

WHAT'S DOING

The Newsletter of the North Manchester Branch of CAMRA



NO. 5 MARCH 1976

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 5 MARCH 1976

God and the licensing authorities willing, the first of you should be reading this month's extended issue of 'What's Doing' on the eve of the branch Annual General Meeting, which is to be held at the Lord Nelson, Ringley, on Wednesday, 17 March. It was decided that two areas which weren't adequately covered by committee posts last year were social activities and recruiting and publicity work, so these offices have been created for this year's election. Come along and exercise your right to vote!

This appeal for activity is one which applies not only to the A.G.M. but to all events. Copies of 'What's Doing' are being sent to all listed members this month in an unashamed attempt to persuade more of you to become more positively involved. As the campaign in North Manchester progresses, its effectiveness depends more and more on the support of a large number of members and there is a wide variety of activities in which you could help. This month, for instance, we shall be thinking about selling the Greater Manchester Beer Guide, which, despite some delays, is now in the proof stage, and should be printed soon. Then we've been asked to

amass some information about Whitbread pubs in our area to support a regional campaign, ideas for social activities and contributions for the newsletter are always welcome, and last but not least there are branch meetings once a month! This may give you an idea of some of the things you could do: what it won't tell you is that there are intangible rewards for the hard work too, among them the friendship of like-minded people and the conviction that the glow acquired in the pub afterwards is that of rewarded virtue and not merely alcohol. If you can spare the time to contribute in some active way, then, please contact the secretary, who will welcome you warmly!

Apart from meetings about the Greater Manchester Beer Guide and a possible campaign, this month's events have included a successful social evening at the Great Stone Hotel, Chester Road, which lived up to its name when several people got stoned at the Sam Smiths evening arranged by South Manchester branch on February 20th. The evening was well supported, and although the quality of the beer declined later on it was

excellent earlier in the evening and particularly appreciated by those members weaned on the other side of the Pennines as a nostalgic reminder of times past.

One regrettable item I have to report is the cancellation of the intended beer exhibition at the Adelphi. As some readers will already know, this was arranged at the request of Salford University Students' Union, who sent us a letter a few days before the exhibition was due to be held saying that they had cancelled the social event which was to be the *raison d'être*. Members who had spent considerable time and trouble organising helpers, surveying the premises and contacting breweries were understandably annoyed, but were perhaps more upset at having to cancel orders from the brewers who had been uniformly co-operative and courteous. We have very much regretted having to inconvenience them in this way and this has been pointed out to the Students' Union representatives.

On a more cheerful note, we look forward to a new year of CAMRA with high hopes that some of the successes already achieved will be

repeated, and particularly with anticipation that cask conditioned Sam Smiths may soon be available. I promise to stand a pint to all contributors to this bumper newsletter in expression of my gratitude!

Jem Callaghan
Editor

SWINGING ECCLES

Scottish and Newcastle's first pub in Eccles will be opening in May. The pub is a converted discotheque on Liverpool Road, and will be blessed with the name 'The Swinging Sporran'.

ANNUAL REPORT

from the SECRETARY

The meeting on Wednesday March 17th marks the first anniversary of the existence of the North Manchester Branch. Prior to that date the North Manchester Branch covered a much larger area and most of the members who attended the meetings came from the Bury and Rochdale areas. Feeling that they could no longer keep the pace set by the North Mancunians, they set up their own branch. The now smaller area meant that the branch could concentrate on its task more efficiently - keeping an eye on all the pubs in our area, ensuring no real ale ones convert to pressure and attempting to convert the sinners.

One immediate new policy of the branch was to rotate the meetings to try and gather a larger congregation by visiting various areas, i.e. Swinton, Salford and Irlam as well as the Nelson. This proved quite successful in the case of the Boat House in Irlam, and we caused quite an upsurge of local interest

over the redevelopment of the pub. We were pleased to have Maurice Fitzgerald, Company Secretary of Boddingtons to speak concerning the brewery's future policies in general and it's policy over the Boat House.

At the meeting in the White Swan in Swinton, Messrs Michael Modres, Marketing Manager, and Pater Coles, Chief Brewer of John Willie Lees came along to give a very interesting talk on the history of brewing.

Another talk was given by our very own Peter Cash on the techniques of home brewing and how to dispose of it. A surprise guest here was a visitor from Holts.

Two summer 'excursions' were arranged - both to the same intended destination. The first attempted trip to Masham was somewhat shortened due to Lancashire United Transport, but did give rise to the now infamous 'LUT Blues' (contact Messrs Cash, Collier or Birch for full rendering) and also we enrolled the

driver to CAMRA.

