

# WHAT'S DOING

APRIL  
1979

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



## UNION GAP

After being closed for a few months, the Union, the Wilsons pub near Ardwick Green, will be reopening on the 14th April. As it is just two weeks before John Smiths take over the nearby George, the Union will probably do very well.



## SINCLAIRS TO RETURN TO SHAMBLES

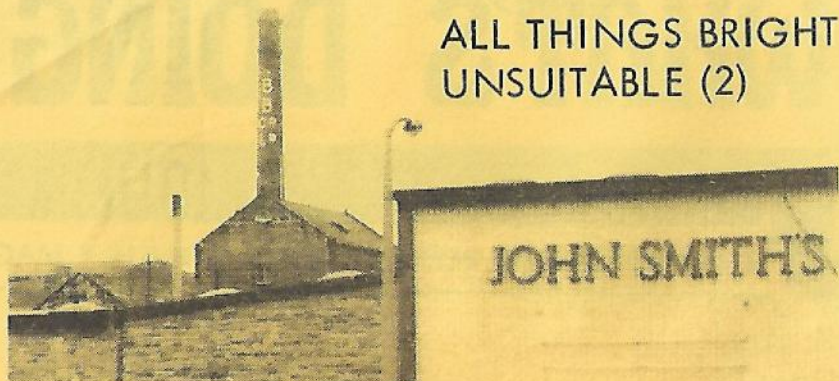
After eight years of being lodged in a prefab on Deansgate, there are signs that Sinclairs Oyster Bar will be moving back into the Old Shambles. A planning application has been submitted to Manchester Council to carry out interior renovations.

## MORE WILSONS PUBS TO SELL REAL ALE

Good ol' Wilsons have ordered handpumps for the following pubs; the Golden Hind, Offerton; the Devonshire, Ardwick; the Young Pretender, London Road; the Highgate, Whitechurch; the Pack Horse, Mottram and the White Lion, Irlam. All of these are presently selling chilled and filtered beer.



## ALL THINGS BRIGHT UNSUITABLE (2)



"All Things Bright Unsuitable", the article in last month's What's Doing outlining the threat of more John Smiths pubs in Greater Manchester, was given national publicity via an article in the Morning Advertiser and provoked a statement from John Smiths:-

"We are convinced that the decision we took some years ago to move to bright beers was sound. We market a range of beers of constant high quality that are very popular among our customers. We have never denied that some customers drink cask beers, but we do not believe there is sufficient demand for us to market it."

-So that's that. No cask beer. However, tagged on at the end of the statement is the sentence,

"It would be a decision that would involve a major capital programme."

Does this mean that John Smiths have considered brewing cask beer again? Perhaps they've noticed how well breweries which produce the real stuff are doing these days. Is it only the embarrassment - financial and public - of changing their minds which is holding things up? The crackling of burning bridges must be deafening in the streets of Tadcaster.

Smiths also state that their North West interests are 'being developed'. If the company is to be brought to see the light, Greater Manchester with its varied choice of real ales is the place to do it. Manchester beer drinkers' reaction to the fizzy intrusion may well swing the balance.

## BURTONWOOD IN WARRINGTON

Burtonwood opened a new pub in Warrington on April 5th. The Mad Hatter stands on Lovely Lane, Whitecross, and sells traditional beer. This means that the choice of real ale in Warrington has increased by 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %!

Information: Roy Walker

## MATTHEW BROWN REACH OUT



Matthew Brown's Lion Ales now take pride of place on the bar of the Roebuck Inn, Brighton Road, Strinesdale, near Oldham.

Some years ago the pub was sold, together with a handful of other pubs in the area, by Bass Charrington. Since that time all the pubs have flourished in the free trade. The Roebuck was no exception, serving hand pumped Oldham and Pollards mild and bitter. Earlier this year the pub was put up for auction, the outcome being that Matthew Brown have now opened the doors of their first real ale outlet in the area. Only two of the six handpumps are in use, both dispensing bitter.

It is strongly rumoured that the brewery is trying to gain a firmer foothold in this part of the country.

Steve Lawton



## TWENTY-FIVE PENCE

Boddingtons are pulling down the Crown, Ashton Old Road, in order to replace it with a new pub. The old pub, with its attractive frontage, small rooms and beautiful coloured, leaded windows, is still open and well worth seeing before the latest act of vandalism is completed.

## CROMPTONS MULE

An old building on Spa Road, Bolton (near the Gipsy's Tent), latterly used as a joiner's shop, has been converted into a bistro restaurant which also sells real ale. Called the Crompton's Mule, it offers a varied menu at prices ranging from 60p to £2 - and what better to wash down that Terrine of Pork (65p) or Coq au Vin (£1.25) than a few pints of handpumped Boddingtons bitter?

Information: Bert Kerks



## ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE PUB TO REOPEN

The Station Hotel has remained empty and has been deteriorating for the last six years. This was the result of the Ashton by-pass cutting through where the Railway Station was. The pub itself only just missed being demolished for the new road by a few feet, and stands in a scheduled conservation area at the end of Warrington Street, off Stamford Street. Faded paintwork on the outside walls is still just discernible and reads 'Free From Brewer' and 'Burton Ales'.

Now two young partners, John Hesketh and Derek Baxter, have acquired the Station and are renovating the building. They wish to keep as much of the old tradition and atmosphere as possible and to serve traditional beer. Negotiations with various breweries are still in progress and there is as yet no definite opening date since the building needs a lot of work after six years' neglect. However, they hope to be in business by the end of the year. The hardest part seems to be over since when they applied for the licence some 27 licensed victuallers were against it. Apparently the opposition was mainly from the 'not too well frequented' pubs in the area - possibly the keg and tank beer establishments?



Stewart Revell

## CASK GREENALLS

During 1977 and 1978 16 new Greenalls pubs were opened, 4 of which sell cask beer. The four cask beer outlets are the White House in Leeds, The Longbow in Mirfield, The Fighting Cocks in Derby and The Staffordshire Bull in Stafford. Five pubs are due to be opened in 1979 of which one, in Keighley will serve cask beer. It seems strange that Greenalls should introduce traditional beer in the West Riding and North Midlands whilst neglecting their traditional trading areas. Why must the drinkers of Greater Manchester suffer the continuing demolition of traditional beer outlets like the Papermakers, The St James Tavern and the Star and see them replaced by bright beer establishments like the Poets Corner, The Moonraker and The Brass Tally? Why do the economics of cask beer make sense in Keighley and Stafford but not in Rochdale, Bolton, Salford and Harpurhey?

