

7p

WHAT'S DOING

NOV
1979

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

SAM PLAYS IT AGAIN



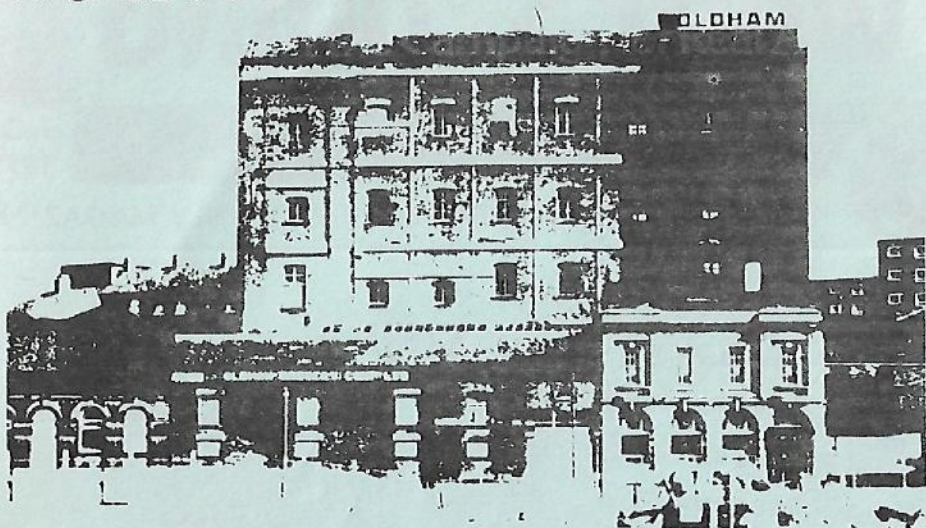
Following close on the heels of the reversion to Sam Smiths real ale in the Albert Edward, Church Street, Eccles, is the news that the Rochdale/Oldham area is to get its second cask Old Brewery Bitter outlet.

Don Scroop, presently at the White Gates, is to take over the Bird in Hand ('Higher Bird') at New Hey in December. The chances of handpumped Sams appearing by Christmas are good.

Grahame Tonge

(Sam Smiths state that they will be introducing cask bitter to two other pubs in the Rochdale area in the near future)

OLDHAM BREWERY - A CASE FOR CONCERN



Oldham Brewery have some 85 tied houses, the vast majority of which are within four miles of the brewery, situated in the town centre of Oldham. In addition, OB have several club and free trade pub outlets further afield, reaching as far as Saddleworth and the Yorkshire border.

Unfortunately, over the past few years many of their pubs have been 'modernised' and converted from traditional beer to the chilled and filtered variety, leaving just over 20 tied houses selling the real thing either by handpump or electric pump. The processed beer is dispensed either from cellar tanks, in the larger houses, or kegs in smaller outlets.

Recently three more OB pubs have gone 'bright' - the Bath Hotel, Union Street, Oldham (a 1979 Good Beer Guide pub); the Trap Inn, Rochdale Road, Oldham and the Devonshire in Lees. The inside structure of the Bath Hotel has been completely transformed and before this took place a number of regulars, fearing the worst, organised and sent to the brewery a petition containing over 300 signatures asking for the retention of traditional beer. Despite this obvious public preference, only bright beer is now available in the pub, even though assurances were given that cask beer would be retained. The Trap Inn is in the process of a similar transformation and the existing electric pumps are now serving chilled and filtered beer. In the case of the Devonshire (a pub which was to be included in the 1980 Good Beer Guide) the handpumps with Auto-Vacs were removed for reasons of hygiene and while they were at it OB decided to get rid of the decidedly unhealthy traditional beer as well.

In many ways OB seem to be following the policies pursued by the big breweries in the late 1960s and early 1970s, particularly those policies concerning bright beer, pub modernisations and pub management - about 80% of their tied houses are

run by managers. I wonder if OB know what the likes of Wilsons, Whitbread and Tetley-Walker are doing these days, and whether they realise that their own policies are around ten years out of date? Since the profitability of Oldham Brewery's operation is reasonably good and since many of their customers are happy in refurbished surroundings with bitter at 31p a pint and mild at 29p (irrespective of what they taste like), I suspect that OB are quite content with the way things are. CAMRA's main aim must be to demonstrate a real public preference for traditional beer and to show that by actively promoting real ale OB would achieve even greater sales and profits.

Last month a campaign was mounted to bring OB's policies to the attention of beer drinkers in Oldham by means of advertisements in the Oldham Evening Chronicle and hundreds of leaflets were distributed inside and outside OB pubs of various sorts. Window stickers stating 'Real Ale Sold Here' have been issued to all pubs selling OB cask beer, as a simple means of identifying the ones worth visiting. The campaign has also received some editorial mention in the Oldham Evening Chronicle and Oldham Brewery have again been approached in an effort to discuss our views with them. It remains to be seen what their reaction will be.