We were very fortunate to break down near a Service Station and even more fortunate to be close to Cleckheaton with a fair selection of licensed premises. After a relief coach eventually arrived we went on to discover a remote Camerons pub in Heckmondwyke that even the local branch had difficulty in locating. The more ambitious of our members went on to sample the delights of Oldham at 1700 and finished the day off with a pub crawl round Manchester (Don't believe the Editors rumours about Watneys Red!!)

The second trip was more successful in the sense that we actually managed to reach Masham and sample the delights of Theakstons. However we made quite a loss on this trip as many participants of the first trip did not feel like making a second attempt and our numbers were down by about 15. Most of our members felt that this trip was an outstanding success as far as actual enjoyment was concerned and it is a pity that this enthusiasm was not shared by certain obnoxious members of Rochdale, Oldham and Bury. We were very lucky to time our visit (accidentally) to coincide with the annual Traction Engine Rally at Masham, with Theakstons on all afternoon. Pity

that most of the party were too inebriated to notice that they were drinking tank (full points to Roger Hall for spotting this - better luck with the gate-crashing next time!) After leaving Masham almost intact, some 3 hours late, we decided to stop en route several times on the return journey to the cheers of the North Manchester members and the groans of R.O.B.

It is hoped to re-arrange the postponed trip to Ulverston this summer and maybe a repeat of the Masham Traction Engine Rally visit.

As far as Sunday lunch-time socials and Friday night pub crawls are concerned there was a very disappointing turnout on all occasions and for that reason alone these have had to be discontinued. Particularly disappointing was the visit to the White Gates Inn at Hyde when well over a dozen had agreed to go, and only two people actually materialized.

One well attended social was the CAMRA Folk Night in the Boat House, Irlam in December. Messrs Pete Cash, Ken Birch and Bill Collier kindly donated their talents without charge. This also attracted many non-CAMRA members and aided recruitment.

The actual branch committee made its presence felt on

several national occasions including the AGM at Nottingham, the Dewsbury Ale Exhibition (Resulting in R H being barred from British Rail and Yorkshire), the Lancaster Regional Conference (Boycotting the afternoon session in disgust) and the South Manchester Sam Smiths evening.

It was hoped to end the year with an ale exhibition in Salford in conjunction with Salford University Students' Union, but the students had to cancel that at the last moment 'due to the flu epidemic'.

So much for the social side, now to the serious business that CAMRA should be concerned with. In this area we are very fortunate to have more real ale pubs than most other branches, which is one reason for the apathy in this area as far as CAMRA is concerned.

I am afraid that I cannot report any particularly great successes as may have occurred in the southern branches. However we have certainly put across our views to the brewers and I am sure Mr Fitzgerald will long remember his meeting with us. Whitbread still refuse to co-operate but as will be seen from our understudy - What's Brewing - a new national campaign against Whitbread

is to be launched.

Wilsons are still supposedly supporting our objectives but at the same time converting other pubs to tank beer. Thwaites seem to be advertising real ale more by their 'Northern Comfort' posters, beer mats and also by the 'Cask Matured Beers' plates outside pubs.

The branch has co-operated with other branches of Greater Manchester in Publishing the area Good Beer Guide which should be on the market shortly.

As far as the future goes it is imperative that we have details of all pubs in the area, and that all changes in dispense systems are noted. This is a great help for compiling the local and national Good Beer Guides, as it is impractical to survey the area fully in a couple of months.

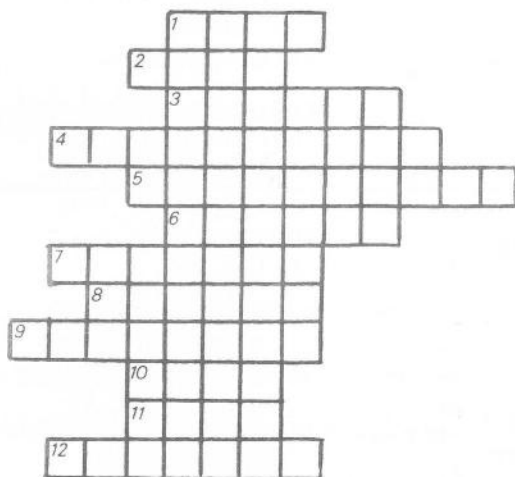
Finally could I make a special appeal to the people who are receiving this newsletter by post, and who do not normally go to branch meetings. If real ale in our area is to survive, we must constantly lobby the breweries and landlords. We need much more active support to do this efficiently. I realize that many people believe that CAMRA is becoming too

bureaucratic and boring, but this is certainly not true of the North Manchester meetings - in fact at times they can be too lively for some people.

The next meeting will be

in the Unicorn, Church Street, Manchester, at 2000 hours on Wednesday April 21st and the May meeting is on May 19th in the Lord Nelson, Ringley.

