

WHAT'S DOING



MAY
1980

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

MORE PUB SWAPS



Wilsons and Greenall Whitley are swapping some more pubs, this time in Stockport, Salford, Widnes and Warrington. All the Wilsons pubs are currently selling real ale, something which may not continue under Greenalls. Wilsons will be installing traditional beer in their Warrington and Widnes acquisitions.

The full list is as follows:

To Greenalls from Wilsons:

Sir Robert Peel, Stockport

Victoria, Hall St, Stockport

Railway, Liverpool St, Salford

Railway, Wellington Rd, Stockport

To Wilsons from Greenalls:

Clapgates, Hale Road, Widnes

Commercial, Page Lane, Widnes

Millfield, Joseph Street, Widnes

Borough Arms, Mersey St, Warrington

Town's pubs 'raped'

THE Mayor of Northwich has accused Greenall Whitley of "raping" the pubs in the town.

Speaking at a meeting of Vale Royal's Planning Committee last week, Councillor Ron Woodier said it was time the Warrington-based brewery were stopped.

He wanted the committee to reject the brewery's plans to make extensive internal alterations to the Bowling Green in London Road, one of the oldest pubs in the town.

"This is one of the few pubs left where you can go and have a good game of dominoes and I think it should stay that way. Greenall Whitley have been raping the pubs in Northwich for too long," he said.

Northwich Town Council have already objected to the plans because of the threat to the character of the building.

This column appeared in a recent Northwich newspaper, the strongest yet in a series condemning Greenalls' unpleasant policies in the town. Some weeks ago when the local council recommended that the Planning Committee turn down Greenalls' plans for the pub, a councillor said, "Greenall Whitley have a tendency for taking a building with a lot of character and making it into something resembling a spaceship. This is one of the oldest buildings in the town and we want to keep the character of it. When they rip the insides out of a place like that, they rip out its soul at the same time."

The brewery's programme goes further than interior devastation. They have recently applied to demolish one of their pubs, the George and Dragon, and replace it with a new 'development'. Only a year ago they said that there was 'no question' of it being demolished.

Whilst on the subject of Greenalls' fibs, it is nice to see that the 'real ale' advertisement for the Merry Weaver (their new Rochdale pub on tank beer) has been taken to the Advertising Standards Authority.

Information: Roy Walker

ALL CHANGE AT THE CROSS KEYS

The Cross Keys, New Delph, near Oldham, is closed pending more structural alterations. This pub, a free house selling Theakstons, Pollards and Wilsons, has been purchased by the ex licensee of the White Lion at Upholland (a Tetley house listed in the Good Beer Guide)

The White Lion had a justifiably good reputation for the quality of its beer and its food, so expect the catering aspect to feature prominently at the Cross Keys. What chance Tetley beers in addition to the present range?

Steve Lawton

CHANCE ENCOUNTER

The clever Mr Pollard appears to have moved into the Inn with a Chance, Stockport. Three handpumps, on temporary-looking mountings, have appeared, two selling bitter and one mild. The bright Wilsons and their electric pumps have been removed, leaving only Carlsberg and Guinness as bulk keg beers.

NEW ROAD THREATENS PUBS



The road planners are at it again. Eleven Hollinwood pubs are threatened by the 'preferred route' of the Manchester Outer Ring Road. This is the Denton to Middleton section of the M602 - a motorway which is responsible for the flattening of several Salford pubs.

All but one of the pubs sell traditional beer. The list is as follows:

Bridgewater (Holts)	Old Post Office (Oldham Brewery)
Navigation (Wilsons)	White Swan (Oldham - bright beer)
Filho (Wilsons)	Crown and Mitre (Oldham Brewery)
Spinners (Sam Smiths)	Waggon and Horses (Wilsons)
Kings (Holts)	Albion, Drury Lane (Lees)
Hat and Feather (Marstons)	

The new motorway is still in the planning stage, and the public will have the opportunity to comment on, or object to, the proposal when it is published, possibly in 1981. A public enquiry will be held before a final decision is taken on whether to proceed with the scheme.

The Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch of CAMRA have examined the plans for the motorway and it appears that if the road is to be constructed there would be little chance of saving most of the pubs in view of the large area covered by the complex junction planned for Hollinwood. However, the Bridgewater (which is only affected by a link from Manchester Road to Chapel Road) and the Albion (on the line of an access road to an industrial development) could both be retained by a realignment of the appropriate link/ access roads. The only other possibilities would appear to be the Kings and the Old Post Office, but even if saved these would be surrounded by roads with resultant problems of noise, vibration and access.

The branch will continue to watch the situation and have made initial contact with Holts and Lees regarding their 'candidates for preservation'.

Information: Graham Chinn

PLANNING NEWS

Greenalls have applied for permission to alter the Kings Head on Chancellor Lane in Ardwick. No doubt the alterations will not involve the removal of the cask conditioned beer to which the brewery is firmly committed in the pubs which they acquired from Wilsons.

Lees have applied to extend the Suburban Hotel in Gorton and provide a new car park.

Wilson's intend to provide the New White Lion, Blackley, with a two storey extension to form a car park with toilets over. Externally the pub has not changed significantly since it was built 170 years ago.

A new Hydes pub is to be built in Gorton on council owned property on the corner of Garratts Way and Hampden Walk. The planners authorised negotiations with Hydes under the North West Brewers Association agreement in January this year.

