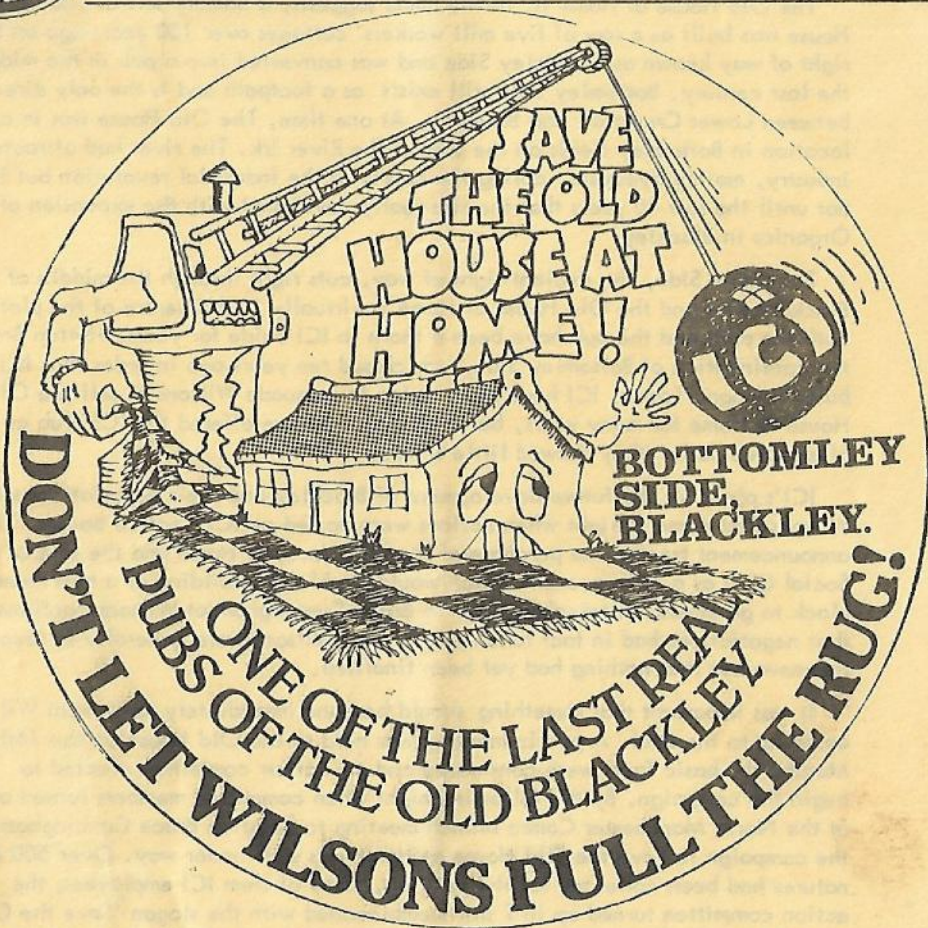


WHAT'S DOING

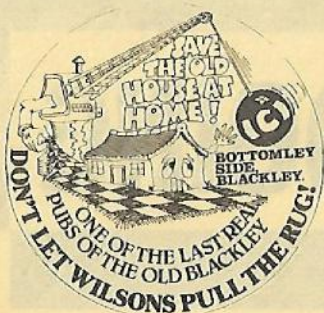
APRIL
1978



THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



Plans for expansion at ICI's Blackley complex include a proposal to demolish the Old House at Home and close Bottomley Side. Local feeling is running high and a full-scale campaign to save the old pub is well under way. For the full story, see inside



THE STORY SO FAR.....

The Old House at Home is, as the name suggests, a homely sort of pub. The Old House was built as a row of five mill workers' cottages over 150 years ago on the right of way known as Bottomley Side and was converted into a pub in the middle of the last century. Bottomley Side still exists as a footpath and is the only direct route between Lower Crumpsall and Blackley. At one time, The Old House was in a rural location in Bottomley fields on the side of the River Irk. The river had attracted industry, mainly dyeworks, during the course of the industrial revolution but it was not until the last 40 years that the site really developed with the expansion of ICI Organics in Blackley.

Bottomley Side, the ancient right of way, cuts right through the middle of ICI's Blackley Site and the Old House at Home is virtually in the centre of the plot. Both the path and the pub have been a thorn in ICI's side for years. Hutton Brow, the continuation of Bottomley Side, was closed ten years ago in order that ICI could build Hexagon Tower. ICI have been trying to persuade Wilsons to sell the Old House at Home for many years, but until Wilsons were offered the ICI club as an alternative outlet, they showed little interest.

ICI's plans for the future development of Blackley and their negotiations with Wilsons first came to light when notices were posted on ICI's notice boards. The announcement treated the purchase of the Old House at Home and the sale of the Social Club as a fait accompli which would enable the building of a new research block to go ahead. A telephone call to Bruce Cunningham at Wilsons confirmed that negotiations had in fact taken place, that Wilsons were generally in favour of the move but that nothing had yet been finalised.

It was important that something should be done immediately to prevent Wilsons agreeing to the deal. A public meeting was held at the Old House on the 14th March, the basic facts were considered and an action committee elected to begin the campaign. By the following night when committee members turned up at the North Manchester Camra branch meeting to question Bruce Cunningham, the campaign to Save the Old House at Home was well under way. Over 500 signatures had been collected for the petition, many of them ICI employees; the action committee turned up in T shirts emblazoned with the slogan 'Save the Old House at Home' which impressed Bruce Cunningham so much that he took one back to show his Directors. Wilsons were evidently convinced that the campaign meant business.

