

10p

WHAT'S DOING

AUG
1981

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

WAR OF THE WORLDS?



Salford Council are considering a resolution to ban Space Invader machines which, it is thought, may lead to addiction and crime. You wouldn't think they'd bother. Looking at the City, it seems as though it has already been invaded, devastated and rebuilt by little green men. Where were you, Flash Gordon, when you were needed?

NEW BREWERY FOR TETLEY

On Monday 20th July Tetley Walker kindly invited Camra representatives and general freeloaders to the New Fermor Arms at Rufford, near Ormskirk, which they took over at the beginning of the month.

This has been a home-brew pub for some time, but the beer was served under carbon dioxide pressure - not real ale and so shunned by Camra. None the less, Fettle's Bitter, as the only home brew, had some popularity in the district.

Surprisingly, Tetley Walker have decided to continue brewing here; they feel that in view of increasing transport costs, there may be a promising future for small breweries within the Allied empire. They have installed their own brewing equipment, modified from spare and obsolete stock, and for the time being an itinerant brewer arrives from Warrington to produce the beer. It is called Blezards bitter (og 1039), the name but not the recipe being taken from a long defunct local brewery. Tetley Walker are still experimenting with the recipe and were not fully satisfied with brew No 3, which we sampled and which tasted rather thin for a beer of this strength but pleasant enough.

The beer is still stored in tanks, but without blanket pressure, and is served by handpump. Handpumped Tetley Bitter and Mild are also available at the New Fermor Arms, which is set in pleasant countryside and is well worth a visit. The brewery could be adapted to produce enough beer to supply other pubs, but there are no plans to do this at present. However, Blezards Bitter may be on sale at Newton le Willows Show on August 8th.

Brian Gleave

PRICES SURVEY - ROBINSONS

51 Robinsons pubs were visited during June and the price per pint of bitter (or best bitter) and mild noted:

Differential of 2p:

Manchester Arms, Stockport 50/48	Crown, Heaton Mersey 50/48
Oxford, Oldham 48/46	Grey Horse, Oldham 46/44
White Swan, Oldham 49/47	Blue Bell, Shaw 46/44
Swan with 2 Necks, Stockport 49/47	British Flag, Macclesfield 48/46
Rising Moon, Matley, Hyde 48/46	Conservative Club, Cheadle Hulme 47/45

Differential of 3p:

Three Legs of Man, Salford 49/46	Plough, Hyde Road 50/47
Junction Inn, Oldham 46/43	Bridge Inn, Chestergate, Stockport 47/44

Differential of 4p:

Alvaney Arms, Tarporley 50/46	Rising Sun, Tarporley 52/48
Brown Cow, Eccles 48/44	Railway, Hale 50/46

Pineapple, Stockport 49/45
Bridge, Stockport 49/45
Queens, Oldham 48/44
Pineapple, Heaton La, Stockpt. 49/45
Railway, Chapel St, Sale, 50/46
Boars Head, Middlewich 50/46
Plough, Whitegate 49/45

Castle, Manchester Centre 48/44
Tollemache Arms, Mossley 50/46
Royal Oak, Oldham 48/44
Franklin, Macclesfield 49/45
Farmers Arms, Poynton 50/46
Red Lion, Little Budworth 52/48

Differential of 5, 6 & 7p:

Shrewsbury Arms, Little Budworth 51/46
White Lion, Swinton 49/43
Bulls Head, Hale Barnes 50/43
Royal Oak, Stockport 49/44
Black Horse, Oldham 48/43
Wheatsheaf, Whitefield 50/44
Manchester Arms, Stockport 50/45
Harrington Arms, Gawsorth 50/44
Tatton Arms, Moss Nook 51/45

Davenport Arms, Woodford 51/46
White Horse, Eccles 50/43
Waterloo, Stockport 49/44
Church, Cheadle Hulme 51/46
Healey Hotel, Rochdale 50/44
Red Bull, Hillgate, Stockport 52/47
Unity Inn, Stockport 49/44
Printers Arms, Cheadle 50/45
Red Admiral, Hulme 51/46

NEW LOOK VIC

A couple of years back the Victoria Tavern, Victoria Street, Altrincham was under threat of demolition, when property developers had their eyes on the site for part of a leisure complex. Fortunately, local councillors and residents soon made their views felt and the Vic's future was assured. Bass must have realised its potential, because the long hoped-for improvements have come to fruition at a total cost of near £70,000 (though John and Eileen Grundy, as tenants, have had to contribute a sizable amount of that for furnishing and decorating). The Vic is a Good Beer Guide listed pub, serving Draught Bass and 4X Best Mild, and the present licensees have been there just over three years, during which time the volume of beer sold has trebled. Sales will have to increase even more to meet the rise in rent and rates!

