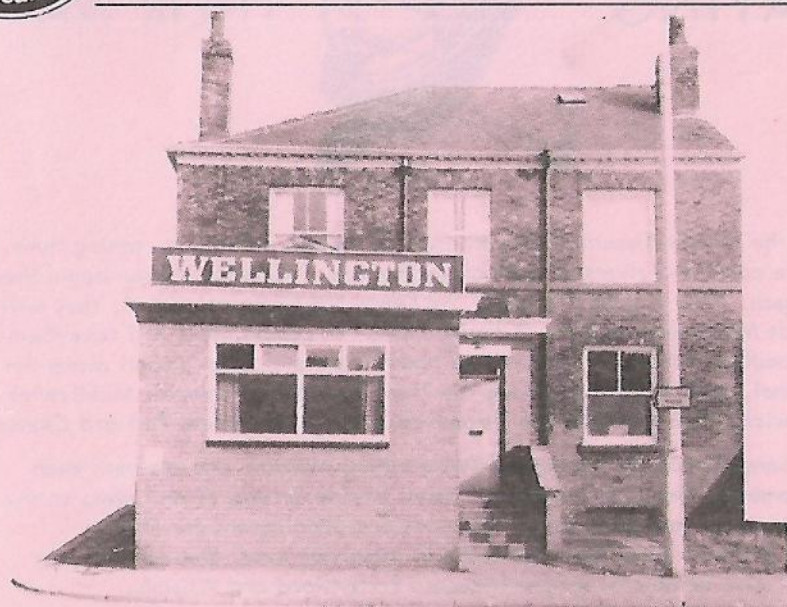


WHAT'S DOING



JUNE
1981

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



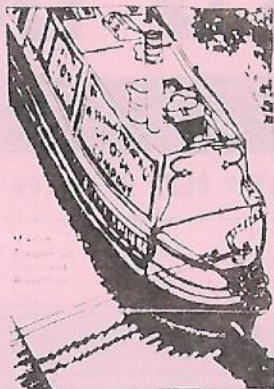
CPO THREAT TO REGENT ROAD

"How much longer will it be?" we asked in May's WD.

Pretty Damn Quick, if Salford Corporation have their way. A Compulsory Purchase Order has been placed on the nine remaining pubs between Cross Lane and Oldfield Road in Salford. Nothing to do with the proposed road scheme, which won't take place for at least ten years. No, this area is also part of the ill-judged enterprise zone. The planners, enterprising as ever, want to start with a clear slate and build lovely warehouses on the site. Of course, the local residents and the employees of the new enterprises will not require any public houses, so they'll all have to come down. The demolition of public houses has always been essential to Salford's plans. The City is well endowed with sites of former pubs, now rubbish-strewn crofts, which are an integral part of new developments. No doubt we can look forward

to Regent Road being fringed with decorative plots where the pubs are now. Is this what we want - a city devoid of character and individuality, dotted with identikit Meccano warehouses, indistinguishable from Slough, Newcastle or Swansea? It would surely be more enterprising to retain the existing pubs as a focal point for the development of the area, a means of integrating the new buildings with the existing ones.

Roger Hall



PLAYING

THEIR WAY

Each year the Mikron Theatre Company tour the inland waterways, taking their plays to the canal and riverside pubs along the way. This year Mikron begin their tour at Wigan. After a short trip along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, they will turn towards Manchester and the "Cheshire Ring" of canals. This will take them through Woodley, Marple, Macclesfield and Congleton. After a spell along the Caldon Canal, they will return along the Trent and Mersey towards Middlewich and Northwich, then across to the Shropshire Union to Ellesmere Port and Chester.

Mike and Sarah Lucas are the motive force behind Mikron, and are both keen CAMRA members. The "Cheshire Ring" offers a wide variety of real ales, so the tour should get off to a good start! Robinsons and Boddingtons are Mikron favourites, and both have their fair share of canalside pubs. During their tour Mikron will also be able to sample Higsons, Burtonwood and Wilsons.

Several pubs have beer gardens, and if the weather is fine Mikron like to perform outside. If this is not possible, Mikron and their audience are packed into the lounge bar. Whatever the circumstances, Mikron are able to bring to life the story of the canals. This year they are performing two plays: "I'd go back tomorrow" is about the working boat people and "Mud in your eye" tells of the new navvies who restored to navigation derelict canals such as the Ashton and Peak Forest.

In winter, Mike and Sarah live in Marsden, beside the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. Along the towpath lies the Railway, an excellent Tetleys local, but there are no boats. Mike and Sarah look forward to the day when boats will once again pass over the Pennines from Ashton to Huddersfield. Meanwhile Mikron will continue to promote the canals and campaign for their greater use. If you have the opportunity, do go and see them.

Henry Peacock

WHAT'S DOING



OAK FOR THE CHOP

Boddingtons have applied to demolish the Royal Oak, next to the brewery, and rebuild it.

ON THE MOVE

John McKernan of the Osborne House Inn, Victory Street, Rusholme (1981 GBG entry), has moved to the Middleton Archer. John always served a superb pint of Hydes - let's hope it's not long before he can show his skill with cask conditioned Lees.

NEW REAL ALE OUTLETS

The Ramsbottom area gained two new real ale outlets in May. The Railway, Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, was put on the market by Whitbread and was sold to Boddingtons before the auction (see "Boddies Switch"). The pub has been redecorated in standard Boddington style, but handpumps have appeared on the bar. This is Boddingtons' only tied house between Whitefield and Accrington. The second gain is the conversion to real ale of the Hare and Hounds at Holcombe Brook, a Lanchester Taverns (Wilson's) house. Intending visitors must be good at posing and should look as if they are about to sit their 'O' levels.

