

# WHAT'S DOING

MAR  
1980



THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

## PUB SWAPS



Wilsons to Burtonwood:  
Bulls Head, London Rd, M/cr  
Globe, Regent Road, Salford  
Houghton Arms, Failsworth

Burtonwood to Wilsons:  
Golden Lion, Hindley Green  
Enfield Inn, Enfield St, Wigan  
Black Horse, Church St, Standish

With the latest round of swaps with Burtonwood, Wilsons must certainly be top of the pub swap league. From Camra's point of view, it's unfortunate that all the pubs they give away in Manchester are of the cask beer variety. Why don't they give bright pubs away and therefore increase the proportion of real ale pubs? However, the brewery planners seem to have their heads screwed on the right way. In many cases they've gained pretty decent pubs in places like the Wirral, Northwich and Wigan where they're not strong on the ground. But perhaps their real gain is in Manchester where they've lost their pubs.

It seems that very often a pub swap is followed by switching a neighbouring pub to real ale, setting up real competition for their former pubs. In Ardwick the Union opened soon after the George and Dragon went to John Smiths, and the Tavernetta opposite the Ancoats

now sells handpumped beer. The latest moves are the conversion of the Falstaff only 100 yards from the Crown in Hulme and the rebuilding of the Half Moon on Holland Street, just down the road from the Navigation which now sells Greenalls.

One wonders how long it will be before the Hare and Hounds in Eccles sells real ale again and what plans Wilsons have to compete with the pubs which Burtonwood are to acquire.

Roger Hall

## SAM SMITHS RETURNS

The Brownhills Hotel on Heights Lane, Rochdale, is once again selling handpumped Old Brewery Bitter. As reported in the November edition of What's Doing, the Bird in Hand (Top Bird) at New Hey is now serving OBB under the supervision of Dan Scroop, who came to the Top Bird via the Whitegates at Hyde.

Steve Lawton

## GRAPES GRIPE

It would appear that the Greenall Whitley tank beer policy is about to manifest itself in one of Oldham's oldest pubs. The Grapes, St John Street, Lees, is undergoing alterations which are due to be completed in about three months. The building is DoE listed and the exterior will only be altered slightly because of this. Whatever happens to the internal structure, it seems certain that the cask mild and bitter will be replaced by the chilled and filtered variety.

Steve Lawton

## SAXON CROSS

The St Ann's Tavern, Manchester, is now selling Saxon Cross bitter. If the beer is more consistent than other cask beers have been, there is a possibility that the cellar bar may be tacked on to the "14 brew crawl".

## PEARL OF WISDOM

Sam Smiths signs have appeared on Sinclairs Oyster House. Is Old Brewery Bitter on the cards?

## RAIL ALE (5)

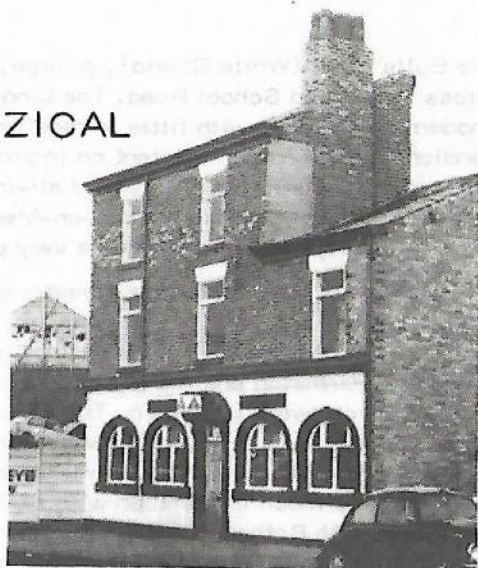
Wilson's has replaced J W Lees at Manchester Victoria Station Bar.

## NEW LANDLORD

The new landlord of the Wellington, Eccles, is Colin Smith, former cellarman at the Dutton. Until Colin took over, the Wellington was one of the less celebrated (to say the least!) Holts houses in Eccles. Now the beer is better, the pool table is out, the piano is back and the ladies' darts team has been re-formed. Worth a visit.

Tony Flynn

## BASS FAILS THE FIZZICAL



Following two articles in January's "What's Doing", "New Image for Bass" and "Bass take the Pressure Off", we thought it a good idea to investigate the 23 houses tied to Bass NW in the Trafford and Hulme branch area. Oh gloom and despondency! Twenty gas stations, one outlet with Best Mild and Cask Bitter, one with draught Bass and Best Mild and one with draught Bass alongside the omnipresent, omnifizzy, Stones. Here, then, is the final analysis.

