

WHAT'S DOING

JUNE
1979

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



PRIORY SAVED

Latest Score: Traditional Pubs 3 Salford Planners 1

The result of the public enquiry into the Brunswick Compulsory Purchase Order, held in April 1978, has just been announced. The Priory is excluded from the CPO. In his report, the Inspector found that the Priory Arms on Gardner Street had the form and character of a long and established small, local, public house. The Council's case that the Priory Arms was prejudicial to residential amenity was not conclusive. The report continues:-

"The Inspector took the view that as a continuing link with the past the Priory Arms was capable of continued existence in harmony with a residential development and he was of the opinion that its acquisition was not reasonably necessary for the satisfactory development or use of the area".

The Inspector also recommended that Boddingtons be permitted to acquire the cottage next door and therefore extend the pub to improve the facilities.

The Priory brings to three the number of pubs which have been saved from CPOs in Salford at separate Public Enquiries. Perhaps now the planners will accept that traditional pubs have a part to play in the Salford of the future. It is expected that Boddingtons will extend the pub to improve its internal arrangement whilst retaining its essential character.

Roger Hall

WILSONS PUB SWAPS



One month after the swap with John Smiths and two months before the swap with Greenalls four of us toured the pubs involved and talked to the landlords. We were interested in what effect the John Smiths swap had had on trade and what the licensees thought about their impending change to Greenalls.

In the Oddfellows in Clifton, trade had remained much the same and the regulars had stayed, switching from Wilsons bitter to John Smiths mild. The landlord would prefer another Wilsons pub and has six months to take up the option. John Smiths had destroyed the etched glass Wilsons windows.

In the Grapes in Eccles, where the incoming brewery had once again removed windows and damaged the stone fascia, the landlord was out but the barman reported an upturn in trade since the introduction of John Smiths. As our presence had doubled the number of customers, there seemed to be a lack of corroborating evidence.

The landlord of the Churchill was watching 'Maverick' and we were unable to question him about his attitude towards Greenalls.

The former landlady of the George and Dragon had moved to another Wilsons pub, the Jolly Ploughman in Doffcocker. The handpumps had been removed and a new bar top fitted. The new licensees were a pleasant couple who were quite amenable to real ale but preferred electric pumps. They said that the pub was very busy at times. However, there were less than a dozen people in at nine o'clock in a pub which was often heaving at all hours in its Wilsons days.

Still in Ardwick, we went into the Union, a Wilsons pub which had reopened the week before. The new licensees were formerly in the Crown in Hulme (now John Smiths). The pub was full and the landlady was happy to stay with Wilsons. She said that trade at the Crown had remained the same in the three weeks after the John Smiths takeover but thought it might drop off now that they had left. They'd certainly managed to build up a reasonable clientele in the Union in the five days they'd been open.

Round the corner in the Kings Head, the Wilsons was excellent and we noticed a wide choice of lunchtime food from sausage 'n' beans to coq au vin, duck à l'orange and boeuf bourguignonne. The landlord was out but we understand that he would be happy to remain with Greenalls.

In the Ancoats we enjoyed the best Wilsons of the evening. The landlady was concerned. She would prefer to stay with Wilsons but would decide after the interview with Greenalls. There had been no troubles with Wilsons since the bad period about twelve months ago when they had had to send a lot of beer back. If they did swap breweries she'd rather it were Boddingtons. The customers wouldn't mind that.

Finally, to the two last pubs on the list, which previous visits had indicated were on bright beer but which, according to Bruce Cunningham of Wilsons, sold cask beer.

The Navigation on Holland Street in Miles Platting contrasts with the Half Moon down the road. The Watneys Red sign was uninviting and there was no green cask sticker. The beer tasted bright - there was a dry aftertaste and the mild was markedly lighter than the cask milds we'd previously encountered. The beer was, however, served via electric pumps from still-aged casks with no pressure and we wondered whether our palates were suffering from overkill or whether Wilsons do still send out brewery-conditioned beer, albeit in Beverly's wooden casks, to be dispensed traditionally. The landlord's son said that his father was worried about the Greenalls swap. This was understandable as the pub was well cared for and the landlord had presumably spent considerable sums of his own money on its upkeep.

On the way to the Swan, we noticed that the Manhattan on Collyhurst Street had been painted green and had a cask sticker in the window. The licensees of the Swan were out and the beer, having been drawn through an on line chiller, was cold and difficult to identify as real, although, cold as it was, it seemed to have more flavour than that in the Navigation.

So - what have been the results of these pub swaps?

- 1 John Smiths have vandalised two pubs.
- 2 Two licensees have left John Smiths.
- 3 Trade is static or declining in three of the pubs and arguably on the increase in one. Usually there is a dramatic upturn in trade in the first weeks after a pub changes hands.
- 4 In the only area where there is a real choice of other Wilsons pubs, Ardwick, trade seems to have fallen most.
- 5 There has been no significant improvement in choice except in Ardwick. In Eccles there are 9 pubs within 100 yards of the Grapes selling Tetleys, Wilsons, Greenalls, Holts, Bass, Boddingtons, Sam Smiths and Whitbread. The two Wilsons pubs do not sell real ale. In Clifton, it's a straight exchange - the only Wilsons pub for the only John Smiths pub. In Hulme, although there are three other real Wilsons pubs, they are sufficiently far away from the Crown to prevent people travelling.

Will the Greenalls swaps bring an improved choice?

Provided that Greenalls supply cask beer, then the answer is yes. All five pubs are in areas where there are alternative Wilsons houses selling cask beer.

There are no Greenalls pubs in the immediate vicinity of the pubs selected, so their introduction will mean real choice. Whether Greenalls will be successful in competition with Wilsons (and Tetleys, Lees, Boddingtons and Burtonwood) remains to be seen.

