

# WHAT'S DOING

MAY  
1982

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

## POLLARDS CLOSES



Pollards Brewery in Reddish is no more. The brewery went into liquidation at the beginning of April. Over the last seven years Pollards had developed several free trade outlets, mainly in the Stockport area, and had also acquired one tied house in Salford. Small brewers are, however, far more susceptible to the recession than their fatter competitors. A free house selling, say, three beers, may restrict the range if sales fall and the likely casualty is the small brewer who may be unable to offer the same terms as the big brewers. A tied house should provide a solid base for a brewer and yet the Gloucester has not



been all it should for David Pollard. Although threatened by the Enterprise Zone, the Gloucester nevertheless had a potential to sell 16-20 barrels a week. Yet it never approached this figure. Disagreements with a succession of licensees and some problems with beer supplies meant that the pub could never build up a steady, regular clientele. For some weeks before the liquidation, beer supplies were spasmodic and on the 7th April the Gloucester was operating as a free house with keg beer.

The Gloucester is leased from the GMC and is not therefore an asset of the Company. Whether it will survive is questionable, particularly as it will soon be demolished in the name of Enterprise.

Falling production, fixed overheads, shortage of working capital and extended credit are classic reasons for the failure of small businesses and Pollards was no exception. The rise and fall of small brewers is nothing new; it was a common feature of the last century. Pollards demise should not discourage others who wish to start up a small brewery. Some will certainly be successful.

The loss of Pollards means some loss of choice, but perhaps more importantly it might mean a hardening of the attitude of the big brewers. Their "I told you so" attitude may become more entrenched. Because of their size and financial resources they are often able to survive disastrous decisions whilst a small mistake by the little brewer may mean his immediate demise.

Roger Hall

## FLEEING THE NEST

New management at Whitbread's Salford Brewery has meant the end of an era at the Duke of York, Eccles. The agreement with Robin Bence has been discontinued by Whitbread and Robin will leave on May 17th. The new management have behaved like a new broom, but in sweeping clean the old ideas they may have swept out the baby with the bathwater. Some of the innovations brought about by the previous management, like the London & North Western and the Nevada Bar were pretty daft and needed to be stopped.

The Duke of York, however, must have been a success. Since Robin Bence became licensee in February 1981, turnover has doubled from 8½ to 17 barrels per week and shows signs of increasing even further. If turnover is not the motive for discontinuing this successful experiment then perhaps costs are. Whitbread evidently consider that their profitability will increase if a manager is installed. This will not be the



case.

Robin Bence has operated the Duke of York as he might have operated his own free house. The pub serves an excellent range of well kept beers. There is a variety of food available and a good range of entertainment. The Duke caters for a fair cross section of the population of Eccles and Robin and his staff have built up considerable personal loyalty amongst their customers. There is little doubt that this would soon evaporate under direct management. Accountant-provoked rationalisation will reduce the range of beers, increase the prices, curtail the entertainment and within a short time reverse the process which Robin and his staff have striven hard to achieve. Within 12 months the Duke of York will have been deserted by many of its present customers and will no longer be a place of character. In its inevitably somewhat run-down state it will resemble the Duke of pre-1980 vintage and be indistinguishable from many other Whitbread houses.

It is indeed a sad day when a big brewer like Whitbread can't recognise a good thing when it's staring them in the face, and an even sadder day for Robin and his staff, who are thoroughly disillusioned.

Roger Hall



# WHAT'S DOING

## BETTER BOLTON (Part 2)

Some changes have occurred since the publication of the Better Bolton article last month. Pub No 1, the Duck and Firkin, is now selling Marstons Pedigree, replacing Duttons Bitter. Poor old Whitbread; when they produce a cask beer it seems nobody wants to sell it. Maybe it's something to do with the high price and low gravity of the bitter. Pub No 14, The Old Three Crowns, is no longer selling DPA because Wilsons are no longer brewing it. It seems a pity because the Crowns had a good turnover for the short-lived brew. Landlord Brian Frith, a keen CAMRA member, is now trying to get Websters to sell alongside the Wilsons. We wish him luck! Pub No 16, the Old Boars Head, is now selling hand-pumped - I repeat, handpumped - Greenalls bitter and mild. Good grief! It must be an hallucination caused by drinking the cider across the way.

## PLANNING NEWS

Wilson's have plans to extend the Railway Inn, Lumb Lane, Droylsden into the adjoining cottage. The Bird in Hand, a run-down keg Bass pub on Oldham Road is to be altered and extended. This would be an ideal opportunity to reintroduce cask conditioned beer and compete with the Wilsons pubs down the road.

