

5p

WHAT'S DOING

JUNE
1978

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

MORE REAL ALE IN SWINTON



Tetleys have reintroduced cask beer and handpumps at the Bulls Head in Swinton town centre. The Bulls Head is also being given a new frontage, but it is unlikely that Tetleys will restore it to its 1920s appearance. As can be seen from the photograph, the pub then belonged to the Worsley Brewery Company.

From next month the price of What's Doing will be 7p.



PROFITS AT ALL COSTS?

The rise of 2p per pint on Boddington's beers on 8th May must have come as welcome news to their shareholders. Unfortunately, to the drinkers of their beer, it represents a substantial slap in the face.

In plain terms, the rise was due to their not making enough profit, despite the fact that their figures were way above the national average of other brewing companies.

'Boddy's' was once - and perhaps rightly - the cult beer of the area. However, it is difficult for an increasing number of knowledgeable drinkers to see the firm in such favourable light any more. Ask ten people who have drunk the company's beer over the past four years and nine will say its quality has deteriorated. Can all these people be wrong? Add to this the irrefutable evidence that Boddingtons have reduced the gravity of their bitter, making it cheaper to produce, and one immediately sees the recent price increase as being on two fronts.

The beer from Strangeways is now one of the more expensive pints in the Greater Manchester area due to the company's lack of thought for the consumer. Talking of lack of thought, how about Boddington's tasteless pub 'renovations' and decharacterisation of their houses? Are these the hallmarks of a family brewery looking after its customers? At least one member of the Boddingtons hierarchy would not disagree with some of these statements!

Manchester and its environs form a very competitive area as far as prices and facilities go. Let not the drinking public be swayed by '200 years of tradition', when in fact the brewery's tactics are more in keeping with those perpetrated by the Big Six brewing companies.

Grahame Tonge



ICI MAKE PLANS KNOWN

ICI have applied for planning permission to extend their plant at Blackley, and their new plans now admit the possibility that the Old House at Home may not, after all, be in their way. Credit for this about-face is largely due to Wilsons Brewery, who suggested that the scheme could go ahead with the pub unaffected.

Objections to the plans should be sent to the Planning Officer, Manchester Town Hall, before 10th June.

WHAT'S DOING IN TRAFFORD AND HULME



May 13 saw a diversion from normal campaigning activities in the form of a float entered in Sale Festival procession. An initial snag was the arrival of a 40ft artic to replace the expected 15ft lorry which had broken down. Luckily the organisers' tape measure disappeared so we were not disqualified and sat in majesty behind a brand new Scania cab trying to look a lot shorter. Despite trying to bribe the judges with free samples of Marstons Merrie Monk, donated by the brewery with the help of the Carters Arms, Sale Moor, we failed to win a prize, but a good day was had by all and we certainly had the best following until the beer ran out. Hundreds of leaflets were given away outlining the Campaign's aims and advertising the six real ale pubs in Sale: The Plough (Hydes), Ashton on Mersey; The Railway (Robinsons), Bridge (Boddingtons), Sale; The Legh Arms (Holts) and Carters Arms (Marstons), Sale Moor; and the Woodcourt (Wilsons) on Brooklands Road. Considering that there are 23 pubs in Sale, the percentage of real ale outlets is low - but the choice is good. There are also three clubs serving real ale; Metrovicks (Thwaites); Ashton on Mersey (Marstons); and Sale Wardens' Association (Youngers and Hydes). I can supply membership details of these.

Remaining in Sale, two more pubs have now completed their renovations so that only the Carters Arms and Legh Arms remain un-mucked about. Of the two face-lifts, the Railway is the more imaginative. The Bridge has more uncluttered drinking space but is rather barn-like, although you do have a nice view from the vault of the dead cats and bicycle frames floating on the Bridgewater Canal.

The Vine Inn, Washway Road, Sale has also received a lick of paint and proudly displays the sign 'Watson & Woodhead Gold Medal Ales and Stout' at the front. Landlord Pete Cathcart is still trying to get cask beer on sale there despite the lack of cellar space. The latest ploy is to try and get the lager on to tanks instead of kegs, thus making room for a stillage.

Moving further north, to Stretford, a new beer appeared for a limited period only in mid-May. The beer in question was Holts dark bitter (!) available at the Melville, Barton Road. It was horrible! In all fairness it was a 'mistake' brew when apparently ten hogsheads were affected due to the over roasting of barley and it didn't stop

people drinking it until the normal brew returned, luckily, in time for our May meeting. The dark brew is probably still lurking in the cellar open to offers from anyone with a taste for something completely different!

At long last we have found a venue for a meeting in Hulme. July 20th will see us in Clynes Wine Bar (see branch diary) and a good turn out would be appreciated. Two pubs worth visiting close by are the Church (Greenalls bitter) and Lloyds Arms (Bass 4X mild and Brew 10) both good, traditional pubs. By way of a contrast, the Red Admiral (Robbies), a modern estate pub, is just around the corner.