Ken Holt

The list of all known traditional OB outlets in and around Oldham is as follows:

Carters Arms, Oldham Road, Royton (E)
 Clarkesfield, Ronald Street (H)
 Crown, Huddersfield Road (H)
 Crown & Mitre, Hollins Rd, Hollinwood (E)
 Dog & Partridge, Spring Vale, Middleton (E)
 Fairwell, Lees Road (E)
 Farmers Boy, Huddersfield Road (H)
 Flower Pot, Higginshaw (E)
 Friendship, Manchester Street (H)
 Gardeners, Acre Lane (E)
 Golden Fleece, Denshaw (H) (Free house)
 Hawthorne, Roundthorne Road (H)
 Horse & Jockey, Stanedge, Delph (H) (f h)

Horton Arms, Middleton Rd, Chadderton (E)
 Kings Arms, Grains Bar (H)
 Oddfellows Call, Lees Rd (H) *
 Old Grey Mare, Rochdale Rd, Royton (E)
 Old Post Office, Manc/r Rd, Hollinwood (H)
 Ordnance Arms, Park Rd, Glodwick (E)
 Robin Hood, Lees Rd (E)
 Rose of Lancaster, Manchester St (H)
 Streetbridge, Roman Rd, Hollinwood (H)
 Sun Mill, Middleton Rd, Chadderton (E)
 Waggon & Horses, Huddersfield Rd (H)
 Westbourne, Middleton Rd (H)
 Westwood, Featherstall Road South (H)

*due for demolition



FULL CIRCLE



On the 18th October the Wrecker or Mariners Tavern on Victoria Avenue, Blackley, reopened once more as the Lion and Lamb. You couldn't help but be impressed, what an improvement! All the stuffed alligators consigned to the dustbin and instead, traditional beer, sumptuous carpeting, comfortable chairs and excellent food. Much, much better than the Wrecker theme - they'd even reopened the vault. But who was this actor bloke they'd brought from London to open the place? It looked like Bonehead to me but it turned out to be Colin Douglas from Family at War. The fools have still got to have a bloody theme. So that's what all those imitation gas lights and sepia photographs of the Royal Flying Corps and excerpts from the Doncaster Trumpeter of 1917 are all about - instant cardboard nostalgia.

When will they ever learn that pub atmospheres are not instantly created by throwing up loads of random photographs which have damn all to do with Blackley or Manchester? And talking about throwing up, what will the place look like after someone's trampled in in muddy boots, been sick over a settee and fallen against the wallpaper? The charm of a Great War drawing room cannot easily be transferred to a suburban pub in the 1980s.

Thank you very much Lanchester Taverns - 10 out of 10 for effort, but for practicality, functionalism, realism, back to design school. No doubt the pub will be immensely popular for a couple of years as the Wrecker was but as the smartness and novelty wears thin and custom declines, no doubt the bright boys at the brewery will decide that what the Lion and Lamb needs in not to be made into an ordinary pub but to be revamped with yet another theme. What that'll be I don't know but in the meantime my local sells decent beer in very pleasant surroundings.

Roger Hall

PUB RENOVATION OF THE YEAR

This award must surely go to Wilsons and Bryn Welsh, tenant of the Orange Tree, Old Market Place, Altrincham, who have managed to completely alter one of the best pubs in the Trafford and Hulme branch area without ruining it! In fact I believe it to be even better than before.

The architects were dictated to by the position of the Orange Tree in the middle of a conservation area. This meant that from the front, the old and new parts of the pub had to continue their separate identities - hence the different styles of window. The 'new' extension is in fact the older of the two buildings and in the seventeenth century was a licensed premises called the Pig and Whistle. In more recent times it changed its use to that of a French Polishers before being abandoned to lie empty for many years.

In the course of the alterations, much trouble has been taken to preserve a feeling of history about the building. Original beams have merely been treated with preservative and not boxed in and encased in plastic oak. A bannister rail some 300 years old has been incorporated into the lounge and most of the internal fittings have been saved from other 'deceased' Wilsons pubs. The fireplace has been reconstructed in old brick in its original position. The beam above it is original, the mock log gas fire a little more recent!

Other points which make the final result so pleasing are the use of old brick in building the bar, the flagging around the bar, old pub windows built into the bar and, in particular, the retention of the small drinking areas that have always given the 'Tree' its intimate atmosphere.

Meals are now available at lunchtimes and the beer is as good as ever. The original handpumps are now in the lounge bar, the pair in the 'vault' being reclaimed from another pub and are in fact the same vintage - Gaskell & Chambers 1960.

Mick Rottenbury

CASK GREENALLS IN ROCHDALE

Greenalls have opened a new cask beer pub in the centre of Rochdale - the Merry Weaver, near the bus station.

RETURN TO TRADITIONAL GAMES

The Malt Shovels in Altrincham is the latest pub to remove its pool table in favour of more traditional pastimes. The Wheatshaf and the Victoria have already shown that darts, chess and dominoes take up less space and benefit bar takings more than pool - and presumably the risk of under age drinking is reduced. I wonder if any landlord has the inclination to re-introduce shove ha'penny, nine men's morris, table skittles or ringing the bull?

Mick Rottenbury

BASS BASH

Once again we must sadly record the removal of an old brewery fascia from yet another Manchester pub. The pub is the Birch Arms, Gorton, and the stonework bore the words "Openshaw Brewery Company". The pub is situated on Pottery Lane, not far from the former site of the Openshaw Brewery in Ambrose Street.

Earlier this year similar lettering was removed from the George, less than a mile away on Ashton Old Road - let's hope that this trend does not continue. Apparently the lettering on the Birch Arms had to come down as it had been found to be unsafe by Bass's surveyors. It was thought that the odd letter falling on to passers by would not be conducive to good trade.

