

WHAT'S DOING



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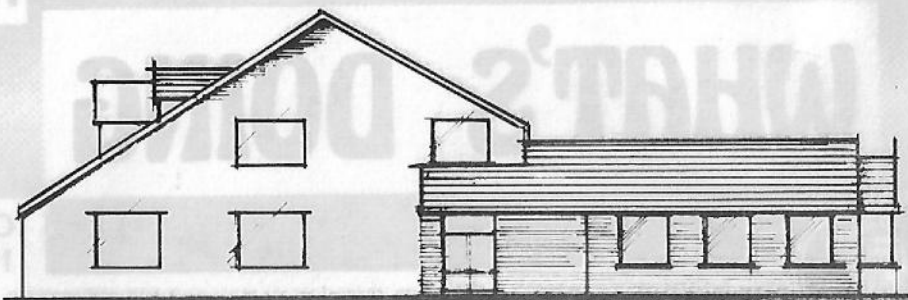
THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

GRIFFIN FIGHTS BACK



The fight is on again to save the Griffin in Heaton Mersey. Last month Holts submitted plans to Stockport Council to knock the pub down and build one of their "identikit" houses on the site. Formal objections to the plan have been made and as a result Stockport's Planning Committee have delayed making a decision until they have had an opportunity of seeing the Griffin for themselves.

The Griffin is one of those irreplaceable Holts houses with several rooms and an attractive wood and glass bar surround. The brewery took control of



the pub about 60 years ago, but the building has a history going back to 1831. The Griffin was built in that year by the Thornhill family, who had established a brickworks in Heaton Mersey in the eighteenth century. (The grave of the founder, Isaac Thornley, can still be seen outside the pub). The Griffin was a fully-licensed house from the start and is now the oldest pub in the old district of Heaton Norris.

Holts have trundled out the usual reasons for wanting to pull it down - "beyond repair" etc. The building has been surveyed independently and has been found to be structurally sound despite some years of neglect by the owners (Holts). The drawing reproduced here shows the new Griffin as proposed by the brewery. Sir Edward Holt, who was responsible for some of those marvellous turn-of-the-century pubs, must be spinning in his grave.

ROAD TO WIGAN FEAR



Plans are afoot to give Wigan its very own ring road in 1985-6. There are three alternative routes for the road, which will begin at the bottom end of Wallgate, curve round through Millgate and join Standishgate. The point at which the road will join Standishgate is what the three alternatives are about. One route knocks out the Whitesmiths Arms and another the Saracens Head. The road will also take the back wall off the Millstone, Wigan Lane. The losses at the Wallgate end will be more severe. The road will take out the Wheatsheaf, one of the best examples of a Magee-Marshall 'golden age' pub, the New Star, the Grapes, the Derby on Darlington Street and the

Horseshoe on Millgate.

Doubtless Burtonwoods brewery will be relieved to get shut of the Grapes and get their hands on the loot, but Boddingtons may not feel the same way about the Whitesmiths and the planners may be persuaded to leave the pub standing. Watch this space for further developments.

BURY BEER FESTIVAL



As mentioned last month, the Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch are organising a Beer Festival at the Derby Hall, Market Street, Bury on the 31st October and 1st November. The festival will be open for three sessions as follows:

Friday 31st October 5.00pm to 11.00pm
Saturday 1st November 11.00am to 3.00pm
& 5.00pm to 11.00pm

Food will be available throughout the festival and entertainment in the form of folk music on the Friday night and a Bavarian Oompah Band on the Saturday night will also be featured.

About 12 breweries will be represented, giving a choice of 20 different beers. The following have been asked to supply: Lees, Marstons, Winkles (Saxon Cross), Moorhouses, Wards, Darleys, Batemans, Mitchells (Lancaster), Taylors, Appleby, Goose Eye and West Riding Brewery. Five mild beers will be available, including Marstons Merrie Monk and Taylors Dark, and two strong ales, Lees Moonraker and Marstons Owd Roger.

Admission to card carrying CAMRA members will be free; otherwise there will be a small charge on the door. A publications stand will be on hand selling beer guides - including a new comprehensive guide to the real ale pubs in Bury Metro.

Steve Lawton

SAMS SWITCH

As forecast in May's What's Doing, Samuel Smiths have reintroduced real ale in two more of their outlets in Trafford. Both pubs now serve Old Brewery Bitter from the wood through handpumps (Sams being one of the few breweries to deliver all their cask bitter in wooden barrels). The Windmill, Carrington Lane, Carrington, was the first gain at the beginning of September. Manager Mike Pennington had been requesting cask beer since he took over the pub and reports increased sales of the bitter with customers changing from spirits to the delights of "amber nectar". They should feel the benefits both in their wallets and their stomachs. The Windmill, which has also been completely redecorated, boasts an excellent beer garden for those balmy autumn evenings and crisp sunny winter lunchtimes. There is a good-sized vault with no gimmicks - you can throw arrers without copping a pool cue in the goolies - and lunches are served weekdays with bar snacks weekends and evenings.

A week later the Cheshire Midland, Ashley Road, Hale, followed suit to give a choice of real ale in the village (the Railway a few yards along the road is a

Robinsons house). Yes, it's now possible to do a real ale pub crawl in Hale! The landlord claimed that there was little interest in the new beer by the end of the first week but it's my guess that once word gets round he'll notice the difference. As with the Windmill, the quality of the beer was excellent. What a shame Sams no longer brew a real mild too

Mick Rottenbury

MOORHOUSES - MORE HOUSES

Moorhouses Burnley Brewery is a relatively recent addition to the real ale scene, although it has been producing hop bitters for use in shandies since 1870, and is now the only hop bitter brewery in the country. At present only a bitter is produced, known as Moorhouses Premier Bitter, with an og of 1035. Brewing capacity is 30 barrels a week (in three brews) although in the near future a 20 barrel copper will replace the 10 barrel one.