The Altrincham area has six outlets and proved to be the best to survey. The Nag, just off the main Chester Road in Little Bollington, is a cosy country pub serving draught Bass and good lunches. The excellent bottled Worthington White Shield is also available, one of only four out of the 23 outlets to stock it. In Altrincham itself, the rise of the Victoria Tavern, Victoria Street, has been well documented in the past. I wonder if there is any possibility of Cask Bitter joining the Bass and Best Mild already available? Elsewhere, the Bridge Inn, Moss Lane, is about as well appointed as my allotment shed and I doubt if turnover would merit cask beer anyway; the Moss, further along the road and just past the football ground, is a fine pub with White Shield but no cask beer; the Downs, at the posh end of Altrincham centre, has been shut for months undergoing a major refit and will no doubt re-emerge with thick pile carpets, gold embossed deep red wallpaper, puce paintwork and a row of Stones, Hemeling and Toby Light dispensers giving one the feel of a close encounter of the third kind. I could be wrong, of course, and might be faced with a display of handpumps serving the full range of cask beers brewed by Bass for the North West. We shall see! Last of the six is the Navigation in Broadheath, a good pub with many facilities and another outlet for White Shield.

Sale was a good deal less successful, the only one of note being

the Bulls Head (White Shield), a large, thriving pub on the corner of Cross Street and School Road. The Lindow and Piper in Sale Moor are modern estate pubs with little to recommend them - though the new landlord in the Lindow is intent on improving that pub's image from its former reputation as a licensed all-in wrestling arena. At the other end of Sale, the Buck in Ashton-on-Mersey has been gradually ruined over the years, although it remains very popular with the locals.

Stretford is even more of a disaster area. The Old Cock is an excellent pub, but there are no plans for real ale; the next three, however, along with the Victoria Hotel in a semi-derelict new shopping precinct in Urmston and the graffiti-strewn Squire in Partington, earn the Supergrot award for March. The Bass Drum is reminiscent of the motorway services tower on the M6 on the way to the Lakes, El Patio is more like a licensed amusement arcade upstairs and the Moulin Rouge has as much in common with its French counterpart as my cellar has with Rothschild's. It was refreshing to visit the remaining Bass pub in Stretford, the Shrewsbury on Clifton Street. No real ale, but the landlord did find some vintage White Shield down the cellar which we drank 'on the house', apart from one bottle which is being kept for the next fearless Camra campaigner who ventures there. A good pub, though.

This brings us to Trafford Park and Hulme; the Trafford Park Hotel on Ashburton Road East is a magnificent building which has seen better days, but you can't expect a thriving pub when all the houses round about are being pulled down. Although it's well worth a visit, if only to admire the external structure, there is no real ale; nor is there in four of the five Bass pubs in Hulme. The Railway, behind the Pomona Palace, is a good local, though apparently without sufficient trade to make cask beer viable. The Turville, close by on the main Chester Road, could be described as a typical Bass Triangle; the Iron Duke, Hulme Walk, is magic if you like loud West Indian music and the Crown, Epping Walk, is one that escaped the planners' axe when the 'new improved' Hulme was going up. Last, but by no means least, is the Lloyds Arms, Higher Ormond Street, an excellent pub with Cask Bitter and 4X Best Mild on handpumps - worth Bassing a few pubs for.

Mick Rottenbury

## 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 April issue is Thurs 20 March

## WHO'S TO BLAME?

In the middle of February I went to a Camra meeting at the Red Cow in Salford. We had our usual cosy gathering and enjoyed a very good pint of Boddingtons bitter, and then came the crunch - a reminder that the pub is coming down in September and there's nothing anybody can do about it.



The reason - not even a motorway itself, but a mere sliproad to an unnecessary extension to an already useless Eccles motorway. I ask the question - WHY?

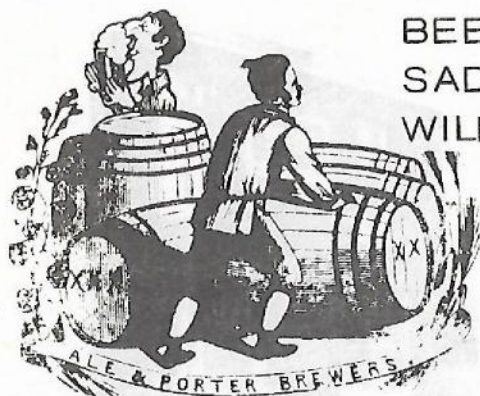
The licensee and regulars don't want their pub knocked down, but nobody consults them, of course. I'm certain that the residents don't want the area disturbed by an unnecessary, noisy and dangerous motorway. Has anybody consulted the people to be affected? I very much doubt it.

The villains of the piece, the faceless bureaucrats of the planning department, don't particularly want to knock the Red Cow down either. They probably don't care either way because they don't live in the area affected. Meanwhile the mindless destructive policy of "urban development" goes on.

The planners, engineers and builders get paid by taxpayers, ratepayers and car owners to enact the destruction of communities in favour of the all-powerful car. There seems to be very little that anybody can do about it. Nobody and nothing is allowed to stand in the path of the mighty car, least of all houses, the people that live in them and the pubs which are the social centres of their communities.