Apart from keg Stones and Toby, the Birch Arms offers the ever popular and traditional 4X mild from free flow electric pumps (albeit with slight top pressure). The two handpumps on the bar seem to be redundant ... shame.

Stewart Revell



GOOD OL' WILSONS

As well as the Mariners - Lion & Lamb transformation, news reaches us this month of two other Wilsons conversions. Chris Askey writes from Didsbury to say that the Cavalcade is now the Grey Horse (handpumps), and the ever watchful Paul Roberts reports that the Young Pretender, previously the New Mancunian, has become the Imperial (also handpumps). The brewery may have got the idea for the Young Pretender's new identity from the words "Imperial Hotel", which are in big letters in the stonework of the building.



AUF GEHT'S ZUR WIES'N

From 22nd September 1979 to 7th October, Munich celebrated its 145th Oktoberfest. There are so many misconceptions about the Oktoberfest. Most people in England tend to regard it as a lager drinking beer festival. This couldn't be further from the truth. First, lager as British people know it simply does not exist in Germany. Secondly, Oktoberfest is not a beer festival. Beer plays only a small part. The Oktoberfest is the annual harvest celebrations which take place on the huge meadowland in the centre of Munich - the 'Theresienwies'n'. This is abbreviated to 'Wies'n', which is what the locals call the Oktoberfest.

The 'Wies'n' consists of what is probably the largest fairground in the world together with scores of stalls selling local delicacies like roasted oxen, half chickens, pigs' trotters, hundreds of types of sausages and oddities such as chocolate covered bananas. In addition to these there are over a dozen huge 'Bierhallen', each holding 10,000 to 15,000 people. Each of the seven Munich breweries has at least one Bierhalle. In the sixteen days that the festival is on, well over one million gallons of beer are drunk. On the busier days one single hall will sell the equivalent of 350 36-gallon barrels! That is what some English pubs are selling in two years!

The beer which is served in these huge Bierhallen is specially brewed 'Märzenbier' - literally 'March beer'. This is a custom continued from the first Oktoberfest. Before refrigeration had been invented, the Bavarians could only brew during the cooler, winter months. Consequently, at the end of every March a special brew was produced with extra alcohol to last until the next brewing season started in Oktober. This strong brew was termed 'Märzenbier'. 'Märzenbier' is served only in litre glasses at the Oktoberfest and it has an alcoholic content of between 4.5% and 5%. It tends to be darker than the characteristic Bavarian 'helles' beer. This 'Märzenbier' is also known as 'Wies'n'bier' and is served by gravity from 200 litre wooden barrels (about 45 gallons). One sad thing about

the Oktoberfest is that certain Bierhallen give very short measures. An article in the local Munich newspaper said that their reporter had discovered that in the Spatenbräu Schottenhamel 289 'litre' glasses had been served from a 200 litre barrel! Although that is against the local laws, very few people complain as the whole object of the exercise is to enjoy yourself and get blotto!

Each of the Bierhallen is managed by a Festwirt, who is responsible for something like one hundred waitresses, plus twice as many ancillary staff. On a busy day, the turnover can be over a quarter of a million pounds in each Halle. The price of a litre is now DM4.65, compared with DM4.25 in 1977 and DM4.35 in 1978 - a rise of only 9% in two years - compare that with British increases!

In these Bierhallen there will be ten thousand plus people who are swaying, singing, eating and drinking, usually with a litre of ale in one hand and Hendl (half chicken) in the other. On Saturdays and Sundays the Bierhallen have the Bavarian Bands in full swing all day. On other days the bands come on at about four o'clock and the Hallen begin to fill at about five, as most people come straight from work and usually on a works 'do'. As a result, the best atmosphere usually starts at about seven and begins to fade away at nine thirty as people begin to fall over, get carried out or merely wander away to prepare to start work at 7.00 the next morning. At 10.30 it's last orders, although the fairground is open until midnight. However, there are plenty of watering holes still open in Munich - many for 24 hours per day.

Although Oktoberfest is an enormous occasion, it is only one date in Munich's bustling diary. Special beers are brewed for festivals at Christmas, Lent, Spring and May. In fact Munich is a carnival city all years round. It is truly the drinker's paradise. Apart from the seven Munich breweries, about two dozen other small Bavarian breweries have pubs in Munich. In fact, compared to Munich, Manchester is a real beer desert. It is pointless trying to summarize the breweries and types of ales available in Munich in this article, as a whole book could be written on this beer drinking capital of the world. The only moral of this article is 'Auf geht's zum Oktoberfest 1980'.

Paul Roberts

Subscriptions

If you want to be sure of getting What's Doing every month, why not subscribe? It costs £1.20 for six issues, postage paid. Fill in the form below and send it together with a cheque or postal order for £1.20 made out to 'What's Doing' to Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester.

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

LION PRIDE



A visit to the Lion Hotel in Cadishead to sample the new Walker Ale provided a pleasant surprise on meeting the landlord, Alan Boardman. Alan, who has had the Lion for seven years, is a great believer in the traditions of real ale and the English pub to the extent that he has paid for the installation of beer engines himself. So proud is he of his ale that there is a notice in the room inviting customers to visit his cellar at any time - and that is no idle boast! Not surprisingly the Lion is in the 1979 Good Beer Guide.

