

7p

WHAT'S DOING

AUG
1979

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

SAM SMITHS PULL OUT



The Bay Horse, Oldham Road, Rochdale, is now the only real ale Sam Smiths outlet in the Rochdale and Oldham area. The Brownhill and the Roebuck in Rochdale and the Bulls Head in Failsworth have each had their traditional Old Brewery Bitter replaced by the newly promoted, bright, Taddy Bitter.

Information: Steve Lawton

THWAITES-BASS PUB SWAPS

As reported in June's What's Doing the Golden Fleece and the Oddfellows in Bury were scheduled to change from Thwaites to Bass and on Thursday 19th July the first of these pub swaps took place.

The four handpumps in the Golden Fleece have been retained at the request of the landlord and are now dispensing Draught Bass, Brew Ten and XXXX Best Mild (on two pumps). Keg Stones bitter also features prominently on the corner



of the bar as one enters the pub. The XXXX Best Mild appears to be already very popular and its future looks assured but no doubt we shall have to wait and see how the bitter beers sort themselves out in the next few months. The Oddfellows is due to change on the 1st August.

All four pubs involved in the swap (the other two are the Dog Inn and the Fountain, Blackburn) will be taking some traditional beers. The photo shows Mr and Mrs Walton of the Golden Fleece with Raymonde Hutchison, Bass East Lancs managing director.

Bryan Turner

(Photo: Bass NW)

ALL CHANGE AT THE KING BILLY

As was briefly mentioned in June's What's Doing, the King William at Mosley Common, Worsley, has a new licensee, John Murray. Mr Murray has come from the Crown at Tyldesley, due to be demolished soon under a CPO. Although the Crown was on drum beer, Mr Murray is quite willing to continue with the traditional beers that have put the King William in the Good Beer Guide for the last two years. It is intended to change the dispense method from handpumps to free flow electric pumps, but the Walkers Bitter and Tetleys mild will remain.

Stewart Revell

TETLEYS IN THE WARS

The Napoleon, Openshaw, is soon to have a 700 square foot extension built on. Pretty ironic really, coming at a time when the choice of real ales has been substantially reduced. It is now one of the Boddingtons "free houses", and the Tetleys mild and bitter have greatly declined in quality.

Grahame Tonge

LARGER LION



The White Lion (Boddingtons) at Little Hulton is undergoing major internal alterations. When complete - in about 6 or 7 months time - the result will be a much larger bar, with extended vault room and a greater drinking area in general. The internal staircase is to be removed and a new one installed at the rear of the pub, where an extension has already been built. A new cellar access has been constructed and the cellar has been enlarged.

The brewery have promised to retain all the stained glass leaded windows and other notable features that give the pub character. Unfortunately their generosity does not extend as far as keeping the handpumps.

Stewart Revell

CARTERS ARMS CHANGES HANDS

Pete and Anne Bates are leaving the Carters Arms, Northenden Road, Sale Moor, for a 'modern estate pub' in Nuneaton, the Coniston Tavern, which serves Marstons mild, bitter, Pedigree and Owd Rodger. It is already listed in the national Good Beer Guide and the Bates family, dogs, bottle collection and all are looking forward to the move. While sad to see them go, we wish them well and in turn welcome new manager David Woods and his wife Mary from the Eagle, a 'real' Marstons estate pub on Greenbrow Road, West Wythenshawe. The Eagle is to change from a managed to a tenanted house, but the new licensee is not known at the time of writing.

Mick Rottenbury

BATH GOES BRIGHT

Despite much local publicity, petitions and assurances from the licensee, the Bath Hotel, Union Street, Oldham, has switched to bright beer. Prior to recent structural alterations, the pub served handpumped Oldham ales. The new bar is fitted with electric push-button dispensers and the beer is stored in stand-up converted barrels. Thus the Bath has gone the way of all recently rebuilt OB houses. It would appear that the 'bright ideas' department at the brewery is firmly in control.

Information: Steve Lawton

THERE'S NO BIZ LIKE...



The new licensee of the Good Beer Guide pub, the Commercial on Bury Old Road, Heaton Park, is Jerry Harris, who previously spent 27 years in show business as a comedian/compere. Jerry continues to entertain his customers with a variety of jokes and occasionally lapses into one of several alien dialects during his normal bar duties.

An ex-professional boxer, a job in which he claims he spent more time on the canvas than Rembrandt, Jerry quickly moved into showbiz and during his career has appeared with such artistes as Shirley Bassey, Tommy Steele, Petula Clark, Andy Williams and Charles Aznavour. At one time he owned the Piccadilly Club in Manchester and has performed as far afield as Japan, Manila, Hong Kong, Caracas and Tahiti, not to mention the more exotic parts of Butlins.