Paul Roberts



'WHAT'S DOING' CRYPTIC COMPETITION

All the answers have a common theme which is connected with the Campaign and they conceal a message which is also relevant! Competitors must complete the diagram above and write out the hidden message.

1. Fish deep for this ale!
2. Landlord starting to get in very warm beer.
3. _____ and fresh eggs complement this beer.
4. In a drunken state, outdo brown ale.
5. How many B's in "barrel"? Two extra!
6. Water in lager, stout, offends nobody at first.
7. Th'attendant serving beer without end.
8. In bottle, yet when shaken this beer becomes clear!
9. _____ Christmas Cards are a common sight.
10. The end of cask beer!
11. The ale to seek?
12. This beer ran most peculiarly.

Solution in next issue of What's Doing

CAMPAIGN AGAINST WHITBREAD

There was a meeting of delegates from most of the Pennine Region branches at the White Gates, Hyde, on Thursday 4 March to discuss proposals for campaigning against Whitbread. Unfortunately, Barrie Pepper, the Regional Organiser, was in hospital for a minor operation but he sent along a representative briefed from the sick bed, and the meeting was chaired by Dave Easton, the Area Organiser.

The March issue of 'What's Brewing' carries a report that local Whitbread breweries are likely to be closed and it was suggested that we should mount a campaign to prevent this. Although these breweries produce only bright beer at present, it might be possible to persuade Whitbread that there is a market for their real ale in the area, and to get them to siphon off limited quantities before processing. This is not possible with a brewery designed to produce only keg, such as the one at Samlesbury, and thus the closure of the Salford, Liverpool and Blackburn works would mean that there would be no chance of

any reversion to real ale in the future. It seems a pity to let the moment pass without protest if the rumours are true, especially when there might be a chance that local unions would support a campaign.

As a preliminary measure local branches are asked to make enquiries from a representative selection of their local Whitbread licensees to find out whether they would be willing to sell real ale. Dave Easton appealed to some of the more aggressive branch members present not to antagonise landlords, since it is hoped to arrange a meeting between CAMRA members and Whitbread, and this will obviously be more successful if we can convince them that there is a substantial demand for their product - a task which will be much easier if they are not hostile!

Information from branches on the proportion of Whitbread pubs to real ale pubs within their areas would help to isolate potential selling points for Whitbread, and

hence potential campaigning points. Individual members should send information to the branch secretary, who will collate it and forward it to Barrie Pepper.

The White Gates itself is proof that all is not yet

lost. Not only has trade improved for the Whitbread pub opposite as a result of White Gates 'overspill', but two directors from Whitbread were seen drinking real beer in the CAMRA pub itself. With your help they may still be moved!



REAL ALE in SALFORD

Although there is only one brew-ery left in Salford (Whitbreads which does not brew real ale) there is still a considerable variety of real ale available within the city. Salford has certainly lost a lot of pubs due to demolition and, because of brewery mergers, a lot of once familiar names have disappeared. Chesters, Cornbrook, Groves and Whitnall, Hammonds, Hardys, Threlfalls, Swales, Walkers, Openshaw, and Walker and Holmfray have all gone. However, Salford has still a wide choice of beer in its many pubs despite the march of 'progress'.

Boddingtons.

All Boddingtons beer is brewed naturally, conditioned in the cask and served without pressure in all its tied houses. The following pubs are recommended for the consistent quality of the beer:

Black Friar	King Street (off Blackfriars Road)
Braziers Arms	Hodson Street (off Blackfriars Road)
Duke of York	Duke Street, Lower Broughton
Old Ship Hotel	Chapel Street (by Victoria bus stn.)
Priory Arms	Gardner Street (nr. Pendleton Ch.)

Red Cow

Albion Street (nr. Although Windsor roundabout a lot of pubs and built new

The Derby

The Paddock

Holts.

Holts beer is also real ale.

The quality of the beer varies from pub to pub but is excellent when well kept. The following pubs can be recommended:

The Wellington	Bolton Road Irlams o'th' Height
Eagle Inn	Collier Street (off Greengate)
Union Tavern	Liverpool St. (near Gas Works)
The Bricklayers	Ordsall Lane

Greenall Whitley.

Many of the smaller pubs still sell real ale although there has been a trend towards pressurisation in the larger houses. The following pubs are worth a visit:

Palatine	Edward Street (near Sussex St.)
Old Veteran	Eccles New Road
Borough Inn	Regent Road
Pickwick	Oldfield Road
Unicorn	Broughton Road
Church Inn	Ford Street (off Chapel Street)

Wilsons.

Although Watneys have converted

pubs which sell only pressurised and keg beers, many of the tied houses still serve excellent real ale.

