

WHAT'S DOING



APR
1980

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

PUB TO CLOSE FOR NEW ROAD



The Three Crowns in Fletcher Street, Little Lever, will be demolished to make way for a new traffic light controlled junction (which many locals feel is not needed) soon. It means that one of Little Lever's oldest - built 145 years ago - and most popular 'real ale' pubs is to be lost forever. The draft scheme for the road was drawn up as long ago as 1964, approved in 1968 by Lancashire County Council and in 1976 an amended plan was approved by the GMC.

The Landlord, Fred Cookson, has run the pub for the past 30 years. Once known as the 'Blood Tub', due to its reputation for fights, the Three Crowns is now one of the last pubs in which waiter service is available in the tap room. The pub will remain open for a little longer and a good pint of Wilsons, one of the cheapest in the village, is served through beer engines. Drinkers are not deafened by juke boxes nor do they hear the clatter of one-armed bandits as Fred refuses to have them.

Bert Kerks



REAL ALE IN SADDLEWORTH

The Civic Hall at Uppermill is again the venue for the Saddleworth Beer Festival (see elsewhere in this issue) and it seems appropriate to give real ale drinkers a guide to this picturesque part of Oldham. Once in the West Riding of Yorkshire, this sparsely populated parish comprises the villages of Uppermill, Denshaw, Delph, Diggle, Dobcross and Greenfield. What the area lacks in populace, it certainly makes up for in the availability of real ale. Of the 19 brewers supplying real ale to the borough of Oldham, no less than 14 sell their products in Saddleworth.

Since Bass Charrington sold many of their "unprofitable" pubs in the area a few years ago the same pubs now seem to be thriving in the free trade. The Golden Fleece and the Printers, both at Denshaw, are good examples, offering between them a wide range of real ale. Blackburn brewers Matthew Brown (Lion Ales) recently took the Roebuck at Strinesdale out of the free trade. This one time Bass house is the only pub in Oldham selling their beer. Similarly, the Church at Uppermill is the only outlet in the town for Scottish and Newcastle real ale.

Other pubs of note are the Rams Head at Denshaw, where the beer is served straight from the cask, the Spinners at Springhead, where a warm welcome always awaits you, the Swan at Dobcross and many, many more with traditional village atmospheres.

Of course the best way to find out is to visit the pubs themselves. They are listed below together with details of beers available and the way in which they are served.

PUB	ADDRESS	LOCALITY	BREWERY(IES)	BEERS
Black Horse	Ripponden Road	Denshaw	Bass Worthington	Bass(H)
Cross Keys	Runninghill Gate	Uppermill	Lees	M,B(E)
Cross Keys	Huddersfield Road	New Delph	Wilsons, Pollards, Theakstons(Masham)	M,B,SA(H)
Commercial	High Street	Uppermill	Bass North	Best Mild (E)
Church	Runninghill Gate	Uppermill	Scottish & Newcastle	IPA(H)
Farrars Arms	Oldham Road	Grasscroft	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Golden Fleece	Ripponden Road	Denshaw	Boddingtons, Theakstons(Carlisle), Pollards, Oldham	M,B(H)
Hanging Gate	Huddersfield Road	Diggle	Bass North	Extra Light(E)
Horse and Jockey	Stanedge Road	Stanedge	Bass Worth&Oldham	Bass, M,B(H)
Junction	Ripponden Road	Denshaw	Lees	M,B(E)
King William IV	Chew Valley Road	Greenfield	Bass North	Extra Light(E)
Old Original	Thorp Road	Scouthead	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Printers	Ripponden Road	Denshaw	Tetley&Thwaites	M,B(H)
Roebuck	Brighton Road	Strinesdale	Matthew Brown	B(H)
Rams Head	Ripponden Road	Denshaw	Theakstons(Masham & Carlisle)	M,B,SA(G)
Rose and Crown	King Street	Delph	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Railway	Station Brow	Greenfield	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Spinners	Woodbrook (off Cooper St)	Springhead	Lees	M,B(E)
Swan	The Square	Dobcross	Bass North	B, Best Mild(H)
Three Crowns	Huddersfield Road	Scouthead	Wilsons	M,B(H)
White Hart	Stockport Road	Lydgate	Bass North & Bass Worthington	Bass, Extra Light(H/E)
White Lion	King Street	Delph	Bass North	Best Mild(E)
Waggon	High Street	Uppermill	Robinsons	M,B,SA(E)