A lot of us seem to be owned by cars, including planners, Camra members and, no doubt, regulars of the Red Cow. The car doesn't care. All it wants is an owner to look after it, a little house of its own and all the petrol it can drink. The last thing it wants is a pint of Boddies at the Red Cow.

Bill Collier



## BEER EXHIBITIONS- SADDLEWORTH & WILMSLOW

Following the success of last year's beer exhibition at Uppermill, the Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch are to stage the event for a second time. The exhibition is being held to help raise funds for the Saddleworth Museum & Art Gallery Fund and also, of course, to help the local campaigns against the keg and tank beer merchants. The venue is once again the Civic Hall in the centre of Uppermill, near Oldham.

Twenty breweries have been approached and up to 30 different beers should be available for the four sessions. These are:

Friday 2nd May	6.00pm to 11.00pm
Saturday 3rd May	11.30am to 3.00pm
	6.00pm to 11.00pm
Sunday 4th May	12.00noon to 2.00pm

Traditional food and entertainment in the form of Brass, Jazz and Compah bands will complement the beers. There will be a small charge on the door which will include a returnable glass deposit and a "programme" of amber nectars available. More details of beers next month.

Steve Lawton

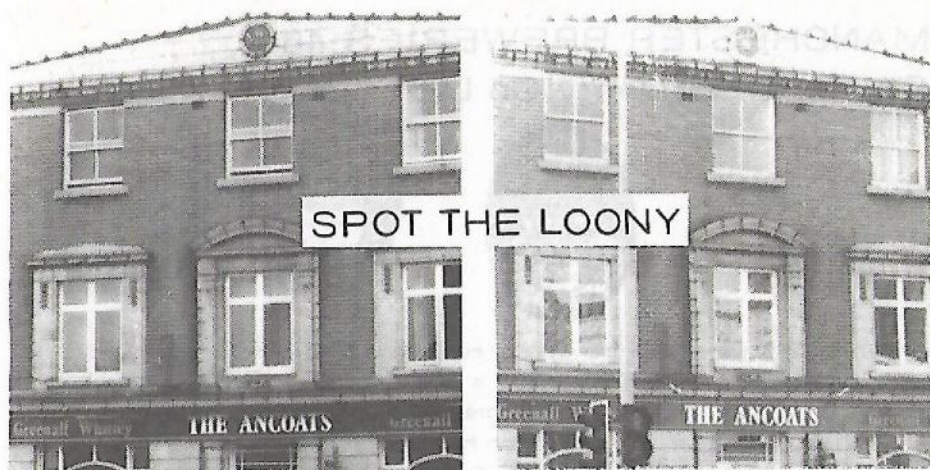
The South Manchester branch are organising a one-night beerex at the Wilmslow Rugby Club, Pownall Park, Wilmslow, on Friday March 28th, as part of the club's fund raising events for their tour of Holland in May.

Among the beers we hope to exhibit will be Boddingtons, Pollards, Wincles, Wilsons, Robinsons and Lees. Last year's event was a great success and this time the beer will be supplemented with food and entertainment.

Humphrey Higgins

## HOME BREW SOCIETY

Sale Winemakers and Brewers Society held its inaugural meeting on February 27th. Anyone interested should contact Sale Homebrew Supplies on the corner of Northenden Road and Broad Road, opposite Sale Station.



The photo on the left was taken just after Greenalls took over the Ancoats from Wilsons; the one on the right was taken last month. The difference between the two photos is the addition of a Greenalls plastic plaque at the top of the building. In its latest burst of corporate image paranoia, the brewery has obliterated an attractive piece of tilework dating from the days when the building was owned by the long-gone Manchester Brewery Company. Not even John Smiths, who usually display the sensitivity of Attila the Hun, have found a way of covering up the "MB" tiles on their acquisition, the Crown, in Hulme. Why, oh why, when Wilsons are respecting the attractive historical features of their new pubs in Northwich, can't Greenalls do the same in Manchester? If they have a lot of those red and white plastic discs to use up, a more appropriate solution which comes to mind involves a number of such discs and some physical contortions by those at the brewery responsible for the silly behaviour. NR

## WILSONS NEWS (Part 86)

Since nearly every Wilsons pub in Trafford has been rebuilt, redesigned or redecorated, it seemed a good idea to have representatives of the brewery along to a branch meeting. On Thursday April 17th, therefore, Bruce Cunningham, Marketing Director, and Jack Partington, Marketing Brands Manager, will be present to address the meeting and answer questions. The venue is the Wheatsheaf, Altrincham.

Relief manager at the Axe and Cleaver, Altrincham, in February was Camra member Brian Firth. He will be the manager of the Three Crowns, Deansgate, Bolton, by mid-March. At present this is a keg pub but must now be a distinct possibility for a changeover to cask.