CHANGE AT THE GREY HORSE

CAMRA members Tom and Jean Goldie have taken over the Grey Horse, Portland Street, Manchester. The previous licensee, Olive Mosdale, retired last month after 33 years at the pub. In her time there she served jugs of old ale to opera company members who called between acts; kept many a canal-borne visitor stocked with supplies and more recently supported CAMRA by selling local publications in her Good Beer Guide pub.

Tom Goldie, an ex-RN Ship's Carpenter, has enthusiastically started the much needed renovation, with an eye to simplicity and good taste. It looks as though the pub will soon be ready for another 33 years (at least!)

Pete Ogden

MORE SMITHS

The Bird in Hand ('Bottom Bird') at New Hey is now selling cask Old Brewery Bitter and thus follows the example set a couple of months ago by Don Scroop at the 'Top Bird', only a few hundred yards up the road.

Steve Lawton

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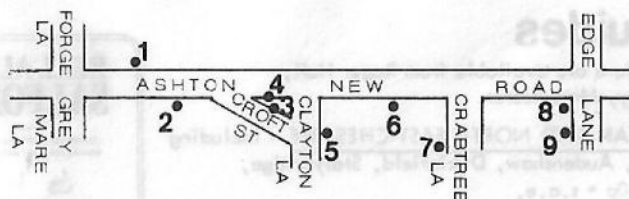
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BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT



- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 BRADFORD ARMS | ASHTON NEW ROAD | TETLEY M,B(H) |
| 2 BRICKLAYERS ARMS | ASHTON NEW ROAD | WILSONS M,B(H) |
| 3 VICTORIA | CROFT STREET | WILSONS M,B(H) |
| 4 GROVE | ASHTON NEW ROAD | HOLTS M,B(H) |
| 5 CHURCH | CLAYTON LANE | BASS 4X(E) |
| 6 GREENS ARMS | ASHTON NEW ROAD | WILSONS M,B(H) |
| 7 CRABTREE | CRABTREE LANE | WILSONS M,B(H) |
| 8 HALFWAY HOUSE | ASHTON NEW ROAD | HOLTS M,B(H) |
| 9 GARDENERS ARMS | EDGE LANE | WILSONS M,B(E) |



Trafford and Hulme branch will be celebrating the Queen's official birthday with a pub crawl of Clayton (any excuse...) Corgis are optional and the evening finishes with polo on Ashton New Road. Meeting times are 8.00pm in the Bricklayers and 9.00pm in the Grove. If the Bradford Arms is still open this should not be missed, so look in at No 1 first!

SMUT KNOCKABOUT

Mick Rottenbury

The Smut, Manchester Road, Oldham, is to be modernised and extended. This Boddingtons house, listed in the Good Beer Guide, is an archetypal street corner local, boasting what must be the finest set of handpumps in town. The licensee, Tommy Binns, serves an excellent pint of ale in traditional surroundings. Let us hope that the Smut doesn't go the way of most other 'Boddified' pubs and lose its character (and its handpumps).

URGENT MESSAGE to Boddingtons' architects and planners -

Why not visit the Smut and ask the regulars what they would like to see happen to the pub? After all it is they who will have to drink there, not you!

Steve Lawton

PUB OF THE MONTH

South Manchester branch have selected the Coach and Horses, London Road, Manchester, as its May Pub of the Month. The pub has been a Good Beer Guide entry for some years and is a busy, basic free house. Beers available are Tetley mild and bitter, Boddingtons bitter and Pollards bitter. The social evening, at which the Pub of the Month plaque will be presented, will be on Thursday, May 29th, starting at 8.00pm. All members and friends welcome.

Humphrey Higgins

BURTONWOOD IN BOLTON

Cask mild has replaced the keg version in the Malt & Hops and Buttery Bars of the Swan Hotel, Bradshawgate, Bolton

Bert Kerks

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.

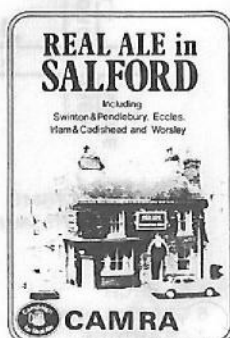
****REAL ALE IN CENTRAL AND NORTH CHESHIRE** - Including Warrington, Widnes, Runcorn, Lymm, Frodsham, Northwich, Middlewich and Winsford 10p + s.a.e.

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, 22 Stoneleigh Drive, Stoneclough,
Radcliffe, Manchester M26 9HA

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

local brand of Antwerp, but Ginder-ale, Op-ale, and Speciale Palm are nationally available light ales. Stronger ales include Duvel, Biss and Bush Beer. West of Brussels another variety occurs, the saison. The brewery at Silly produces, of course, the Silly Saison.

Despite this wide choice, there are many imported beers. Scotch and Christmas ales from Scotland, stouts from England and Ireland as well as German and Danish lagers. Any visit to Belgium will reveal many more local breweries with their own high quality products. For your souvenirs, call at any supermarket - there is usually one whole aisle devoted to beer.

Henry Peacock

IT'S NOT CRICKET

Following enquiries to Lancashire County Cricket Club as to the possibility of real ale in the bars at Old Trafford, copies of letters outlining the following points have been received. Wilsons Beer Service Department find that (1) the area in which they are to stillage the beer is not cooled and is also used as a crate store. It is totally unsuitable. (2) The air compressor will require re-siting. (3) If they do install traditional beer there, it is only possible to use a pillar tap, not a beer engine, with any success. Lancashire CCC cite the following problems: (a) Space - they only have a limited area to stock-up and this is barely enough for big match days: (b) Waste - their business definitely relates to good weather and good crowds and a continuity to serve beer which they do not have: (c) Distribution - they would only be able to serve the beer in the Members Bar which they feel would create more discontent.

