

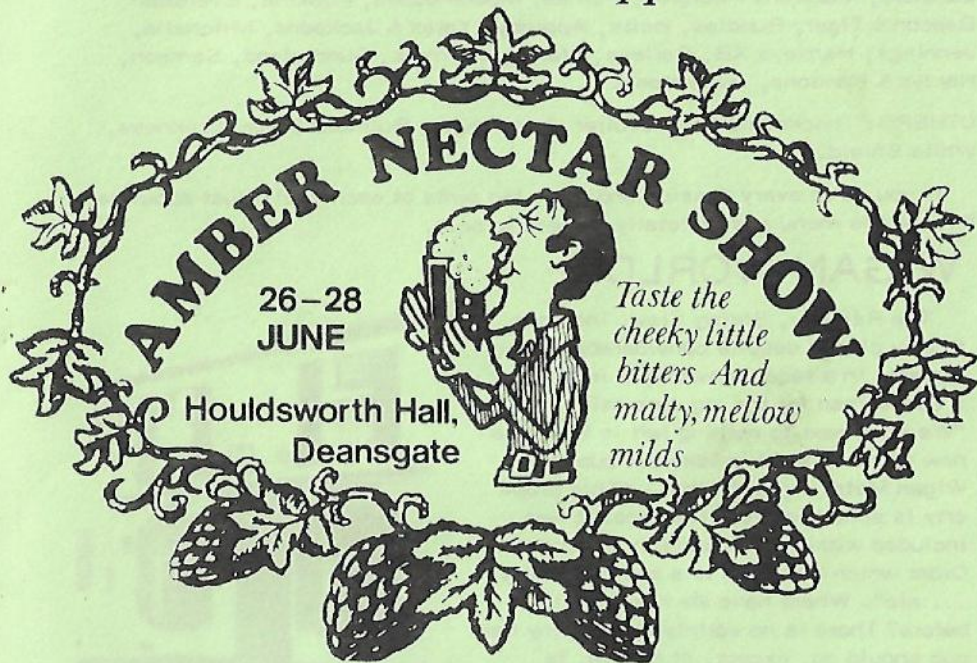
# WHAT'S DOING



JUNE  
1980

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

*It's the well-hopped*



This year's Beer Festival is being held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 26th, 27th and 28th. Once again the organisers have by the sweat of their brows arranged for a startling array of amber nectars to be assembled at the Houldsworth Hall for the delectation and delight of real ale imbibers in the city. To complement the euphoric ecstasy of these hoppy, malty tipples there will be for the further gratification and fulfilment of the assembled quaffers an assemblage of fermented curd, onions preserved in acetic acid and wholemeal staff of life. For the divertissement and amusement of the revellers, an orchestra of Germanic extraction and one from our own shores have been enticed to play.



The sessions are as follows:-

Thursday 26th June	5.30 - 10.00pm	20p
Friday 27th June	11.00am - 3.00pm and 5.30 - 7.00pm	20p
	7.00pm - 10.00pm	50p
Saturday 28th June	11.00am - 3.00pm and 5.30pm - 7.00pm	20p
	7.00pm - 10.00pm	50p

Free entry for all card carrying members of CAMRA

Amongst the whistle wetting wares ordered from brewsters from near and far are:-

**MILDS:** Bass 4X, Hydes Best, Lees Best, Pollards, Robinsons, Yates & Jacksons, Hardys & Hansons, Theakstons Light, Darleys, Appleby, Wards, Taylors Light, Marstons Merrie Monk.

**BITTERS:** Bass, Lees, Robinsons Best & Ordinary, Wilsons, Walkers, Walkers Warrington, Whitbread, Winkles, Pollards, Hydes, Taylors Best & Landlord, Marstons Pedigree, Paines, Moorehouses, Hoskins, Everards Beacon & Tiger, Ruddles, Holts, Appleby, Yates & Jacksons, Mitchells, Jennings, Hartleys XB, Darleys, Wards, Lorimers, Sunderland, Samson, Hardys & Hansons, Theakstons.

**OTHERS:** Theakstons Old Peculier, Lees Lager, Bulmers Cider, Guinness, White Shield.

If you go to every session and drink ten pints at each you'll just about get through the menu and be totally legless to boot.

## WIGAN WORLD

The Railway, Spring View, Ince, has finally closed despite considerable local protest. In a recent newspaper interview a spokesman for the regulars said, "We have next to nothing left in this area now and they want to take our pub." Wigan Metro are inflexible - "This property is scheduled for clearance. It was included within a Compulsory Purchase Order which has been to a public enquiry ... etc". Where have we heard all that before? There is no earthly reason why the pub should go, except, of course, to make a nice tidy plot of land for the developers.



The Clever Mr Pollard has taken the Road to Wigan Beer. His bitter is now on sale at the Wigan Arms, off Wallgate, formerly a keg (Wilson's and Tetleys) only pub. Is this his most westerly outlet?

The Eagle and Hawk, Leigh, now serves Walkers bitter through handpumps and Walkers Warrington Ale has also appeared on handpump. Warrington Ale is also now on sale at the Church, Lowton, formerly a non-real ale pub.

Information: Brian Gleave, Ian Ogden



CAMRA members will not be amongst those serving the real ale.

Apparently free labour was insufficient and the organisers whilst still discussing the running of a bar by CAMRA, had approached several local

brewers who might like to sink a few grand into the event. It is understood that Whitbread came up with the goodies and that the real ale will be a new version of Chesters bitter (did they ever make a bitter?)

## VAUX IN BOLTON

Tetley Walker have sold the Gaiety, Bradshawgate, to Vaux of Sunderland. The new owners moved in on May 1st and installed their strong Samson bitter along with their usual fizzy range. The beer is served from handpumps - the ones which Tetleys installed to serve their Warrington Ale. Vaux's price list is more honest than most as it lists its range of beers under the headings "keg", "tank" and "cask conditioned". The Gaiety is an Edwardian pub which had a complete facelift in 1972. It was originally called the Fleece, and now that Tetley's fascia boards have been removed the old name can again be seen in the stonework.

Bert Kerks

## EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY

Whitbread have recently repainted the Jolly Waggoners, Manchester Old Road, Bury. Whilst being a rather attractive livery, it would appear to be revolutionary as the brewery have taken the novel step of putting a large picture of the landlord and landlady over the door of the pub. As a public relations exercise, this may be a very good or a very bad idea depending on the looks of the landlord or the landlady.

Unfortunately the PR men haven't done their groundwork very well, as the picture clearly depicts the tops of not one but three handpumps. (can anyone remember the last time Whitbread sold three different cask beers in Greater Manchester?)

