

WHAT'S DOING



APRIL
1981

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

STRANGEWAYS, DERBY WINNER ?



Holts Derby Brewery have bought the Red Dragon on the Crescent, Salford, for a sum in the region of £150,000. This is their first acquisition since the 1950s, when they bought the Black Dog at Belmont.

Recent buying by Boddingtons, the Strangeways brewery, has seen Holts shares crash through the £4 barrier - who knows what the Red Dragon will look like when it reopens!

WHITBREAD FABRICATIONS

South Lancs branch were not overjoyed when they heard that eleven Tetley Walker pubs in Wigan were being swapped to Whitbread. Some fears were allayed, however,

when Whitbread management stated publicly that their policy was to maintain cask beer in those outlets which had previously sold it. We visited the four real ale pubs several times and were surprised at the amount of misleading information and/or confusion we found.....

FOUNDRY, Warrington Road, Wigan (formerly Walker bitter - handpumps)

No doubt Tetley were glad to get rid of this pub, as it is rather dilapidated and was due for demolition some 12 months ago! The landlord expressed a strong preference for traditional beer, particularly as he thought that the reputation for Trophy in Wigan was so bad. Unfortunately he met with strong resistance from Whitbread, who insisted that he try Trophy and keg Chesters mild on a trial period of unspecified duration.

DERBY ARMS, Castle Hill Road, Hindley (formerly Walkers bitter, Tetley mild, handpumps) We thought that this would be our best bet for retaining cask beer, as both the landlord and his locals are keen real ale drinkers. The pub had a deserved reputation for superb Walker bitter and has been in the Good Beer Guide. On an earlier visit the landlord told us that Whitbread had promised him traditional bitter and, much to our surprise, mild. In fact, after the changeover, Special Cask bitter was on sale on handpump together with keg Trophy and keg Chesters mild. Fortunately the Special Cask was the same price as Trophy (43p pre budget) and was greatly outselling it. It was interesting to note that the gas content of the keg mild was so great that the landlord had to go to the trouble of putting it on handpump in order to get an acceptable pint!

HARE AND HOUNDS, Highfield, Wigan (formerly handpumped Tetley bitter & mild)

We were under the impression that Whitbread had promised this pub real bitter but no mild, although this was far from clear, and the landlady expressed a preference for



Hartleys! On visiting the pub after the transfer, there was no sign of illuminated boxes on the bar, only the row of handpump handles. However, in a seemingly deliberate attempt to mislead, Whitbread had inserted keg taps below the bar where the handpump taps used to be.

BELLE VUE, Woodhouse Lane, Wigan (formerly Tetley bitter, mild - handpumps) Another ex-Good Beer Guide pub, situated near Latics ground. On an earlier visit the landlord thought that he would take up an option of moving to another Tetley pub, as he thought Whitbread would not sell in his area. Handpumped Special Cask bitter is on sale here, together with the ubiquitous Trophy and keg mild. At this pub we met up with the ultra-smooth Whitbread Area Manager, who was in deep conversation with the landlady and didn't seem to have much time for us. When we asked about Whitbread's stated policy, he told us not to believe all that we read in the papers! However, it did seem clear that as all deliveries to Wigan area come from Blackburn, the company are anxious to promote the keg products from Samlesbury at the expense of cask beers from other breweries. Ian Ogden

WHAT'S DOING

SITS VAC

Tetley are looking for someone to lease the Victoria, Crown Square, Manchester. It is a newish glass 'n' concrete structure presently serving fizzy beer to the Rumpoles and Ronnie Biggses of the nearby Crown Court. The brewery are offering the Victoria at an annual rent of £15,000.

TYLDESLEY BOWLING AND SOCIAL CLUB

Lees bitter, mild and light mild are now on sale at this excellent little club. Previously Hydes traditional beers were sold. All the beers are in excellent condition even though there is no full time steward at the club. They are lovingly cared for by a member of the committee, who takes a great pride in his work. It is interesting to note that the two milds combined account for 80% of sales. CAMRA members always welcome.

REAL ALE IN RAMMY

The Grants Arms, Market Place, Ramsbottom, has had the keg Wilsons replaced by cask Burtonwood mild and bitter. This is the only outlet for traditional Burtonwood in the whole of Bury Metro. Burtonwood Top Hat was previously on sale at the free house, which has a large room available for functions.

BASS AT THE CLARENCE

In previous years the Clarence on Wilmslow Road, Rusholme, has been more revered for its Irish folk groups than its beer, which consisted of the usual range of Bass fizz. When a new landlord, who was keen to get cask beer in, took over about 18 months ago, it became a campaigning issue with the South Manchester branch of CAMRA. A three-fold attack from the landlord, locals and CAMRA was launched on Bass and, after initial reluctance, they agreed to install Cask Bitter in the Clarence. This beer sold moderately well to maintain turnover, but recently was

removed to be replaced by Draught Bass, which the landlord says is selling very well and at 48p a pint is good post budget value.

NOBBY CLARK RETIRES

After 23 years in the licensed trade, Nobby and Nora Clark of the Horseshoe, Standish, are to retire in October. They were 17 years at the Dog and Partridge, Wallgate, Wigan, until it became the "Bees Knees" (the pub Wigan beer drinkers could have managed without). Nobby moved to the Horseshoe six years ago and has many tales to tell of the old Dog and Partridge, one of the oldest pubs in Wigan. Nora did not want to go into the trade at first, but has enjoyed every minute of it. The Horseshoe still has a good old sing-song every weekend and Nobby and Nora have collected a lot of money for charity at their Friday night concerts, where everyone is made very welcome. We are sure all CAMRA members and Wigan pub goers wish Nobby and Nora all the best in their retirement.

FAREWELL TO THE ODDFELLOWS

Some months ago the closure of the Oddfellows, Lees Road, Oldham, was reported to be imminent. Well, this archetypal street corner local, selling traditional Oldham Brewery ales, has now finally been sentenced to death. The pub closes its doors for the last time on Sunday 26th April.

The ROB branch are holding a committee meeting/social at the Oddfellows on Tuesday 21st April and a representative from the brewery has been invited along to meet the branch. This would be our first official contact with the brewery, should the meeting occur. Those who know the Oddfellows will appreciate that accommodation is severely limited, so if you can't get in on the night, do try to visit the pub before the 26th.

PS Don't be tempted by the Lighthouse Inn across the road. This pub has recently been given the OB treatment and sells chilled and filtered beers only.

MORE BOOZE IN BAMBER BRIDGE

The latest Whitbread "Free House" to open is at Bamber Bridge, near Preston. The MacKenzie Arms, on Station Road (A6) is now selling Hartleys XB and Yates & Jackson bitter on handpump. Whitbread Special Cask has been taken off and may be replaced by Theakstons bitter. For the opening fortnight all beers were sold at 5p off the full price of 46p. Keg Trophy and Chesters mild have been retained - perhaps Whitbread don't have quite the same degree of faith as a certain Eccles Parva tavernkeeper!