Our thanks must go to Wilsons and Lancs for at least investigating the possibilities but it looks like another season of plastic containers of Holts, Robbies, Boddies, Hydes, etc. If anyone gets thirsty we sit at the back - Warwick Road end. Bring your own glass!

Mick Rottenbury

THE RESIGN OF A DECENT MILD

When the new Axe and Cleaver opened in Altrincham (almost opposite the bus/rail interchange) I commented on the curious fact that both mild and bitter were the same price. It comes as no surprise, therefore, to find that mild sales were so low that the 'real' mild has been replaced by the chilled and filtered variety. This seems likely to happen in other Lanchester Taverns houses in the South Manchester area as many people drink mild because it is cheaper. Apparently Wilsons are not happy about the situation and have recommended that the price differential (usually 2p a pint) be restored in the future. Let us hope that real mild can be restored at the same time. We are assured that the differential will be arrived at by reducing the price of the mild - not by increasing the price of the bitter!

Mention of the Axe and Cleaver reminds me that on Sunday lunchtimes, if you are in early enough, there is a free raffle ticket with every pint. The winner receives four free pints. Chicken and chips in a basket has been added to the evening menu weekdays 6-10pm, but the main attraction for me is the lunchtime menu which is quite superb.

Mick Rottenbury

BEER IN T' VALLEY

Rossendale consists of the old boroughs of Bacup, Haslingden, Rawtenstall and Whitworth, including the Edenfield and Stubbins part of Ramsbottom and is a comfortable half hour's drive up the M66 from the centre of Manchester.

In Rossendale borough there are 92 pubs in all, of which an impressive number, 83, serve at least one real ale. The vast majority of these sell both mild and bitter. There isn't a fantastic choice of beers, as the table below shows, but Rossendale has the highest percentage of real ale pubs in the country.

BREWERY	REAL	NON-REAL	TOTAL
Wilsons	46	1	47
Bass	24	1	25
Thwaites	7	1	8
Free houses	3	3	6
Whitbread	2	2	4
John (wash your mouth out) Smith	-	1	1
Matthew Brown	1	-	1
	83	9	92

As can be seen from the table, the area is almost free from breweries which are indifferent to real ale - Greenalls, Oldham Brewery and Tetleys are not represented here. Even Whitbread have installed Special Cask Bitter in two of their four pubs.

In order to make the list complete the non-real ale pubs are as follows:

Free houses: Crown, Bacup; Royal, Waterfoot; Pack Horse, Edenfield

Whitbread: White Horse, Helmshore; Regent, Haslingden

Bass: The Birches, Whitworth (Perhaps someone at Bass knows why?)

Thwaites: Sun Inn, Rawtenstall

Wilsons: Tankards, Haslingden John Smiths: Duke of Buccleugh, Waterfoot

The majority of the Bass pubs still show signs of previous ownership with MBB (Masseys Burnley Brewery) prominent in many windows, while a number of Wilsons pubs are still in their original (pre-Watneys Red) Wilsons livery. Though the etched windows are fewer in number than with Bass, a superb example of a Beverleys window is to be found at the Clarence in Helmshore, next to the sports centre. Glen Top windows are best seen at the Bishop Blaize in Rawtenstall, and just across the road is the 1979 Bass North West Sandwich House of the Year, the Rams Head. The New Inn in Bacup has some 18th century murals in the snug, complete with 18th century nicotine stains. They were uncovered during redecoration a couple of years ago and sensibly left by Thwaites.

So if you have the misfortune to arrive at a non-real ale pub in Rossendale, don't worry. The nearest real ale pub is less than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away, and don't forget Sue's Brews at 105, Burnley Road East, Waterfoot, for your real ale off licence.