In response to the advert on the outside, and visions of Threlfalls bitter, cask Chesters mild or at least Special Cask on the inside, a quick visit was a must. Sadly, but not unexpectedly, there was a total lack of handpumps on the bar, though the likeness of the landlord to his portrait was commendable. Unfortunately he was unavailable for comment, being involved in a game of Space Invaders (sorry, moon aliens) with one of the locals in the lounge.

In conclusion, it would appear that someone at Whitbread has obviously come up with the right answer to what customers expect inside a pub. It's a pity the production departments have yet to come up with the goods. Perhaps they're conditioning us for the future.....

Don Chattwood



# NEW OPENSHAW STUDY

A city planning group will be spending time this year deciding the future of a small area at the Ogden Lane/ Ashton Old Road junction. It will be known as the "Ogden Lane Study". Some pubs will be involved which were threatened by the last set of proposals (a major road scheme), which has, of course, been scrapped. Nevertheless, three CPOs remain - on the Concert Inn (Boddingtons), Mechanics Arms (Bass) and Royal Oak (Wilsons). The Wrexham Arms and the Oddfellows are Boddingtons pubs which have lost their CPOs. The study will be discussed with interested parties (local residents, brewers, Victorian Society, etc). CAMRA should be involved too.

Certain facts seem clear at this stage:

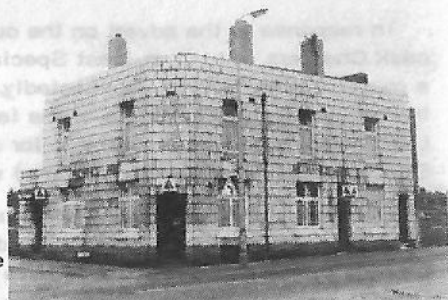
1 Planners are slowly becoming more susceptible to reasoned arguments for conservation (not entirely undue to CAMRA's efforts in the past).

2 If pubs are demolished only one new site will be offered to a brewery. This will probably be the brewery at the top of the "lost barrelage" table (i.e. the one most hit by closures) agreed between the North West Brewers' Association and the Council regarding Council owned sites.

3 Boddingtons have the High Bank - a new pub in the area close to the others. This will not come down (too much to hope for?) but it is no secret that a loss of competition nearby could only benefit the barrelage of the new pub.

4 Bass might be interested in replacing the Prince of Wales next to the existing one.

5 The planning group are setting out with few preconceptions and a year to complete their proposal - they could be influenced.



I think we should follow the events closely in view of the range of alternatives for the future. Are there any local CAMRA members who could shed light on the social involvements of the relevant pubs?

Pete Ogden

## ALMA MATTERS

Greenall Whitley have sold the Alma, Bradshawgate, Bolton, to Burtonwood, who intend to open the pub later this year. The Alma featured in the Good Beer Guide for many years as a small, town centre pub with a friendly atmosphere, serving an excellent pint of beer. Plans are to install handpumps, and there is a good chance that Burtonwood's light mild will be sold, as Bolton is by tradition a 'light mild' area, with the York Hotel, Newport Street, selling some 5 barrels of light mild to every one of dark.

Bert Kerks

## SADDLEWORTH SELL-OUT

The Saddleworth area of Oldham has provided local drinkers with a plethora of real ales since Bass Charrington sold off many of their unprofitable pubs there six years ago. All the pubs continued to trade as free houses, the vast majority selling real ale. Since that time, without exception, the pubs have gone from strength to strength and in doing so have presumably made their owners some handsome profits. It now seems that some of these owners want to cash in their assets by selling their pubs, but since the asking prices are so high the only buyers are the brewers themselves. Only recently the Golden Fleece at Denshaw (Boddingtons, Pollards, Theakstons and Oldham) was bought by Lancaster Taverns, a Wilsons subsidiary. Although Boddingtons and Oldham ales are still on sale, this is only temporary and eventually only Wilsons will be sold. The Roebuck at Strinesdale has been purchased by Matthew Brown and their beers have now replaced Pollards and Oldham.

As reported last month, the Cross Keys at New Delph has new owners, in this case not a brewery, but only Tetley beers are now available in place of Theakstons, Wilsons and Pollards.

Whether the pubs continue to flourish as "single brew" houses remains to be seen. If the gamble by the breweries fails, then they can always be sold off as "unprofitable retail trading units" back into the free trade to await the arrival of the next entrepreneur.

Steve Lawton

## Subscriptions

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NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Please send me the next six issues starting with the ..... issue (state month)

## Back Numbers

These are available from the above address at 10p a copy. Please send a large s.a.e.

**What's Doing** Copy date for July issue is 19th June

What's Doing is edited by Neil Richardson, 51 Lime Street, Farnworth, Bolton, Farnworth 78138

## AND STILL IT GOES UP

As the price of bitter approaches the 50p a pint mark, the following table shows how some of the breweries serving the Trafford and Hulme area have increased their prices over the last 2½ years. All prices were taken from the 'best' side and the same pubs were used in the survey each time in order to obtain an accurate figure showing the increase.

BREWERY	JAN 1977		DEC 1979		MAY 1980		OVERALL INCREASE	
	M	B	M	B	M	B	M	B
Lees	25	26	34	36	37	38	+12	+12
Tetleys	27	29	35	37	40	42	+13	+13
Boddingtons	20	23	30	33	34	37	+14	+14
Hydes	23	26	31	34	37	40	+14	+14
Holts	23	25	32	34	38	40	+15	+15
Wilsons	23	25	36	38	38	40	+15	+15
Bass	26	27	33	35	40	43	+14	+16
Marstons	22	24	32	35	37	40	+15	+16
Robinsons	24	26	35	37	40	42	+16	+16
Greenalls	25	27	36	38	41	43	+16	+16
Sam Smiths	-	26	-	37	-	43	-	+17

The above prices do not necessarily reflect the cheapest or most expensive outlets for any particular brewery, but the increase should apply to nearly all pubs except those that have been drastically modernised in the meantime, where the increase may be greater.

Of the 40 pubs visited during this latest survey, Holts proved to be the best value with managed house prices of 33p and 34p for mild and bitter respectively, though tenancies were charging up to 6p a pint more. The most expensive pint in the branch area was to be found at the Hare and Hounds (Marstons), Timperley (43p and 44p), about 4p over normal Marstons prices, though a fantastic 46p was recorded for Thwaites mild and bitter at Cottons near Knutsford. Average price for mild came to 38.8p and for bitter 40.6p - a rise of 4.8p and 4.7p respectively in five months.