The pub has a nice period feel about it, with cast iron Britannia tables and several Edwardian paintings and prints - well secured to the wall since one disappeared some time ago. The vault, complete with coal fire, has a nice collection of Silver Jubilee Ale bottles and also a genuine Ind Coope & Co Pale Ale mirror. For the budding John Lowes there is the only 'Wigin' dart board in captivity; it's the same size as a Manchester board but there the similarity ends.

The present Lion dates from the late nineteenth century, although there was an inn on the site in the 1820s. Records show that in 1843 the Red Lion, as it was then known, was extended to provide livery for six horses and carts and had five small bedrooms. The photograph of the Lion shows the pub in 1909 when King Edward visited Cadishead - rumour has it that Cadishead was shut that day. The photograph is of particular interest because it shows the building with an Empress Brewery sky sign - the only one known.

Tony Flynn

MANCHESTER BREWERIES No12

Edward Issott's Ardwick Place Brewery

For a number of years prior to 1882, Edward Issott occupied an old established building in Heaton Norris called the Chapel House Brewery. With a rapid increase in trade came the need for larger premises and consequently a new brewery, with a capacity of 55 barrels per brew, was built on the Stockport Road. An indenture for the land, comprising 2,475 square yards (approx $\frac{1}{2}$ acre) bears the date 1st July 1879. Later, another 973 square yards became part of the site.

Although known as the Ardwick Place Brewery, it was, in fact, just over the border in Chorlton-on-Medlock, which then covered a larger area than it does today. The boundary with Ardwick ran down the middle of Stockport Road.

The usual range of mild, bitter, stout and porter was brewed for distribution over an area including Macclesfield, Ashton-under-Lyne, Pendleton and most of Manchester. In particular, the firm controlled a substantial number of off-licences and shops with out-door licences, about half of which were in the Salford area. Two of the earliest Issott houses were the Volunteer Inn, Leigh Street East in Manchester, bought in 1874, and the Cross Keys, Birch Street, Ardwick, acquired in 1876. Most of the pubs held only a beer licence but one which enjoyed a full licence still exists today - the Burlington Inn (now Burlington Vaults) on Burlington Street in Ashton Under Lyne.

Probably during 1896, Edward Issott died naming Elizabeth, his wife as heir and executrix. She continued to expand the business for a while, buying such pubs as the Crown Inn on Ellor Street in Salford's famous Hanky Park area and the Brewers Arms on Naylor Street, Ancoats. Two other members of the family also worked for the brewery; Arthur Issott and John Edward Issott.

The closest outlet to the brewery was also one of the last additions - the Cricketers Inn at 183 Stockport Road - taken over on a short lease during 1900. In 1903 Elizabeth sold the Issott tied estate and brewery to Wilsons Brewery Ltd. At this time there were four fully licensed houses, 35 beerhouses, 19 off licences, 15 shops and four unlicensed properties.

Alan Gall

I am indebted to Malcolm Smith of Wilsons Brewery Ltd for providing much of the above information.

THE STATION NOW ARRIVING

The Station, a free house which is being restored on Warrington Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, is now almost complete and may be open for Christmas. The beers are almost certain to be Boddingtons and Marstons.

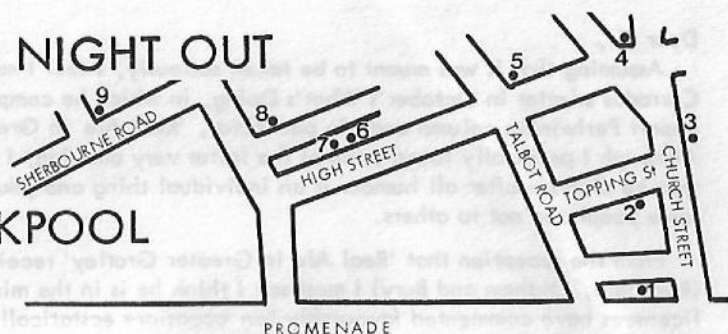
Stewart Revell

SORRY

10p

Owing to rising costs, the price of What's Doing will be 10p from next month.

A GOOD NIGHT OUT IN BLACKPOOL



We start our crawl at the Clifton Ale House (1) opposite the North Pier which is Blackpool's most popular cellar bar serving Tetley bitter, Boddingtons bitter and Toby Light through handpumps. Admission is free (unusual) all the time; Wednesday night is Country & Western night with a group and mock gunfights, and a disco is held on various other nights.

When these excellent beers have been sampled, we then leave by the back door and turn right down Market Street, left at Church Street and up to Topping Street, where on the left we will find the Criterion (2), a Victorian style Tetley house selling mild, bitter and Warrington Ale through handpumps.

For our next call we visit the Stanley Arms Hotel (3) on Church Street, which is a Whitbread house serving Special Cask. Further up Church Street at the corner of Cookson Street we come to the Grosvenor (4), which is two pubs knocked into one. Mine host is the popular comedian ("It's the way I tell 'em") Frank Carson, who serves an excellent pint of Bass (with or without a head as you prefer) through electric pumps. From the Grosvenor, turn right out of the door down Cookson Street toward Talbot Road, where we find the Kings Arms (5) which serves Higsons mild and bitter and Bass through handpumps. After the refreshing Higsons we then cross the road to High Street down by the side of the North Station to Rocky's Plaice (6), possibly the best fish and chips to be found in Blackpool, to soak up some of the beer. Next door to the chip shop is the Mount Pleasant (7), a typical local unfortunately serving Matthew Brown chilled and filtered beer through electric pumps. Well, it washes the chips down!

