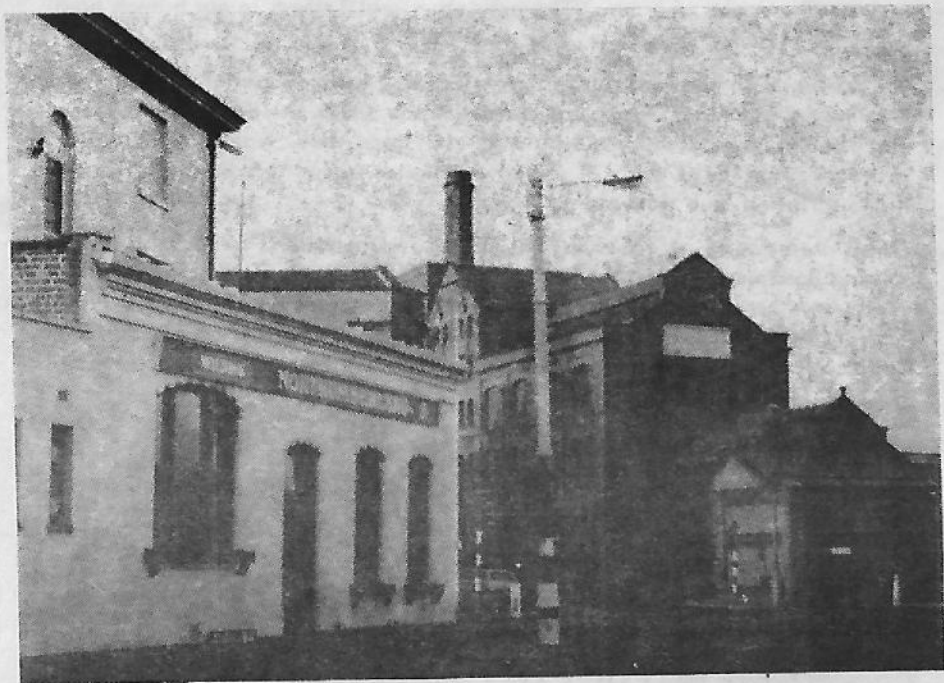


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WHAT'S DOING

JAN
1979

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



The Northumberland Arms and the old Empress Brewery, Chester Road.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Bottle dig at the Northumberland; The Pubs of Farnworth and Kearsley; Local Beer Guide Amendments; Some old Bury pubs; More Real Ale in Irlam; plus all the usual features and latest pub news.

WHAT'S DOING IN TRAFFORD & HULME

I've joined the boob of the month club. In October to be precise. In the column on the pubs of Broadheath and Timperley I described the Stonemasons, on the corner of Park Road and Stockport Road in Timperley Village, as being 'one to avoid'. I was under the impression that the Tetleys served there was brewery conditioned and made the mistake of not paying a personal visit to check the information. Since then several people have commented on the good quality of their pints, so cap in hand, I hastened round and sure enough the beer is cask conditioned, served without pressure and very good. No doubt the push-button method of dispense confused casual visitors but I would have thought our Timperley members might have jammed my phone with calls of protest at my converting Trafford's only 'real' Tetleys to cellar tanks at the stroke of a pen. (The only other real Tetleys in our branch area is the Cornbrook, Hulme).

My apologies to landlord Roy Slater, who has been manager of the Stonemasons for about six months. During that time the pub has been completely redecorated and offers a large, comfortable lounge and good, basic vault. Another point in its favour is that I was still served even after I admitted responsibility for the description 'pub to avoid'.

I was interested to note the 36 pubs, listed in December's 'What's Doing', serving Boddies Strong at the beginning of the 'season'. The list is certainly incomplete now and I should like to update my records on which pubs in the Trafford and Hulme area are serving the strong stuff, not only for Boddingtons, but also for Hydes, Robinsons, Lees and Marstons. The following outlets are



Wheatsheaf, Altrincham - closed for alterations

possibilities and I would appreciate a phone call to confirm, refute or add to the list. Boddingtons Strong at the Railway, Broadheath (definite); Stamford Arms, Bowdon; Rope and Anchor, Dunham Woodhouses. Hydes Strong in the Quarry Bank, Timperley and Hope Inn, Hulme (both definite). Robinsons Old Tom in the Railway, Sale; Railway, Hale (both definite); Gardeners Arms, Northern Moor; Bulls Head, Halebarns. Lees Moonraker at the Jolly Butcher, Baguley. Marstons Owd Rodger in the Carters Arms, Sale Moor (definite); Eagle, Wythenshawe. Will the person who phoned saying he'd seen a barrel of Holts Strong on a bar please only contact me when sober?

In October 'What's Doing' I asked for information on the origin of the nickname 'Blood Tub' for the Gardeners Arms (Boddingtons), Deansgate Lane, Timperley. I have had several suggestions, most of which I could not put into print for fear of offending the laws of decency (to 'Serious' of Sale: it might make your roses grow but the legend was hotly denied at the Gardeners). One plausible explanation is that in the field opposite were kept pigs, the slaughter of which used to produce an abundance of the raw material for black puddings. Alternatively it has been pointed out that in bygone days when the pub was a shop at the front, people used to drink in either the lounge or the kitchen. At that time, the Manchester to Altrincham railway was being constructed a few yards away and rival factions of labourers used the pub. Despite attempts to segregate them into different rooms, after several pints of Boddies (it must have been a lot stronger then), fierce fights would break out and the blood would flow. This doesn't happen any more.