## OPEN MARKET

Alterations at the Market, Mesnes Street, Wigan, are almost complete and the pub will be reopening soon. There is no change in the beers: Youngers IPA and XXPS will soon be available on handpumps.



## MORE 'SPECIAL CASK' PUBS

Outlets for Whitbread's Special Cask Bitter are to be increased. Between 30 and 40 more pubs in the Manchester trading area will be selling the real ale in June.

## PLANNING NEW PUBS FOR CHOICE

Very often the allocation of a pub site to a particular brewery is made by the Brewers Society with more regard to the 'Manchester Agreement' than to the resulting distribution of pubs. The 'Agreement' bases the allocation of new pubs on barrelage figures per brewer of the pubs lost. This may go a long way towards maintaining the status quo, but in Manchester it could be applied more imaginatively. Areas where one brewer already possesses a number of pubs need not be granted further pubs belonging to the same brewer. Instead the brewery could be allocated pubs in other areas where it was poorly represented.

In Openshaw, for example, Whitbread have provisionally been allocated a site on Vine Street. Although they may have lost a lot of pubs in the area, Whitbread still have four tied houses there. There are also eight Boddingtons outlets, five Wilsons, one each of Holts, Marstons, Robinsons and Tetleys, and four Bass. Is there any reason why the site could not be allocated to another brewery? - Hydes, Lees, Burtonwood, Greenalls, Sam Smiths or Thwaites, for example.

This procedure would lead to an expansion rather than a reduction of choice and should be beneficial to the consumer. We'd be pleased to hear from the NW Brewers Association about their policy concerning the allocation of sites to breweries, and the maintenance of consumer choice.

Roger Hall

## NEW GUIDE

As well as the second Trafford & Hulme real ale guide, this month sees the publication of the third edition of Real Ale in Central Manchester. The guide covers every real ale outlet (117 of them) within 1 mile of St Peter's Square. Fully illustrated, it is available for 30p + s.a.e. from Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester.

**REAL ALE**  
in  
**CENTRAL  
MANCHESTER**



Third Edition

30p

## ALL CHANGE IN TRAFFORD & HULME

It is a little over a year since 'What's Doing published a comprehensive guide to real ale in Trafford & Hulme. In that time there has been a gradual increase in the number of real ale outlets and the range of beers available in some pubs - not a lot, but enough to make it worthwhile updating the guide. The details are accurate at the time of writing so if you should spot any alterations, please contact Alan Hurdle (973 2103, home).

The three completely new outlets all use handpumps to dispense the beer. They are the Axe and Cleaver, Altrincham, a brand new Wilsons pub replacing one that was demolished several years ago; the Waggon and Horses, Sale, which changed from tanked Wilsons beers to cask in March of this year; and the nearby Volunteer, where Whitbread's Special Cask bitter is available. In fact it is Whitbreads who could supply most of the changes in the year to come if the enthusiasm and eager anticipation of some of their landlords is anything to go by. One tenant in a modern Whitbread pub in Altrincham (half of Trophy to the first person to guess which one) already has his 'Special Cask' pump clip ready and with a gleam in his eye is pulling imaginary pints. For the sake of his sanity I hope he doesn't have long to wait.

The range of beers has increased in the Victoria Tavern, Altrincham, with the introduction of draught Bass (great stuff); the Railway, also on Stamford Street, Altrincham, where the landlord forked out for a beer engine to dispense Marstons Pedigree; Carters Arms, Sale Moor, now something of a mini beer exhibition since Owd Roger on gravity (during the winter months) has been added to the rest of Marstons range; and Mancunian, City Road, Hulme, another outlet for Pedigree.

Two pubs have changed hands. The Church, Cambridge Street, Hulme, was taken over by JW Lees from Greenalls while the Crown, Jackson Crescent, Hulme, was a real ale loss when Wilsons handed it over to John Smiths as part of the swaps agreed between the two breweries.

Other changes in the list of pubs are merely the result of sorting out branch boundaries. So Mobberley has not suddenly lost all its real ale pubs, nor has the Greyhound at Ashley been blown up. Likewise the Alexandra Park, Alexandra Road, Moss Side is still there, it's just that they are over the border', so to speak. For the same reason, the Eagle in Wythenshawe; Nag, Little Bollington and Kilton, Mere, now appear in the branch area and are therefore included. The only other change in the list of pubs is the addition of the Stonemasons, Timperley, which was omitted last time by mistake (ours, not the editor's!)

Mick Rottenbury

## McEWANS IN DUKINFIELD

The Globe, a free house in Dukinfield, has introduced handpumped McEwans bitter alongside the Pollards bitter and Tetley (or Wilsons) mild and bitter.

# MANCHESTER BREWERIES No 7

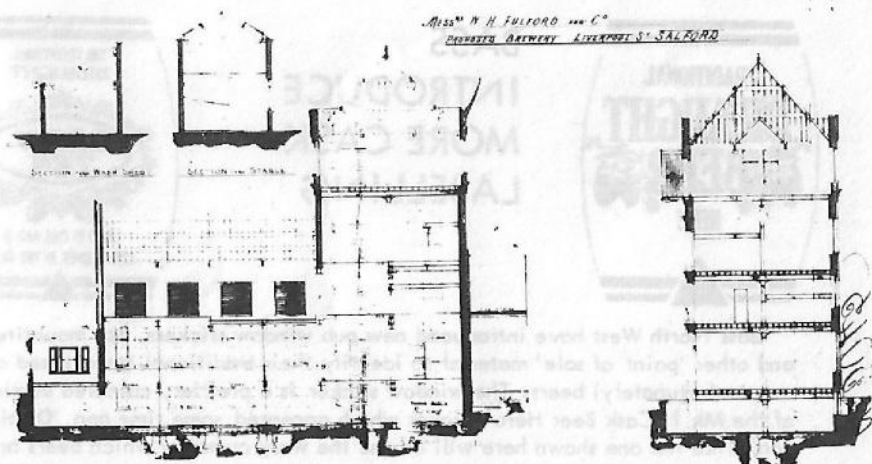
## The Empress Brewery

This is the story of a company originally founded in Salford over a hundred years ago. At various times they occupied four different breweries, changed name three times, nearly became part of Wilsons in the early 1900s and finally lost their identity to Peter Walkers.