## ECCLES CHANGES

Holts rang the changes on Liverpool Road, Eccles, on 30th/31st March, when two of their tenancies changed hands. The pubs are the White Lion and the Stanley Arms (both GMGBG entries). At the White Lion the McMahons were replaced by George and Beryl Jayne and at the Stanley Arms Derek and Margaret Gorton took over from Jack, Pat and Tessa Yates. The Yates had only been in the Stanley since March 1978 and are retiring due to ill health. Their efforts resulted in the pub being included in every edition of the Good Beer Guide since 1979. The regulars presented them with a bouquet of flowers and a Wedgwood vase when they left.

## THE BUCK STOPS HERE

The Buck Inn, a Robinsons pub on High Street, Stalybridge has been demolished. The Victorian pub, full of small rooms, closed down well over twelve months ago.

## LIGHT MILD LOSS

The Poacher, Scott Lane, Blackrod has stopped selling Burtonwood Light Mild, due to lack of demand. This is a bit of a setback for the Light

MildCampaign in the Bolton area. Still, the beer is doing well at the Alma and the York in the town centre and at the Rawsons Arms in Farnworth.

### CHEETHAM HILL CHESTERS

The Empress on Cheetham Hill Road is now serving Chesters Bitter. All the pubs in the village now serve real ale except for the Temple and the Half Way House, which are owned by Bass.

### THE COMPLEAT ANGLER

From our unsubstantiated rumour department comes the news that the Jolly Angler is to be done up. Is this to serve us right for daring to omit it from the beer guide or is it merely to ensure that the facilities, from the ballroom to the camel stables, are in immaculate condition when Manchester's most loved hostelry is reinstated in its rightful place?



### CHEAP CHESTERS

The White Horse, Little Lever, a recent conversion to cask beer, gets full marks for its pricing policy. Chesters traditional bitter is being sold at 49p a pint, whilst the fizzy stuff costs between 53p (Chesters mild) and 55p (Trophy).

### LANDLORD DROPS IN

The manager of the Melville Hotel, Stretford, John Adams, made his first parachute jump on the 4th April in aid of a new premature baby

unit for Manchester's St Mary's Maternity Hospital. The Trafford & Hulme Branch of CAMRA have supported the sponsorship and will soon be presenting a cheque for £50 at a special event at the pub. The event has been arranged by the brewery, Holts, where they will present a cheque for £100, along with a locals' contribution. The upstairs community rooms have been refurbished for the occasion.

### BETTER BITTER

The Horseshoe Inn, Millgate, Wigan, has changed from serving keg to traditional Burtonwood bitter.

### BODDIES IN OLDHAM

Following the recent takeover of Oldham Brewery by Boddingtons, the Strangeways brew has appeared in four OB outlets. The Greaves Arms and the Bath Hotel in the centre of Oldham and the Spring Vale in Chadderton (near Asda) are all "bright" OB houses, so the addition of a cask beer is very welcome. The fourth pub, the Farmers Boy at Hill Stores, Oldham has always been on cask OB (handpumped). The Boddies bitter usually sells for 2p more than the OB.

### CHUNKS

A new Hydes pub, the Pineapple, opened on Garrett Way, Gorton, last month

### VAULTS CLOSED

The Lancashire Vaults (Wilsons), Manchester Street, Oldham, has now been boarded up for six months. This is very sad, since real ale was introduced just before the shutters went up.

### CHUCKLES

The Laughing Cavalier on Water Street, Stalybridge, is being sold. The pub, which stands next to the bus station, is a free house presently selling Boddingtons bitter by handpumps amongst a number of keg beers. The range of beers is likely to stay the same when the new landlord takes over.

### NEW LEES MILD

John Willie's new mild is to go on public sale on May 3rd. It is to be a 1032 o.g. beer and is expected to sell at 1p per pint less than the soon to be discontinued best mild (o.g. 1035). The ordinary mild (o.g. 1031) is also to disappear.



### AMBER NECTAR LATEST

Whitbread are still introducing handpumped Duttons Bitter into their pubs at a fairly rapid rate. None of the outlets listed below (with the exception of the Major) had any advertising material whatsoever; presumably their next lager promotion will be done with blank bar mountings, no beer mats, etc, not to mention lack of TV advertising?

Brown Cow	Edenfield Road	Norden
Regent	Regent Street	Haslingden
Fusillier	Bolton Road West	Ramsbottom (Bulmers only)
Major	Bolton Road West	Ramsbottom (add Marstons Pedigree)
Duck & Firkin	Bradshawgate	Bolton (No Duttons, now Pedigree)
Bridge Inn	Dumers Lane	Radcliffe (Add Hartleys XB, Castle Eden Bulmers Cider)

The last mentioned is another Whitbread free house, or House of Horrors as they are becoming known. Needless to say it has the same appalling decor as previous examples.