The new-look pub is open plan in design but maintains its two distinct drinking areas, with the retention of the short corridor leading from the front door. The vault is semi-enclosed and should keep the darts, doms and chess players happy, while the television has been resited out of harm's way above the bar. There is no juke box, although there is background piped music. The main feature of the alterations is the oak beam, salvaged from an old barn, over the bar, which is faced in tongue and groove wood with a natural stone footrest - and not a hint of black plastic-covered padding anywhere! All the seats and tables have been recovered and the pub should be completely redecorated by mid August. On completion, full lunches will be available, with evening bar snacks until 10pm.

Mick Rottenbury

WHAT'S DOING



UNFORTUNATE

Tetleys have decided to close the Gipsys Tent in Bolton within a few weeks and it is expected that the Sunnyside, Daubhill, will face the chop soon.

PLUCKED

Whitbread have applied to change the kitchen of the Feathers in Chorlton to a take-away hot food shop.

WEBSTERS AND WEBBED FEET?

Websters handpumped bitter is now the best seller at the Palace Hotel, Buxton. There can be few establishments eligible for real ale guides that can boast such an imposing site, sumptuous interior and their own swimming pool (open to the public).

CATASTROPHY

Few people will have failed to notice Whitbread's current attempt to give Trophy a "traditional" image, by showing each stage of the brewing process in their latest hoarding poster. Closer examination, however, reveals that tradition has been stood on its head; if we are to believe what we read, fermentation is now carried out in the boiling coppers whereas the fermenting vats are used for boiling the wort.

Of course, it could just be that the captions for the two illustrations have got mixed up, and because nobody in the publicity department knows how traditional beer is brewed anyway, the mistake has slipped through unnoticed.

CENTRAL MANCHESTER GUIDE

Leo King makes the following observations:

No 11: Braziers Arms. On a fairly recent visit, this pub had handpumps. Is it another recent conversion?

No 61: Imperial (Wilsons) Should read handpumps, not electric pumps.

No 77: Mariners. Should read electric pumps; the 'handpumps' are dummies.

No 94: Paddy's Goose. Should read handpumps. The fake handpumps have gone.

No 107: Rembrandt: Should read handpumps. This was one of many Lees pubs to be converted recently.

No 114: Seven Oaks. Apart from Bass, there is now Chesters bitter on handpumps.

No 136: Waterloo. During past visits, the handpumps remained inactive with real ale being dispensed by separate electric pumps.

LADYBARN BODDIES

The Ladybarn Branch of the Royal British Legion, Green Street, off Ladybarn Lane, now has Boddingtons bitter on sale.

DRAKE STREET DECIBELS

The large Wellington Hotel on Drake Street in Rochdale's town centre once had handpumps installed selling Theakstons alongside Higsons gassy products. The Higsons is now traditional, sold through electric pumps. It would be wise to take some earplugs with you if you decide to try the beer - at times the rowdy juke box overpowers even the real ale.

HANDPUMPS GO

The Hat & Feathers, Manchester Road, Hollinwood (Marstons) appears to have had the handpumps withdrawn. The beer is now dispensed by electric pumps.

PEV'S PEDESTRIAN PERIL

Our spies in the corridors of power inform us that the pedestrianisation scheme which involves the demolition of the Peveril of the Peak is likely to go ahead. The scheme is apparently well thought of (presumably by the same people who designed the Arndale Centre and rebuilt Hulme).

REAL ALE RIOTS

The Big Alex (Whitbread) opposite the Nile Club on Princess Road, Moss Side, emerged relatively unscathed from the recent bout of unruly behaviour. The Claremont (Holts) however, had all its windows smashed. What does it all mean?

PLANNING NEWS

Boddingtons have applied to extend and alter the Church Inn, Market Street, Hyde.

CLUB NEWS

Wigan now has its first real ale Labour Club. Newtown Labour Club in Scot Lane has Boddies bitter at 42p a pint. Another club in Wigan selling Boddingtons is Chaplins in King Street, at the somewhat dearer price of 60p - well, you can't have everything!

NEW PUB

A brand new Wilsons estate pub has been built in Moss Side. The Pepper Hill is an exceedingly smart pub hidden in a new housing estate. To get there, go to Claremont Road (the Alexandra Park part), and you will find the Pepper Hill is quite large and excellent real ales are dispensed by handpumps.

WOOF!

The Hare and Hounds, Wood Lane, Timperley (corner of Shaftesbury Ave) now has Pedigree and Merrie Monk available as well as Marstons mild and bitter. The Hare boasts the second highest volume of beer sales for all Marstons pubs, has a restaurant in the Good Food Guide (Le Bon Viver), an excellent bowling green, live music in the evenings, a quiet and comfortable lounge if you can't stand live music! - a small vault and pleasant outside drinking area - and even the car park is landscaped.