The Derby	Derby Street (off Regent Road)
The Chequer-board	Derby Street (nr. The Derby)
The Original	Lower Broughton Road
The Osborne	Eccles New Road
The Grove	Eccles New Road
The Railway	Oldfield Road
The Trafford	Trafford Road
The Corporation	Cross Lane
The Old Shears	Greengate

Tetleys.

Again the trend is towards tank and pressurised beer but many Salford pubs still sell real ale.

The Flying Horse	Greengate
Peeping Tom	Regent Road
Albion	Ordsall Lane
Prince of Wales	Oldfield Road
Hyde Park Corner	Adelphi Street

Marstons.

Most of Marstons' pubs in the North West serve real ale. The following Salford pubs are worth a visit:

King William IV	Springfield Ln. (off Greengate)
Albert Park Inn	Duke Street, Broughton
Spinners Arms	Oldfield Road

Brown Bull	Chapel Street (nr. Salford stn)
------------	---------------------------------

Robinsons.

All Robinsons Salford pubs sell naturally conditioned beer without pressure.

The Three Legs of Man	Greengate
The Star	Back Hope St., Higher Broughton
The White Horse	Gilda Brook Rd. (Eccles border)

Lees.

'John Willie' Lees have only one pub in Salford, The Welcome on Ordsall Lane which still serves its beer through hand pumps.

Bass Charrington.

Although much of Bass Charringtons beer is conditioned in the cask in the traditional way, it is frequently spoilt by the application of 'top pressure'. Only one pub in the city still serves Bass Charrington beer through handpumps - The Albert Inn on Regent Road.

Sam Smiths.

None of the Salford pubs serve real ale but it is possible that this policy may change in the future.

Whitbread.

Real ale has not been available since the death of Chesters Mild. There is no indication of

any change of policy as yet.

Burtonwood, Higsons, Hydes, and Thwaites, who all brew and serve real ale, have no tied outlets in Salford.

Roger Hall.



The Paddock, Cross Lane Salford.

N.R.

JOSEPH HOLT

*Here it is for all you Holts fans,
a complete list of their pubs.*

Black Dog	Church Street, Belmont, Bolton
Blue Bell	Manchester Road, Blackford Bridge, Bury
Bradford Road Inn	112 Bradford Road, Manchester M10 7AS
Broadway Inn	33/5 Broadway, Salford M5 2UW
Cart & Horses	221 Manchester Road, Astley, M29 7FD
Cheetwood Hotel	Derby Street, Cheetham M8 8HF
Church Inn	101 Droylsden Rd., Newton Heath, M10 6HL
Church Inn	266 Bury New Road, Whitefield, M25 6OQ
Claremont Hotel	Claremont Road, Moss Side, M14 4RR
Coach & Horses	71 Bury Old Road, Whitefield, M25 5TB
Cricketers Arms	227 Manchester Road, Swinton, M27 1TT
Crown & Volunteer	171 Church Street, Eccles, M30 0LU
Duke of York	96 Marlborough Road, Hightown, M8 7DX
Eagle & Child	Higher Lane, Whitefield, M25 7EY
Eagle Inn	19 Collier Street, Greengate, Salford
Ellesmere Inn	26 King William St., Winton, M30 8HZ
Friendship Inn	Scholes Lane, Prestwich, M25 5ED
Fox Inn	Old Market Street, Blackley, M9
Goats Gate	Radcliffe New Rd., Whitefield, M25 7QZ
Grafton Arms	27 Grafton Street, Manchester M13 9WY
Grove Inn	652 Ashton New Road, Clayton, M11 4SQ
Griffin Hotel	552 Didsbury Rd., Heaton Mersey, Ches.
Halfway House	434 Manchester Road, Droylsden, M35
Hare & Hounds	Outwood Road, Radcliffe
Junction Hotel	47 Station Road, Cheadle Hulme, Ches.
Lamb Hotel	33 Regent Street, Eccles, M30 0BP
Legh Arms	178 Northenden Rd., Sale Moor, M33 2SR
Lord Nelson	49 Stretford Road, Urmston, M31 1LG
Morning Star	520 Manchester Road, Swinton, M27 3QW
Mort Arms	235/7 Elliott Street, Tyldesley, M29
Newgrove Inn	183 Bury New Road, Whitefield, M26 6AB
New Market Inn	620 Bolton Road, Pendlebury, M27 2EH
Old Cross Inn	Eton Hill Road, Radcliffe, M26
Old House at Home	254 Whit Lane, Pendleton, M6 6HZ
Ostrich Hotel	163 Bury Old Road, Prestwich, M25 5JF
Papermakers Arms	Church Street, Radcliffe, M26 9PG
Park Inn	137 Worsley Road, Swinton, M27 1SP
Red Lion	368 Bury New Road, Prestwich, M25 5AR