The following outlets have been established:

- Brinsop Arms, Manchester Road, Westhoughton (A6)
- Whitchaff, Bury Road, Townsend Fold, Rawtenstall
- Higher Trapp, Trapp Lane, Simonstone, near Padiham (off A671)
- Sparrowhawk, Church Street, Burnley
- Palmer's Arms, Paythorne (off A682 near Gisburn)
- Pendle College Bar, Lancaster University
- Sue's Brews (off licence), 105 Burnley Road East, Waterfoot (B6238)

The following will also be selling the beer in the near future, along with other pubs in the Harrogate/Ilkley area:

- The Junction Inn, Otley
- The Burley Gate, Burley in Wharfedale

All the pubs serve Moorhouses through handpumps from 22gal converted kegs. The beer is drawn off using a slightly shortened keg spear (to avoid picking up the sediment) and the 'cask' is vented via the hole normally reserved for CO2 connections.

Don Chattwood

(I would like to thank Richard Vernon of Moorhouses for his kind co-operation)

Subscriptions

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

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What's Doing COPY DATE for November issue is Thurs Oct 23rd

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



75 AND STILL FALLING

Further closures in Salford have reduced the number of real ale pubs to 75. The Windsor Bridge closed on September 8th and, despite threats by regulars to bite off the noses of the demolition men, the Red Cow has finally served its last pint. Boddingtons' Duke of York in Lower Broughton has also joined the long list of Salford's former pubs. The Borough on Regent Road has also been boarded up temporarily. The Waggon and Horses, which Holts wish to knock down, has been declared structurally unsound by Salford Corporation so it looks as though this excellent pub will be yet another candidate for the wreckers' ball. How much, I wonder, would it have cost to make the pub structurally sound and retain the only remaining vestige of 19th century Irlams o' th' Height?

GMC road schemes have blighted much of Salford and many pubs are still threatened by plans which may never come to fruition. The main schemes still on the drawing board are the widening of Broughton Road, which threatens the Railway and the Unicorn, and the widening of Chapel Street, which threatens all the buildings on the south side between Oldfield Road and New Bailey Street. The Inner City Relief Road, which would enter Salford on Irwell Street and leave on New Bridge Street, could threaten the future of the Red Lion, the Globe, the Black Friar, the Three Crowns, the Eagle and the Waterloo. Judging by some of the work in progress at some of these pubs and other work which is planned, the brewers must believe that the likelihood of the inner relief road being built in the immediate future is fairly remote.

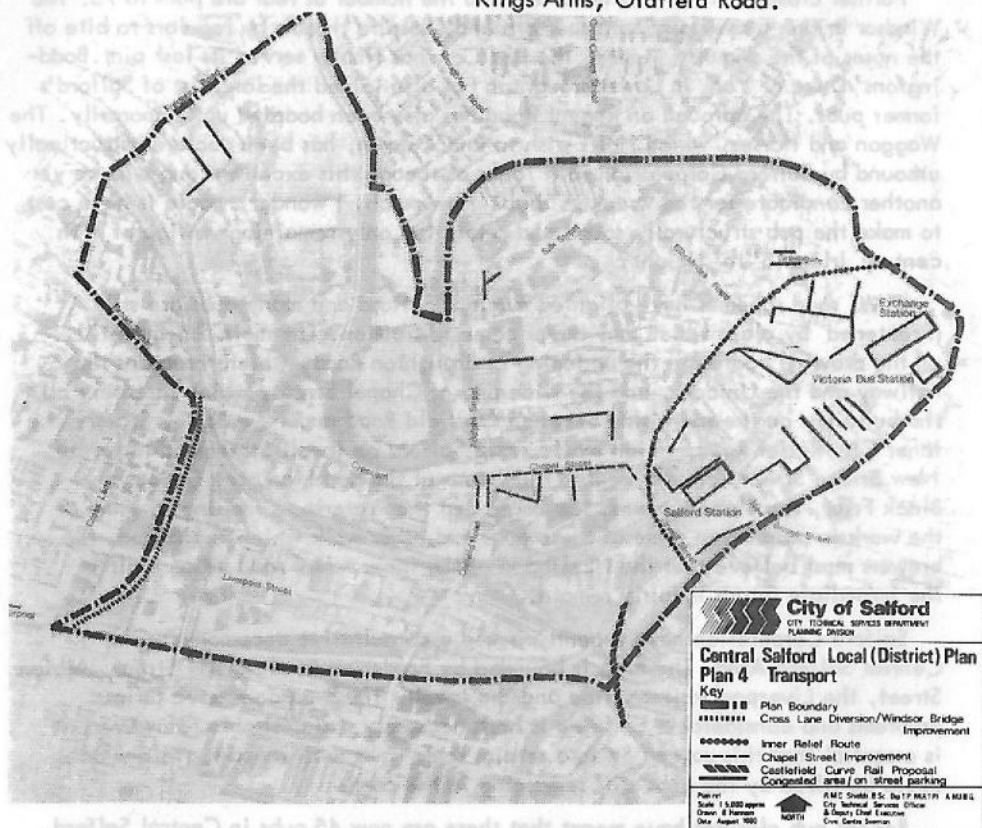
Salford Corporation have recently issued a consultative document for the Central Salford Area. The area is bounded by Frederick Road, Broad Street, Albion Street, the Liverpool railway line and the Irwell. The area does have serious problems and considerable building is both necessary and desirable. However, it is essential that this part of Salford retains some links with its past, a role which could be filled by the pubs still remaining in the area.

Recent pub closures have meant that there are now 45 pubs in Central Salford, serving a population of less than 6,500. This ratio of about 140 people per pub is about 1/5 of the national average and accounts for both the large number of closures in recent years and the lack of customers in several of the remaining houses. The fact that 45 pubs still remain is a tribute to their ability to attract a clientele from outside Central Salford.