BILLY IS BACK

The King William IV on Springfield Lane, Salford, a former Marstons house, has reopened as a free house selling Boddingtons and Tetleys beers.

MACCLESFIELD BEER FESTIVAL

Venue: Nags Head, Waters Green

Dates: 21st & 22nd August

Beers: Taylors, Selby, Darleys, West Pennine, Websters, Theakstons.

Help is required to staff the festival.

Contact Geoff Atkin 0625 27217



CHESTERS

Latest sightings of handpumps dispensing Chesters cask bitter include the Bay Malton on the Bridgewater Canal bank, Oldfield Brow, Altrincham and the Beech in Chorlton Gree, Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

The Prince of Wales, Abbey Hey Lane, Manchester 18, the Half Way House, Higher Openshaw and the Sir Humphrey Cheetham, Ashton New Road reopened selling cask Chesters bitter (keg mild) last month. This month will see the transformation of the Gardners Arms on Gorton Lane.

With one eye on the future, Whitbread have extended their Chesters image to Ye Olde Nelson on Salford's Chapel Street.

NEW MILLS NEWS

Pollards mild is now available on electric pump in the George Hotel in New Mills. It was thought that every pub in New Mills sold real ale, but alas the Bees Knees, that epitome of the Elizabethan-Hawaiian school of decor, no longer sells Boddingtons. As one door opens, another closes.

RISING STAR

Bass have sold the Star Inn, Ashton under Lyne, to Boddingtons for £49,000.

DURHAM BEER FESTIVAL

Elite Tour Operators, 2A Marsland Road, Sale (tel 969 5117) have laid on a coach trip to the Durham Beer Festival on Saturday 5th September, leaving the area about 8.00am and returning after closing time in the evening. Cost is £8.45, including breakfast on the way and admission to the festival. (about 50 real ales and the Vaux World Shove Ha'penny Championship!)

IS THIS A RECORD?

The Royal Hotel, Hayfield (Wilsons) is 20½ miles from the centre of Manchester. Is this the farthest flung regular receiver of What's Doing?

TRAFFORD DARK

The Trafford in Trafford Road, Salford, is one of the latest Wilsons pubs to be boarded up, pending redecoration, permanent closure, demolition, removal to the United States, or whatever.

BOWLS

A bowling match has been arranged by Camra South Lancs at the Wheat-sheaf, Sutton Leach, St Helens at 11.30am on Saturday the 29th August, between Camra and the Wheatsheaf. A buffet will be provided and all branches and their members are invited. (Contact Alan Ball, Wigan 226684)

TURVILLE DISINTERRED

The revamped Turville on Chester Road has reopened as the Last Hop (where do they get them from?) There has been no change to the beer - it's still the Bass range of fizzy rubbish.

REAL ALE DESERT

The Knowsley, a listed building on Cheetham Hill Road, is Whitbread's latest attempt at the theme treatment. This daft, insensitive treatment of the building has resulted in the Nevada Bar - a seatless, multi-decibel environment for the deaf disco-goer. Let's hope some barmy American buys it and ships it out to Las Vegas.

A PINT EACH WAY

Applications have been made by two Salford pubs to incorporate betting shops into the premises, albeit separated from the licensed part. This could give a new meaning to a quick double.

NEWTON SHOW NECTAR SHOW

The fourth Newton le Willows Town Show Beer Exhibition on Saturday August 8th promises to be the biggest and best ever, with at least 18 different brews from 10 breweries. The usual mixture of local and exotic beers will be available. The show field is behind Selwyn Jones Lower School, Crow Lane, Newton le Willows, which is on the 39 Manchester to Liverpool bus route



or 15 minutes walk from Newton or Earlestown BR stations. The bar is licensed from 12.00 til 5.00pm and the Show has many attractions for the rest of the family while Dad is ensconced in the beer tent. Subject to last minute hitches, the following will be present: Timothy Taylors, Everards, Holdens, Simpkins, Mitchells ESB, Lion bitter and John Peel, Marstons (Pedigree, Merrie Monk and Owd Roger), Lees (bitter, cask lager and Moonraker), Tetley (Walker bitter and Warrington) and the full range of Burtonwood beers. The organisers are hoping to arrange for a supply of Blezards bitter from the New Fermor Arms.

BURTONWOOD LIGHT MILD

At a recent high-level meeting between Camra and Burtonwoods, the company gave an undertaking that cask light mild (as it is now called) has an assured future for at least one year from July 1st, during which time the brewery will maintain production and closely monitor the progress of the beer. However, since the meeting, Burtonwood have informed Camra that the situation will be reviewed in six months.

The embargo against new outlets ends now and the brewery will be sympathetic to accepting new outlets, particularly where the landlord is keen and it is felt the pub can maintain sufficient turnover to ensure a quality pint. So now is the time to approach your friendly Burtonwood landlord, discreetly create a demand for this superb, low priced beer, and so safeguard its future.