### BEER DOWN

Watneys have dropped the price of their traditional bitters by 1p or 2p a pint. What chance Wilsons following suit?

### ALTRERATIONS

The 300-year-old White Horse, Swinton, is to be "completely altered and updated" to increase the floor space - giving more room for the trendies to stand and stare at each other perhaps?

### CHEEKY LITTLE BITTERS

Following the demise of Pollards Brewery, the Coach and Horses, Piccadilly, will be seeking a replacement brew. It is understood that approaches have already been made by reps from Scottish & Newcastle and Moorhouses.

### ODDFELLOWS ARMS EXTENDS

The Oddfellows Arms, a Robinsons pub on Kings Road, Hurst, Ashton-under-Lyne, has recently been extended and slightly modernised. The pub, which still has a number of small rooms, had not been allowed to sell food previously because of the lack of washing facilities. New toilets have now been built.

### SQUARE DEAL

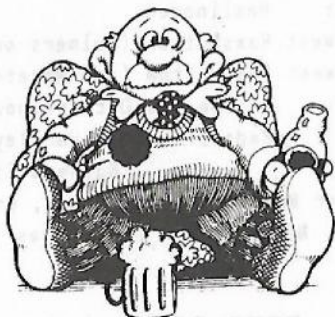
The Wine Bar in the Square Albert, Albert Square, Manchester, is now open until 1.30am Friday and Saturday nights. Tetley bitter is available on handpumps.

## NEW VOLUNTEERS

There are new licensees in the Volunteer (Whitbread cask bitter, hand-pumps), Cross Street, Sale. Eddie and Mavis McGrath took over early in April from the Orion, Withington, after only a year in the licensed trade. Among their plans they aim to develop the catering side of the pub.

## RAIL ALE (114)

British Rail have plans to turn the former bank on the corner of Victoria Station Approach and Long Millgate into a public house.



## MORE HEROES

"Legendary Lancashire Heroes" are about to open another off licence - the former "Bottle and Basket" on Hilton Lane, on the Little Hulton/Walkden boundary. The "Bottle and Basket" was one of those shops where you could purchase just about anything from bacon and bread to detergent and dog food until 10.00pm (as well as fizzy Wilsons products). Local residents will surely miss the convenience of this shop and it remains to be seen just how successful it will fare catering as a "real ale only" shop from 5.30pm to 10.30pm.

## STREETBRIDGE ALTERATIONS

Planning approval has been granted for the rebuilding of the Streetbridge Inn on the Failsworth/Hollinwood boundary. At one time, the introduction of tank OB would have been a certainty, now we can only hope that Boddingtons will have a restraining influence on the "bright boys" at the Albion Brewery.

## FRIENDSHIP

Handpumped Cask Bitter and Toby Light are now on sale at the Friendship, a Bass house on Melbourne Street in Stalybridge town centre.

Contributors: Roger Hall, Dave Hale, Steve Lawton, Stewart Revell, Dave White, Alan Jarratt, Jim Hurst, D Busman, Rob Dunford, Don Chattwood, Mick Rottenbury





# REAL ALE in SOUTH MANCHESTER



**ARDWICK/BRUNSWICK**

Church	Ardwick Green North	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Cleveland	Stockport Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Devonshire	Devonshire Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Falcon	Dryden Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Gold Cup	Royds Close	Chesters	B(H)
Grafton Arms	Grafton Street	Holts	M,B(H)
Hyde Road Hotel	Hyde Road	Chesters	B(H)
Kings Head	Chancelor Lane	Greenalls	M,B(H)
Mawsons Arms	Frances Street/Kincardine Rd	Tetley	B(H)
Plymouth Grove Hotel	Plymouth Grove	Boddingtons	SA,M,B(E)
Sherwood	Mosscoot Walk	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Star	Hyde Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Union	Union Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)

**BESWICK, BRADFORD, CLAYTON**

Alexandra	Mill Street	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Bradford Hotel	Mill Street	Chesters	B(H)
Bradford Road Inn	Bradford Road	Holts	M,B(E)
Bricklayers Arms	Ashton New Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Britannia	Rowsley Road	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Church Inn	Clayton Lane	Bass	4X(E)
Cricketers	Bradford Road	Marstons	M,B(E)
Crabtree	Crabtree Lane	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Drop Forge	Greenside Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Duke of Edinburgh	Mill Street	Tetley	M,B(H)
Folkestone	Folkestone Road	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Fox Tavern	Clayton Lane	Chesters	B(H)
General Birch	Ashton Old Road	Chesters	B(H)
Greens Arms	Ashton New Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Grove Inn	Ashton New Road	Holts	M,B(H)
Mitchells Arms	Ashton Old Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Navigation	Mill Street	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Old Brewery	Bell Crescent	Chesters	B(H)
Old House At Home	Ashton Old Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Seven Stars	Ashton Old Road	Holts	M,B(H)
Sir Humphrey Cheetham	Ashton New Road	Chesters	B(H)
Travellers Call	Ashton Old Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Victoria	Croft Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Victoria	Grey Mare Lane	Chesters	B(H)
Why Not	Ashton New Road	Tetley M,B;Boddingtons	B(H)