GREENALLS DO IT AGAIN

The South Lancs area lost two real ale pubs last month. The Red Lion in Pocket Nook, St Helens, was a typical back-street local full of charm and character. The Golden Lion in Rainford has closed, awaiting conversion to a restaurant. Customers will remember the old pub for its many rooms, mynah bird and Great Danes, alas no more. As Greenalls own all the pubs in the Rainford area (7), they can do what they want.

CARNIVAL ALE

Once again the South Lancs branch of CAMRA will be providing a real ale tent at Ashton-in-Makerfield Carnival, Saturday 20th June. The bar will be licensed from 1.00pm to 8.00pm, or until the beer runs out. Beers on sale this year (subject to availability) will be Higsons bitter, Boddingtons bitter, Thwaites bitter and best mild, Burtonwood bitter and light mild. Helpers are especially welcome to come along and practise on some of South Lancs' beer engines.

BODDIES SWITCH

Kevin Redgrave left the Egerton Arms, Winton, on 11th May to take up the tenancy of the Railway in Ramsbottom, a former Whitbread house recently acquired by Boddingtons. It is understood that Kevin has had handpumps installed. Local CAMRA members should pay him a visit, as he is reight interested in CAMRA!

NEW ALE FOR THE BRINSOP

The Brinsop Arms on the Westhoughton/Blackrod boundary is one of the few free houses in the Bolton area to offer a selection of traditional beers. The pub has recently dropped Pollards bitter (as listed in the Bolton pub guide) in favour of Hartleys XB bitter, which is a new brew for the Bolton area.

Until eight years ago the Brinsop was a Bass tied house called the New Inn. It has since been extended to include the corner shop and has been tastefully modernised, still including a tap room. Meals and bar snacks are available weekday lunchtimes. The full range of beer is: Bass Best Mild, Bass Cask Bitter, Draught Bass, Boddingtons bitter and Hartleys XB. The 313 Bolton to Chorley bus passes the door; last bus to Bolton at 21.51, to Chorley 22.53 (approx).

Also in Westhoughton, the Royal Oak (Wilsons) now sells handpumped mild and bitter.

BIG ALEX

The Alexandra, at the corner of Princess Road and Moss Lane, seems to be closed. Another "Bitter End", "Mr Chesters" or "Beafeater Restaurant" in the offing, perhaps?

BASS IS BACK

Draught Bass has returned to the George (Higsons) in Stockport.

BRADFORD COME-BACK

Tetleys have put in an application for a licence for the Bradford Arms, Ashton New Road, Clayton. The pub only closed a few months ago, when the New Clayton Arms opened. Apparently the closure of the local engineering works has meant that the pub is no longer needed for factory premises.

BITTER BOTHER

The new amber-nectar-from-the-wickets Whitbread pub in Gatley, the Bitter End, has teething troubles. It seems the new pub's decor has upset the residents, whose fine susceptibilities have also been outraged by the constant comings and goings of customers. Some concern has also been voiced about the way the pub glows green in the dark, which is not in keeping with the area.



NEW LANDLORD

Last month Derek and Edith Fenwick took over at the Grapes Hotel, Peel Green, Eccles, when Tom and Frances Evans retired. The Evanses had been there for 41 years - the longest serving licensees in the borough. The Grapes is an archetypal Holts pub with splendid Edwardian wood and glasswork and many mementoes of Eccles' drinking past. The photograph shows the pub's bowling team some fifty years ago, one of several old photographs in the pub.

TAKEAWAY

Chorlton-cum-Hardy is now well provided for in the take-away stakes. Alan's, opposite Chorlton Baths, sells handpumped Pollards, and a Boddingtons off-licence at the corner of Ransfield Road and Oswald Road sells handpumped bitter - both at 43p a pint.

TURVILLE TURN-UP?

There are signs of life at the Turville on Chester Road. Wouldn't it be nice if Bass proved us all wrong by providing handpumped cask conditioned beers upon re-opening?

STOCKPORT BEER GUIDE

The South Manchester Branch of CAMRA have decided to produce a Good Beer Guide for the Stockport area. The proposed Guide, which we hope to have completed for sale by December, will contain over a hundred pubs, be fully illustrated, with articles of interest on pubs, breweries, etc. Help will be needed in surveying the pubs and any readers with items which may be of interest for the Guide should contact Humphrey Higgins (432 0059). The June branch meeting will be discussing the Guide and all are welcome to assist in this publication.

AWAY MATCH ALE

Keith Bridge writes from Blackpool to suggest the following venues:

Exeter City: Victoria, Union Road (Devenish Wessex Bitter) (become a student)
Plymouth Argyle: Golden Hind, Tavistock Road (Courage Best) (or go to Devon-port or city centre)

Torquay United: United, St Mary Church Road, Plainmoor (Ind Coope Bitter)
Newcastle United: Rosie's, Gallowgate/Stowell Street (Dryboroughs with Bellhaven)
Sheffield United: Royal Standard, St Mary's Road (Wards)
Rotherham: Butchers Arms, Midland Road (Tetley) (other side of railway station)
Also: Chesterfield, Charlton and Brentford are in the 1981 Good Beer Guide.

Alastair Nuttall of Bury casts a critical eye over the clubs:

Hereford United: You can't get in unless you're a local!

West Brom: Smart Club, good food, M&B mild.