H = handpumped E = electric pumped G = gravity dispense

M = mild B = bitter SA = strong ale

Theakston (Carlisle) supply the best bitter only; Theakston (Masham) supply the strong ale & mild Bass Worthington supply draught Bass from Burton on Trent; Bass North supply bitter, extra light and best mild from Tadcaster

PUB OF THE MONTH

(South Manchester & Trafford & Hulme)

The April "Pub of the Month" is in Portwood, Stockport - The Old King. Steve Haggerty, the ex-wrestler landlord, serves three real ales; 4X mild, Cask Bitter and draught Bass. The Old King is the only real ale Bass pub in Stockport.

In the four years he has been there, Steve has changed the pub from an unexceptional backwater to a comfortable and interesting tavern. Among other distractions there is a rare example of a French bagatelle table next to the table football in the vault.

Pleased with the selection of the Old King as Pub of the Month, Steve and Dorothy have joined the Campaign. Representatives of Bass and the press have been invited to what we hope will be an enjoyable evening. (see Branch Diary)

Pete Ogden

THWAITES MOVE IN TO ORRELL

Thwaites have bought a boarded-up pub in Lamberhead Green, Orrell. The Leigh Arms is an ex-Greenalls pub (surprise, surprise) which has been closed for approximately 2½ years.

Ian Ogden

BASS PASSES THE FIZZICAL



The December issue of What's Doing contained an enormous list, taken from a computer printout (well, we all trust computers, don't we?) of all the pubs in the area purporting to serve traditional beers from Bass North West. This was followed by a letter in the January edition from the Bass Public Relations Manager, John Hutchinson (and we all trust PR Managers, don't we?) claiming that most of their cask beer outlets had now been de-fizzed of blanket CO2.

As you can imagine, these disclosures were beyond belief to those serious beer drinkers who spend most of their spare time (and most of their working time) touring round hostelrys carefully avoiding any pub with a Bass warning triangle on its exterior. These doubts about Bass's policy were increased by the report of the dire situation in Trafford and Hulme, as documented by Mick Rottenbury last month. For these reasons a group of enthusiastic volunteers was immediately press-ganged into checking the validity of Bass's claims for the Rochdale, Oldham and Bury area.

Our findings will come as a great shock to all the dedicated computer haters and PR bashers amongst us - we found that the list as printed was substantially correct, and hardly any of the pubs visited now use pressure on cask beer. One or two researchers even admitted to enjoying the beer tasted and the consensus of opinion was that the new Bass Cask Bitter seemed better than its predecessor, cask Brew Ten, even though we understood it to be exactly the same beer. Several pubs in the Rochdale, Oldham and Bury area came to light which, we must confess, we barely even knew existed and there were a few pleasant surprises - in particular the newer outlets for draught Bass.

A selection of these pubs is given below and comprehensive Real Ale

In Oldham and Real Ale In Rochdale lists will be published shortly.

Burns Tavern	Norden Road	Barnford	Bass(E)
Cock and Maggie	Tong Lane	Whitworth	CB,4X(E)
Commercial	Manchester Road	Castleton	4X(E)
Golden Ball	Spotland Road	Rochdale	4X(E)
Grapes Inn	Norden Road	Barnford	CB,4X(E)
Industry Hotel	Sladen Street	Rochdale	CB,4X(E)
Lord Howard	The Strand	Kirkholt	CB,4X(E)
Newmarket Hotel	Hind Hill Street	Heywood	4X(E)
Reed Hotel	Yorkshire Street	Rochdale	CB,4X,Bass(H/E)
Waggon and Horses	Halifax Road	Smallbridge	CB,4X(E)
White Hart	Manchester Road	Birch	4X,Bass(E)
Woolpack	Drake Street	Rochdale	CB,4X,Bass(E)

Finally, a pub recently converted to cask dark mild to be added to the list:

Navigation	Manchester Street	Heywood	4X(E)
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Ken Holt

PUB PLANS

Tetley have had their plans for a new pub in Ordsall, Salford, approved. Someone has applied to turn the Lloyds Bank, Victoria Station, Manchester, into licensed premises.