Having given up his showbiz career, he is now concentrating on more important matters - serving excellent hand-pulled Tetleys bitter and mild to his customers in Prestwich. An enthusiastic whisky imbibor, Jerry confirms his support for traditional beer by a sign outside the Commercial proclaiming 'Traditional Real Ale from the Barrel'. This sign is in a prominent position on Bury Old Road and has attracted many passing motorists who, judging from its position in the middle of the thoroughfare, have probably swerved into the Commercial car park to avoid colliding with it.

Drinkers of spirits in the Commercial are in for a rare treat - the ice is of the finest quality and reputedly comes direct from the Titanic!

Best of luck to Jerry and his wife Kay in their new venture.

Ken Holt

A ROUND IN SOUTH MANCHESTER

Stockport - The Hillgate Crawl



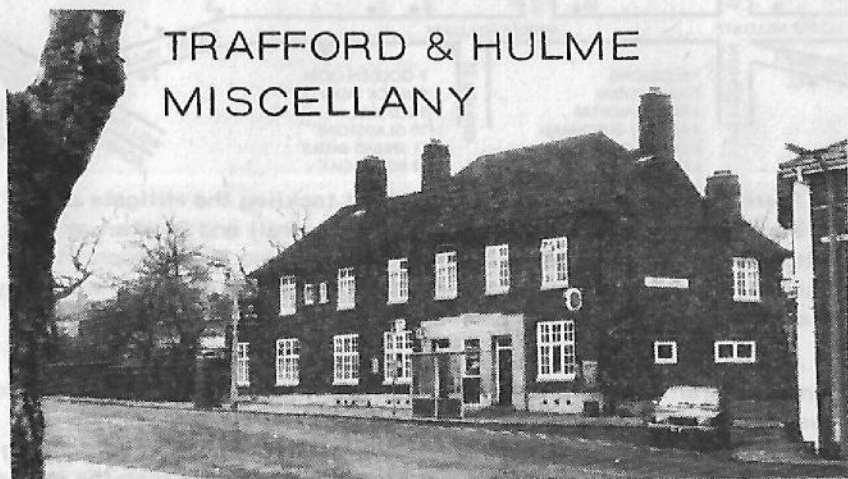
There are two schools of thought about tackling the Hillgate crawl: 1) start at the top so all future calls are downhill and 2) start at the bottom so that you can work off the effects as you stagger uphill! Either way you'll sample five brews in a dozen varied and historically interesting pubs in this old part of Stockport.

Assuming it best to roll downhill, begin at the BLOSSOMS on the corner of Bramhall Lane and Buxton Road for Robinsons Best Mild and Best Bitter on handpumps, an excellent pint here in a friendly and pleasant pub with a long history. It was mentioned in 1826 as holding celebrations to mark the opening of Wellington Road. Cross the road on to Higher Hillgate and into the WHEATSHEAF for handpumped Wilsons mild and bitter in a small and cosy pub. Next, to the ROYAL MORTAR for more handpumped Robinsons whilst listening to the old records on the juke box and looking at the interesting collection of signs! Cross the road to the FLYING DUTCHMAN, a friendly and busy pub with Robinsons on electric pumps. Crossing again, the next call is to the STAR AND GARTER, a large pub catering for all tastes with Robinsons on electric pumps. On to Middle Hillgate now for handpumped Wilsons mild and bitter in the CROWN, an extremely clean, basic, one-roomed pub, known locally as the 'Corner Cupboard'. Over the road, the rare brews in the area, Burtonwood bitter and Light Mild are served on handpumps in the GOLDEN LION (also known as the 'Yellow Cat!') The Golden Lion is an archetypal street corner working man's pub. Then on to the BLACK LION, (Boddingtons bitter only on handpumps) which is a male-dominated, basic boozier. Almost opposite is the RED BULL (Robinsons Best Mild and Best Bitter on handpumps). This is a smart pub with a good range of lunches. It was first mentioned in the 1820s and was the headquarters of the 'Penny-a-week Hillgate Burial Society'. Now on to Lower Hillgate to the GLADSTONE, a basic pub with Tetleys mild and bitter. It was this pub, in 1852, that saw the start of the Irish Riots that left badly damaged one C of E and two Catholic chapels, and resulted in over a hundred arrests and one man being killed. Tetleys ain't what it used to be! Further down now to the SPREAD EAGLE, Robinsons brewery tap (mild and bitter on electric pumps). In the 1820s disaster struck when the brewhouse collapsed. The danger of a repetition

has passed, however, as Robinsons are extensively rebuilding the pub, work still unfinished after nearly two years. Every effort is being made to retain the character of this small and very pleasant house. The final call is opposite, on High Street, to the ROYAL OAK (Robinsons again on handpump), another historic pub with a vault and two rooms.

