is a word that I have heard many times in beer drinking circles, but I had never seen it in print until it appeared on page two of May's WD. I presume the word relates to doing something or ticking something off. Where does it come from? Is it an 'anorak' word, mostly used by those types? I wonder if it is of Welsh origin, invented by some soothsayer from Aberystwyth. I would welcome any suggestions.

Steve Smith

Seasonal Marble

A newish beer has been released by the Marble Brewery - Summer Marble at 4.7%. Newish, because it is Argent Ale (brewed for the 25th anniversary of North Manchester CAMRA) which has been subtly tweaked to leave it slightly drier and less cloying. Available at the Marble Arch and the pubs in Chorlton.

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5 beers and this Real Ale indulgence will open with 25 beers on offer

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open every day until Sunday 18th July.

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Holts Corner

Stewart Revell

Smoothflow DBA has started to appear in a few of Joey's own outlets, including the Ape & Apple in Manchester. From what I have heard from people who have tried the two versions of the beer, the difference is quite difficult to detect. I'm not too sure just what conclusions one can draw from this. After all, the 'smooth' is not a separate brew but normal cask conditioned ale put through a device in the cellar to give it the 'smooth' texture, unlike the 'smooth' beers from other brewers, which are bland keg beers.

Holts now have 125 outlets and one in the pipeline, the Rumworth in Bolton. Over the last year or two they have lost a few of their pubs for one reason or another, but these have been replaced either by acquiring outlets from other brewers or by building new ones.

The bottled strong ale, Sixex, will survive. The nip size bottle (170ml) is being discontinued, but the beer will be available in the next size up, 275ml.

This year Holts are embracing a new concept in product promotion. As part of their Sesquicentennial celebrations, they have started advertising on the sides of buses.

Stalybridge Beer Festival

After being smashed out of his brains at the Oldham Beer Festival, it was time for Countryman to visit Stalybridge...

This was a more sombre affair than the Oldham event, held over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend. The festival was in the Station Buffet Bar and was one of several held during the year. The Station is a very popular venue, with regular train services between Manchester and West Yorkshire, and the festivals are enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

'A veritable cornucopia of new and interesting ales' was promised - over sixty beers, festival glasses and home-made food. The entertainment was in the form of folk music, Morris men and a breweriana sale. There were some wonderful concoctions from breweries far and wide. One of the heavier ones was Museum Brewery's Derailment (8%), which is not unlike their P2 stout. Church End Brewery provided Arthur's Wit (6%) and my favourite was Hoskins & Oldfield's Midnight Express, a 5% strongish mild.

What's the hullabaloo?

If all goes to plan, Hydes will soon have another city centre pub. They intend to acquire the Hullabaloo's restaurant on Peter Street and convert it into a pub, thus bringing their city tally to three. (The Angler and the Grey Horse are the other two.)

Over the Hills

Countryman

Shuffling around Shuttleworth

On the May Day Bank Holiday Monday I took advantage of the excellent 135 (Manchester to Bury) and 472/474 (Bury to Ramsbottom circular) bus services, which ran every 15-20 minutes until early evening. The first port of call was the **Eagle & Child** at the junction of the A56 Whalley Road and Peel Brow. The pub has been opened out and modernised, with sporting pictures dominating the walls, and live jazz sessions are a feature of Monday nights. The beers are draught Bass, Worthington Best Bitter and Eagle Bitter, which is specially brewed for the pub by Bank Top.

Next was the **Pack Horse**, also on Whalley Road, a pleasant local with lounge, vault and a room to the rear for diners. The real ales are Boddingtons bitter and Flowers IPA. Continuing along the road, past the sign for the Fishermans Retreat, eventually brings you to the **Duckworth Arms**. This is an unremarkable 'Brewer's Fayre' establishment, done up in the usual style, with pictures of the area's industrial heritage on the walls. On the bar, cask Boddingtons bitter vies with its 'smoothflow' counterpart.