Plans have been submitted to demolish the Half Moon, Miles Platting, and to build a new pub.

Subscriptions

If you want to be sure of getting What's Doing every month, why not subscribe? It costs £1.40 for six issues, postage paid. Fill in the form below and send it together with a cheque or postal order for £1.40 made out to "What's Doing" to Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester

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PRESTON PLIGHT

The town of Preston has suffered rather less than most places from the redevelopment mania which has swept Britain in the last twenty years. Despite the obligatory Inner Ring Road, badly needed in Preston's case to redistribute the traffic jams, large areas of "traditional" northern terraced houses remain, and with them the associated corner shops and pubs which add character as well as serving the needs of the local people. One of the reasons for this survival is undoubtedly the superior condition of much of the housing compared with, say, Salford, where many areas were literally slums.

Now, however, the dreaded planners, in this case the Central Lancashire New Town, having tired of filling the surrounding countryside with Wimpey houses, supermarkets and huge tank Greenalls pubs, have decided that the survival of such areas can no longer be allowed to tarnish their with-it, whizz-kid image.

First to come under attack is the district of Plungington, to the north of the town centre. The first batch of CPOs covers just one pub, the Keystone, a small "back street local" Matthew Brown house on Brook Street, but eventually nine pubs, including five currently selling real ale, will be demolished. New Town planners must, however, have a liking for the fizzy stuff as the New Cattle Market, a Tetley pub selling pressurised beer in the same area as the Keystone, is to remain standing.

The reason for this needless demolition is not even to make way for a motorway; the area is to be redeveloped for housing and so a need for pubs will remain!

The West Lancashire branch of CAMRA intend to fight the proposals and hope to gain sufficient experience in the fight to save the Keystone

to ensure that, even if they are unsuccessful, they will be able to save some of the others when the time comes.

Also in the West Lancs area, the Eagle and Child, a Burtonwood house in Leyland, is threatened. In this case the pub is a listed building and so cannot be demolished. Instead, therefore, the brewery intend to rip out the heart of the pub, sweep away the five small rooms and lobby which serve very nicely to separate the juke box, pool loonies, darts players, socialisers and boozers from one another and replace them with their version of a Boddified standard carpeted lounge and, of course, such features as scampi-in-the-basket, which the locals are apparently crying out for. Both the branch and individual members have objected and it is hoped that the Eagle and Child will not go the same way as many such pubs, with the locals being told to move over and make way for the gin and Jag set.

Jim Davies

MOSS TROOPER

A few years back you were lucky to find a pub offering more than a dubious meat pie and a bag of crisps. Now competition is fierce and the choice of "pub grub" varied in quality, quantity and price. The latest addition concerns the Moss Trooper, Moss Lane, Timperley. Manager Brian Redshaw realised that the Hare and Hounds and Quarry Bank in the village had long since been established as good eating places so he had to offer something good to draw people off the beaten track. The result is that from 12.00 till 2.00 on weekdays, part of the lounge becomes a restaurant complete with waitress service. The menu is changed daily and the meals are excellent and reasonably priced (example: soup; gammon steak, two veg, roast potatoes; coffee for £1.45). The beer (handpumped Wilsons) is consistently good and there is a large concert room at the back available for private bookings. At present, Thursday night is country/rock night with "Axis" and many more, varied entertainments are likely to be offered in the future.

Mick Rottenbury

MORE WILSONS

The Falstaff, Jenner Close, Hulme, went from tanked to handpumped cask Wilsons last September after the neighbouring Crown was swapped from real Wilsons to fizzy John Smiths (as reported in last month's What's Doing). It also provides one of the cheapest pints of Wilsons, with mild at 34p in the vault. Coffee is available at lunchtimes, a pianist plays Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings and landlord Norman Mallender is running a good community pub.

Mick Rottenbury



SMILE PLEASE...

After last month's look at the availability of real ales from Bass North West in the Trafford and Hulme area, the spotlight now falls on Greenalls. Out of the 21 tied houses, 7 serve traditional beer as the following breakdown shows.