The longest ongoing non-completion situation since the saga of the Railway (Sale) alterations, must be the conversion of the Waggon and Horses, Cross Street, Sale, to cask beer. The cellar work is complete but, at the time of writing, the cellar tanks are still in use. Keep an eye on the windows for the appearance of the 'Real Ale Sold Here' sticker! In contrast, the Quadrant, Stretford, has been renovated almost overnight. Another Wilsons pub, the Wheatsheaf, Church Street, Altrincham, is closed for alterations and will re-open soon under a new manager. Previously it had been a tenanted house. Both Quadrant and Wheatsheaf continue to serve traditional beer.

Mick Rottenbury

PLOUGH TO CLOSE

The Plough on Chadderton Way, Oldham, will fall into the hands of the council on 31st January. Despite the energetic campaign to save it, it seems that this pub will share the fate of the Welcome in Salford.



WHAT'S DOING IN BOLTON

The Dog & Partridge on Manor Street reopened just before Christmas selling handpumped Thwaites ales. It was a Bass Charrington house (ex Cornbrook) until it was sold at a public auction several months ago.

On the other side of town the Lodge Bank Tavern on Higher Bridgeman Street is up for sale as a free house. This leaves the Prince William on Bradshawgate as the only Boddingtons pub in Bolton. Higher Bridgeman Street has lost two pubs recently to the redevelopment of the area. The first to go was the Farmers Arms, once a Munro's house (see the article on Farnworth & Kearsley) and last year Bass Charrington's New Inn was closed and demolished.

A new Wilsons pub has appeared on Chorley Old Road. As a token gesture to its suburban situation it has a nice, landscaped car park. It is called the Jolly Miller. It does not sell real ale.

Former regulars of the Black Dog in Horwich will probably wish to remain so. It has reopened as 'Nibblers' and a notice over the door proclaims that gentlemen will only be admitted if they are over 21 and wearing a tie or smart casual attire. God knows what goes on inside since another notice within requests the be-tied elite to leave quietly and in an orderly manner. It is a free house and so we should like to hear about the ale from anyone possessing a smart casual and capable of containing his screams until he is on the bus.

CROWN TOPPER

The Wellington (Wilson's) on New Bailey Street, Salford, has reopened as the Pen and Wig. This is in anticipation of the expansion of the Law Courts and the demolition of the George and Dragon nearby.

GIVEN THE CHOICE

In my works club two breweries supply the beer, Robinsons and Scottish and Newcastle. I'm not sure whether it's the only one of its kind in the country which gives the customer this choice but it's the only one I know. In this little enclave these two breweries are in a state of perfect competition, to use the economists' term. There are no extraneous pressures to drink this or that - the customers have never heard of the Big Six and Camra to them would be some sort of photographic association.

The draught beers available are Robinsons Best Bitter and Mild, Youngers Scotch and Mild, McEwans and Kronenburg lagers. So there we have it - real ale versus the bland products of one of the Big Six versus a couple of lagers. I'm not too sure who brews Kronenburg but I've seen it advertised on the telly and on 50 foot wide posters.

I asked the steward for the turnover statistics at the bar and he was good enough to give them to me. The results were 50% Robbies bitter, 20% Youngers Scotch, 10% Robbies Mild, 10% Youngers Mild, 10% for the lagers together. In short, 60% real ale, 30% un-real ale, 10% lager.

The results would hardly come as a surprise to CAMRA beer buffs, who would probably be surprised at the high 30% unreal ale figure. The statisticians would not call my 'sample' statistically significant but if I were to bet on it this would be a fair reflection of public taste. Unfortunately the Big Wigs in the Big Six have got it the other way round - 60% lager, 30% unreal ale, 10% real ale and I'll bet the former percentages are nearer the mark than these in places where customers can make their own choice.

However the times seem to be changing a little, and perhaps in the future a major marketing change in favour of real ale could be forthcoming from the Big Breweries. Would it be too much to expect that objective surveys like the one above may some day be used when decisions are made?

Bill Collier

What's Doing

Contributions to the magazine are always needed. If you have any news of pubs opening, shutting, going back to traditional beer or going the other way, please get in touch with the editor, Neil Richardson, 51 Lime Street, Farnworth, Bolton. Farnworth 78138, 061-793 5329. Articles are always welcome.