If Central Salford is to be revitalised by building houses and attracting more industry, it is important that a stock of public houses remains to cater for a future influx of workers and residents. It would be a shame if public houses were demolished for short term expediency, only to be replaced in some years' time by undistinguished modern pubs.

The following pubs are of particular merit in terms of their architectural or historical heritage or their community value and every effort must be made to ensure their continued existence in a future Salford.

Crown, Blackfriars Street	Shears, Waterloo, Star, Greengate
Punch Bowl, Lord Nelson, Tallow	Eagle, Collier Street
Tub, Salford Arms, Red Lion, Chapel St	Black Horse, Crescent
Three Crowns, Black Friar, Braziers,	Union Tavern, Liverpool Street
Blackfriars Road	Hyde Park Corner, Silk Street
Kings Arms, Bloom Street	Prince of Wales (Tetleys), Spinners,
	Kings Arms, Oldfield Road.



This is not to suggest that the other pubs are without merit. These are generally more modern and of less value from a historical point of view. - Albert Vaults, Old Ship, Black Lion, Borough, Pen and Wig, Egerton, Brown Bull, Broughton Tavern, Bird in Hand, Druids, Lima, Town Hall Tavern, Church, Peel Park, Ye Olde Nelson, Angel, Jollies, Prince of Wales (Bass), Railway, Druids, Red Dragon, Wallness, Hobsons

Choice, Brewery Tavern, Oxford. If Central Salford is to sustain over 40 pubs a real effort must be made to bring life back to the City. Much of the area is blighted by road schemes which may or may not be carried out. An early decision on this is essential.

Much of Central Salford is treated as a free car park for Manchester. It deserves its own existence. Industry, housing and commerce should be encouraged to return to this part of Salford to recreate the vitality of a City which has just celebrated its 750th anniversary. I hope that Salford's pubs, many of which are over 150 years old, may play their part in shaping the City's future.

Roger Hall

DRIVEN TO DRINK

Goody Travel (International) Ltd has arranged another cheap excursion by luxury coach, designed to milk branch funds so that we are never tempted to offer a loan to St Albans. Saturday November 15th sends us on our way to Brierley Hill and Kinver for a day out. Simpkins, Holdens, Hansons, Bathams, Davenports and Mitchells & Butlers are among the local brews and the usual maps, cheery banter and strong brown paper bags will be available. Contact Mike Goode (2-891345, home) or myself (969 7013 home) to book seats.

CASK WILSONS

Mick Rottenbury

The Old Duke, Brandlesholme Road, Bury, a large estate-type pub, has started selling Wilsons cask beers. The next pub in the pipeline (or handpump?) is the Clarence on Bolton Street, Bury, which will be a welcome addition to the rather poor situation in Bury town centre.

Don Chattwood

A CAUTIONARY TALE

At the last Manchester Beerex the Bulmers rep expressed interest in introducing rough cider into Holts pubs. Our local landlord would certainly not entertain the idea. "People would come in the swing doors, take one look at the cloudy drinks on the bar, mutter 'beer's off', and swing right out again." There are other dangers attached to real cider. I quote Peter Bourne of Taunton Branch, writing in the new Mid & W Somerset Real Ale Guide. "I remember many years ago seeing one well known cider addict totter out of a pub and fall down in the gutter. He was followed by another of the same kind who, seeing him lying there, urinated over him; and this was a Saturday lunchtime." At least with Holts that only happens in the evenings.

Mick Rottenbury

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LIQUID MALT EXTRACT 2lb £1.11 4lb £2.10 14lb £6.29 28lb £11.25 25kg (55lb)
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LEES IN BOLTON

The revamped Lodge Bank Tavern on Bridgeman Street in Bolton has at last reopened, the first Lees pub in the town since the turn of the century. The beer is handpumped bitter and mild (38p and 37p) and Worthington White Shield is also to be had. Lees bought the house from Boddingtons last year, when it was Bolton's last beerhouse. The interior has been completely modernised in a manner which leaves something to be desired. The Victorian bar has been ripped out and the fine etched windows which displayed the name of the pub have also gone. One good thing to come out of the modernisation are the new toilets - in the old days such luxuries were virtually non-existent!

A lot depends on the new Lodge Bank Tavern for, according to the manager, if it is successful then Lees will be looking for other outlets in the Bolton area.

James Hurst

Lees have acquired another pub recently, the Butchers Arms in Ripponden. Handpumps have been installed and the restaurant side of the business has been expanded to offer such exotica as chicken in champagne.

BOROUGH OFF

A new landlord at the Borough, Encombe Place, Salford, has chucked out the bar billiards table and (shock, horror) put in a space invader machine. This leaves the Crown as the only real ale bar billiard pub in Salford.



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MAT MATTERS

Since the new landlord moved in, the Bridge Inn at Ewood Bridge, Rossendale, now has Bass Cask Bitter on sale. No doubt the customers were ready for it - Cask Bitter beer mats had been on the tables for many months beforehand.

Speaking of beer mats, the ones advertising Brewers Bitter are now a common sight in Wilsons managed houses, often ones which never sold the beer. Perhaps it will reappear once a large demand has been created - or could it be that beer mats are no longer supposed to advertise? Are we meant to take them home as souvenirs of products which have been given the chop?