During the next two days, press releases were sent out, 1,000 leaflets were

distributed and contact was made with Fred Lever, a local councillor, Paul Rose, the MP for Blackley, the Victorian Society, the Footpath Society and the Town Hall.

The campaign made the front page of the Blackley Guardian where ICI's statement that the pub had been sold and Wilsons' that it hadn't were neatly juxtaposed. A quarter page spread with photographs appeared in the Manchester Evening News the following Monday.

A second public meeting had been arranged for the 29th March and vigorous activity preceded that meeting. Over 200 people turned up at a lunchtime rally on Sunday March 19th; considerable energy was expended in finding out about the history of the pub and in contacting ICI and other interested parties. Further leaflets and badges were printed and the campaign kept its impetus.



It turned out that ICI had not yet applied for planning permission but their architects' impression envisaged a new research block stretching across Bottomley Side and three trees where the Old House is now.

Representatives from both ICI and Wilsons were invited to the second public meeting. Perhaps because of a protest at the Town Hall on the same day which was covered on television, nobody turned up from ICI. Bruce Cunningham told the meeting of Wilsons' attitude to the sale of the pub. The brewery had been immensely impressed by the amount of support which the campaign had attracted. The only thing which might make Wilsons sell the pub was ICI's claim that 1,000 jobs were at stake. The brewery would not be willing to stand in the way of a scheme which would create this number of jobs in Blackley. The argument that one building and one footpath could prevent development of the site was clearly spurious and in the Manchester Evening News of 29th March it was stated that ICI had admitted that the planned research building would not create new jobs but would be operated by staff transferred from the existing unit.

Although Wilsons brewery have realised the merits of the Old House at Home and ICI is to hold a public meeting to explain its plans, the campaign is far from finished. The Peak and Northern Footpaths Society are determined to fight any proposal to close Bottomley Side. Local residents will fight ICI's planning proposals from an amenity point of view. The Save the Old House at Home Committee is researching and seeking advice so that, if necessary, they can fight the planning proposals, object to the transfer of the licence and put a preservation order on the pub with a view to obtaining listed building status.

If it does become necessary to fight ICI's proposals considerable expense could be incurred and a fund has been started to meet this contingency. Help is still required to ensure that both ICI and Wilsons are kept aware of the strength of public opinion. If you've never been to the Old House, go along and see for yourself whether this is a pub with a convivial atmosphere and a sense of tradition which is worth preserving, or whether it should go to make way for a new research block for a huge multi-national chemical corporation. Talk to the regulars, enjoy the well kept cask-conditioned beer, try a bar snack and reflect on what ICI propose to do. If you're impressed sign the petition, write to the paper and help to support a campaign which aims to preserve not only a pub but part of our local heritage.

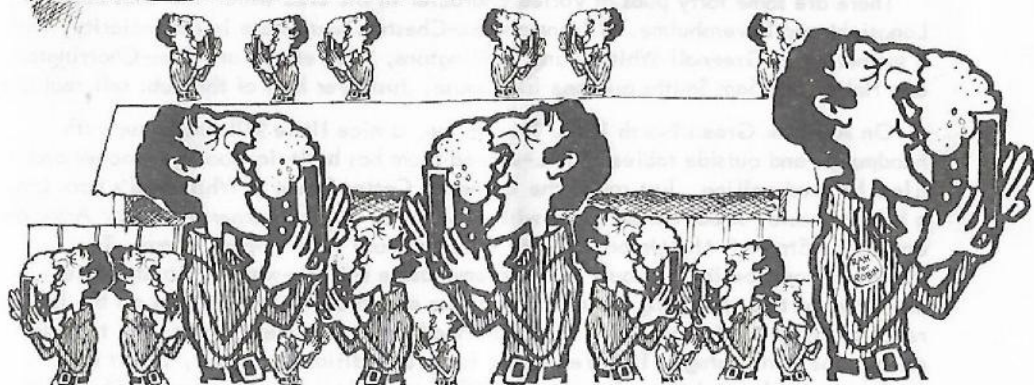
STOP PRESS: Mike Harding - who started from the Old House at Home some 15 years ago - has pledged his support to the campaign and will raise money by charity concerts.

If you would like to help in any way contact Kevin McCann 127 Factory Lane, Blackley 740 0041



STOCKPORT: The Mersey Tavern, until recently the property of one of Grand Metropolitan's other subsidiaries, is being transferred back to Wilsons control and cask beer and hanpumps will replace the tank beer.

CAMRA A.G.M. CARDIFF



THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1978

Motions before the Meeting:

- 1 All branches with funds in excess of 12p should have their balances confiscated to defray the cost of Camra cravats for the NE.
- 2 Camra Headquarters should be moved to Rockall which is administratively more convenient, would avoid taxation and enable Camra to produce its own postage stamps without having to buy a fire escape.
- 3 The Membership Fee should be raised to 18gns to discourage proletarian riff-raff from adulterating the Campaign.
- 4 All new members of the Campaign should bare their left breast and swear the following pledge of allegiance: "I promise to uphold the aims of the Campaign, to drink halves of real ale at all times, to converse knowledgeably with like-minded people and to wear a Camra tie."
- 5 Camra Publications should be encouraged to produce a Real Ale Drinkers Dictionary in order that expressions like 'Amber Nectar', 'An Unassuming Malty Mild', 'A Cheeky Little Bitter', may be used with contextual validity on all occasions.
- 6 The concepts of democratisation inherent in the tripartite hierarchy structure of Camra Ltd have exacerbated the problems manifest in the ongoing communications interface situation. This meeting demands the appointment of a Dictator as of now with powers to gas dissenters and wear leather clothes and accessories.
- 7 This meeting confers on Ian Macmillan the Honorary Degree of D.Litt. in Applied Verbosity for his services to the English language.