Hulme is the best area, with real ale in the Pack Horse, an interesting city centre pub right behind Deansgate Station; the Lord Napier, a small two roomed local round the corner on Great Jackson Street; the Lord Clyde, at the Deansgate end of Hulme flyover (this pub was modernised in 1977, witness the 'Guys and Dolls' signs on the lavatory doors!) and the Manchester Regiment, Hulme Hall Road, built about eleven years ago. The fifth cask Greenalls outlet in Hulme is the Albert (beware the keg mild), Erskine Street, one of four pubs (along with the Platford, Whitbreads, Three Legs of Man and Talbot, Wilsons) clustered together in an otherwise demolished area. Although a tiny looking place from the outside, it actually boasts four rooms to choose from. Other Greenalls outlets in Hulme are the Unicorn, Shawheath Close (between City Road and Stretford Road) which has the external appearance of an Evangelical church and the Grey Parrot, Jackson Crescent. Both are friendly estate pubs, but neither has cask beer; nor does the Hot Pot, a square brick building not unlike Fort Knox, on Moss Lane East next to Moss Side shopping centre. The latter does, however, stock Worthington White Shield.

Further south the pubs generally become more trendy, busier - and fizzier. Urmston has the Bird in Hand, Church Inn and Nags Head, all good pubs but with no real ale. Sale offers the Crossford, Cross Street, an up-market pub with a wine bar, and the Lively Lobster (watch out for the crafty crabs), a large estate pub with cabaret (who needs the Golden Garter?) on Manor Avenue. Again, no real ale.

Out in the country at Warburton we have the Saracens Head, a popular pub with many rooms, but if you want beer from the cask you will have to go to the Kilton at Hoo Green, Mere. White Shield is also available and half the population of Cheshire seems to visit the place on any given evening.

Back in town, Altrincham has three fizzy outlets in the Pelican and George

and Dragon on the main Manchester Road, and the Station, Stamford New Road. The one remaining real ale pub is the Jolly Friar, Lloyd Street, which has gained a real character in the new landlord, Michael Howes. His Welsh wit has changed the atmosphere of the bar and the bitter tastes better, too. White Shield is also on sale but the mild is at present keg. The previous manager left in February to take over the Three Horseshoes, a huge roadside house at Leek, which reportedly sells cask bitter and mild. Apparently it is also in the hands of an estate agent as Greenalls are selling it.

The remaining two Greenalls pubs in our branch area are the Lantern, Hall Lane, and the Red Rose, Greenbrow Road, both unimaginative estate pubs in Wythenshawe.

Mick Rottenbury

WHAT'S DOING FASHION

Drabs lurch into the 1970s this month. Under special licence from Young Mr Drab we are able to offer the first Drabs T shirts/Sweat shirts. The design shown here is tastefully printed on the left breast pocket area of the shirt.

Ink colour - White

Shirt colours - Light blue*, navy*, black, red*, dark green

Sizes - 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34+*, 36+*, 38+*, 42+* (male chest)

Ladies should order accordingly, usually smaller

Prices: T shirts £3.00 + 25p p&p

Sweat Shirts £6.00 + 45p p&p

*Hooded sweat shirts £8.00 + 50p p&p, only in colours & sizes asterisked, when available.

Delivery will take several weeks.

Orders (with cash) to: Geoff Williamson, 98 Chantry Road, Disley, Stockport, Cheshire, SK12 2DN. 236 3377 x2391 or Disley 5634

Be the envy of your friends in the Dockers Wedge - order one today!



WALKER COME-BACK

Wigan Metro area has over 50% of the total outlets for Walker bitter, and already some of these pubs have been repainted in the old Walker livery. The Raven and the Silverwell in Wigan and the Eagle and Hawk in Leigh proudly display the Walker name and the impressive new shields. Walkers Warrington Ale, however, has not gone so well and it has been removed from several of the original outlets. Apparently the higher price has put some people off, which is a shame because the beer is a fine drink when on form. The Platt Bridge Inn, Hindley, serves a particularly good pint.