The year 1877 found Gill & Fulford at the Horse Shoe Brewery, Salford. Both had been publicans; William H Fulford at the Old Nag's Head on Jacksons Row, Manchester, and Jonathan Gill at the Unicorn Hotel in Broughton. By 1881 the partnership had been dissolved, leaving W H Fulford to run the firm with another member of the family, John Fulford. Expansion must have been rapid because, in the same year, plans were drawn up for the construction of a new brewery to be sited on Liverpool Street in Salford. As we now know, this brewery was never built and Fulfords moved to an established brewery on West Peel Street, quite close to the Regent Road premises of Groves and Whitnall. The new property was called the Monarch Brewery and had previously been used by Charles F Dearden.

The second move occurred in about 1884 and directories of that year listed W H Fulford & Co at Clarence Street, Hulme. It was here that they first began to use the name 'Empress Brewery'. The building stood on what is now Cleworth Street, next to the present day Bulls Head at number 287 Chester Road, and was used by several other brewers both before and after the occupation by Fulfords. (See Manchester Breweries No. 6)

By 1889 the third and last move was made to a new building on Chester Road. The 'Empress Brewery' preceded Empress Street, which was constructed some years later. Shortly afterwards, in keeping with the new locality, the name was changed to the Old Trafford Brewery Co Ltd. During May 1896 the name was



A detail of plans submitted to Salford Corporation Engineers Office, 1881  
(Salford City Archives)

changed again to Empress Brewery Co Ltd. The directors at the time were William H Fulford, John Heap, John Wainwright and Charles Stuart Cockburn. Fulford was later to leave the board following a strong disagreement with his co-directors.

In 1898, Empress acquired Greatorex Brothers of Queens Brewery and also Simpson & Crummack of the Swan Brewery. The Queens Brewery on Moss Lane West was sold to Hydes, who moved in during July 1899, and the Swan Brewery passed to Neil Ryrie. Henry Crummack joined the board of Empress. The acquisitions substantially increased the company's tied estate which eventually numbered about 150 licensed houses. At least 25 of these were in Salford, like the Hyde Park Corner on Silk Street, and one of their Manchester pubs which no longer stands was the Lord Gough on Cookson Street. The company also owned a few pubs in Wigan which were acquired when Fairhurst Ltd sold off its property in 1920.

Sometime around 1905, talks began with Wilsons Brewery Ltd. The object was a possible merger of the two firms but by 1906 the board reported that negotiations had broken down. Another candidate was forthcoming and Peter Walkers of Warrington acquired a controlling interest.

In January 1930 Empress ceased brewing but continued as owners of licensed property. During July 1933 they took over the tenancy of all property owned by the Worsley Brewery Co Ltd, itself acquired by Walkers in 1925. A resolution placing the company in voluntary liquidation was passed at a meeting on 30th September, 1955, and the undertakings and assets were transferred to Walkers, which by then owned all the ordinary capital.

The brewery still stands at number 382 Chester Road, one of the few to have survived. Apart from this, the passage of Empress has left little evidence. Perhaps someone, somewhere, actually remembers drinking an Empress brew; if so we would like to hear from you. Only candidates in their 70s need apply!

Alan Gall



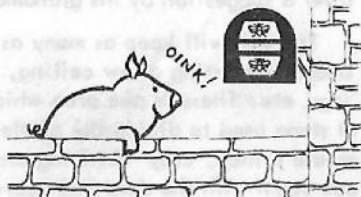
**BASS  
INTRODUCE  
MORE CASK  
LABELLING**



Bass North West have introduced new pub window stickers, bar mountings and other 'point of sale' material to identify their traditional (pressurised or not, unfortunately) beers. The window sticker is a prettier, coloured version of the Mk 1 'Cask Beer Here' sticker which appeared some time ago. Display cards like the one shown here will advise the wary customer which beers are cask conditioned.



# FARMHOUSE TO PUBLIC HOUSE



Shortly, a long awaited treat is in store for residents and visitors alike in the Greenside area of Droylsden. Boddingtons beer will be on sale in a former pig farm which is now being converted into a free house called the Pig on the Wall. After many years of hard work, the owner, Joe Scaife, and his wife Renee are close to achieving their ambition.

Joe had quite a fight on his hands when he first applied for a licence nearly four years ago but with the help of ex-Camra NE member Dave Hall, who argued the case with the local magistrates, a licence was eventually obtained. 21 out of 24 pubs in the area are owned by the Big Six, the minority selling real ale, and only one pub is owned by an independent brewery. These facts finally persuaded the licensing authorities to give the go-ahead.

That was in mid-1975. Since then, legal difficulties about some buildings on the land have slowed proceedings down, but all is now set to open to the public on Tuesday, 10th April.

Why is it to be called Pig on the Wall? Well, Droylsden is traditionally known as 'silly country' and legend has it that locals used to stand their pigs on walls to watch processions and marching bands go by. With this in mind Joe is arranging for Droylsden Brass Band to march past the pub on opening day - the only problem being how to get a pig to stay on the wall whilst the band goes by! (Especially after having tried the Boddies!)

Built as Greenside Farm in 1684, the pub is the oldest building in Droylsden. Records exist of a John Howarth using the farm for bleaching cloth in 1775. In those days bleaching was usually undertaken to augment the agricultural income.

Joe's grandfather, Albert L Whitehead, became the tenant of William Newton in 1929. Then, there were 35 acres and the farm was mainly dairy - Joe still has an original wide-topped milk bottle inscribed 'AL Whitehead, Greenside Farm'.

William Newton bought the farm in 1912 for £1,800 when it was modernised - a bathroom was added and all the first floor oak beams were boxed in. Joe's grandfather remained tenant until his death in 1957. His grandmother retained the tenancy and eventually bought the farm in 1965. By this time, the land had shrunk to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre, as William Newton had sold off parcels of land for house building. From about 1950 to 1970 the land would only support piggeries and became increasingly uneconomic. In 1971 the plan to convert it into a pub began to evolve in Joe's mind

after a suggestion by his grandmother.