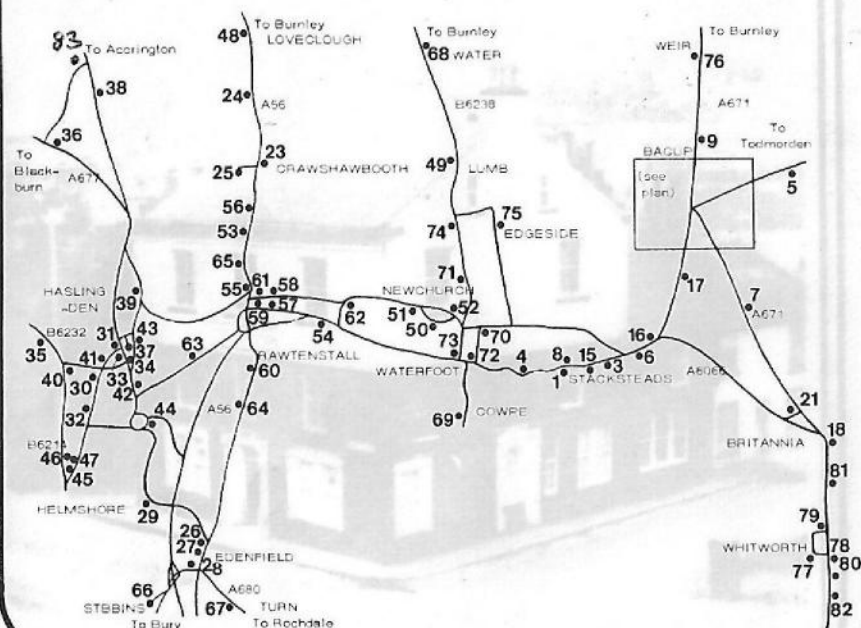
Don Chattwood

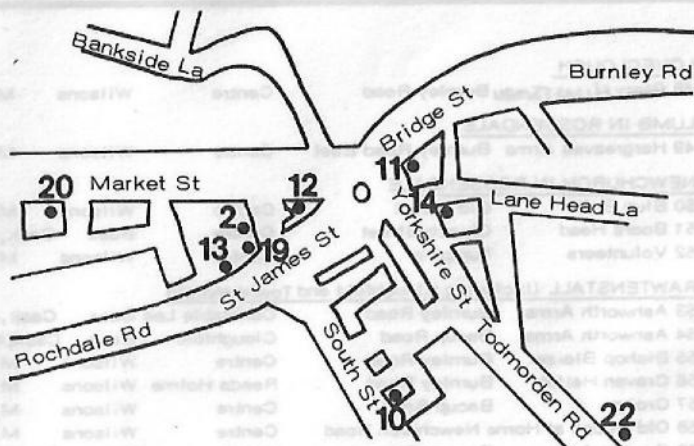
REAL ALE in ROSSENDALE



BACUP (Including Britannia and Stacksteads)

1	Beehive	Newchurch Road	Stacksteads	Wilsons	M,B(H)
2	British Queen	Union Street	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)
3	Commercial	Newchurch Road	Stacksteads	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)
4	Dog and Partridge	Newchurch Road	Stacksteads	Wilsons	M,B(E)
5	Flowers	Todmorden Road	Greave	Wilsons	M,B(E)(H)
6	Farholme Tavern	Newchurch Road	Stacksteads	Wilsons	M,B(E)
7	George and Dragon	Rochdale Road	Rockcliffe	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)
8	Hare and Hounds	Newchurch Road	Stacksteads	Wilsons	M,B(E)
9	Irwell	Burnley Road	Broadclough	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)
10	Joiners Arms	South Street	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)
11	King George V	St James Square	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(H)
12	Market Hotel	Market Street	Centre	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)
13	New Inn	St James Street	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
14	Queens	Yorkshire Street	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)
15	Railway Tavern	Newchurch Road	Stacksteads	Wilsons	M,B(E)
16	Royal Oak	Newchurch Road	Stacksteads	Wilsons	M,B(E)
17	Swan	Market Street	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(H)
18	Travellers Rest	Rochdale Road	Britannia	Wilsons	M,B(E)
19	Waterloo	Rochdale Road	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(E)(H)
20	Waterworks Tavern	Market Street	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(H)
21	Wellington	Rochdale Road	Britannia	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)
22	Wellington	Todmorden Road	Centre	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)





CRAWSHAWBOOTH

23 Black Dog	Burnley Road	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)
24 Jester	Burnley Road	Goodshaw	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)
25 New Masons	Co-operation Street	Centre	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)

EDENFIELD

26 Coach and Horses	Market Street	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(H)
27 Horse and Jockey	Market Street	Centre	Bodd's B, Thwaites	BM, B(E)
28 Rostrons Arms	Market Place	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)

EWOOD BRIDGE

29 Bridge Inn	Blackburn Road	Centre	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)
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HASLINGDEN

30 Bay Horse	Helmshore Road	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(E)
31 Black Bull	Blackburn Road	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(H)
32 Clarence	Helmshore Road	Flaxmoss	Wilsons	M,B(E)
33 Commercial	Manchester Road	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)
34 Crown	Manchester Road	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)
35 Duke of Wellington	Grane Road	(B6232)	Whitbread	SC(H)
36 Farmers Glory	Hudhey Road	(A677)	Whitbread	SC(H)
37 Foresters	Pleasant Street	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(H)
38 Great Tree	Blackburn Road	Acre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
39 Griffin	Hudrake	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(H)
40 Holden Arms	Three Lane Ends	Grane Road	Wilsons	M,B(E)
41 Roebuck	Lower Deardengate	Centre	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)
42 Rose and Crown	Manchester Road	Lane Side	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)
43 Thorn	Bury Road	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(H)
44 Woolpack	Manchester Road	Bentgate	Wilsons	M,B(H)

HELMSHORE

45 Bridge End	Helmshore Road	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)
46 Robin Hood	Holcombe Road	(B6235)	Wilsons	M,B(H)
47 Station	Helmshore Road	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)(E)

LOVECLOUGH

48 Glesby HUNTSMAN	Burnley Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (H)
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LUMB IN ROSSENDALE

49 Hargreaves Arms	Burnley Road East	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (H)
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NEWCURCH IN ROSSENDALE

50 Blue Bell	Old Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (H)
51 Boars Head	Church Street	Centre	Bass	Cask, 4X (E)
52 Volunteers	Turnpike	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (E)

RAWTENSTALL (Including Cloughfold and Townsendfold)

53 Ashworth Arms	Burnley Road	Constable Lee	Bass	Cask, 4X (E)
54 Ashworth Arms	Bacup Road	Cloughfold	Bass	Cask, 4X (E)
55 Bishop Blaize	Burnley Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (H)
56 Craven Heifer	Burnley Road	Reeds Holme	Wilsons	M, B (H)
57 Crown	Bacup Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (E)
58 Old House at Home	Newchurch Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (H)
59 Queens Arms	Queens Square	Centre	Bass	Cask, 4X (E)
60 Railway Tavern	Bury Road	Wood Top	Thwaites	B, BM (E)
61 Rams Head	Newchurch Road	Centre	Bass	Cask, 4X (E)
62 Red Lion	Newchurch Road	Cloughfold	Wilsons	M, B (E)
63 Shepherds	Haslingden Road	Whittaker Park	Wilsons	M, B (E)
64 Whitchaff	Bury Road	Townsendfold	Boddingtons	B (E)
65 White Lion	Burnley Road	Constable Lee	Whitbread	SC (H)