Finally, the Albert, Erskine Street, Hulme was recently dispensing fizzy Greenalls when it was open (which was not very often). At the time of writing, a new landlord is expected to take over soon and we hope it will then revert to cask beer and more regular opening hours as it is an excellent pub.

Midk Rottenbury

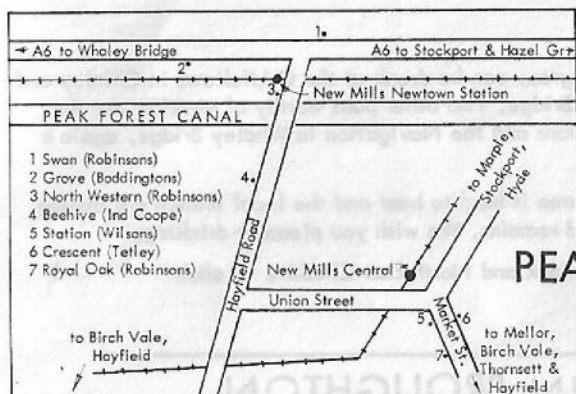
BREWERY BEING DEMOLISHED



The demolition on Ormskirk Road, Wigan, is well under way and parts of the old Farrimonds Brewery behind the Bowling Green can now be plainly seen. Not for long, though – most of the surrounding buildings have already gone. Farrimonds were taken over by Boddingtons some years ago.

PUB SWAPS

The pub swaps in Leigh have finally started. The Bulls Head on Warrington Road (formerly bright Tetleys) is now selling John Smiths bright beers.



PEAK CONDITION

Just outside the Greater Manchester boundary in North-Western Derbyshire lies an area which should make real beer drinkers smack their lips with anticipation. From the small town of New Mills up the short valley to Hayfield, beers from no less than eight real ale breweries can be sampled.

New Mills can provide beers from Robinsons, Boddingtons, Wilsons, Tetleys and Ind Coope, all within easy walking distance, so forming a comfortable night's drinking. If you start at the Grove on the A6 near Newtown station, you can down handpumped Boddingtons in a bitter-only pub. Having done justice to this, walk to the Swan by the traffic lights and dispose of a pint or two of Robinsons, mild or bitter, again served through handpumps. On leaving here you now have the longest walk of the evening, though it doesn't seem like it since it is all down hill, and you can do it in stages by calling at the North Western for Robinsons and the Beehive for Ind Coope handpumped bitter. Now you find yourself in New Mills town centre, so turn up Union Street on the left, and proceed to the Railway at the top of Union Street near New Mills Central Station, where Wilsons mild and bitter is served through handpumps. Then transfer yourself over the road to the Crescent, a Good Beer Guide pub, for Tetleys mild and bitter; handpumped of course! Finally the evening can be rounded off at the Royal Oak, just along Market Street, drinking Robinsons.

New Mills has two railway stations, Newtown on the Buxton line, and Central; both are served well by local trains from Manchester Piccadilly; to Newtown via Stockport and to Central via Guide Bridge and Reddish South; and some Sheffield trains also call at Central Station.

For those a little more adventurous, and possibly with transport, unless you like walking, Ind Coope bitter is available on gravity at the Pack Horse on the New Mills to Mellor road, and close by in the little village of Thornsett/Birch Vale is the Sycamore, probably the jewel of the collection with Pollards bitter on handpump.

Now on to Hayfield itself, well known to generations of hikers and ramblers and reasonably well served by public transport, though alas the single-track railway from New Mills no longer exists. In the centre of Hayfield the George, a fine old pub, serves handpumped Burtonwood bitter and mild, an unusual brew for this area. A little way outside Hayfield towards Kinder Scout is the Sportsman, which adds to the variety with Thwaites bitter on handpump.

Finally, the Lantern Pike on Glossop Road, in Little Hayfield, is worthy of a visit for handpumped Wilsons, and to add further choice in the surrounding area

Marstons beers, including Pedigree, can be drunk at the Oddfellows in Chinley and the Shepherds Arms in Whaley Bridge. Two other pubs worthy of mention are the Princes in Chinley for Boddingtons and the Navigation in Whaley Bridge, again a Boddingtons house.

For choice this small rural area is hard to beat and the local Branch are aiming to see that the variety provided remains. We wish you pleasant drinking.