We now go down the side of the Mount Pleasant to Exchange Street, where looking left we can see the massive Empress Hotel (8), where we can obtain Thwaites mild and bitter through handpumps. The last pub on our tour is a seven to ten minute walk away. Turn right out of the Empress and right at the corner down Ashburton Road to Sherbourne Road, where we come to the Sherbourne Arms (9), a large modern estate-style pub which has Greenalls bitter and mild on electric pumps.

By now you should be nicely topped up but if you want more you can stagger down Carshalton Street back to the Prom where you will find the Imperial Hotel which has Boddingtons in one of its bars.

Geoff Gartside

THE GROTLEY GUIDE

Dear Sir,

Assuming that it was meant to be taken seriously, I feel I must reply to T A Carrodus's letter in October's What's Doing, in which he complained about the Rupert Periwinkle column and, in particular, 'Real Ale in Greater Grotley'. Although I personally found parts of the latter very amusing, I am not surprised that he didn't - after all humour is an individual thing and jokes that appeal to some people do not to others.

From the reception that 'Real Ale in Greater Grotley' received in our area (Rochdale, Oldham and Bury) I must say I think he is in the minority. Several licensees have commented favourably (on occasions ecstatically) to me about that particular feature, and one pub which normally takes 10 What's Doings per month sold 40 of the September issue for that reason alone. In my view, the more people that read and take an interest in What's Doing, the stronger the Real Ale movement will become - it's an unfortunate fact of life that not every article can have the same appeal for every reader.

Ken Holt

Dear Sir,

As Area Chairman of the Grotley Pet Protection League I must register my disgust and disappointment on seeing that your organisation condones, and indeed promotes, the use of dog dispense methods in public houses. The inclusion of the Dog & Spit, Higher Snoot Magna, in the Greater Grotley Real Ale Guide mars an otherwise scholarly work. For years our organisation has campaigned vigorously against the exploitation of our dumb friends in public situations and many of our members have reported the misuse of dogs, cats and other animals as unpaid beer carriers in our pubs. It is a very emotional experience to see a poor, shagged-out Mexican Hairless or Persian Blue collapsed over the front step of an otherwise impeccable drinking establishment. We have had countless reports of toothless chimpanzees and lame wallabies, not to mention ruptured parrots, living out their existence in wretched servitude in some public house. The only way to stop this practice is to publicly condemn it. I respectfully suggest that your organisation join with us and reject out of hand all animal-powered beer dispense systems.

Yours faithfully, Lt Col 'Doggy' Watson, Retd.



In view of certain criticisms levelled at the editorial policy of What's Doing it has been decided to dispense with the services of Rupert Periwinkle. At his request his severance pay has been forwarded to the Rev Blether's Underpans for Horses Campaign Mission.

WARRINGTON ALE

Walkers Warrington Ale is on sale in the following pubs:

Bold, Botanic Road, Southport
 Portland, Birkdale, Southport
 Wellington, Eastbank Street, Southport
 Old Ship, Eastbank Street, Southport
 Imperial, Albert Road, Southport
 Sandpiper, Sandbrook Way, Southport
 Blue Anchor, Tithebarn Street, Southport
 Becconsall Hotel, Hesketh Bank
 Golden Lion, Moor Street, Ormskirk
 Kicking Donkey, Narrow Moss La, Ormskirk
 Owl & Pusycat, Egerton Lane, Skelmersdale
 Black Swan, Digmaor Parade, Skelmersdale
 Eagle & Child, Scotchbarn La, Prescot
 Woodlands, Woodlands Rd, St Helens
 Float, Liverpool Rd, St Helens
 Yew Tree, Ditton, Widnes
 Market, Alford Street, Widnes
 Red Admiral, Boston Ave, Runcorn
 Jolly Tanner, Statham Ave, Warrington
 Vulcan, Dallam La, Warrington
 Cherry Tree, Common Lane, Culcheth
 Oak Tree, Crow Lane East, Newton
 Old Crow, Crow Lane East, Newton
 Golden Lion, Gerard Street, Ashton
 Bulls Head, Newton
 Ben Jonson, Warrington Rd, Wigan
 Bulls Head, Warrington Rd, Wigan
 Stag, Orrell Road, Orrell
 Brookhouse, City Road, Wigan
 Victoria, Wallgate, Wigan
 Clarence, Wallgate, Wigan
 Dog & Partridge, Standish
 Platt Bridge Inn, Wigan
 Pied Bull, Leigh Road, Leigh
 Bowling Green, Wigan Road, Leigh
 Red Lion, Church Street, Atherton
 George VI, Flapper Fold La, Atherton
 White Hart, Deane Rd, Bolton
 White Horse, Harwood, Bolton
 Albert Vaults, Derby Street, Bolton
 Bradford, Bradford Street, Bolton