BURTONWOOD IN BOLTON

The ill-starred Swan, Bradshawgate, has recently been refurbished to a high standard. Visitors are warned that bouncers now patrol the plush lounge bar armed with torches, looking for drinkers wearing denims, as these have been banned. Anyone be-denimed who succeeds in getting a drink is asked to leave and drink up in the adjoining bar. Real ale drinkers wearing denims are now relegated to the Malt and Hops bar only. Beware also of the mini-handpump serving Harp lager.

As Burtonwood are obviously flush at the moment, perhaps they might like to provide

a sign for the York on Newport Street. It really is a poor comparison to the Clifton, further down the street, which has been painted up in the new Walker colours. However, the York is still one up on the Swan as it sells Burtonwood Light Mild.

CIDER ASIDE

To clarify a misleading impression given in last month's WD concerning 'real' cider, Bulmers have two versions of draught cider available for the jug and bottle trade in off licences. Bulmers 'still' cider is pasteurised whereas their 'West Country' cider is the rough stuff. The only outlet for this in Trafford and Hulme is 'The Dairy', Washway Road, Sale (opposite the Vine).

RIGBYE RETIREMENT

Fred of the Rigbye Arms, High Moor, Wrightington, retires this month and his place is to be taken by the landlord of the Volunteer (another Tetley pub), Duke Street, St Helens (not real ale). Lots of food and alterations are planned at the Rigbye -let's hope real ale stays.



SPREAD EAGLE CLOSES

Monday 16th March saw the Spread Eagle, Hulme Street, Bolton, serve its last pint. The landlord has moved to the nearby Falcon (another handpumped Tetley house) apparently on the condition that the brewery will not reopen the Spread. Harry and Nellie, former licensees of the Falcon, have called it a day and are moving to Westhoughton.

MATTHEW BROWN NOTES

Matthew Brown are, at long last, to standardise the counter displays on electric pumps so as to differentiate between cask, tank and container beer. All cask pumps will in future bear the words "Lion Cask" and a picture of Matthew Brown himself. Keg "Heritage" is being phased out in favour of a

keg version of John Peel Special Bitter. The cask version of this beer has been withdrawn from the Black Boy, Rose and Crown and the Parkers, Chorley, leaving only the White Hart selling the beer in that town. Also in Chorley, the Princess Royal and the Borough no longer sell cask beer, whilst in Preston the Jutland is also now on canisters.

In the Brook House, Preston, the regulars have been waging a campaign against the introduction of canister beer - they prefer the existing tanks!!



BEER BAND

The Mossley Band with Harry Wilde, J W Lees Company Secretary, outside the brewery at Middleton Junction. Lees have launched a 3-year sponsorship deal with the 140 year old band.

BURTONWOOD LIGHT

The Alma, Bradshawgate, Bolton, will be trying Burtonwood Light mild as soon as the stillages arrive.

PUB OF THE MONTH

Trafford & Hulme's Pub of the Month for April is the Carters Arms, Sale Moor. This Good Beer Guide listed pub sells five real ales; Marstons mild, bitter, Pedigree, Merrie Monk and Owd Rodger (during the strong ale season). It is a friendly local with four distinct and contrasting drinking areas - though they do have one thing in common - peeling paint, peeling wallpaper and peeled carpet (see "Poetry Corner" in March WD). Come early on the 23rd, it'll get packed.

ROBINS NEST

It seems that certain sections of the Eccles drinking public now refer to the Duke of York as "Bilko's Bar". Can't think why.

HANDPUMPS

The Golden Lion, Gladstone Road, Farnworth, now sells handpumped Tetley mild and bitter - a real ale gain for the area. Entertainment in the form of a live group or disco is featured most evenings.

The White Horse, Westhoughton (A6), has had new handpumps installed to serve a good pint of Wilsons mild and bitter.

OLD HOUSE TO STAY

Prompted by the pub swap involving the Millstone, Blackley, and ICI's activity in Bottomley Side, rumours have been rife in Blackley for several weeks about the future of both the Old House at Home and ICI's social club. The rumours centred around the possible sale of the club to either Boddingtons or Wilsons. Wilsons have denied any approach by ICI and have reaffirmed their intention to keep the Old House. The pub's future, therefore, looks relatively secure, but it would be an encouragement for both the customers and the tenant if Wilsons were to carry out the improvements which were promised at the time of the Save the Old House at Home Campaign in 1978.

The future of the social club remains to be seen, but one wonders what Tetley's reaction to an application for a full licence might be if the club were acquired by Boddingtons. The Millstone, only 150 yards away, changed hands from Boddingtons to Tetleys in a pub swap in January. Permanent closure of ICI's Bottomley Side car park could affect trade at the Old House and enhance the value of the social club as a potential public house.

CLUBS SURVEY

The Trafford & Hulme clubs survey is still going strong, but it is proving difficult to enter the remaining clubs due to doormen, strict enforcement of "members only" rules, etc. If anybody is a member of a club in the area, I would be very grateful if they would let me know the details.

Most clubs have shown a genuine friendly approach, and the most amusing escapades must include the casual stroll past several handshakes in Sale Masonic Hall, and the extreme Colonial opposition in a certain Cheshire area croquet club. However, a hint of interest for traditional draught beer was shown at the new RAOB club, Cross Street, Sale (Bass).

In Jan WD it was stated that Youngers Scotch Bitter was available at the Shell Carrington. This unfortunately is not the case; the club stocks a variety of chilled and filtered liquids.

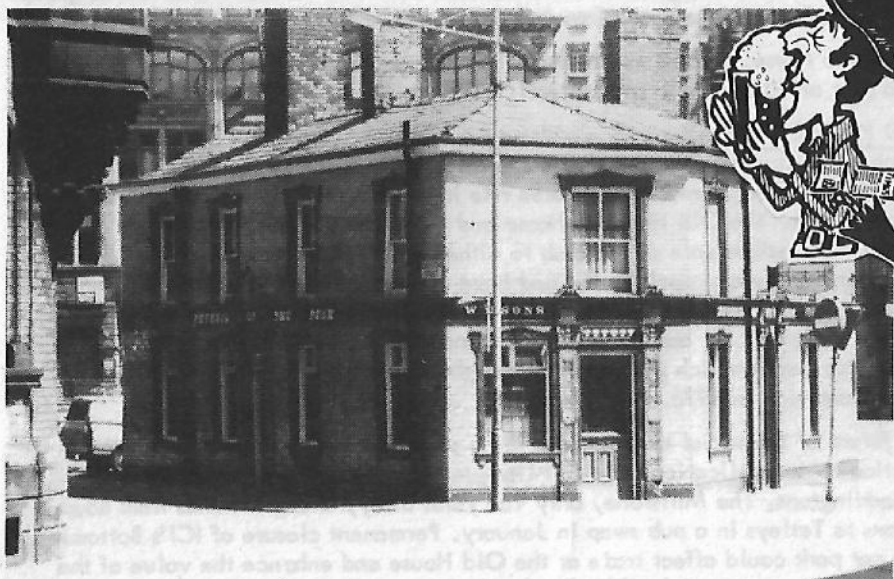
All T&H Club comments to: Steve Wilson, 21 Ravenstone Drive, Sale