**BURNAGE, LEVENSHULME, LONGSIGHT**

Albion	Burnage Lane	Hydes	M,B(E)
Bay Horse	Stockport Road	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Crown Ale House	Stockport Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Farmers Arms	Stockport Road	Chesters	B(H)
Garratt	Pink Bank Lane	Holts	M,B(H)
Horseshoe	Chapel Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)



Lancaster Hotel Stockport Road  
 Levenshulme Stockport Road  
 Mauldeth Hotel Kingsway  
 Pack Horse Stockport Road  
 Polygon Barlow Road  
 Union Stockport Road  
 Victoria Inn Burnage Lane  
 Waggon and Horses Stockport Road

Wilsons M,B(H)  
 Wilsons M,B(H)  
 Wilsons M,B(H)  
 Wilsons M,B(H)  
 Boddingtons M,B(H)  
 Boddingtons SA,M,B(H)  
 Boddingtons SA,M,B(H)  
 Wilsons M,B(H)

#### DIDSBURY, WITHINGTON

Albert William Street  
 Albert Wilmslow Road  
 Bilko's Burton Road  
 Crown Wilmslow Road  
 Gateway Wilmslow Road  
 Nelson Barlow Moor Road  
 Olde Cock Inn Wilmslow Road  
 Old Grey Horse Wilmslow Road  
 Old House at Home Burton Road  
 Parrswood School Lane  
 Royal Oak Wilmslow Road  
 Station Wilmslow Road  
 Victoria Wilmslow Road  
 Waterloo Burton Road

Hydes M,B(E)  
 Wilsons M,B(H)  
 Chesters B(H)  
 Greenalls M,B(E)  
 Hydes M,B(E)  
 Wilsons M,B(H)  
 Chesters B(H)  
 Wilsons M,B(H)  
 Chesters B(H)  
 Boddingtons SA,M,B(E)  
 Marstons Ped,M,B(H)  
 Marstons M,B(H)  
 Hydes M,B(E)  
 Wilsons M,B(H)

#### FALLOWFIELD, RUSHOLME

Albert Walmer Street  
 Clarence Wilmslow Road  
 Derby Arms Exbury Street  
 Fallowfield Wilbraham Road  
 Friendship Wilmslow Road  
 Osborne House Victory Street  
 Sherwood Wilmslow Road  
 Talbot Mauldeth Road  
 Welcome Inn Rusholme Grove  
 White Swan Green Street  
 Whitworth Hotel Moss Lane East

Hydes M,B(E)  
 Bass CB,DB(H)  
 Wilsons M,B(H)  
 Wilsons M,B(H)  
 Hydes M,B(E)  
 Hydes M,B(E)  
 Chesters B(H)  
 Chesters B(H)  
 Greenalls B(E)  
 Robinsons OT,M,B(E)  
 Marstons Ped,B(H)

#### GORTON, BELLE VUE, OPENSHAW

Aces Clowes Street  
 Angel Wellington Street  
 Birch Arms Gorton Lane  
 Cheshire Hunt Hyde Road  
 Coach and Horses Belle Vue Street  
 Concert Inn Fairfield Road  
 Cotton Tree Cross Lane  
 Crown Ashton Old Road  
 Dog and Partridge Ogden Lane  
 Dolphin Clowes Street

Chesters B(H)  
 Greenalls M,B(E)  
 Bass 4X(E)  
 Wilsons M,B(E)  
 Robinsons M,B(E)  
 Boddingtons M,B(H)  
 Wilsons M,B(E)  
 Boddingtons SA,M,B(H)  
 Boddingtons M,B(E)  
 Marstons M,B(H)