Church, Crook Street, Bolton
 Crofters, Bradshaw Rd, Bolton
 Gaiety, Bradshawgate, Bolton
 Prince Rupert, Holmeswood Rd, Bolton
 Antelope, Manchester Rd, Little Hulton
 Bell, Manchester Rd, Little Hulton
 White Hart, Albert Rd, Farnworth
 White Horse, Egerton Street, Farnworth
 Saddle, King Street, Farnworth
 Church, George Street, Farnworth
 Bowling Green, Bolton Road, Pendlebury
 Bulls Head, Chorley Road, Swinton
 Foresters, Chorley Road, Swinton
 Bee Hive, Rake Lane, Clifton
 Kings Arms, St Georges Lane, Salford
 Lion Hotel, Liverpool Rd, Cadishead
 Moonraker, Wood Street, Middleton
 Commercial, Bury Old Rd, Prestwich
 Foresters, Bury Rd, Rochdale
 Hilltop, Parkway, Blackley
 Church, Church Road, Northenden
 Crime View, Crime View, Oldham
 Stonemasons, Stockport Rd, Timperley
 Fir Tree, Gorton Rd, Reddish
 Greenwood Tree, Greenwood Rd, Wythenshawe
 Weavers Arms, Angel Street, Manchester
 Bay Horse, Berry Brow, Manchester
 Kings, Helmsford Walk, Manchester
 King Inn, Oldham St, Manchester
 City Arms, Kennedy Street, Manchester
 Millstone, Anderton, Chorley
 Queens Hotel, Chapel St, Chorley
 Market Tavern, Cleveland St, Chorley
 Balmoral, Manchester Rd, Preston
 Highgate, Preston New Rd, nr Kirkham
 Criterion, Topping St, Blackpool
 Boars Head, Preston Old Rd, Blackpool
 Washington, South Prom, Blackpool
 Bay Horse, Thornton Cleveleys
 Farmers Arms, Church St, Garstang
 Bull, Lines Street, Morecambe

October saw the arrival of the new beer from Tetley Walker, 'Walkers Warrington Ale' in the Stonemasons Arms on the corner of Stockport Road and Park Road, Timperley. According to the advertising blurb, it is a 'high gravity ale, brewed in Warrington using traditional methods and the finest ingredients. The brewing recipe has been developed using records from the old Walker archive, and the beer is produced specifically for the beer connoisseur of the North West of England.' It certainly has a distinctive taste, though it is rather expensive. If you want to find out more about Tetley's beers, pub policies, etc, come along to the Trafford & Hulme November branch meeting (see Branch Diary) You need not be a CAMRA member to attend.

Mick Rottenbury

GUINNESS TIME



An ex-Gartsides pub (now Bass) in Ashton Under Lyne, the Hop Pole, has been having maintenance work carried out on its magnificent clock tower. The pub was built in 1882 and the original clockwork mechanism has not functioned for many years. Some time ago Messrs Guinness donated a more modern clock to fit on the forward facing wall of the tower. Sadly, this clock too has not worked since about 1969 when the pub was trying a brew called 'Colonel Murphy' in competition to Guinness. Colonel Murphy stout did not last long, but unfortunately the Guinness people haven't got round to looking at their clock. Let's hope it can be started soon so passers-by can again benefit from "Guinness time".

So, if you find yourself in Ashton one evening call in at the Hop Pole (Oldham Road) and enjoy a pint or two of Bass. Later on, at throwing out time, take another look (if it doesn't appear to be swaying about too much) at the clock tower over the pub. Ponder about what is missing from the newly built pubs of today - you may find that the word "character" sums it all up.

Whilst on the subject of Guinness, it is interesting to note that only 100 yards round the corner from the Hop Pole is the family business of Boardmans. Established in 1880, Boardmans have been bottling Guinness for well over half a century. Next year the firm celebrates its centenary in the trade of bottling soda and other mineral waters. Mr Tim Boardman, grandson of the founder, has many recollections of old Ashton. Earlier this year the editor, Alan Gall and myself were privileged to a private tour around the bottling plant. We were most impressed, especially with how soda water is put into a siphon. But of course the bottling of Guinness was the main attraction. In the old days the Guinness arrived from Ireland in hogsheads, which had to be rolled about to stir up the sediments before bottling, so that each bottle got its fair share. Nowadays the beer is pumped from road tanker to tank and agitated by electric motor. There are still some old pieces of equipment in Boardmans plant - notably a bottling machine acquired from the now-defunct Openshaw Brewery, in perfect working order and a joy to behold.

Stewart Revell

Real Ale Guides

The following publications 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, Irlam and Worsley. 150 pubs, maps, photographs. 25p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN ROCHDALE - Including Heywood, Milnrow, Littleborough and Middleton 10p + s.a.e.

****REAL ALE IN TRAFFORD AND HULME** - Including Altrincham, Sale, Urmston, Stretford, etc. With maps. 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 AND NORTH CHESHIRE** - Including Warrington, Widnes, Runcorn, Lymm, Frodsham, Northwich, Middlewich and Winsford 10p + s.a.e.

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

REAL ALE IN GREATER GROTLEY - Including Grotley, Slumley, Smarmford and Slutch, Poshton and Pseudley. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN ST HELENS - Including Sutton, Peasley Cross, Thatto Heath, Moss Nook, Eccleston, Parr, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

*updated 1979 ** Second Edition 1979 *** Third Edition 1979



Pub & Brewery Histories

The following publications are available from Alan Gall,
61 Romney Street, Salford 6.