Mick Rottenbury

# MANCHESTER BREWERIES 16

## Openshaw Brewery Co Ltd



On the 6th June 1883 the Openshaw Bridge Brewery Company Ltd officially came into existence with a capital of £5,000. Seven years later the company moved from its premises on Tamworth Street, Openshaw, to a larger brewery which had been in use for some time previously under the Knott family. Known as the Victoria Brewery, this building stood on Brook Street and Pine Apple Street in West Gorton. During 1891 the word 'Bridge' was dropped from the company's title. James Pollitt, who had been manager at Tamworth Street, continued as manager of the Victoria. Pollitt was also owner of the Church Hotel, Ashton Old Road (since 1874) and the Pollitts continued to be actively involved with the brewery right up to the end.

1897 saw the re-formation of the company, this time with £200,000 capital. Openshaws then controlled 31 fully licensed houses, 96 beerhouses and 158 shops and dwelling houses. An early pub was the Lindow Tavern on Northenden Road, Sale.

In 1942 the Sheffield concerns, Carter, Milner & Bird Ltd at the Hope Brewery (originators of Jubilee Stout) and H Tomlinson Ltd of the Anchor Brewery, combined to form Hope & Anchor Breweries Ltd. Several acquisitions then followed (such as Bramleys of Liverpool) and in 1957 Openshaws sold out to this rapidly expanding Yorkshire firm. Three years later Hope & Anchor, together with Hammonds United Breweries Ltd and John Jeffrey & Co Ltd, formed first Northern Breweries Ltd, then changed the name to United Breweries Ltd. Other breweries joined the group in very rapid succession. Through further amalgamations, United became Charrington United and finally Bass Charrington, the familiar brewing giant of today.

Brewing at the Victoria ceased shortly after the takeover by Hope & Anchor with demolition following in 1964. Splendid Openshaw facias could be seen until recently on the Birch Arms and the Railway, near the old brewery site in Gorton. Another ex-Openshaw pub is the Horse Shoe on Back Hope Street in Salford. This no longer displays any evidence of its former ownership but is well worth a visit for the friendly atmosphere and excellent 4X mild.

Alan Gall



# REAL ALE in BURY



INCLUDING RAMSBOTTOM, TOTTINGTON, RADCLIFFE,  
WHITEFIELD AND PRESTWICH

# BURY AREA

(Including Unsworth, Hollins and Heap Bridge)

Arthur Inn	Bolton Road	Elton	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Black Bull	Ainsworth Road	Starling	Thwaites	M,B(E)
Blue Bell	Bell Lane	Free Town	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Blue Bell	Bury New Road	Blackford Bridge	Holts	M,B(E)
Brewers Arms	Bell Lane	Free Town	Thwaites	M,B(E)
Brickcroft	Brook Street	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Bridge Inn	Bury New Road	Heap Bridge	Thwaites	M,B(E)
Bridge Inn	Bridge Street	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Bridge Inn	Manchester Road	Blackford Bridge	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Brunswick	Moorgate	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Bay Horse	Parr Lane	Unsworth	Holts	M,B(E)
Church Inn	Bell Lane	Free Town	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Claybank	Rochdale Road	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Derby Arms	Bolton Road	Elton	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Elton View	Eagley Drive	Starling	Thwaites	M,B(E)
Fairfield	Rochdale Old Road	Fairfield	Thwaites	M,B(E)
Flying Shuttle	Clerke Street	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Game Cock	Rochdale Old Road	Fairfield	Whitbread	SpC(H)
Golden Fleece	Bell Lane	Freetown	Bass CB,4X,TL(H)	
Hollins Bush	Hollins Lane	Hollins	Lees	M,B(E)
Hare and Hounds	Bolton Street	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Help Me Through	Crostones Road	Elton	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Hark To Dandler	Walmersley Old Road	Walmersley	S&N	IPA(E)
Lamb	Tottington Road	Woolfold	Whitbread	SpC(H)
Nags Head	Barlow Street	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Napier	Bolton Street	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(E)
New Inn	Bell Lane	Free Town	Wilsons	M,B(H)
New Inn	Walmersley Road	Walmersley	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Oddfellows	Tottington Road	Woolfold	Bass Bass,4X,TL(E)	
Old Boars Head	Heap Brow	Heap Bridge	Bass	4X,CB(E)
Pleasant View	Tottington Road	Woolfold	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Queen Ann	Hollins Lane	Hollins	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Robin Hood	Rochdale Road	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Rose and Crown	Manchester Old Road	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Royal Huntsman	Market Street	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(E)
Swan	Tottington Road	Woolfold	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Sir Robert Peel	Sunnybank Road	Unsworth	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Spotted Cow	Bell Lane	Free Town	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Stanley	The Rock	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Star Inn	Bridge Street	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Swan and Cemetery	Manchester Road	Redvales	Thwaites	M,B(E)
Turf Tavern	Wash Lane	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Two Tubs	The Wyld	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Waggonmakers	Tottington Road	Woolfold	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Waterloo	Manchester Road	Redvales	Thwaites	M,B(H)
White Boar	Radcliffe Road	Redvales	Thwaites	M,B(E)

### RAMSBOTTOM AREA

(Including Summerseat and Turn)