NO CHANCE

The Inn With a Chance in Tiviot Dale, Stockport, is now closed. It was owned by Pollards for a short time, selling John Barleycorn bitter and mild on handpumps. It now seems unlikely that this one-time Wilsons pub will re-open again. This should not worry Stockportians unduly, as the real ale scene in Stockport is first class and the nearby Boddies pubs - the Buck & Dog and the Kings Head - more than make up for the loss. However, one wonders how long these two will stay up. To demolish the Buck and Dog, with the fine relief over the door, would be downright vandalism. But today, who cares?

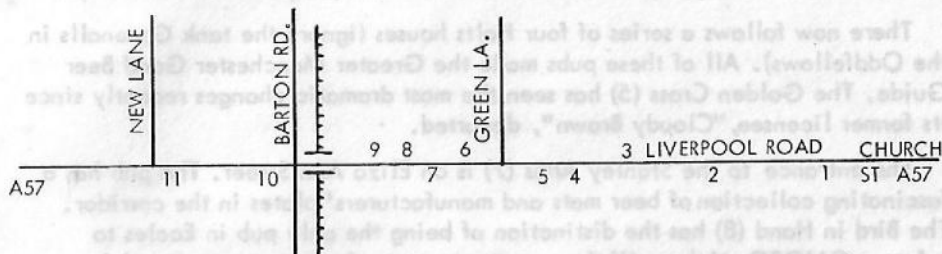
PUB OF THE MONTH

The August Pub of the Month for South Manchester is the Old Star Inn, Cheadle (generally known as the Star), which is an old village centre pub in Cheadle High Street.

The pub consists of a comfortable lounge and a vault where a high degree of skill at dominoes can be observed. Also to be noted are the ornate windows and facia. The Hydes mild and bitter, served by electric pump, are of a consistently high standard. Mine hosts, Ken and Doreen, who have been at the Star for some 3½ years and previously ran the British Legion Club at Poynton, always ensure that a hospitable welcome is provided for their customers. An enjoyable evening should therefore be assured for Thursday 27th August.

Contributors: Dave Glass, Roger Hall, Brian Gleave, Leo King, Alan Ball, Mick Rottenbury, B J Brownsword, Stewart Revell, Pete Cash, Don Chattwood, Alan Kelllett

A SHORT GREATER ECCLES CRAWL



The arrival in Eccles of Bilko and Boddington (deceased) may have persuaded a few more people to visit the town, whose cakes are currently delicious. I hope, however, that the casual visitor realises that there is more to Greater Eccles than that which can be seen on Church Street. A good way to sample the environs is to stroll down Liverpool Road and call at a few pubs on the way.

The Dog and Partridge (1) is a convenient place to start. One of the Boddies/Greenalls swaps of March 1973, the pub has remained fundamentally unchanged since then, although I believe "improvements" are on the way. Console yourself with the fact that, had it still been a Boddingtons house, the pub would have had the full works some time ago, becoming another tupperware pub full of letraset people.

The next port of call is the White Lion (2). This is a friendly, small, street corner Holts pub, one of several to be encountered in due course. It has the added bonus of live music on some evenings.

Ignore the Star (keg) and the Ellesmere (it's like any other recent Boddingtons pub), and proceed to the Diamond XX (3) and the Black Boy (4) which, besides providing the only Wilsons on the crawl, must also be the two smallest pubs. They have enthusiastic licensees and, unlike Wilsons houses in Manchester city centre,



competitive pricing (the Holts Effect?) Their differences begin with the method of dispense; electric pumps in the Diamond and handpumps in the Black Boy.

There now follows a series of four Holts houses (ignore the tank Greenalls in the Oddfellows). All of these pubs made the Greater Manchester Good Beer Guide. The Golden Cross (5) has seen the most dramatic changes recently since its former licensee, "Cloudy Brown", departed.

The entrance to the Stanley Arms (7) is on Eliza Ann Street. The pub has a fascinating collection of beer mats and manufacturers' plates in the corridor. The Bird in Hand (8) has the distinction of being the only pub in Eccles to refuse a GMGBG sticker. (If they want one now, they can contact me) Its classically Holts exterior hides a more modern (1930s?) interior.

For a break, pop next door for a pint of Tetleys in the Spinners Arms (9). The brewers' tudor facade is at odds with the country and western atmosphere which predominates on some evenings. Continue west along Liverpool Road and pause on the canal bridge to admire the fleet of nobby boats that is usually moored there. Dive now into the Packet House (10) for the only Boddingtons on the crawl. This corner pub still has its corner door in use, which leads to a busy vault. Mild drinkers should note that the Packet doesn't sell any.