JOHN SMITHS COMPETITION

The winner of the competition to find a suitable name for Sale Leisure Centre's bar (John Smiths) will be announced next month. Four pints of real ale to be won. Entries accepted until the Monday before copy date for May issue. To Mick Rottenbury, 50 Poplar Grove, Sale, Cheshire M33 3 AY. Entries so far display a distinct lack of original humour.

Contributors: Jimmy Ribble, Ian Ogden, Roger Hall, Bert Kerks, Mick Rottenbury, Dave Eckett, Don Chattwood, Haggis Eater, Alan Ball, Steve Lawton

CITY DESK



Compiled by Peter O'Grady

The brewery surveyors have been in the PEVERIL OF THE PEAK, Great Bridgewater Street. An encouraging sign, as this pub was on the line of the hopefully ill-fated "inner circulatory route." As the brewery is Wilsons, I feel sure we won't see any destruction of the ornate stained glass partitions. Let's hope that the peak of the "Pev's" career is still to come!

THE CROWN & ANCHOR, Hilton Street, has become a Robin's Nest taste-alike pub. Beers now available include Chesters mild and bitter, Thwaites bitter, Marstons Pedigree and Burtonwood dark mild - all on handpump. The pub interior is like the inside of a ship (even the space invader makes a noise like a ship's bell). Strangely enough there are no parrots - Perhaps Robin Bence got the wrong pub. Pieces of eight are not, I believe, legal tender here.

Apologies to Peter Gibbs, manager of the TOWN HALL TAVERN, for spelling his name wrong in last month's issue. It must have been all that Draught Bass I'd drunk.

Derek Mapp, Managed House Manager of Sam Smiths, tells me that they have now overcome the structural problems they encountered at SINCLAIRS OYSTER BAR and hope to open some time this month.

THE DOUGLAS, Corporation Street, has now closed its doors to make way for the building of a Holiday Inn hotel. No sooner had the pub shut than thieves made off with the lead from the roof.

MILD AND BITTER - THEN AND NOW

THE BEER (PRICES AND DESCRIPTION) ORDER, 1919.

MAXIMUM PRICES FOR PUBLIC BAR AND OFF CONSUMPTION.

Column 1 Beer of an Original Gravity of	Column 2 OTHER THAN BOTTLED When sold by Imperial Measure or by multiple part thereof, maximum price at the rate per Imperial Pint of	Column 3 BOTTLED Maximum price per Bottle, containing the below mentioned amounts of Beer:					
		Half an Imperial Pint	Half an Imperial Pint	A Regular Pint	An Imperial Pint	A Regular Quart	An Imperial Quart
1023° or over, but less than 1029°	4d	3d	3½d	5½d	6½d	9d	11d
1029° or over, but less than 1035°	5d	3½d	4d	6d	7d	11d	1s 1d
1035° or over, but less than 1042°	6d	4½d	5d	7d	8d	1s 1d	1s 3d
1042° or over, but less than 1050°	7d	5½d	6d	9d	10d	1s 3d	1s 5d
1050° or over	8d	6½d	7d	11d	1s	1s 5d	1s 7d

If these regulations were in force today, and assuming a lounge bar price of 48p (post budget) for an average bitter, then the following beers would sell at the prices shown:

	Bitter	Mild		Bitter	Mild
Boddingtons	48p (just about)	40p	Oldham	48p	40p
Holts	48p	40p	Pollards	48p	40p
Hydes	48p	40p	Wilsons	48p	40p
Robinsons	56p/48p	40p	Bass	56p/48p	40p
Lees	48p	40p	Tetley	48p	40p

This, however, is not what we experience in the pubs. Not only are there vast differences between brewers for beers of similar gravity (up to 12p a pint), but none of the brewers have maintained the differential between mild and bitter. The most common difference is 2p per pint or about 4%, a derisory amount which is unlikely to encourage mild sales. Unless mild is sold at a price which is significantly lower than bitter, sales will be eroded until mild ceases to exist as a draught beer.

Roger Hall

LETTER

Sir,

Is there any truth in the rumour that the Chancellor has index linked the price of a pint to CAMRA's subscription rate?

D Eckett

SADDLEWORTH 81



As reported last month, the Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch of CAMRA have been asked to raise funds for the Saddleworth Museum and Art Gallery. Not surprisingly, the branch have decided that the best way is to run a Beer Festival. (By Jove, these CAMRA lads certainly have their fingers on the pulse!)

As in the two previous years, the festival will be held in the Civic Hall, Uppermill, near Oldham. Licensed sessions are as follows:-

Fri 1st May	5.00pm to 11.00pm
Sat 2nd May	11.00am to 3.00pm and 5.00pm to 11.00pm
Sun 3rd May	12.00noon to 2.00pm

About twenty breweries have been asked to supply to the festival, including a number of "one-man" concerns. Amongst the thirty or so beers will be titillating tipplers from Saxon Cross (Buxton), Moorhouses (Burnley), Appleby (Cumbria), Woods (Shropshire), West Riding (Huddersfield), Castle Eden (Durham), Litchborough (Northamptonshire) and Two Shires (Ramsbottom), to name but a few. The West Midlands beers will be featured for the first time with Banks's and Simpkins ales. The Vaux group will be represented by Wards, Darleys and Vaux Sunderland. Plus many, many more! Several mild beers will be featured at realistic prices.

There will be a brass band on Friday night and on Saturday night more beer swilling music will be provided by an Oompah band. Entertainment will also be featured at both lunchtime sessions. Good traditional food will be available throughout and an unlicensed room is provided for children.