Royal Oak Hotel	Barton Lane, Eccles, M30 0EJ
Roebuck Hotel	2 Chassen Road, Flixton, M31 3DH
Seven Stars	163 Ashton Old Road, Manchester M11 3WU
Stanley Arms	295 Liverpool Rd., Patricroft, M30 0QN
Union Tavern	105 Liverpool Street, Salford M5 4LG
Welcome Inn	61 Bury Old Road, Whitefield, M25 5TB
White Horse Inn	466 Bury New Road, Prestwich, M25 5AX
White Lion	133 Liverpool Road, Patricroft, M30 0ND
Woodthorpe Hotel	Bury Old Road, Prestwich, M25 8EG
White Swan	186 Worsley Road, Swinton, M27 1SN
Apollo Inn	Heywood Street, Cheetham, Manchester
The Winston	Churchill Way, Salford 6
Bay Horse	Parr Lane, Unsworth, Bury
Bird in Hand	304 Liverpool Rd., Patricroft, M30 0RZ
Blue Bell	Moston Lane, Moston, Manchester M10
Bricklayers Arms	146 Ordsall Lane, Salford, M5 3TP
Bridgewater Hotel	197 Manchester Road, Hollinwood
Bridgewater Hotel	264 Liverpool Rd., Patricroft, M30 0RZ
Bulls Head	74 Church Street, Eccles, M30 0DA
Cleveland Hotel	Crumpsall Lane, Manchester, M8 6SR.
Crumpsall Hotel	34 Bury Old Road, Cheetham Hill M8 8EW
Duke of Wellington	Weardale Rd., Higher Blackley, M9 3WR
Egerton Inn	19 Hanlon Street, Cheetham Hill, M8 6BY
Foresters Arms	444 Bury New Road, Prestwich, M25 5AZ
Frigate Hotel	Thatch Leach Lane, Whitefield, M25 6FW
Garratt Hotel	Pink Bank Lane, Longsight, M12 5RF
Golden Cross	221 Liverpool Road, Patricroft M30 0OY
Golden Lion	Old Market Street, Blackley, Manchester
Grapes Hotel	439 Liverpool Road, Peel Green, M30 7HD
Griffin Hotel	124 Wilmslow Road, Cheadle, Cheshire
Kings Arms	537 Manchester Road, Hollinwood
Lord Nelson	653 Bolton Road, Pendlebury, M27 2EJ
Melville Hotel	34 Barton Road, Stretford, M32
Park Hotel	Monton Road, Monton, M30 9QD
Railway Hotel	2 Manshaw Rd., Higher Openshaw, M11 1HS
Railway Hotel	82 Deane Lane, Newton Heath, M10 0AE
Red Lion Hotel	279 Bolton Road, Salford M6 7GU
Spread Eagle	162 Regent Road, Salford, M5 3QZ
Waggon & Horses	738 Hyde Road, Gorton, M18 7EF
Waggon & Horses	367 Bolton Road, Irlam o'th'Height
Wilton Hotel	Coronation Road, Radcliffe
Wellington Hotel	146 Church Street, Eccles, M30 0LS
Wellington Inn	345 Bolton Road, Irlam o'th'Height
White Lion	2 Market St., Westhoughton, Lancs.

NORTH MANCHESTER PUB CRAWLS

BLACKLEY-MANCHESTER

The pubs of Blackley are clustered around the two villages of Blackley and Higher Blackley and a pub crawl taking in all the pubs is hard on the feet.



The Duke of Wellington is a Holts' pub hidden away on Weardale Road just off Victoria Avenue. The pub has been modernised but still retains the figured glass and polished wood round the bar which lend character to many turn of the century Holts pubs. The hand pumped beer is the best of the three Holts pubs in Blackley. On Crab Lane in the centre of the village which has recently been threatened with demolition by Manchester Corporation is the Flying Horse, a basic two roomed Boddingtons pub with an active vault and consistently good electric pumped beer.

The Pleasant, an outpost of Robinsons in this part of the world is also basic. The exterior of the pub is anything but pleasant but the excellence of the beer and the warmth of the coal fire almost merit the name as an internal description.

Avoiding the Pikefold,

- 1 Duke of Wellington
- 2 Flying Horse
- 3 Pleasant
- 4 Britannia
- 5 Grove
- 6 Alliance
- 7 Millstone
- 8 Old House at Home

a Bass-Charrington emporium not to say pub on the corner of Plant Hill Road, the thirsty traveller can make his way down Chapel Lane to a rare delight - hand drawn Bass-Charrington beers in the Britannia, which seems to have just survived the demolition around it. The Brit is probably the liveliest of the traditional locals in the area.