High Peak and North East Cheshire Branch

Next month - Stalybridge

BASS IN BROUGHTON

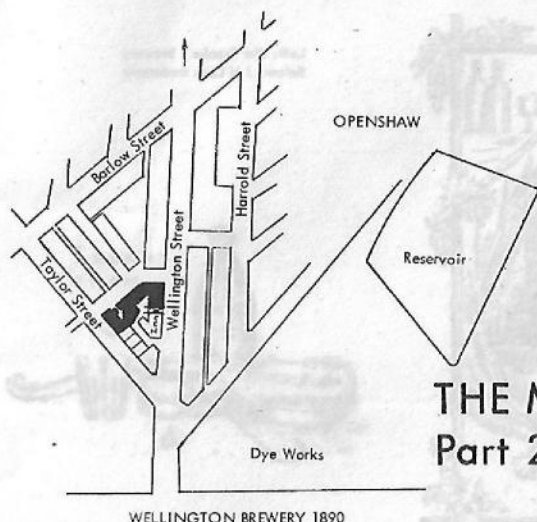
At a time when Broughton has lost a lot of its real ale outlets it is encouraging to see a pub converting to cask beer. In recent months the Albert Park (Marstons), the Sun (Boddingtons), the Post Office (Wilsons) and the Papermakers (Greenalls) have either closed or been demolished. The Royal Archer, however, after a £70,000 face-lift (which it needed) has reopened and will sell draught Bass in unpressurised cask form. Unfortunately, the other beers will not appeal to real ale enthusiasts. Elsewhere in Broughton, the Dover (Greenalls), the Duke of York (Boddingtons) and the Original (Wilsons) are still open but it is likely that they will close shortly, further reducing the choice of beer. Off Sussex Street, the Palatine (Greenalls), the Vavasour (Whitbread) and the Albert (Whitbread) seem to have escaped the bulldozers. Perhaps the Albert and the Vavasour will be new real ale outlets, but it is possible that the Palatine may fall victim to Greenalls apparent policy of discontinuing the supply of cask beer wherever possible.

TRIPE

The UCP Tripe shop on Pall Mall off Market Street in Manchester has been renamed the Brewer and will serve Boddingtons bitter and Tetleys mild through handpumps.

MORE REAL ALE FROM WILSONS

The Mousetrap in Disley returned to hand drawn cask conditioned beer on 18th May. Before the end of July the Waggon and Horses in Sale, the Ash in Stockport and the Norman in Dukinfield will also return to cask. The Waggon and Horses will be on hogsheads. In addition several pubs which already sell cask beer are having handpumps installed. The Nelson in Failsworth and the Crown in Salford have recently had new beer engines put in and other pubs will follow suit. Wilsons new pub (as yet unnamed) on Hugo Street in Moston will also serve real ale although this may be dispensed by electric pumps like other new pubs.



THE MOSS SIDE BREWERY Part 2 - 1895 to 1913

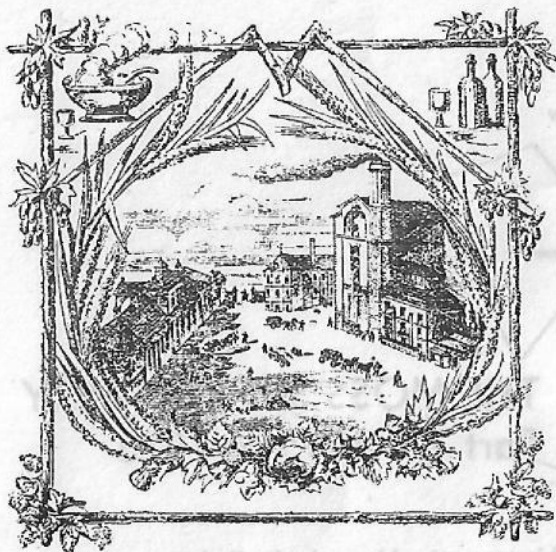
John Henry Lees, having served his apprenticeship at the family brewery in Denton, established himself in business at the Wellington Brewery, Openshaw. Just over five years later, in about 1895, he moved to premises in Moss Side. The move may have been prompted by the need to increase production capacity since the new brewery was substantially larger, with what was then known as a twenty quarter plant. In terms of beer output this meant that twenty quarters of malt (for metric fans, 1 quarter = 290.94 litres) could be processed in the mash tuns to yield about 80 standard barrels per brew.

The new acquisition had been in use for some years as the Albert Brewery, probably since the mid-1870s. Mr Lees retained the name for a short time before re-styling it The Moss Side Brewery. The previous occupant was a Mr William Brookes, who had been brewing at various locations since 1860. Together with his son, George Ashton Brookes, William developed the brewery into one of Manchester's more notable enterprises. A large number of licensed houses were owned and a wine and spirits trade was started some time before 1890. One of the pubs under William Brookes's ownership existed only until about 1880. This was the Cross Keys on Brown Street, off Chapel Street, Salford. About twenty skilled men were employed in the brewing process in 1890, with eight horses to deliver the products.

J H Lees was soon to expand further by 'going public'. In September 1897, John Henry Lees Ltd. was formed. The capital was £147,500, £50,000 being in shares, the balance in cash. J H Lees became Chairman and Manager of the new company, with a Mr John Brierly as Secretary.