Now back to the **Fishermans Retreat**. This purpose-built (1992) free house is in the Twine Valley Country Park and has its own trout fishery. The enterprising owner serves up good quality cask ales and fresh home cooked food, including proper chips. The main lounge (no smoking) is upstairs and on one wall is a set of photographs showing the pub under construction. There are low beams, country-style furnishings, stuffed birds and a gigantic chair. The downstairs bar, a former games room, is open evenings, weekends and on fine days, and there is plenty of outside seating. I arrived on the wrong weekend and missed the Spring Beer Festival, but another is planned for September. Regular beers are Courage Directors and Taylors Landlord and there are two guests. I opted for the very refreshing Banks & Taylor Dragon Slayer.

After being adequately fed and watered I took a circuitous route to the **Lord Raglan** (right), an isolated inn above the quiet village of Nangreaves. It is a Scottish-Courage house with a dining room and two lounges. The larger room on the right overlooks the beer garden, with views across to Peel



Tower and Winter Hill. Meals are available at lunchtimes and evenings and the beer range includes Theakstons Best Bitter, Black Bull Bitter, Old Peculier and Ruddles County.

Going down Walmersley Old Road, you come to the **Masons Arms**, an opened-out, split level pub. Unfortunately the advertised Lees bitter was not available and I had to endure Tetley Smoothflow. It was either that or John Smiths Smooth! I soon journeyed on to the next pub along the road. The **Hark to Dandler** is a pleasantly furnished two-roomed Lees house selling GB Mild and Bitter.

By this time I was well and truly bladdered and when I reached the main Walmersley Road in the blistering heat I decided to conclude my crawl. The pubs along this stretch of road will have to wait for another day!

Siddeley's Purge

There was a meeting at the Railway, Hale, recently to discuss reviving an old brew known as Siddeley's Purge. Many years ago there was a brewery next to the railway station run by John Siddeley and now Keith Thomas from the Darwen Brewery is trying to find the recipe for his celebrated Purge, which was last brewed in 1907. The idea is to bring out a bottled version for the Millennium celebrations.

Lees Pub of the Year

J W Lees announced the results of their annual Pub of the Year contest recently. Top in the managed category was the Charlestown, Charlestown Road, Blackley. In the tenanted category the winner was the Hollins Bush at Unsworth.



Pictured are Richard Lees-Jones doing his George Hamilton IV impression, Joe Pounder and Beryl Finnigan of the Charlestown, Patricia and Bernard Collins of the Hollins Bush and Christopher Lees-Jones.

Beer and the Red Rose County

Leo King

Lancashire is the seventh largest of the forty-four English counties and has over one tenth of the population. (I am talking about 'real' Lancashire, which includes the districts such as Greater Manchester which were created in the 1970s.) The county once boasted many breweries. Some closed in the 1920s and 1930s, but many were lost in a pattern of takeovers by the big brewing companies which began in the early 1960s. The sixties produced great music and it also produced crap beers from the likes of Bass, Watneys and Whitbread.

Listed here are the breweries which were still in business in 1950s:

Barrow in Furness

Case & Co. Taken over by Hammonds (Bradford) in 1959.

G S Heath Ltd. Taken over by Hammonds 1959.

Blackburn

Matthew Brown. Taken over by S&N.

Duttons. Taken over by Whitbread. Closed 1978.

Thwaites. Still going.

Blackpool

Catterall & Swarbrick. Taken over by Northern Breweries in 1961

Bolton

Hamer's Volunteer Brewery, Bromley Cross.

Taken over by Duttons in 1951.

Howcrofts Brewery, Spa Road. Closed 1969.

Magee Marshall. Taken over by Greenalls in 1959 and closed in 1970.

Settle's Rose & Crown Brewery. Taken over by Duttons in 1951

Burnley

Masseys. Taken over by Charringtons in 1966.