Mick Rottenbury

## GLOUCESTER BOSS JOSSED

Our intrepid Regent Road Correspondent was passing the Gloucester at lunchtime, Monday, May 19th. An unseemly brawl was taking place in the portals of the public house with the constabulary looking on. Could this have been the Clever Mr Pollard trying to eject his only Manager? Surely not. Mr Pollard is obviously patient as well as clever because he's had a succession of mine hosts at the Gloucester during his short ownership. Most unfortunate. Let's hope that next time he manages to find a manager whom he can trust and who can get on with his boss.

### David's pub has no beer

A REAL ale brewery boss has stopped supplying his only pub with beer.

Mr David Pollard has closed the Gloucester Arms in Salford because his sacked manager, Tony Hartley, is refusing to quit.

Father of three, Mr Hartley, 38, said yesterday: "I'm staying put until he or the council finds me a new home."

# REAL ALE IN ASHTON ON MERSEY

In September 1978 Wilsons (tenanted division) applied to build a pub at Mersey House, Carrington Lane, Ashton on Mersey. I was then of the opinion that local residents would protest so strongly that the application would be refused. They objected that it would lower the value of their property, that the site was on a dangerous bend and they were concerned that two fields at the back of Mersey House would be turned into a car park. Every application for the site, from offices to night club, had been turned down since moves to develop Mersey House began in 1955, but local councillors finally agreed that a pub was "a good idea and would solve many problems on the site". Outline planning permission was therefore granted. However, further delay came with police objections concerning access and car parking. The brewery has put in an application for a car park and access which should satisfy all parties (except the local residents) and then all that will be required will be detailed planning permission from the council and, of course, the approval of Trafford licensing justices. When all this is settled, no doubt Wilsons will act with their usual speed and overnight a new pub will appear dispensing Wilsons traditional ales by handpump.

Boddingtons also applied to build a new pub at the junction of Catterick Avenue and Firs Way on the 'Racecourse' estate, Ashton on Mersey. This was in June 1979 and, although someone reported reading an advert for a manager for the pub, the site is still derelict. At present there are five 'fizzy' pubs in the area and only one serving real ale, the Old Plough (Hydes), a Good Beer Guide listed pub in the village itself. The Plough changed hands recently and apparently the brewery has received several letters commenting on the excellence of the beer. Barrelage has shown a marked increase and the food side is to be developed with the appointment of a qualified chef to work in the brand new kitchen.

Mick Rottenbury

## PLANNING NEWS

An application has been lodged for outline permission to build a public house on land at the corner of Water Street and Cross Street, Hyde.

Wilsons have applied for permission to build a new pub on Greenside Street in Openshaw, whilst Whitbread intend to build licensed premises on a site in Vine Street, Openshaw.

Sam's Chop House has recently changed hands and a public relations firm has applied to alter the exterior of the restaurant. It's to be hoped that any interior alterations will not include the removal of the traditional Tetleys and Marstons beers.

## GREENALLS DO IT AGAIN

The Hulton Arms, Manchester Road, Hulton Lane Ends, would appear to be the next Greenalls pub to succumb to the brewery's tank beer policy. Two years ago trade was at a very low level of 1½ barrels (mild and bitter), when the previous tenant left. After a not inconsiderable sum had been spent on much needed redecoration, the new landlord has now built up trade to such an extent that the cellar is too small to cater for demand, and the quality control officer, who lives just round the corner from the pub, has advocated tanks. Anyone paying their last respects is warned to stay clear of the mild, as it is already keg, to make more room for the bitter on the limited stillage space.

Don Chattwood



# 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 ROSSENDALE** Including Bacup, Haslingden, Helmshore, Rawtenstall etc. 10p+s.a.e.  
**INNS OF MAN** Illustrated comprehensive guide to island's tied houses. 50p + 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

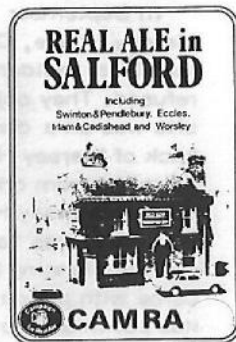
**SALFORD'S PUBS No1** - Hanky Park, Regent Road, Cross Lane, Walker & Homfrays, etc. 78p inc postage

**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







# REAL ALE in ROCHDALE



INCLUDING HEYWOOD, MILNROW, MIDDLETON,  
LITTLEBOROUGH

ROCHDALE AREA (Including Castleton, Bamford, Norden, Healey, Whitworth and Facit)

Albert	Spotland Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Baths	Smith Street	Centre	Boddingtons M, B, SA(E/G)	
Bonnie Dundee	Fishwick Street	Lower Place	Boddingtons	B(E)
Blue Pitts	Manchester Road	Castleton	Lees	M, B(E)
Bridge Inn	Manchester Road	Castleton	Thwaites	M, B(E)
Bay Horse	Oldham Road	Lower Place	Sam Smiths	B(H)
Burns Tavern	Norden Road	Bamford	Bass	Bass(E)
Bridge Inn	Edenfield Road	Norden	Bass	4X(E)
Bridge Hotel	College Road	Centre	Bass	CB, 4X(E)
Bishop Blaize	Oldham Road	Lower Place	Bass	4X(E)
Britannia	Jermyn Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Brownhill	Heights Lane	Fallinge	Sam Smiths	B(H)
Brunswick	Baillie Street	Centre	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Blue Ball	Edenfield Road	Norden	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Cemetery	Bury Road	Roch Valley	Robinsons, Taylors, Theakstons, Boddingtons	M, B, Porter(H)
Cock and Maggie	Tonge Lane	Whitworth	Bass	CB, 4X(E)
Cross Yates	Whitworth Road	Centre	Bass	CB(H)
Commercial	Manchester Road	Castleton	Bass	4X(E)
Carters Rest	Spotland Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Castle	Manchester Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Church	Willbuts Lane	Cutgate	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Cloverdale	Entwistle Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Commercial	Milnrow Road	Centre	Lees	M, B(H)
Crawford Arms	Crawford Street	Lower Place	Lees	M, B(E)
Crown & Shuttle	Milnrow Road	Firgrove	Lees	M, B(E)
Drake Hotel	Drake Street	Centre	Bass	4X(E)
Directors Arms	Heywood Old Road	Castleton	Bass	CB, 4X(E)
Derby Arms	Whitehall Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Dicken Green	Queensway	Ashfield Valley	Lees	M, B(E)
Entwistle	Halifax Road	Hamer	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Flying Horse	Town Hall Square	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Farewell	Manchester Road	Castleton	Greenhalls	M, B(E)
Forresters	Bury Road	Roch Valley	Walkers	WA(H)
Golden Ball	Spotland Road	Centre	Bass	4X(E)
Gale	Whitworth Road	Shawclough	Bass	CB, 4X(E)
Gale Inn	Valley Road	Ashfield Valley	Bass	4X(E)
George and Dragon	Manchester Road	Castleton	Bass	4X(E)
Grapes	Norden Road	Bamford	Bass	CB, 4X(E)
Greengate	Halifax Road	Smallbridge	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Highland Laddie	Spotland Road	Centre	Lees	M, B(E)
Harrows	Bolton Road	Mariand	Bass	TL, 4X(E)
Half Way House	Market Street	Facit	Bass	4X(E)
High Sheriff	Halifax Road	Hamer	Thwaites	M, B(E)
Horse and Farrier	Edenfield Road	Norden	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Here and Hounds	Syke Road	Syke	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Here and Hounds	Bury & Rochdale Old Road	Bamford	Thwaites	M, B(H)
Here and Hounds	Belfield Road	Centre	Boddingtons	M, B(E)
Healey Hotel	Shawclough Road	Lower Healey	Robinsons M, B, SA(H/G)	
Industry	Sladen Street	Centre	Bass	CB, 4X(E)
Junction	Bolton Road	Sudden	Thwaites	M, B(E)
Lark Inn	Durham Street	Centre	Bass	CB, 4X(E)
Lord Howard	The Strand	Castleton	Bass	CB, 4X(E)
Mayfield	Albert Royds Street	Belfield	Bass	4X(E)
Martins Nest	Brimrod Way	Sudden	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Mark Twain	Whitworth Road	Centre	Thwaites, Robinsons M, B, SA(H/G)	
New Bricklayers	Whitworth Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(H)
New Inn	Manchester Road	Castleton	Thwaites	M, B(E)
Navigation	Drake Street	Centre	Boddingtons	B(H)