Ian Ogden

REAL ALE IN WATERFOOT

"Pubs Lose Fight to Stop Shop's Flow of 'Real' Ale" is the sort of newspaper headline you would expect to see in "What's Brewing", not the "Rossendale Free Press". The story was about the application for an off-licence by Sue and Colin Grimshaw for "Sue's Brews" at 105, Burnley Road East, Waterfoot, Rossendale. Sue started a home brew business on Rawtenstall market in 1978, and demand was so great that she moved to the present shop premises. It soon became apparent that there was a demand for cask beers and ciders as well as parsley and damson wines, hence the licence application, which didn't pass without the usual objections:

"Sales are falling off and there is no demand for the type of drink Mrs Grimshaw wants to sell"

"There are enough outlets for drink in the area and there are no grounds for believing home-brew equipment is needed"

The licence was granted and the shop's takeaway service started in mid-March. At present the beers available are in gallon, 2 gallon, 4½ gallon polybins, or your own containers:

Theakstons best bitter* & Old Peculier; Thwaites Best Mild*; JW Lees bitter* & Moonraker; Paines (St Neots) bitter*; Three Tuns bitter; Saxon Cross bitter.

*also available in firkins and keils. Phone Ross 5014 at least 1 week in advance. Prices vary from 30p a pint for Thwaites Best Mild to 49p for Moonraker. The shop is closed Tuesdays and Sundays.

Don Chattwood

PUB REPRIEVE

The Manchester City Council development committee has recommended that the Oddfellows, Ashton Old Road, Openshaw, be reprieved. A CPO was placed on the pub and nearby property in 1972, when there were plans to widen the main road. The road scheme was scrapped last year and so there is no reason to knock the building down. Boddingtons are applying to take over an adjacent site to build an extension and a car park. Perhaps it would be in better taste to knock the pub down and widen the road.

POLLARDS

Outlets currently selling Pollards in and around Greater Manchester include:

Coach & Horses	London Road	Midway	Stockport
Little Mill	Rowarth	Sycamore	New Mills
Cross Keys	Delph	Church House	Bollington (mild & bitter)

The Gloucester on Regent Road, Salford, has acquired its nth licensee since it became Pollards first tied house. Tony Hartley, formerly of the Mitre and Salford born and bred, has ejected Desperate Dan and his friends and is looking for customers to sup the beer which they used to consume in enormous quantities.

The clever Mr Pollard has also solved the problem of fining polybins and fine-it-yourself 5 gallon polybins are now available from the off licence on Wellington Road, Stockport, or from the pubs mentioned above.

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.

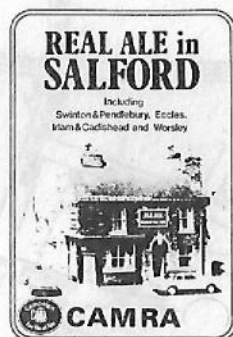
SALFORD'S PUBS No1 - Hanky Park, Regent Road, Cross Lane, Walker & Homfrays, etc. 78p inc postage

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



SADDLEWORTH BEER FESTIVAL

As announced in last month's *What's Doing*, the 1980 extravaganza will take place at the Uppermill Civic Hall for the Friday evening, Saturday lunch and evening and Sunday lunch sessions, 2nd-4th May.

In order to appeal to those people who are not content to drink pint after pint of Boddies all night a wider selection of more "exotic" beers will be available from as far afield as Edinburgh, Wainfleet, Stow-on-the-Wold and Newton Heath. In addition to beers which are readily available in the Manchester area the following breweries have been approached to supply one or more of their brews for the festival: Batemans, Camerons, Donnington, Gooseye, Hardys & Hansons, Hook Norton, Moorhouses (a new Burnley brewery), Shipstones, Stones, Timothy Taylors, Wards, Westcrown (Newark), Yates & Jacksons and last, but certainly not least, Youngers (No 3 - not Tartan!) The list of breweries would not be complete without mentioning Joseph Holt Ltd, whose beers we hope will escape from the shackles of their strict tied-trade policy and be present at Saddleworth. (Would this be the first time they've ever been let out on their own?)

As well as the entertainment provided by those people drinking Holts bitter, Camerons Strongarm or Marstons Owd Rodger for the first time, a brass band will be playing during the Saturday and Sunday lunchtime sessions, with a jazz band on Friday night and a Bavarian Compah band on Saturday night.