DETOUR FOR THE DEDICATED STARTS HERE:-

On the way to the Grove, the true Holts fanatic may stop off at the Fox and the Golden Lion on Old Market Street. The Grove itself is on Rochdale Road next to the old Blackley tram office and is a regulars pub selling Wilsons beer through hand pumps. A half mile walk up Rochdale Road towards Manchester takes you to the Alliance, a busy Boddingtons pub with a unique and unusual layout. Retrace your steps past the Golden Lion

and the Fox and rejoin those who didn't make the detour.

DETOUR ENDS HERE

The Millstone on Blackley New Road is a most unusual pub. The atmosphere is so homely that the visitor thinks he's intruding. The hand drawn beer is nevertheless of good quality.

Those who have made the detour may find it difficult to navigate to the Old House at Home which is in the middle of I.C.I.'s factory in a most unusual position. The hand pumped beer is undoubtedly one of the best pints of Wilsons available in Manchester.

Blackley offers a good choice of different beers in a variety of pubs all of which are worth visiting.



BEER IN BOOKS

English literature has not, on the whole, been very kind to the beer drinker - in fact we ought perhaps to be a bit careful about claiming to uphold the traditions of our forefathers, since all the best people seem to have drunk wine. Even Falstaff, one of the few characters who speak in praise of drink in any form, chooses not beer, but sherris sack, to admire. Its effects however may be familiar to some readers:

'it ascends me into the brain, dries me there all the foolish, dull and crudy vapours ...the tongue...becomes excellent wit...it illumineth the face, which as a beacon gives warning to all the rest of this little kingdom, man, to arm...(to do) any deed of courage.'

Beer drinkers, however, seem to have been low-born, and often stupid, sinful or ugly to boot.

In medieval times, tippling to excess was looked on as part of the deadly sin of gluttony and was accordingly shown in its less savoury aspects. The picture of Gluttony in a medieval poem called 'Piers Plowman' runs as follows. He's lured into the pub on his way to church, with Great Oaths for company, and drinks a gal-

lon of ale:

'Then before you could say the Our Father he had pissed a couple of quarts and blown such a blast on the round horn of his rump that all who heard it had to hold their noses and wished to God he would plug it with a bunch of gorse.'

If that makes you shift uncomfortably in your seat, remember that most beer drinkers had severe physical defects too, like Chaucer's cook, who knew well 'a draughte of London ale' but also had a running sore on his shin.

The tradition persists well into the sixteenth century - Gluttony in Marlowe's 'Dr. Faustus' has Margery March-beer for his mother, and when Shakespeare's Puck turns himself into a crab apple and deliberately spills ale, it's on to the 'withered dewlap' of the old crone who's drinking it. Better get those neck muscles working! While you're at it, better keep an eye on other muscles too. According to the Porter in 'Macbeth', drink not only provokes urine, but also 'provokes and unprovokes' Lechery - 'it provokes the desire but it takes away the performance.'

At least the seventeenth century gallants weren't disapp-

roving of drink, though. John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, even admitted that

'Cupid and Bacchus my saints
are
May drink and love still reign
With wine I wash away my cares
And then to love again.'

It sounds a wonderful life, but then he was a nobleman so he's talking about wine again. Maybe on this occasion we should be grateful, since he later refers to the time when

'my days of impotence approach
And I'm by love and wine's un-
lucky chance
Driv'n from the pleasing bill-
ows of debauch
On the dull shore of lazy tem-
perance.'

By the time Crabbe was writing in 1812, drunkards were even less popular. His Peter Grimes isn't even ridiculed, but made a real villain and there's no sympathy for him. When his old and ill-treated father dies,

'On an inn-settle in his maud-
lin grief,
This he revolved and drank for
his relief

(He was)...debarred
From constant pleasure and he
thought it hard,
Hard that he could not every
wish obey,
But must awhile relinquish ale
and play.'

He goes on to murder no less than three apprentices, one in a fit of drunken rage, and eventually dies in a madhouse,

tormented by horrific visions.

Thomas Hardy's a bit more tolerant - the beer drinkers in 'Far from the Madding Crowd' are still rustics and still made fun of, but they're generally kindly folk and not ashamed of their boozing. Jan Coggan, for instance, says that since he got free beer in the farmer's kitchen when courting his dairymaid,

'I used to eat a lot of salt fish afore going, and then by the time I got there I were... so thorough dry that that ale would slip down... Such lovely drunks as I used to have at that house!'

They do call the ash-covered mug from which they drink their cider a 'God-forgive-me', though and Hardy suggests that it's because its size makes those who drain it ashamed of themselves when they see the bottom.

Even in the twentieth century beer is not always respectable.