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Lunchtime sessions 20p

Evening sessions (up to 7.30) 20p

Evening Sessions (after 7.30) 50p

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Public transport: Buses 183 and 184 from Stevenson Square, Manchester, to
Uppermill (via Oldham)

Trains - from Victoria to Greenfield

Contact Steve Lawton 061 236 4411 (ext 7236) or 061 620 9239 (home)

THE PRICE OF A PINT

During the week before the Budget, Trafford and Hulme branch undertook a price survey of the twelve breweries supplying real ale to the area (no one could be persuaded to survey the John Smiths outlets). By the time you read this it will already seem like history of some far off pleasant days. The 50p pint of bitter was still unknown in the area's pubs, although lager drinkers had long since become accustomed to paying up to 58p for a pint of ordinary lager. Mild was available at 36p in a number of outlets and average prices were under 42p for mild and about 44p for bitter.

Holts and Boddingtons were by far the cheapest, with managed house prices of 36p for mild and 37 and 39p respectively for bitter (all prices are those for the vault). Lees, Hydes and Marstons were the next best bets, though prices varied wildly from one pub to the next. For instance, you could get Marstons mild at 39p in the Carters Arms, Sale Moor, or 45p in the Hare and Hounds, Timperley. That's a lot extra to pay for a better cut of carpet. Wilsons registered the most expensive pint of bitter; 48p in the posher areas like the Woodcourt in Brooklands, though there were plenty of outlets at 43p, such as the Orange Tree, Altrincham.

A couple of interesting points were thrown up by the survey which took some explaining. One concerns draught Guinness, which varied from 50p (Grapes, Boddingtons, Altrincham) to 62p (Town Hall Tavern, Bass, Manchester). It also seemed strange that two of the breweries with more reasonable prices for their own beers should display near top prices for Guinness (for example, 61p in the Carters Arms and 58p in the Quarry Bank, Hydes, Timperley - both of which had mild at only 39p).

The other point is the price differential between mild and bitter, a topic taken up elsewhere in this issue. Hydes are to be congratulated on maintaining a difference of 3p or 4p, which is a fairly accurate reflection of the difference in strength between mild and bitter. Robinsons also showed up very well with a 3p gap. It is not surprising that both these breweries command higher sales of mild than most, when the product is both of a high quality and a relatively low price. (I wonder why so many Wilsons pubs have such low sales of cask mild...!) MR



Both Bunty and Fiona had intended to put themselves forward as joke candidates for the boss-group. As things turned out, however, it was probably a jolly good thing that Dermatitis forgot to post their applications. As Tish pointed out in the Robins Nest after the curry-shop robbery, everybody else seems to have had the same idea. Apart from the rather obvious jolly japes of Messrs Sanders and Trifledan, most of the other potential leaders used a subtle mixture of sardonic innuendo and self deprecating litotes in a noble attempt to ridicule the entire process. Elsie, in an endeavour to fill the vacuum created by herself, writes in a bland and apparently boring manner which completely belies her dynamic articulateness. The same theme is followed by such stalwarts as Peter Hammerstein, Dick Head, Doc Bacon and Bessie Clog. The Campaign will obviously flourish with leaders who are at the same time modest and ambitious but who retain a keen sense of humour and the ability to make mock of the hand that feeds them. The major accolade must go, however, to one who not only extracts the urine (suggesting tongue-in-cheek, for example, that people who know about the control of money should look after it) but actually goes so far as to invent a name for himself - I refer, of course, to the monumental Islam Deafwater, who will certainly get my vote. As Tish so confidently points out, Bunty and Fiona would have been superfluous among such illustrious company. They may now devote their energies towards reinstituting the Grotley branch of Provisional CAMRA in the back room of the New Dockers Wedge. At this moment in time I myself feel that this is a retrogressive step situation. Branches should devote their energies to raising money to maintain a sophisticated Headquarters Communications Interface rather than wasting their time campaigning about trivial local issues. The importance of travelling expenses which enable our mentors to leap all over the country dispensing their wisdom to ordinary members cannot be overemphasised. The kind of insularity which Tish proposes cannot be condoned. Ignoring the National Executive and doing what they think is best for Grotley is hardly likely to help to achieve the Campaign's expressed aims. I myself will continue to be interested in Parliamentary Liaison Officers' reports, the Think Cask and the Proceedings of the Bratislavian Fuggle Propagation Working Party, rather than the boring minutiae of Grotley pubs and breweries.

RUMOUR DENIAL

There is absolutely no truth in the rumour that Brobdingnags have taken delivery of two gas injectors in an attempt to catch up with Drabs' short lived leg experiment

NEW BREWERY

Beer from the new Two Shires Brewery, Rosebank Mills, Stubbins, Ramsbottom, will soon be available in pubs in the north west. The brewery is run by Peter Walker (no relation), David Murray and Bob Ward, who are already well known in brewing circles in the north west, having been manufacturers and repairers of brewing equipment for the last six years.

The brewing equipment has been developed, designed and built over the last eighteen months and is capable of turning out five barrels per brew, although capacity can be increased by increasing the number of fermenting vessels. The equipment is designed to fit into confined spaces and can be rearranged to suit by modifying the pipework. It is made in stainless steel and will hence last for many years; the current cost of the basic equipment is about £20,000. Raw material cost for a production run of 5 barrels of a 1038 og bitter is just 3¹/₂p a pint.

The plant, which has been visited by the majority of the north west's breweries, should start production in mid April. Already several local landlords have shown a keen interest in stocking the beer and once brewing, the trio will consider producing plant for the growing list of interested parties who come from all over - Blackpool, London, Newton-le-Willows, Lagos, Seattle and Greece.

Needless to say, the equipment is suitable for most free houses and clubs and takes up around 32 square feet in three sections. One or two brewers looked a little worried on leaving, though it would be ideal for brewery research and development.

No hop oils or malt extract or any other dubious extras are used in the brewing process. It is expected that the beer will be available by early April; at present details of outlets are not known, but watch May's WD for details. It is almost certain that the beer will be available at the Saddleworth beer festival on May 1st and 2nd.

Don Chattwood

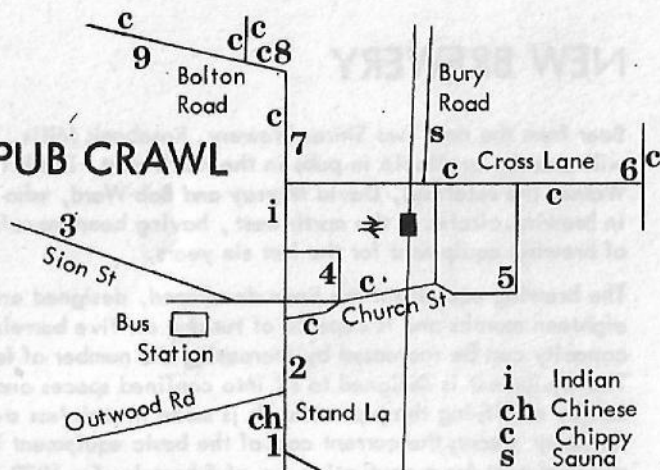


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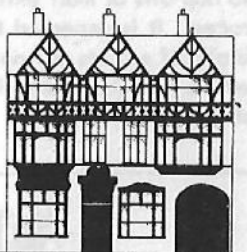


After the Prestwich 18 in Feb's WD, we move a little further north to Radcliffe. There isn't such a vast choice here, but there are several beers which aren't available in Prestwich.