Port Vale: Excellent Club, serving revolting Ansells bitter/light.

Torquay: Shack-type structure, serving Ansells bitter and Whitbread Tankard.

Recommend the Upton Vale Hotel, Upton Road - excellent Eldridge Pope 'Royal Oak', though at 60p a pint rather expensive. Also excellent curries.

Bury FC: Nice club, Thwaites bitter & mild, match day catering recently introduced. Slightly lower than average prices.



SADDLEWORTH SELL-OUT

The Third Saddleworth Beer Festival attracted over 2,000 people, who deftly consumed the 7,000 or so pints available by the end of the Sunday lunchtime session, rendering the Sunday evening drinking-up session a non-event. First to sell out was Woods Special Bitter and, significantly, the Oldham Brewery cask bitter sold out before the generally-recognised cult beer - Theakstons. The public debut of Two Shires Bitter was plagued by a duff batch of finings. Even so, three kilns of four were sold to eager drinkers.

GOING DOWN..

Bass North West have recently started a new phase of Stones bitter advertising. Remember the first punchline, "Goes down great guns"? The latest ads read: "Goes down great". Presumably the next round will be: "Goes down" - And after that (and not before time): "Goes", to a mass of cheers.

DEAR BEER

Chesters bitter at 59p a pint was the order of the day when the Princess, Mauldeth Road/Princess Parkway, reopened. Apparently this was to deter the "wrong sort" of customer. Unfortunately it also deterred everyone else, so the price has been reduced to a mere 53p. However, fizzy Trophy is 52p - why?

Contributors: Alan Ball, Peter O'Grady, Duncan Roberts, Grahame Tonge, Humphrey Higgins, Ian Ogden, J Dickinson, Don Chattwood, Tony Flynn

CITY



DESK

Compiled by Peter O'Grady

Walkers Warrington Ale (54p a pint) is proving so popular with drinkers at the CITY ARMS, Kennedy Street, that the delivery is now up to the equivalent of 5 x 36gal barrels a week. The landlord at this small, friendly pub has asked the brewery for an extra handpump to help speed the flow.

+++++

Draught Bass has not been served at the SEVENOAKS, Nicholas Street, for the last three months. This is because Bass have so far failed to replace a faulty part which was causing heavy beer losses. Luckily for real ale drinkers, the Chesters bitter always appears to be on top form.

+++++

There is a sign behind the bar of the VINE, Kennedy Street, informing customers that the proprietors will endeavour to provide whatever the customers require. The nearest available alternative will be provided if the product requested is not in stock. The brewery is John (wash your mouth out) Smiths - I dare you all to go in and ask for a pint of real ale. (A prize will be given to the first person to get one!)

+++++

OSCARS on Cooper Street are undertaking a major refurbishment of the main bar. I wonder if real ale will be available on completion of the work.

+++++

Good news and bad news regarding the PEVERIL OF THE PEAK, Great Bridgewater Street. Greater Manchester Council, in a letter, have now allayed our fears for the pub under the road scheme. However, there is a strong rumour that there is a compulsory purchase order on the pub. What is going on?

WASHBROOK'S

Specialist Home Brew Shop
59 Halifax Road, Rochdale

MALTED BARLEY GRAIN Lager Malt, Pale Malt, Crystal Malt

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

LIQUID MALT EXTRACT 2lb £1.16 4lb £2.20 14lb £6.57 28lb £11.75 25kg(55lb)

HOPS 6 varieties 2oz 16oz

£23.70

We stock the better Beer Concentrates Kwofitt, Cumbria, Muntona

Five makes of pressure barrels including Cornelius

For full list phone Rochdale 41590 - Callers always welcome

PUB OF THE MONTH



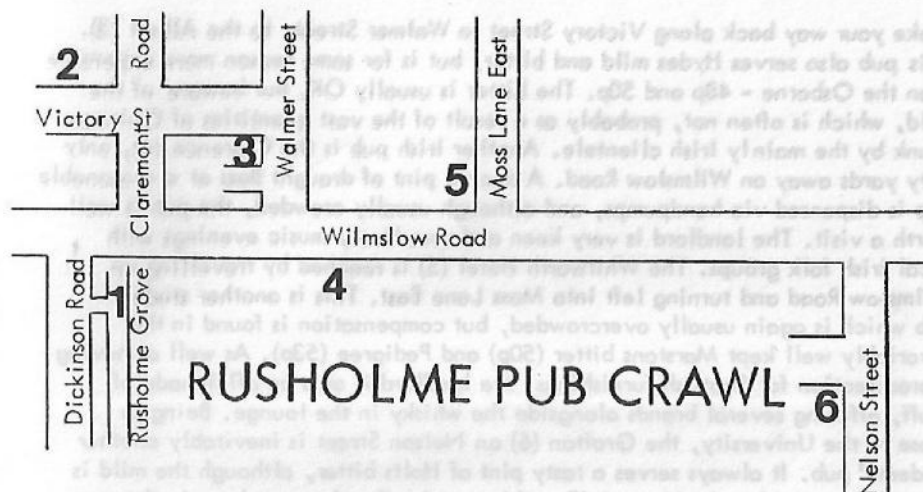
The South Manchester Pub of the Month for June is the Grey Horse, Portland Street, Manchester. The Grey Horse is one of Manchester's smallest pubs and serves an excellent pint of Hydes mild and bitter on electric pumps, with the noted Old available in season.

Tom and Jean Goldie have been tenants for the past fifteen months and it is their first pub. Much hard work has been put in to make the pub cosy and comfortable, and it more than justifies its re-entry into the national Good Beer Guide after a two year absence. Tom and Jean have also received the "Courtesy Commendation" for 1981.