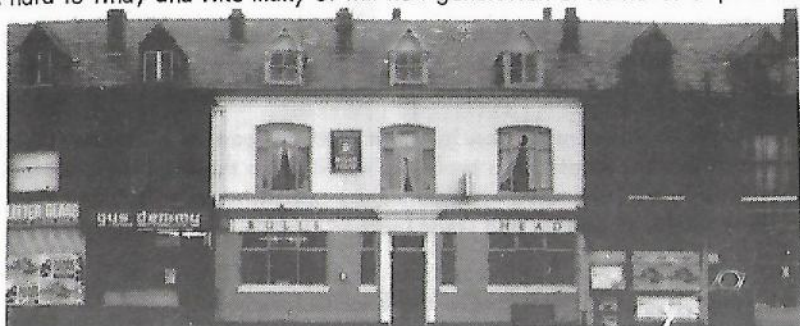
THE PUBS OF ARDWICK AND STOCKPORT ROAD

There are some forty pubs of varied character in the area which includes Ardwick, Longsight and Levenshulme. Wilsons and ex-Chesters houses are in the majority, with a sprinkling of Greenall Whitley and Boddingtons, two Tetley, one Bass-Charrington, one Holts, one Sam Smiths and one free house. Just over half of the pubs sell real ale.

On Ardwick Green North is the Church Inn, a nice little Wilsons house with handpumps and outside tables. The L-shaped room has built-in wooden benches and a low beamed ceiling. Just round the corner in Cotter Street is Whitbread's Park Inn, a bright, basic, street corner local with two rooms. On the corner of Higher Ardwick and Union Street is the Union, a little Wilsons house with electric pumps. The modern decoration in the vault seems to emphasize the pre-war Manchester-Irish character of this appealing little house. There are three Whitbread pubs on the lower reach of Hyde Road. The first is the Bulls Head, a warm, friendly pub with two big rooms, one with a stage. The Wellington is more traditional; a vault, intact beer engines, corridor and two other rooms, with live music in the back room. The Hyde Road Hotel is a fine example of Brewers' Gothic. It was a Chesters house, a vast vault lit by a row of arched windows extends across the front of the building, a wide lobby traverses it and a gaudy spiral staircase is one of the pub's features.

Opposite Hyde Road bus depot is a large red brick Wilsons pub, the Star. This has electric pumps, and a cruciform plan with built-on vault. It is popular with bus crews. Behind this pub is Fort Ardwick, wherein is the busy Grey Mare. A large modern Boddingtons pub with electric pumps, there is the Widdicombe Lounge and the Tom Pearce Bar. At the sharp end of the fort is Greenalls' Ardwick Empire. Very modern with variety theatre prints in the two rooms, it is very plain, very Mancunian, but the beer is tank.

Behind the Apollo Theatre is the Apsley Cottage, a pretty little two-roomed pub with bare floors and low ceilings, selling bright Wilsons beers. Along Stockport Road is the Devonshire, a very big, ornate tank Watney house, which is primarily a pool hall. Further along Stockport Road is the New Victoria, a new two-roomed Greenalls pub which is built with its back to Stockport Road. It is a bright, warm pub which is popular with nearby residents. In the hinterland beyond is the Railway. This is a new Boddingtons house in which doors, windows and some other fittings have been reclaimed from a previous pub of the same name. It is hard to find, and like many of the new generation of Manchester pubs seems



Bulls Head - a Daniel Clifton house before falling into the hands of Whitbread

to be totally 'landlocked'. Nonetheless a nice bright pub. At the end of Olwen Street is the Longsight Inn, a peculiar little two-roomed pub built in the gatehouse at Belle Vue's back entrance. Keg Tetleys and John Smiths are sold. Back on Stockport Road is the Church, a large shabby pub set back from the road, serving top pressure Bass Charrington. In the centre of Longsight is the Spring Bank, a small rather unappealing three-roomed pub with electrically pumped cask beer. At the end of the village is the Crown, a very spacious three-roomed Wilsons pub using electric pumps.

In Pink Bank Lane is a newish Holts house, the Garratt. It features three big rooms, handpumps and etched windows depicting railway engines built at Gorton - a thoroughly nice pub to come on unexpectedly. The Gorton Mount on Mount Road is a friendly little Boddingtons house with electric pumps, two small mock tudor rooms and a large off-sales department. There is a fine Boddies pub on Barlow Road, the Polygon. This is a traditional pub with a busy vault, a snug approached through the bar, handpumps and open fires. Also on Barlow Road is the Blue Bell, a huge suburban pub belonging to Sam Smiths. It is a busy pub but offers nothing to the purist. The Horse Shoe, a pleasant little Wilsons pub using electric pumps, is situated in Chapel Lane, a side street off Levenshulme centre.

Back on Stockport Road is the Midway, a very big corner pub with high ceilings and an overfacing number of internal partitions of highly polished wood and etched glass. The Victoria is another Wilsons pub selling bright beer. This must surely be the nastiest pub in the city, with staff whom I found to be surly and uncivil. The Union is a basic four-roomed Boddingtons house with handpumps and half tiled walls. This pub is unfortunately high on the list for 'Boddification'. During the winter there is strong ale on draught. The Pack Horse is a basic Wilsons house with handpumps. The absence of a brewer's sign, the date (1907) on the corner and the half-hearted internal alterations give the initial impression that this might be a Holts house. The Levenshulme is a four-roomed Wilsons house with handpumps. It is rather more plush than one might expect. I found the service polite but exasperatingly slow. This seems to be a fault much more common in Wilsons houses than in those of other brewers. The Wheatsheaf is a large local on the corner of Broom Lane where bright Greenalls beer is dispensed by push-button units.