Start off in the Wellington (1), a Bass house serving cask bitter and 4X mild. This is a fairly small and basic town centre house, though the tilework on the walls adds interest. Specify the cask bitter or 4X, as it's odds-on you'll get the dreadful Stones or Toby Light if you don't. Turn left outside the pub and proceed down the road, passing the Rams Head, one of the few tank Wilsons outlets left, and cross over to the Woolpack (2). Before entering, it's decision time. The bar has handpumped Tetley mild and bitter and the room has the controversial air pressure

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Prop: Boddington the Parrot assisted by the Noble Robin Bence

system serving the same beers. Service in the bar is obtained by pressing the bell inside the woodwork of the seats opposite the bar.

Leaving the Woolpack, cross over the road and away from the Boars Head - a keg palace, although Seeds Ales and Stouts are still advertised on the stonework. Turn left at the traffic lights, right down by the post office and, after passing under the disused railway bridge, the Masons Arms(3) comes into sight. This is the first of the Thwaites pubs on the crawl and is very popular despite its obscure location. Snacks are available at most times and the pub is still heated by coal fires. Go back down Sion Street and straight across at the traffic lights, turn left up Thomas Street and the Morning Star(4) is on the left - your last chance to sample handpumped Thwaites. This two-roomed pub is remarkably quiet at lunchtimes, but is a hive of activity most nights.

Retrace your steps down Thomas Street, turn left, pass under the railway bridge and, after the gardens, fork right and head for the paper mill. Opposite the main gates is the Papermakers Arms(5). At first glance it might appear that this pub is the one depicted on the cover of the Greater Manchester Good Beer Guide. But inside, the pub is not unpleasant and Holts (who else owns this sort of pub?) mild and bitter are available on handpumps. Turn sharp left outside the pub and up Cock Clod Street to the main road; turn right for the Old Cross Hotel (6). This is another classic Holts emporium, with spartan bar area and waitress service in the lounge; pianist at weekends. Turn right outside the Old Cross, follow Cross Lane under the railway bridge and turn right at the lights, to arrive at the Lord Raglan(7). The pub was recently swapped from Whitbread to Tetley, and now serves Warrington Ale (50p a pint). The mild and bitter are still tank.

Leaving the Lord Raglan, turn right for the Colliers Arms (8). A small, popular, Thwaites pub with a number of small rooms, it remains much as it has been for years. Last, but not least, turn right again up Bolton Road and arrive at the Turf(9), for electric pumped Thwaites. Remember this is your ninth pub before taking on the locals at pool, darts or dominoes. It's much easier to sit back, pint in hand, and wonder how you're going to get home.

Don Chattwood

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

What's Doing COPY DATE for May is Thurs 23 April

What's Doing is edited by Neil Richardson, 375 Chorley Road, Swinton, Manchester M27 2AY. 061 793 5329

JOIN CAMRA

To join CAMRA send £5.00 to: Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW

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 + s.a.e.

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.

REAL ALE IN BURY METRO A 20-page guide to Whitefield, Ramsbottom, etc, with maps, illustrated, brewery history, etc. 50p + s.a.e.

REAL ALE IN HIGH PEAK Inc. Glossop, New Mills, Whalley Bridge, Buxton 15p + 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 NO 1 95p inc postage

SALFORD'S PUBS NO 2 80p inc postage

SALFORD'S PUBS NO 3 80p inc postage

SALFORD'S PUBS NO 4 95p inc postage

NOVEMBER SKIES (200 years of licensing in

Salford) £1.44 inc post

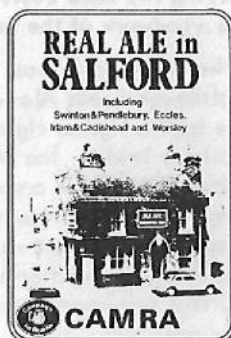
THE PUBS OF BLACKLEY £1.20 inc post

WIGAN'S PUBS NO 1 50p inc postage

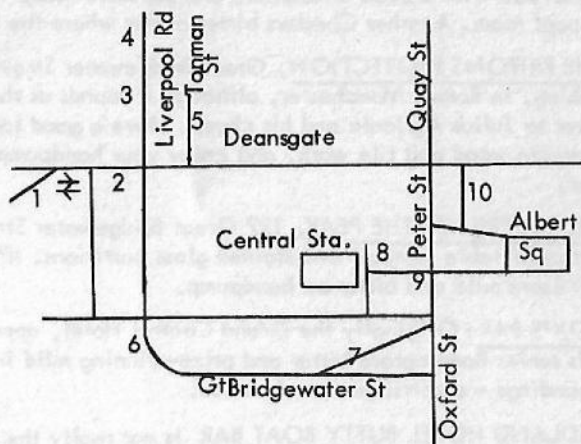
WIGAN'S PUBS NO 2 50p inc postage

THE PUBS AND BREWERIES OF MACCLESFIELD

NO 1 £1.70 inc post



ROAMIN' ROUND ROMAN MANCHESTER



Roman Manchester comprised two distinct settlements, linked by a road which roughly corresponds with the line of present day Deansgate. The southerly site (just off Liverpool Road near the City Hall) consisted of a fort and settlement known as "Mancunium" or "Mamucium" and is today known as Castlefield.

The other Roman site was close to the Cathedral area and was called "Mamcestre". This month our pub crawl concentrates on the first area, where recent archaeological studies discovered the presence of many small foundries - thirsty work, so let's start!

1 PACK HORSE nestles close to Deansgate station and is described in the Greater Manchester guide as "an obscure local without pretensions", serving Greenalls mild and bitter via electric pumps. There is also the most enormous bottle of brown sauce standing on the bar in the vault.

2 THE CROWN, also near Deansgate station, is an interestingly-shaped, split-level pub serving handpumped Wilsons mild and bitter. The vault (on the lower level) contains the main part of the bar - darts and pool are played. The lounge, the television/snogging room and the toilets are on the mezzanine level. Pies, sandwiches and pickled eggs were in evidence on a Saturday evening. The landlord and his wife are friendly and welcoming.

3 THE WHITE LION, Liverpool Road, serves splendid food and Chesters bitter and, as previously reported, has a supper licence till 12.30am on Friday and Saturday (slightly earlier midweek). Peter, the landlord, has an interesting collection of brass beer taps. Well worth a visit,

4 THE OXNOBLE, further down Liverpool Road (another Chesters bitter outlet), is a busy pub, with pool, TV, juke box (with many hits from the Roman era), etc, all jostling for attention. The flashing lights around the bar and the wobbly chairs don't help if you've had a few!