The Grey Horse can also be added to the list of Manchester's haunted houses, for sightings of a ghost have been made. Apparently the apparition is that of a former customer and resident - and a non-too-friendly one at that. He has been seen to let fly with the occasional pint pot or bottle! Obviously a man in the popjoy tradition!

For the social night, however, spirits will give way to ale, and all are welcome to what should be a first class do. Please note the change of date for the event - WEDNESDAY June 24th.

Humphrey Higgins



Start off in the Welcome Inn (1) on Rusholme Grove, which sells a consistent pint of Greenall Whitley bitter (47p), but unfortunately is usually heaving with students. The pub was recently redecorated, not particularly tastefully, and a swift pint is recommended before moving on. From the Welcome, go down Dickinson Road and turn right into Wilmslow Road, left into Claremont Road and left again up Victory Street. Avoid the bright beer Bass and Greenalls pubs until you arrive at the Osborne House (2). Although difficult to find, this pub is well worth trying and always has Hydes mild (44p) and bitter (47p) on top form. The impressive exterior of the pub fronts a sometimes smoky but always friendly interior. It has deservedly replaced the Welcome in this year's Good Beer Guide. Unruly imbibers should beware of the Rhodesian Ridgeback which lurks behind the bar.



Make your way back along Victory Street to Walmer Street, to the Albert (3). This pub also serves Hydes mild and bitter, but is for some reason more expensive than the Osborne - 48p and 50p. The bitter is usually OK, but beware of the mild, which is often not, probably as a result of the vast quantities of Guinness drunk by the mainly Irish clientele. Another Irish pub is the Clarence (4), only fifty yards away on Wilmslow Road. A decent pint of draught Bass at a reasonable 50p is dispensed via handpumps, and although usually crowded, the pub is well worth a visit. The landlord is very keen and runs lively music evenings with local Irish folk groups. The Whitworth Hotel (5) is reached by travelling up Wilmslow Road and turning left into Moss Lane East. This is another student pub which is again usually overcrowded, but compensation is found in the invariably well kept Marstons bitter (50p) and Pedigree (53p). As well as having a predilection for Scottish furnishings, the landlord is also an aficionado of snuff, offering several brands alongside the whisky in the lounge. Being so close to the University, the Grafton (6) on Nelson Street is inevitably another students' pub. It always serves a tasty pint of Holts bitter, although the mild is somewhat variable. At 44p and 42p, this must be the cheapest beer in the area, and it is good to see that there are no lager taps on the bar - the fizzy stuff can only be bought in half pint bottles. Unfortunately the old-fashioned atmosphere in the Grafton has been almost totally destroyed by the ridiculously loud and gaudy electronic clay pigeon shooting machine, which dominates the lounge.

Alastair Walker

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What's Doing COPY DATE for July is Thurs 18th June

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

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MANCHESTER BREWERIES 22

The Sun Brewery

Elizabeth Raffald's Manchester and Salford directory contains the names of just five commercial brewers - four of them in Salford. By the time Scholes's directory appeared in 1797, the population had more than doubled and Manchester had taken the lead with close to a dozen breweries in operation. Two that well outlasted the others were the Cornbrook Brewery, founded by Edensor & Co, and the Strangeways Brewery, founded by Caister & Fray. One of the original dozen, perhaps the largest at the time, stood on Downing Street in Ardwick. Known as the Sun Brewery, in 1797 it was run by Thomas Crallan, brewer, tallow chandler and soap boiler. Crallan also kept premises at 110 Deansgate, most likely a shop or offices. "Baines's Lancashire" (1825) provides the information that in Salford and Manchester seven concerns brewed ale and eighteen, including Crallan's, brewed both ale and porter.

By 1838 the Sun Brewery was in the hands of Samson & Boreham. Charles Samson lived at 16 Downing Street, close to the brewery, William Boreham on Grove Street. The Samsons had some local standing through Alisbrook Samson, Deputy Constable of Ardwick.

At about this time, a certain Joseph Bleakley was advertising as a brewer on Todd Street, Hydes Cross. Shortly before 1843 he began using the Sun Brewery also, and later the Sun exclusively. He may have operated earlier than this, possibly outside Manchester, as an 1850s advert gives 1826 as the date of formation of the business. As far as local records go, the first listing seems to be for a Samuel Bleakley, brewer, given as living at 8 Edward Street, Hanover Street, in 1838.

Sometime during the period 1855-6, the Sun Brewery passed to David Bleakley, most probably on the death of Joseph. Shortly after this, David was also using the Chorlton-on-Medlock Brewery, better known later as the Standard Brewery under Beaumont & Heathcote, but this ceased within a year. David, and Joseph before him, enjoyed the sole agency in the district for Watkins's Dublin Porter. Competition in the Dublin Porter trade must have been quite keen. Manchester teamed with agents representing such firms as John D'Arcy, Findlater & Co, the City of Dublin Brewery Co, the Phoenix Porter Brewery Co, Robert Manders and, of course, Guinness.

The name Bleakley crops up in connection with other breweries in the area but

JOSEPH BLEACKLEY,
GENUINE FAMILY BREWER OF
AMBER, PALE & BITTER ALES,
THE SUN
ALE AND PORTER BREWERY,
33, DOWNING STREET, ARDWICK,
MANCHESTER.