Humphrey Higgins

TRAFFORD & HULME MISCELLANY



Please note that, for September only, our branch meeting has been put back to the fourth Thursday in the month. This is to avoid a clash with the second day of 'setting up' for the Greater Manchester Beer Exhibition. We hope as many people as possible will take the trouble to find the Lloyds Arms (10 minute walk from Oxford Road Station), as it is the only 'real' Brew Ten outlet in our area. Bass 4X Mild is also available, both beers being hand pulled. See Branch Diary for a full list of dates and venues. Remember, you do not have to be a member to turn up.

The Park (Greenall Whitley), Lloyd Street, Altrincham, is closed for extensive alterations. Apparently the Red Rose group have taken it over, which suggests the finished result will be quite posh, possibly with restaurant facilities. We hope that the cask beers will remain, as it is the only 'real' Greenalls outlet in the Altrincham area.

Building operations have now started at the Orange Tree (Wilsons), Old Market Place, Altrincham. Trafford Borough Council have already made their mark by refusing to allow the builders to install windows in the extension to match existing windows in the pub. If you haven't been to the Tree for a while, I should pay it a visit before it changes beyond recognition, though I do believe Wilsons will do their best to retain the cosy atmosphere of the place.

Finally, last week's deliberate mistake!. The 'Bridgewater' in Ashton-on-Mersey should be the 'Brigadier' (see front page, July issue).

Mick Rottenbury

GREY HORSE, FAILSWORTH



On the 11th September the Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch meeting will be in the Grey Horse Inn on the Failsworth/Hollinwood boundary. As well as their bitter and best mild, Lees' strong ale, Moonraker, will be available on draught.

The Grey Horse was built in the 1790s and was acquired by Lees Brewery almost 100 years later from a private owner. Shortly after taking over the pub in 1888 Lees made some extensive alterations, and some more in 1893. The present frontage was added in 1931.

The most popular landlord to date - excepting the present incumbent, who has one of the longer names in the licensed trade - Henry William Stephen Hughes - was a famous pianist called Charles Ashworth.

Geoff Gartside (Information provided by Mr Wilde of Lees & Mine Host Henry)

EXPENSIVE SCRATCHINGS

After having the plaster on the walls of the gents' loo scratched to bits by the carving of mindless obscenities, Pete Beardow has forked out £180 on tiles. So next time you are in the Malt Shovels, or any other pub for that matter, think twice about entering the local graffiti stakes. It is usually unfunny, generally destructive and can cost someone a lot of money.

Mick Rottenbury

AS THE CROW FLIES...

Following hard on the heels of the loss of the Bath Hotel, it seems that Oldham has lost its only traditional Tetley house. The Carrion Crow, Huddersfield Road, has switched to electric pumps and the beer both looks and tastes 'bright'. In view of Tetleys' new found freedom within the Allied Breweries operation, and their promises to cater once again for local tastes, the goings on at the Crow do seem to be a retrograde step.

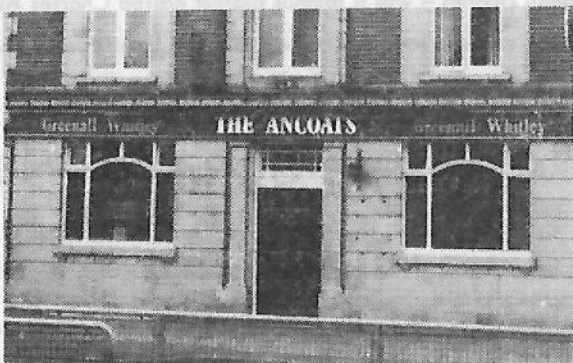
Information: Steve Lawton

ROCHDALE CHEER

The range of beers available at the Mark Twain, Whitworth Road, has recently been extended with the introduction of Thwaites Best Mild and bitter to sell alongside the S and N Scotch Bitter. All the beers are hand pumped. The Thwaites replaces the Stones keg, which was obviously wasting valuable bar space.

Information: Steve Lawton

GREENALLS-WILSONS PUB SWAPS



The Greenalls- Wilsons pub swaps are now all-but complete, and the last to go will be the Churchill later this month. At the time of writing the Kings Head and the Ancoats at least are on traditional beer from Greenalls, and there are indications that that brewery's attitude to cask beer may have mellowed, so that there is a chance after all that real ale may stay. Anyway, for the time being at least, a good pint of handpumped Greenall Whitley may be enjoyed in the Ancoats.