Ken Holt

THUMB DOWNS

The Downs, Altrincham, re-opened in March along the lines anticipated in last month's article on Bass pubs. There are some saving graces such as retention of stained glass windows, display of prints of old Altrincham and, in particular, availability of Worthington White Shield (now also on sale at the Victoria Tavern)

Mick Rottenbury

BOTTLED LAGER (3)

Not to be outdone by Morrisons or Sainsburys stores, Lennons Stores (Altrincham) are pushing "Real German lager" in 330ml (30cl or 11.6fl oz) bottles. It goes under the name of Herforder Pilsner and is brewed and bottled in Germany. Again, it is sad that the glass containers are Keim Pfand and Keine Ruckgabe (no deposit and no return)

Stewart Revell

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 May issue is Thurs 24 April

RED LION, HAIGH



The Red Lion at Haigh, near Wigan, doesn't at first glance appear to be your typical Good Beer Guide pub, being very popular for its superior bar snacks and a la carte restaurant in the evenings and its Greenalls beer served through little boxes normally associated with tank beer. In fact, the boxes are free-flow dispensers which were installed to speed up service to the thirsty Haigh tipplers. In addition to the bitter and mild, real Bulmers cider is also on the tariff and the sales record of these traditional drinks is heart-warming to Camra members. The "scrumpy" went from zero to two poly-casks a week in summer and about one in winter, but this gain was not at the expense of real ale, with bitter up 2% on the year and mild up a staggering 20%. Lager sales were down around 3% and keg beer around 65% down (not that they sold much anyway). If you visit the Red Lion avoid Monday lunchtimes (usually closed) and don't forget the supper licence for diners.

Brian Gleave

NEW PUB

Manchester City Council have earmarked a site on the corner of Rylands Street and Orme Street, Beswick, for a new pub. The site will be offered to the N W Brewers' Association, who will nominate a brewery to apply for planning permission.

LYMM LYNCHING

Dear Sir,

I would like to stress that the comments about the Spread Eagle at Lymm in the March What's Doing have no connection with any member of the Central and North Cheshire Branch of CAMRA and the branch wholly disassociates itself from them.

In our experience, the Spread Eagle can be thoroughly recommended in every respect and we can only conclude that his entirely unfounded and hurtful comments are deliberately intended to provoke controversy and bad feeling. An attitude like this can do nothing but harm to CAMRA, and we entirely sympathise with the feelings of Mr Hanbury at the Spread Eagle.

Roy Walker, Secretary,
Central & North Cheshire Branch

Dear Sir,

Whilst I read with some amusement Quentin Crisp's edict on "Pubs to avoid in Greater Manchester", I feel I must disagree with him vis a vis the Spread Eagle at Lymm, where I have enjoyed many fine pints in the cosy, well-appointed snug with real fire etc. I have always considered it a worthy GBG entry, particularly since the addition of mild a couple of years back. As compared with CAMRA members at the Manchester Pub Preservation Meeting, say, the clientele are a stodgy, sober set - and what's wrong with living on a boat anyway? Unless of course it is a paradox, as the Spread Eagle is in Cheshire, not Greater Manchester, perhaps Quentin is implying we ought not to avoid it?

Brian Gleave, Chairman,
South Lancs Order of Boat Dwellers

Will the real Quentin McDonald stand up please?

Unfortunately Mr McDonald's personal views have created as much antagonism as they have amusement. They can't continue in the same vein, but it would be a pity to let such a literary talent go to waste. Who are you? An impecunious landlord, perhaps, anxious to sue for defamation? Stand up and identify yourself!

DOUBLE DATE

Dear Sir,

Matthew Brown, brewers of Lion Ales, currently have two specially painted buses running in Preston and Manchester to announce their "150th Anniversary 1830-1980"

I find this rather surprising as I have in my possession a bottle of their beer complete with label clearly marked "Centenary Ale 1875-1975". Two letters to the brewery have gone unanswered so if anyone can throw further light on the issue I'd like to hear from them via What's Doing.

Jim Davies



Mortified is not strong enough a word to describe the chagrin I felt upon reading the missive which Nestfeather had received. I am not referring to the denials of obfuscating disbarment which he received from 29 landpersons in Grotley suburbia, nor to the flurry of writs from keepers of hostelries of unparalleled atmospheric purity which followed Quentin McDonald's vituperative revelations. These are safely in the hands of Eddy's libel lawyers, Done Givabugger & Co. I am referring to a letter which castigates myself for my account of the Defenders of Grotley Slum Hostelries, Inns and Taverns meeting. Inter alia the writer states...