N.B.—Private Families Supplied with Small Casks of Ale and Porter.
DEALER IN REID & CO.'S LONDON PORTER, MALT AND HOPS, &c.
SOLE AGENT FOR R. & J. WATKINS'S DUBLIN PORTER.
ESTABLISHED 1826.

SUN BREWERY, ARDWICK,
Established upwards of a century.
DAVID BLEACKLEY
Supplies private families with his
Superior Ales, &c., at the following prices:—
X Pale Mild Dinner Beer, at 1s. 0d. per gallon.
XX Extra ditto at 1s. 4d. "
XXX Extra Strong at 1s. 8d. "
Bitter Beer at 1s. 6d. "
Superior Porter at 1s. 0d. "
Extra Stout at 1s. 4d. "
In 9 and 18 gallon casks.
Orders per post promptly attended to.
February 11, 1863.

establishing a family link is more difficult. A George Bleakley is listed at the Sun Brewery in Salford - the name Sun Brewery had been in use since the early 1830s when John Collins was the occupant. The brewery was demolished in 1973 to make way for an extension to St Matthias' School.

In the 1868 directory, Andrew Bleakley is listed as a brewer at Norton Street and Watson Street, Ancoats. Significantly, at the same time that the Sun Brewery, Ardwick, closed down (early 1870s), Andrew Bleakley moved to the Woodside Brewery in Salford. (This was before the arrival of Walker & Homfray from, coincidentally, the Sun Brewery in Salford.)

Immediately after closure, the brewery, or part of it, was used by a fishmonger and has long since been pulled down. The site of the Sun Brewery is close to the Mancunian Way, roughly on the corner of Downing Street and Braley Street (once called Brewery Street) and at the end of Gaskin Street.

Alan Gall

BOOKS



SOUTH LANCS ALE



Two new amber nectar guides are out this month. The latest Real Ale in Central Manchester contains 141 pubs and bars - 20 up on last year's edition. For a change, this best-selling guide is illustrated with photographs of pubs as they used to be, and a pull-out section at the back, incorporating a 2-colour map, lists the 445 pubs in the area 40 years ago.

(60p + s.a.e. from Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester)

South Lincs Ale is an enlarged successor to the popular Road to Wigan Beer. This edition includes the St Helens area for the first time, as well as Wigan, Leigh, Atherton, Newton, Standish, Skem, etc. Fully illustrated, with several town maps.

(50p + s.a.e. from the above address)

TOURIST TRAP



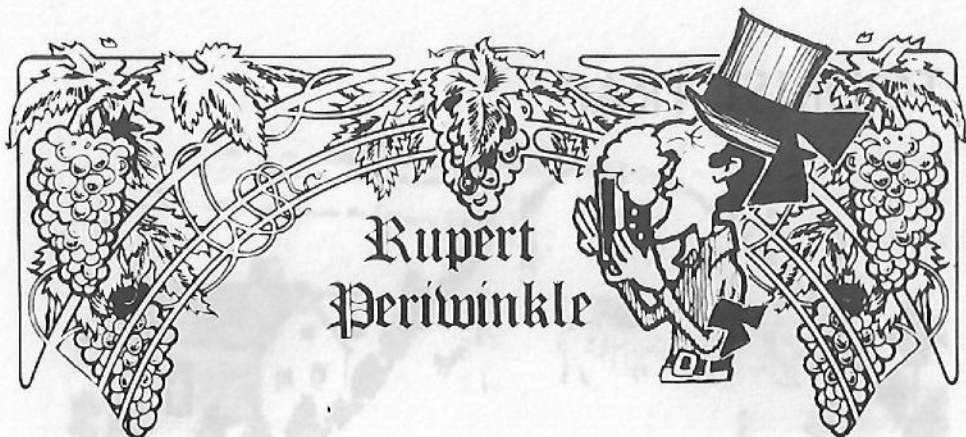
The City of Manchester Tourist Office "Pub Parades" (WD May) come out with interesting "facts" about some of Manchester's pubs. The Sawyers Arms is reported as having the longest continuous licence in Manchester (1734) and never having changed its name. The pub, if that title is still applicable to the present premises, certainly predates most of Manchester's pubs, because almost all the old licensed houses were located around the Cathedral area, which has been redeveloped, leaving little standing. The first Directory of Manchester (1772), includes only four pubs which are still in existence today:-

The Pack Horse	Knott Mill
Two Sawyers	Dolefield
Grand Turk	Shudehill
Wheatsheaf	Great Turner Street

The Pack Horse and the Wheatsheaf have both been rebuilt but have retained their original names. The Grand Turk is now the Lower Turks Head. Dolefield was the old name of Bridge Street before the New Bailey Bridge was opened in 1785, and the Two Sawyers was the former name of the Sawyers Arms. Not so much difference there, you might think; but in 1825 the pub was called the Red Lion.

Which leaves us with the claim that the pub has the longest continuous licence in Manchester. It is difficult to ascertain licensing dates much beyond two centuries ago, and any one of the pubs mentioned above could have existed before 1734. The 1772 directory, however, only covers central Manchester and Salford, and it is to Ancoats we must turn for what may be the oldest licensed house in the city. Although a notice in the Crown & Kettle announces that it was formerly a Stipendiary Court first licensed in 1774, a drawing made in 1734 (shown here) indicates that the pub was much older than this. The drawing is of Newton Lane, now Oldham Road, and shows a double fronted cottage on the corner of Ancoats Lane. A footnote indicates that this was "The Iron Dish and Cob of Coal", a name which is echoed in the name of the present pub.