The pub will keep as many as possible of its original features - oak beams supporting a low ceiling, areas of original stone flags, old furnishings, etc. There is one area which was once used for milking and the slabs of stone used to divide the cattle will create a nice, cosy drinking area. An oak beam with the date 1684 carved on it, which was fixed on an outbuilding (probably after the 1912 modernisation) will be brought back inside the pub. The oak front door, with its huge wrought iron hinges, probably dates from when the farmhouse was built.

In line with present legislation, the pub will be mainly open plan but there will be three distinct areas - a lounge, bar and a vault/games room. The beer will be Boddingtons mild and bitter dispensed by electric pump, together with draught Guinness and a couple of lagers. It is likely that Boddingtons Old Ale will be sold direct from the cask in the winter months.



As I see it, the project cannot but be a huge success and look forward to some comfortable drinking in original and very unique surroundings.

J M Hopwood

#### How to get there

Manchester A-Z p52, square 2B - junction of Greenside La and Springfield Rd.  
Buses: 213(Maynes) from Stevenson Sq. 169 from Didsbury via Belle Vue.

## BOWLING GREEN STAYS

Last month we wrongly reported that Holts had applied for permission to convert the bowling green behind the Grapes, Peel Green, into a car park. In fact the application, which has been refused, came from a local car firm and Holts were against it. There's something reassuring in the way that Holts dismiss the horseless carriage as a passing fad.

## PUB PLEA PROBE

Greenall Whitley have appealed against a decision by Trafford Borough Council to refuse planning permission for a pub in Oak Road, Partington, and a public inquiry is to be held.

## NEW HYDES PUB PLANNED

Hydes are seeking planning permission to build a pub on the vacant site at the corner of Hampden Crescent and Garratt Way, Gorton.



2nd  
ed.

# REAL ALE in TRAFFORD & HULME





## ALTRINCHAM

### Central

1	Axe and Cleaver	Stamford New Road	Wilsons	M, B(H)
2	Barrington	Barrington Road	Wilsons	M, B(E)
3	Faulkner's Arms	Stamford New Road	Wilsons	M, B(H)
4	Grapes	Regent Road	Boddingtons	M, B(H)
5	Malt Shovels	Stamford Street	Sam Smiths	B(H)
6	Old Roebuck	Victoria Street	Wilsons	M, B(E)
7	Orange Tree	Old Market Place	Wilsons	M, B(H)
8	Park	Lloyd Street	Greenalls	M, B(E)
9	Railway Inn	Stamford Street	Marstons	M, B(E); Ped(H)
10	Tatton Arms	Tipping Street	Boddingtons	M, B(H); SA(G)
11	Victoria Tavern	Victoria Street	Bass	Bass, 4XM(E)
12	Wheatsheaf	Church Street	Wilsons	M, B(H)

### Broadheath

13	Cheshire Cheese	Manchester Road	Boddingtons	M, B(E)
14	Old Packet House	Manchester Road	Wilsons	M, B(H)
15	Railway Inn	Manchester Road	Boddingtons	M, B(H); SA(G)

### Timperley

16	Broomwood	Mainwood Road	Boddingtons	BM, B(E)
17	Gardeners Arms	Deansgate Lane	Boddingtons	M, B(E)
18	Hare and Hounds	Wood Lane	Marstons	M, B(E)
19	Moss Trooper	Moss Lane	Wilsons	M, B(H)
20	Quarry Bank	Bloomsbury Lane	Hydes	M, B(E); SA(G)
21	Stonemasons	Park Road	Tetleys	M, B(E)
22	Sylvan	Woodhouse Lane East	Wilsons	M, B(E)

### BOWDON

23	Stamford Arms	The Firs	Boddingtons	M, B(E); SA(G)
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### DUNHAM MASSEY

24	Rope and Anchor		Boddingtons	M, B(E)
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### HALE

25	Railway Inn	Ashley Road	Robinsons	BM, BB(E); SA(H)
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### HALEBARNES

26	Bulls Head	Wicker Lane	Robinsons	BM, BB(E); SA(E)
27	Unicorn	Hale Road	Hydes	M, B(E)

### LITTLE BOLLINGTON

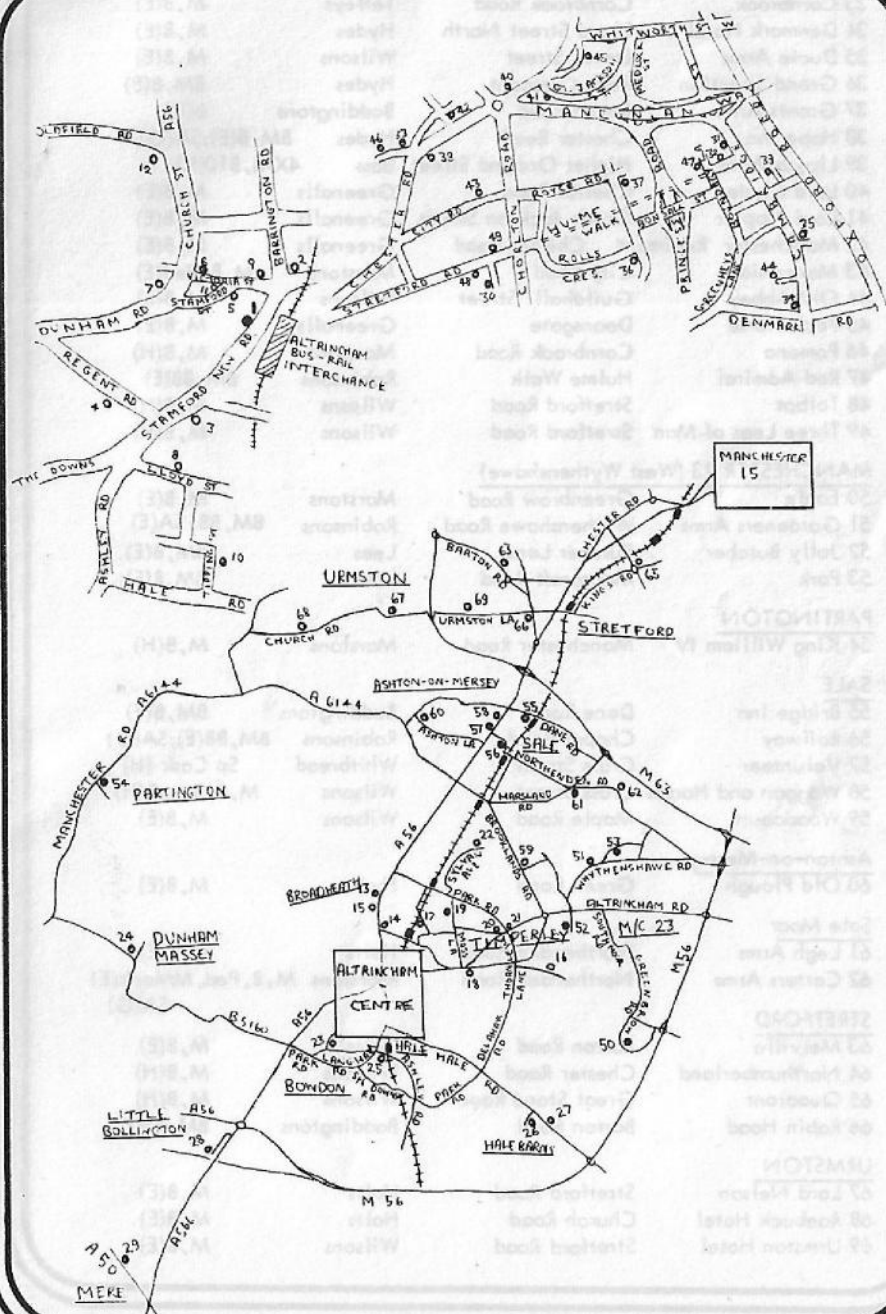
28	Nag	Chester Road	Bass	Bass(E)
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### MERE