COPYDATE for the February issue is Thursday 25th January

THE PUBS OF FARNWORTH & KEARSLEY

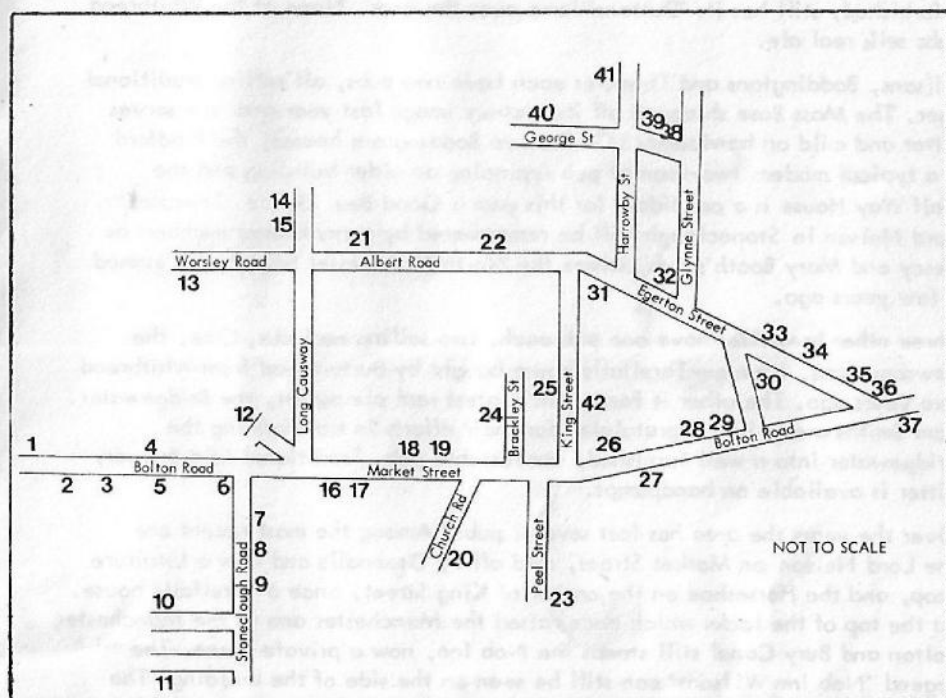
Farnworth and Kearsley have a wide variety of pubs, ranging from old coaching houses through pubs associated with the growth of industry to pre-war developments. Most of the older pubs are still there and several still bear marks of breweries which are now just memories. With a few hideous exceptions, today's breweries have treated the old buildings with some respect, although traditional beer is at present available in less than a third of the pubs.

Tetleys have the most pubs in the area, all of which came from their takeover of Walkers Warrington Brewery. 'Walkers Warrington Ales' is still quite a common sight on the pubs, but more unusual are the Sharmans windows of the White Hart and the relief stonework and moulded windows on the Market, which is now the only perfect example of a William Tong's frontage. Some of the Worsley Brewery Company's buildings can still be seen in Pendlebury but the Hare and Hounds on Stoneclough Road, with its 'WB Co' tiled step is the only pub to bear the brewery's name today. The step is as far as the real ale drinker need go - only three of the thirteen Tetley pubs sell traditional beer; the Market, the Clock Face and the Saddle. The first two are well worth visiting.

Greenall Whitley is next on the list, with eight pubs. All these came from their takeover of Magee Marshall's Crown Brewery, and the Shakespeare is a well preserved example, both inside and out, of Magee's 'brewers Tudor' style. The Railway at Moses Gate still has Magee's Crown emblems etched into the windows. Not long ago 'Magees Antelope Hotel' could be seen above the first floor windows of the Antelope. Greenalls have thoughtfully removed the word 'Magees' so that passers-by can admire the rusty nails which once held the letters. Until last year the Shakespeare, the Antelope, the Railway and the Waggon and Horses were serving real ale. In the last six months bright beer has been sold in each of these pubs, and in view of Greenalls' policy none can now be recommended.

The seven Bass Charrington houses include two of the oldest pubs in the area and the newest, the Flying Shuttle (a popular name for new pubs, possibly because a shuttle is easy to draw). Both the Grapes and the Old Three Crowns once had breweries attached to them. It is likely that Bass gained five of the pubs through their acquisition of Cornbrook Brewery property - a somewhat cracked Cornbrook window can still be seen in the Three Crowns. The Freemasons is now the only pub to bear the insignia of George Munro, a company which once owned several pubs in the Bolton area. The Freemasons is still known locally as 'Munro's'. In several cases Bass have done their worst to the interiors of the pubs but there are signs that a degree of taste is creeping back with the recent renovation of the Unity Brook. Unfortunately Bass's promotion of their cask beer hasn't yet reached this area - none of the seven pubs sells real ale.

Whitbread have five pubs in the area, all inherited in their takeover of Duttons Blackburn brewery, and the Rose and Crown, although recently



- 1 Unity Brook, Bass
- 2 Spread Eagle, Tetley
- 3 Man & Scythe, Greenalls
- 4 Antelope, Greenalls
- 5 Moss Rose, Wilsons
- 6 White Horse, Bass
- 7 Hare & Hounds, Tetley
- 8 Grapes, Bass
- 9 Market Street Tavern, Wilsons
- 10 Lord Nelson, Thwaites
- 11 Horse Shoe, Thwaites
- 12 Clock Face, Tetleys
- 13 Half Way House, Boddingtons
- 14 Bradford Arms, Boddingtons
- 15 Bridgewater, Sam Smiths
- 16 Black Horse, Greenalls
- 17 Old Three Crowns, Bass
- 18 Post Office, Bass
- 19 Queens, Tetley
- 20 Church, Greenalls
- 21 Royal, Greenalls

- 22 Waggon & Horses, Greenalls
- 23 Rawsons Arms, Burtonwood
- 24 Market, Tetleys
- 25 Saddle, Tetleys
- 26 Freemasons, Bass
- 27 Rose & Crown, Whitbread
- 28 Wellington, Whitbread
- 29 Victoria, Tetley
- 30 Golden Lion, Tetley
- 31 White Hart, Tetley
- 32 Shakespeare, Greenalls
- 33 Park, Matthew Brown
- 34 Egerton, Tetley
- 35 White Horse, Tetley
- 36 Railway, Greenalls
- 37 Moses Gate, Whitbread
- 38 Canary, Whitbread
- 39 Grapes, Tetley
- 40 Church, Tetley
- 41 Flying Shuttle, Bass
- 42 Britannia, Whitbread

refurbished, still has its 'Duttons' lamp over the door. None of the Whitbread pubs sells real ale.