On emerging, re-orientate yourself. A brief walk brings you to the Grapes Hotel (11), a monumental turn of the century Holts pub, with all the trimmings of tiled corridors, beautiful glass, etc. This is a suitable place to end the crawl and plan your next move.

The more observant among you will have made a note of the curry shops between Eccles and the Grapes, and will have organised your mandatory evening protein intake accordingly. Mind the cobbles outside the Grapes, your Chicken Inevitable with Pillau Rice awaits!

Duncan Roberts

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BEER GARDEN



I am astounded by the depths which human nature can plumb. I had always considered my cataloguing acts of depravity as a crusade similar to those of Whitewash and Lord Longford. Sadly, however, this was not to be. It seems that Campaign gigolos take it as a mark of esteem to be singled out for criticism. It is this unforeseen consequence, coupled with a plethora of threats which has decided me to refrain from further mention of debauchery, lechery and carnality. Much as I deplore adultery, I would hate to see even a philandering libertine dead from a cuckold's kukri. Better to leave the Peyton Places and bourgeois Crossroads of Snoot Magna and Smarmford to weave their sordid webs of intrigue unrecorded.

What a lesser place Grotley would be were Bazza Primp to carry out his threat and leave if ever it became widely known that Janice (O'i'll give it foive) awarded him 10 out of 10. What chance Van Riijn's now?

I'm afraid that all this abandonment to wanton lust reflects badly on the Campaign. It is a sure sign of decadence which often presages the demise of organisations. Will the Campaign go the way of all flesh? Or will it rise above such things and go on from strength to strength?

Definitely not, according to Tish's gutter rag. This contains a scurrilous suggestion that Camrail's supremo, Chris Utterly, could be in an ongoing rip off situation. With left-wing trendy Nick Titterlove looking after him, nothing could be further from the truth.

Some of us, however, can remain above this sort of thing. Certainly Bilko has. In a fit of pique he refused last month's What's Doing. Indeed, Duncan Busman was unceremoniously ejected with 7,000 unsold organs, resulting in his incarceration in hospital for a rapid bumectomy, unconnected with consuming gallons of Drabs and tons of Vindaloo. Let's hope that Bilko's forthcoming bus trip to the Tykeley Amber Nectar Show recements relationships.

RUMOUR DENIALS

1 Bogbrush has definitely not resigned from the NE. What, after all, he explains, is wrong with a load of Southern pooftahs charging 90p a pint for beer at Tykeley?

2 Kepples have definitely not reduced the gravity of their beers to save excise duty. The mild is not 1030, nor is the bitter 1034.5.

SOUTH MANCHESTER REAL ALE

"Real Ale in South Manchester" is still being compiled. In the meantime, Leo King provides this list of real ale pubs in south and east Manchester.

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Chorlton-cum-Hardy

Southern Hotel, Mauldeth Road West, Boddingtons (E)

Royal Oak, Barlow Moor Road, Chesters Bitter (H)

Princess (Beefeater), Mauldeth Road West/Princess Road, Chesters Bitter (H)

Alans off licence (near Chorlton Baths), Theakstons, Pollards

Ladybarn

Derby, Ladybarn Lane/Exbury Street, Wilsons (H)

Mauldeth (near rail station) Mauldeth Road, Kingsway, Wilsons (H)

White Swan, Green Street, off Ladybarn Lane, Robinsons (E)

Talbot, Mauldeth Road/Ladybarn Lane, Chesters Bitter (H)

Fallowfield

Friendship, Wilmslow Road/Egerton Road, Hydes (E)

Sherwood (opposite), Chesters Bitter (H)

Withington

Old House at Home, Burton Road, Chesters Bitter (H)

Waterloo, Burton Road (opposite baths), Wilsons (H)

Albert, Wilmslow Road, Wilsons (H)

Victoria, Wilmslow Road, Hydes (E)

Didsbury

Station, Wilmslow Road, Marstons (H)

Old Grey Horse (formerly Cavalcade) Wilmslow Road/Barlow Moor Road, Wilsons (H)

Nelson, Barlow Moor Road (opposite Old Grey Horse), Wilsons (H)



Albert (near Heald's Dairy), Hydes (E)

Royal Oak, Wilmslow Road, Marstons (H)

Crown, Wilmslow Road, Greenall Whitley (E)

Ye Old Cock Inn, Wilmslow Road (set back) Chesters Bitter (H)

East Didsbury

Gateway, Hydes (E)

Parrs Wood Hotel, School Lane, Parrs Wood Road, Boddingtons (E)

West Didsbury

Midland Hotel, Lapwing Lane/Burton Road, Chesters Bitter (H)

Rusholme

Osborne House, 32 Victory Street (off Claremont Road) Hydes (E)

Clarence, Wilmslow Road, Bass (H)

Welcome (off Dickenson Road), Greenall Whitley (E)