29	Kilton	Knutsford Road	Greenalls	M, B(E)
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### MANCHESTER 15 (HULME)

30	Albert	Erskine Street	Greenalls	B(E)
31	Church	Cambridge Street	Lees	BM, B(H)
32	Clynes Wine Bar	Cavendish Street	Wilsons	M, B(H)



33 Cornbrook	Cornbrook Road	Tetleys	M, B(E)
34 Denmark Hotel	Lloyd Street North	Hydes	M, B(E)
35 Ducie Arms	Devas Street	Wilsons	M, B(E)
36 Grand Junction	Rolls Crescent	Hydes	BM, B(E)
37 Grants Arms	Royce Road	Boddingtons	B(H)
38 Hope Inn	Chester Road	Hydes	BM, B(E); SA(G)
39 Lloyds Arms	Higher Ormond Street	Bass	4XM, B10(H)
40 Lord Clyde	Chester Road	Greenalls	M, B(E)
41 Lord Napier	Great Jackson Street	Greenalls	M, B(E)
42 Manchester Regiment	Chester Road	Greenalls	M, B(E)
43 Mancunian	City Road	Marstons	M, B, Ped(E)
44 Old Abbey	Guildhall Street	Wilsons	M, B(E)
45 Pack Horse	Deansgate	Greenalls	M, B(E)
46 Pomona	Cornbrook Road	Marstons	M, B(H)
47 Red Admiral	Hulme Walk	Robinsons	BM, BB(E)
48 Talbot	Stretford Road	Wilsons	M, B(H)
49 Three Legs of Man	Stretford Road	Wilsons	M, B(H)

#### MANCHESTER 23 (West Wythenshawe)

50 Eagle	Greenbrow Road	Marstons	M, B(E)
51 Gardeners Arms	Wythenshawe Road	Robinsons	BM, BB, SA(E)
52 Jolly Butcher	Butcher Lane	Lees	BM, B(E)
53 Park	Moorcroft Road	Lees	BM, B(E)

#### PARTINGTON

54 King William IV	Manchester Road	Marstons	M, B(H)
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#### SALE

55 Bridge Inn	Dane Road	Boddingtons	BM, B(E)
56 Railway	Chapel Road	Robinsons	BM, BB(E); SA(G)
57 Volunteer	Cross Street	Whitbread	Sp Cask (H)
58 Waggon and Horses	Cross Street	Wilsons	M, B, BrewB(H)
59 Woodcourt	Maple Road	Wilsons	M, B(E)

#### Ashton-on-Mersey

60 Old Plough	Green Lane	Hydes	M, B(E)
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#### Sale Moor

61 Legh Arms	Northenden Road	Holts	M, B(E)
62 Carters Arms	Northenden Road	Marstons	M, B, Ped, MMonk(E) SA(G)

#### STRETFORD

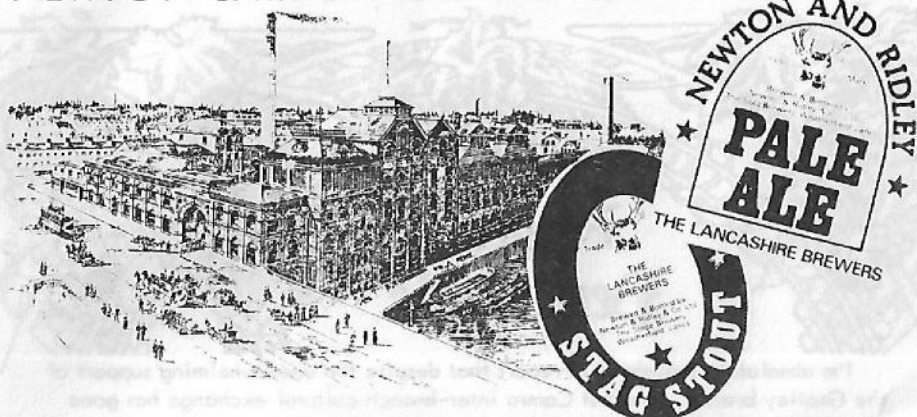
63 Melville	Barton Road	Holts	M, B(E)
64 Northumberland	Chester Road	Wilsons	M, B(H)
65 Quadrant	Great Stone Road	Wilsons	M, B(H)
66 Robin Hood	Barton Road	Boddingtons	BM, B(E)

#### URMSTON

67 Lord Nelson	Stretford Road	Holts	M, B(E)
68 Roebuck Hotel	Church Road	Holts	M, B(E)
69 Urmston Hotel	Stretford Road	Wilsons	M, B(E)



# NEWTON & RIDLEY CENTENARY



This year Newton & Ridley's Brewery celebrates its 100th year of brewing in Weatherfield.