Foresters Arms	Ashton Old Road	Robinsons	M, B(H)
Friendship	Hyde Road	Marstons	M, B(H)
Gardners Arms	Gorton Lane	Chesters	B(H)
Garibaldi	Abbey Hey Lane	Tetley	M, B(H)
Gorton Mount	Mount Road	Boddingtons	SA, M, B(E)
Gransmoor	Ashton Old Road	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Grove	Ashton Old Road	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Hamlet	Falmer Street	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Hare and Hounds	Abbey Hey Lane	Boddingtons	B(H)
Haxby	Haxby Road	Chesters	B(H)
Halfway House	Ashton Old Road	Chesters	B(H)
High Bank	Ogden Lane	Boddingtons	M, B(E)
Imperial	Birch Street	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Junction	Hyde Road	Chesters	B(H)
Locomotive	Ashton Old Road	Boddingtons	B(H)
Lord Nelson	Hyde Road	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Lord Raglan	Ogden Lane	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Malcolm	Ashton Old Road	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Marsland	Longnor Walk	Chesters	B(H)
Metropole	Ryland Street	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Nags Head	Hyde Road	Boddingtons	M, B(H)
Oddfellows	Abbey Hey Lane	Boddingtons	SA, M, B(H)
Plough	Hyde Road	Robinsons	M, B(E)
Prince of Wales	Abbey Hey Lane	Chesters	B(H)
Railway	Chapman Street	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Railway	Manshaw Road	Holts	M, B(H)
Rock Inn	Hyde Road	Tetley	M, B(H)
Royal Oak	Cross Lane	Boddingtons	M, B(H)
Royal Oak	Ogden Lane	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Staff of Life	Ashton Old Road	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Suburban	Gorton Cross Street	Lees	M, B(E)
Unicorn	Hyde Road	Boddingtons	M, B(H)
Travellers Call	Hyde Road	Hydes	M, B(E)
Vulcan	Gorton Lane	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Waggon and Horses	Hyde Road/Far Lane	Holts	M, B(H)
Wrexham	Ashton Old Road	Boddingtons	M, B(E)
<b>MOSS NOOK, RINGWAY</b>			
Airport Hotel	Ringway Road	Robinsons	M, B(E)
Romper	Pinfold Lane	Boddingtons	M, B(H)
Tatton Arms	Ringway Road	Robinsons	M, B(E)
<b>NORTHENDEN</b>			
Crown Inn	Church Street	Boddingtons	M, B(E)
Farmers Arms	Longley Lane	Greenalls	M, B(E)
Jolly Carter	Royal Green Road	Boddingtons	M, B(E)
Post House	Wythenshawe Road	Wilsons	B(E)





### THE RECORD BREAKERS

Sir - Greetings from the other side of the dyke! You ask in the April WD whether the 5p increase in the price of bitter at the Ring o' Bells, Leigh, is a record. Berni Inns relinquished their lease (from Bass Ltd) on the New Market in Cardiff last month. It closed its doors for the last time as a Berni Inn on Wednesday 24th March with the price of draught Bass 54p a pint. It reopened the following day under the Welsh Brewers flag with the draught Bass 63p a pint!

In passing, my local, the Kings Castle in Canton, now sells handpumped Chesters mild alongside the Cheltenham brewed Whitbread draught bitter and Flowers Original.

Iechyd Da, Norman Tandy, Cardiff

### THE GEORGE

Sir - In reply to the letter printed in the March issue, Mr Alaistair Walker was indeed refused service at this public house. I refuse to deal specifically with each puerile comment, but would point out that, as proprietor of this establishment, I have the right to refuse service to whoever I please. This is not a right which I exercise regularly or with any measure of satisfaction. For the benefit of the majority of your readers I would assure them that should they visit the George they will be welcomed with good beer and good food in pleasant surroundings; tramps and their contemporaries will continue to be ejected without explanation or apology.

Dallas Davenport, The George, Stockport

### EFFLUVIA

Sir - Sewage emanating from public houses is not the stuff of which after dinner speeches are made. Nevertheless it holds a particular fascination for myself as a long-standing hunter of the carrot/tomato. The possession of this knowledge of matters effluential prompts me to correct your correspondent (WD March) who asserts that a private sewage treatment plant at a public house is unusual. Were he to take the trouble to seek out the Tandle Hill Tavern on the border between Middleton and Royton, he would find that not only does this Lees house have

its own treatment plant, it is not even connected to the water supply. Water is drawn, spasmodically, from a nearby well. The aforesaid sewage plant was manufactured and installed many years ago by Messrs Ames Costa of Heywood, and delights in the name "The Penny Pisser". Thornham Old Road, accessible both from Rochdale Road, Royton and the Slatts-ocks motorway roundabout, is where it's all at. Get up there and see your own being processed!

Yours, Hughie

### BASS

Sir - As a former BLO for Bass NW I think I can shed some light on the claim by Bass to be gaining in market share when their pub trade has undoubtedly declined. Bass do not differentiate between pubs and other outlets such as supermarkets, street-corner off licences, clubs, etc. Their gain in market share is principally in these other sectors with keg and canned Stones leading the way.