THE ROEBUCK, URMSTON

The Roebuck on Chassen Road, Urmston, is a typical Holts house of the turn of the century which still retains its bowling green. Its history, however, goes back far beyond the present pub. Records in Urmston Library reveal the following information.

In 1788, four pubs were listed in the area. The Dog and Partridge stood opposite the present Church and was demolished many years ago. The three others, the Greyhound, the Red Lion and the Roebuck (then the Buck) are still there. All, apparently, had good reputations since a deposition by the local constables, ministers and churchwardens in 1789 stated,

'We believe the said publicans never encourage or permit cock fighting, bull baiting, horse races, gaming riots, disorders, selling liquors in short measure, drinking during divine service on the Lord's Day after the hours fixed for shutting up their houses.'

In 1816, the landlord of the Roebuck was one of seven local innkeepers to publish a notice dissociating himself from the practices of bull and bear baiting.

Where the pub stood then is not known but it was not exactly on its present site, since the licensee in 1901, William Holt, applied for permission to build a new house on the corner of Church Road and Chassen Road. The reasons given were that the old building was both insanitary and unsuitable, the average height of the rooms being 7'6". The living accommodation was so inadequate that the tenant had to rent a cottage for some members of his family. He must have been desperate, since rebuilding would mean that his rent would be increased from £60 to £150 per annum and the drinking area would be reduced. Perhaps, though, William Holt received some support from the brewery. Indeed, the magistrates demurred for a while, arguing that the changes would benefit the brewery more than the tenant, but eventually gave permission on condition that the pub was set back 25 yards from the road - hence its present location. Who said that Holts never improved their pubs?



MANCHESTER BREWERIES No10

Kay & Whittaker

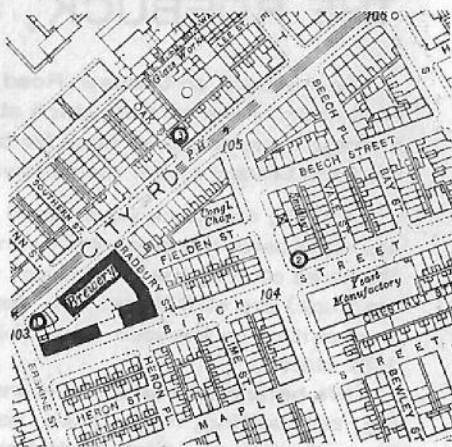
The Hulme of today bears very little resemblance to the area of the same name which existed at the turn of the century. On the map shown here, only City Road is still a familiar name, although part of Erskine Street still exists. The brewery which once stood on City Road was called the Britannia and the present location of the site is at the junction with Shawheath Close, opposite St George's Park.

A likely foundation date is 1855 when John Clarke, who had been brewing in a small way at 24 York Street, is first

listed in the directories. He was soon advertising himself as "brewer of strong, mild and bitter ales and extra strong stouts". An early John Clarke house was the Waggon & Horses on Birch Lane, Longsight. Another pub of the same name in Ashton-on-Mersey was later tied to the brewery with a ground rent of 9d per year!

After almost thirty years at the brewery, John Clarke sold the business to Charles Henry Ward and William Kay, who had both been brewers at the Britannia. For a very short time the new business was known as Ward & Kay but by 1883 was styled William Kay (Late John Clarke & Co). At this time, few licensed houses were owned by the company and William Kay began a programme of expansion. Several outlets near to the brewery were acquired, such as the Shepherds Bush at 70 Erskine Street, the Black Boy on Lower Moss Lane and the Mechanics Arms on Hargreaves Street. In 1888 the Oaks Hotel, an ex-Hardys pub in Didsbury, was added.

Meanwhile, two miles away in Ardwick, Richard Whittaker's Victoria Brewery on Midland Street, Ashton Old Road, was progressing along similar lines. It had been founded at about the same time that Ward & Kay had taken over the Britannia Brewery, and John and Richard Whittaker had been buying and leasing pubs in Ardwick, Altrincham, Salford, Gorton and Central Manchester. Early in 1900 the two firms merged to form Kay & Whittaker, with all brewing transferred to the Britannia Brewery. Both had about equal numbers of tied houses but William Kay owned more



The brewery and neighbouring pubs at the turn of the century.

- 1 - The Coopers Arms at 327 City Road, the "brewery tap"
- 2 - The Talbot at 9 Russel Street, opposite the old E.L. Rotherwell brewery
- 3 - The Cheshire Cheese at 260 City Road, run by rival concern Walker & Homfray's Ltd. and, like the first two, later to become a Wilsons house

O.K.