Bottling had been a hand process until the 1880s, when a suitable machine was invented and carbonisation became possible. Many brewers tended to take over small mineral water firms rather than build bottling plants of their own. J H Lees was no exception and in about 1900 the premises of the Manchester Hygienic Syphon Co. Ltd., Blackburn Street, Old Trafford, became the brewery's bottling plant.

John Henry Lees Ltd. (no connection with today's John Willie Lees) owned a



Left: Wm Brooke's brewery
Below: J H Lees trademark



sizable number of pubs and off-licences. The Post Office Inn, Hilton Street, Salford, was once a Lees house. It later became a Wilsons pub and is now soon to be demolished. Others were the Cambridge on Regent Road, Salford, and the Malt Shovel, Bury Street, Salford.

The brewery became linked with the Jennison family, who then owned Bellevue Zoological Gardens and a number of hotels. Angelo Jennison became Managing Director of John Henry Lees Ltd. in the early 1900s, with J H Lees himself taking the position of Commercial Manager. One of the hotels that belonged to the Jennisons still stands on Hyde Road, near Bellevue Pleasure Park, and has been renamed Jennison's Ale House.

In 1912 it was announced that 'a scheme of reorganisation is under consideration'. Exactly what was intended is not clear but in January 1913 an official receiver was appointed; John Henry Lees Ltd. was in liquidation.

Alan Gall

LEVENSHULME

After a request by the new manager, Wilsons are going to refurbish the Levenshulme on Stockport Road. The dreaded Red Barrel sign will at last be removed and be replaced with the new Wilsons colours and chequerboard. A welcome improvement will be the replacement of the beer engines, although the very attractive pump handles will remain.

It seems ironic that of all the Wilsons houses in Levenshulme, the Midway and the Victoria were the first to have the Wilsons image restored with the new colours, although both pubs serve tank beer. Yet the Crown, the Horseshoe, the Pack Horse and the Levenshulme still have the Watney Red Barrel facades, even though they all serve real ale.

Barry Pryme



REAL ALE in BURY



INCLUDING RAMSBOTTOM, TOTTINGTON, RADCLIFFE,
WHITEFIELD AND PRESTWICH

BURY AREA Including Unsworth, Hollins and Walshaw

Arthur Inn	Bolton Road	Elton	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Bay Horse	Parr Lane	Unsworth	Holts	M, B(E)
Black Bull	Ainsworth Road	Starling	Thwaites	M, B(E)
Blue Bell	Bell Lane	Free Town	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Blue Bell	Manchester Road	Blackford Bridge	Holts	M, B(E)
Brewers Arms	Bell Lane	Free Town	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Brickcroft	Brook Street	Centre	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Bridge Inn	Bury New Road	Heap Bridge	Thwaites	M, B(E)
Bridge Inn	Bridge Street	Centre	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Bridge Inn	Manchester Road	Blackford Bridge	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Brunswick	Moorgate	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Church Inn	Bell Lane	Free Town	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Claybank	Rochdale Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Derby Arms	Bolton Road	Elton	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Elton View	Eagley Drive	Starling	Thwaites	M, B(E)
Fairfield Inn	Rochdale Old Road	Fairfield	Thwaites	M, B(E)
Golden Fleece	Bell Lane	Free Town	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Hare and Hounds	Bolton Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Hark to Dandler	Walmersley Old Road	Walmersley	S&N	IPA(E)
Help me Through	Croxtons Road	Elton	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Hollins Bush	Hollins Lane	Hollins	Lees	M, B(E)
Nags Head	Barlow Street	Centre	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Napier	Bolton Street	Centre	Thwaites	M, B(E)
New Inn	Bell Lane	Free Town	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Oddfellows Arms	Tottington Road	Woolfold	Thwaites	M, B(E)
Old Boars Head	Heap Brow	Heap Bridge	Bass	BM, B(E)
Pleasant View	Tottington Road	Elton	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Queen Anne	Hollins Lane	Hollins	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Robin Hood	Wash Lane	Centre	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Rose and Crown	Manchester Old Road	Centre	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Royal Huntsman	Market Street	Centre	Thwaites	M, B(E)
Sir Robert Peel	Sunnybank Road	Unsworth	Boddingtons	M, B(E)
Spotted Cow	Bell Lane	Free Town	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Stanley	The Rock	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Star	Bridge Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Swan	Tottington Road	Woolfold	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Swan and Cemetery	Manchester Road	Redvales	Thwaites	M, B(E)
Turf Tavern	Wash Lane	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Two Tubs	The Wylde	Centre	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Waggonmakers	Tottington Road	Woolfold	Thwaites	M, B(H)
White Horse	Hall Street	Walshaw	Thwaites	M, B(E)
Waterloo	Manchester Road	Redvales	Thwaites	M, B(E)
White Bear BOAR	Radcliffe Road	Redvales	Thwaites	M, B(E)