Brewing commenced on the 1st April, 1879, when Henry Newton and Isaac Ridley joined forces at the Weatherfield 'Stag' Brewery. Newton was already in the brewing trade in the Manchester area and was quite well known for his 'Gravity Strong Ale'. Ridley was a local, prosperous businessman who supplied the initial financial backing.

As the brewery's good name spread, several smaller breweries were taken over including the Flaherty & Cohen Brewery, Salford. At this time the following draught beers were sold: mild, bitter and AA bitter; bottled beer included Adams Ale (light ale), Old Bill (strong ale) and DT Stout.

The 1960s saw the most dramatic events in the brewery's history, the first being the attempted takeover in 1969 by one of the Big Six. This was successfully avoided and Weatherfield kept its only brewery. The other development was the introduction of lager in 1969. The lager, 'Ubelbrau', was the brain-child of a Bavarian brewer specially flown in from South America, Herr Schickelgruber.

Plans for the future include brewery extensions and several new pubs in the Manchester area. Real ale is still produced at the brewery and is available at several pubs in the Weatherfield area including the Rovers Return, the Thorpes Arms and the Tongue in Cheek.

TV Flynn

## PUB PLEA PROBE(2)

Robinsons have appealed against a council decision refusing them planning permission to extend the Moss Rose Inn, Alderley Edge, into the cottages next door and a public hearing is to be held. The pub, known as the Drum and Monkey, certainly needs improving but residents on the nearby housing estate object to a new car access road through their estate.

Information: Dennis House

## Rupert Periwinkle



I'm absolutely delighted to report that despite the underwhelming support of the Grotley branch, the first Camra inter-branch cultural exchange has gone ahead. Albert Ackroyd and Eric Snot have both gone down to Esher and Bunty Fortescue and Fanny Featheringstonehaugh have become domiciled in Slumley. They are both splendid chaps - we were at Roedean together - and they'll certainly add some class and tone to the hostelrys they visit. That is unless they succumb to the evil, demeaning proletarian influences which have degraded the former effortless superiority of Fiona, Alistair, Ophelia, Letitia, Agrippa and to a lesser extent, myself.

Already, Bunty has become involved in his own style of campaigning. He's so thoroughly disgusted at the appalling level of comfort in many of the real ale hostelrys of Grotley and Slumley that he's taken to leaving a card wherever he's dissatisfied. The card announces - "Bunty Fortescue has visited this establishment and found it wanting." Were it not for the fact that Bunty is six foot five and built like a brick lavatory and was an unarmed combat instructor in the Parachute Regiment, I fear that the unfortunate altercations which took place as a result of his behaviour might have escalated beyond control. As it is, Bunty is furious at being barred from the Docker's Wedge for breaking the spittoon over the landlord's head and tying two stevedores together with the barmaid's bra and stuffing them head first in the piano. News spreads fast and every time Bunty goes in the Rat and Handbag, big Julie quakes with apprehension whilst spotty Doris in the Gungesmeaters has taken to wearing diaphanous black lace blouses and leather accessories instead of egg-stained cardigans and gumboots.

Fanny, like myself, is a person of restricted growth and, as becomes a person of diminutive stature, is not big into unstructured aggression situations. Apart from carrying step ladders in his Carmargue in case the chance of a kneetrembler presents itself, Fanny's behaviour has been impeccable. He has remained unperturbed by the odious conduct of the unwashed northern masses and his influence has been salutary. Even the foul-beaked Boddington has curtailed his ribald mutterings, no bad thing in view of the Noble Robin's aspirations to perpetual glory hierarchy-wise. One can only hope this small but dedicated presence may help to create a better understanding of how the combining of malted barley, water, yeast and the gentle hop can create an amber nectar of infinite varieties which one can sample and savour and discuss with one's peers instead of quaffing gallons of the stuff and getting totally plastered and obstreperous.

## LODGE BANK TAVERN

Since the news last month of the sale of the Lodge Bank Tavern, Bolton, to Lees, further information has come from Boddingtons. The pub was sold (for about £17,000) because extensive work costing several thousand pounds was required, especially on toilet facilities. The pub was only selling three or four barrels of bitter a week and opened irregularly. Although Boddingtons now have only the Prince William in Bolton, they are always in the market for pubs in the area. They were outbid by Thwaites last year when Bass put the Dog & Partridge up for sale.

Bridgeman Street has lost several pubs in recent years and when Lees complete their renovations the Lodge Bank stands a good chance of success.

Information: Bert Kerks

## NEW THWAITES PUB

Thwaites are to open a new cask beer pub, the Pit Pony, in Ashton-in-Makerfield this month.

## THE PUB NOW DEPARTING ..

The latest casualty of GMC's road building programme is the Station, Cross Lane, now closed and boarded up. It is expected that the five other pubs in the way of the Eccles New Road/Cross Lane roundabout - the Railway, the Falcon, the Wellington, the Church and the Grove - will close later this year.

When these five pubs go, there will be only three of the old pubs on the Cross Lane part of the 'Barbary Coast' left. Long gone are the days when people from far away towns like Liverpool came in charabancs for a Saturday night out in the Ship, the Wilton and Cross Lane's fifteen other pubs.

Planning permission has just been granted for another new pub on Cross Lane, to be built by Wilsons on the corner of Liverpool Street. It will be a cask beer pub.

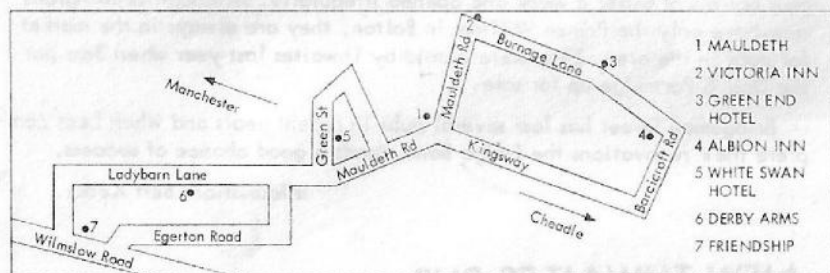




# A ROUND IN SOUTH MANCHESTER

A series of articles by Humphrey Higgins of the South Manchester Branch giving a quick run-down (or stagger round) of the real ale pubs in the branch area. Stay with us - there are over 200!