There are three other pubs in the centre of Levenshulme. The Railway is a large, rambling Whitbread pub with at least six rooms. The layout is traditional with half tiled walls. The Church Inn is a Greenalls house with push-button dispense; a nice, traditional pub, it has a half-tiled corridor with stained glass ceiling light, two rooms and vault. The Farmers Arms is a big traditional Whitbread pub with four rooms and a little snug.

Back in Longsight the first pub is Boddingtons' Bay Horse, a very busy modern two-roomed pub in the shopping centre. On the corner of Plymouth Grove is the oldest pub in the area, the Waggon and Horses. This is a pretty half-timbered Wilsons house, very popular with young people. It is rather straggling, built in Tudor style and has highly polished beer engines. The Ducie Arms is another Stockport Road pub, a warm and comfortable Whitbread house. Another Whitbread pub is the Gold Cup, a big three-roomed pub with tiled exterior but inside walls of wood veneer. The Lancaster further down Stockport Road is an attractive Wilsons house serving the beer through handpumps. The Watney-type lampshades are out of place in this substantial corner pub of traditional layout. An accordionist makes a pleasant change from the usual piped music.



Near the top of Stockport Road is Wilson Street. All the property has now been demolished except for the Cleveland, a bright but rather plain pub with vault and split parlour. The beer is hand drawn Wilsons. There is another handpumped Wilsons house just down the road on Ardwick Green South. This is the George and Dragon, a tiled pub with a warm, welcoming interior. Hot snacks can be had from the central bar. There is some attractive wall panelling with built-in mirrors. Away behind in the midst of the new Medlock housing development is an older Wilsons pub - the Sherwood on Hanworth Close. The two rooms each have their own bar where push-button dispensers are used. Some of the locals give an impression of physical aggression, but this is only 'in fun'. In nearby Justin Close is a new Whitbread pub - the King William IV. Its two rooms are both warm and comfortable with hot snacks at lunchtime. The Mawsons Arms off Brunswick Street is a splendid traditional pub of cruciform design; the walls are half-tiled and the mirrors in the four rooms give an impression of space. The beer is handpumped Tetleys. The Plymouth Grove is a magnificent turreted building with a clock tower and ornate verandahs concealing a modernised three-roomed Boddingtons pub using electric pumps.

Bill Calvert



REAL ALE in OLDHAM



Oldham Hotel	Yorkshire Street	Centre	Marstons	M, B(E)
One and Three	Manchester Street	Centre	Marstons	M, B(E)
Ordinance Arms	Park Road	Gladwick	Oldham B	M, B(E)
Oxford	Oxford Street	Werneth	Robinsons	M, B(E)
Plough	Huddersfield Road	Waterhead	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Plough	Chadderton Way	Coldhurst	Lees	M, B(H)
Prince of Wales	Bleasby Street	Hill Stores	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Prince of Wales	Spencer Street	St Mary's	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Queens	Manchester Road	Werneth	Robinsons	M, B(E)
Radcliffe Arms	St Mary's Way	Centre	Lees	M, B(E)
Railway	Lees Road	Mumps	Wilsons	M, B(H/E)
Robin Hood	Lees Road	Clarksfield	Oldham B	M, B(E)
Roebuck	King Street •	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Rose of Lancaster	Manchester Road	Werneth	Oldham B	M, B(H)
Royal	Rochdale Road	Coldhurst	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Royal	Horsedge Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Royal Oak	Manchester Road	Werneth	Robinsons	M, B(E)
Royal Oak	Union Street	Centre	Robinsons	M, B(H)
Shepherds Boy	Huddersfield Road	Waterhead	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Smut	Manchester Road	Werneth	Boddingtons	M, B(H)
Spinners Arms	Lees Road	Clarksfield	Bass	LM, B(E)
Spotted Cow	Middleton Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Star Inn	King Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Streetbridge Inn	Roman Road	Hollinwood	Oldham B	M, B(H)
Sun Inn	Henshaw Street	Bar Gap	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Temple	Huddersfield Road	Waterhead	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Trap Inn	Rochdale Road	Coldhurst	Oldham B	M, B(E)
Victoria	Hollins Road	Garden Suburb	Marstons	M, B(H)
Waggon and Horses	Manchester Road	Hollinwood	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Waggon and Horses	Huddersfield Road	Hill Stores	Oldham B	M, B(H)
Waterloo	Union Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Weavers Arms	Huddersfield Road	Hill Stores	Lees	M, B(E)
Wellington	Ripponden Road	Watersheddings	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Westbourne	Middleton Road	Werneth	Oldham B	M, B(H)
Westwood	Featherstall Road South	Werneth	Oldham B	M, B(H)
Wheatsheaf	Darker Street	Darker	Wilsons	M, B(H)
White Swan	Huddersfield Road	Hill Stores	Robinsons	M, B(E)
Windsor	Shaw Road	Higgingshaw	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Woodman	Manchester Road	Hollinwood	Lees	M, B(E)