Mr. and Mrs. Cherry Owen in 'Under Milk Wood' live in one room surrounded by the remains of yesterday's food. His behaviour is very similar to Gluttony's and he's made to look rather silly by his wife:

'Remember last night? In you reeled, my boy, as drunk as a deacon with a big wet bucket and a fish-frail full of stout and you looked at me and you said, "God has come home!" you said, and then over the bucket

you went, sprawling and bawling, and the floor was all flagons and eels...And then you took off your trousers and you said, "Does anybody want a fight!" Oh, you old baboon!" However, he saves himself from complete ignominy by being entirely unrepentant and merely replies, 'Give me a kiss,' then they both laugh about his behaviour together.

Maybe we had to wait for cricket to make beer truly middle class. Many of you will remember from schooldays the story of the cricket match played against the background of the Three Horseshoes in 'England their England' by A.G. Macdonell, and with it Mr. Harcourt. He arrives at five past eleven and persuades the rest of the team who are waiting for the captain (due at ten-fifteen) to adjourn to the pub. They eventually turn up for an eleven-thirty match at two-thirty, and Mr. Harcourt spends most of the afternoon in the Three Horseshoes before taking his turn as umpire with a large and enthusiastic bowler coming in from the Pavilion end 'Mr. Harcourt swaying slightly ...had marked the preparation for a Titanic effort...Sober, he occasionally resisted a temptation to be funny. Rather drunk, never. As the giant whirlwind of volcanic energy rushed past him...Mr. Harcourt, quivering with excitement and

internal laughter and wobbling uncertainly on his pins took a deep breath and bellowed "No ball!"'

All hell is let loose, not least because the bowler lets go of the ball and hits third slip on the kneecap.

'Mr. Harcourt gazed at the heavens. Mr. Harcourt did not think the world had ever been, or could ever be again, quite such a capital place.'

At last the beer drinker has come into his own; indulging in a respectable pastime and helped by his internal refreshment to take complete control over the situation, much to his own amusement. Sufficiently merry to have all the advantages of Falstaff's sack, he's not so drunk that he makes a fool of himself, and at last he's risen above the level of a serf. Chaucer and Shakespeare can keep their wine - the modern trend in heroes is obviously towards beer drinkers!



TETLEY-WALKER

The Following is a complete
list of tenanted pubs selling
Walkers' Bitter.

WIGAN

- Bricklayers Arms, Hallgate
- ✓Commercial, New Springs
- Tippings Arms, Worsley Mesnes
- ✓Victoria Inn, Haigh
- Prince of Wales, Woodhouse La.
- ✓Platt Bridge Inn, Platt Bridge
- ✓Bulls Head Hotel, Goose Green
- ✓Foundry, Warrington Lane
- ✓Park, Hope Street
- ✓Raven Hotel, Wallgate
- ✓Silverwell Hotel, Darlington St. East
- ✓Brookhouse Inn, Kitt Green
- ✓Cumberland Arms, Hindley
- ✓Derby Arms, Hindley
- ✓New Inn, Lower Ince
- ✓Queens Head, Aspull
- ✓Navigation, Gathurst
- ✓Bamfurlong Hotel, Bamfurlong
- ✓Hare and Hounds, Billinge

LEIGH

- ✓Boundary, Manchester Road
- ✓Eagle and Hawk, Chapel St.
- ✓Ring O'Bells, Tickle St.
- ✓Spring View Inn, Plank Lane
- ✓Spinners Arms, Firs Lane
- ✓Bowling Green, Wigan Road
- ✓Nevison Inn, Plank Lane
- ✓Railway Hotel, Twist Lane
- Woolpack Inn, King Street

SKELMERSDALE

- Horse Shoe, Liverpool Rd.
- ✓Victoria Hotel, Sandy Lane

LIVERPOOL

- Bull, Dublin Street
- ✓Eagle Vaults, Blackstock St.
- Barlow Arms, Barlow St
- ✓Bishop, Beaufort Street
- ✓Horse Shoe, Duncan Street
- Shropshire Arms, Smithdown Rd
- Waterloo, Empire Street
- Wellington, Erskine Street
- ✓Woods House, Hill Street
- ✓Lorne, Brownlow Hill
- ✓Shakespeare, Williamson Sq.