Roger Hall

WILSONS IN NORTHWICH

The five pubs at the other end of the Wilsons/Greenalls swap are the Watermans, the Blue Barrel, The Freemasons and the Volunteer in Northwich and the Glassmakers in Warrington. All but the Blue Barrel are currently selling real Greenalls. The Volunteer is in this year's Good Beer Guide.

Greenall's intention to swap some of their Northwich property was announced two months ago and for some time it was feared that John Smiths would get them. Indeed, John Smiths have taken over prime advertising sites in and around the town even though their unpleasant products are not sold there. With Wilson's commitment to real ale in mind, local beer drinkers are no doubt very relieved.

Information: Roy Walker

MORE PUB SWAPS

Not wishing to be left out, Bass North West and Thwaites have agreed on the following exchanges..

Bass to Thwaites: Devonshire Arms, Grapes Hotel, Ulverston; Imperial Hotel, Barrow; St Anne's Vaults, Liverpool 3.

Thwaites to Bass: Dog Inn, Fountain Inn, Blackburn; Golden Fleece, Oddfellows, Arms, Bury.

The exchange, which will take place in July and August, will mean that the new Bass tenants will be given the choice of Bass's considerable range of beers, eight of which are traditional.

There are already signs that the swap will not go as smoothly as its instigators would wish. The customers of at least one pub - the Imperial - have made it plain that they want to keep their handpumped Toby Light and 4X mild and that they don't want Thwaites.

By a strange coincidence, Bass's man in charge of the operation is a Mr Thwaites and his opposite number is Mr Stone.

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM

Three South Manchester drinkers are applying for membership of the Holts 83 Club (What's Doing, March). Messrs Thorburn, Cox and Bakewell completed the round with time to spare, covering all the boozers between the 16th and the 21st April and have a signed list to prove it.

They are urgently in need of their CAMRA engraved walking sticks.

CAMPAIGN FOR REAL PRICES

Much has been said recently concerning the high price of real ale in the 'beer exhibition' type of pub in particular and in the south of England in general. The letters column in 'What's Brewing' frequently contains complaints of some publican's nasty habit of overcharging for CAMRA approved beers.

'Rip off prices: a major CAMRA failure' ran a headline in the January issue. The writer went on to lament the demise of the 'Prices Watchdog', a practice where branches sent in vault prices of their local pubs once every two or three months to a former member of the CAMRA National Executive, who assessed the information and published the findings. Whether it was ever likely to affect the price of a pint is doubtful, but it did tell you where you needed to take out a second mortgage to go on a pub crawl.

'Don't put rip-off pubs in the Guide' appeared in February's 'What's Brewing'. Apparently a listed free house in Bloomsbury, London, was selling Young's Winter Warmer at 60p a pint, 16p a pint more than another free house nearby.

March roared in with rises in beer prices throughout the country and headlines like 'I need 5% more to pay for my ale'. In the same issue was yet another complaint of overpricing in a trendy free house in the Whitehall area of London. 'Costly Spit' referred to the hard wooden seats and liberal sprinkling of sawdust on the floor, which were no doubt intended to create a 'traditional' pub atmosphere. Arkell's Kingsdown was one of the beers on offer at a modest 76p a pint, some 32p more than in another pub also in the London area. Perhaps, in all fairness to the 'spit and sawdust' pub, it should be pointed out (as it was in April's 'What's Brewing') that the sawdust was 'real' and cost £5 a bag. In the same issue, an exiled Northerner, living in West Ham, complained about the high prices in London and lack of mild there. This brought an immediate reply in the May issue from a Londoner who had spent a week's holiday in Blackpool sampling beers from eight northern breweries. I quote: 'The prices were a good deal cheaper, but surely one gets what one pays for, and I would rather pay twice the price in London and the South for what is a superior product. In some cases Northern drinkers are overcharged for what they get, but they all appear quite happy provided they can get their pint for half the London prices, regardless of choice or quality.' I can't wait for the replies to that in the June edition!

Such is the interest in the cost of beer that the May front page headline read 'Action Call on Price Scandal' and the article included such strong words as 'incensed', 'wickedly overpriced', 'absurd anomaly' and, of course, 'scandal'. It went on to point out such gems as being able to pay 51p a pint for Ruddles County in Westminster, whereas Holts bitter was only 29p a pint in Greater Manchester.

So where does all this lead us? Forget about London for a moment (best thing to do with it anyway!). We have enough problems on our own doorstep. I pointed out last month that you can pay between 29p and 34p for Wilsons traditional mild in pubs a few minutes apart; but that was nothing compared with the 50p a pint charged for Lees bitter at a 'real ale' stand in Manchester's Royal Exchange at a recent crafts exhibition. There are, of course, many other instances

of overpricing in the Greater Manchester area, so what can we do about it? The obvious solution is simply to avoid the expensive pubs and frequent the cheaper ones (assuming all is well with the beer!). Perhaps it would be worthwhile setting up a 'Prices Watchdog' for Manchester - any volunteers for co-ordinator?

POSTSCRIPT

On a recent trip to London to see a certain team nearly win the Cup, my spirits were lifted by a visit to the Jolly Gardeners, a Good Beer Guide pub in Lacy Road, Putney. The vault prices were as follows:

Fullers Hock 29p, Bitter 32p, London Pride 34p, ESB 41p

All beers are dispensed by handpump (including the bitter, which is chilled and filtered,) and the Hock (a beautiful dark mild) was superb and knocked back in great quantities by the locals - so next time you are down 'the smoke', you know where to go. It goes without saying that the landlord and landlady come from Lancashire!

Mick Rottenbury

BRIGHT BEER IN BOLTON

The Stanley Arms on Chorley Old Road, Bolton, better known as "Sally up th' Steps", will not be serving any real ale for the first two weeks in June. The cellar floor is being resurfaced and keg Tetleys will be dispensed through the handpumps for the duration of the work. "Sally up th' Steps" was included in this year's Good Beer Guide for the first time.