Railway	Yorkshire Street	Centre	Bass	CB, 4X (E)
Red Rose	Durham Street	Centre	Bass	4X (H)
Royds Arms	Rooley Moor Road	Spotland	Bass	CB, 4X (E)
Regent	Regent Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (H)
Reed Hotel	Yorkshire Street	Centre	Bass	CB, 4X, Bass (H/E)
Royal	Oldham Road	Buersil	Thwaites	M, B (H)
Rawstrons	Market Street	Whitworth	Bass	4X (E)
Sawyers	Whitehall Street	Centre	Thwaites	M, B (E)
Spread Eagle	Cheetham Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (H)
Spring Inn	Broad Lane	Buersil	Lees	M, B (E)
Success to the Plough	Bolton Road	Marland	Lees	M, B (E)
Top House	Manchester Road	Castleton	Bass	4X (E)
Two Ships	Hope Street	Centre	Thwaites	M, B (H)
Wellington	Drake Street	Centre	Higsons	B (H)
Wagon and Horses	Halifax Road	Smallbridge	Bass	CB, 4X (E)
Woolpack	Halifax Road	Smallbridge	Bass	4X (E)
Woolpack	Drake Street	Centre	Bass	CB, 4X, Bass (E)
Weavers	Ashfield Road	Deeplish	Lees	M, B (E)
Wellfield	Wellfield Street	Lower Place	Lees	M, B (H)
White Lion	Yorkshire Street	Centre	Thwaites	M, B (H)
Windmill	Bolton Road	Sudden	Wilsons	M, B (H)

#### HEYWOOD AREA (Including Birtle, Cheesden and Pilsworth)

Bay Horse	Torrington Street	Hopwood	Whitbread	SC (H)
Black Bull	Rochdale Road East	Centre	Bass	4X (E)
Britannia	Bridge Street	Centre	Bass	CB, 4X (E)
Brown Cow	Barnford Road	Centre	Bass	4X (E)
Black Swan	Middleton Road	Hopwood	Thwaites	B (H)
Brunswick	Bridge Street	Centre	Burtonwood	M, B (H)
Criterion	Argyle Street	Darn Hill	Marstons	M, B (E)
Hare and Hounds	Green Lane	Hopwood	Wilsons	M, B (E)
Kings	Market Place	Centre	Thwaites	M, B (H)
Langton Arms	Miller Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (E)
New Inn	Edenfield Road	Cheesden	Bass	CB, 4X (E)
Newmarket Hotel	Hind Hill Street	Centre	Bass	4X (E)
Navigation	Manchester Street	Centre	Bass	4X (E)
Owl Betts	Edenfield Road	Cheesden	Greenalls	M, B (E)
Oddfellows Arms	Peel Lane	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (E)
Our House	Manchester Street	Centre	Bass	4X (E)
Pack Horse	Elbut Lane	Birtle	Lees	M, B (H)
Starkey Arms	Manchester Road	Centre	Bass	4X (E)
Stonemasons	Bury Street	Centre	Thwaites	M, B (E)
Tanners Arms	Rochdale Road East	Centre	Bass	TL, 4X (E)
Three Arrows	Pilsworth Road	Three Lane Ends	Lees	M, B (E)
Woolpack	Birch Street	Centre	Bass	TL, 4X (E)

#### MILNROW AREA (Including New Hey)

Bird in Hand	Huddersfield Road	New Hey	Sam Smiths	B (H)
Free Trade Tavern	New Hey Road	Centre	Lees	M, B (E)
Gallows	Kiln Lane	Cross Gates	Bass	Bass, 4X (E)
Ladybarn	Harbour Lane	Centre	Boddingtons, Taylors	B (H)
Tim Bobbin	Dale Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (H)
Wagon and Horses	New Hey Road	New Hey	Lees	M, B (E)
Wagon	New Street	Centre	Burtonwood	M, B (H)