FAILSWORTH AREA, including Woodhouses

Bay Horse	Wickentree Lane	Centre	Marstons	M, B(H)
Black Horse	Oldham Road	Centre	Marstons	M, B(H)
Bridge Inn	Oldham Road	Centre	Marstons	M, B(H)
Bulls Head	Oldham Road	Broadway	Sam Smiths	B(H)
Church	Oldham Road	Centre	Robinsons	M, B(E)
Cloggers Arms	Oldham Road	Broadway	Greenalls	M, B(E)
Cotton Tree	Ashton Road East	Holt Lane End	Marstons	M, B(H)
Dog and Partridge	Medlock Road	Woodhouses	Marstons	M, B(E)
Dutchbirds	Oldham Road	Centre	Marstons	M, B(H)
Failsworth Arms	Ashton Road West	Centre	Sam Smiths	B(H)
Foresters Arms	Oldham Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Grey Horse	Oldham Road	Centre	Lees	M, B(H)
Halfway House	Oldham Road	Broadway	Greenalls	M, B(H)
Lamb	Oldham Road	Broadway	Boddingtons	M, B(E)
Mare and Foal	Ashton Road West	Centre	Marstons	M, B(E)
Nelson	Hulmes Road	Brookdale Park	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Pack Horse	Wrigley Head	Centre	Marstons	M, B(H)
Sun	Oldham Road	Centre	Bass	BM(H)
Weavers Arms	Oldham Road	Broadway	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Wheatsheaf	Oldham Road	Centre	Marstons	M, B(H)
Woodhouse Gardens	Medlock Road	Woodhouses	Lees	M, B(H)

CHADDERTON AREA, including Mills Hill

Albion	Drury Lane	Hollinwood	Lees	M, B(E)
Boat and Horses	Broadway	White Gate	Lees	M, B(E)

Britannia	Washbrook	Coalshaw Green	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Commercial	Butler Green	Coalshaw Green	Bass	BM, LM(E)
Crown	Walsh Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Hare and Hounds	Black Lane	Freehold	Lees	M, B(E)
Horton Arms	Streetbridge Road	Healds Green	Lees	M, B(H)
Hunt Lane Tavern	Middleton Road	Hunt Lane	Lees	M, B(E)
Hustlers	Middleton Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Rifle Range	Burnley Lane	Westhulme	Lees	M, B(H)
Rose of Lancaster	Haigh Lane	Mills Hill	Lees	M, B(E)
Sportsman	Denton Lane	Nimble Nook	Bass	BM(E)

ROYTON, including Thornham and Heyside

Angel Inn	Shaw Road	Heyside	Lees	M, B(E)
Carters Arms	Oldham Road	Centre	Oldham B	M, B(E)
Dog and Partridge	Middleton Road	Royley	Lees	M, B(E)
Duke of Edinburgh	Market Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Duke of York	Heyside	Heyside	Lees	M, B(E)
Greyhound	Elly Clough	Holden Fold	Lees	M, B(E)
Grey Mare	Oldham Road	Boundary Park	Oldham B	M, B(E)
Haggate	Middleton Road	Royley	Lees	M, B(E)
Halfway House	Rochdale Road	Oozewood	Lees	M, B(E)
Hare and Hounds	Higginshaw Lane	Higginshaw	Lees	M, B(E)
Hope and Anchor	Sandy Lane	Centre	Bass	LM, B(E)
Marston Tavern	Rochdale Road	Centre	Marstons	M, B(H)
Railway	Oldham Road	Centre	Lees	M, B(E)
Turks Head	Springfield Lane	Thornham	Wilsons	M, B(H/E)
White Hart	Oldham Road	Boundary Park	Wilsons	M, B(H)

CROMPTON/SHAW AREA, including High Crompton

Black Horse	Rochdale Road	High Crompton	Lees	M, B(H/E)
Blue Bell	Market Street	Centre	Robinsons	M, B(E)
Coach and Horses	Market Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Duke of York	Market Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Kings Arms	Manchester Road	Shawside	Marstons	M, B(E)
Morning Star	Grains Road	Clough	Lees	M, B(E)
Park	Buckstones Road	Crompton Fold	Wilsons	M, B(H/E)
Puckersley	Thornham Road	Thornham	Lees	M, B(E)
Star	Rochdale Road	High Crompton	Bass	BM, B(E)

SADDLEWORTH AREA, including Uppermill, Delph, Denshaw, Greenfield, Lydgate,

Black Horse	Ripponden Road	Denshaw	Bass	LM(H/E)
Bulls Head	King Street	Delph	Bass	LM(E)
Commercial	High Street	Uppermill	Bass	Bass M(E)
Commercial	Co-operative Street	Springhead	Bass	LM(E)
Cross Keys	Runninghill Gate	Uppermill	Lees	M, B(E)
Cross Keys	Huddersfield Road	New Delph	Wilsons/Theakstons(H)	M, B&S/A
Dog and Partridge	Oldham Road	Springhead	Bass	LM, B(E)
Golden Fleece	Ripponden Road	Denshaw	Oldham B/Pollards/	Theakstons M, B(H)
Hanging Gate	Huddersfield Road	Diggle	Bass	LM(E)
Horse and Jockey	Stanedge Road	Stanedge	Oldham B	M, B(H)
Junction	Ripponden Road	Denshaw	Lees	M, B(E)
Old Original	Thorp Road	Scouthead	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Printers	Ripponden Road	Denshaw	Tetley/Thwaites M, B(H)	
Railway	Station Brow	Greenfield	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Rams Head	Ripponden Road	Denshaw	Theakstons M, B, S/A(G)	
Red Lion	Huddersfield Road	Austerlands	Bass	LM, Bass(H)
Roebuck	Brighton Road	Strinesdale	Oldham/Pollards M, B(H)	
Rose and Crown	King Street	Delph	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Spinners	Cooper Street	Springhead	Lees	M, B(E)
Swan (Kings Head)	The Square	Dabcross	Bass	BM, B(H)
Three Crowns	Huddersfield Road	Scouthead	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Waggon	High Street	Uppermill	Robinsons	M, B, S/A(E)
White Hart	Stockport Road	Lydgate	Bass	LM, Bass(H/E)

THE PLOUGH, OLDHAM



Our front page story this month reports the campaign to save the Old House at Home. But as redevelopment is widespread in the north west, the Old House is certainly not the only threatened pub with strong local support.