"That the meeting was a disaster is not in dispute. But what Mr Periwinkle fails to point out is that this was entirely due to his own behaviour. The loud and foul mouthed contributions from this short arsed pansy together with his inability to remain sober after three halves ensured that the meeting soon degenerated into the sort of chaotic tragedy-cum-farce that Mr Periwinkle's furtive imagination conjures up for us every month in his column. If Mr Periwinkle wishes to do CAMRA a favour (which I doubt) then he ought to resign. (As ought the editor of What's Doing for allowing such drivel to be published in the magazine)."

The letter is signed "Fred Prune", which I can only assume is a nom de ballpoint of the Preston Primadonna, one Harry Beandick. Far from resigning, I was affronted to such an extent that I had words in the somewhat charred ear of Boddington. I have it on good authority that the Scousely Real Ale Knitting Shop proprietor and ex-Scousely branch committee member, Bogbrush, has been ordered to give Mr Beandick the push.

A sad end to an undoubted gentleman who could certainly hold his three halves and whose laissez-faire policy as BLO for Markumbers should be a lesson to us all.

Denial Ebenezer Drab has not crawled back from the grave. Nor does he intend to knock down one of his 18th century taverns around the ears of the licensee. Rock on Cumulus.

Campaign News Badge Fairplastic has thrown in his job as quasi RO to go and run an alehouse. Good on yer Badge! What chance Dermatitis for the job?

I must apologise for my lapse into the vernacular, but I am still disoriented by Bunty's continued incarceration, to which there seems no promise of termination, although the campaign continues.

THE NATION DECIDES



Your guide to the CAMRA National Executive Elections

ELSIE CLOCKWORK-NUN

Megalomaniac Pudshire Demagogue with tendency to call other members of the NE 'thickos'. Wont to get hopelessly sober and issue 18 page memos to all and sundry. Probably on the way out as a result of conspiracy of rest of NE.

BODDINGTON BENCE

Obese and somewhat singed parrot. Flatulent after curries. Often seen with wing in sling or face in plaster after beak transplant. The power behind the throne.

BOGBRUSH

Scousely Real Ale Knitting Shop Proprietor and sometime bus driver. Obsessed with graffiti and suffers from chronic verbosity. Tells me he is modest and unassuming.

THE NOBLE

Geriatric gourmand with bald pregnant look. Specialises in missing trains and running about like an electric epicurean mammoth. Full of wonderful publicity ideas which are as much use as a chocolate fireguard.

DEMYS ROUSSOS

Failed Parliamentary Marxist Candidate. Present supremo of the campaign and likely to remain so, having got all his pals on the NE. Not in the mould of Chris Brew Ten and Jimmy Slyne, this W G Grace look-alike has brought an atmosphere of knock-about farce to the NE.

TONI ZIMBABWE-TALBOT

Inebriate Scousely Sea Captain, much prone to name dropping. Suffers from being associated with the late Bogbrush which has stifled his dynamic apathy in smacking Heineken for daring to have silly adverts.



SPOT THE PUB 4



Four free pints to the first person who can tell me the name of the landlord of this pub when the photo was taken.

Mick Rottenbury

WARRINGTON ALE PULLS OUT

Warrington Ale is no longer available at the Albert, Derby Street, nor the White Hart, Deane Road, Bolton. The White Hart has also ditched its hand-pumps in favour of fast-flow electric dispenserettes. The handpumps were installed in this newish pub only two years ago.

Bert Kerks



Branch Diary

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs Apr 17, 8.00. Branch meeting, Wheatsheaf, Altrincham (corner Manchester Road and Oldfield Road). Speakers Mr B Cunningham & Mr J Partington of Wilsons

Thur Apr 24 8.00. Old King, Great Portwood Street, Stockport. Pub of the Month Social with S Manchester branch

Thur May 1st 8.00pm. Committee/Social, Quarry Bank, Bloomsbury Lane Timperley

Thurs May 15th 8.00. Branch Meeting, Melville, Barton Road, Stretford

Sat May 17th Coach trip to Kendal and Lancaster

Contact: Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 (home)

BOLTON

Weds 23 April: Pub crawl Bolton town centre. General Havelock 7.30pm
York 8.30, Prince William 9.30 (see article)