Don Chattwood

REAL ALE in SALFORD

Including
Swinton & Pendlebury, Eccles,
Irlam & Cadishead and Worsley



CITY OF SALFORD

Angel	Chapel Street	Wilsons	H
Albion	Ordsall Lane	Tetley	H
Beehive	Holland Street	Greenalls	E
Bird in Hand	St Stephens Street	Wilsons	H
Black Friar	King Street	Boddingtons	H
Borough	Encombe Place	Burtonwood	H
Borough	Regent Road	Greenalls	E
Braziers	Hodson Street	Boddingtons	E
Bricklayers	Ordsall Lane	Holts	H
Bridge	Strawberry Road	Wilsons	E
Britannia	Bank Lane	Wilsons	E
Broadway	Broadway	Holts	E
Brown Bull	Chapel Street	Marstons	H
Brunswick	Ordsall Lane	Greenalls	E
Chequerboard	Fallow Field	Wilsons	E
Church	Ford Lane	Wilsons	H
Church	Hilton Street	Boddingtons	E
Clowes	Trafford Road	Wilsons	E
Coach and Horses	Eccles New Road	Sam Smiths	H
Corporation	Cross Lane	Wilsons	E
Crown	Blackfriars Street	Wilsons	H
Dover	Fenney Street	Greenalls	E
Druids Arms	Liverpool Street	Wilsons	H
Druids Home	Silk Street	Wilsons	H
Duke of York	Marlborough Road	Holts	H
Eagle	Collier Street	Holts	H
Feathers	Laundry Street	Wilsons	E
Gas Tavern	Regent Road	Greenalls	E
Globe	Regent Road	Burtonwood	H/E
Grey Mare	Eccles New Road	Greenalls	E
Grove	Regent Road	Greenalls	E
Horseshoe	Back Hope Street	Bass 4X, Cask	H
Hyde Park Corner	Silk Street	Tetleys	H
Irwell Castle	Great Clowes Street	Wilsons	E
Jubilee	Tatton Street	Boddingtons	E
Kersal	Moor Lane	Boddingtons	E
Kildakin	St Kildas Drive	Boddingtons	E
Kings Arms	Bloom Street	Greenalls	E
Kings Arms	Oldfield Road	Wilsons	H
Live and Let Live	Regent Road	Wilsons	E
Lord Nelson	Chapel Street	Wilsons	H
Old House at Home	Whit Lane	Holts	H
Old Shears	Greengate	Wilsons	H
Old Ship	Chapel Street	Boddingtons	E
Old Veteran	Duxbury Street	Greenalls	E
Ordsall	Ordsall Lane	Wilsons	H
Osborne	Eccles New Road	Wilsons	H
Oxford	Bexley Square	Wilsons	E
Paddock	Cross Lane	Boddingtons	E
Palatine	Edward Street	Greenalls	E

Pen and Wig	New Bailey Street	Wilsons	H
Prince of Wales	Oldfield Road	Tetley	H
Priory	Gardner Street	Boddingtons	E
Punch Bowl	Chapel Street	Tetley	E
Railway	Broughton Road	Boddingtons	E
Railway	Liverpool Street	Greenalls	E
Red Lion	Bolton Road	Holts	E
Red Lion	Chapel Street	Wilsons	H
Rovers Return	Guy Fawkes Street	Wilsons	E
Royal Archer	Lower Broughton Road	Bass	E
Sabre	Taylorson Street	Holts	E
Salford Arms	Chapel Street	Whitbread	H
Ship	Cross Lane	Wilsons	H
Spinners Arms	Oldfield Road	Marstons	H
Spread Eagle	Regent Road	Holts	H
Star	Back Hope Street	Robinsons	H/E
Trafford	Trafford Road	Wilsons	E
Unicorn	Broughton Road	Greenalls	E
Union Tavern	Liverpool Street	Holts	H
Waggon and Horses	Bolton Road	Holts	H
Wallness	Wallness Lane	Tetley	H
Waterloo	Greengate	Wilsons	E
Wellington	Bolton Road	Holts	E
Wellington	Regent Road	Boddingtons	H
Winston	Churchill Way	Holts	E

SWINTON & PENDLEBURY

Albert	Bolton Road	Boddingtons	E
Bowling Green	Bolton Road	Tetley	E
Buckley Arms	Partington Lane	Tetley	E
Bulls Head	Chorley Road	Tetley	H
Butchers	Bolton Road	Thwaites	E
Cricketers	Manchester Road	Holts	E
Farmers Arms	Manchester Road	Boddingtons	E
Football	Swinton Hall Road	Tetley	H
Foresters	Chorley Road	Tetley	E
Lord Nelson	Bolton Road	Holts	E
New Cross	Swinton Hall Road	Tetley	H
Newmarket	Bolton Road	Holts	H
Park Inn	Worsley Road	Holts	E
Royal Oak	Bolton Road	Bass	E
Weavers	Swinton Hall Road	Boddingtons	E
White Horse	Worsley Road	Boddingtons	H
White Lion	Market Place	Robinsons	E
White Swan	Worsley Road	Holts	H
Windmill	Bolton Road	Sam Smiths	H
<u>ECCLES</u>			
Bird in Hand	Liverpool Road	Holts	H
Black Boy	Liverpool Road	Wilsons	H
Bridgewater	Liverpool Road	Holts	H
Brown Cow	Worsley Road	Robinsons	E

Church	Church Street	Wilsons	E
Cross Keys	Church Road	Bass	E
Crown and Volunteer	Church Street	Holts	E
Diamond XX	Liverpool Road	Wilsons	E
Dog and Partridge	Church Street	Greenalls	E
Dutton Arms	Barton Road	Boddingtons	H
Egerton Arms	Worsley Road	Boddingtons	E
Ellesmere Inn	King William Street	Holts	E
Ellesmere	Liverpool Road	Boddingtons	E
Fox Vaults	Church Street	Greenalls	E
Golden Cross	Liverpool Road	Holts	H
Golden Lion	Barton Lane	Boddingtons	E
Grapes	Liverpool Road	Holts	H
Kings Head	Barton Lane	Boddingtons	E
Lamb	Regent Street	Holts	E
Oddfellows	Church Street	Boddingtons	E
Old Bulls Head	Church Street	Holts	H
Packet House	Liverpool Road	Boddingtons	H
Park	Manton Road	Holts	E
Queens Arms	Green Lane	Boddingtons	E
Railway	Church Street	Tetleys	E
Red Lion	Chapel Street	Boddingtons	E
Royal Oak	Barton Lane	Holts	H
Ship Canal	Barton Lane	Wilsons	E
Spinners Arms	Liverpool Road	Tetleys	E
Stanley	Liverpool Road	Holts	H
Star	Church Street	Greenalls	E
Wellington	Church Street	Holts	H
Wellington	Worsley Road	Greenalls	E
White Horse	Gilda Brook Road	Robinsons	E
White Lion	Liverpool Road	Holts	H