Wilsons, Boddingtons and Thwaites each have two pubs, all selling traditional beer. The Moss Rose shrugged off its Watney image last year and now serves bitter and mild on handpumps. Of the two Boddingtons houses, the Bradford is a typical modern two-roomed pub replacing an older building and the Half Way House is a candidate for this year's Good Beer Guide. Thwaites' Lord Nelson in Stoneclough will be remembered by many Camra members as Percy and Mary Booth's pub, where the North Manchester branch was formed a few years ago.

Three other breweries have one pub each, two selling real ale. One, the Rawsons Arms, is an ex-Threlfalls house bought by Burtonwood from Whitbread two years ago. The other is Farnworth's latest real ale outlet, the Bridgewater. Sam Smiths are to be congratulated for their efforts in transforming the Bridgewater into a well furnished, comfortable pub. Traditional Old Brewery Bitter is available on handpumps.

Over the years the area has lost several pubs. Among the most recent are the Lord Nelson on Market Street, sold off by Greenalls and now a furniture shop, and the Horseshoe on the corner of King Street, once a Threlfalls house. At the top of the locks which once raised the Manchester arm of the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal still stands the Nob Inn, now a private house. The legend 'Nob Inn Wilsons' can still be seen on the side of the building. The house overlooks the triangle of land between the Croal and the Irwell where Rawson's vitriol works once stood. Rawson was a major shareholder in the canal company and traces of the cut from the main canal to his works are still visible. As well as the pub, his name is commemorated in two Farnworth Streets today and many years ago there was a Vitriol Makers Arms on Albert Road. The family's coat of arms can still be seen in the entrance of the Rawsons Arms.



Bridgewater Hotel - Sam Smiths real ale



This year we all decided to spend the festive season in Grotley rather than going back to our various homes. After being caught in the Gorbals last year Alistair had no intention of returning to Glasgow and as far as Ophelia Hampton was concerned Wick was out because of the snow. My annual pilgrimage to Much Lucre was curtailed because Daddy had disinherited me for living in a non-marital situation with Fiona, who since her Papal bid failed has tended to neglect her vows of chastity. I can only hope that he does not discontinue my allowance lest I be forced to take on less congenial jobs than the part-time male modelling which I do at the moment.

Christmas therefore was spent in the less salubrious hostelrys of Grotley, chatting amiably about beer. Tish wondered why supplies of Drabs East Grotley Ales should have dried up. Strange that they should have industrial unrest with Ebenezer Drab at the helm. No doubt he'll soon tell them all what's what so they can go back to work and restore the flow of this cheeky little bitter.

As we ordered another round of Sipstang 7X Barley Wine in the Gungesmearys, the conversation turned to the noble Robin's odd letter to the Slumley Bugle. Why should Boddington's adipose master pen a missive under a pseudonym, criticising Camra in Grotley and its environs, unless it is to further his aspirations towards the mantle of supremacy? The ploy obviously worked because it took in such evidently astute persons as Andrew Cummingsod and Royal Hall. As previously reported, Max Wall, our ubiquitous regional organiser, has retired to concentrate full time on his hobbies of underwater origami and skunk fettling and unless Dermatitis is rocketed to premature prominence the noble Robin could well fill the gap.

As the amateurs disappear from the pubs, normalcy returns and we can enjoy our halves of amber nectar in the Foetid Bat unencumbered by hordes of mindless, Mackeson-swilling peasants and their boring, ugly wives. Not that proletarian influences will affect the regulars of the Fatted Pseud, whose drawing power among the cognoscenti is such that a rival establishment selling 53 different draught beers has opened down the road. I can't believe rumours that the beer is better kept. How could that be?

I have one or two Christmas presents which have been duplicated and which I would like to dispose of. I've two copies of 'Real Ale on the Camel Trails of the Kalahari' and three extra copies of 'A Day in the Life of a Fuggle'. I'd like to dispose of everything in one go so I'm open to offers for these books and a variety of other items including Keg Buster underpants (2 pairs), a monogrammed revolving cummerbund, 2 pairs of Camra spats and a signed photograph of Boddington mounted on a Camra parrot mirror.

BURY'S BYEGONE PUBS

Bury now has a new shopping centre, plenty of dual carriageways, with more on the way, and like too many other northern towns has lost so much of its character. The Flying Shuttle, a new Thwaites pub, the first in the town centre since redevelopment began ten years ago, in many ways typifies the change. It has a big car park, sells 'pub grub' and the beer costs 34p a pint - a far cry from Bury's old town centre pubs.

The newcomer would find it hard to believe that the area between the Rock and the Mosses, now covered by the new roads and shopping parades, walks and precincts, was not so long ago occupied by streets, houses, shops and a collection of good, old fashioned boozers.

Princess Street has now completely disappeared, with only the Queens Hotel (now the Royal Huntsman) to remind you where it started. Ten years ago Princess Street was a colourful shopping street running from the old market to Rochdale Road. It had four pubs. The first to go was the Commercial, a Wilsons pub which closed on 18th August 1968 and was demolished within a few days. The Kings Head on the corner of Cross Street was pulled down a month later, although it had been closed for some time beforehand. Does anybody remember the brewery? The Coach and Horses (Duttons) was lost in 1969 and two years later the Kings Arms (Thwaites) on the corner of Rochdale Road was demolished. Georgiana Street ran from Princess Street behind the Co-op, and on this street was a small



'Chunkies', Clerke Street



Kings Arms, Princess Street

Duttons pub, the Beehive, which closed in November 1968 and was pulled down five months later.