#### LITTLEBOROUGH AREA (Including Wardle, Calderbrook, Summit and Dearnley)

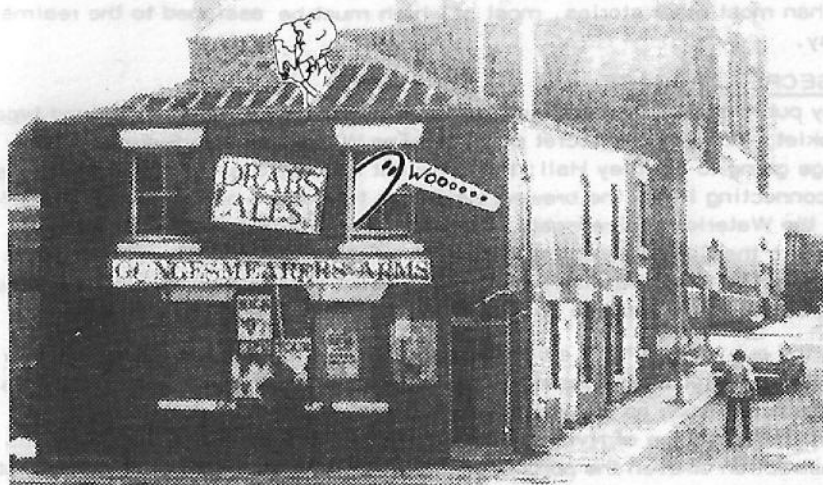
Caldermoor	Calderbrook Road	Caldermoor	Wilsons	M, B (H)
Dog and Partridge	Todmorden Road	Summit	Wilsons	M, B (H)
Globe	Wardle Road	Wardle	Wilsons	M, B (E)
Gale Inn	Todmorden Road	Gale	Bass	4X (E)
Huntsman	Summit Road	Summit	Bass	CB, 4X (E)



Lydgate	Blackstone Edge Old Road	Lydgate	Boddingtons, Robinsons, Theakstons	M, B (H/E)
Moorkock	Blackstone Edge Road		Theakstons	B, SA (H)
New Inn	New Road	Dearnley	Bass	CB, 4X (E)
Ox and Plough	New Road	Dearnley	Bass	CB, 4X (E)
Queens	Church Street	Centre	Thwaites	M, B (H)
Railway Inn	Inghams Lane	Centre	Bass	CB, 4X (E)
Royal Oak	Church Street	Centre	Bass	CB, 4X (E)
Royal Exchange	Featherstall Road	Dearnley	Bass	4X (E)
Red Lion	Blackstone Edge Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (E)
Summit Inn	Summit Road	Summit	Bass	CB, 4X (E)
White House	Blackstone Edge Road	Blackstone Edge	Wilsons	M, B (H)

**MIDDLETON AREA (Including Middleton Junction, Rhodes, Slattocks and Alkington)**

Albion	Wood Street	Centre	Boddingtons	M, B (H)
Assheton Arms	Market Place	Centre	Lees	M, B (H)
Apple and Pear	Mainway East	Alkington	Lees	M, B (H)
Bricklayers	Market Place	Centre	Bass	TL (E)
Brewers Arms	Cheapside	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (H)
Boarshaw Hotel	Stanycliffe Lane	Boarshaw	Lees	M, B (E)
Britannia	Manchester Old Road	Centre	Lees	M, B (E)
Brunswick	Townley Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (H)
Cotton Tree	Boarshaw Road	Boarshaw	Lees	M, B (E)
Crown	Long Street	Centre	Lees	M, B (E)
Carters Arms	Manchester Old Road	Rhodes	Lees	M, B (E)
Dog and Partridge	Spring Vale	Tonge	Oldham B	M, B (E)
Firwood	Joshua Lane	Middleton Junction	Lees	M, B (E)
Gardners Arms	Sandy Lane	Middleton Junction	Lees	M, B (E)
Gardners Arms	Manchester Old Road	Rhodes	Boddingtons	B (H)
Gardners Arms	Grimshaw Lane	Middleton Junction	Lees	M, B (E)
Hopwood Arms	Manchester Road	Slattocks	Wilsons	M, B (E)
Hare and Hounds	Oldham Road	Tonge	Thwaites	M, B (E)
Hare and Hounds	Long Street	Centre	Lees	M, B (E)
Junction	Grimshaw Lane	Middleton Junction	Lees	M, B (E)
Jolly Carters	Oldham Road	Tonge	Lees	M, B (H)
Jolly Butcher	Heywood Old Road	Bowlee	Bass	CB, 4X (E)
Kenyon	Kenyon Lane	Tonge	Wilsons	M, B (E)
Kings Arms	Higher Wood Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B (E)
Lancashire Fold	Kirkway	Alkington	Lees	M, B (E)
Moonraker	Wood Street	Centre	Walkers	WA (H)
Middleton Archer	Kemp Street	Centre	Lees	M, B (E)
Mallard	Windermere Road	Langley	Wilsons	M, B (H)
Minders Arms	Joshua Lane	Middleton Junction	Lees	M, B (E)
Nowster	Oldham Road	Tonge	Lees	M, B (E)
Oddfellows	Oldham Road	Tonge	Wilsons	M, B (E)
Old Cock	Oldham Road	Mills Hill	Lees	M, B (E)
Roeback	Kirkway	Alkington	Whitbread	SC (H)
Radcliffe Arms	Grimshaw Lane	Middleton Junction	Burtonwood	M, B (E)
Railway and Linnet	Grimshaw Lane	Middleton Junction	Lees	M, B (E)
Railway	Townley Street	Tonge	Wilsons	M, B (H)
Ring O Bells	St Leonards Square	Centre	Lees	M, B (E)
Red Lion	Hollins Lane	Hollins	Boddingtons	M, B (E)
Royal Oak	Boarshaw Road	Boarshaw	Lees	M, B (E)
Ship	Rochdale Road	Slattocks	Lees	M, B (H)
Three Arrows	Middleton Road	Rhodes	Boddingtons	M, B (E)
Tandle Hill Tavern	Thornham Lane	Tandle Hills	Lees	M, B (H)
Whitbrook	Boarshaw Road	Boarshaw	Bass	4X (E)
White Hart	Heywood Old Road	Birch	Bass	Bass, 4X (E)
Wilton Arms	Manchester Old Road	Rhodes	Boddingtons	M, B (E)
Waggon and Horses	Manchester Old Road	Rhodes	Boddingtons	B (H)
White Hart	Long Street	Centre	Lees	M, B (E)
Who'd a Thowt It	Wood Street	Centre	Lees	M, B (E)



## PUB MYTHOLOGY

Many of our pubs, particularly the older ones, are frequently linked with mysterious or historical happenings which lend an atmosphere of awe and enchantment to the building. In many cases there is more imagination than fact in the associations.

### THE HAUNTED PUB

Usually confined to older buildings. The spectres are often monks in robes, murdered servant girls or combatants in the Civil War. It's usually impossible to find anyone who's actually seen the ghost, so I'd discount the stories at the New White Lion in Blackley, the Ring o Bells in Middleton or the Golden Cross in Eccles.

However, there is occasionally a tale which has the ring of truth in it. The Prince of Wales on Oldfield Road in Salford was for many years occupied by the Little family until the pub was acquired by Tetleys in 1952. The pub is still known as Littles to many Salfordians, a term of endearment which helps to distinguish it from the other Prince of Wales on Oldfield Road.