The Farmers Arms, Chorley Street, also appears in the Good Beer Guide. This pub should be deleted as it no longer serves real ale.

MORE WHITBREAD CASK?

Bar alterations in the Bay Malton, Oldfield Brow, Altrincham, have meant that there is now room for handpumps. Space has been created by installing twin taps on each dispenser and the landlord has his name on the lengthy waiting list for Whitbread's Special Cask bitter. He is hoping to have the beer in time for the busy summer season, as the pub is on the canal bank and traditional beer would obviously be something of an attraction.

Mick Rottenbury

KEG K.O. 'D

Since opening as a Thwaites pub in December 1978, the Dog and Partridge, Manor Street, Bolton, has returned eleven of the twelve 22-gallon keg mild containers which the brewery thought would sell well, as the pub formerly sold Bass Charrington keg beers.

Information: Bert Kerks

SPOTTED COW

In "The Oldham Scene" last month I stated that the Spotted Cow was "bright". I have since been informed that it is on barrels but the quality is such that it seems to be 'bright'. There appears to be no reason for this as there is a good turnover due to the proximity of Oldham Technical College and the publican, Dan Ferguson, is very dedicated and experienced in the trade. Handpumps at the Spotted Cow seem to be the answer.

D Mason

POLLY PINNED DOWN

David Pollard was fined £500 at Stockport for using barrels belonging to other breweries. Perhaps it was easier to sell his beer this way. Who's a cheeky boy then?

RAGLAN FACELIFT

The Lord Raglan at Higher Openshaw has undergone the standard Wilsons facelift. All traces of red have been removed and the pub is now green and white.

LEES TO DROP A MILD ONE?

Latest information received on the grapevine is that Lees might be about to 'do a Boddington' by dropping their ordinary mild. Due to low sales in some pubs, this mild has unfortunately gained a bad reputation. The brewery say that sales of this lighter mild, which is an excellent drink when served in good condition, are limited to about a dozen pubs.

Steve Lawton

NEW WHITBREAD CASK OUTLETS

Whitbread are not due to announce their new Special Cask outlets for a month or two but it looks as if their new real ale is already creeping into more of their tied houses. Two which have been spotted recently are the Railway, Ainsworth Road, Radcliffe and the Bulls Head, Bolton Road, Breightmet.

MAD HATTER


Contrary to the report in last month's What's Doing, the Mad Hatter, Burtonwood's new pub in Warrington, does not sell real ale. The article was written before the pub was opened and the brewery's statement that real ale was to be sold was taken as fact. All may not yet be lost, however. An informed source has it that the Mad Hatter is a candidate for a new cask bitter from Burtonwood.

CASK GREENALLS IN HOO GREEN

A recent rumour that the Kilton, Hoo Green, Mere, was about to change to chilled and filtered beer sent me hot pedalling along the A556 in search of the truth. Luckily it was all a false alarm. The present landlord had the pub changed from keg to cask Greenalls (mild and bitter) some three years ago and has no intention of going back to the bad old days.

The Kilton has a large, open plan lounge, comfortably furnished, and a separate room with a bar for meetings and functions. There is live jazz on Sundays for 25p, disco on Wednesdays at 80p and a vocal band on Tuesdays, free. Meals are available at lunchtimes and an impressive range of bar snacks is on offer in the evening. Particularly useful for families is the excellent children's playground and extensive outdoor drinking area. Needless to say, it can get packed on a hot summer's evening (so they tell me!)

Mick Rottenbury



Rupert Periwinkle

I've just recovered from Ag's funeral. It's not often you get the chance of a burial with a real ale thrash up thrown in but Ag's interment certainly ranks in my mind with Paddy O'Flaherty's three week wake in Dublin back in '64. Of course the proceedings did have their melancholy aspects. Ag had been bitten by a horse in the Gungesmeayers and had passed away a week later from a combination of equine palsy and a surfeit of Throbson's Olde Weirde. Letitia was understandably mortified and staggered about in a cataleptic trance for a week muttering, 'Oh Ag! Oh Dobbin!' Boddington was as sick as a parrot at not being allowed to attend the funeral breakfast, which was held in the disused abattoir behind Cohen's pork butcher's in Slumley. His incipient psittacosis was in danger of spreading to Bunty's Siamese twin sparrowhawks which he insists on bringing with him to all functions.

The burial itself was very solemn with little laughter but after the vicar had committed Agrippa Raskolnikov Hohernzollern into the hands of the Almighty, he got as obfuscated as an anal exhalation on Molestrangler's diabetic lager and was sick all over the grave into which he promptly fell.

In what I felt to be an uncharacteristically tasteless fashion, Bunty Fortescue was sporting a pair of 'I'm a recruiter for CAMRA' sweatshirts, which he'd earned by forcing the entire vaults of the Dockers Wedge and the Rat and Handbag to join the Campaign.



The Noble Robin enjoying a quick snack during his attempt on the world Biriani gobbling record.

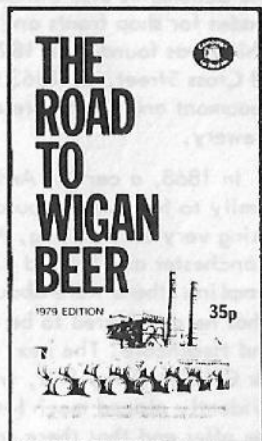
Monty Cohen had thoughtfully laid on all our favourite tipples and the sawdust on the abattoir floor created an effect of authentic squalor for the regulars of the Gungesmeare, who felt honour bound to come. The Throwups 4X mild had gone by the Tuesday but the cognoscenti soon homed in on Pisenlits 'Plastered Nun', which is definitely not a mild and which, since the trial of the landlord of the Marquis St Excrement for practising as a gynaecologist without a licence, has not been available in the environs of Grotley. As usual, Drabs cheeky little bitter went down well and came up better, whilst Boringsods amber nectar from the wickets made thirsty where most it satisfied.