William Kay

Registered shortly before the amalgamation, William Kay's trade mark which he used for wine and spirits but not beer.

freehold property and became the senior partner. The new partnership was, however, very transient and only two more houses were acquired. These were the White Lion Hotel in Withington, purchased just after the merger, and the Lord Hill Inn, Upper Medlock Street, bought during February 1902. The following year, for reasons unknown, they decided to sell out. The conveyance of property to Wilsons Brewery Ltd was formally signed on 4th March 1904. Up to 1917 the Britannia Brewery was used by Wilsons as a wine and spirit store, then occupied by a firm of soap makers before its final demolition to make way for new houses.

I would like to thank Malcolm Smith of Wilsons Brewery Ltd for his help with this article.

Alan Gall

THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION...

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my concern at the inclusion, in the article entitled 'Pub Crawl in Failsworth' in the July issue of What's Doing, of no less than four pubs which do not sell traditional cask conditioned ale.

I feel that this article, and that entitled 'Pub Crawl of Newton Heath' in the June issue, which mentioned three such pubs, do the Campaign a disservice and create confusion in the mind of the casual reader. Many drinkers, especially those on the fringe of the Campaign or those newly interested in our aims, will be unsure of the meaning of such terms as 'bright beer' but will nevertheless assume that if a pub is mentioned in a CAMRA publication, and indeed recommended as part of a pub crawl, then the beer it sells must be acceptable to the Campaign.

For the more knowledgeable reader, the articles are annoying in that one could plan a pub crawl of the area, using the article as a basis, only to find on closer inspection that several pubs mentioned sell no real ale.

I feel that a pub not selling real ale, unless it is of special architectural, historical or other interest, or is threatened by CPOs etc, has no place in a CAMRA magazine and I would ask the editor to discontinue the practice of giving mention to such pubs in future issues of What's Doing.

Yours faithfully,

Jim Davies.

COVER UP JOB

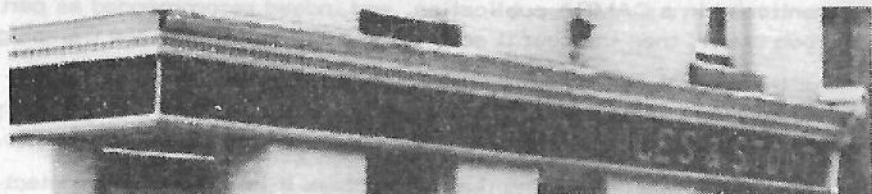


A Greenall Whitley pub, the Pack Horse on Ashton Old Road, Higher Openshaw, is undergoing a face lift. In the process the original Groves and Whitnall stone lettering has been covered up with a new fascia, obscuring all reference to the pub's previous owners. Greenall Whitley took over Groves and Whitnall as recently as 1961 and since then have been doing their best to hide all signs of the Salford brewery. This attitude (by no means unique to Greenalls) appears somewhat naive. You cannot erase history merely by covering up the evidence, and such traces of a pub's past often make it attractive to customers. At the time of writing the Groves and Whitnall windows are still there, perhaps to remain.

Further along Ashton Old Road is the Robinsons pub, the Forrester's Arms, where it is pleasing to see in the stonework "Atlas Ales", a reference to Kays Atlas Brewery which Robinsons acquired in 1929. For some 50 years the Atlas fascia has remained intact, having survived a bad fire that almost gutted the pub some 3 years ago.

A quarter of a mile in the opposite direction along Ashton Old Road from the Pack Horse is an ex-Openshaw Brewery pub, the George. Recently, the top section of the front wall has had the stonework replaced (possibly for maintenance) and the original words of "Openshaw Brewery Co" have now disappeared forever.

On the other hand, there are one or two brewing companies who, for whatever reason, prefer to leave their pubs as they were when they were acquired. Indeed, Whitbread are even uncovering some of their old pub facias. There are now three Whitbread pubs along Ashton Old Road showing the old black and gold signs dating from when they were tied to Chesters Brewery. The new paint on the fascia of the Hobsons Choice, Oldfield Road, Salford, is already peeling off. How long will it be before the rest is stripped off and the attractive old Chesters sign is visible once more? It looks as if Whitbread will have to call the pub the Brown Cow again!



Another brewery showing some consideration for our beery heritage is Wilsons. One of their pubs, the Vine on Washway Road, Sale, has the words 'Watson & Woodhead' above the first floor.

On the darker side there is one brewery that is renowned for its vandalism. Messrs John Smiths will chip away any reference to an old brewery on any pub that comes their way.