Duckworth Arms	Whalley Road	Shuttleworth	Whitbread	SpC(H)
Eagle and Child	Whalley Road	Peel Brow	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Good Samaritan	Peel Bridge	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Grey Mare	Bolton Street	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Hamers	Higher Summers	Summerseat	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Masons Arms	Bolton Road West	Dundee Lane	Thwaites	M,B(E)
Old Dun Horse	Bolton Road West	Dundee Lane	Thwaites	M,B(E)
Plane Tree	Rochdale Road	Turn Village	Bass	4X,CB(E)
Royal Oak	Bridge Street	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(E)

### TOTTINGTON AREA

(Including Affetside, Greenmount and Walshaw)

Bulls Head	Holcombe Road	Greenmount	Thwaites	M,B(E)
Dungeon	Turton Road	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Hark to Towler	Market Street	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Pack Horse	Watling Street	Affetside	Hydes	M,B(E)
Printers	Turton Road	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(H)
White Horse	Hall Street	Walshaw	Thwaites	M,B(E)

### RADCLIFFE AREA

(Including Bradley Fold and Outwood)

Colliers Arms	Water Street	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(E)
Hare and Hounds	Ringley Road	Outwood	Holts	M,B(H)
Masons Arms	Sion Street	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Morning Star	Thomas Street	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
New Inn	Ainsworth Road	Black Lane	Bass	4X,CB(E)
Old Cross	Eton Hill Road	Centre	Holts	M,B(H)
Papermakers	Church Street East	Centre	Holts	M,B(E)
Queens	Bradley Fold Road	Bradley Fold	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Railway	Ainsworth Road	Black Lane	Whitbread	SpC(H)
Turf	Bolton Road	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(E)
Wellington	Stopes Road	Little Lever	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Wellington	Stand Lane	Centre	Bass	4X(E)
Wilton Arms	Coronation Road	Black Lane	Holts	M,B(E)

### WHITEFIELD AREA

(Including Simister and Besses)

Church Inn	Bury New Road	Centre	Holts	M,B(H)
Coach and Horses	Bury Old Road	Besses	Holts	M,B(H)
Eagle and Child	Higgin Lane	Centre	Holts	M,B(E)
Farmers Arms	Simister Lane	Simister	Lees	M,B(H)
Frigate	Thatch Leach Lane	Besses	Holts	M,B(E)
Goats Gate	Radcliffe New Road	Chapel Field	Holts	M,B(E)
Lord Olive	Mersey Drive	Sunnybank	Lees	M,B(E)
New Grove	Bury New Road	Centre	Holts	M,B(E)
Red King	Bury New Road	Centre	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Same Yet	Simister Lane	Simister	Lees	M,B(E)
Welcome	Bury Old Road	Besses	Holts	M,B(E)
Wheatsheaf	Bury New Road	Centre	Robinsons	M,B(H)

### PRESTWICH AREA

(Including Rainsough and Heaton Park)

Commercial	Bury Old Road	Heaton Park	Tetley	M,B(H)
Foresters	Bury New Road	Centre	Holts	M,B(E)
Friendship	Scholes Lane	Hilton Park	Holts	M,B(H)
George	Bury New Road	Sedgley Park	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Grapes Inn	Bury New Road	Centre	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Ostrich	Bury Old Road	Heaton Park	Holts	M,B(E)
Parkside	Bury Old Road	Heaton Park	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Plough	Hilton Lane	Rainsough	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Railway & Naturalist	Bury New Road	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Red Lion	Bury New Road	Centre	Holts	M,B(E)
Royal Oak	Whittaker Lane	Heaton Park	Hydes	M,B(E)
Staff of Life	Hilton Lane	Rainsough	Marstons	Ped,M,B(H)
White Horse	Bury New Road	Centre	Holts	M,B(H)
Woodthorpe	Bury Old Road	Hilton Park	Holts	M,B(E)

## PUB OF THE MONTH

Beginning in March, the South Manchester and Trafford & Hulme branches will be awarding a "Pub of the Month" plaque. The main criteria will be a consistently high standard of traditional beer, friendly service and, generally, a good pub atmosphere. Nominations for the award can be made at any of the branches' functions or by phoning the branch contact (see branch diary). Voting will then take place at a subsequent branch meeting. The first pub to receive a suitably inscribed wall plaque will be the Orange Tree, Old Market Place, Altrincham and the presentation will be made on Thursday March 27th, beginning at 8.00pm. Representatives of Wilsons Brewery and the local press have been invited and we hope as many Camra members and friends as possible will be able to attend.

In April, the South Manchester branch has chosen the Old King on Great Portwood Street, Stockport (Bass 4X Mild, Cask Bitter and draught Bass)

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

"Wigan's Pubs 2" is now on sale. The book contains articles on the old Scholes, the early inns and breweries near and far. Illustrations include hitherto unpublished photos, beer mats and labels.

The book is available from Alan Gall, 61 Romney Street, Salford 6 for 47p inc. postage.