The Sipstang keg was a lead brick job but all in all a good time was had by all. True, the two attempted murders and the transvestite marriage did spoil the fun for a couple of days, but this was more than made up for by the entertainment, which included the Noble Robin's attempt on the world Biriani gobbling record, Ophelia Hampton's amazing giraffe hypnosis act and the traditional dancing of the Slutch Morris Women. Even Bogbrush, the new licensee of Scousley's newest pub, the Tunnel, came to pay his last respects and get some tips on gentlemanly behaviour from Bunty and yours truly.

NEW BEER GUIDE

The 1979 'Road to Wigan Beer' is out this month. It is a new, comprehensive real ale guide to the South Lancashire area, including Leigh, Atherton, Skelmersdale, Newton, Aspull, etc. The 28-page guide contains map guides to the main centres and is excellent value at 35p.

'The Road to Wigan Beer' can be obtained by post from Ian Ogden, 12 Sibley Avenue, Ashton-in-Makerfield, for 35p + large, stamped, addressed envelope.



LAST CALL PLEASE!

Another victim of the dreaded CPO procedure, the Travellers Call, Lees Road, Salem, near Oldham, is due for demolition at the end of this month. This classic example of a traditional handpumped OB house will be sadly missed by regulars and real OB devotees.

Bryan E Jackson



MANCHESTER BREWERIES

No8

Beaumont & Heathcote

BEAUMONT & HEATHCOTE,
MILD
AND
BITTER ALE & PORTER
BREWERS,
JENKINSON-ST., OXFORD-ST.,
MANCHESTER.

The Chorlton-on-Medlock Brewery was founded on Jenkinson Street, near Oxford Street, on the site of the present University shopping precinct, some time between 1836 and 1838. Here, Thomas Bake brewed his ales until about 1860 when Beaumont, Heathcote and Beaumont took over operations. It appears that the partnership had been formed a few years previously when they occupied a brewery on Maskell Street, also in Chorlton-on-Medlock. The Beaumonts also owned a company which manufactured window blinds, shades for shop fronts and ornamental sign boards. J Beaumont and Son, which was founded in 1822, had works on Jacksons Row and sale rooms at 88 Cross Street. By 1863 the brewing partnership was known simply as Beaumont and Heathcote and they also renamed the building the Standard Brewery.

In 1868, a certain Arthur William Whitnall had joined with the Groves family to form what would become Salford's largest brewing company. Being very enterprising, Mr Whitnall decided to find which brewery in the Manchester and Salford district produced the best beers. After much sampling (there were about 80 breweries in the area at that time) he found what he considered to be an outstanding brew - that of Messrs Beaumont and Heathcote. The next step was to approach the brewer responsible, a Mr Charles Henry Hill, with a tempting offer. Beaumont and Heathcote evidently placed much less value on Mr Hill, as they told him to accept the offer and that there were 'plenty of other brewers available'. Mr Hill left the Standard Brewery in 1875 and was head brewer with Groves and Whitnall until his death in 1900.

In about 1890 a limited company, Beaumont and Heathcote Ltd., was formed. At the time, the company was in the hands of Captain Walter Beaumont of Chorlton-cum-Hardy and William Heathcote, who lived locally at 49 Rumford Street. Six years later they merged with James Kay of the Atlas Brewery to form Kay's Atlas Brewery Limited. At the time of the merger 125 licensed and 25 non-licensed properties were owned. Rationalisation reared its ugly head and the Standard Brewery was sold and was later used as a chocolate factory.

In 1929 Kay's Atlas Brewery Ltd was acquired by Frederick Robinson of Stockport, by which time the number of licensed houses had been reduced to 86.



WHAT'S DOING IN SOUTH LANC'S

This month sees the launch of the new South Lancs guide, 'The Road to Wigan Beer' and the discerning reader will quickly realise that a number of changes have taken place within the area. In Atherton, a current National Good Beer Guide pub, the Masons Arms, changed hands unexpectedly in April and the new tenant, with an ostrich-like attitude to the current real ale trends, ripped out the handpumps and installed bright beer. Meanwhile the Mountain Dew's landlord moves to a Holts pub, the Gratton Arms, but it is hoped his senior bartender will take over the place and continue to sell a good pint of Walkers. A correspondent informs me a change of tenant is also likely at the King William, Mosley Common and vigilance is required to ensure traditional handpumped beer will remain.

Sadly, the Oak Tree in Ince will never again be the epitome of a traditional local as extensive modernisation is taking place. ('Well, it was about time,' said the landlord of the nearby Prince of Wales with a wry smile.) The beer is temporarily keg until the cellar is finished when electric pumped, real Burtonwood will return. Another Burtonwood pub in a similar state of repair to the Oak Tree, the Bridgewater at New Springs, was closed over night as being uneconomic following its failure to pass a health department inspection.

On a cheerier (not brighter!) note, the reopening of the now ultra plush Market Tavern (only the name and site are similar to the excellent and dingy Market Hotel) has added handpumped Youngers Scotch and IPA - albeit at 35p and 38p a pint - to the wide range of beer in Wigan centre. The newly opened Pit Pony in Ashton is selling Thwaites best mild and bitter but it is felt that the quality of beer has not yet reached the highest standard expected in a Thwaites house. The Higsons Robin Hood and Matthew Brown Hingemakers remain the only two pubs out of seventeen around Ashton centre selling processed beer.

Boddingtons' lamentable, profit-orientated withdrawal of ordinary mild means that the Gerrard Arms at Aspull now sells only bitter. The Black Bull at Standish is now selling keg mild and the GBG should be amended accordingly, but the real thing can be drunk in five other Burtonwood pubs in the town centre, the Black Horse probably being the best bet.