The first dual carriageway to cut through the town sealed the fate of the Jolly Hatters (Wilsons) in 1971. Some years later the Free Trade Inn, a Thwaites pub not far away on George Street was demolished. Where the new road joined Rochdale Road roundabouts had to be built and so the Shakespeare (Duttons) was pulled down in 1971.

Clerke Street and Haymarket Street were swallowed up by the northern part of the shopping development behind the Rock. On the corner of Haymarket Street was the Cafe Hotel, a Duttons pub demolished early in 1969 and just up from there was the Albion (Thwaites) which went in the same year. On the corner of Clerke Street and Union Street was the Pineapple, a Thwaites pub demolished in early 1971.

These eleven pubs stood in one part of the town which has been completely obliterated. Since 1968 other districts have suffered a similar fate. Bolton Street is now for road traffic only; gone are the Admiral Lord Nelson, The Hope & Anchor with its connections with the old canal which terminated nearby, and all the shops and houses which once flanked the road to Bury Bridge. Elsewhere, new roads and car parks have replaced pubs such as the Mitre, the Royal Oak and the Old Swan. Bury is certainly not what it used to be.



Commercial, Princess Street, shortly before demolition

LOCAL BEER GUIDES - AMENDMENTS

Following the request in November's 'What's Doing', the local CAMRA branches have provided the following corrections to the various real ale guides. So as to keep the lists up to date, readers are invited to keep Roger Hall (123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester) informed of any changes.

REAL ALE IN TRAFFORD & HULME

ADD

Axe & Cleaver	Stamford New Road, Altrincham	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Stonemasons	Park Road, Timperley	Tetley	M, B(E)
Waggon & Horses	Cross Street, Sale	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Nag	Chester Road, Little Bollington	Bass	Bass(E)

DELETE

Church	Cambridge Street, Hulme (closed)
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AMEND

Railway	Stamford Street, Altrincham	Marstons	M, B(E):Ped(H)
Victoria Tavern	Victoria Street, Altrincham	Bass	Bass, 4Xmild(E)
Old Packet House	Manchester Road, Broadheath	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Moss Trooper	Moss Lane, Timperley	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Railway	Ashley Road, Hale	Robinsons	BM, BB(E)SA(H)
Albert	Erskine Street, Hulme	Greenalls	B(E)
Mancunian	City Road, Hulme	Marstons	M, B, Ped(E)
Railway	Chapel Road, Sale	Robinsons	BM, BB(E)
Woodcourt	Maple Road, Sale	Wilsons	M, B(E)

REAL ALE IN MANCHESTER CENTRAL

ADD

Mitre	Cathedral Yard	Wilsons	M, B(E)
John Willie Lees	Withy Grove	Lees	M, B(E)
The Brewers	Pall Mall	Boddingtons B Tetley M	
Manchester Regiment	Chester Road	Greenalls	M, B(E)
White Lion	Liverpool Road	Whitbread Special Cask (H)	

DELETE

Greyhound, Woden Street & Welcome Inn, Ordsall Lane

REAL ALE IN SALFORD

ADD

Wallness	Wallness Road, Salford	Tetley	M, B(H)
Salford Arms	Chapel Street, Salford	Whitbread Special Cask (H)	
Royal Archer	Lower Broughton Road, Salford	Bass	Bass(E)
Druids Home	Silk Street, Salford	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Bulls Head	Charley Road, Swinton	Tetley	M, B(H)
Golden Lion	Bolton Road, Clifton	Whitbread Special Cask (H)	
Red Lion	Chorley Road, Wardley	Bass	Bass(E)

DELETE

Derby, Salford; Greyhound, Salford; Star, Regent Road, Salford; Welcome, Salford

REAL ALE IN SOUTH MANCHESTER

ADD

Green End Hotel	Mauldeth Road, Burnage	Whitbread Special Cask (H)
Hamlet	Abbey Hey Lane, Gorton	Wilsons M, B(E)
The Malcolm	Ashton Old Road, Openshaw	Wilsons M, B(H)
Staff of Life	Ashton Old Road, Openshaw	Wilsons M, B(H)
Napoleon	Cornwall Street, Openshaw	Boddingtons B Tetley M (E)
Derby	Ladybarn Lane, Ladybarn	Wilsons M, B(H)
Waterloo	Burton Road, Withington	Wilsons M, B(H)
Horse Shoe	Hyde Road, Belle Vue	Robinsons BB, BM(H)

AMEND

Dolphin	Clawes Street, Gorton	Marstons M, B(H)
White Swan	Ring Street, Ladybarn	Boddingtons M, B(E)
Old Garrat	Pink Bank Lane, Longsight	Holts M, B(H)
Church Inn	Clayton Lane, Clayton	Bass 4X(E)
Lord Nelson	Hyde Road, Gorton	Wilsons M, B(E)
Lord Raglan	Ashton Old Road, Openshaw	Wilsons M, B(H)
Hare & Hounds	Abbey Hey Lane, Gorton	Boddingtons B(H)
Royal Oak	Ogden Lane, Openshaw	Wilsons B, BrB(E)
Garibaldi	Abbey Hey Road, Openshaw	Tetley M, B(E)
Coach & Horses	Belle Vue Street, Gorton	Robinsons BB, BM(E) OT(H)