5 ST MATTHEW'S TAVERN, Tonman Street, was named after the church which

once stood at the City Hall end of the street (where the tax office is now). It is a clean pub with a good atmosphere and separate rooms for the vault, lounge and pool room. Another Chesters bitter outlet where the beer is very well kept.

6 THE BRITONS PROTECTION, Great Bridgewater Street, is not, strictly speaking, in Roman Manchester, although it sounds as though it is Manchester's answer to Julius Agricola and his chums. Have a good look round, especially at the ornate wood and tile work, and enjoy your handpumped Tetleys mild and bitter.

7 THE PEVERIL OF THE PEAK, 127 Great Bridgewater Street, is a must for fanatics of table football and stained glass partitions. It's also a nice place for Wilsons mild and bitter on handpump.

8 COX'S BAR: Originally the Grand Central Hotel, opposite Central Station, Cox's serves Boddingtons bitter and prize-winning mild in typical Boddies surroundings - electric pumps of course.

9 MIDLAND HOTEL BUTTY BOAT BAR is not really the place to go at the end of a pub crawl - it is rather "up market", serving hand drawn Tetleys bitter at a reasonable price in elegant - nay, sumptuous - surroundings.

10 THE ABERCROMBIE, Bootle Street, serves another pint of Chesters bitter in a quiet atmosphere (no juke box, and the police station is next door!) The fresh orange juice will restore your vitamin C count.

A final thought: With all these fine hostelrys in the area, how did the Romans manage to build Deansgate so straight?

Peter O'Grady

CAPTION COMPETITION





Branch Diary

SOUTH LANCASHIRE

Thurs 2 April Standish Crawl. White Duck 8.00pm

Weds 8th April Branch Meeting Woodhouses Inn, Wigan (Burtonwood Light)

Weds 15 April Pub Feature of April - Silverwell, Darlington St, Wigan

Weds 22 April Trip to Whitbread Chesters (limited numbers) Pick up at Orrell, Ashton, Atherton

Contact Ian Ogden Wigan 79534

BOLTON

Weds 8th April, Branch Meeting Gipsy's Tent 8.30pm

Thurs 23 April, St George's Day Crawl: Lodge Bank Tavern 7.00, Queen Elizabeth 7.30, Victoria 8.00, Derby 8.30, George 9.00, Ancient Shepherd 9.30, Prince Bill 9.50, Old Three Crowns 10.10

Contact Bert Kerks Bolton 388172

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Thurs 9th April Branch AGM at the Gateway, East Didsbury 8.00pm

Thurs 23 April Pub of the Month with Trafford & Hulme, Carters Arms, Sale Moor.

Fri May 1st Coach to Saddleworth Beerex. Book seats through branch contact

Thurs May 14th Branch Meeting, Castle, Oldham Street, Manchester 1 (Note change of venue) Speaker Ian MacMillan (NE)

Thurs May 28th Pub of the Month: Golden Lion, Hillgate, Stockport (Burtonwood)

Contact: Humphrey Higgins 432 0059

ROCHDALE OLDHAM AND BURY

14th April 8.00 Branch Meeting White Hart (Lees), Long St Middleton

Tues 21 April 8.00 Committee meeting - Please note new venue - "Farewell to the Oddfellows", Oddfellows (OB), Lees Road, Oldham

Wed/Thurs 29/30 April (day and evenings) Setting up Saddleworth Beerfest, Civic Hall, Uppermill, near Oldham. Come along and give us a hand!

Fri/Sat/Sun 1st, 2nd, 3rd May Festival Open - See elsewhere in this issue

Tues 12 May 8.00 Branch Meeting Albert (Wilsons), Spotland Road, Rochdale

Tues 26 May 8.00 Committee meeting, Spring Inn, (Lees), Broad Lane, Buersil, Rochdale

Contact: Steve Lawton 061 236 4411 (ext 7236) or 061 620 9239 (h)

NORTH MANCHESTER

Weds 29 April 17 Brew Crawl. Coach & Horses 7.00

Weds 6 May Halts Eleven Pub Crawl of Eccles Grapes 7.00, Golden Cross 8.00

Sat 9th May Trip to Leeds 17.51 from Man Vic, arriving Leeds 18.58. Meet Scarborough, Bishopgate at 19.15
Train back at 23.10 arr Man Vic 00.32 Details from Duncan Roberts 793 5750

Weds 13 May Social/Committee meeting 8.00 Three Crowns, Blackfriars Road, Salford

Weds 20th May Branch meeting Swan, Swinton 8.00

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 16 April 8.00 Branch meeting Leigh Arms Northenden Rd, Sale Moor, Guest Speaker Roger Protz

Thurs 23 April 8.00 Pub of the Month, Carters Arms, 367 Northenden Rd, Sale Moor

Sat 25 April Pub crawl of Deansgate area. Meet 7.30 Pack Horse (behind Deansgate Station) 8.45 St Matthews Tavern, Tonman Street

Thurs 30 April 8.00 Social Bricklayers Arms, George St, Altrincham

Thurs 7 May 8.00 Committee/Social Malt Shovels, Stamford St, Altrincham

Weds 20 May Real Ale Bar at Sale Civic Hall (evening) Sale Festival

Thurs 21 May 8.00 Branch meeting, Britons Protection, Gr Bridgewater Street, Manchester

Sat 30 May Coach to York

Contact: Mick Rottenbury 061 969 7013 (home)

HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Tues April 7 Branch meeting at Rams Head, Disley 8.30

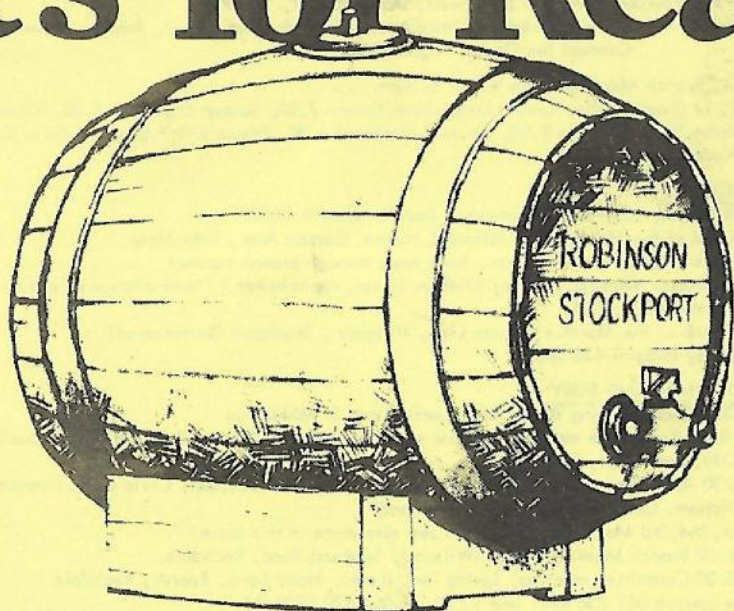
Sat April 11 Coach trip to Bridgenorth, Salop. For pick up points contact Tom Lord

Tues April 21 Trip to Winkles Brewery, Buxton 7.30pm, followed by Portland Hotel, Buxton 9.00

Friday May 1 Social at the Station, Ashton 8.30

Contact Tom Lord 061 427 7099

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.