STUBBINS

66 Corner Pin	Bolton Road North	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (E)
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TURN

67 Plane Tree	Rochdale Road	Centre	Bass	Cask, 4X (E)
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WATER

68 Commercial	Burnley Road East	Centre	Bass	Cask, 4X (E)
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WATERFOOT (Including Cowpe)

69 Buck	Cowpe Road	Cowpe	Bass	Cask, 4X (E)
70 Jolly Sailor	Booth Road	Centre	Bass	Cask, 4X (E)
71 Masons	Burnley Road East	(B6238)	Bass	Cask, 4X (E)
72 Moulders Arms	Bacup Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (E)
73 Railway	Bacup Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (E)
74 Roe Buck	Burnley Road East	(B6238)	Wilsons	M, B (E)
75 White Horse Inn	Edgeside Lane	Edgeside	Wilsons	M, B (E)

WEIR

76 Weir Hotel	Burnley Road	Centre	Thwaites	M, B (H)
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WHITWORTH

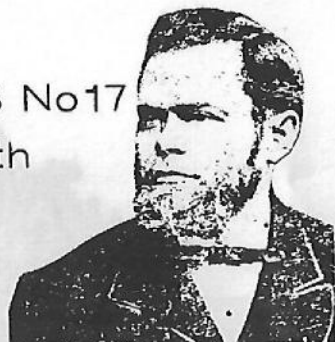
77 Cock and Magpie	Tonge End	Centre	Bass	Cask, 4X (E)
78 Dog and Partridge	Market Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (E)
79 Halfway House	Station Road	Facit	Bass	4X (E)
80 Rawstrons Arms	Market Street	Centre	Bass	4X (E)
81 Red Lion	Market Street	Shawforth	Wilsons	M, B (E)
82 Whitworth Arms	Market Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (H)

RISING BRIDGE

83 Rising Bridge	A680		Lion	M, B (H)
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MANCHESTER BREWERIES No17

W T Rothwell of Newton Heath



WT Rothwell

Recently, Stewart Revell and myself had the pleasure of meeting Mr Charles Maurice Rothwell, late Managing Director of WT Rothwell Ltd. For much of the following information I am indebted to Mr Rothwell.

William Thomas Rothwell, generally known as WTR, moved from the Haydock Park area, near Liverpool, to Newton Heath in the early 1870s. Little is known of his early life prior to the move except that he may very well have been a farmer. The Heath Brewery at 800 Oldham Road had been in use for some years previously. During the following 20 years, WTR rebuilt the brewery in stages and it reached the height of its prosperity during the late 1880s. A journal of the time recorded "...it has nothing to fear from comparison with the best breweries in the county, either as regards equipment or general convenience for the conduct of a large business. The trade has now assumed large proportions and the concern stands deservedly high in the esteem and confidence of an influential connection."

WTR soon involved himself with public affairs and became a member of the Newton Heath Local Board. When the Newton Heath township decided on amalgamation with Manchester, he resigned in protest but later became a councillor for one of the new wards. WTR was a strong advocate of Bimetallism, the use of both gold and silver coins at a fixed relative value for currency. He actively supported the work of the Bimetallic League and wrote several pamphlets on the subject.

Rothwell's major acquisition came in 1902 with the purchase of the Bardsley Brewery and 40 tied houses from Shaw and Bentley. The Bardsley Brewery had been founded in 1832 by Mr Robert Bentley of the Old Brewery, Rotherham, and a Mr Carr. The stone to construct the brewery originally formed part of a conservatory belonging to Madame Beaumont of Bretton Hall, near Barnsley. Charles Maurice Rothwell remembers day trips to Bardsley with his father Charles. Particularly impressive were the long, cool storage cellars under the brewery which, to CM's youthful eye, appeared vast and cavernous. Brewing continued at Bardsley until the end of the First World War.

In 1917 WT Rothwell Ltd was formed with three directors. WTR became Governing Director; the two others were his sons Frank and Charles. The fact that Wilson's Newton Heath Brewery stood close by sometimes caused confusion in the early days and deliveries intended for one occasionally arrived at the other. An interesting fact is that Rothwells handled the dreaded Watney keg beers in the area before the Watney-Wilsons tie up. Rothwells produced three draught beers - best mild, bitter and ordinary mild. Of the three, the best mild was the strongest brew. Another product of the Heath



Heath Brewery



Bardsley Brewery

Brewery was Mancunian Strong Pale Ale.

Charles Maurice Rothwell received his training at the Tadcaster Tower Brewery in Yorkshire. This practice of training at other breweries was quite commonplace. (Many of the Boddingtons, for example, trained in Scotland). In his time, about 50 people were employed at the Heath Brewery, which produced an average of 100 barrels per brew, with an upper limit of 140 barrels. The brewery had its own well, but in CM's time only town water was used for brewing, although well water was still used for washing and cooling purposes.

Frank Rothwell died in about 1945 and Charles in 1949, leaving Charles Maurice as the last male Rothwell on the board. CM decided that he would like to sell the business and word must have travelled quickly as approaches from several breweries were made. A local concern, possibly Wilsons, expressed interest but the best offer came from Marston, Thompson & Evershed Ltd, a company that already had pubs in the area through the takeover of Taylors Eagle Brewery. So, in 1961, Marstons acquired 80 pubs, 120 off-licences and the Heath Brewery. The brewery served as a depot for some time but has now been demolished.