INCLUDING RAMSBOTTOM, TOTTINGTON, RADCLIFFE
WHITEFIELD AND PRESTWICH

RAMSBOTTOM AREA Including Holcombe and Summerseat

Eagle and Child	Walley Road	Peel Brow	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Good Samaritan	Peel Bridge	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Grey Mare	Bolton Street	Centre	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Hamers	Higher Summers	Summerseat	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Masons Arms	Bolton Road West	Dundee Lane	Thwaites	M, B(E)
Old Dun Horse	Bolton Road West	Dundee Lane	Thwaites	M, B(E)
Plane Tree	Rochdale Road	Turn Village	Bass	BM, B(E)
Rose and Crown	Carr Street	Centre	Bass	BM, B(E)
Royal Oak	Bridge Street	Centre	Thwaites	M, B(E)

TOTTINGTON AREA Including Affetside, Greenmount and Hawkshaw

Bulls Head	Holcombe Road	Greenmount	Thwaites	M, B(E)
Dungeon	Turton Road	Centre	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Hark to Towler	Market Street	Centre	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Pack Horse	Watling Street	Affetside	Hydes	M, B(E)

RADCLIFFE AREA Including Bradley Fold and Outwood

Colliers Arms	Water Street	Centre	Thwaites	M, B(E)
Hare and Hounds	Ringley Road	Outwood	Holts	M, B(H)
Masons Arms	Sion Street	Centre	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Morning Star	Thomas Street	Centre	Thwaites	M, B(H)
New Inn	Ainsworth Road	Black Lane	Bass	BM(E)
Old Cross	Eaton Hill Road	Centre	Holts	M, B(H)
Papermakers	Church Street East	Centre	Holts	M, B(E)
Queens	Bradley Fold Road	Bradley Fold	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Turf	Bolton Road	Centre	Thwaites	M, B(E)
Wellington	Stopes Road	Stopes	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Wellington	Stand Lane	Centre	Bass	BM(E)
Wilton Arms	Coronation Road	Black Lane	Holts	M, B(E)

WHITEFIELD AREA including Simister

Church Inn	Bury New Road	Centre	Holts	M, B(H)
Coach and Horses	Bury Old Road	Besses o' th' Barn	Holts	M, B(H)
Eagle and Child	Higher Lane	Centre	Holts	M, B(E)
Farmers Arms	Simister Lane	Simister	Lees	M, B(H)
Frigate	Thatch Leach Lane	Besses o' th' Barn	Holts	M, B(E)
Goats Gate	Radcliffe New Road	Chapel Field	Holts	M, B(E)
Lord Clive	Mersey Drive	Sunnybank	Lees	M, B(E)
New Grove	Bury New Road	Centre	Holts	M, B(E)
Red King	Bury New Road	Centre	Boddingtons	M, B(E)
Same Yet	Simister Lane	Simister	Lees	M, B(E)
Welcome	Bury Old Road	Besses o' th' Barn	Holts	M, B(E)
Wheatsheaf	Bury New Road	Centre	Robinsons	M, B(H)

PRESTWICH AREA including Rainsough and Heaton Park

Commercial	Bury Old Road	Heaton Park	Tetley	M, B(H)
Foresters Arms	Bury New Road	Centre	Holts	M, B(E)
Friendship	Scholes Lane	Hilton Park	Holts	M, B(H)
George	Bury New Road	Sedgley Park	Boddingtons	M, B(E)
Ostrich	Bury Old Road	Heaton Park	Holts	M, B(E)
Parkside	Bury Old Road	Heaton Park	Boddingtons	M, B(E)
Railway and Naturalist	Bury New Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Red Lion	Bury New Road	Centre	Holts	M, B(E)
Royal Oak	Whittaker Lane	Heaton Park	Hydes	M, B(E)
Staff of Life	Hilton Lane	Rainsough	Marstons	M, B, SA(H)
White Horse	Bury New Road	Centre	Holts	M, B(H)
Woodthorpe Hotel	Bury New Road	Hilton Park	Holts	M, B(E)

CASES HISTORY



Displays of old beer bottles and flasks are occasionally to be found in our pubs, but it is rare indeed to come across a collection such as that in the Cases Arms, Manchester Road, Higher Ince, which are genuine mementoes accumulated by the landlord's family.

The licensee of the Cases is John Gilpin and the old beer bottles in his possession span over a hundred years of his family's involvement in the brewery trade. His great-grandfather, William Ledgard, started the Nelson Brewery in Armley, near Leeds, in the mid-1800s. The Nelson Hotel - which is still standing - was built in front of the brewery shortly afterwards and the family also acquired another pub nearby. William's son Sam continued to brew for both houses until his death in 1953. His daughter Ruth continued to run the Nelson for some years selling Tetley's beers, until the pub was sold to Scottish and Newcastle in about 1960.