Weds 30 April: Pub crawl with S Lancs branch. Wheatsheaf, Wallgate,
Wigan 7.30

Tues 6th May: Branch meeting York Hotel, Bolton 8.30. Speaker- Mr
Bowden, Brewer from Burtonwoods

Contact: Bert KerksBolton 388172

SOUTH LANCs

10 April (Thurs): Branch meeting, Buck l' Th' Vine, Wigan

Weds 30 April: Pub crawl 7.30 Wheatsheaf, Wallgate, Wigan

Weds 7 May: Branch meeting Bamfurlong Hotel, Bamfurlong

Fri 23 May: Mild crawl of Hindley. at least 5 different milds. Dray King 7.30

Contact Ian Ogden Wigan 79534

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Thurs 10 April: Branch AGM, Gateway, Wilmslow Road 8.00

Thurs 24 April: Pub of the Month Social, Old King, Great Portwood Street,
Stockport 8.00

Thursday May 8th: Branch Meeting, Gateway, Wilmslow Road 8.00

Contact: Humphrey Higgins432 0059

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM AND BURY

Tues 8th April 8.00 Branch meeting, Waggon & Horses (Bass), Halifax
Road, Smallbridge, Rochdale

Friday 11 April 8.00 Pub crawl with E Lancs. 8.00 Smut Inn, Manchester
Road, Werneth

Tues 22nd April 8.00 Committee meeting, Royal (Thwaites) Oldham Road,
Buersil, Rochdale

Tues 13 May 8.00pm. Branch AGM Ring o Bells (Lees) St Leonards Square
Middleton

Tues 27th May 8.00 Committee meeting Hare & Hounds (Thwaites) Oldham
Road, Tonge, Middleton

Contact Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h) 061 236 4411 ex7236 (w)

NORTH MANCHESTER

Weds 7th May 10 or 11 brew mild crawl (depending on who gets his way)
7.00 Braziers, Salford; 8.00 Three Legs of Man

Weds 14th May Committee/Social Roadshow. King William 7.30 (the
Mosley Common one) Yew Tree 8.30, Royal Oak, Boothstown 9.30

Weds 24 May Branch meeting, Castle, Oldham St, Manchester 8.00

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

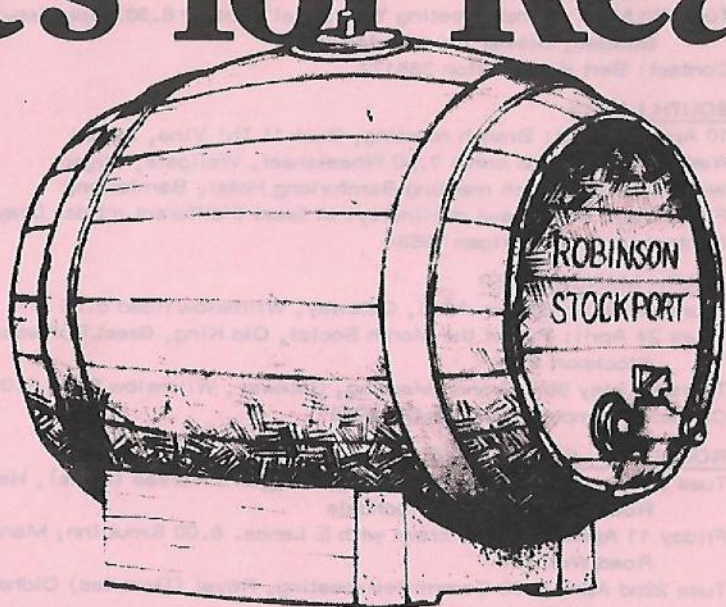
Dear Ed,

On behalf of the Trafford and Hulme branch, I should like to register a strong protest against the 'Pubs to Avoid' article in last month's What's Doing. Constructive criticism is one thing, a wild and random 'slagging' of pubs is another. The whole column was in bad taste and I suspect many landlords who at present sell the magazine over the bar will cease to do so if it continues to insult their colleagues' houses for no apparent reason.

Mick Rottenbury, Secretary

And that goes for South Manchester, too.

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 Pints*, 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.

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Bitter Ale*
Best Mild Ale



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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 Pints.

**When you buy any of these Robinson's Ales,
you are buying Traditional Draught Beer
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