The Gateway is a Marstons pub in Ashton under Lyne which was formerly a Rothwells house. It is said that a visitor once offered £200 for the window, perhaps the only one still in existence advertising "Bardsley Fine Ales".

NEW THWAITES OUTLET Alan Gall

The Ancient Shepherd, closed by Greenall Whitley four months ago, reopened on the 31st March. It now serves Thwaites mild and bitter via new handpumps which replace Greenalls' electric pumps. The only alterations made by Thwaites were the moving of the bar in the lounge some 18 inches, giving a little more drinking space, and a coat of paint in the lounge and bar.

The landlord is new to the trade, having formerly worked at Strangeways. Another newcomer to the trade has taken over the Dog and Partridge, Manor Street, the Thwaites house bought from Bass two years ago. He was a drayman for Scottish and Newcastle! The Dog and Partridge now sells Thwaites best mild instead of the ordinary.

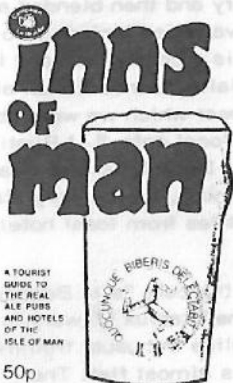
Bert Kerks

SAM RIDES AGAIN

Weds 18th February 1976: Real ale Sam Smiths mild and bitter served by newly installed handpumps was reintroduced to the Malt Shovels in Altrincham. May 1977: Sam Smiths cease producing cask conditioned mild (4X Best Ale) leaving Old Brewery Bitter as their only real ale.

After three years, Samuel Smith could be on the verge of making news again in the area. They have five tied houses in the area, all of which are popular, thriving pubs - but only one of them (the Malt Shovels) serves real ale. The landlord of the Windmill, Carrington, is very keen to sell OBB on handpumps but there are some practical problems to overcome. The landlady of the Railway, Flixton, was not really bothered one way or another, but understood the brewery were keen to install handpumps. Her clients apparently like their beer fizzy and exceptionally cold! The tenants of the Vine, Dunham, are perfectly happy with their beer as it is but see the arrival of cask beer as inevitable, with the brewery paying for cellar improvements and handpump installations. The remaining outlet is the Cheshire Midland, Hale, where the barman had heard no rumours, but I suspect it is a fair bet that Sams have made the same overtures to the landlord there. All in all, it looks promising, with the brewery the instigators of a costly and comprehensive switch over to cask conditioned Old Brewery Bitter. Perhaps they might even consider reversing their policy on 4X Best Ale!

Mick Rottenbury



NEW GUIDE

The offshore development wing of the South Lancashire branch of CAMRA has produced a real ale guide to the Isle of Man. "Inns of Man" lists all the tied houses of the island's two breweries and some of the free houses. The guide is available from Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester, for 50p plus a large stamped, addressed envelope.

OB HOUSE KEEPS CASK

The Waggon and Horses, Huddersfield Road, Oldham, has recently acquired a new tenant as well as a new set of pumps to replace the previous handpumps. Despite being identical in appearance to the adjacent keg lager pump, they are in fact free-flow electric pumps dispensing cask conditioned beers.

Steve Lawton

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 June issue is Thursday 22 May

IN BELGIUM FOR THE BEER

Belgians like their beer - in some years they manage to drink more than the Germans. Besides enjoying a great volume, they also enjoy a great variety of beer.

As in this country, a 'Big Six breweries' is emerging, led by Stella Artois. But there are still 130 breweries producing 250 varieties of beer. Bottom fermented pils lager dominates the market, but Belgium also has a great tradition of brewing top fermented ales, a tradition which reaches into South Holland and North France. The top fermented beers or 'speciales' are often bottle conditioned, sometimes in corked bottles. Occasionally they may also be found on draught.

Perhaps the most famous of these specialities are the trappist beers of five Cistercian abbeys. Chimay beers are the most celebrated, but my favourite is Orval, a beautifully balanced drink with an attractive aroma. Other abbeys license commercial breweries to produce their beers, and other breweries may also produce an abbey beer in the same style.

The most unusual beers are without doubt the lambic variety from the area west of Brussels. These are wheat beers, produced by the spontaneous fermentation of wild yeasts. In summer, young lambic is sold on draught, but most of

it is matured at the brewery and then blended and bottled as gueuze. Other varieties include faro, a weaker beer, kriek which is a cherry beer and lambic doux, much sweeter. In Halle, Vanderlinden also produce a delicious dark beer which we were able to sample on draught at a local cafe "t Rustig Hoekje". This beer, called Duivel, is also available in bottles. Every morning, the brewery staff collect the empty wine bottles from local hotels and reuse them.



In Brussels we visited the cafe "a la Becasse". Here the lambic doux of the BrabruX brewery is served in pottery jugs. Unlike the usual frothing Belgian pint, the lambic is almost flat. The Becasse appeals to a wide clientele and a visit is certainly rewarding.

KRIEK LAMBIC

GUEUZE

St Louis



**DAT MOET JE PROEVEN
IL FAUT LA DEGUSTER**

Belgium is a very compact country, but particular regions are associated with distinctive styles. Leuven is famous for wheat beers which are still brewed at Hoegaarden and Neerijse. Oud enaarde and Diest are at the centres of the two regions which are famous for brown beers. Those from Oudenaarde have become known as "the champagne of Flanders". Liefmans of Ouden-

aarde produce brown and kriek beers which are sold in 80cl corked bottles, wrapped in tissue paper. The brewery has two further distinctions - the head brewer is a woman and the parent company is Vaux of Sunderland.