## No 1 BURNAGE AND FALLOWFIELD



There are four real ale pubs in Burnage, all with different brews and in varied houses. Starting on Kingsway on the corner of Mauldeth Road is The Mauldeth, (Wilson's mild and bitter). It is a large, characterless pub but at least the beer is real! Down Mauldeth Road to Burnage Lane is the Victoria Inn - Boddingtons. Another big pub, the Vic tends to get crowded but it's well worth the squeeze to get to the bar. Turning right up Burnage Lane to the Green End roundabout is the latest real ale outlet in our patch, the Green End Hotel with Whitbread Special Cask. Further on up Burnage Lane at the corner of Barcroft Road is our fourth outlet in Burnage, the Albion, for an excellent pint of Hydes in a comfortable and friendly pub.

We have a further three real ale pubs in neighbouring Fallowfield, all within walking distance of each other. Starting on Green Street, off Ladybarn Lane, is the White Swan. In the local beer guides amendments in January's What's Doing the Swan was listed as a Boddingtons pub on Ring Street - in fact it's Robinsons (Best Mild, Best Bitter and Old Tom). A friendly and busy pub, the landlord's collection of bottled beers (over 400 and all full) is well worth a look. Turning right and then right again down Ladybarn Lane the Derby is on the left. Recently refurbished - and very well too - with handpumps installed the Derby serves an excellent pint of Wilsons. Only one complaint - the juke-box was a bit overbearing on my last visit. Finally up Ladybarn Lane to Wilmslow Road for Hydes in the Friendship, a big pub, well worth a lunch-time visit.

## OOPS!

Grahame Tonge's 'Pubs of Denton' last month has brought a quick reply from John Hutchinson of Bass NW. In his article, Grahame described the Angel as 'the black spot of the area'. In fact, Mr Hutchinson reassures us, Draught Bass has been on sale in the pub for some time.

## A PUB CRAWL OF SADDLEWORTH

The arrival of Matthew Brown ales at the Roebuck, Strinesdale, and S&N IPA at the Church, Uppermill, puts this small group of villages, collectively known as Saddleworth, well and truly on the beer drinkers' map.



Amongst the quaintly named villages of Diggle, Delph, Dobcross and Denshaw no fewer than 13 breweries supply the real stuff to 22 pubs. More to the point, you would have to visit only nine of them to sample the lot. So, given a sober companion to point the car in the right direction, a suggested crawl affording maximum time in the bar, and minimum in the car, is as follows:

Start at the White Hart, Stockport Road, Lydgate (off A669), a GBG listed pub. The Extra Light is on electric pump and the Bass is pulled by hand. Beware of all else. Back to the main road and go straight across. This road leads to the main Oldham to Huddersfield Road (A62). Straight across again up Doctor Lane, where the Old Original serves hand pumped Wilsons ales. Continuing up Doctor Lane over the hills brings you out at the Roebuck on Brighton Road, Strinesdale. This recent acquisition by Matthew Brown serves hand pumped Lion bitter. Turn left out of the pub and the road eventually joins the main Oldham to Halifax road (A672) at Moorside. Turn right up the main road and up the hill to Granis Bar. The Kings Arms on the right is one of Oldham Brewery's better pubs, but is not included in this crawl because the next pub along the main road, the Golden Fleece in Denshaw, serves Oldham ales, together with Pollards and Theakstons (Carlisle). This is another ex-Charrington house and is very popular. Just down the hill on the left is the Printers Arms, a GBG listed pub which was also once a Charrington house. It is now the only pub in the borough to serve Thwaites and only the second outlet for Tetley. A short trip down the hill to the crossroads provides Lees ales at the Junction, also in the Good Beer Guide. As with the majority of Lees houses, the beer is served through free flow electric pumps.

Continuing up the hill out of the village (A672) for about a mile brings you to the Rams Head (Old Tups to the locals). The pub is just inside the Milnrow boundary but access from Denshaw is more direct. This is the only gravity fed beer in the county, selling Old Peculier from Theakston (Masham) together with the rare dark mild from the same brewery.

Back down to the village crossroads and the second exit (A6052) leads to Uppermill (re-crossing the A62 at Delph). This is the longest drive between pubs - about 2 miles. In Uppermill, the Waggon is a busy pub on the main street (A670)

selling electrically pumped Robinsons. To get to the last pub in the crawl, turn back along the main street, right at the first major junction (New Street), and up the hill a mile or so. Saddleworth Church is in a hollow on the left, and in its shadow is the Church Inn (what else?) S&N IPA has just been installed amidst a sea of pressurised beer - a welcome sight.

So that's it. About five miles I guess, and you have, or should have, enjoyed 13 out of the 18 beers available in the Borough of Oldham.

Steve Lawton

## NEW MANAGER FOR OLD ROEBUCK

One pub which has changed occupants with amazing regularity is the Old Roebuck, Stamford Street, Altrincham. Olive Brocklehurst has recently taken over as landlady and has no intention of moving elsewhere. Her last pub was The Boardroom, Piccadilly and before that, The Oxford on Oxford Road. We wish her success.

Further up the road, The Orange Tree (Wilsons), Old Market Place, is being extended. I understand it will almost double in size and that meals will be available at lunchtimes. It remains to be seen if the architects can manage to retain much of its charm in the process. It will be a difficult task.

Mick Rottenbury

## WHAT A RELIEF

The Tatton Arms (Robinsons) at Moss Nook is well patronised by personnel from Ringway Airport. It has been in the Good Beer Guide for several years. Now it would appear that a large increase in sales of beer is expected as the conveniences are being extended, in spite of the price of the ale (35p per pint of best bitter).

Stewart Revell

## PINEAPPLE JUICE

The Pineapple, a Greenalls pub popular with persons from nearby Granada TV, no longer sells real ale. The beer is probably now well suited to the customers.

## SAM SMITHS IN SALFORD

Sam Smiths have reintroduced handpumped bitter at the Coach & Horses, Weaste.