Roger Hall



"He breathes no more the Noble's bird.
No longer will his raucous shrieks be heard
Echoing through his amber nectar shrine.
Boddington - companion so devout and loyal
Why hast thou shuffled off this mortal coil?
The noblest of truly noble souls was thine.
It was with sorrow and a shocked surprise
That a naive world heard of thy demise
Even the doer of the dirty deed did pine.
What future now for Bilko and his beer
Without thy feathered presence at his ear?
Perhaps in grief he'll turn to drinking wine."

It was thus that the Reverend Nathan Blether began his funeral oration at the service to commemorate Boddington's life and times. Burial or cremation was there none, for, apart from a surfeit of feathers around Doberman's jowled visage, there was no external evidence of the parrot's gentle frame. Even the forced imbibing of several pints of Jack Smuggs, a proprietary brand of emetic, was to no avail; the little bird remained firmly lodged in the murderer's evil stomach.

The Church Service was a quiet and solemn affair, but the same cannot be said of the wake down at the Good Sergeants afterwards. It is surprising how tragedy strikes people in different ways. After several pint of Dillons from the wickets the deceased avian's underclaw ruined a pool game in the mistaken belief that the cue ball was the embryonic son which Boddington had begat. Bunty, on the other hand, ran amuck trying to carry out a Caesarian section on Doberman with a broken bottle. Careering through various rooms in this community pub, the battling pair disturbed many of the local groups which meet therein.

A lecture to the Former Ms Rottenbodge Society on "Roué Control" was curtailed as the speaker was knocked to the ground. A deafening noise from dozens of flasher alarms emanated from the room occupied by the Eccles Flasher Crisis Centre Group. It was only MBP's flasher alarm jammer which saved the day. A recording session of the Elsie Gilbert & Sullivan Society was rendered useless, as was Rogan Josh's demonstration of how to cook squirrel biriani. Doberman escaped from our

intrepid hero, but Bunty is still understandably livid and has promised Boddington a proper burial.

RUMOUR DENIALS

1 Perry Drab has not been running around throwing out P45s like there's no tomorrow. 2 Snoot Magna Chairman did not spend his time pouring gallons of Snotes into his ample beard at the annual conference of the Amalgamated Society of Toadstretchers, Molestranglers and Squirrelfettlers in Grotley-on-Sea recently. He probably couldn't wait to get back to the Salisbury and a decent pint of tank Kepples Bitter.

BAZZA PRIMP WRITES:

Dear Rupert, If you really want to know what I was doing in the upstairs bar at the Rembrandt, you are quite welcome to pop round and look at the negatives over a cup of Horlicks.

REAL ALE IN CENTRAL MANCHESTER

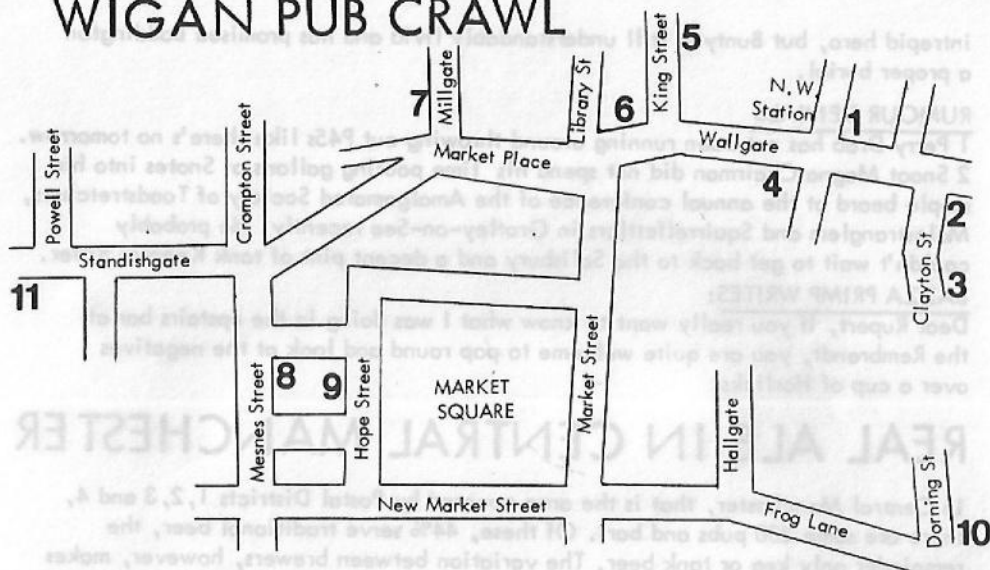
In Central Manchester, that is the area covered by Postal Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4, there are some 200 pubs and bars. Of these, 44% serve traditional beer, the remainder only keg or tank beer. The variation between brewers, however, makes interesting reading:

Brewer	Number of Pubs		% Real Ale Pubs
	Real Ale	Non Real Ale	
Bass	5	9	36%
Boddingtons	7	0	100%
Burtonwood	4	0	100%
Greenalls	7	7	50%
Holts	1	0	100%
Hydes	3	0	100%
John Smiths	0	6	0%
Sam Smiths	1	0	100%
Lees	3	0	100%
Marstons	2	0	100%
Robinsons	3	0	100%
Tetley	13	7	65%
Whitbread	20	21	49%
Wilsons	36	16	69%
Youngers	1	2	33%
Free Houses	6	20	23%
	112	88	44%

All the local independents have a 100% record. John Smiths are, of course, beyond the pale. Wilsons, despite their commitment to real ale, serve it in less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of their tied houses, but Whitbread have achieved 50% in a much shorter period. It is the performance of Greenalls and Bass which is most disturbing. For a brewery which claims to brew more draught beer than anyone else, to serve it in only a third of their pubs in a town centre renowned for its beer is strange, to say the least. It is not surprising that the free houses, most of which are bars and eating houses, serve little real ale; but perhaps surprising that Yates's, who set great store by tradition, have waited until now to withdraw their head from the sand, or the sawdust.