IRLAM & CADISHEAD

Boathouse	Boat Lane	Boddingtons	E
Coach and Horses	Liverpool Road	Boddingtons	E
Lion	Liverpool Road	Tetley	H
Railway	Liverpool Road	Boddingtons	H
White Horse	Liverpool Road	Tetley	H
White Lion	Liverpool Road	Wilsons	H

WORSLEY

Bell	Manchester Road East	Tetley	H
Bridgewater	Barton Road	Boddingtons	E
Cock	Walkden Road	Boddingtons	E
Dun Mare	Salford Road	Tetley	H
Kenyon Arms	Manchester Road West	S&N	H
Morning Star	Manchester Road	Holts	E
Pied Piper	Eastham Way	Robinsons	E
Royal Oak	Leigh Road	Wilsons	H
Vulcan	Bolton Road	Boddingtons	E
White Lion	Manchester Road West	Boddingtons	H

MANCHESTER BREWERIES 20

Broadbents Steam Brewery



The "Age of Steam" was well advanced when Thomas Clowes founded his Steam Brewery in Chorlton on Medlock about 1840. Some years later he formed a partnership with James Barritt Broadbent and by 1860 they were trading as Clowes & Broadbent. At this time Thomas Clowes had a house adjacent to the brewery and Broadbent lived nearby on Lower Chatham Street. In 1864, one of Broadbent's sons was born; also named James Barritt. Young James did not follow his father into brewing but became an architect of some note. His chief works were cottage homes at Styal, extensions to Withington Workhouse and Baguley Lodge Sanatorium. However, another of Broadbent's sons did take up the trade. He was called Thomas Clowes Broadbent, an indication of the esteem in which Mr Clowes was held.

Both of these partners were leading members of the Manchester Brewers' Central Association since its foundation in 1872. Clowes served as first President for at least 10 years and Broadbent as a committee member. J B Broadbent must have died just after 1878 as by 1880 the firm had changed name to The Executors of James B Broadbent. Thomas Clowes died at age 77 in 1889.

A new partnership emerged in 1886 - T C & W Broadbent. This continued until the formation of Broadbents Ltd on 19th August 1891. Some of their tied pubs during this period were the Brookfield Inn, Brook Lane, Fulshaw; the Crown Inn, High Street, Cheadle; the Woolley Bridge Inn, Hollingworth; the Galloway Arms on York Street (near the brewery) and the Farmers Arms on Oxford Street in Salford.

After about five years, Broadbents Ltd was dissolved and the brewery was then run under the name William Broadbent. As such, the concern was bought by the Manchester Brewery Co Ltd in 1899. MBC used the brewery, probably only for stores, until financial problems forced the sale of all ex-Broadbents property to Threlfalls in 1905. The brewery stood idle for a time. By 1910 it was in use by a firm of mill furnishers.

Part of the Steam Brewery is still standing and in use by J A McCrea & Sons, Sanitary Engineers. It can be found by walking down York Street, which runs parallel to Oxford Road, until the end (where Rusholme Road once existed).

Alan Gall

(I would like to thank Mr Frank Cowan of Whitbread (Blackburn) for providing the map and also wish him the very best in his retirement.)

Real Ale Guides

The following publications are available from Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester. The guides are updated from time to time so if you know of any changes please contact the relevant branch - see Branch Diary.

REAL ALE IN HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE -

Including Marple, Hyde, Ashton, Audenshaw, Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Mossley & Denton. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN SOUTH MANCHESTER - Gorton, Openshaw, Clayton, Didsbury, etc 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN STOCKPORT - Hazel Grove, Cheadle, Heaton Mersey, etc. 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN SALFORD - Swinton, Eccles, Irlam, Worsley 10p

REAL ALE IN ROCHDALE Heywood, Littleborough, Middleton etc 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN ROSSENDALE - Bacup, Haslingden, Helmshore, Rawtenstall etc 10p + s.a.e.

INNS OF MAN - Illustrated comprehensive guide to the island's tied houses 50p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN TRAFFORD & HULME - Altrincham, Sale, Urmston etc. with maps 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN CENTRAL MANCHESTER A comprehensive guide to the real ale outlets within 1 mile of St Peter's Square. Map, illustrated 50p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN OLDHAM - Failsworth, Royton, Chadderton, Shaw, Saddleworth, 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN BURY - Ramsbottom, Radcliffe, Tottington, Whitefield, Prestwich, 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN MANCHESTER NORTH - city centre, Ancoats, Collyhurst, Newton Heath, Moston, Blackley, Cheetham etc 10p + s.a.e.

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

THE ROAD TO WIGAN BEER - Leigh, Atherton, Standish, Skelmersdale, Newton etc, fully illustrated, maps. 35p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN ST HELENS - Sutton, Peasley Cross, Thatto Heath, Moss Nook, Eccleston, Parr, etc 10p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN GREATER GROTLEY - Slumley, Smarmford & Slutch, Poshton & Pseudley 10p + s.a.e.

GREATER MANCHESTER GOOD BEER GUIDE A selective guide to about 1,000 pubs in Greater Manchester - Bury, Stockport, Oldham, Salford, Trafford, Wigan, Bolton, Rochdale, Leigh, Tameside, etc. 64pp. £1.00 + s.a.e.

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 post.