Light ales and stronger pale ales are widely available. De Koninck is the



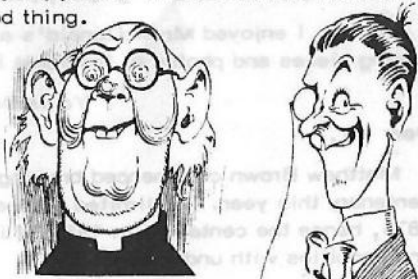
Back from the AGM. I for one have not been so legless since Ag's funeral unless you count the D.O.G.S.H.I.T. meeting in Grotley earlier this year. It was sad to see the beparrotted Noble extolling the virtues of dirty Kraut fizzade and encouraging to see stalwarts like Elsie Clockwork-Nun fighting successfully to have no truck with this foreign muck.

I've said it before; the Campaign started off with the aim of encouraging the ready availability of amber nectar and I see no reason why we should be diverted from achieving this laudable objective by deranged barmy persons who want to do silly irrelevant things like conserving slum hostelryes, campaigning against monopolies, monitoring prices and examining brewing methods in other countries. A total waste of time but I'm glad to see that sensible southerners do not follow sheep-like in the misguided footsteps of people like Fiona, Bunty and Ophelia Hampton who have been at the forefront of these silly splinter movements. Even the sartorial drunk, Brian Trifledan, didn't totally fall for treating this one as a hands on situation.

It was also pleasing to see that Peter Hammerstein of D.O.G.S.H.I.T. fame failed to crawl onto the National Executive, so perhaps we'll be lucky and have a rest from all this boring protection of grubby hovel pubs propaganda and be free to chat amiably to like minded persons about well hopped malty tiplies and other matters of mutual interest.

On the news front, I'm afraid that Bunty still languishes in gaol, whilst young Peregrine has at last taken over the helm at Drabs and is poised to burst with electric dynamism into the 19th century. Rents are expected to rise to such an extent that they will be comparable with the price of a gallon of beer. Drabs is rapidly becoming a cult beer but I'm sure that marketing will soon put paid to this as Brobdingnags succeeded in doing as soon as their beer became popular. Drabs is far too strong and distinctive anyway, and I'm sure that an increase in the blandness factor would be a jolly good thing.

DENIAL The Reverend Blether and the Hon Fanny Featheringstonehough were not amongst those caught in flagrante delicto, luncheon vouchers at the ready, at the Police raid on a Smarmford house of ill repute. They were merely selling War Cries to the assembled sinners.



LETTERS

Dear Editor,

It was very gracious of you to print Ken Holt's admission that computers and public relations managers occasionally tell the truth, thus disproving the adage that "to err is human, but to really foul things up you need a computer".

The computer read out mentioned as the basis of Mr Holt's investigations listed all of the pubs, clubs and hotels which had ordered cask beer from Bass North West Limited in October last year. As the programme is now written, it is a simple matter to obtain a list of all cask beer outlets in any month, so if any CAMRA branch wants such a list they should let me know. Several people other than Mr Holt have expressed surprise at the number of Bass North West's cask beer outlets.

Yours, John Hutchinson, PR Manager, Bass NW

Dear Sir (FTAO Rupert Periwinkle),

I was flattered to mingle with the elite company of your column recently, but must tell you that I was not the author of Mr Prune's letter. Whilst I recognise the undoubted quality of his writing, the credit unfortunately lies elsewhere. My solicitor acknowledges receipt of your generous donation, which I shall put towards the recently published "Complete Works of Bogbrush".

Yours etc, Henry Peacock, pp Harry Beandick

Dear Sir,

Having obtained a copy of the 1980 Good Beer Guide I was mortified to find my local has been elevated to the CAMRA status. Can we expect hordes of CAMRA Wallys resplendent in CAMRA T-shirts, lapel badges, jeans patches, CAMRA ties and what every "working class" darts chucker needs - CAMRA darts flights. All of these can be obtained from CAMRA Ltd. What next? CAMRA Space Invaders gloves?

I fear the rot has set in; only last month I was informed by a CAMRA bore that the beer in my local is a "creamy bitter with a distinctive hoppy taste". Really? Silly me, I just thought that it was a good pint. You learn something every day. I'm not saying which my local is, but the "working men" are still unspoilt, unaffected by this sudden stardom, and will pose for the tourist trade for a pint of "creamy, hoppy, etc"; forelock touching comes extra.

Also, regarding Mr Q McDonald's article, aren't we being slightly hypocritical in dissociating yourself from his views, Mr Rottenbury? I seem to remember you slagging off several pubs for the sole reason that they don't sell real ale - a question of sour grapes, perhaps.

Anyway, I enjoyed Mr McDonald's article, it made a change from the usual fawning pieces and photos of landlords in pith helmets and funny trousers.

Yours, Don Birnham

Dear Sir,

Matthew Brown commenced brewing in Preston in 1830, hence the sesquicentenary this year. The limited company of the same name was formed in 1875, hence the centenary in 1975. It is not brewery policy to answer letters and enquiries with undue haste.