Albert, Walmer Street (off Wilmslow Road), Hydes (E)

Whitworth, Whitworth Street/Wilmslow Road, Marstons (H)

Greenheys

Robin Hood, Maine Road, Robinsons (E)

Parkside, Parkside Road/Lloyd Street South, Chesters Bitter (H)

Ducie (off Lloyd Street North), Wilsons (H)

Old Abbey, Wilsons (H)

Moss Side

Bee Hive, Claremont Road, Hydes (E)

Claremont, Claremont Road, Holts (H)

Pepper Hill, Exmouth Walk (off Claremont Road), Wilsons (H)

Alexandra Park, Alexandra Road, Moss Lane West, Wilsons (H)

Great Western (Near Withington Road), Greenall Whitley (H)

Hulme

Grand Junction, Chichester Road, Hydes (E)

Sir Henry Royce, Chichester Road, Chesters Bitter (H)

Three Legs of Man, Stretford Road, Wilsons (H)

Talbot, Stretford Road, Wilsons (H)

Platford, Stretford Road, Chesters Bitter (H)

Albert, Erskine Street, off Stretford Road, Greenall Whitley (E)

Falstaff, Jenner Close, Wilsons (H)

Grants Arms, Jackson Crescent, Boddingtons Bitter only (H)

Cornbrook, Chester Road, Tetleys (E)

Pomona Palace, Cornbrook Park Road (off Chester Road), Marstons (E)

Hope, Chester Road, Hydes (E)

Bulls Head, Chester Road, Chesters Bitter (H)

Manchester Regiment, Hulme Hall Road (off Chester Road) Greenalls (E)

Lord Clyde, Chester Road, Greenall Whitley (E)

Lord Napier, City Road East (off Chester Road), Greenall Whitley (E)

Pack Horse, Deansgate/Chester Road, Greenall Whitley (E)

Red Admiral, Hulme Walk (late Stretford Road), Robinsons (E)

Clynes Wine Bar, Cavendish Street, Wilsons (H)

Church Inn, Cambridge Street, Lees (H)

Hussar, Arnott Crescent (off Boundary Lane), Wilsons (H)
Mancunian, Jackson Crescent, Marstons (E)
Chorlton on Medlock
Lloyds Arms, Higher Ormond Street (near Oxford Road), Bass (H)
Grafton, Grafton Street (Upper Brook Street), Holts (H)
Plymouth, Plymouth Grove, Boddingtons (E)

EAST MANCHESTER

Burnage

Victoria, Mauldeth Road/Burnage Lane, Boddingtons (E)
Albion, Burnage Lane, Hydes (E)

Levenshulme

Union, Stockport Road, Boddingtons (H)
Levenshulme, Stockport Road, Wilsons (H)
Pack Horse, Stockport Road, Wilsons (H)
Railway, Stockport Road/Albert Road, Chesters Bitter (H)
Horseshoe, Chapel Street (off Stockport Road), Wilsons (E)
Wheatsheaf, Stockport Road/Broom Lane, South Levenshulme, Greenalls (E)
Polygon, Barlow Road, Boddingtons (H)

Longsight

Bay Horse, Stockport Road, Boddingtons (E)
Waggon and Horses, Stockport Road, Wilsons (H)
Crown Ale House, Stockport Road, Wilsons (H)
Garratt, Pink Bank Lane (Stanley Grove), Holts (H)

Ardwick

Devonshire, Stockport Road, Wilsons (H)

Gorton

Gorton Mount, Mount Road, Boddingtons
Waggon and Horses, Hyde Road/Far Lane, Holts (H)

LETTERS

DRABS

Dear Sir, By last Monday afternoon I thought Holts had gone mad! About four weeks ago I was in the Old Cross in Radcliffe when two men from the brewery came in. They were talking of painting the pub. The landlord, who had just come back off a holiday, talked of painting it black and white. I thought at the time that he must have caught a touch of the sun. Well, you paint Holts pubs green don't you, with perhaps a little cream on the window frames and blue all over the doors, eaves and other places?

However, last Monday morning I saw that the Coach & Horses in Besses had actually been repainted black and white, and very nice it looks too. That afternoon, I discovered people busy painting the Lord Nelson in Pendlebury what I

would call crimson lake with cream window frames. On Thursday afternoon I ventured into Blackley and found the Fox was swarming with builders. The inside is being completely reorganised and an extension has been built on to the back. Landlord John Donnelly says he is definitely retaining his handpumps. The Britannia tables at present in the lounge are going into the bar and some sewing machines are being converted into tables for the lounge. The boxing theme is being retained. He is getting bills of purely Manchester fights framed for the bar and putting photographs of world champions in the lounge (real ones like Joe Louis, not rubbish like C Clay!) The standard blue and orange sign above the door is going and being replaced by a hanging sign. The colour scheme for the outside of the pub has not yet been decided, but green paint is definitely out!