Burtonwood

Burtonwood Brewery. Still going.

Bury

Crown Brewing C. Taken over by Duttons 1959.

Lancaster

Mitchells. Still going.

Yates & Jackson. Taken over by Thwaites.

Liverpool

Bents Brewery. Taken over by Bass in 1967.

Higsons. Taken over by Boddingtons.

Threlfalls. Taken over by Whitbread in 1967.

Longton

Wilkins Ltd. Taken over by Groves & Whitnall of Salford in 1952.

Manchester

Boddingtons Brewery. Now Whitbread.

Chesters. Taken over by Threlfalls in 1961.

Cornbrook. Taken over by Charringtons in 1961.

Hardy's Crown Brewery, Hulme. Taken over by United Breweries in 1962.

Joseph Holt, Cheetham. Still going.

Hydes Anvil Brewery, Moss Side. Still going.

Openshaw Brewery, West Gorton. Taken over by

Hope & Anchor Breweries (Sheffield) in 1957.

Rothwells, Newton Heath. Taken over by

Marstons in 1961.

Swales, Hulme. Taken over by Boddingtons 1970:

Taylor's Eagle Brewery, Greenheys. Taken over

by Marstons in 1958.

Wilson's, Newton Heath. Closed 1986.

Yates Castle Brewery, Ardwick. Taken over by

John Smiths 1961.

Middleton Junction

J W Lees. Still going.

Oldham

Oldham Brewery. Taken over by Boddies in 1982.

Taylor & Lees, George St. Closed about 1960.

Welcome Brewery, Henshaw Street. Taken over

by Hope & Anchor Breweries (Sheffield) 1959.

Preston

Preston Breweries. Taken over by Thwaites 1955.

Rochdale

Rochdale & Manor Brewery. Taken over by Sam

Smiths in 1948 and closed in 1974.

Salford

Groves & Whitnall, Regent Road Brewery. Taken

over by Greenalls 1961. Stopped brewing 1972.

Threlfalls. Taken over by Whitbread in 1967.

Stockport (Lancashire side)

Clarke's, Reddish. Taken over by Boddingtons in 1963.

Ulverston

Hartleys. Taken over by Robinsons.

Warrington

Greenall Whitley. Stopped brewing in 1991.

Walkers. Merged with Tetleys in 1960.

Waterfoot

Baxters. Taken over by Beverleys of Wakefield in 1952.

Wigan

J B Almond Ltd, Standish. Taken over by

Burtonwood in 1968.

Farrimonds Brewery, Newtown. Taken over by

Swales in 1946 and closed in 1961.

To compensate, to some extent, for all those breweries that have closed, Lancashire has gained quite a few new ones, such as Bank Top (Bolton), Cains (Liverpool), Coach House (Warrington), McGuinness (Rochdale), Porter's (Haslingden), Bridgewater (Salford) and many more. There are also several brewpubs such as the Marble Brewery, the Lass o' Gowrie, and the Footage and Firkin, so maybe we can't complain.

The request stop beer hop

The fourth beer festival at the Bhurtpore Inn, Aston, near Nantwich, takes place from Wednesday 7th July to Sunday 11th July. All day opening is on Saturday only. (See advertisement below.)

The Bhurtpore is 12 minutes' walk from Wrenbury Station, a request stop for local trains on the Crewe-Shrewsbury line. On Saturday 10th July the Crewe & Shrewsbury Passengers' Association has arranged for the 1133 train from Manchester Piccadilly to stop at Wrenbury. A return train to Manchester will stop at Wrenbury at 1703. Other trains from Wrenbury (change at Crewe) are at 1835, 2057 and 2203 (long wait).

Despite the engineering work and buses replacing trains last year, a record number of passengers used Wrenbury. This year, no engineering work is scheduled so travel should be a lot more comfortable! There should be a bus service from Wrenbury to Aston during the afternoon. For further details of this ring 01743 358179, evenings.