The Plough Inn is a Lees house on Chadderton Way, Oldham. Last year the pub was the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order as the site was needed to widen the road. Hundreds of locals signed a petition to save the pub. The decision was deferred as the conditions under which the original CPO was issued had changed - the road widening is now not necessary. A new hearing is to be held and indications are that with the help of the brewers the Plough may be saved. It is hoped that Camra branches in the area will offer their support to the campaign to keep this fine, traditional local.

The licensee, Mr Ken Thurston, has run many pubs during the last twenty-five years, one of these being the George and Dragon, Ardwick Green. An interesting document in Mr Thurston's possession is a list of inns and beerhouses in Oldham which was compiled many years ago. There are almost 400 premises listed with their original licensing dates and the number of stalls in each of their stables. The list makes fascinating reading. For example, only two pubs now stand on West Street, the Abbey Inn and the Spotted Cow. At the time the list was compiled there were 13. The Commercial Hotel, the Rope and Anchor, the Stags Head, the Turks Head, the Turn of Luck, the Wheat Sheaf, the Cotton Bud, Fiddling David, Five Alls, the New Inn and the West Australian have all gone.

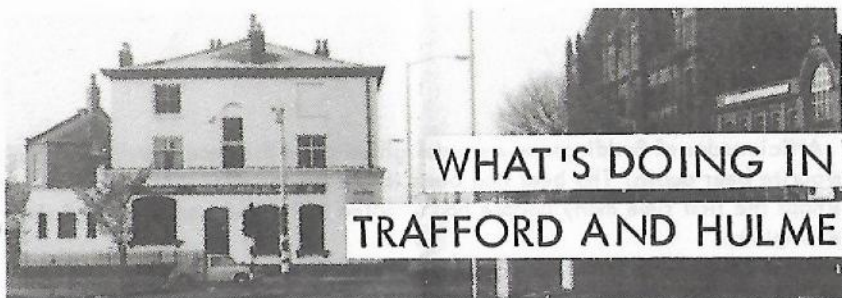
Stewart Revell



Who's a cheeky boy? It's the rotund noble Robin. What a cunning stunt - standing for the National Executive, I mean. Fat chance he's got, no qualifications or anything. Mind you, he's not alone - just look at all the candidates' statements. There's Chris Plusfours who's obviously some kind of bolshy anarchist intent on undermining the Campaign by publicising confidential information like the salary of the Editor of What's Brewing. If he were elected he'd probably do it again. Then there's Max Wall - he's ended up on the NE even though he wasn't elected - they probably felt sorry for him. Demys Roussos is obviously so proud of his connections with Camra that he declared in his manifesto at a recent parliamentary election that he was involved in a 'consumer organisation.' And Jimmy Slyme, the Machiavellian devil, he manoeuvred Chris Brew Ten into a ridiculous position with regard to air pressure so that Brew Ten lost 4,000-3 at the EGM and had to jank it in, leaving the way clear for our new supremo.

Mind you, there are some decent candidates. There's Peter Podge (BSc) who was unkindly spurned by his colleagues in Dimcaster, and is therefore seeking a more broadly based support for his well conceived and articulately presented ideas. Then there's Richard Sanders who's a fervent believer and feels a lot according to his statement. John Ronald Morgan must be a decent sort of chap because he says so himself.

That's another trouble with Robin; you see lots of the other candidates have worked for banks for donkeys years or been accountants, barristers, coordinators and committee members and would bring their expertise to bear on running the Campaign. Robin seems to believe that the fact that he's a ladies hairdresser and embalmer is irrelevant. He's got this cock-eyed idea that drinking beer all over the country, visiting pubs and other branches, publishing beer guides, spreading newsletters round pubs, running beer exhibitions, campaigning for real pubs, fighting Compulsory Purchase Orders and convincing Whitbread to sell real ale is more important than what he does for a living. If we allow this Southern upstart cum adopted Northerner to join the Politburo we'll end up with campaigns which involve hard work and effort instead of run-rings-round-Courage fun activities. He'd probably banish all the nice chatty articles from What's Brewing and fill it with boring factual articles to try to inform the proletarian masses about real ale. He'd probably want us all to go crawling round nasty urban pubs to make comprehensive lists and fight to ensure their survival. The only advantage would be that we'd see less of him in Grotley and be able to spend more time in the Fatted Pseud chatting amiably about real ale instead of rushing round everywhere in a never ending frenzy of futile activity.



WHAT'S DOING IN TRAFFORD AND HULME

A few weeks ago someone asked me if there were any decent pubs in the Stretford area. He is one of the many drinkers who read What's Doing without actually joining the Campaign and he religiously visits the pubs that find their way into its hallowed pages. He now has a copy of 'Real Ale in Trafford and Hulme' which should keep him happy for a few weeks, but for those without, the following are worth a visit. The Urmston, Stretford Road, Urmston, is a Wilsons pub serving cask-conditioned beer through free flow pillar taps. Certain of our number thought it was on cellar tanks (after drinking gallons of Holts, any beer can taste funny!) but you can ignore the huge Red Barrel sign outside (if you're blind) and enter with confidence. The lounge is big and comfortable and there is a separate, fair-sized vault.