Roger Hall

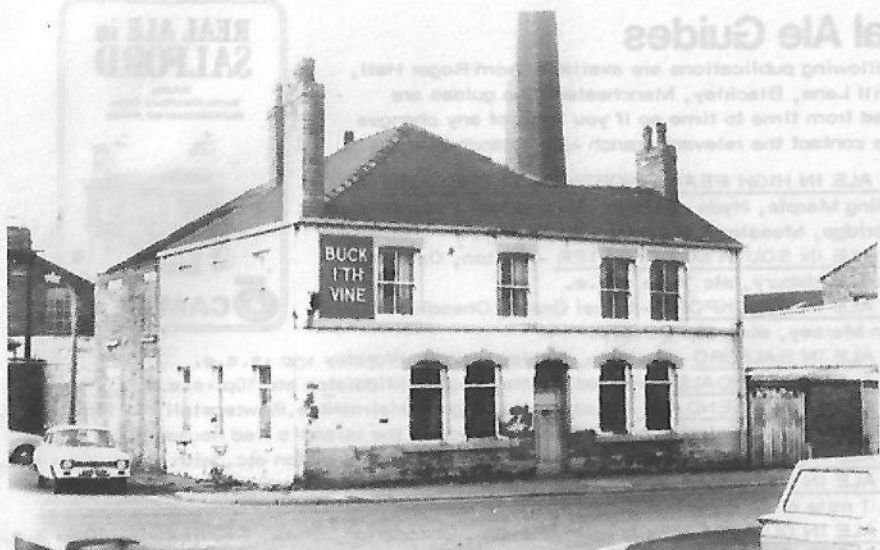
WIGAN PUB CRAWL



The Wheatsheaf (1) (GBG) is just beyond the railway bridge on Wallgate; a marvellous ex-Magees pub serving excellent Greenalls bitter and mild on electric pumps. Note the ornate bar with the Magee Marshall motifs and the magnificent tiled walls. A pianist entertains in the lounge at weekends. Across the road is the Grapes (2) and Burtonwood bitter; alas the mild is keg. This pub is due to be pulled down for road widening, so call in now, before it's too late! On leaving the Grapes turn sharp left down Clayton Street for the Buck i' th' Vine (Whitewash) (3), for excellent Burtonwood beers. Helen will be glad to see you and make you welcome, and there's nearly always a coal fire. Note the Almonds windows in the lounge. This old, once prospering pub in a thriving community is well worth a visit.

Retrace your steps to Wallgate and just under the railway bridge is the Swan and Railway (4) (GBG). Tetley mild and bitter are on handpumps in an untouched and original pub. Again, the tiling in the passage and the woodwork in the little room on the left are worth seeing - a bit of old Wigan. Carry on up Wallgate and turn right down King Street. Half way down on the right is the Turnkey Cellars, selling Boddingtons bitter. The cellars are another part of old Wigan, having seen all sorts of uses. Retrace your steps to Wallgate and turn right and up to the Raven (6) (GBG), done up in Walker colours and serving excellent Walker bitter and Tetley mild, and it is the last outpost in the town for Walkers Warrington Ale. The Raven is another pub with fine woodwork and cut glass; younger customers are catered for in a separate room and bar. The landlord, Graham, is proud of his pub and will gladly show you round.

Turn right outside the Raven and cross Market Place to Millgate and the Ship Hotel (7) - Burtonwood beers on electric pumps. Pause in the doorway and admire the cut glass and panels; the bar in the small snug is worth seeing - another ex-Almonds pub that has stood the test of time. Go back to the Market Place and down Standishgate to Mesnes Street, turn left for the Market Tavern (8) (GBG). Once known



as Colin Cook's, it is well worth visiting for handpumped Scotch bitter and IPA. This pub has been tastefully revamped recently and the Scotch makes a nice change of brew. Around the corner in Hope Street is the Park Hotel (9)(GBG) - a fine pint of Walker bitter, Tetley mild and draught Bass, all on handpump. The pub is unique for its waiter service; Mrs Brown will make you very welcome in this untouched, old world pub.

If time allows, cross the Market Square and go down New Market Street to Frog Lane and the Old Pear Tree (10)(GBG) for handpumped Burtonwood beers. Another warm welcome awaits you from Frank and Jean in this fine and deservedly popular old pub. The Old Pear Tree was once a Higsons pub, unlike the other Burtonwood houses in Wigan, which once belonged to Almonds Standish Brewery.

Retrace your steps across the Market Square to Standishgate and turn left for the Whitesmiths (11)(GBG) and the last pint or three of Boddingtons bitter and mild (strong ale in winter) on handpumps. This small pub has a very lively and friendly atmosphere, an ideal place to end what must have been an enjoyable stroll.

(Wigan area now enjoys 20 different brews from 9 breweries)

Alan Ball

TWADDLE

STAFF OF LIFE

Possibly the origin of name stems from the fact that there was a Workhouse on the site, and the old pub was a part of the bakery, with the bread being the staff of life. Another connection is that Rainscough Brow is the oldest part of Prestwich, and the name Rainscough means 'Den of thieves'.

WEST MANCHESTER NEWS

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

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.

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.