THE FOURTH BHURTPORE INN BEER FESTIVAL

7th - 11th July 1999

Bhurtpore Inn, Aston, Nantwich, Cheshire

Featuring around 80 REAL ALES
from Britain's small independent brewers

plus Real Cider & Perry

180 bottled Belgian, German & British beers

Opening times:

Weds: 6.30-11pm. Thurs, Friday: 12noon-2.30, 6.30-11pm

Saturday: 12noon-11pm. Sunday 12noon-3pm, 7-10.30pm

FREE ADMISSION - All enquiries ring 01270 780917

SPECIAL TRAINS FROM MANCHESTER & CARDIFF

12 MINUTES WALK FROM WRENBURY RAILWAY STATION

PLEASE NOTE: Only all-day opening is on Saturday 10th July



Dublin Dayze (2)

It's two years since Steve Smith and Mark McConachie visited the Fair City and now they've been back...

No visit to Dublin is complete without a visit to the **Porterhouse** on Parliament Street, a much written-about place serving very palatable home brewed ales. Also on offer this time was Black Biddy Stout (4.4%) from the Biddy Early Brewing Company in County Clare.

Porterhouse now has a rival - **Messrs Macguire**, in a converted warehouse close to O'Connell Bridge on Burgh Quay. The beer Mmenu (there's a double-M theme, down to the Mmen and Wommen lavatories) lists a variety of ale styles. Plain (4.3%) is a dark, ruby red Irish stout; the dark and hoppy Extra is the strongest (5%); Rusty (4.6%) has 'pineapple fruit undertones and caramel flavours'; Haus (4.3%) is Pilsener-style, with Czech and Bavarian hops, and Yankee (4.2%) is cold fermented, American style. The beers are sold in pints, half-pints and Continental-style 'shots' in 8oz glasses.

In the fashionable shopping area of Grafton Street and the trendy Temple Bar, **John Mulligan's** on Poolbeg Street still thrives. The **Palace Bar** on Fleet Street has a superb frontage and resplendent interior to match. A long, narrow bar leads to a wainscotted rear room with fine divided screenwork, mirrors and a striking skylight feature.

Along Temple Bar, the **Temple Bar** pub is a busy place with several drinking areas, including a courtyard which on cold nights is heated by a giant gas apparatus. The **Auld Dubliner**, Anglesea Street, has reopened as a two-tier drinking experience.



Opposite here is the **Oliver St John Gogarty** on Fleet Street, with its central bar and intimate drinking areas. On Essex Street East is the pale blue frontage of the **Norseman**. The pub has a cosy interior and a long bar and it is an outlet for Guinness's new Breo (pronounced Bro) beer. This 5% 'white' cloudy wheat beer has a Turkish Delight flavour, is exceedingly cold and is not cheap - £1.50 per half pint.

The **Brazen Head**, Lower Bridge Street, is Dublin's oldest pub and an absolute gem of a place, with live music sessions and many rooms. Back in more familiar territory, the **Ha'penny Bridge** on Wellington Quay has a good atmosphere in a good drinking environment. The **Long Hall** on Great George's Street is



another one of those pubs with a long, narrow bar (hence the name).

Just off Dame Street, in Dame Court, is the **Stags Head** - lots of etched glass, mahogany furnishings and a marble-topped bar, above which is the head of a stag. The **International Bar** on Wicklow Street, a ground floor bar with a downstairs lounge which is really like a tap room, is a haunt of beat music lovers. Opposite here is the **Old Stand**, Exchequer Street, a local with a front bar and back room.

Down in Harry Street is **McDaid's**, a one-time haunt of Dublin's literary luminaries. Most of the original features remain and it has one of the highest pub ceilings I have ever seen. A little further on is **Kehoe's** on Anne Street South, with an elegant display of International Rugby shirts contrasting with less modern fittings. A set of beer engines, unused, sits alongside the dispensers.