SALFORD'S PUBS No 1 - Covering 'Hanky Park', Regent Road, Cross Lane, Charlestown, Walker & Homfrays brewery, etc. Fully illustrated. 70p including postage

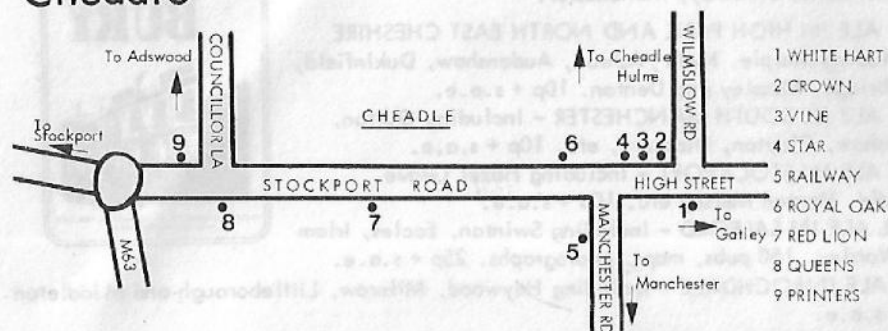
SALFORD'S PUBS No 2 - Covering Greengate, Chapel Street, Islington, Ordsall, Threlfalls Brewery, brewery takeovers, etc. Fully illustrated. 60p including postage

WIGAN'S PUBS No 1 - Covering the town centre, Aireys, Oldfields, Albion breweries, the Newtown Brewery, etc. Fully illustrated. 45p including postage



A ROUND IN SOUTH MANCHESTER

Cheadle



Four breweries, represented in nine pubs, including two Good Beer Guide entries, can be found in Cheadle, all within a short walking distance.

Start the tour at the WHITE HART in High Street. A large and very popular pub with Boddingtons bitter and mild on electric pumps in two bars. Across the road is the CROWN, a comfortable one-roomed house with Hydes Best Mild and bitter on electric pumps. Next stop is the VINE for an excellent pint of handpumped Wilsons mild or bitter in a warm and cosy pub with a quiet (!) jukebox. The first of the two GBG pubs is the STAR INN. A first class pint of Hydes Best Mild or bitter on electric pumps; it's a good, friendly pub with a lively vault. Across the road under the bridge on Manchester Road is the RAILWAY, for Boddingtons mild and bitter on electric pumps. A large, rather characterless pub, with pool table and juke box.

On to Stockport Road and it's Robinsons Best Mild and Best Bitter in the other four pubs, starting at the ROYAL OAK. A good handpumped pint here, in a roomy pub with a big vault. Carry on up Stockport Road and on the left is the RED LION. Handpumps again, and good beer, though it's the haunt of the younger drinkers; very full and a loud jukebox. Next is the QUEENS ARMS, handpumps once more in a good basic atmosphere. Finally to the PRINTERS ARMS, the second GBG pub, with electric dispense. The Printers is a busy pub with excellent beer and a good choice of rooms.

Humphrey Higgins

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Patrons of Sale Homebrew Supplies, 1, Northenden Road, Sale, will want to wish Margaret Flatters success in her new venture in the same business in North Wales. She can now be contacted at the delightfully sounding address of: Tyn Rhosydd, Carmel, Llanerchymedd, Anglesey. New owners in Sale are Norma and Frank Russel, who will continue to supply traditional ingredients for home brewing - and sell What's Doing each month!

Mick Rottenbury

WHAT'S DOING IN SOUTH MANCHESTER

The South Manchester Branch of CAMRA are to establish regular monthly social nights on the Tuesday following the branch meeting. The first of these will be on November 13th, at the Star Inn, High Street, Cheadle. (Hydes) On December 18th the venue will be the Nursery on Green Lane, Heaton Norris. Both commence at 8.00pm. The December meeting of the branch will also be a social occasion with folk singing and a hot pot supper. This is on Thursday 13th December, at the Gateway, East Didsbury.

Finally we are organising (!) a Christmas Crawl along Hillgate, Stockport, on Saturday December 22nd. Starting at the Blossoms on Buxton Road at 7.00pm and no doubt finishing in a heap outside Robinsons Brewery at chucking out time. For the more serious the full crawl is detailed in the August edition of What's Doing.

Humphrey Higgins

T'LADS OF TRAFFORD & HULME 1979-80

Following last month's AGM the new committee is:

Chairman: Dave Shelton, 27 Langdale Court, Smedley Lane, Cheetham, M/cr 8
Tel 224 7341 ex 50 (work)

Treasurer: Dave Ward, 2 Thelwall Close, Timperley, Cheshire 928 9826 (home)

Secretary: Mick Rottenbury, 50 Poplar Grove, Sale, Cheshire 969 7013 (home)

Committee Members: Mike Goode (Social Sec) 123 Abbey Road, Astley,

Tyldesley, M/cr 789 7300 ex155 (work) 2891 345 (home)

Alan Hurdle, 213 Manor Ave, Sale, Cheshire 973 2103 (home)

Alan Jarrett, 14 Berkeley Ave, Stretford M32 9TJ 872 5919 ex204 (work)

Malcolm Williamson, 13A Chilcote Ave, Sale, Cheshire 962 1724 (home)
775 3993 (work)

Any queries, advice, offers of help or friendly ladies, please contact one of the above.