Other brewers, including most of the big seven, now realise after some years of neglect and exploitation that their pub sector is very important and that different factors apply to pub trade; principally that cask beer has an increasing importance and growth potential. Unfortunately, Bass are so large and important in the market (20% of the national market share) that they think they can treat their pub trade in exactly the same way that all the other sectors of their trade are exploited. This is bad news for their pub customers as well as their tenants in the longer term. The advantages, if any, of this attitude, will probably be a rapid contraction of their tied estate as the recession bites deeper, and some of these pubs may be sold off into the free trade with licences intact.

The attitude towards cask beer, therefore, is one of irritation because it constitutes such a tiny part of their total output in the North West and as they see it in the context of their total trading, a declining one.

Ian Bignell

P.S. Their clumsy attempts in shuffling cask beer from some pubs to others is an indication of their determination to apply strictly "commercial" levels of turnover, an ominous sign for the future of their existing range of cask beers.

### TRAMPS

Sir - I note with growing concern the discriminatory attitudes expressed in recent issues of your magazine towards the less-than-sartorially-elegant drunk. In two consecutive issues Mr Rottenbodge has referred to "flea-ridden winos" in the most derogatory terms, and I also read



of my good friend Alastair Walker being ejected from one of your Good Beer Guide pubs. We gentlemen of no fixed abode don't ask for much, just a warm place to slouch, cough and spit. In these enlightened days of Gay Bars, No Smoking Bars and the like, what about a Tramps' Corner?

Wino Willie



## Tramps' CORNER

Choked off with the Pope's visit or bored to tears waiting for a meal in the Heaton Park? Why not wander off down Middleton Road to No 252? The Khan Tandoori is a somewhat upmarket takeaway, with armchairs and fountains in the waiting area.

A wide range of main courses and side dishes is available. Main dishes range in price from £1.70 to £3.75, with most in the £2 bracket and include rice. The purist may object to the use of tomato puree in the Bindaloo, and to the absence of Bombay Duck, but the Khan Tandoori is certainly worth a visit. Whether it's located in the best place is another matter.

Corrie Ander

## Subscriptions

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## JOIN CAMRA

To join CAMRA send £7.00 to: Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW



## Matthew Brown

Matthew Brown have recently published a list of their cask beer outlets and this is now available from the said pubs. Just in case you're not certain where the outlets are, the list is reprinted below. (Note: "Lancashire" covers Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Yorkshire). It is commendable that a brewery with only 128 real ale outlets out of a total of 540 pubs is prepared to print a list, when other breweries with a far greater percentage of real ale outlets are reluctant to admit their very existence, let alone promote them. That right Fred?

Don Chattwood

### Lancashire

#### ACCINGTON

Castle Hotel, 33 Chequers, Clayton-le-Moors.  
Oak Tree Inn, 438 Blackburn Road.  
Tramway Inn, Manchester Road.  
Warners Arms, 55 Warner Street.

#### ADLINGTON

White Bear, 5a Market Street.

#### BAMBER BRIDGE

The Hob Inn.

#### BARNOLDSWICK

Cross Keys.

#### BAXENDEN

Alma, 388 Manchester Road.  
Bridge Inn, 600 Blackburn Road.  
Dog & Partridge, 41 Back Lane.

#### BELMONT, NR. BOLTON

Black Bull, 101 High Street.

#### BILSBORROW

White Bull, Garstang Road.

#### BLACKBURN

Anchor Hotel, 60 London Road.  
Bank Hotel, 7 Hope Street.  
Greyhound, 1 Whitehead Street.  
Harrisons Arms, 82 Bolton Road.  
Knuzden Brook Inn, 30 Knuzden Brook.  
Leopards Head, 2 Lime Street.  
Lord Nelson, York, Langho.  
Park Hotel, 85 Montague Street.  
Prince of Wales, 97 Montague Street.  
Royal Hotel, 70 Victoria Street.

#### BURNLEY

Bay Horse, Fence, 593 Wheatley Lane Road.

#### BURY

Hamers Arms, Summerseat.  
Turf, 116 Wash Lane.

#### CHORLEY

Black Boy, 26 Moor Road.  
Black Horse, Long Lane, Heath Charnock.  
Bretherton Arms, 250 Eaves Lane.  
Colliers Arms, 30 Moor Road.  
Commercial, 196 Water Street.  
Cotton Tree, 162 Lyon's Lane.  
Crown Hotel, 46 Chapel Street.  
Harpers Hotel, 23 Harpers Lane.  
Parkers Arms, 120 Park Road.  
Prince of Wales, 9 Cowling Brow.  
Prince of Wales, Livesey Street.  
Railway Hotel, 20 Steeley Lane.  
Rose & Crown, 15 St. Thomas's Road.  
Seven Stars, 84 Eaves Lane.  
Shepherds Arms, 38 Eaves Lane.  
Waggonmakers, Railway Street.  
Wheatsheaf, 3 St. Thomas's Road.  
White Bull.