The Wigan area has gained two free houses, the Old Hall (now known as the Coach House Inn) in Lower Ince and the Derby Arms (infamous for being in the 1974 GBG twice) in the town centre. The only real ale yet is hand pumped Boddingtons bitter at the Coach House but as the landlord reports that sales of keg Tartan are poor, more real ale may appear in both pubs.

Brian Gleave

PUB CRAWL OF NEWTON HEATH

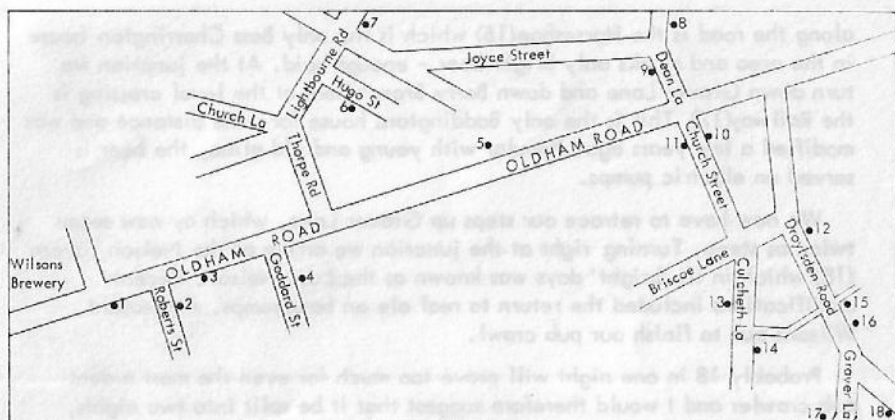
Despite massive demolition in the Newton Heath area no fewer than 18 pubs remain, although about one third as many have been reduced to rubble. Now that the rebuilding of houses is in full swing, three new pubs have been built and two existing ones drastically modernised. The area is rich in real ale - only three pubs sell the filtered variety. Quite naturally Wilsons predominates and it seems right that any pub crawl should start from the brewery itself.



We therefore clear the dust from our throats at the Prince of Wales (1). This is a small local which serves an excellent pint of handpumped beer, and in the summer a coffin is used as a table outside the pub, hence the nickname of the 'Dead House'. Round the corner stands one of the two Tetley houses in the area, the Britannia (2), selling handpumped beers. Along Oldham Road stands the large Royal Oak (3), which serves beer on electric pumps and is popular with the youngsters, especially at weekends when live groups perform. The Grosvenor (4) in Goddard Street could easily be missed as it is hidden from the main road by a new housing estate. This is one of the rebuilt pubs in the area and behind the original frontage the rebuilding is nearing completion. An excellent pint of Lees is served on electric pumps from a central bar in split rooms which have an interesting roof of wooden beams - i.e. no ceiling. The Copenhagen (5) has its own faithful supporters and although the Wilsons is on handpumps it is rather characterless. A recent extension for a new toilet is the only change in years.

We must now double back slightly, along Thorpe Road and Lightbourne Road to Hugo Street, and here we meet the new Wilsons pub called the Kestrel (6). This may seem a long detour for one pub but to my mind the modern design of one long bar with handpumps, the tap room on the left and the lounge on the right, makes the journey worthwhile. Unlike most estate pubs it has a warm atmosphere and any stranger is absorbed into the pleasant surroundings. Full marks to the architect.

At the crossroads of Kenyon Lane we turn right but if you feel inclined you



can visit the Lightbourne(7) which is one of the biggest pubs in Manchester and has live cabaret each night of the week. Unfortunately only Whitbread bright beer is sold.

Turning down Kenyon Lane and Joyce Street we arrive at the Dean Brook(8), which is the first of four Marstons houses in the area and is usually crowded. The handpumped beer is excellent, served from a central bar in an interior much larger than the outside suggests. A separate tap room is situated on the right of the main entrance and houses a successful darts team. A short walk along Dean Lane stands the Railway(9), which is highly recommended by CAMRA for an excellent, cheap pint of Holts on electric pumps. Unfortunately demand is such that the pub is usually closed one day a week due to lack of beer.

Across Oldham Road and along Old Church Street lies the New Crown(10) on the side of the reconstructed Rochdale Canal. The usual Marstons beer is sold on electric pumps in recently modernised, partly rebuilt and extended premises. The pub has been in chaos for months whilst the marathon rebuilding took place. Directly across the street is the White Lion(11) which has a reputation for fighting customers and sells handpumped Tetleys in little changed surroundings. Popular with a certain type of market character.

Turn left at Briscoe Lane for the Church Inn(12). This recently built pub replaced the old Church on the same site. Quite characterless, the new pub's only recommendation seems to be that Holts beer is the cheapest in the area - served on electric pumps. Back on Culcheth Lane we arrive at another Marstons pub, Newton House(13), consisting of two separate rooms and beer on electric pumps. The colour TV is the attraction in the tap room whilst the lounge is for a quiet talk with the locals. Next on the route is the Culcheth Gates(14) which is a recently modernised Wilsons pub, selling real ale on electric pumps, and is quite homely. Previously only bright beer was sold. A quiet but pleasant interior.