As was the practice among many small companies then, the Ledgards bottled Bass as well as their own product. Two bottles of commemorative ale were presented by Bass to Samuel Ledgard, the 1902 Kings Ale and the 1929 Prince of Wales Ale. The Kings Ale was started at a ceremony on the 22nd February 1902 by Edward VII, who was a guest of Lord Burton, great-grandson of the founder of the brewery. Bass have not brewed a stronger ale since, and a stock is still kept at the brewery. They consider that the beer tastes like 'a mature Madeira', but recommend that it should be filtered before drinking!

The 1929 Prince of Wales Ale was started on July 23rd by Edward VIII before he began his short reign. A bit of a lad by all accounts, he piloted his own plane and landed on Bass's meadows. Of this brew, Bass say, 'It should be sound, provided the cork is in good condition.' There are comparatively few bottles still in existence.

John has no plans to open his commemorative ales, but you can be sure of a good pint of Tetleys at the Cases Arms. Go soon, though. The stretch of Manchester Road which includes the Cases and the Old Swan, a Matthew Brown pub, has been compulsorily purchased and is due for demolition 'within the next six months.'

EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY



150 years ago, large brewery concerns such as we have today were virtually unheard of in Manchester. Pubs either brewed their own or bought their beer from one of the many small local breweries. It was not until the late nineteenth century that big breweries evolved and began the pattern of brewery takeovers and amalgamations which is familiar today.

Many of the old companies have been all but forgotten. It is only the occasional etched window or initials in the stonework which serves as a reminder that our pubs have not always been the property of Messrs Tetley, Whitbread or Bass Charrington. The three picture postcards reproduced here show Eccles Cross at the turn of the century, with the Hare and Hounds in the background on the right.

The three enlargements show three different facias on the pub. The oldest was when the pub sold John Wagstaffe's ales from the Lion Brewery, Hulme. The brewery was taken over in 1899 by Watson & Woodhead of Salford, whose premises stood near the Red Lion on Chapel Street. The third card shows the pub under the control of Walker & Homfray. This Salford brewery took over many smaller concerns in the Manchester area and so contributed a large number of pubs to the Wilsons empire when it was absorbed by Wilsons in 1949.

N.R.



REAL ALE IN SALFORD - A comprehensive guide to real ale in Salford, Swinton, Eccles, Worsley and Irlam. 150 pubs, maps, photographs. 25p + s.a.e.

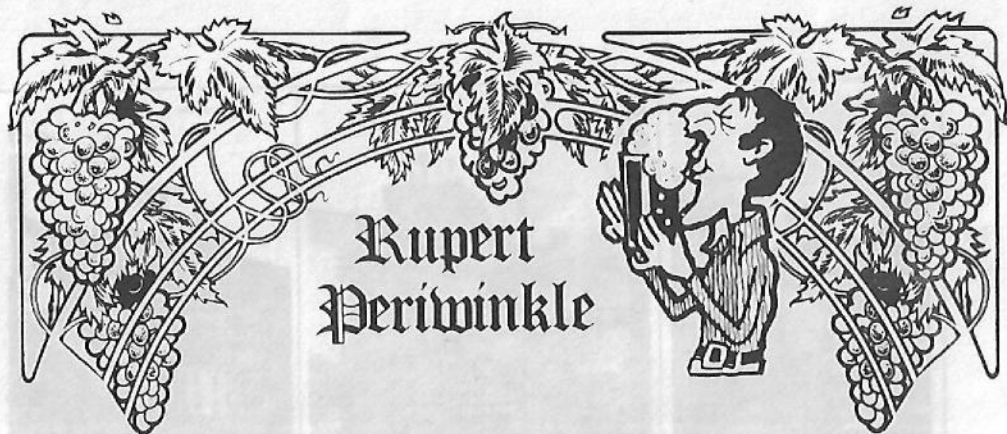
REAL ALE IN TRAFFORD AND HULME - A comprehensive list of pubs selling real ale in Hulme, Altrincham, Sale, Stretford, Urmston, etc, with maps. 10p + s.a.e.

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

REAL ALE IN OLDHAM - A comprehensive list of pubs selling real ale in Oldham, Failsworth, Royton, Chadderton, Saddleworth, Shaw, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN MANCHESTER CENTRAL - A comprehensive guide to real ale within 1 mile of St Peter's Square. Over 100 pubs, map, and over 50 photos. 20p + s.a.e.