The present tenants of Littles had been in the pub about six months when their young son told them he'd been playing with a boy of about his age in the bar of the pub. Knowing that nobody was in the pub, his parents were puzzled and enquiries amongst the older regulars of the pub revealed that the Littles had had a son who had died at the age of seven. The landlady also described the banging of doors in the pub around midnight each night, an occurrence is at the same time more credible and more easily explained than tales of headless monks.

Even first hand accounts of the supernatural, however, must be taken with a pinch of the proverbial salt. Children are remarkably imaginative and it is not insignificant that the presence of poltergeists is often associated with the

presence of children. There is not, unfortunately, any independent evidence to corroborate the death of Little's son, nor has the slamming of doors been seriously investigated. Nevertheless Littles' ghost does have more immediacy than most other stories, most of which must be assigned to the realms of fantasy.

### THE SECRET PASSAGE

Any pub that merits more than two lines in an Inns of Merrie England type of booklet, must have a secret passage. The White Horse in Swinton had a passage going to Wardley Hall; the Crown at New Springs in Wigan had passages connecting it and the brewery next door to a dozen or so of the brewery's pubs; the Waterloo in Greengate, Salford, was connected by means of a passage to the Cathedral on the other side of the river; the Grapes in Eccles was connected to Monks Hall; the Ring O Bells in Middleton could be reached underground from the parish church.

All the pub cellars have evidence of bricked up tunnels which is cast iron proof of the subterranean passages without need of further confirmatory clues. Considerations such as the length of the tunnels, the terrain, difference in levels, the existence of rivers, canals, streams and railway lines, methods of construction or even the purpose of the tunnels don't seem to be important. Most of them probably started with a flight of fancy rather than a flight of steps. The bricked up doorways possibly led to disused cellars under a brewhouse or other building.

### This pub was formerly a PRISON/ABATTOIR/BLACKSMITHS/WINDMILL

Usually untrue. Most pubs started off as pubs, although one or two may have more bizarre origins. Solid evidence of their former use is difficult to come by. The Castle and Falcon on Bradshaw Street seems to have cells in the cellar but there are no contemporary accounts of its use as a prison. Perhaps the pub was confused with the Castle next to the prison on Hunts Bank. The Crown and Kettle is described as a former court. Contemporary accounts however indicate that the Crown and Kettle was rebuilt in the nineteenth century as a pub.

The lore of public houses contains many anecdotes about their antiquity which are all too readily repeated, yet hard facts, when available, are usually much more pedestrian. Still, in some instances, truth can be stranger than fiction.

Roger Hall

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26p 1lb £1.65 7lb £11.50 25kg (55lb)

CRUSHED MALT GRAIN 28p 1lb £1.76 7lb £12.50 25kg (55lb)

DRIED MALT EXTRACT Light, Medium, Dark. 66p 1lb £30.30 25kg

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# LETTERS

Dear Sir,

I've just read the last issue of "What's Doing" and note little reference to probably the best Wilsons house in the Shudehill, Manchester, area, namely the Lower Turks Head. We have formed a committee based around the pub with the intent of bringing real ale drinkers back into the Shudehill area.

The pub has been redecorated, but has not lost the "Cheshire" look and the bitter remains one of the best pints in the city centre.

In 1982 the Lower Turks Head will have operated for 250 years and we intend celebrations in conjunction with Wilsons. The Turks remains a friendly pub where everybody is welcome.

Fred Manley



Dear Sir,

There are one or two notable omissions in Bert Kerk's "Bolton Pub Crawl". Where is there any mention of "Sally Up Steps" (Stanley Arms) on Chorley Old Road, not far from Bolton Infirmary? The pub sells handpumped Tetley mild and bitter in a friendly atmosphere. On Bradford Street, not too far out of town, is the Bradford, a pleasant Tetley house which also sells its beer through handpumps. Nearer the town centre is the very popular Howcroft on Pool Street, off St George's Road, selling handpumped Tetley mild and Walkers bitter. The pub also has a well maintained bowling green. There is also a new Thwaites house in the town centre. The Ancient Shepherd, closed by Greenalls (smile please), has reopened selling Thwaites handpumped mild and bitter and is becoming more popular as word gets around. I might also mention that Theakstons bitter is a permanent feature at Crompton's Mule restaurant on Spa Road. The food is good and reasonably priced.

Last, but certainly not least, is a haunt of Bert's almost every Wednesday night in term time. BIT Students' Union Bar only sells real beers - Thwaites mild and bitter and Walkers Warrington Ale. Every Wednesday night there is at least one special guest beer as well, mostly from local breweries but occasionally from as far away as Cornwall. Open to all students and bona fide guests only.

By the way, Ken Holt, we have had Holts bitter at BIT, though not direct from the brewery.

David Cremer

(Bert points out that his list was not meant to be definitive. It was, as the title suggests, a crawl - ten pubs within easy walking distance of each other.

To take in the Stanley and the Bradford as well would require legs similar to those of Steve Austin as well as the drinking capacity of an elephant.)

Dear Sir,

Whilst it is kind of Bass N W to let us know which of their pubs sell real ale, let's not get carried away with this mutual back slapping. CAMRA has recently announced a campaign against Bass's policies and the picture in the North West is also not as rosy as at first appears. In my area, Bass has probably the lowest proportion of cask beer pubs to total outlets of any of the other brewers except John (wash your mouth out) Smiths. It is hard to find a pub that sells real bitter and cask mild together, whilst keg Stones appears everywhere. Why will they not supply cask Stones west of the Pennines? Worthington Best Bitter seems to have departed from the scene and now it appears that draught Bass may be in danger. The menace of the Runcorn plant looms high - beware of being sidetracked by computer printouts and PR professionalism.

I Ogden

Dear Sir,

I am disturbed by the attitude of several landlords in this area when I have asked for a pint of draught beer without a head on it. This is because I am from "The South" and have never got used to the foamy head that seems to be de rigueur in the North but which reminds me of a keg head. Yet some licensees seem either to think there is something wrong with me or to fear that the locals would say they sold a bad pint. I much prefer a pint without a head since it allows me to taste the beer that I am drinking and does not encourage wind. Surely, if we are campaigning for real ale, then the most real it can be is straight from the barrel, when it is very difficult to put a head on it anyway.