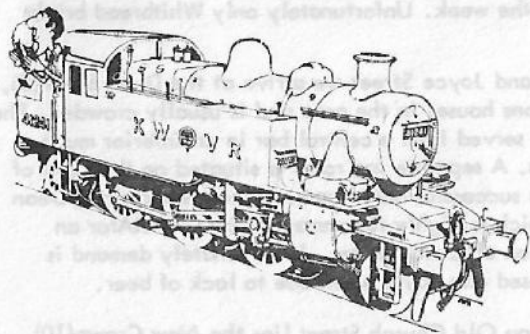
Back on Droylsden Road lies the popular Robin Hood(15) which is situated on a corner and dispenses Marstons beer on electric pumps. Pedigree is a recent addition. The pub has two rooms with separate entrances. It puzzles me what the attraction is but nevertheless it does very, very well. Further

along the road is the Horseshoe(16) which is the only Bass Charrington house in the area and stocks only bright beer - enough said. At the junction we turn down Graver Lane and down Berry Brow where at the level crossing is the Railway(17). This is the only Boddingtons house for some distance and was modified a few years ago. Popular with young and old alike, the beer is served on electric pumps.

We now have to retrace our steps up Graver Lane, which by now seems twice as steep. Turning right at the junction we arrive at the Nelson Tavern (18) which in its 'bright' days was known as the Lord Nelson. Recent modifications included the return to real ale on handpumps. A pleasant Wilsons pub to finish our pub crawl.

Probably 18 in one night will prove too much for even the most ardent pub crawler and I would therefore suggest that it be split into two nights, the first session to finish at the Railway (9), whence buses and trains are available back to Manchester or Oldham

D Mason



DAY TRIP TO KEIGHLEY AND BRADFORD

Trafford and Hulme are running a coach trip to Keighley and Bradford on Saturday July 7th.

We plan to arrive in Keighley about 11.30, leaving Altrincham (Malt Shovels) at 9.30 with pickups at Sale and Stretford. (These can be altered if necessary). The local branch will be meeting us and guiding us round to sample the delights of Timothy Taylors, to name but one.

The chief attraction of the day, however, is probably the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway. There are two trains running roughly every hour and if you are lucky, you'll pick the one that has a bar (re-racked Theakstons and Taylors on handpump in the past). The return train journey lasts about 40 minutes.

Next stop - Bradford by night. We aim to leave Keighley about 4.00pm, which should give people plenty of time to find something to eat when we arrive and before the boozers open. Possibly a curry? Again we'll be meeting the local branch. The coach will be leaving right on closing time at 11.00pm.

So what more could you ask for - real ale, real trains and real curry?!

If you are interested, it's £2.50 a seat with £1 deposit payable in advance. For further information contact myself (Atherton 891345) or Mick Rottenbury.

Mike Goode

WHAT'S DOING IN R O B

The beer guide season is now well underway. The 1979 Good Beer Guide has been circulated to the forty or so included pubs in our area. Demand for the guide varies incredibly. One or two pubs ask for a couple of dozen copies immediately and offer cash on delivery, ('Oh, to be in the licensed trade now that CAMRA is here,') whilst other licensees don't think that there is sufficient demand in their pub, but will take a guide on credit so that their customers can thumb through it during the coming year before returning it to us.

At a more local level, the compilation of the new Greater Manchester Beer Guide is now in hand. We are submitting about two hundred pubs for inclusion and the list should be completed by the end of this month. Gathering the information has brought to light some pub changes of which we were unaware.

In Rochdale, the Gale on Ashfield Valley Road (Bass) has now reopened. The interior is much improved but the handpumps have gone. However, the 4X mild on electric pumps is still O.K. Still in Rochdale, the Alpine Ayingerbrau Gasthof Inn on Whitworth Road (Sam Smiths) now serves hand pumped Old Brewery Bitter. This establishment, hitherto referred to in CAMRA circles as the 'Alpine Gas House', is essentially a restaurant. Who on earth picks out potential real ale outlets for Sam Smiths?

In the Oldham area, Lees have opened a new pub, the Blue Bell on Broadway, Royton. Formerly the Royton Social Club serving bright Lees ales, the pub is now on cask beer through electric pumps. On Saturday evenings at least, the aforementioned ales can be consumed to the withering quadraphonic blast of somebody or another's 'Road Show', complete with DJ and flashing strobe lights. I believe that sanity returns at lunchtime, when good food can be had at the bar.

In the Bury area, it seems that we are to lose two Thwaites houses in a pub swap with Bass (see elsewhere in this issue). The Oddfellows on Tottington Road and the Golden Fleece on Bell Lane both serve traditional ales. Let us hope that they continue to do so when Big Brother Bass takes over. Who knows? With Bass offering no fewer than eight traditional ales from their breweries at Burton and Tadcaster, we might get a wider range of their beers made available in the borough. We can only wait and see.

Steve Lawton

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 July edition is Thursday 28th June

TAMESIDE CANAL FESTIVAL



The second Tameside Canals Festival is being held on 4th - 5th August at Portland Basin, Ashton-under-Lyne, and the High Peak & North East Cheshire branch of CAMRA are again putting on a beer tent. This year the festival is organised by the Huddersfield Canal Society and the Inland Waterways Association, whose money raising efforts are directed particularly towards restoring the Huddersfield Narrow Canal to full navigation. This would complete a Pennine Ring of canals and provide the shortest cut across to Yorkshire. The first festival last July raised over £1,300 for waterways restoration.

The festival will feature plays, films, exhibitions and displays of the traditional crafts of the canal world. Other entertainments include concerts, an inter-pub tug-of-war across the canal and a full-scale funfair for children.

The full-scale funfair for grown-ups consists of Hydies mild, Marstons bitter, Wilsons bitter and mild, Lees bitter, Hardy Hansons bitter, Walkers bitter, Thwaites bitter and Saxon Cross bitter.