Stewart Revell

CHECK OUT THESE PRICES

Fancy an interesting pub crawl one night next week? Looking for excellent local traditional beer in unspoilt surroundings? Where the price of draught beer is only 10p per pint? Yes 10p per pint – Maggie please take note.

Of course there's one small catch. This idyllic situation exists in Bratislava, in the southern Slovakian region of Czechoslovakia. Although bottled Pilsener-type beers are available in the hotels and restaurants frequented by tourists and other visitors, you have to seek out draught beer in the beer halls or "Pivaren" in the back streets of the town. There are half a dozen of these establishments in Bratislava but without the help of a local beer-swiller you could spend all night wandering round the old, rambling, decaying town without finding a single place to drink. With not even a defunct Red Barrel or faded Chesters sign to point you in the right direction, the absence of any obvious distinguishing feature makes the Bratislavan boozery most inconspicuous. Most are hidden beneath old buildings off the beaten track and frequented by Czech working men, or not as the case may be.

The search is well worthwhile, however, as the bottom fermented draught 'pilsener' from the local Bratislava brewery is good and cheap. Unlike the UK pseudo lagers the Czech draught beers are not particularly gassy, are not served at tonsil-chilling temperatures and they do taste of beer. Even the light 10° draught version (about 4% alcohol by volume) has a pleasant, dry, well-hopped flavour, with the price a mere 10p per half litre (or 5p if you are prepared to risk changing money with the local KGB agent heavily disguised as your friendly neighbourhood black-market contact offering to change hard currency at twice the official rate!). The 12° beer tastes similar but has more body and flavour and is great value at 14p per half litre for an OG of around 1050 and alcoholic content of approximately 5% by volume.

As may be expected the Bratislavan "Pivaren" are extremely unpretentious and are obviously modelled on some of Joseph Holt's finer houses. Unfortunately they have none of the raucous, hearty atmosphere associated with German bier kellers (or even Joseph Holt's finer houses). In fact, although it would be an overstatement to say the atmosphere was hostile, I would recommend that anyone visiting these establishments should leave at home their dinner jackets and top hats, and stick to the normal attire of CAMRA leotard and monogrammed walking stick.

Those who are less adventurous can still drink acceptable, but fizzier, bottled Czech beer, all produced from local malt and hops, in the Bratislava tourist traps. These beers include Plzensky Prazdroj (exported throughout the world as Pilsener



Urquell, the original pilsener from its home town of Pilsen, north of Bratislava), Golden Pheasant (Zlaty Bazant) from the Hurbanova brewery in Slovakia and the local Bratislavan bottled beer. All of these are 12^o but will set you back up to 25p (12¹/₂p ex KGB?) per half litre bottle at the most expensive hotel in town.

Although the types and prices of beers in Bratislava are quite different from what we are used to in Manchester, one thing is very similar - that is the hang-over the next morning!

Ken Holt

ANOTHER GOODE DAY OUT



Trafford and Hulme social sec. Mike Goode (Tel 789 7300 Ex155 at work or 2891 345 home) has managed to convince Rigby's coaches that we're a grand bunch to take out so we're off on our holidays again. The date is Saturday September 29th and the occasion is a visit to the Bass brewery and museum in Burton-upon-Trent (which includes 'hospitality' - now what could that mean...?) There is a limit of 36 places and the cost is £3 a head. The coach is likely to be filled very quickly, so give Mike or myself a ring as soon as possible if you want to go. We shall be having lunch at the Cross Keys, Castle Donington (Hoskins bitter, Everard Tiger and Old Original, Hardy and Hansons Best Mild and Best Bitter and one or two others). We are due in Burton at 1.30 and we shall outstay our welcome at around 5pm.

Thence we make for Loughborough for the evening, where the beers available include Everards mild, Beacon, Tiger and Old Original; Marston's mild and Pedigree; Shipstones mild and bitter; Hardy and Hansons Best Mild and Best Bitter; Draught Bass, Worthington Best Bitter; Mitchells and Butlers mild; Ind Coope bitter and Ansells mild.

REAL ALE

in and around
MACCLESFIELD
and **BOLLINGTON**



NEW REAL ALE GUIDE

"Real Ale In Macclesfield and Bollington" is a comprehensive guide to all the pubs in the area selling traditional beer. The guide is fully illustrated with photographs and maps of the districts. Researched and published by the Macclesfield and East Cheshire branch of CAMRA, it is available for 50p including postage from Jim Bowden, 17 Spring Bank, Bollington, near Macclesfield.