The only other two real ale pubs in Urmston are both Holts, The Roebuck on Church Road, a huge imposing place with many rooms including a long lounge with its own bar and a bowling green at the back, and the Lord Nelson, Stretford Road, a really excellent, thriving drinking house with a friendly (often lunatic) custom.

Stretford has another four real ale outlets of which the Melville (Holts) is a gem. The prices are low (22p for bitter in the vault toward the end of March), the beer excellent and the landlord very welcoming. Our May meeting, in fact, will be held in the inner lounge and we hope as many locals as possible will come along.

There is one Boddingtons outlet in the area, The Robin Hood, Barton Road. It's an unspectacular pub with a basic vault and large, unimaginative lounge, but very convenient for the Arndale shopping centre. The remaining two pubs are both Wilsons on handpumps. The Quadrant, Great Stone Road, is roomy and popular, especially on United match days. It's even more handy for the lunch interval in the cricket season (and the way Lancashire played last season it provided a pleasant alternative to watching the game!). Students from the nearby North Trafford College also help to give the pub a good lunchtime trade. The other Wilsons pub is the Northumberland on Chester Road, a few yards short of the boundary with Hulme. The loud juke box and the erratic performance of the mild rather spoil it, but it makes a good starting point for a pub crawl of Hulme from the southern end - and there's nothing wrong with the bitter!

On the subject of Wilsons, it's good to see they are actively promoting the mild as promised by Bruce Cunningham at the branch meeting a few months ago. 'Wilsons Mild, Right Up Your Street'. Mind you, with some Wilsons outlets it's more like 'Right Up Your Nose'; if a landlord cannot keep his mild in good condition perhaps he shouldn't stock it.

Finally, on Saturday May 13th, we are entering a CAMRA float in the Sale Festival procession. Anyone with useful ideas or anyone willing to help in any way, please contact me (especially topless barmaids).

Mick Rottenbury

NEWS

Afficionados of Boddingtons were delighted after the recent strike to drink their favourite beer again. The beer had been in the brewery for a fortnight and was perhaps the first time many people had sampled truly cask conditioned beer from Boddingtons.

BLACKLEY: The Britannia on Rayson Street has been bulldozed. The pub was one of the few in Manchester selling handpumped Brew 10 and 4X Mild. The Britannia has gone to make way for a road development, no doubt to service the new mammoth ICI development 50 yards away.

Work has begun on building the new Alliance to replace the existing pub on Rochdale Road.

The former licensee of the Golden Lion who was dismissed by Holts is still living in the pub. The new landlord is commuting from Prestwich until the living accommodation is vacated.

BROUGHTON: The Post Office on Hilton Street has closed its doors for the last time. The Sun on Great Cheetham Street East is in the process of demolition. It is expected that the Dover and the Papermakers will shortly follow suit.

The Coach and Horses, London Road, Manchester, is now closed. Our unsubstantiated rumour department reports that when the pub reopens it will no longer be selling real ale.

NEW PUBS: The Church, Newton Heath (Holts) is due to open on April 4th. The Jubilee (Boddingtons) in Salford is due to open mid-April. The landlord will come from the Sun, Broughton (see above).

A new Boddingtons pub on Ogden Lane, Higher Openshaw, will be opening shortly. Called the High Bank, it replaces a street corner pub of the same name which was closed last year. The Dog and Partridge, another Boddingtons pub further



Closed: Sun, Broughton



Closed: Dog & Partridge, Openshaw

up Ogden Lane, has closed recently, so the new High Bank is presumably intended to cater for the customers of both old pubs.

WHITBREAD: It is unofficially reported that the following pubs are among those which will sell the new cask beer: Old Cock, Didsbury; Throstles Nest, Seymour Grove; White Lion, Stockport; Sherwood, Fallowfield; Royal Oak, Chorlton; Alexandra, Moss Side; Park Inn, Miles Platting.

The brewery has ordered a number of handpumps and wooden casks from Buckleys Cooperage in Duckinfield.

 Wilsons will shortly label all their beer with notices to indicate the type of beer being sold - cask, chilled and filtered, etc.

 Two Tetleys houses in Bolton, the Bradford Arms, Bradford Street, and the White Hart, Deane Road, have had handpumps installed.

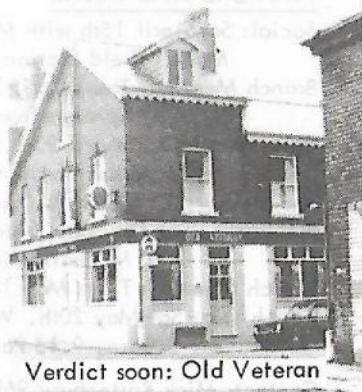
 Major campaigns are to be launched by Camra to persuade John Smiths to sell real ale in Greater Manchester, and to persuade Greenalls to stop their policy of converting pubs to bright beer. Bass Charrington are also to be canvassed to see if their policy of converting pubs to unpressurised cask beer can be continued and expanded.

 There are indications that Hydes may be converting premises in Birch Polygon in Rusholme to replace the recently demolished Coach and Horses in Longsight.