Information: Rodney Oliver

MORE BOAT PEOPLE

Still afloat, Henry Peacock of West Lancs CAMRA reports that the Mikron Theatre Company will be in our part of the country again this summer. The company live and travel on a 40 year old narrow boat and provide traditional entertainment on the inland waterways system. Future venues include:

Navigation Hotel, Stockport Road, Marple	July 7th 8.00pm
White Gates, Manchester Road, Hyde	July 8th 8.00pm
Yew Tree, Edge Lane, Droylsden	July 9th 8.00pm
Navigation, Gathurst, Wigan	August 9th 7.30pm
Red Lion, Dover Lock, Abram	August 10th 7.30pm
Packet House Steps, Worsley	August 11th 7.30pm

REAL ALE AND THE REST IN CENTRAL MANCHESTER

BREWERY	REAL	UNREAL	TOTAL	%REAL	BREWERY	REAL	UNREAL	TOTAL	%REAL
Bass	3	6	9	33%	Marstons	1	0	1	100%
Boddingtons	4	0	4	100%	Robinsons	1	0	1	100%
Burtonwood	2	0	2	100%	John Smiths	0	3	3	0%
Greenalls	2	4	6	33%	Tetleys	7	6	13	54%
Higsons	0	1	1	0%	Whitbread	3	24	27	11%
Hydes	3	0	3	100%	Wilsons	23	15	38	61%
Lees	2	0	2	100%	S & N	1	3	4	25%
					Free	9	20	29	31%
					TOTAL	61	82	143	43%

The introduction of Pollards at the John Bull and Whitbread at the Hat and Feathers and the White Lion and the reintroduction of cask Wilsons in several outlets together with the emergence of several free trade outlets has meant an increase in real ale in the City Centre. Nevertheless only 43% of outlets in Central Manchester serve cask conditioned beer.

BASS - REAL ALE

Burton Arms	Swan Street
St Vincents	Oldham Road
Unicorn	Church Street
Wellington	Old Shambles

BASS - NON REAL ALE

Berwick Arms	Caernarvon Street
Crown	Fountain Street
Falcon	Merrill Street
Gaythorn	Albion Street
Town Hall Tavern	Tib Lane
Ye Olde Wheatheaf	Deansgate

BODDINGTONS - REAL ALE

Cox's Bar	Grand Central
Ducie Arms	Gt Ducie Street
Old Garrett	Princess Street
Royal Oak	Gt Ducie Street

BURTONWOOD REAL ALE

Castle & Falcon	Bradshaw Street
Union	Princess Street

GREENALLS - REAL ALE

Pack Horse	Deansgate
Smithfield Vaults	Swan Street

GREENALLS - NON REAL ALE

Long Bar	Oxford Road
Nags Head	Jacksons Row
Pineapple	Water Street
Tammy Ducks	East Street

HIGSONS - NON REAL ALE

Vth Inn	Crown Square
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MARSTONS - REAL ALE

Harp & Shamrock	New Mount Street
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LEES - REAL ALE

John Willie Lees	Withy Grove
Rembrandt	Sackville Street

ROBINSONS - REAL ALE

Castle	Oldham Street
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JOHN SMITHS - NON REAL ALE

Cheshire Cheese	Oldham Road
Lord Nelson	Newton Street
Vine	Kennedy Street

HYDES - REAL ALE

Dulton Arms	Park Street
Gray Horse	Portland Street
Jolly Angler	Ducie Street

TETLEYS - REAL ALE

Britons Protection	Gt Bridgewater St
Circus Tavern	Portland Street
Crown	Gt Ducie Street
Hare & Hounds	Shudehill
King	Oldham Street
Moulders Arms	Heyrod Street
Wheatheaf	Oak Street

TETLEYS - NON REAL ALE

City Arms	Kennedy Street
Grapes	Little Quay Street
Mechanics Arms	Sherbourne Street
Old White Bear	Swan Street
Victoria	Hardman Street
Weavers Arms	Angel Street

WHITBREAD - REAL ALE

Hat & Feathers	Mason Street
White Lion	Liverpool Road
Seven Oaks	Nicholas Street (Bass)

WHITBREAD - NON REAL ALE

Abercrombie	Boatle Street
Angel	Oldham Road
City Road Inn	Albion Street
City	Oldham Street
Cotton Tree	Gt Ancoats Street
Crescent	Gt Ancoats Street
Crown & Anchor	Cateaton Street
Crown & Anchor	Hilton Street
Crown & Cushion	Corporation Street
Crown & Sceptre	Gt Ancoats Street
Land o' Cakes	Gt Ancoats Street
Lass o' Gowrie	Charles Street
Mather Macs	Back Piccadilly
O'Connell Arms	Oldham Road
Oxoble	Liverpool Road
Red Bull	Mason Street
Royal George	Rochdale Road
St Matthews Tavern	Tanman Street
Star & Garter	Fairfield Street
Victoria Inn	Rochdale Road

Waldarf

Wellington	Gore Street
Wheatheaf	York Street
White Hart	High Street
	London Road

WILSONS - REAL ALE

Ancoats	Gt Ancoats Street
Bay Horse	Thomas Street
Britannia	Newton Street
Bulls Head	London Road
Churchill	Charlton Street
Crown & Kettle	Gt Ancoats Street
George & Dragon	Bridge Street
Grenadier	Oldham Street
Lower Turks Head	Shudehill
Marble Arch	Rochdale Road
Millstone	Thomas Street
Mitre	Cathedral Yard
Nelson	Oldham Road
New York	Bloom Street
Nickelbys	Dale Street
Oxford	Oxford Street
Paddy's Goose	Bloom Street
Peveril of the Peak	Gt Bridgewater St
Rising Sun	Queen Street
Royal George	Lever Street
Waggon & Horses	Southgate
White House	Gt Ancoats Street
Young Pretender	London Road

WILSONS - NON REAL ALE

Boardroom	Portland Street
Brunswick	Piccadilly
Commercial	Liverpool Road
Cork & Screw	Oxford Road
Douglas	Fennel Street
Ducie Bridge	Corporation Street
Isaac Newton	Corporation Street
Kensington	Newton Street
La Tavernetta	Gt Ancoats Street
Salisbury	Wakefield Street
Sawyers Arms	Deansgate
Shakespeare	Fountain Street
Swon with 2 Necks	Withy Grove
Thompsons Arms	Sackville Street
York Inn	York Street