O'Donoghue's in Merrion Row is probably the city's most famous pub. The street leads to Lower Baggot Street and the two-roomed **Doheny and Nesbitt's**. Old whiskey mirrors and wooden screens predominate in this comfortable retreat. A few steps further on is **Toner's** pub, with a wonderful Power's Whiskey mirror behind the bar. High ceilings once again, and more mirrors add to the splendour.

In the southern suburbs is Booterstown and the **Old Punch Bowl** is a lively corner pub on the main coastal road. A couple of hundred yards from here is **Gleeson's Bar**, which is more like a plush hotel.

In County Wicklow, Bray still has its **Porterhouse**, a worthwhile stopping off point. It is possible to stroll along the coastal path from here to Greystones. There's not too much activity here, but **Burnaby's Lounge Bar** on the main street is useful and the **Beach House** down by the harbour sells good value food and has live jazz on Sunday afternoons.

On the northern side of the city, near to Phoenix Park on Blackhorse Avenue, is the **Hole in the Wall**, aka **McCaffrey's**. The narrow entrance leads back and beyond to several rooms, making it one of the longest pubs in the land. The gents' has the weirdest combination of multi-coloured mosaic tiling ever assembled. Nearer the city, on Parkgate Street, there are two fine pubs. **Nancy Hands** is good to lunch at and occasionally sells guest beers, and **Ryan's**, almost next door, has a splendid Victorian interior. From here it is possible to catch the No.68 bus to **Polly Hops** (WD March).

In the northern area of Glasnevin, by Prospect Square and the cemetery, is a grand drinkers' pub, **John Kavanagh's**, nicknamed the **Gravediggers** for obvious reasons. No.1 bar is a vault-type room, with saloon-type swing doors and bare floorboards; No.2 is a lounge, but you can feel equally at home in both.

The delightful fishing village of Skerries on the north coast has **Keane's Bus Bar** on the main street, a handy retreat whilst waiting for the bus. When returning via Howth, the popular **Abbey Tavern** has the attraction of live music sessions.

In the city, **Madigan's**, Abbey Street Lower, has a long, grandiose interior. **Patrick Conway's** on Parnell Street is North Dublin's oldest pub, an eighteenth century gem. Close to Parnell Square, **Joxter Daly's** still offers cheap pints and the oddly named **Waxy Dargle** by Granby Row is one of those true to life street corner locals. Amongst the boisterous clientele in this slightly run-down pub we encountered 'Dublin Jerry', teller of wondrous tales. We had no doubt that his exploits were all true.

Getting Around

We opted for the Dublin Explorer ticket (£10), valid after 9.45am weekdays and all day Saturdays and Sundays. It can be used on all Dublin bus, Dart and suburban rail services for four consecutive days. This 'short hop' ticket covers the area of Greater Dublin to Balbriggan in the north, Kilcoole in the south and Maynooth in the west.



Rupert

'What on earth is Eddy Nestfeather doing with our beloved organ?' Fiona was incandescent with indignation and self-importance. 'It's full of what we did on our holidays, obscure social histories and even bloody anagrams by the anagramatic "Arseholed". What's it coming to? Is there no news?' Helpful suggestions like getting out and about and encouraging people to write in with snippets of news fell on deaf ears until the twin topics of Borisitis and listlessness were raised.

'We're all suffering to a greater or lesser extent from Borisitis or Pratt's Disease,' said Ophelia Hampton, explaining that this was a tendency for fervent revolutionaries to mellow, take the establishment's shilling and generally behave like a dancing bear. Occasionally their subdued passion would surface as they leaped out of their Volvo with road rage or shouted on trains.