ORMSKIRK

- ✓Buck I'th'Vine, Burscough St.
- ✓Farmers Arms, Burscough
- ✓Heatons Bridge Inn, Scarisbrick
- ✓Ship Inn, Haskayne

BARTON

- Blue Bell, Southport Road

BOLTON

- Ainsworth Arms, Halliwell Rd.
- ✓Bobs Smithy, Chorley Old Rd.
- Portland Hotel, Portland St.
- ✓Duke of Wellington, Lowock
- ✓Three Crowns, Westoughton

- ✓ Cross Guns, Westthoughton
- ✓ Clifton Arms, Newport Street
- ✓ Gipsy's Tent, Deansgate
- ✓ Howcroft Inn, Pool Street
- ✓ Spread Eagle, Hulme Street

WRIGHTINGTON

- ✓ Rigbye Arms, High Moor

WARRINGTON

- ✓ Manx Arms, School Brow

ATHERTON

- ✓ Bay Horse, Bolton Old Rd.
- ✓ Albion Inn, Bag Lane
- ✓ Gardeners Arms, Howe Bridge
- ✓ Masons Arms, Wigan Road
- ✓ Mountain Dew, Market St.
- ✓ Royal, Wigan Road

WALKDEN

- ✓ King Williams Hotel, Boothstown

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Over the last few weeks Watneys have been replacing faded and battered pub signs. Not, as you might expect, with the sign of the Red Barrel, but with either the conventional Wilsons 'chequerboard' sign, or with a simpler black and white version of the same shape sometimes displaying only the name of the pub. The Corporation on Cross Lane, Salford, has one of the simple signs with no mention of the brewery;

the Falcon at the other end of Cross Lane has 'Falcon - Wilsons', as has the Black Boy in Eccles. The Old Shears near Victoria Bus Station is one of the few, as yet, with a new conventional sign.

But the most encouraging new sign of all is the giant illuminated 'Wilsons Brewery' over the brewery at Newton Heath. This replaces the awesome 'Watneys Red' which once featured on the Manchester skyline.

JOIN

CAMRA

about the brewers, despite their claims that they are satisfying public demand? How many times have you been forced to drink something you didn't like, because that's what the brewers reckon you ought to be drinking?

The six major brewing combines in Britain are, in the main, the ones to blame for this sad state of affairs. Between them, they produce nearly three-quarters of all our beer and own more than two-thirds of our pubs. Collectively, they have tried to do away with traditional draught beer and have been trying to replace it with filtered, pasteurised and pressurised products like keg beer.

It was clear some years ago that something needed to be done to give the beer drinker a say in what kind of ale would be made available to him. And that's where CAMRA — the Campaign for Real Ale — came in.

CAMRA is a democratic organisation run mainly on a voluntary basis, with a small paid staff. Its aims are to bring about an improvement in the choice and quality of real draught beer, and to fight

for an improvement in the character of Britain's pubs.

Since it was formed in 1971, CAMRA has fought against the odds, with no outside financial support, to preserve and promote real ale. With few resources to match the big brewers' millions of pounds, CAMRA has already persuaded dozens of pubs throughout the country to switch to the real thing instead of offering nothing but sterile beers which all taste boringly similar. In Kent alone, more than 30 pubs are now serving real draught beer again for the first time in years. At least one brewery has been persuaded against pressurising all its products, and others are now convinced that the future lies in giving their customers what they want — not what they're told to want.

Members of Parliament from both the major parties have joined CAMRA in its battle for legislation to give the beer drinker a fair deal. They have been calling for all beer — both draught and bottled — to be clearly labelled so that the customer will have an indication of the strength and content of what he's buying.

CAMRA keeps its members fully informed of news and developments in the brewing world through its own newspaper, *What's Brewing*, which is produced

entirely by CAMRA members and sent to every member each month. What's *Brewing* has proved many of the brewers' arguments to be false and has given the beer drinker vital facts which had previously been kept from him. CAMRA also produces an annual *Good Beer Guide*, the first publication ever to assess pubs purely on the merit of their beer. It is a valuable asset to the beer drinker who finds himself in a strange town, not knowing where to find a good pint.

Every CAMRA member can take an active part in running the Campaign. There are CAMRA branches throughout the country and all members are encouraged to attend and to lend a hand. Branches organise the Campaign at a local level and some of them hold beer exhibitions and trips to breweries.

Membership of CAMRA costs only £2 a year. If you want to join, fill in the form on the right and send it with a cheque or postal order, payable to CAMRA, to

The Membership Secretary,
Campaign for Real Ale,
34 Alma Road,
St Albans, Herts.
AL1 3BW



THE LAST PEOPLE to be given a say in decisions by the breweries are nearly always the drinkers. Have you, for instance, found the handpumps ripped out of a pub, only to be replaced by the flashing lights of pressurised pumps? How many times have you complained

I wish to become a member of CAMRA. I agree to abide by the ideals of the campaign and I enclose £2 (£3 for overseas Members) as my annual membership subscription. Any additional amount received will be welcomed as a donation.

NAME (block capitals)

ADDRESS (block capitals)

TELEPHONE NUMBER

SIGNATURE