Altogether, the brewery and the landlord between them are spending something in six figures (£s, that is) on the Fox, which is a welcome change from the usual "let 'em fall down and then build a new one" policy. Sadly the old policy has prevailed at Irlams o' th' Height, where I see the Waggon & Horses has been demolished and a new pub is being built on the site.

Iechyd Da, Norman Tandy

OOPS!

Dear Sir, Under the heading "Tally Ho" in July's WD, the excellent Huntsman is credited as "the first real ale pub for several years" in Ashton on Mersey. However, the Old Plough in the village (Hydes) has not only served real ale since time immemorial, but has appeared in the GBG for the last three years at least.

Perhaps a mention for this first rate pub (the lunchtime catering is of a very high standard at quite reasonable prices, and the beer is consistently good) would be in order in the circumstances!

Yours, Phil Jordan

THE UNDER 50s

Dear Sir, A Hollinwood/Failsworth evening out was not only a different environment with a variety of real ale, but it was a little cheaper than usual. The savings at least paid our bus fare back to Manchester (30p).

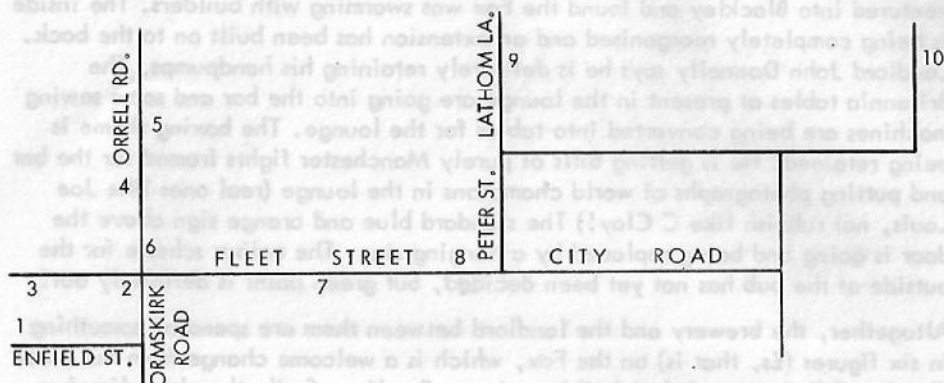
Sam Smiths 48p	Burtonwood 48p	Lees 46p
Oldham Brewery 44p	Marstons 46p	Holts 42p

(All room prices for bitter)

When we hit Manchester: Wilsons was 50p, Chesters 52p and Greenalls 53p. Sam Smiths bitter at Sinclairs is 52p a pint; the same equally excellent handpumped bitter at the Spinners Arms, Manchester Road, Hollinwood, is 48p. Perhaps it would be better to move house.

Yours, Leo King

PEMBERTON & LOM'RA GREEN PUB CRAWL



The Enfield Inn (1) in Enfield Street is a fine ex-Almonds pub recently acquired from Burtonwoods by Wilsons, and serving good bitter and mild on handpumps. Going up Enfield Street to Ormskirk Road and turning left, the next real ale pub is the White Swan, by the traffic lights (2). This is a large, ex-Magees pub serving Greenalls bitter and mild on electric pumps. It has a very large lounge and a small vault at the rear, and also a dining room, although this is no longer in use.

Turn left at the traffic lights and on to "Jem Lowe's", the Dog and Partridge (3). This is a popular little pub selling good Greenalls bitter and



mild on electric pumps. Retracing your steps to the lights, turn left to the recently opened Miners Lamp (4). Thwaites have done a nice job on this ex-Greenalls pub, once called the Leigh Arms. The bitter and best mild are on handpump, and the difference which handpumps can make is very noticeable here - it's a creamy, smooth pint. Across the road is another ex-Almonds pub, untouched by Burtonwood, the Fishergate Inn (5). This friendly little pub is easily missed and Ray, the landlord, is one of the few former Almonds tenants left. The Burtonwood bitter and mild has a nice taste and flavour. Leaving the Fishergate and going back towards the traffic lights you come to the Travellers Rest (6), a very popular and comfortable pub. The Tetley bitter and mild are on air pressure pumps.

Turning left at the lights and going down Fleet Street and City Road, you come to the Brookhouse (7) (Walker bitter and Tetley mild on electric pumps). This is a busy pub with a thriving vault, in the hands of the same landlord for 25 years. Further down and across the road is the New Inn (8), a large, comfortable pub, ex-Magees of course, selling Greenalls bitter and mild on electric pumps. A warm welcome awaits from George and Connie Barrett.