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE - REAL
Bolton Arms New Bridge Street

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE - UNREAL
Auld Reekie Market Street
Portland Hotel Portland Street
Swinging Sporan Sackville Street

FREE HOUSES & MISCELLANEOUS

REAL ALE
Brahms & Liszt New Brown Street
Brewers Pall Mall
Coach & Horses London Road
Deerings York Street

John Bull New Brown Street
St Ann's Tavern St Ann's Square
Sam's Chop House Back Pool Fold
Sinclairs Deansgate
Victoria Station Bar Victoria

FREE HOUSES & MISCELLANEOUS

NON - REAL ALE
Band on the Wall Swan Street
Cafe Royal Peter Street
Cyprus Tavern Princess Street
Globe Bar Piccadilly
Grand Hotel Aytoun Street
Lowenbrau Bierkeller Piccadilly

Mariners Bar Old Bank Street
Midland Hotel Peter Street
Mitre Tavern Piccadilly
Oscars Cooper Street
Oxford Rd Stn Bar Oxford Rd Stn.
Piccadilly Hotel Piccadilly
Playground Oxford Road
Portland Bars Piccadilly
St Peter's Tavern Peter Street
Yates Wine Lodge High Street
" " " 85 Oldham Street
" " " 102 Oldham Street
Yates Merchants Hotel Oldham St

+ numerous wine bars, etc.

ADDING INTEREST

A few changes have taken place recently at the Windmill, Whiteley Green, near Bollington. Timothy Taylor's dark mild and best bitter, plus Banks's mild and bitter, have made welcome appearances recently alongside the Boddingtons bitter and Marston's Burton Bitter and Pedigree at this former Wilsons house. Mr Ward, the landlord, keeps a cracking pint, and is a native of Gorton to boot.

Grahame Tonge

CULTURE SHOCK

Many pubs have pasts intertwined with the fruitful vine of our illustrious cultural heritage. The demolition of the Church Inn on Great Portwood Street in Stockport is yet another example of how grossly the planners underrate the role of the British pub as the cradle of the arts. For the sake of building the M63, the nation has lost forever the upstairs room where the Hollies used to practise. Members of the Hollies Appreciation Society may obtain their authenticated "Church Inn" brick from Stockport Town Hall.

LABOLOGY

Geoffrey Key, 59 Acresfield Road, Salford 6, has many duplicate beer labels and will swap 50 (many obsolete) for similar amount.

AS A HOMOSEXUAL who belongs to CAMRA, I am writing to protest at the Keg Buster strip in May's What's Brewing. I thought that only the National Front and such like bigots still used the gutter word "queer" when referring to gay people.

CAMRA is supposed to be open to all people who support the aims of the Campaign. Why then is one group singled out for insults? Can we expect a strip about wogs and coons next? — **JOHN BENNETT**, chairman, Doncaster branch.

NOWT SO QUEER
AS PUFFS

What's Brewing: June 1979



Branch Diary

BOLTON

Branch Meeting: Tues 12th June, George, Gt Moor Street, Bolton 8.30pm
Speaker - Mr S P Cole, Head Brewer, JW Lees
Contact: Les Kilsby Westhoughton 812884

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Weds 6th June, 8.00pm: Beer Stand at Withington Festival, Withington Town Hall, Lapwing Lane
Thurs 14th June: Branch Meeting, Gateway Hotel, East Didsbury
Fri 15th June: Beer Tent, Wilmslow RFC, Pownall Park, Wilmslow
Contact: Humphrey Higgins 432 0059

NORTH MANCHESTER

Branch Meeting: Weds 20th June, White Swan, Swinton, 8.00pm
Weds July 2nd: Pub crawl of Newton Heath and Monsall:
7.00pm Dean Brook Inn, St Mary's Road; 8.00pm New Crown Inn, Old Church Street.
Weds July 9th: Committee/Social, Park Hotel, Monton 8.00pm
Weds July 16th: Branch Meeting, White Swan, Swinton 8.00pm
Contact : Roger Hall 740 7937

TRAFFORD AND HULME

Branch Meeting: Thurs June 21 8pm. Melville, Barton Road, Stretford.
Speaker - Joe Goodwin, Chairman of CAMRA
Social: Thurs June 28th 8.00pm. Railway, Mobberley (by Station)
Committee/Social: Thurs July 5th 8.00pm Lloyds Arms, Higher Ormond Street, M15
Coach Trip: Sat July 7th to Keighley (and Worth Valley Railway) and Bradford.
Details elsewhere in this issue
Darts and Doms match: Sun July 15th. 12.00noon. White Swan, Fallowfield (with South Manchester Branch)
Branch Meeting: Thurs July 19th, Railway, Stamford Street, Altrincham
Speaker - Mr Alpin, Head Brewer, Marstons
Contact: Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 (home)

SOUTH LANCASHIRE

Saturday 16th June Real Ale Tent at Ashton Carnival
Tuesday 19th June: Social at the Pit Pony, Ashton
Contact: Ian Ogden Wigan 79534

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Branch Meeting: Weds 13th June, White Hart (Lees), Rochdale Road, Middleton
Committee Meeting: Tues 19th June, Radcliffe (Burtonwood) Middleton Junction (near Lees Brewery)
Social: Joint social with High Peak branch (to be confirmed) Sat 16th June, Railway (Hardys & Hansons), Doveholes, Derbyshire (on A6)
Branch Meeting: Tues 10 July, Kings (Thwaites), Market Place, Heywood
Committee Meeting: Tues 17th July, Brunswick (Burtonwood), Bridge Street, Heywood
Contact: Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h) 061 236 4411 ext 7236 (w)

BEER GUIDES



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 *Updated 1979

*** Third Edition 1979

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