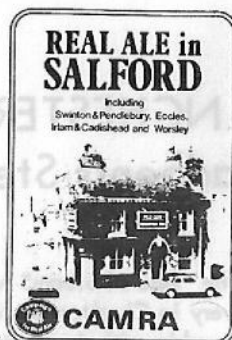
SALFORD'S PUBS No2 - Greengate, Chapel St, Ordsall, Threlfalls, small breweries etc. 78p inc postage

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

SALFORD'S PUBS No4 Pubs 50 years ago, alehouses of 1600s, 100 years of brewing, pub names 93p inc post

WIGAN'S PUBS No1 Town centre, Newtown Brewery, Aireys, Oldfield, Albion breweries etc 47p inc post

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



A TALK ON THE MILD SIDE

The decline in sales of Wilsons mild as reported in last month's What's Doing is likely to become much more widespread as a result of Wilsons pricing policy. The latest price increases have resulted in a managed house price of 45p for bitter and 44p for mild. It is the erosion of the price differential between mild and bitter which more than anything else has helped to ensure its decline. Of course, the downmarket image of mild, the growth of lager sales and the gradual growth of affluence, which has meant that bitter is more easily afforded by all sections of the population, have all played their part, but it is the relative price of mild which is most important.

A hundred years ago it was quite common for bitter to cost between 30% and 50% more than mild, so that someone out for an evening could drink say 6 pints of bitter or 8 or 9 pints of mild - quite a significant difference. Today if you drank Wilsons mild all night you wouldn't save enough to buy a packet of crisps.

Why should the relative prices have changed so dramatically? Certainly the gravity of bitters has fallen considerably, but so has the gravity of milds. Although costs of distribution and production remain fairly constant, irrespective of the gravity of the beer, the cost of ingredients and excise duty are directly related to the strength of beer. A price difference of about 4p a pint at the pump would seem to be reasonable for a 1037 bitter and a 1032 mild. A difference of 1p a pint, or in some cases identical prices, will only result in the death of Wilsons mild. Already two brewers have cut the number of milds they brew to one (Greenalls and Boddingtons). Could Wilsons be the first to stop brewing it altogether?

It is not only mild sales which should concern Manchester's biggest brewers. Their recent price increase put them right at the top of the beer price list, shortly to be joined by the other large brewery companies. In the present economic climate people will vote with their feet. In parts of Manchester where Wilsons houses exist next to pubs belonging to local brewers, price differences can be as high as 12 a pint - small wonder that the Wilsons pubs are empty and the Boddingtons and Holts pubs are crowded.

It might be good ol' Wilsons as far as tasteful renovations and new handpumps are concerned, but their shortsighted pricing policy is likely to alienate customers and licensees alike, and encourage Boddingtons and Holts in their justified belief that all they need do is build tasteless drinking barns and sell beer at 15% less than the "Big Six" in order to pack the crowds in and make a fortune.

Wilsons - will you please wake up to reality and understand that a 10% increase in prices is likely, in the present financial climate, to result in a greater than 10% drop in sales and a consequent drop in revenue?

Customers - if you can still afford to go into a Wilsons pub, ask for the mild - it may be your last chance before it disappears forever.

Roger Hall



You've got to hand it to Bunty. He's really taking his bid for power seriously since he found out about the Noble's smarming to the masses acts and attempted hostelry purchasing behaviour in Bunty's neck of the woods. Using his customary tact and charm, our devoted hero has inveigled many of his Grotley acolytes into conducting a survey of all beer drinkers in this toppers' Mecca. Fiona, Tish, the Hamptons, Fanny, Billy Cosh and Monty Cohen from Grotley have been joined by such stalwarts as Kurt Berks, Donny Tattlecopse, Humphrey Dumpty and, fresh from winning a gold medal in the world biriani gobbling championships, quasi-human dustbin David Hiccup esq. Even the barrel shaped accountant's ectomorphic sibling assisted in the enterprise. Despite his hierarchical impotence, Dermatitis would have helped. It was hardly his fault that the alehouses were closed when he arrived. The preliminary results have been analysed and Bunty has asked me to publish the following table:-

What is your favourite drink? All figures %

	Meths	Drabs	Sipstang	Broddingnags	Boringnods	Fartons	Grobleys	Brasso's	Kepples	Kamikaze	Spew	Honker & McNasty	Pigswill	Gollocks	Pissenlit	Pythons	McSpornan	Frothy	Malestrangler	Pernod & Blackcurrant	Other
Grotley	0	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2*	0
Slumley	0	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	3
+Slutch	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gungehurst	0	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Smarmford	0	0	5	7	3	4	6	11	13	6	8	4	3	28	3	9	4	6	1	6	3
Poshton	0	0	6	7	9	1	5	8	0	2	6	8	9	0	5	7	3	7	3	17	4
Smarmbury	0	0	17	28	3	57	5	2	8	4	9	7	5	17	18	2	5	6	7	8	5
Snobley	0	0	3	4	6	27	3	4	7	19	2	3	6	3	3	5	8	9	7	3	12
Pseudley	0	0	4	16	2	3	4	5	8	6	5	11	4	6	8	3	19	2	3	6	5

* Alistair Hampton + Two respondents died during questioning

A full account of the results has been sent to HQ. I'm told that this has nothing to do with the screaming altercations and resignations which have happened recently.

RUMOUR DENIAL SECTION

1 The Noble and Demys have definitely not tried to buy the Middle Wicket off Boringnods.

2 Perry Drab is not a loony. Lots of sensible people have voices telling them to knock pubs down and build portaloo look-alike replacements.

3 The nice Mr Cobbler has not failed to be in with a chance at doubling his tied estate.

4 The Noble is not practising eating King Prawn Dupiaza with 4 spoons in an attempt to beat Mr Hiccup's record of 14.27 seconds.



CHRISTMAS QUIZ

This quiz is based on the collected writings of Rupert Periwinkle since he joined the What's Doing staff some five years ago. The prize for the most correct answers is a lifetime's subscription to What's Doing (yes, really!) Entries must reach the editor, 51 Lime Street, Farnworth, Bolton, by November 20th 1980. The lucky winner will be announced in December's What's Doing.