Yours etc, Harry Beandick



Branch Diary

NORTH MANCHESTER

Weds 21 May: Branch meeting Castle, Oldham Street, Manchester, 8.00pm
Thurs 22 May: Macclesfield trip, 7.12pm train from Piccadilly. Contact Duncan Roberts 794 2494
Weds 4th June: Collyhurst crawl. Milan Inn, Rochdale Rd 7.00pm, Swan 8.00pm
Weds 11th June: Social/Committee meeting, Star, Back Hope St, Salford 8.00pm
Weds 18th June: Branch meeting, White Swan, Swinton, 8.00pm
Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 15 May 8.00pm: Branch meeting, Melville, Barton Rd, Stretford
Sat 17th May Coach trip to Kendal and Lancaster. Coach leaves Altrincham 10.00am, fare £3.50
picking up in Sale and Stretford. Lunch in Kendal, evening in Lancaster
Contact Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 or Mike Goode Atherton 891345 (home nos)
Tues 20 May: Burtonwood brewery visit £2. Coach leaves Altrincham (Malt Shovels) 6.30pm,
Sale (Woodhouse La 6.40, Odeon 6.45), Stretford Arndale 6.50, Park Way/M63
junction 4 (Urmston) at 7.00pm. Contact MR if you cannot make new date
Thurs 22 May: Pub of the Month Social (see South Manchester)
Thurs 29 May 8.00pm, Social, Pomona, Cornbrook Rd, Hulme
Thurs 5 June 8.00pm, Committee/Social, Church, 84 Cambridge St, Hulme
Sat 14 June: Queens official birthday pub crawl of Clayton (see 'By Royal Appointment')
Thurs 19 June 8.00pm, Branch meeting, Railway, Mobberley (by station)
Contact: Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 (home)

HIGH PEAK

Tues 13 May Branch meeting 8.15 Royal Hotel, Hayfield
Fri 23 May Social/pub crawl of High Lane. 8.00pm Royal Oak
Contact Tom Lord 427 7099

BOLTON

Tues 6 May, Branch meeting 8.30 York Hotel, Newport St, speaker from Burtonwood Brewery
Fri 23 May, Mild pub crawl of Hindley with South Lancs (see S Lancs diary)
Contact: Bert Kerks Bolton 388172

SOUTH LANCASHIRE

Fri 23 May Mild crawl of Hindley. 7.30 Dray King, 8.15 Cumberland, 8.45 Cross Keys, 9.30 Royal
10.00 Ellesmere (Burtonwood light mild specially laid on)
Thurs 5 June, Branch meeting Rock Hotel, Lower Ince
Sat 21 June: Beer tent at Ashton Carnival further details next month)
Contact: Ian Ogden Wigan 79534

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Thurs May 8th: Branch meeting Manchester Arms, Wellington Rd South, Stockport (NOTE NEW
VENUE) Speaker Tony Mollineux, NE Member, on Pub Preservation
Thurs May 29: PUB OF THE MONTH - Coach & Horses, London Road, Manchester 1 at 8.00pm
Thursday June 12: Branch meeting, Gateway, E Didsbury 8.00pm Speaker Bill Bell, owner of the
Appleby New Brewery
Contact: Humphrey Higgins 432 0059

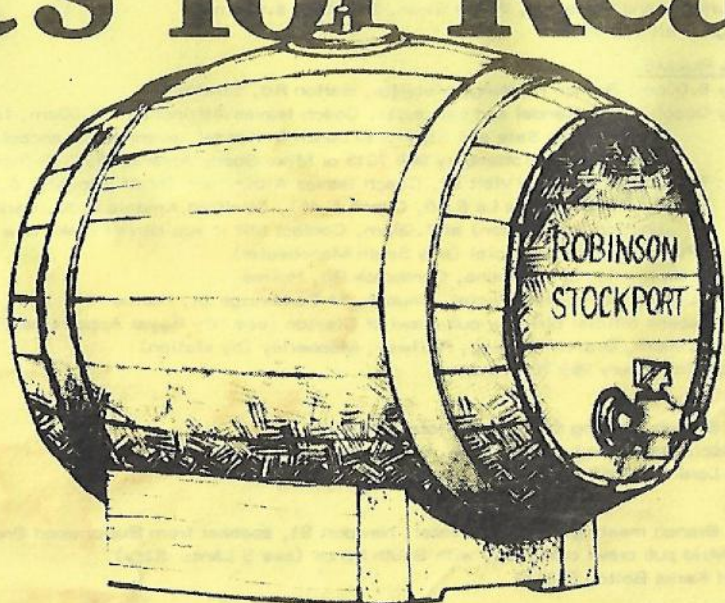
ROCHDALE OLDHAM AND BURY

Tues 13 May 8.00pm. Branch AGM Ring o Bells (Lees) St Leonards Square, Middleton
Tues 27 May 8.00pm Committee meeting Hare & Hounds (Thwaites), Oldham Rd, Tonge, Middleton
Tues 10 June 8.00pm Branch meeting Oddfellows (Bass), Tottington Rd Bury. Slide show.
Anyone with interesting slides (pubs & breweries) please bring them
Tues 24 June 8.00pm: Committee meeting, Brunswick (Wilsons) Moorgate, Bury
Contact Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h) or 061 236 4411 ext 7236 (w)

WHERE DOINGS

Following a request from a frustrated Whats Doing hunter, they are on sale in the following places
in the Trafford & Hulme Area: Altrincham: Barrington, Malt Shovels, Old Roebuck, Victoria,
Orange Tree, Axe and Cleaver. Broadheath: Railway. Timperley: Quarry Bank, Moss Trooper.
Hale: Railway. Mobberley: Railway. Northern Moor: The Park. Sale Moor: Carters Arms, Leigh
Arms. Sale: Railway, Sale Homebrew Supplies, Waggon & Horses. Ashton on Mersey: The Old
Plough. Stretford: Melville. Urmston: Lord Nelson. Hulme: Church, Talbot, Hope

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

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Always available from Unicorn Wine.

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Best Bitter Ale
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 Pins.

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