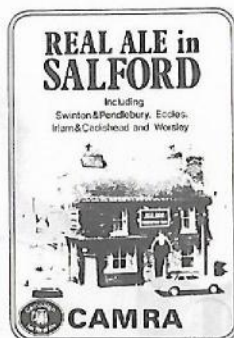
REAL ALE IN BURY METRO A 20-page guide to Whitefield, Ramsbottom, etc, with m maps, illustrated, brewery history, etc. 50p + s.a.e.

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





Branch Diary

NORTH MANCHESTER

Branch meeting Weds 17th June, Queens Arms, Patricroft 8.00
Trip to Buxton Sat 20th June 18.29 Piccadilly, assemble 7.45pm Kings Head. Train back at 23.08
Pub crawl of Miles Plotting July 1, 7.00 Swan, Oldham Road, 8.00 White Hart, Oldham Road
Social/Committee Weds 8 July Cheetham Arms, Cheetham Hill 8.00
Branch Meeting Weds 15 July 8.00 White Swan, Swinton
Contact Roger Hall 740 7937

SOUTH LANCASHIRE

Branch meeting Thurs 4th June Old Crow, Newton le Willows 8.00
Feature Pub of the Month Weds 24th June, Kirkless Hall, Aspull 8.00
Contact Ian Ogden Wigan 79534

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Thurs June 11 Branch meeting, Gateway, Wilmslow Road, E. Didsbury 8.00
Weds 24 June Pub of the Month Grey Horse, Portland Street, M/c 1 (Hydes). Please note change of date 8.00
Thurs July 9th Branch meeting, Gateway 8.00
Thurs July 23 Pub of the Month with Trafford & Hulme, Peveril of the Peak 8.00
Contact Humphrey Higgins 432 0059

TRAFFORD & HULME

Sat 13 June Hulme Crawl, 7.00 Lloyds Arms, Hr Ormond St, or 8.30 Grants Arms, Royce Road
Thurs 18 June 8.00 Branch Meeting, Old Plough, Green La, Ashton on Mersey. Guest speaker from Hydes
Wed 24 June 8.00 Pub of the Month Social with S. Manchester, Grey Horse, Portland St, Manchester
Sat 27 June Annual Storming of Chester. Meet 12noon Bull & Stirrup, Upper Northgate Street and 7.30
Olde Customs House, Watergate Street (Chester Carnival Day)
Thurs 2 July 8.00 Committee/Social Quarry Bank, Bloomsbury Lane, Timperley
Sat 4 July Beer Tent, Altrincham Festival
Contact Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 (home)

BOLTON

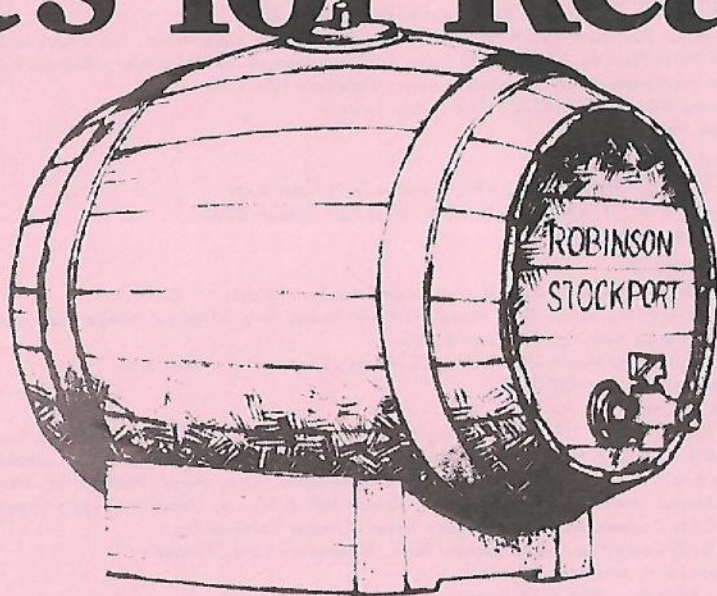
Tues 16 June Social Old Three Crowns, Deansgate, Bolton (Food available) 8.00
Tues 23 June Branch Meeting Gaiety, Bradshawgate. Speaker: Chris Brown from Vaux (Area Manager) 8.00
Weds 8 July Branch Meeting Falcon, Kay Street. Speaker from Tetleys. 8.00
Contact: Bert Kerks Bolton 388172

LEES IN THE CLUBS

The following clubs are now selling Lees traditional beers:

Maple Squash Club, Broadway, Royton, Oldham
Millbeck Club, Millbeck Road, Langley, Middleton
Slingsby's Club, 8 Wood Street, Manchester
Bacup Conservative Club, Irwell Terrace, Bacup
Tyldesley Social Club, Well Street, Tyldesley
Albion Club, Market Place, Royton
Burnage Cricket Club, 13 Hawthorn Drive, Burnage
Casa Blanca Club, 29 Hope Street, Liverpool
Ladybridge Social Club, Ladybridge Road, Cheadle Hulme
Northern Lawn Tennis Club, Palatine Road, West Didsbury
Ashton-under-Lyne Rugby Union AFC, St Albans Avenue, Ashton
Middleton Conservative Club, Long Street, Middleton
Middleton Cricket Club, Springfield Road, Middleton

It's for Real



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

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

Now you can have Real Ale at home for parties or just for your own enjoyment. Available in Firkins and Pints*, complete with tap, stillage and detailed instructions. You can order from any Robinson's On or Off-Licence or Unicorn Wine Shops.

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.**