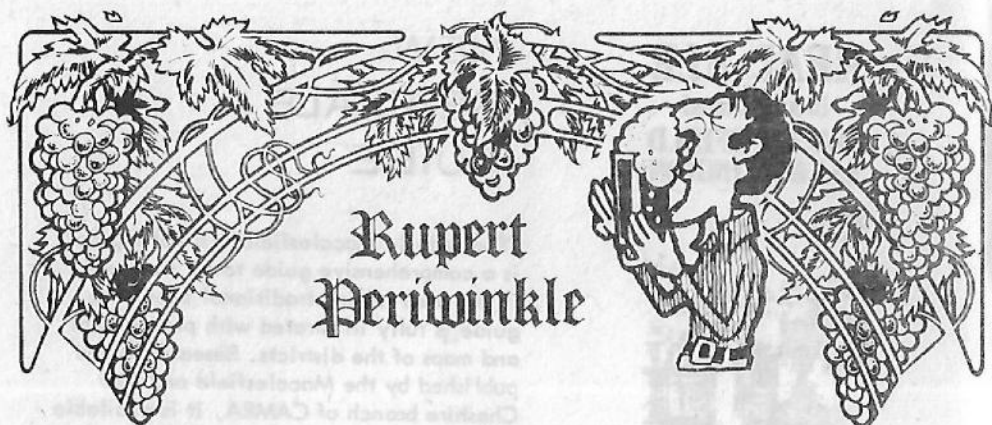
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO PONKY?

Mr Peter Rothwell, licensee of the Boars Head at the junction of Castle Street and Elliott Street, Tyldesley, better known in the town as Ponky, is the inventor of the most curious instruments made out of even more curious things. Because there is a decline in trade in the beer houses due to the imposition of the beer tax he has been compelled to apply his musical inventiveness to more profitable account.

Mr Rothwell says he can play 30 instruments, many of which are his own invention. One of his strangest was one made out of the jawbone of the bullock roasted on Tyldesley Wakes in 1925. Among his collection of instruments, Mr Rothwell had one which he said played two distinct notes at one time. He challenged anybody in the world to play a duet on one string.

The Boars Head was demolished in August, 1936, to enable the corner of Elliott Street and Castle Street to be widened. There is no record of what happened to Ponky afterwards.

Leigh Journal 1936



THE STORY SO FAR...

Rupert Periwinkle, an amiable dwarf and bon viveur, is also a valuable back bench member of the Grotley branch of CAMRA. His predilection for chatting with like minded persons over a half of well hopped amber nectar in Snoot Magna hostelrys like the Fatted Pseud and the Poseurs Rest is frequently thwarted by his colleagues. Despite their undoubtedly upper-class background, Fiona, Alistair and Ophelia Hampton, Letitia and the late Agrippa were continually forcing the unwilling Rupert into sordid ale houses in nether Slumley and swilling down gallons of Drabs East Grotley ales.

The arrival of Bunty Fortescue and Fanny Featheringstonehough in Grotley, as a result of a cultural exchange with the Esher branch, has reinforced this behaviour, although to a different purpose. Bunty set his mind on cleaning up the alehouses of his adopted home and in doing so became involved in many altercations, the latest of which has resulted in his incarceration in Strangleways Prison for a spell.

An expatriate southerner, Superior Dorset Bent, or the Noble Robin as he is better known, is recovering in Slumley maternity hospital with his parrot Boddington after a knock on the head. The Noble is part of the CAMRA hierarchy and his involvement has caused great stirrings at H.Q. Bogbrush from Scouseley is expected in Grotley any moment to sort things out.

NOW READ ON...

Don't think I'm carping unnecessarily, but I would have thought that the Grotley Branch had its fair share of minorities - what with two persons of restricted growth, a punk nun, a Scottish philanthropist, the exiled Archduke of Montenegro and pretender to the throne of Scunthorpe and a giraffe, but, no! HQ have sent us a stiff letter of rebuke and insist that we accept as members a black lesbian and a missionary from the 7th church of Mahomet, nuclear physicist in Dacca. It's not that I've anything against either Rogan Josh or Lise Fatima O'Goldberg but we've got enough on our plate with squiffy parrots and violent extroverts without teetotallers and

persons chatting up Big Julie. I suppose the imposition does offer some positive advantages. Rogan's presence may prevent Billy Cosh and Charlie Bass causing scenes in late-night curry shops. Mind you, Charlie by all accounts, since his regularisation, nuptial-wise, has applied for a post as innkeeper in one of Drab's more bucolic taverns remote from Vindaloo purveyors.