## PARROT FASHION

Owing to shortage of space the letter from Robin Bence has been passed on to 'Mersey Drinker'.



## RUFFLED FEATHERS

Dear Sir,

One aspect of Camra policy is the retention of the public bar. As a dart-playing member of the campaign I fully support this policy and as an opponent of discrimination I have welcomed the changes in legislation and social attitudes which have led to the acceptance of women in the 'public'.

Several regulars of a local which I frequent, knowing that I was a Camra member, asked why we did not campaign to get women banned from the games room. I explained my opposition and the general difficulties of such a policy. However, on a recent visit to this same pub I came up against a new form of discrimination which is entering the social life of this erstwhile male preserve.

Not having enjoyed a game for some time, two of us went there with the intention of having a good evening's 'arrers'. The board was free when we arrived but no sooner had we started to play than we were informed by a lady customer that we would have to finish as there was a ladies' darts match on. We accepted this since it is a long established custom that match players take priority and are also entitled to a few 'warm up' games. We removed ourselves, our darts and our beer to a side table and watched the match. Afterwards, we assumed, we would be able to join in the informal games which take place after the official match - another long established custom. Accordingly, one of the male spectators, when the match had finished, chalked his initials on the blackboard to claim his place in the throwing order. Immediately one of the lady members rubbed out his name and when several men protested they were told in no uncertain terms that it was 'ladies night' and that no men would be allowed on the board.

This is surely a blatant example of discrimination and one perhaps begins to understand those who mourn the passing of 'men only' bars. If we are to have real equality there should be no 'men's darts' and 'ladies' darts' leagues. It is not a game which relies on stamina, so would it not be better for all players to compete on equal terms and earn their place in the team on merit? Perhaps this is too revolutionary to happen immediately, but surely we should end sex discrimination in non-match darts. I would like to hear how many readers share this view, or am I a lone voice?



"Sorry, Glenda, you're in the Men's 'B' again this season."

Yours sincerely,  
Sagittarius.

## COLLAPSE OF STOUT PARTY

It is only a year or so since Whitbread gave the Brown Cow, Oldfield Road, Salford, its new Hobsons Choice identity. Now the paint is peeling off the facade to reveal Chesters' splendid black and gold sign once more, and the word 'Stout' is clearly visible. Thomas Chesters, are you trying to tell us something?

## PUB PICTURE PUZZLE

We have had several suggestions as to the identity of the pub in the old photo published last month. The most likely so far seems to be the Swan, a Wilsons pub at Winwick, suggested by Mrs Lancaster of the Moss Trooper, Timperley.



## Branch Diary

### TRAFFORD & HULME

Branch Meeting: Thurs April 19th 8pm. Legh Arms, Northenden Rd, Sale Moor  
Speaker Joe Goodwin (Chairman of CAMRA)

Social: Thurs April 26 8pm. Jolly Butcher, Butcher Lane, Manchester 23

Committee/Social: Thurs May 3 8pm. Three Legs of Man, Stretford Rd, Hulme

Sale Festival pub crawl: Sat May 12th. Meet 7.30 Old Plough, Ashton on Mersey, or 8.30 Waggon & Horses, Cross St, Sale

Branch Meeting: Thurs May 17th 8pm, Railway, Ashley Rd, Hale. Speaker John Hutchinson, PR Manager, Bass NW

Contact: Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 (home)

### BOLTON

Social: Weds 11th April 8.30pm Spread Eagle, Hulme Street, Bolton

Social with East Lancs Branch: 8.00pm Black Bull, 167 Bolton Rd, Edgeworth

Contact Bert Kerks Atherton 882425 (day)

### NORTH MANCHESTER

Committee/Social: Weds 11th April. 8.00pm, Grapes, Eccles (Wilsons)

Branch Meeting: Weds 18th April, 8pm. White Swan, Swinton

Speaker: Maurice Fitzgerald, Company Secretary, Boddingtons

Pub Crawl: Weds 2nd May. Miles Platting. 7pm Apollo, 8.00pm Brown Cow, Woodward Street.

Social/Committee meeting: Weds 9 May, White Lion, Manchester Road, Little Hulton. 8pm.

Branch Meeting: Weds 16 May 8pm. White Swan, Swinton

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

## 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 May edition is 26th April**

# 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 & 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 CENTRAL MANCHESTER** - A comprehensive guide to real ale within 1 mile of St Peter's Square. 117 pubs, map, illustrated. 30p + 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.

**REAL ALE IN CENTRAL & NORTH CHESHIRE** - Including Warrington, Widnes, Runcorn, Lymm, Frodsham, Northwich, Middlewich & Winsford 10p + s.a.e.

**\*\* Second Edition 1979**

**\*\*\* Third Edition 1979**

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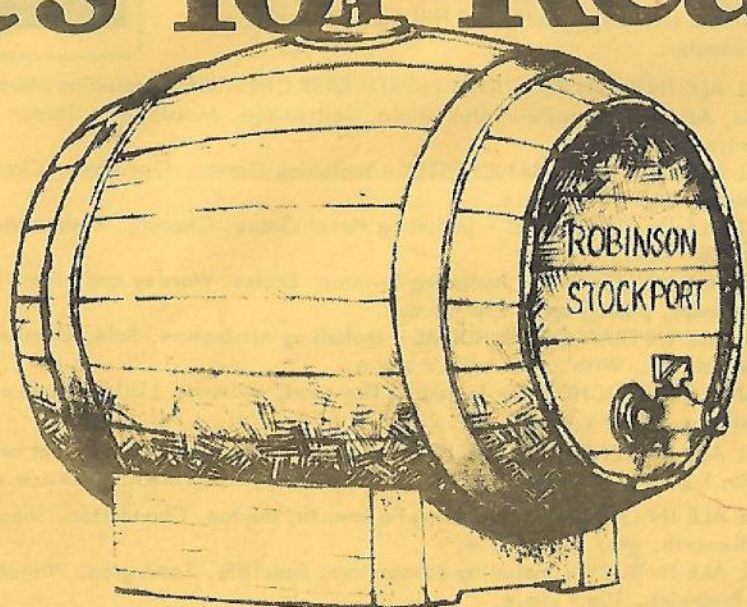
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