Old Tom Ale
Best Bitter Ale
Best Mild Ale



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

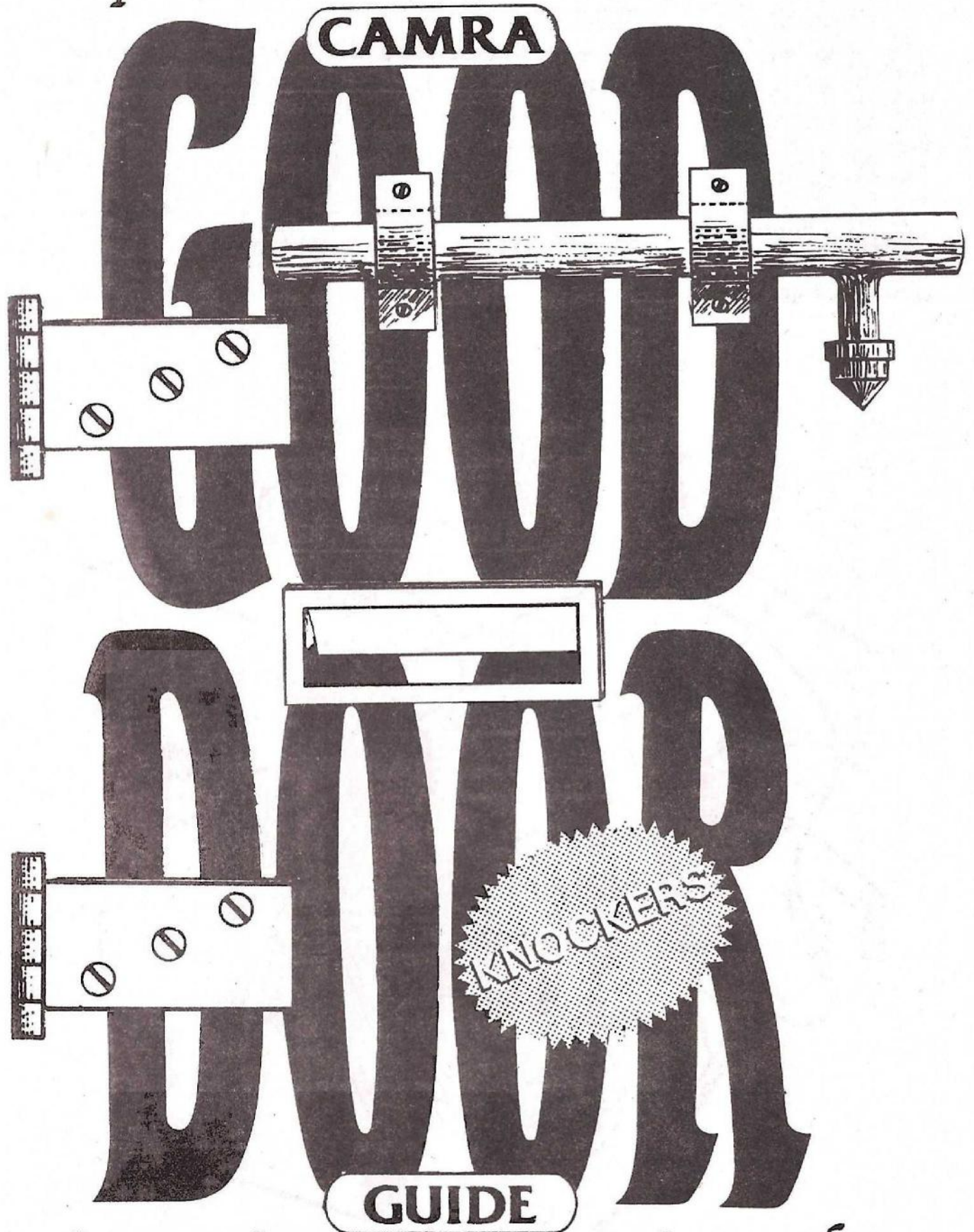
There are deposits on the casks, stillages and taps, returnable in full when you bring them back. You can borrow glasses, paying only for those you break or fail to return providing you also make appropriate purchases of items to fill them.