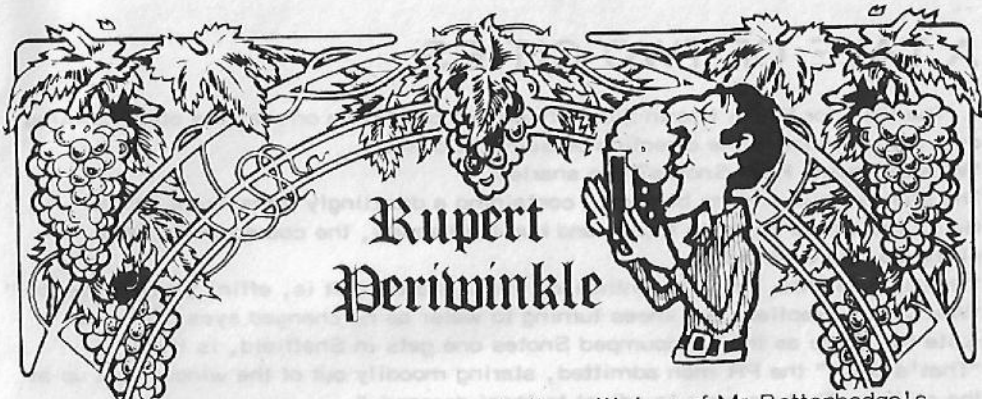
Please, any landlords that read "What's Doing", allow me to enjoy what would otherwise be a good northern pint. Other drinkers, how about trying a pint or two of headless ale? Forget what your eyes tell you and let your palate decide!

D Wheeler

## OPENING TIMES

One motion I was pleased to see on the order paper at the CAMRA AGM concerned the display of prices and hours of business on the outside of a pub. It has long been a source of frustration to arrive outside a pub in an unfamiliar area at the normal opening time to be confronted by a door that remains stubbornly shut for the next hour and a half. It is even more annoying to discover that a hostelry around the corner has been open all the time. This happens particularly on Saturdays, for example in Altrincham it is possible to find pubs open at 5.30pm while others open as late as 7.00pm, even 8.00pm. It would save a lot of wasted time for the visitor to town if each public house displayed its minimum hours of opening in the same way as off-licences and fish and chip shops. I would be interested in the views of licensees and customers on this issue. Bruce Cunningham, Marketing Director at Wilsons Brewery, has already promised to discuss the matter at brewery level and I would like to hear of any pub which puts the suggestion into practice.

Mick Rottenbury



I've been extremely reluctant to join in the criticism of Mr Rottenbodge's hosteleries of unparalleled excellence. However, I visited one of these taverns the other week and was mortified beyond belief that the squalid conditions and uncouth clientele made chucking out time at the Gungesmearens look like a Buck House Garden Party.

Fiona, Fanny, Alistair and myself had just finished disseminating good beer guide stickers to deserving inns of Grotley including the Dockers Wedge, the Rats Vomit and the Vapid Toad. Seeking authentic hyperethnicity we wandered into downtown Slutch, where we decided to sample the delights of O'Reilly's Meths Bar. All the customers with the exception of an Irish negro were either stuffed or in a catatonic trance, and sat about in deafening silence whilst Kingfish O'Stiofain swore incessantly. His vocabulary comprised four words - a personal pronoun, an adjective and two nouns which he interchanged at will, descriptive of the female anatomy. The pubescent bar person took little notice, nor did the geriatric harridan who continued to sip her half of Kepples mild as though she were hewn out of hickory.

It's not that I've anything against filthy hovels and the louts who frequent them. God knows, I've been dragged by Fiona and her cronies into enough Grotley Slum Taverns in my time without complaining. But I must really draw the line at this. Are all Slutch pubs like this, Mr Rottenbodge?

I've one suggestion which might solve the problem. Most working persons' clubssellfizzade and such, which seems to appeal to their peasant clientele. CAMRA should encourage this, so that ill mannered, foul mouthed yobbos leave the pubs and go and get plastered on fizzy rubbish in subsidised beer palaces.

This would have the dual advantage of closing down marginal hovel taverns and allowing the remaining upmarket pubs to be frequented by persons of taste and discrimination, who will be able to sample the odd half of amber nectar with like minded cognoscenti unencumbered by the great unwashed.

## FROM THE WOOD

The Foresters, a large Tetley pub on Rochdale Road, Harpurhey, has had several sets of handpumps installed and is now selling traditional beers for the first time in years.



# A TALE OF TWO CITIES

The PRO for Brash (North West) fixed one beady eye on me, the other pointing over my shoulder in the direction of Salford Docks.

"Whadja mean, Real Snotes?" he snarled.

The Man held up a glass beer mug containing a dazzlingly transparent amber fluid. The liquid contents fizzed and burbled happily, the coarse white head piling up like Omo suds.

"This is Real Ale, pal!" he enthused, "Whatcha t'ink it is, effin' plastic already?"

"Well...." I replied, my knees turning to water as he changed eyes. "It's not quite the same as the handpumped Snotes one gets in Sheffield, is it?"

"That's true," the PR man admitted, staring moodily out of the window and up at the ceiling, "but we have to adjust to local demand."

"You mean Manchester beer drinkers prefer the keg version?" I asked in amazement.

"Nearly...." he said smugly. "But if you care to plough your way through that little lot you'll certainly find that they're buying the keg version."

He pushed a 6" deep stack of computer print out towards me, beaming smugly, eyes revolving. I pushed it back again.

"I'm sure that you're right and that it is selling," I admitted, "but does the computer record of sales mean that the customers like it or that they don't know any better?"

The Man explained it all to me. For about two hours. Concerning how the CO2 cylinders are turned right down so as to thrutch less fizz into Snotes than is injected into other keg brews. About how CAMRA members can't tell the difference between Snotes and comparable brews such as Watneys Red anyhow. Or between Smirnoff and Baader-Meinhoff for that matter. I reeled from Brash (North West's) offices feeling as though I'd gone twelve rounds with Ben Turpin. Or do I mean Randolph Turpin?

To convince myself how wrong I'd been about Brash (North West) produce, I took myself off to the Crown, where I drank twelve pints of Snotes "Low Gas" keg bitter. Then I went home, noisily erupting fore and aft, to find Mum entertaining the Vicar and the President of the Women's Institute. Mum says that they were both disgusted. The President of the WI likened me unto a perambulating Whoopee Cushion and suggested that I be fitted with bungs. The Vicar asked Mum to open a window on the grounds that the whiffle of flatus I left behind might otherwise cause him to be unwell.

In the meantime I think I'll wait for my next trip to Sheffield before I drink Snotes again. I certainly have my doubts about the Cardice enriched Manchester version, "Going Down Great Guns." Can't believe a thing you read these days, can you?