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



Two events have been of particular interest in the last few weeks. I was a member of a privileged group who were conducted on a tour of Whitbread's Salford brewery. We were shown round what I had always imagined to be a grotty, down-market, streamlined, chrome and plastic sort of place, but which turned out to be hyperethnic in the retention of its original Victorian equipment. Only when we eventually conquer the bastion of Drabs Crown Brewery in East Grotley will we experience comparable charismatic ambience. The other event of note was the Smarmford and Slutch branch trip to the Midlands. Under the dynamic leadership of John Biryani the excursion cunningly avoided concentrations of real ale outlets, preferring to stop in such Meccas as Dudley and Stafford. Fiona and Laetitia were mortified when the normally polite and self-effacing Robin assumed the mantle of chief bellyacher and shouter from the less than couth William of Irlam. Ag and I were delighted that we were to spend seven hours in Stafford. In particular we were entranced by the authenticity of the renovated 18th century Malt and Hops Real Ale 1794 where we were greeted by a septuagenarian member of the local Camra branch who held hands in geriatric rather than gay fashion with the aforementioned Ms Biryani. 'Pieces of eight - what a load of rubbish!' squawked Boddington from the noble Robin's shoulder and some of the more vociferous and ill-mannered members of the Grotley branch departed to some ill-frequented back street hostelry to continue their tuneless rendition of the 'LUT Blues'. Those of us more attuned to the exigencies of a cultured society remained with our hosts, grateful that we could take in the atmosphere of the Malt and Hops and feel assured when we read that Ruddles supported Camra. More than once we remarked that the establishment which sold Puddles, Fartons, Goldens, Bungers and McSporrans was a self-contained miniature beer exhibition and what's more you could buy a round of four halves and still have change from a pound. The trip also distinguished itself from previous Grotley branch trips in that nobody was left behind, although the way some people behaved, I for one wouldn't have minded if they'd all been left in an ongoing Stafford situation as of then.

TROPICAL EXILE



Papua New Guinea is not one of the better places to drink beer in the world. However, considering the relatively short history of the country, its position (nearly on the equator north of Queensland and west of Indonesia), its climate, (generally over 200 inches of rain per year) and its temperatures (between 75° and 95° day and night), it is perhaps a wonder that there is any beer brewed here at all.

There are two breweries in Papua New Guinea. The San Miguel Brewery is in Port Moresby, the capital, and the South Pacific Brewery has its main brewery in Lae, the second principal town, with a smaller one in Port Moresby. 'San Mig' is a subsidiary of the giant San Miguel Brewery Company based originally in the Philippines but now spread throughout the Far East and also in Spain. The South Pacific Brewery is directly linked to Heineken, the Dutch brewers.

Neither brewery brews any real ale, the beers being like bland lager. Surprisingly, though, South Pacific beer is sold at an original gravity of 1045 and I believe that San Mig is about the same. Most SP and San Mig beer is sold in third-of-a-litre bottles which come in two colours, 'greenies' and 'brownies'. You can also get canned beer and a small proportion (less than 10%) is kegged, mainly for club use. Whatever the method of sale, though, SP brew just the one beer except for a small amount of 'Anchor' beer, which I suspect will not be brewed for much longer. San Mig sell the same range plus Swan Lager, but I am reliably informed that this is all one brew as well. Needless to say, in this climate beer is drunk cold, most people's fridges being monopolised by bottled beer.

The SP brewery is not unlike many English breweries in its plant and equipment. Each brew of 230 hectolitres (approximately 5,030 gallons) is made from 29 tonnes of pure malt from Australia, 300 kilos of European cane sugar and German hop extracts, no other materials being used. The Lae brewery brews about thirty times a week, whilst the Port Moresby Brewery brews about fifteen times a week.

The brewery process does not differ greatly from European methods. It is a Steinecker process with mash converters, Lautertuns, etc. One different feature is that the console panel is outdoors and most of the notices to the workforce are in pidgin English - I noticed on the entrance to the fermenting room the notice, 'Men husat work tasol,' which roughly means 'Authorised Personnel Only!'

You can of course buy Australian canned beer in the shops, such as Fosters Carlton Draught and Castlemaine 4X, as well as Export Guinness brewed by Tooheys of Australia. The Guinness costs about 80p a pint which is almost double the price of the local product. There are even small amounts of canned Newcastle Brown and Mc-Ewans Export, but I'd rather stick to my San Mig Brown.

To my surprise, I have developed a liking for wine but once I get back to England I think this will die a death in favour of Burtonwoods dark mild, Tetleys mild, Robinsons, Boddingtons....! Even a pint of Greenall Whitley would be good at the moment. Still you can't get a suntan all the year round and drink real ale.

Richard Greenhalgh

MATTHEW BROWN RUMOUR DENIED

A rumour, horrendous in its portent, that Matthew Brown were to fill some of Salford's Wilsons pubs with nasty bright beer whilst allowing the fortunate residents of Chorley to sample Wilsons cask beers has been denied by Wilsons. Whilst Wilsons were always on the lookout for suitable arrangements, Bruce Cunningham said that they had not made any agreement with Matthew Brown to exchange pubs.

LICENCE REFUSED

An application for a licence for a real ale bar in the Romany Cultural Centre, Cavendish Street, has been turned down. The Romany Cultural Centre, which is in the old Pauldens building, is reapplying.

It would seem that Holts are still encountering production problems. The Cleveland was closed on 23rd May and many other pubs have been short of beer.