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

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

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

Special 1981 AGM Issue



The Real Ale Doors of Durham



1 COLPITTS HOTEL

Colpitts Terrace

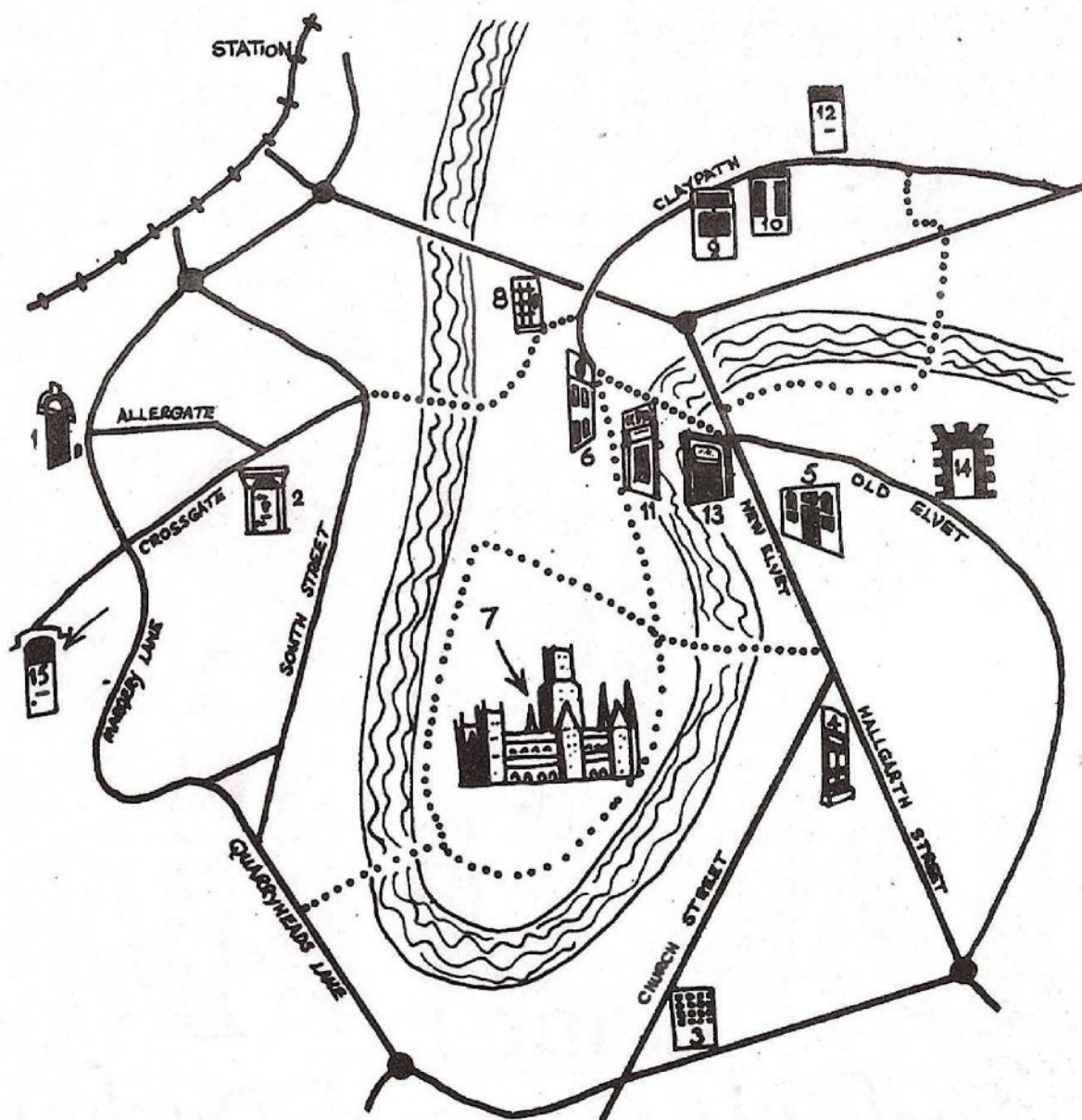
Half-moon licence plate over front door. Cavity for boot scraper on right. Vestigial gas lamp over back door (Sam Smiths beers)

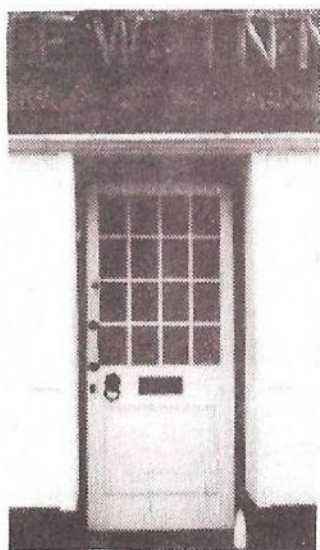
2 OLD ELM TREE

Crossgate

Two front doors. Gargoyle knocker on main door on left, which remains shut Sunday lunchtime (Vaux beers)

1





3

3 NEW INN

Church Street Head

Mock Gergian front door and uninteresting side door on left

(Bass beers)

4 VICTORIA

Hallgarth Street

Corner door with another door each side. Old queen's head and "1899" in stone above right hand door.

(S&N beers)

5 THREE TUNS

New Elvet

Brass plated double doors under porch with side windows (Vaux beers)

6 SHAKESPEARE TAVERN

Saddler Street

Old cast iron licence plate over front door. Entrance to sitting room via a side door down narrow gulley (Moat-side Lane) on right.

(S & N beers)

7 CATHEDRAL

Enormous Norman arch with embrasured turrets either side (Bede's Ales)

8 MARKET TAVERN

Market Place

Plaque over door commemorates the founding of Durham Miners Association and the first Miners' Gala. Entrance easily confused with Christian Literature room next door. Remains locked Sunday lunchtime.

(S&N beers)

9 BIG JUG

Claypath

Big jug over main door which is heavily leaded and with stained pine inner door. Curious centre-folding door on right of facade,

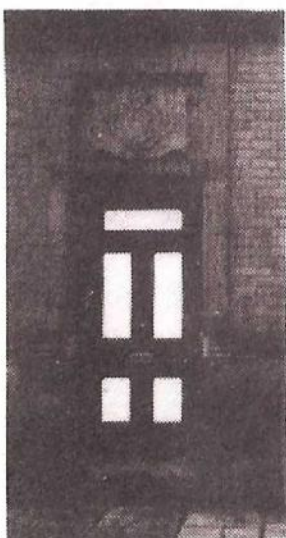
(S&N beers)

10 TRAVELLERS REST

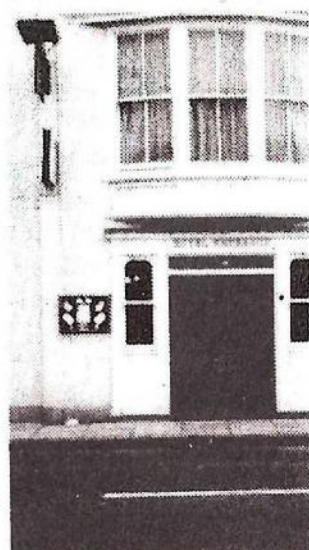
Claypath

Outer door etched "Public Bar" leads through two more doors to room. Restaurant door on left.

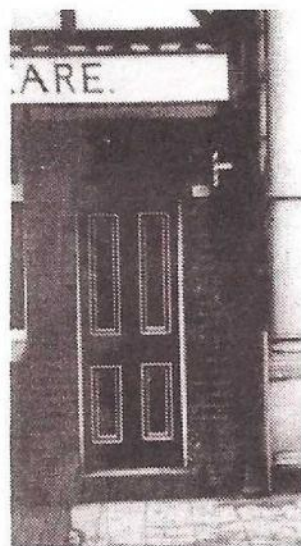
(Theakstons beers)



4



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11 學以成之

12 GENERAL GORDON

Claypath

Easily the most boring door in Durham
(S&N Beers)

13 HALF MOON

New Elvet

Magnificent brass handle on public bar door. Large gate on left shared with joinery firm
(Bass beers)



14 DUN COW

Old Elvet

Access to bar via no less than four doors, the first two guarding a narrow covered gulley
(Whitbread beers)

15 STONEBRIDGE INN

Nevilles Cross

Possibly the second most boring door in Durham
(Whitbread beers)



Other publications in this series:

GOOD BOG GUIDE The real ale bogs of Loughborough

REAL ALE IN GREATER GROTLEY - including Slumley, Poshton, Smarmford & Slutch etc.