Robin Pendragon

## DISINTERMENTS

The Cemetery at Roch Valley, Rochdale's foremost free house, has recently swapped some of its wide range of traditional beers. Taylors Porter is off until winter and Theakstons Best Bitter has been replaced by Wilsons bitter. Wilsons mild is now also available. All the other beers, namely Taylors Best Bitter and Landlord, Robinsons mild and bitter and Boddingtons bitter, continue as before. All the beers are handpumped.

Steve Lawton



## Branch Diary

### NORTH MANCHESTER

Weds 18 June Branch meeting, White Swan, Swinton 8.00  
Weds 2nd July Pub Crawl, Irlam o th Height. Britannia, Bank Lane 7.00, Red Lion 8.30  
Weds 9 July Committee/Social Morning Star, Wardley 8.00pm  
Weds 16 July, Branch meeting, White Swan, Swinton, 8.00pm  
Contact: Roger Hall, 740 7937

### SOUTH MANCHESTER

Thurs 12 June, Branch meeting, Gateway, E Didsbury. Speaker Bill Bell, owner of Appleby Brewery  
Mon 23 June Pub of the Month - Horse & Farrier, Gatley Road, Gatley. (Hydes) 8.00pm  
Contact Humphrey Higgins 432 0059

### TRAFFORD & HULME

Sat 14 June Clayton Crawl. Meet 8.00 Bricklayers or 9.00 Grove, Ashton New Road  
Thurs 19 June 8.00pm Branch meeting Railway, Mobberley (by station)  
Mon 23 June 8.00pm Pub of the Month Social with S M/cr branch, Horse and Farrier, Gatley  
Thurs 3 July 8.00pm Committee/Social Volunteer, Cross Street, Sale  
Fri 4th July Wilsons survey. Meet 7.30 Sylvan, corner of Sylvan Ave and Woodhouse Lane East  
Free supper at last pub!  
Thurs 17 July 8.00pm Branch Meeting, Railway, Stamford St, Altrincham  
Wed 23 July Day trip to Marstons Brewery returning via Macclesfield evening  
Contact: Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 (home)

### HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Fri 13 June Joint social with Sheffield branch. Devonshire Arms, Peak Forest, Derbyshire. Minibus times to be arranged  
Tues 17 June Branch meeting Fox, Stalybridge 8.30pm  
Sat 28 June, Sun 29 June Beer Exhibition, Glossop Carnival  
Wed 2 July Meeting (1981 GBG) White Horse, Disley 8.30pm  
Sat 12 July Beer tent Charlesworth Festival  
Tues 15 July Branch meeting, Jolly Sailor, Marple 8.30pm  
Contact Tom Lord 427 7099 (home)

### ROCHDALE OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 10 June 8.00 Branch meeting Oddfellows (Bass) Tottington Rd, Bury. Featuring slide show  
Tues 24 June 8.00pm Committee meeting Brunswick (Wilsons) Moorgate, Bury  
Tues 8th July 8.00pm Branch meeting Miners (Wilsons) George St, Oldham  
Tues 15th July 8.00pm Committee Meeting Queens (Robinsons), Manchester Street, Oldham  
Contact Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h) or 061 236 4411 ext 7236 (w)

### SOUTH LANCASHIRE

Weds 11 June Social with Bolton Branch; Derby Arms, Derby Street, Bolton  
Sat 14 June CAMRA Stand Wigan Carnival  
Weds 18 June Open Committee, Railway Tavern, Hindley Green  
Sat 21 June Beer Tent Ashton Carnival 1.00pm - 8.00pm. Boddingtons bitter, Burtonwood bitter, light mild, dark mild.  
Weds 2 July Branch meeting Union, St Helens  
Thurs 10 July Trip to Thwaites - limited numbers  
Contact Ian Ogden Wigan 79534

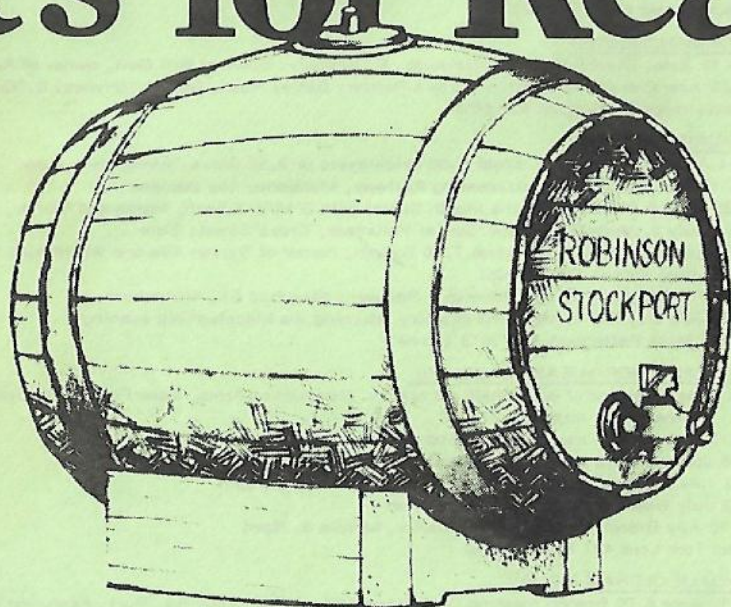
### BOLTON

Tues 3 June Branch meeting George, Great Moor Street 8.30  
Weds 11 June Social 'Lancashire Evening' with 'real' Lancashire food. Derby Arms, Derby Street, Bolton (Whitbread Cask) . Joint with South Lincs Branch 8.30pm onwards  
Tues 1 July Branch meeting 8.30pm George, Great Moor Street  
Contact Bert Kerks Bolton 388172

The following list constitutes the current availability of What's Doing in South Manchester branch area: Manchester: Grey Horse, Circus Tavern, Coach and Horses, Rising Sun, The Brewers, Castle, Peveril of the Peak, Polytechnic Union Bar, Ardwick: Church, Star, Fallowfield: Derby, White Swan, Cressbury: Gateway, Heaton Mersey: Griffin, Stockport: Old King, Bakers Vaults, Wheatstaple: Tiviot Hotel, Arden Arms, Manchester Arms, Unity, Grove, Red Bull, Midway, Hazel Grove: Royal Oak, Blossoms, Cheadle: Printers, Star, Clayton: Church, Moss Side: Old Abbey.  
The number of pubs could be greatly increased if more people would take a few round each month (just to the 'local' maybe?) If you are interested ring 061 225 4058  
Pete Ogden



# 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!

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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

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**Bitter Ale\***  
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\*Bitter Ale not available in Pints.

**When you buy any of these Robinson's Ales,  
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