CAMRA BRANCH DIARY

TRAFFORD AND HULME

Pub Crawl: Sat June 10: Salford: 7.30 Old Ship, 8.30 Brown Bull, both Chapel Street

Branch Meeting: Thurs June 15th. 8.00pm Malt Shovels, Stamford Street, Altrincham

Speaker: A J Haslam on Home Brewing

Social: Thu June 22nd. Tatton Arms, Tipping Street, Altrincham

Social with Cheshire Branches: Sat July 1st, Chester: 12.00noon Bull and Stirrup,
Northgate Street, 7.30pm Olde Custom House,
Watergate Street.

Branch Meeting: Thurs July 20th. 8.00pm Clynes Wine Bar, Cavendish Street, Hulme
(5 mins from Oxford Road Station)

Contact: Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 (home)

NORTH MANCHESTER

Branch meeting: Weds, 21st June, 8.00 pm, Three Legs of Man, Greengate, Salford.

Pub Crawl: Weds, 5th July, Broughton, 7.00 pm, Royal Archer, Lower Broughton
Road; 8.00 pm, Duke of York, Duke Street.

Social/Committee Meeting: Weds, 12th July, Moulders Arms, Heyrod Street, Ancoats,
8.00 pm.

Contact: Robin Bence, 434 4051 (home), 236 4571 (work).

CAMRAMBLES

Sat, 24th June: Whaley Bridge. 11.00 am at railway station approach.

Contact: Ian McDermott, 775 2601 ex 3579.

HIGH PEAK - NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Branch Meeting: Railway, Dove Holes, Nr Chapel en le Frith, Derbyshire

Tuesday 13 June 8.00pm Speaker from Hardy Hansons brewery

Trips: East Lancashire - Friday evening drive 21st July

Redcar Races - Saturday 5th August

Bass Museum - date to be fixed

Keswick/Lancaster/Kendal - date to be fixed

Contact: Tom Lord, 061-427 7099

Beer Tents: CAMRA Real Ale Tents at

Charlesworth Carnival, Recreation Ground, Charlesworth, nr Glossop

Saturday 8th July

Tameside Canals Festival, Portland Street Basin, Ashton -u-Lyne

Saturday 29th/Sunday 30th July

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Branch Meeting: Thurs June 8th, Gateway Hotel 8.00pm. Guest speaker - Mr Neil Hyde.

Pub Crawl: Gorton - 7.30pm Imperial, 8.30pm Rock Inn. Sat June 17th

Informal Meeting: Mon June 26th. Whitworth Hotel, Rusholme, 8.00pm

Brewery Visit: Whitbread, July 5th

Branch Meeting: Thursday July 13. Gateway Hotel, 8.00pm

Contact: Barry Pryme 061-225 4949 (home)

What's Doing is now on regular sale at:

White Swan, Fallowfield; Union Inn, Levenshulme; Levenshulme, Levenshulme



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

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

COPYDATE for the July issue is Thursday, 6th July.

CAMRA

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

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

Application for membership

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

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

We enclose £5 for husband and wife membership ☐

Application for Associateship

I wish to become an Associate of CAMRA Ltd.

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

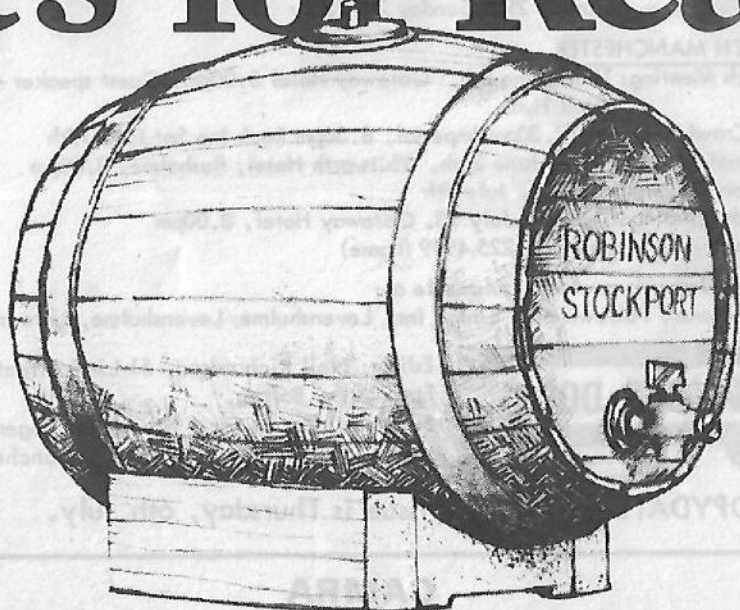
FULL NAME (Block capitals)

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS (Block capitals)

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

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

It's for Real



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

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

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

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

Always available from Unicorn Wine,

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



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

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

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

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

*Bitter Ale not available in Pins.

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