DELETE

Concert, Belle Vue: Hare & Hounds, Openshaw:

REAL ALE IN STOCKPORT

ADD

Red Bull	Hillgate, Stockport	Robinsons BB, BM(H)
Royal Mortar	Hillgate, Stockport	Robinsons
Egerton	Lower Petergate, Stockport	Bass, Wilsons
Little Jack Horners	Waterloo Street, Stockport	Wilsons M, B(H)
Black Swan	Market Place, Stockport	Robinsons BM, BB(E)
Crown	Hillgate, Stockport	Wilsons M, B(E)
Old Rams Head	Hillgate, Stockport	Wilsons M, B(E)
Bakers Vaults	Market Place, Stockport	Robinsons BM, BB(E)
Inn With a Chance	Tiviot Dale, Stockport	Free Pollards B (E)
Tiviot	Tiviot Dale, Stockport	Robinsons BM, BB(E)
Three Arrows	Manchester Road, Reddish	Boddingtons M, B(E)
Ash	Manchester Road, Reddish	Wilsons B(H)
Navigation	Lancashire Hill, Reddish	Wilsons M, B(H/E)
Nip Inn	Lancashire Hill, Reddish	Boddingtons M, B(E)
Dane Bank	Windmill Lane, Reddish	Robinsons BM, BB(E)

AMEND

Midway	New Bridge Lane, Stockport	Pollard B, Boddingtons B (E)
Waterloo	Waterloo Road, Stockport	Thwaites B, Bass, McEwan 80/-(H)
Swan with Two Necks	Princess Street, Stockport	Robinsons BM, BB(E)
		Robinsons BM, BB(E)

REAL ALE IN ROCHDALE

ADD

Highland Laddie	Spotland Road, Rochdale	Lees BM, B(E)
Cotton Tree	Boarshaw Road, Middleton	Lees M, B(E)
Ladybarn	Harbour Lane, Milnrow	Taylor's B(H)

Hare & Hounds
Reed Hotel

Green Lane, Heywood
Yorkshire Street, Rochdale

Wilsons M, B(E)
Bass Bass Charr BM, B
Bass, Bass Worth (H)

AMEND

Cemetery

Bury Road, Rochdale

Robinsons, Taylors, Theakstons, M, B, SA
(H); Boddingtons B (H)

Dog & Partridge

Spring Vale, Middleton

Oldham M, B(E)

Assheton Arms

Market Place, Middleton

Lees M, B(E)

Hopwood Arms

Manchester Road, Middleton

Wilsons M, B(E)

Gardeners Arms

Manchester Old Road, Rhodes

Boddingtons B(H)

Lydgate

Blackstone Edge Old Road, Lydgate

Boddingtons B(H);

Robinsons, Theakstons M, B(E)

DELETE

Morning Star, Oldham Road, Rochdale

REAL ALE IN OLDHAM

ADD

Colliers Arms Cross

Ashton Road, Hathershaw

Marstons M, B(E)

Limelight

Hollins Road, Hollins

Wilsons M, B(E)

Old Post Office

Manchester Road, Hollinwood

Oldham M, B(H)

Navigation

Manchester Road, Hollinwood

Wilsons M, B(E)

Boltmakers Rest

Horsedge Street, Oldham

Oldham M, B(E)

Bridge Inn

Moorhey Street, Clerkesfield

Lees M, B(E)

Sun Mill Inn

Middleton Road, Chadderton

Oldham M, B(E)

Yarn Spinners

Manchester Road, Oldham

Wilsons M, B(H)

Chadderton Arms

Broadway, Chadderton

Wilsons M, B(H)

Eight Bells

Alder Lane, Failsworth

Bass Charr M, B,

Bass Worth, Bass (H)

AMEND

Horton Arms

Middleton Road, Chadderton

Oldham M, B(E)

White Swan

Huddersfield Road, Oldham

Robinsons BM, BB, SA(E)

Nelson

Hulmes Road, Failsworth

Wilsons M, B(H)

Horse & Jockey

Stanedge Road, Saddleworth

Oldham M, B; Bass (H)

Cross Keys

Huddersfield Road, New Delph

Wilsons, Theakstons M, B, SA

Pollards B (H)

DELETE

Freemasons, Oldham: Red Lion, Saddleworth

REAL ALE IN BURY

ADD

Globe Inn

Tottington Road, Woolfold

Whitbread Special Cask (H)

Printers

Turton Road, Tottington

Wilsons M, B(E)

AMEND

Waterloo

Manchester Road, Bury

Thwaites M, B(H)

Blue Bell

Bury New Road, Bury

Holts M, B(E)

White Boar

Radcliffe Road, Bury

Thwaites M, B(E)

Robin Hood

Rochdale Road, Bury

Thwaites M, B(H)

Brewers Arms

Bell Lane, Bury

Thwaites M, B(E)

Plane Tree

Rochdale Road, Turn Village

Bass BM, B, Bass (E)

Old Cross

Eton Hill Road, Radcliffe

Holts M, B(H)

Woodthorpe Hotel

Bury Old Road, Prestwich

Holts M, B(E)

Staff of Life

Hilton Lane, Rainsough

Marstons M, B, Ped(H)

DELETE

Rose & Crown

Parr Street, Ramsbottom

HISTORY AT THE NORTHUMBERLAND ARMS

Last month we recovered a remarkable collection of over 50 bottles and other items from a disused cellar of the Northumberland Arms on Chester Road. Acting on a hot tip from the Trafford and Hulme branch of CAMRA, we contacted landlord Tony Eaves. He had already retrieved an interesting selection of mineral water and beer bottles from the cellar, which could only be reached through a small hatchway and had apparently been closed off for some time.