## Subscriptions

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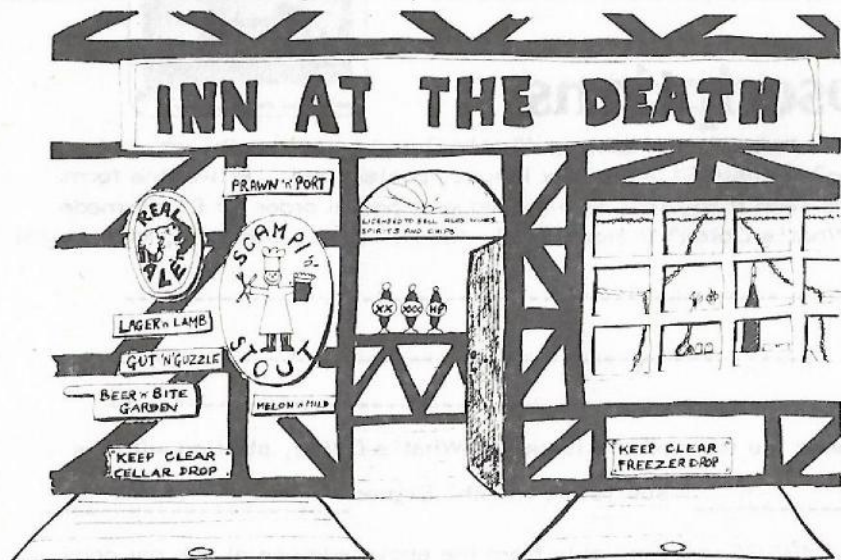
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## BAD TASTE

"When the old taverns began to pass into the hands of the brewers, somewhere about the 'seventies, they passed into their most horrid period. All the flaring, roaring, gilt-and-plate-glass abominations that for so many years stood at nearly every corner were the work of those people. Why they were so foolish as to kill the individual tavern, and set up the standardised gin palace, I don't know.

Within the last few years, however, they have begun to share the disgust of the public with their work, and have attempted to mend matters; but with no great success. Certainly they pulled down some of these wretched places, but though they had the opportunity of erecting something in harmony with these times and with the new buildings about them, they could do no more with the opportunity than erect gimcrack copies of the Tudor and Jacobean style, which are neither of that period nor of this. Having altered their buildings, they tried to alter the style of their business, which they did with equal grace. They tried to make their houses restaurants, and have at last succeeded in making them nothing - not taverns, not pubs, and not restaurants, but a blend of all three at their worst. All they did was to turn the old-time bar into a greasy cook-shop, in which the bar and restaurant share the same room. The food is exposed to the smoke and smell incidental to a bar, and the bar reeks with the smell of food."

Thus wrote Thomas Burke in 'The English Inn' in 1930. The 'seventies he refers to were the 1870s but his words could be applied equally well to the 1970s. Creating 'theme pubs' was fashionable among the big brewers in the last decade, a habit which most of them have got out of, thank goodness. But big breweries wouldn't



be big breweries, bless 'em, if they didn't have other novel ways of messing pubs about. So, whilst polystyrene Wyatt Earps are being moved out of the Great Western, 'greasy cook shops' are finding their way into the most unsuitable places. The smell of chip fat - or whatever it is they cook chips in these days - pervades many an otherwise pleasant pub. To make matters worse, some of these places have that fluffy wallpaper which holds the smell of stale food at the same level all day. Given that many people actually enjoy eating things like scampi and chips and prawn cocktails (and in public, too) perhaps we should look to the United States for a solution. There they have the right idea - keep them in their cars. Perhaps we could persuade the brewers to open drive-in restaurants in their car parks where the steak 'n' chips set could consume their hideous meals well away from the rest of us.

NR

## ACHTUNG



(Not an advertisement)

Hot (or maybe chilled) on the heels of the San Miguel lager (What's Doing, Jan) is bottled German lager from Sainsbury's Stores. The label on the bottle states that it is brewed and bottled in Hamburg and that the contents conform to the "Reinheitsgebot" (purity rule). One bottle contains 50cl (17.6 fl oz) and the alcohol is 5% by volume. A pack of 4 costs £1.76, individuals 44p. The bottle carries the information (in German) that the bottle is non-returnable. If the Americans can send men to the moon and bring them back, I would have thought that Sainsbury's could send empty bottles to Hamburg for refilling. No doubt this beer would be verboten according to Camra's rules, but it would do no harm to make up your own mind.

Stewart Revel

## CLARENDON

Although it is probably the most difficult pub to track down in north Manchester, the Clarendon, on Pinehurst Road, is well worth the effort. The Clarendon is a ten year old Marstons pub behind Wilsons Brewery. Eight months ago it was taken over by Fred Davies, formerly of the Garratt (Holts) in Longsight. As a measure of his love of the real thing, Fred has had handpumps installed at his own expense, to deliver the value for money mild and bitter. However, he still enjoys a pint of Holts, which is well within range at the Railway, Dean Lane, where his mother, Anne Moore, is the licensee.