Which brings me to the Noble, whose progress in Slumley Maternity Hospital was satisfactory until he developed psittacosis of the larynx, which has put paid to his gobbling of Meat Pal and his diet of Drabs. Without his 15 pint a day intake of this cheeky little bitter it's doubtful whether he'll survive the summer. We can only keep our legs crossed.

Bunty was due out of Strangleways last week, but it seems that he's been given 30 days negative remission for bad conduct. Apparently Alf Nerks, the prison tobacco baron, tried to give Bunty a bad time and our no-nonsense hero reacted by inserting 400 Woodbines in him, not entirely to the grunting of the governor. Nevertheless, a huge celebration is planned for his release, possibly in the House that Drabs Wrecked, which has risen like a Phoenix from the ashes of the Dockers Wedge. God knows what Bogbrush and Wislon-Molyneux will make of it.

BEWARE THE SON OF DRAB

Remus, Bunty's left hand sparrowhawk, informs me that young Mr Peregrine Drab, having served his apprenticeship in a Frothy factory, is returning to the fold. Does this mean we will see a keg version of their cheeky little bitter, pub rents rocketing to £3 a week, an end to tottering licensees and beer that doesn't make you throw your mind? We can only wait and see but I can't help thinking that old Josiah Drab's ashes will be rotating in their urn.

TA TA TETLEYS

The Crown on Great Ducie Street, Manchester, is the latest Tetley pub to close, following their decision to sell off some of their houses. Contrary to the report in last month's What's Doing, Tetleys are selling the Griffin on Chapel Street, Salford, without a licence. The asking price is around £15,000 and the pub - one of Salford's oldest - is described as being suitable for use as a warehouse.



Branch Diary

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Thurs Aug 7th: Branch Meeting at the Gateway, Wilmslow Road, East Didsbury
8.00pm. Speaker: Joe Goodwin, National Chairman of CAMRA

Mon Aug 27th: Bank Holiday Day Out to Leicester, including visit to CAMRA
Beer Tent at the Abbey Park Show. £3.00 per head. Contact
D Eckett: 225 4058

Thurs Sept 13th: Branch meeting at the Gateway, Wilmslow Road, East Didsbury
Speaker to be arranged

Contact: Humphrey Higgins 432 0059

TRAFFORD AND HULME

Branch Meeting: Thurs Aug 16th. Malt Shovels, Stamford St, Altrincham

Social: Thurs Aug 23rd. Church, 84 Cambridge St, Hulme

Committee/Social: Thurs Sept 6th. Roebuck, Stamford St, Altrincham

Branch Meeting: Thurs Sept 27th. Lloyds Arms, Higher Ormond St, Hulme

Coach Trip: Sat Sept 29th. To Castle Donington; Bass Museum and Loughborough

Contact: Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 (home)

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Branch Meeting: Tues 14th Aug. Welcome (Holts) Besses o th Barn, Whitefield

Committee Meeting: Tues 21st Aug. White Horse (Holts) Bury New Rd, Prestwich

Branch Meeting: Tues 11th Sept, Grey Horse (Lees) Oldham Road, Hollinwood

Committee Meeting: Tues 18th Sept Bridgewater (Holts) Manchester Rd, Oldham

Contact: Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (H)

061 236 4411 ext 7236 (w)

NORTH MANCHESTER

Branch Meeting: Weds 15th Aug, White Swan, Swinton 8.00pm

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

SOUTH LANCASHIRE

Branch Meeting: Tues 14th Aug Ship Hotel, Millgate, Wigan 8.30

Beer Tent: Newton Show Sat 11th Aug. 11.30am-4.00pm. 13 beers available

Social: Weds 29 Aug 8.30pm. Railway, Lower Ince

Contact : Ian Ogden Wigan 79534

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.

COPY DATE for September issue is Thursday 23rd August
1 WEEK EARLIER than usual - Staff holidays

What is Real Ale?

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

More about the Campaign for Real Ale.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Join Now!

Application for membership

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

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

We enclose £5 for husband and wife membership

or I/We enclose completed standing order authority

(Any additional amount will be welcomed as a donation).

☐
☐
☐

Application for Associateship

I wish to become an Associate of CAMRA Ltd.

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

☐

FULL NAME (Block capitals)

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS (Block capitals)

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

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

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

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

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

NAME (Block capitals)

BANK A/C NO. AND ADDRESS

*delete as appropriate



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.
- THE ROAD TO WIGAN BEER - Including Leigh, Atherton, Standish, Skelmersdale, Newton etc. Fully illustrated, maps. 35p + s.a.e.
- *Updated 1979 ** Second Edition 1979 *** Third Edition 1979

Subscriptions

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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