#### CHURCH

Queens Hotel, Church Street.  
Tanpits Inn, 14 George Street.

#### CLAYTON-LE-MOORS

Commercial Hotel, Whalley Road.  
The Hyndburn Bridge.  
Old England for Ever, 13/15 Church Street.

#### COLNE

Admiral Lord Rodney, Mill Green.  
The Herders, Wycoller.

#### COWLING, CHORLEY

Spinners Arms, 79 Cowling Road.



**DARWEN**

Alexandra Hotel, Alexandra View.  
Foundry Arms, 101 Wood Street.

**EDGEWORTH**

Black Bull, Bolton Road.  
White Horse, 2 Bury Road.

**FENISCOWLES**

Park Hotel, Preston Old Road.

**GARSTANG**

Eagle & Child, High Street.  
Church Inn, Bonds Lane.  
Hamilton Arms, Cabus.

**GRANGE OVER SANDS**

Hotel Commodore, Main Street.

**HEAPEY, NR. CHORLEY**

Railway Hotel, 1 Coppice Lane.  
Red Cat.  
Top Lock, Kenyon Lane.\*

**HINDLEY, NR. WIGAN**

The Hand & Banner.  
Leigh Arms.  
Royal Hotel, 250 Castlehill Road.  
Strangeways, 244 Liverpool Road.

**HUNCOAT, ACCRINGTON**

Cemetery Hotel, Burnley Road.  
White Lion, 1 Higher Gate.

**INCE, WIGAN**

Rock Hotel, 46 Warrington Road.

**KIRKHAM, NR. BLACKPOOL**

Villa, Wrea Green.

**KIRKBY LONSDALE**

Kings Arms Hotel, Market Street.

**LUDDENDEN FOOT**

Coach & Horses.

**MORECAMBE**

Pier Hotel.

**OLDHAM**

Dog & Partridge, 49 Constantine Street,  
Greenacres.  
Park Hotel, 121 Buckstone Road, Shaw.  
Prince of Wales Hotel, 19 Spencer Street.  
Shepherds Boy, Huddersfield Road.

**OSWALDTWISTLE**

Duckworth Hall, 15 Duckworth Hall.

**PLEASINGTON**

Butlers Arms, Pleasington Lane.

**PRESTON**

Ship Inn, 3 Fylde Road.  
St. Mary's Hotel, 28 St. Mary's Street.  
Stone Cottage, 79 Egan Street.  
Waterloo Hotel, 24 Friargate.  
Cheetham Arms, London Road.  
Derby Inn, 212 Ribblesdale Lane.  
Doctor Syntax, Fylde Road.  
The Drovers, Brook Street.  
Duke of Edinburgh, Deepdale, Mill Street.  
Duke of Kent, 107 Kent Street.  
Exchange Hotel, 16/17 Fox Street.  
Fox & Grapes, 15 Fox Street.  
General Codrington, 56 New Hall Lane.  
General Havelock, 53 Plungington Road.  
Hesketh Arms.\*  
King St. Tavern, 147 Manchester Road.  
Limekiln Inn, 288 Aqueduct Street.  
Maudland Inn, 1 Pedder Street.  
Moor Park, 15 Garstang Road.  
The Oddfellows, Mount Street.  
The Old Dog, Church Street.  
The Paviers, Fylde Road.  
Royal Garrison, Deepdale Road.\*  
The Tardy Gate, Lostock Hall.  
Withy Trees, Fulwood.

**ROCHDALE**

Oxford Hotel, 662 Whitworth Street.

**SOUTHPORT**

Windmill, Seabank Road.

**WALSDEN**

Hollins Inn.

**WALTON LE DALE**

Bridge Inn.

**WESTHOUGHTON**

Hartcommon Hotel, 490 Wigan Road.

**WHITTLE LE WOODS**

Royal Oak, Chorley Old Road.  
Bay Horse, Preston Road.  
Sea View, Preston Road.

## Cheshire

**TARPORLEY**

Red Fox, Tarporley.

## Cumbria

**ASPATRIA**

Grey Goat Inn, Baggrow.\*

**BOWNESS ON WINDERMERE**

John Peel.\*

**CARLISLE**

Black Lion, Ireby.\*

**CLEATOR MOOR**

Derby Arms, Ennerdale Road.\*

**EGREMONT**

Park Head, Thornhill.