Grahame Tonge



Bunty's in prison once again. Inevitable but undeserved. We'd all been over to Smarmford to hear Peregrine Drab defend his recent shock horror price increase. As the local contingent were well in with Bill and Doris of the "Hark to Benidorm" we lingered a little after hours admiring their polystyrene flight of ducks and playing "spot the landlord's granny" with the help of some old photographs. Eventually we managed to prise Eddy Nest-feather and Fiona away from the table-integral space invader electronic game, and set off Grotleywards. As Bunty reached the leafier suburbs of our scenic city, he was amazed to see a female figure silhouetted in the moonlight, hammering with her handbag like a demented banshee on a hostelry door.

Spotting Bunty approaching, the distraught lady did approach him and say, "Kind Sir, I find I have unfortunately forgotten my latch-key and wonder whether you would be so kind as to enter the premises via the cellar and thereby enable me to gain access?" No sooner said than done. The ever obliging Bunty Fortescue was down the beer drop before you could say "Burglar Alarm" and was still there when the boys in blue arrived. Explanations were futile as the distressed damsel was asleep on the doorstep. Six damaged policemen and a wrecked black maria later, Bunty was up before the beak, who took rather a dim view of his latest escapade and sentenced him to 20 years. His only chance is if Lord Denning rejects his appeal, increases the sentence to the death penalty and the case goes to the House of Lords. It's a pity that Bunty will miss the first meeting of the Boddington for Chairman Campaign, in which we hoped to mount a dynamic programme for Captain Beaky and his underclaw, the Noble Robin. Bunty's absence will mean that this will be masterminded by Dermatitis, whose major contribution is the ability to write a synopsis of a meeting which has all the hallmarks of objective accuracy and in no way attempts to impose his own, albeit brilliant, views on an unappreciative mob.

The efforts of the crowd to prevent the arrival of Fast Pint Fizzeriers, to fight against the soaring price of Drabs, to stop the demolition of slum hostelrys, inns and taverns and to raise Boddington to the ultimate heights of the campaign, are obviously going to be diluted by what now must be our main concern...

#### FREE BUNTY FORTESCUE

Denial: There is absolutely no truth whatsoever in the vicious rumour that the nice Mr Cobbler has had his brewery taken over by Brobdingnags.

# 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 one 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 ST HELENS** - Including Sutton, Peasley Cross, Thatto Heath, Moss Nook, Eccleston, Parr, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

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

\*updated 1979 \*\*second edition 1979 \*\*\*third edition 1979 \*\*\*\*second edition 1980

## Pub & Brewery Histories

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

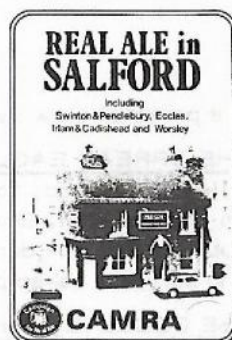
**SALFORD'S PUBS No1** - Hanky Park, Regent Road, Cross Lane, Walker & Homfrays, etc. 78p inc postage

**SALFORD'S PUBS No2** - Greengate, Chapel Street, Ordsall, Threlfalls, small breweries, etc. 68p inc postage

**SALFORD'S PUBS No3** - Broughton, Weaste, the first inns, Groves & Whitnall, demolition, etc. 78p inc postage

**WIGAN'S PUBS No1** - Town Centre, Newtown Brewery, Aireys, Oldfields, Albion Brewery, etc. 47p inc postage

**WIGAN'S PUBS No2** - Scholes, early inns, brewing in and around Wigan, pubs in surrounding districts. 47p inc postage



# PUBS TO AVOID IN GREATER MANCHESTER

- a personal view by Quentin McDonald

## THE SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL, Lymm Village Centre

Clientele of loud, foul-mouthed drunks who live on rotting boats parked on nearby canal. Bar staff normally stropky, at best indifferent. This pub doesn't look dangerous or violent outside - all windows in, etc - and serves a so-so pint of JW Lees beer (Real Ale).

## THE DOUGLAS, Corner of Fennel Street and Corporation Street, Manchester

Has pool table - often a sign of a pub to avoid. Clientele of off-duty reporters, printers, barrow boys and magsmen from Victoria Station. Sordid decor, client's feet stick to beer spilled on floor. Wilsons Real Ale.

## COX'S BAR, rear of Free Trade Hall, Manchester

Sells sweet, thin, cloying versions of Boddingtons - which is supposed to be Real Ale. Was Boddingtoned a few years ago, vault demolished and lounge opened out shopping precinct style. Mixed clientele of musicians, tramps, poseurs and students.

## THE PELICAN HOTEL, Chester Road, Timperley

Serves expensive, fizzing Greenall Whitley to chinless rabble of arrogant Conservative poseurs. Executive canteen for tax collectors, solicitors, doctors and similar riff-raff upstairs. Residential annexe favoured by Cheshire 'Money Belt' dirty weekenders. Only pub to represent Greater Manchester in Egon Ronay's loony "Pub Guide" (remaindered.)