Branch Diary

BOLTON

Friday 16th Nov. Pub Crawl: 7.30 Gipsys Tent, 8.00 Howcroft, 9.00 Globe

Tues 20th Nov. Branch Meeting: Rawsons Arms, Peel Street, Farnworth. 8.45pm

Tues 4th Dec. Social: Bowling Green, Horwich. 8.30pm

Thurs 13th Dec. Branch Meeting: Sweet Green Tavern, Crook Street 8.45pm

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Thurs Nov 8th: Branch Meeting 8.00pm Gateway, Wilmslow Rd, E Didsbury

Tues Nov 13th: Social at the Star, High Street, Cheadle 8.00pm (Hydes)

Thurs Dec 13th: Branch Meeting - Christmas Social at the Gateway 8.00pm
Folk singing and Supper

Contact: Humphrey Higgins 423 0059

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM AND BURY

Tues 13th Nov: Branch Meeting, Waterloo (Thwaites) Manchester Rd, Bury
Tues 20th Nov: Committee, Brunswick (Wilsons), Moorgate, Bury
Friday 16th Nov: Pub Crawl with W Lanes branch. Smut (Boddingtons) Manchester Rd, Hollinwood 7.30-8.00pm. for crawl of Hollinwood
Tues 4th Dec: Committee, Rose of Lancaster (OB), Manchester Street, Oldham
Tues 18th Dec: Branch Meeting, White Swan (Robinsons) Huddersfield Road, Oldham. Speaker Joe Goodwin, Chairman of Camra
Contact Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h) 061 236 4411 ex7236 (w)

TRAFFORD & HULME

Branch Meeting: Thurs Nov 15th 8.00pm Old Plough, Green Lane, Ashton-on-Mersey. Guest speakers from Tetleys
Day Out: Sat Nov 17th. Meet 12noon Volunteer, London Rd, Northwich or 7.30 Legh Arms, Chelford Rd, Knutsford
Social: Thurs Nov 22nd 8.00pm. The Urmston Hotel, Urmston
Social: Thurs Nov 29th 8.00pm Darts Match vs Talbot, Stretford Rd, Hulme
Committee/Social: Thurs Dec 6th 8.00pm Eagle, Collier Street, Salford
Darts & Doms Social: Sun Dec 16th 12noon. Victoria Tavern, Stamford St, Altrincham (with S M/c branch)
Branch Meeting: Thurs Dec 20th 8.00pm Railway, Ashley Rd, Hale
Contact: Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 (home)

SOUTH LANCs

Weds 7th Nov: Branch Meeting. Bryn Hall Hotel, Bamfurlong
Weds 21 Nov: Committee/Social. Silverwell, Wigan
Weds 5th Dec. Branch Meeting. Royal Alfred, St Helens
Weds 20th Dec: Committee/Social. Whitesmiths, Wigan
Contact: Ian Ogden Wigan 79534

NORTH MANCHESTER

Weds 7 Nov: March of the Marches - Deansgate Crawl with forays into Trafford & Hulme and South Manchester branch areas. 7.00pm Lord Clyde; 8.00pm Crown
Weds 14th Nov 8.00pm: Committee/Social, Broadway, Salford
Weds 21 Nov 8.00pm: White Swan, Swinton
Weds 5th Dec: Blackley Crawl: 7.00pm Lion & Lamb, 8.00pm New White Lion
Weds 12 Dec 8.00pm: Committee/Social Lion, Cadishead
Weds 19th Dec 8.00pm: Christmas Social - White Swan, Swinton. Guest Joe Goodwin, Camra Chairman. Buffet
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.

COPY DATE for the December edition is Thursday 22nd November

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.....

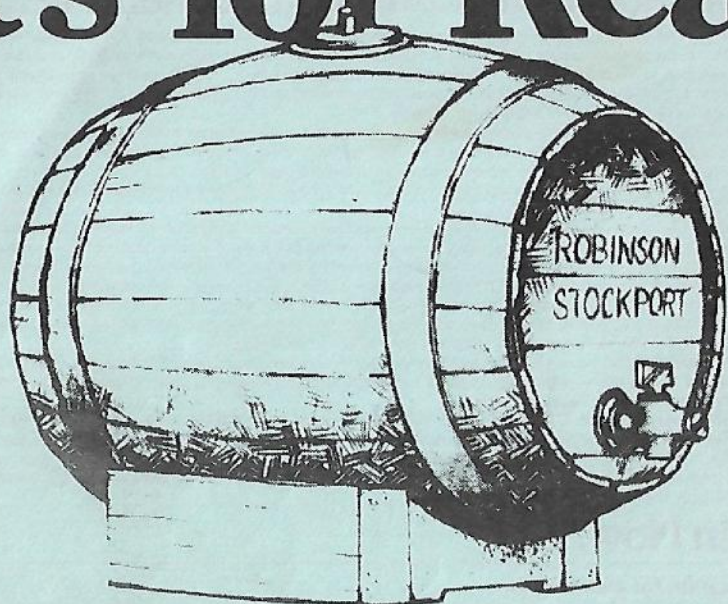
NAME (Block capitals)

BANK A/C NO. AND ADDRESS

*delete as appropriate



It's for Real



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

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

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

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

Always available from Unicorn Wine.

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



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

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

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

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

*Bitter Ale not available in Pins.

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