- 1 Who shot Boddington?
- 2 Who threw up well hopped Shepherd Neames all over Maidstone?
- 3 Who wears spray on trousers?
- 4 Who wrote the manual of self abuse?
- 5 Who got Rupert sacked?
- 6 What did Cholmondley buy Rupert for Christmas 1977?
- 7 Where is the Lord Snooty?
- 8 Where was Ag's funeral held?
- 9 Who is the sartorial drunk?
- 10 Who is Josiah Drab's grandson?
- 11 Who is the Pudshire demagogue?
- 12 Who is boss of D.O.G.S.H.I.T.?
- 13 Who fancies Mr Rottenbodge?
- 14 Who is Osbert Dowdy?
- 15 Where is Drabs Crown Brewery?
- 16 Where does Kingfish O'Stiofain drink?
- 17 Who is the Barnsley and Sheffield Cretin?
- 18 Who behaves like a lavatory brush?
- 19 What does RAPIDOPIST cost?
- 20 Which of Max Wall's acolytes made a balls up of the EGM?
- 21 Who was imprisoned as a result of his attempt to stamp out rampant pansyism?
- 22 Whom did Rupert address on "The Aims of CAMRA"?
- 23 Who sacked Dermatitis and gets through licensees like NSU in a brothel?
- 24 Who was made redundant by Boringsods?
- 25 Who were Lorenzo, Deutsch and Karl and what did they drink?
- 26 Who is Wadworth?
- 27 Who is more stunning than Golliponda?
- 28 Who was vice-captain of the Fatted Pseud embroidery team?
- 29 Who lost 4,000-3 at the EGM?
- 30 Whom did Robin Pendragon defame?
- 31 Who's Rupert's mum?
- 32 Where did "The Thingy that Wotsit Built" appear?
- 33 Who introduced the electronic Jewish piano?
- 34 Where was Rupert educated?
- 35 Who took the mantle of supremacy from Max Wall?
- 36 What event heralded the birth of Provisional CAMRA?
- 37 Whose was the amazing giraffe hypnosis act?
- 38 Who wrote to the Slumley Bugle?
- 39 Out of whose bottom did the sun shine in '77?
- 40 Who had 400 Woodbines inserted in him?
- 41 Who was a figment?
- 42 Who were the Grotley branch swaps with Esher?
- 43 Who is Fred Prune not?
- 44 Who is the barmaid in the Gungesmeary Arms?

HOLIDAY HAUNTS

Gwynedd Brewers Ltd.



Over the years we have read of the delights of faraway tipples, penned by returning holidaymakers. The accounts have ranged from sampling real lager in Germany to looking for malt in Malta, not to mention searching for something exotic in Scunthorpe. This month it is the turn of Stewart Revell, who has but recently returned from Anglesey bearing wondrous news of a new brewery he found there.

The brewery at Gaerwen started production at the beginning of August and produces a Gwynedd Bitter with an og of 1043 and a mild of 1036. There are at present five outlets for the beer, all using handpumps:

Parcial Arms, Marianglas
Eagles Hotel, Llanrwst
Tyn-Y-Coed Hotel, Capel Curig
The Goat, Llanwnda
Dinorben Arms, Amlwch

The brewery is three miles from Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwl-llandysiliogogoch, so that should make it nice and easy to find.

PUB OF THE MONTH

Trafford and Hulme's pub of the month for October is the Church, 84 Cambridge Street, Hulme. This small, three-roomed local was a Greenalls outlet until it was sold off by the brewery at the beginning of 1979. I suppose a crate of Guinness and two packets of crisps a week in sales rendered it "unprofitable" and "surplus to requirements". Luckily JW Lees stepped in and after some early ups and downs it is now a friendly pub serving consistently good pints of mild and bitter through handpumps. It'll be a good do on the 23rd.

Mick Rottenbury

Pseud's Corner Naked ape

A TAXI DRIVER is overweight and suffers spells of dizziness while driving. In the final incident, which involves a runaway pram, he meets his nemesis. This is a film about obesity suitable for slimming clubs, women's groups etc.

From a film summary sent to schools by Trafford area health authority. (Michael Rottenbury, Sale, Cheshire).

Below street level, tucked away almost anonymously under an ordinary looking office block, the Turnkey is a paradise for the discerning drinker.

Where else in Wigan have you a choice between Boddington's Best Bitter and Youngers Tartan Keg? Or a choice of two lunchtime menus, fast food for around a pound from the self service bar, or a set meal in the unique Outside Inn?

THE GUARDIAN

WIGAN REPORTER



Branch Diary

BOLTON

Tues 7th Oct Branch Meeting George, Great Moor Street 8.45pm
 Tues 14th October Trip to Burtonwood Brewery
 Tues 21st Oct Social Three Crowns, Deansgate, 9.20pm (after t'match) Including food.
 Tues 4th Nov Branch meeting Spread Eagle, Hulme Street 8.45pm
 Weds 19th Nov Lees Brewery visit
 Contact: Bert Kerks Bolton 388172

SOUTH LANCES

Thurs 2nd Oct Imperial, Ince, Branch Meeting 8.30pm
 Weds 15th Oct Pub Survey, meet at Manor, Galborne 8.00pm
 Thurs 30 Oct Earlestown Pub Survey. 8.00pm Newmarket, Earlestown.
 Tues 4th Nov Burtonwood Brewery Trip
 Weds 12 Nov Branch Meeting Wheatsheaf, Wallgate, Wigan
 Fri 21st Nov Pub Crawl of Aspull 7.30 Balcarres, 8.30 New Inn
 Contact Ian Ogden Wigan 79534