After a lot of finger pointing and mutual recrimination we moved on to Alastair's point. 'I blame the lack of lists,' he said. 'Look at this - May 1999 - one list - rather a good one, I must admit, incorporating as it does such features as cumulative furlongs travelled, but a far cry from the good old days. What I think Nestfeather should do is to

compile a list of lists, featuring all the groundbreaking lists of the past. I've actually made a start for him. In the very first edition there was a list of all good beer guide pubs in the area, a list of complaints against CAMRA HQ and a list of committee members. By issue 2 there were lists of Greengate pubs, Bass cask pubs, Regional Conference matters and local branch contacts. By March 1976 we had lists of all the pubs in Slumley, the Drabs estate, hostelryes of North Grotley and all the Felix outlets in the world - a real listoholic nirvana.

It was perhaps surprising that Alistair should so accurately diagnose what was lacking. After I'd returned from the Unisex a decision seemed to have been taken. The kind Mr Grimm had volunteered to set up a branch internet site. What could possibly be more interesting than a list of lists with cross-linkages and updates? The bibulous surfer would be able to compare dogs on roofs, revolving doors, billiard tables and Drabs in clubs over two decades. If it was truly interactive, visitors could contribute and new lists could emerge, perhaps even a toppers' vademecum might be created. Eddy could sample the site for each issue and publish edited highlights of the most popular lists. 'When can you start?' Bunty shouted. Sadly, Mr Grimm had left to catch the tram.

Contributors to this issue: Paul Roberts, Steve Smith, Mark McConachie, Roger Hall, Rob Magee, Dave Crookell, Mike Goode, Paul Warbrick, John Cresswell.

Branch Diary

Sat 3 July, 12 noon.
**Independents' Day
Treasure Hunt.** Beer
House, Angel Street.

Winter Ales Festival

The first organising meeting for
the National Winter Ales
Festival 2000 will be at 12.30pm
on 27th June at the Beer House.
All welcome.

(Note change of date.)

Rochdale, Oldham & Bury

Tues 1 June 8.30pm, Branch Annual General Meeting, Eagle & Child,
Higher Lane, Whitefield.

Sat 5 June, Coach Social, Nantwich and South Cheshire. Details from
Branch Contact

Tues 15 June 8.30pm Committee Meeting, Royal Oak, Whittaker
Lane, Prestwich.

Tues 29 June 8.30pm What's Doing Collation, Cask & Feather,
Oldham Road, Rochdale.

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

North Manchester

Wed 2 June, Whitefield and Besses Crawl. Wheatsheaf 7.30, then
Church, Red King, New Grove 8.30, Coach & Horses 9.30.

Wed 9 June, Rochdale & Ashton Canals Crawl. Dukes 9.27pm,
Peveril of the Peak 8.30, Jolly Angler 10pm.

Wed 16 June 8pm, Branch Meeting, Welcome, Robert Hall Street,
Salford.

Wed 23 June 8pm, Committee & Social, White Lion, Swinton.

Tues 29 June 6pm onwards. What's Doing collation, Queens Arms,
Honey Street.

Wed 30 June, Altrincham. Old Mill 7.30, Malt Shovels 8.30, Orange
Tree 9pm.

Contact: Roger Hall 0161 740 7937

WHAT'S DOING contributions should be sent to the editor c/o 88 Ringley
Road, Stoneclough, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 1ET, to arrive no later than
first post on the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

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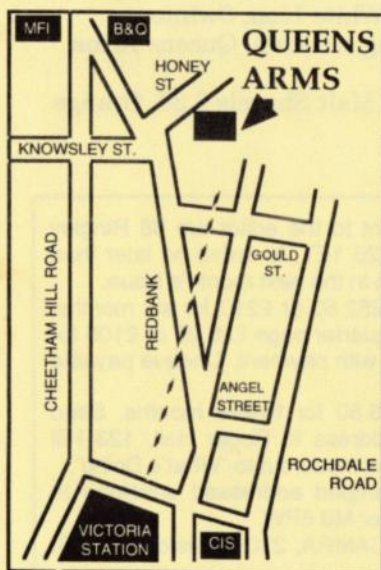
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