The energetic can then turn left and go up Peter Street to Lathom Lane for the Lathom House (9) - Tetley bitter only; the mild is not real ale. This is a good, unspoilt pub, with small, cosy rooms. If time allows, the Sebastian Coes can sprint down to the Old Springs (10) in Springs Road, near Heinz's factory, for the full range of Burtonwood beers - bitter, light and dark mild, on electric pumps.

Alan Ball

WASHBROOK'S

Specialist Home Brew Shop
59 Halifax Road, Rochdale

MALTED BARLEY GRAIN Lager Malt, Pale Malt, Crystal Malt

26p 11b £1.76 71b £12.50 25kg (55lb)

CRUSHED MALT GRAIN 28p 11b £1.85 71b £13.50 25kg (55lb)

DRIED MALT EXTRACT Light, Medium, Dark. 66p 11b £30.30 25kg

LIQUID MALT EXTRACT 21b £1.16 41b £2.20 141b £6.57 281b £11.75 25kg(55lb)

HOPS 6 varieties 2oz 32p-48p 16oz £2.40-£3.10 £23.70

We stock the better beer concentrates Kwofitt, Cumbria, Muntona, Condessa

Five makes of pressure barrels including Cornelius

For full list phone Rochdale 41590 - Callers always welcome

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 60p + 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.

SOUTH LANC'S ALE Leigh, Wigan, Standish, St Helens, Skelmersdale, Newton, Atherton etc. Maps, photographs 50p + 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 GORTLEY - 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

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Branch Diary

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Thurs Aug 27 Pub of the Month. The Star, High Street, Cheadle (Hydes) from 8pm

Thurs Sept 10th Branch Meeting, Gateway, Wilmslow Road, 8.00pm

Thurs Sept 24th, Pub of the Month, Jolly Angler, 47 Ducie Street, Manchester 1 (Hydes)

Please note there will be no branch meeting in August, as this clashes with the Leeds Beer Festival. All members are invited, however, to the Trafford & Hulme branch meeting on 20th August.

Contact: Humphrey Higgins 432 0059

NORTH MANCHESTER

Weds 2nd Sept Pub Crawl of Chapel Street; Angel 7pm, Red Lion 8pm

Weds 9th Sept Committee Meeting/Social. Old Veteran, off Eccles New Road, Salford 8.00pm

Weds 16th Sept Branch Meeting, White Swan, Swinton 8.00pm

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Tues 11th Aug 8.30. Branch meeting Gatefield, Cavendish Street, Ashton under Lyne

Tues 18th Aug 8.30pm. Social and Games night at the Organ, Hollingworth

Contact: Tom Lord 061 427 7099

BOLTON

Weds 12 Aug Branch Meeting, York, Newport Street 8.00pm

Contact Bert Kerks Bolton 388172

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 6 Aug 8pm. Committee/Social, Victoria Tavern, Victoria Street, Altrincham

Thurs 20 Aug 8pm. Branch Meeting, Wheatshaf, Manchester Road, Altrincham

Thurs 27th Aug 8pm. Pub of the Month with S Manchester. Star, High Street, Cheadle

Thurs 3rd Sept 8pm. Committee/Social, Volunteer, Cross Street, Sale

Sat 5th Sept 8am approx. Coach to Durham Beer Festival

Contact: Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 (home)

Subscriptions

If you want to be sure of getting What's Doing every month, why not subscribe? It costs £1.60 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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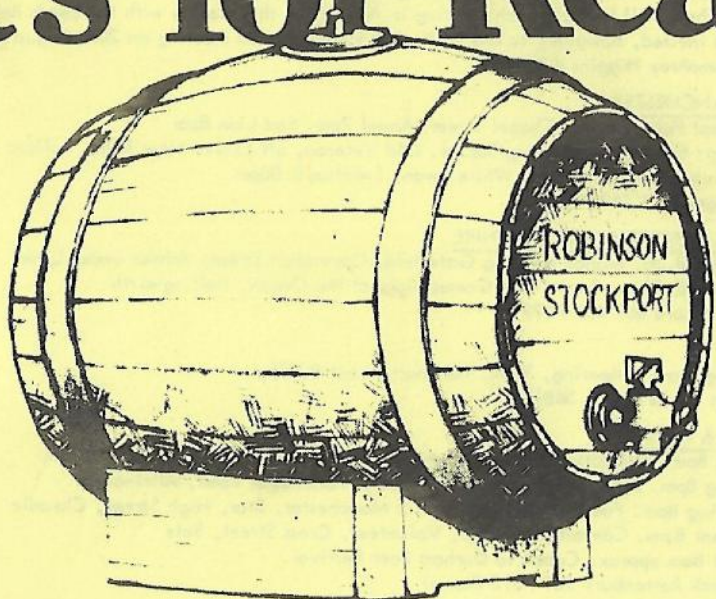
What's Doing COPY DATE for September is Thurs 20th Aug

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

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