Tony was agreeable to our investigating further and that veteran of many a dig, Tony Flynn, crawled through the hatch into an unlit room about eight feet square and four feet high to see what he could find. He came out with a collection of bottles dating from the 1870s which were lying near the surface of what we found later to be two feet of dust and rubble. The best find was an intact, half pint, monogrammed Walker & Homfrays beer glass. The bottles included some JH Cuff soda water Hamiltons (the bomb-shaped bottles) and several Austin Craven stone mineral water bottles. He also retrieved a Daniel Cliftons (Stockport) beer bottle, one from Unsworth & Co Ltd, East Retford (a brewery connected with Walker & Homfrays) and a number of acid-etched Patons beer bottles, hitherto quite rare.

In the light of these discoveries, it was obvious that a full scale excavation of the cellar was in order. We went away to see what we could find of the history of the pub in preparation for a dig the following week. We already knew that there had been a brewery at the Northumberland Arms since licensing records showed that the Hat & Feathers on Boond Street, Salford, was owned by them in 1873. Further research revealed that the brewery



Some of the first beer and mineral water bottles recovered at the Northumberland

probably only existed for 15 years between 1861 and 1875. The only two brewers we could find were Anthony Hutchinson in the early 1860s and then Henry Clayburn, who had also been connected with Joseph Lyth's Lion Brewery next to the Greenheys Hotel, Hulme. The Northumberland Arms itself was first built about 1828 and the first landlord was James Bell, who moved there from the Grey Horse on Deansgate, Manchester. It is probable that the pub was rebuilt in mid-Victorian times when the brewery was operating and it seems likely that the disused cellar was part of the original building. Later the Northumberland became a Watson & Woodhead pub and was then acquired by Walker & Homfrays before Wilsons took them over in 1949.

On the 14th December, suitably fortified with a few pints, we donned our best boiler suits, hats, industrial gloves and breathing masks and crawled through the hole into the old cellar armed with torches and a rake. In the first half hour we had turned up a couple of dozen old bottles and cellar equipment. Among these were more Austin Craven ginger beers and Patons beers and a JH Lees soda syphon. We also found a Walker & Homfrays 'cellar management' card, as well as one from Wilsons and - surely a collectors' item - a card giving instructions for the care of Watneys Red Barrel.

After a short beer break courtesy of the management we spent another two hours excavating the cellar and recovered several rare items along with twenty or so other bottles. Few still had their labels owing to the humidity of the room but we found a fragment of a Bass label bearing the name Watson & Woodhead (c1890). There was an almost intact JH Cuff label on one of their soda water bottles and a Wheatley Hop Bitters label in similarly good condition. There was an 'Old Rum' label on one of the two Walker & Homfrays spirit flasks and half of a Walker & Homfrays 'Em Bee Ale' label. Among the intact bottles was a Hamilton from JH Taylors Pollard Street Brewery and one from CAMWAL (Chemists' Aerated Mineral Waters Associated Limited were a group of mineral water suppliers). We



Some of the labels recovered

found one intact Austin Craven Codd bottle. These were mineral water bottles with glass alleys in their necks which acted as stoppers. From them derives the term 'Codswallop' - a fizzy non-alcoholic drink. The best find of the day was a Townsend's clear glass ginger beer bottle. It is possible that this is the only one in existence - these clear glass bottles were rare even in their day, since you could see the sediment in the bottle.

By the time we had sifted through the layers of rubble and were satisfied that there were no more intact bottles it was half past five and opening time. Forsaking the gold sovereigns, Reubens miniatures and Benedictine manuscripts which might have lain deeper, we went upstairs for a drink. Some of the old bottles are now on show behind the bar and Tony Eaves plans to display more when alterations have been completed.

Neil Richardson, Tony Flynn, Alan Gall



Branch Diary

REGIONAL CONFERENCE: Park Hotel, Bowerham Road, Lancaster. 27th Jan,
10.00am - 6.00pm

AREA MEETING: Crown & Kettle, Great Ancoats Street, Manchester. Weds
31st Jan, 8.00pm

CAMRAMBLE: Hayfield, River Kinder Bridge, Saturday 20th Jan

TRAFFORD & HULME

Branch Meeting: Thurs Jan 18th, 8.00pm, Northumberland, Chester Road/
Northumberland Road junction, Stretford

Social: Thurs Jan 25th, 8.00pm, Lord Nelson, Stretford Road, Urmston.

Pub Crawl: Sat Jan 27th, Hyde. Meet Whitegates 7.30-8.30.

Committee/Social: Thurs Feb 1st, 8.00pm. Railway, Broadheath

Darts/Doms Social with C&NE Cheshire branch. Sun Feb 4th. 12.00noon,
Victoria Tavern, Stamford Street, Altrincham.

Contact: Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 (home)

BOLTON

Branch Meeting: Weds Jan 24th, 8.00pm. York Hotel, Newport Street.
Speaker: Mr Gordon Leek, Robinsons Brewery

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What is Real Ale?

CAMRA coined the term 'real ale' to describe beer brewed from traditional ingredients — malted barley, hops and yeast — kept in casks which allow it to continue 'working' in the pub cellar, and delivered to your glass by any method that does not involve the use of carbon dioxide.