 News is expected shortly of the two public inquiries into CPOs which took place last July in Salford. The Grey Mare and the Old Veteran (both Greenalls



Real Ale? Park, Miles Platting



Verdict soon: Old Veteran

NEWS

pubs) were both opposed by the North Manchester branch of Camra and it is hoped that the decisions will prevent their needless destruction.

Changes at the White Lion, Little Hulton, are planned. Boddingtons' architects have been looking the pub over with a view to modernising the pub and creating more room. Structural alterations will start towards the end of the year. The vault is admittedly too small at present to accommodate the regulars comfortably. However, it is to be hoped that when the time comes careful planning will keep the present atmosphere, if not the handpumps, and that the White Lion will not be yet another victim of tasteless 'Boddification'.

A new licensee has taken over the Royal Oak in Eccles. The beer can only improve!



PUBLICATIONS

REAL ALE IN MANCHESTER AND SALFORD - A list of pubs selling real ale in North Manchester, Salford, Eccles, Irlam and Swinton. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN TRAFFORD AND HULME - A list of pubs selling real ale in Hulme, Altrincham, Sale, Stretford, Urmston, etc, with maps. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN MANCHESTER CENTRAL - A new, updated edition of the comprehensive guide to real ale within one mile of St Peter's Square. Over 100 pubs, map, and over 50 illustrations. Still only 20p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN ROCHDALE - A list of pubs selling real ale in Rochdale, Middleton, Heywood, Littleborough and Milnrow etc. Updated this month. 10p + s.a.e.

All the above publications are available by post from Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester.

CAMRA BRANCH DIARY

TRAFFORD AND HULME

Social: Sat April 15th with Macclesfield Branch. Meet 8.00pm Nags Head (opposite Macclesfield Station Approach).

Branch Meeting: Thurs April 20th 8.00pm Malt Shovels, Stamford Street, Altrincham. Speaker from Boddingtons.

Darts Match: Sun April 23rd 12.00noon. Windmill, Tabley, with Central and North Cheshire branch.

Social: Thurs April 27th 8.00pm. Hope Inn, Chester Road, Cornbrook.

Pub Crawl: Sat May 6th. Stockport. 7.30 Manchester Arms (opposite station approach) 8.30 Manhattan (ex-George) Mersey Square.

Branch Meeting: Thurs May 18th 8.00pm. Melville, Barton Road, Stretford.

Coach Trip: Sat May 20th. West Midlands and Stafford. Pick up 9.00am Mersey Square, 9.15 Parris Wood, 9.30 Stretford, 9.40 Sale, 9.50 Altrincham.

Contact: Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 (home)

NORTH MANCHESTER

Social/Committee Meeting: Weds 12 April. Grove, Bury New Road 8.00pm

Branch Meeting & AGM: Weds 19th April Three Legs of Man, Greengate, Salford 8.00

Beer Exhibition: Monday 1st May in Buile Hill Park, Salford. Part of Salford May Day Gala.

Pub Crawl: 3rd May Oldham Road. 7.00 Bulls Head (Sam Smiths), 8.30 Robin Hood (Droylesden Road)

Social/Committee Meeting: Weds 10th May, Royal Oak, Barton Lane, Eccles 8.00pm

Brewery Trip/Branch Meeting: Weds 17th May, 6.00pm Lord Nelson, Chapel Street, trip round Whitbread Cook Street, 9.30 Eagle, Collier Street (off Greengate).

Contact: Robin Bence 792 9423 (home) 236 4571 (work)

CAMRAMBLES

Bring your boots and waterproof clothing on these varied-distance walks:

Sunday 16th April: Meet 1.30pm Star, Howard Street, Glossop (outside station)

Saturday 29th April: Meet 9.30am Piccadilly Station (M/cr) or 11.00am Edale Station.

Further information: Ian McDermott 775 2601 ex 3579 (work)



Editor: Neil Richardson, 51 Lime Street, Farnworth, Bolton.

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

COPYDATE for the May issue is Thursday 27th April

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 ☐

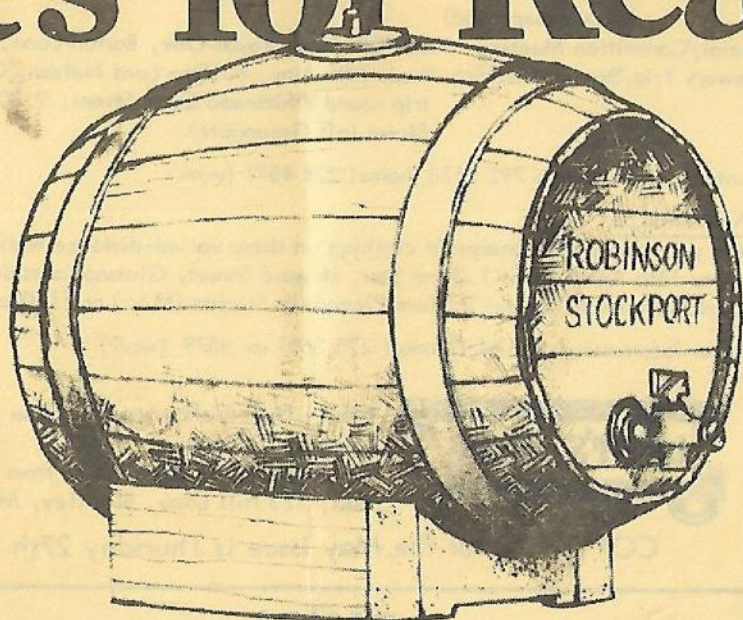
FULL NAME (Block capitals)

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

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Always available from Unicorn Wine,

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Best Bitter Ale
Bitter Ale*
Best Mild Ale



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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.**