## THE PHOENIX, University Shopping Precinct

Unpleasant open-plan aircraft hangar. Real Ale draught Bass not available last nine visits but White Shield (a bottled 'Real Ale') to be had more often than not. Amazing threshold-of-pain jukebox and 'instant' snackies.

## THE CROSS KEYS HOTEL, by Parish Church, Eccles

Student hell-hole sells somewhat manky Bass (Real Ale) and Stones (False Ale) in the most polluted atmosphere now available in Greater Manchester. Those with weak lungs can be seen falling into the street, eyes streaming, after only brief exposure to mixture of cigarette smoke, armpits and tights - the latter being a quaint, evil-smelling garment much favoured by Eccles women.

more soon...



# Branch Diary

## TRAFFORD & HULME

- Sat Mar 15th: Macclesfield Walkabout. Meet 7.30 Nags Head, Waters Green (opp station) or 8.30 Castle, Churchwallgate
- Tue Mar 18th: Brewery trip to Burtonwood
- Thur Mar 20th: Branch meeting, Malt Shovels, Stamford Street, 8.00pm Altrincham. Guest speaker Denis Palmer (Member of Camra National Executive & Festival Organiser)
- Thur Mar 27th: 8.00pm. Pub of the Month Social, Orange Tree, Old Market Place, Altrincham
- Thur Apr 3rd: 8.00pm Committ/Social. Melville, Barton Road, Stretford.
- Sat Apr 12th: Coach Trip with S M/cr branch to Penrhos Brewery and Restaurant.
- Thur Apr 17th: 8.00pm Branch Meeting, Wheatsheaf, Altrincham (corner Manchester Road & Oldfield Road)
- Contact: Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 (home)

## NORTH MANCHESTER

- Weds 19 Mar 8.00pm: Branch AGM, White Swan, Swinton
- Weds 2 April: Pub Crawl of Miles Platting. 7.00 Brown Cow, Woodward Street; 8.00 Half Moon, Holland Street.
- FORMAL DRESS
- Weds 9 April: Committee/Social, Globe ; Regent Road, Salford 8.00
- Weds 16 April 8.00pm: Branch meeting, White Swan, Swinton
- Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

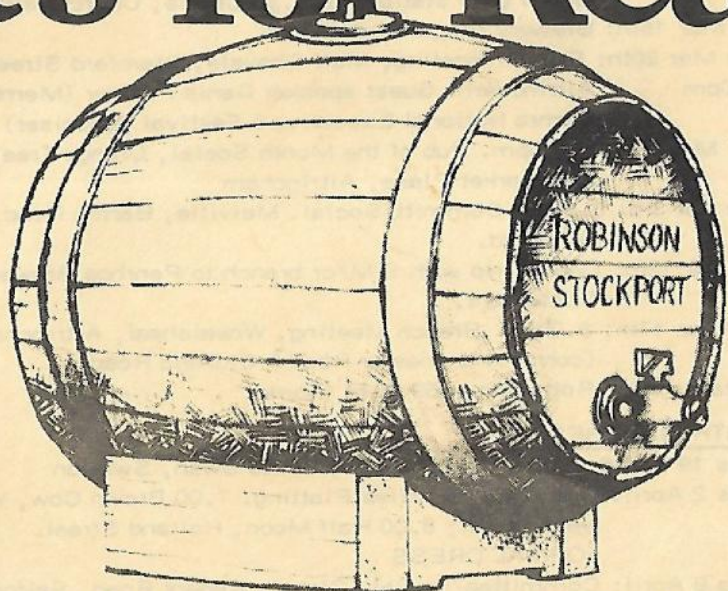
## SOUTH MANCHESTER

- Thurs Mar 13: Branch meeting, Gateway, Wilmslow Rd, 8.00pm
- Thurs Mar 27th: Pub of the Month Social (See T&H diary)
- Fri Mar 28th: Beer Exhibition at Wilmslow Rugby Club, Pownall Park
- Thurs April 10 8.00pm: Annual General Meeting, Gateway, Wilmslow Rd
- Contact: Humphrey Higgins 432 0059

## ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

- Tues 11 Mar 8.00pm: Branch meeting, Eagle & Child (Holts) Higher Lane, Whitefield
- Tues 25th March: Committee Meeting, Masons (Thwaites), Sion Street, Radcliffe 8.00pm
- Fri 21st Mar : Prestwich Pub Crawl: Ostrich (Holts), Heaton Park 7.30; Royal Oak (Hydes) Heaton Park 8.30
- Tues 8th April 8.00pm: Branch Meeting, Waggon & Horses (Bass) Halifax Road, Smallbridge, Rochdale
- Tues 22nd April 8.00pm, Committee meeting, Royal (Thwaites). Oldham Road, Buersil, Rochdale
- Contact: Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (H) 061 236 4411 ext 7236 (W)

# 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.**