NORTH MANCHESTER

Fri 26 Sept Pub Crawl of Munich. Appel at 1700 hrs Spatenalm, Ganghoferstraße, München 2. Thence to the Oktoberfest, Therese'nwies'n. 1800 Ochsenbräterei (Thomas-Paulanerbräu) 1900 Pschörr-Rössl (Pschörr-Bräu) 2000 Schottenhamel (Spatenbräu) und, von ze Schottenhamel is shutten, 23.30 Spatenalm, Ganghoferstraße, 2300 Weissbierkeller, Mäthaser-Bierstadt. (Don't mention the War)
 Weds 5th Nov Bonfire bar at Swinton Rugby Ground 6.30 (admission 70p) followed by pub crawl. Football 9.00
 Weds 12th Nov Social / Committee meeting, Cock, Worsley
 Weds 19th Nov Branch Meeting, White Swan, Swinton
 Weds 22nd & 29th Oct GMGBG purveying session Details at next branch meeting
 Fri 24th Oct Branch trip to Bratfot. Outward train: Man Vic 1818, Moston 1825, Castleton 1832, Rochdale 1836, Bradford 1925. Assemble Jacobs Well 1930. Return train Bradford Exchange 2300, Rochdale 23.47, non stop to Man Vic, arr 0003.
 Contact Roger Hall 740 7937

CENTRAL & NORTH CHESHIRE

Branch meeting Weds Oct 15th at Spread Eagle, Lymm. 8.00pm Speaker: S P Cole of Lees Brewery
 Contact: Roy Walker 082 921575

ROCHDALE OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 14th Oct 8.00pm Branch meeting Gale (Bass) Whitworth Rd, Rochdale
 Sat 18th Oct Lunchtime expedition to Holmfirth
 Tues 21st Oct 8.00pm Committee meeting Martins Nest (Wilsons), Brimrod Way, Rochdale
 Fri/Sat 31st Oct/1st Nov Bury Beer Festival, Derby Hall, Market Street, Bury
 Tues 11th Nov 8.00pm Branch Meeting Cotton Tree (Lees) Boarshaw Road, Middleton
 Tues 25th Nov 8.00pm Committee Meeting Firwood (Lees), Joshua Lane, Middleton Junction
 Contact Steve Lawton 061 236 4411 ext 7236 or 061 620 9239

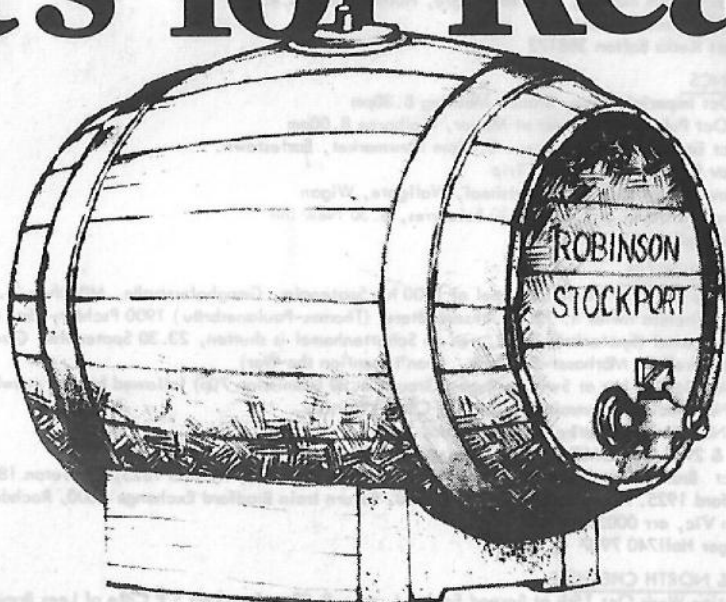
HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Wed 22 Oct 8.30pm Branch Meeting Travellers Call, Bredbury (Please note rearranged date)
 Fri 3 Oct 8.00pm Pub Crawl of New Mills starting at the Grove
 Fri 17th Oct Social/Coach trip to the Rose and Crown (The Nook) Holmfirth, Yorks
 Fri 31st Oct 8.00pm Pub crawl of Marple starting at The Hatters
 Sat 15th Nov 8.00pm Pub crawl of Poynton starting at the Boars Head
 Contact: Tom Lord 061 427 7099

TRAFFORD & HULME

Sat 11th Oct Chester Awayday. Meet 12noon Bull & Stirrup, Northgate and 7.00pm Old Custom House, Watergate Street
 Thurs 16th Oct 8.00pm Branch AGM Malt Shovels, Stamford Street, Altrincham. All branch members and friends urged to attend.
 Thurs 23rd Oct 8.00pm pub of the month, Church, 84 Cambridge Street, Hulme
 Weds 5th Nov Wilsons Brewery visit
 Thurs 6th Nov 8.00pm Committee/Social, Unicorn, Hale Road, Halebarns
 Sat 15th Nov Coach trip to West Midlands (Brierley Hill and Kinver)
 Thurs 20th Nov 8.00pm Branch Meeting, Volunteer, Crass Street, Sale
 Contact: Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 (home)

It's for Real



We, at Robinson's, think that what matters most about beer is its flavour. That's why we are still brewing beer the same way that we did a hundred years ago. Natural ingredients, the same time-honoured brewing ways, even on the same site - not many can say that!

And you can buy at least one, usually two and sometimes more of the traditional Ales listed here in any Robinson's pub within 100 miles of Stockport. Not many can make that sort of claim either.

Now you can have Real Ale at home for parties or just for your own enjoyment. Available in Firkins and Pins* complete with tap, stillage and detailed instructions. You can order

from any Robinson's On or Off-Licence or Unicorn Wine Shops.

Always available from Unicorn Wine,

Old Tom Ale
Best Bitter Ale
Bitter Ale*
Best Mild Ale



Lower Hillgate, Stockport, (just by the Brewery) 061 480 6571. And its the cheapest way of buying beer. A little more trouble perhaps but we think you will agree with us that it is worth it.

There are deposits on the casks, stillages and taps, returnable in full when you bring them back. You can borrow glasses, paying only for those you break or fail to return providing you also make appropriate purchases of items to fill them.

We strongly recommend that you place your order as soon as possible for Christmas or New Year use.

It's Robinson's . . . for Real.

*Bitter Ale not available in Pins.

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