More about the Campaign for Real Ale.

CAMRA is the only national organisation which exists specifically to speak for the beer-drinker and pub user. Except for a small staff in St Albans, CAMRA relies on voluntary effort, and members subscriptions, to promote and publicise traditional draught beer. The Campaign is piloted nationally by a democratically elected Executive, and 140 branches are its lifeblood at local level. Few parts of the country are without a CAMRA branch.

CAMRA tries to increase public awareness through such means as publications and beer exhibitions, and seeks to influence the brewing industry itself by making responsible and intelligent representations to the industry's bosses and the nation's legislators.

The Campaign is now accepted as one of Britain's foremost consumer and conservation bodies. Its views on a wide range of subjects connected with the brewing industry and the licensed trade are listened to seriously by the industry itself and by Government. CAMRA's growing concern with a whole range of legal and technical issues — with pricing policies, brewing technology, monopolies, the licensing laws, and consumer protection — reflect a mountain of effort by unpaid individuals.

The Campaign publishes a monthly newspaper — What's Brewing — which takes a broad and critical look at all sorts of developments in the world of beer and pubs, and keeps members closely informed. What's Brewing is sent free to every member. The annual Good Beer Guide, listing the best Real Ale pubs in the country, has become a national institution.

In 1976 CAMRA became a limited company. This status in no way inhibits the Campaign's activities as a voluntary organisation, and has been adopted with the sole purpose of putting CAMRA on a sounder legal footing.

Remember, most of CAMRA's activities cost money, and CAMRA relies on its members for financial support. Your help is needed now. If you do care about your pint and your pubs, join CAMRA. Then contact your local branch. They will be delighted to see you at their meetings, socials and on the trips they organise from time to time. They will also welcome your views, and your help in their local ventures.

Join Now!

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

or I/We enclose completed standing order authority

(Any additional amount will be welcomed as a donation)

☐
☐
☐

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

STANDING ORDER FORM (FOR FULL & HUSBAND AND WIFE MEMBERSHIP ONLY)

To (your Bank)

Please forward to Barclays Bank Ltd, 3 High St., St Albans (20-74-09) for the credit of CAMRA Limited subscription account A/c No 50187887, now the sum of *£4/£5 and continue to pay this sum on the..... annually until further notice.

SIGNATURE

DATE

NAME (Block capitals)

BANK A/C NO AND ADDRESS



*delete as appropriate

Real Ale



Comprehensive real ale guides to the following areas are available from Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester.

REAL ALE IN HIGH PEAK AND NORTH EAST CHESHIRE - Including Marple, Hyde, Ashton, Audenshaw, Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Mossley and Denton. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN SOUTH MANCHESTER - Including Gorton, Openshaw, Clayton, Didsbury, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN STOCKPORT - Including Hazel Grove, Cheadle, Heaton Mersey, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN SALFORD - Including Swinton, Eccles, Worsley and Irlam. 150 pubs, maps, photographs. 25p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN TRAFFORD AND HULME - Including Altrincham, Sale, Urmston, Stretford, etc. With maps. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN ROCHDALE - Including Heywood, Milnrow, Littleborough and Middleton. 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 photographs. 20p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN OLDHAM - Including Failsworth, Royton, Chadderton, Shaw, Saddleworth, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN BURY - Including Ramsbottom, Radcliffe, Tottington, Whitefield and Prestwich. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN MANCHESTER NORTH - Including the city centre, Ancoats, Collyhurst, Moston, Newton Heath, Blackley, Cheetham, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

Subscriptions

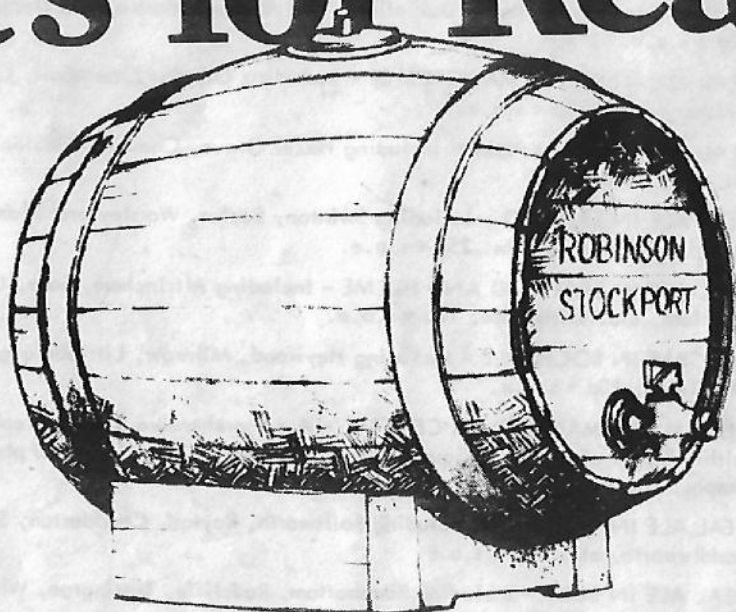
If you want to be sure of getting What's Doing every month, why not subscribe? It costs £1 for six issues, postage paid. Fill in the form below and send it together with a cheque or postal order for £1 made out to 'What's Doing' to Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please send me the next six issues of What's Doing, starting with the _____ issue (state month). Signed _____

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

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



Lower Hillgate, Stockport, (just by the Brewery 1061 480 657). And it's 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.

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*Bitter Ale not available in Pins

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you are buying Traditional Draught Beer
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