**FRIZINGTON**

Anchor Inn, Main Street.\*

**HARRINGTON**

Brewery House.

**KESWICK**

Salutation Inn, Threlkeld.

**MARYPORT**

The Fo'c'sle

**ULVERSTON**

Farmers Arms.

**WHITEHAVEN**

Littles Arms, Wath Brow.\*

**WORKINGTON**

Appletree Inn, Finkle Street.\*  
Briery Hob, Stainburn.  
Wild Duck, Branthwaite.\*

\*Cask John Peel Special Bitter only.



So much has taken place since the annual binge-up that it's difficult to know where to start. Beside the demise of the Clever Mr Cobbler and the Noble's departure from his nest, the events at Curryford pale into insignificance. Yet, I am so shocked by these horrendous, traumatic happenings that comment eludes me. There is enough sadness in this cruel world so I prefer to look on the brighter side. At Curryford, Elsie posed with Humphrey Dumpty for a photo and would-be Lord Snowdon Kurt Berks attempted to undress the good lady for a What's Doing Page 3 Naughty Nuns Spot. Elsie promised to come and vomit all over Snoot Magna if this would reinstate her to No 1 in these hallowed pages.

The Noble, unaware of his impending fate, was very silly. Scorning the use of subways, he was left in a sea of traffic and also achieved the world slow travel record from Curryford to Slumley Parva, missing four buses between drinks, photographs of buses and the inevitable rat vindaloo. The Slumley branch had a generally happy time, marred only by such incidents as Billy Cosh falling in the hughie outside La Luna. A total of 60 curries were consumed and AT's were obtained in a hostelry which, appropriately enough, would soon be demolished.

On Sunday morning the atmosphere was permeated by a strange aroma which became so overpowering at one stage that one person was forced to don a gas mask. I was delighted to see that nutter curer Tom Duckfoot won the voting. It was a pity that intellectual giant Peter Podge once again failed to gain people's support. I can't help feeling that the general standard of the debate was considerably demeaned by constant references both from the floor and from the platform to wrist exercises and number twos.

On a happier note I'm pleased to announce that arrangements are well under way to celebrate the visit of His Holiness the Pope. Full details of special offers like Pope Awaydays, a Prestwich pub crawl, an eight course banquet at the Woodthorpe, a special super Bingo Win a Night out with a Nun or Cardinal and a Pope Lookalike Contest will be announced in June's What's Doing after the event.





# Branch Diary

## HIGH PEAK AND NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Tues 11th May 8.30, Branch meeting at the Railway Hotel, Doveholes  
 Sat 8th May 8.30, Pub crawl of Chapel-en-le-Frith, Starting at the New Inn  
 Tues 18 May 8.30. Social/Games Evening at the Gatefield, Ashton  
 Tues 25th May 8.30. Special Meeting at the Devonshire Arms, Peak Forest  
 Speaker Mr J M Cobbing of Wards Brewery. Transport available. Phone  
 Stuart Jamieson 061 427 2463  
 Contact Tom Lord 061 427 7099

## SOUTH LANCASHIRE

Tues 11th May Branch Meeting, Park, Wigan 8.30  
 Fri 14th May Pub of the Month, Derby Arms, Rainford, 8.30  
 Thurs 20th May Trip to Greenall Whitley  
 Fri 28th May Pub Crawl of Aspull, Balcarres 7.30, Victoria 8.00, Queens 9.15  
 Contact Brian Gleave Atherton 876200 (w), 892965 (h)

## NORTH MANCHESTER

June 2nd Pub Crawl somewhere up Rochdale Road. 7.00 Junction, Queens Road, 8.00 Milan Inn, Rochdale Road  
 June 9th Committee/Social 8.00 Royal Oak, Boothstown  
 16th June 8.00 Branch Meeting Three Legs of Man, Greengate  
 Contact Roger Hall 740 7937

## ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 11th May 8.00pm. Branch AGM, Welcome (Holts), Bury Old Road, Whitefield  
 Saturday 15th May, Lunchtime trip to Heptonstall/Hebden Bridge (details at AGM)  
 Tues 25th May 8.00pm. Committee meeting, Queens (Thwaites), Church Street, Littleborough  
 Tues 8th June 8.00 Branch Meeting, Alpine Gasthof (Sam Smiths), Whitworth Road, Rochdale. Representative from Sam Smiths in attendance.  
 Tues 22nd June 8.00pm. Committee meeting Turf (Whitbread "free house"), Bury Old Road, Prestwich.  
 Contact Steve Lawton 061 236 4411 ext 7237 (w), 061 620 9239 (h)

## TRAFFORD & HULNE

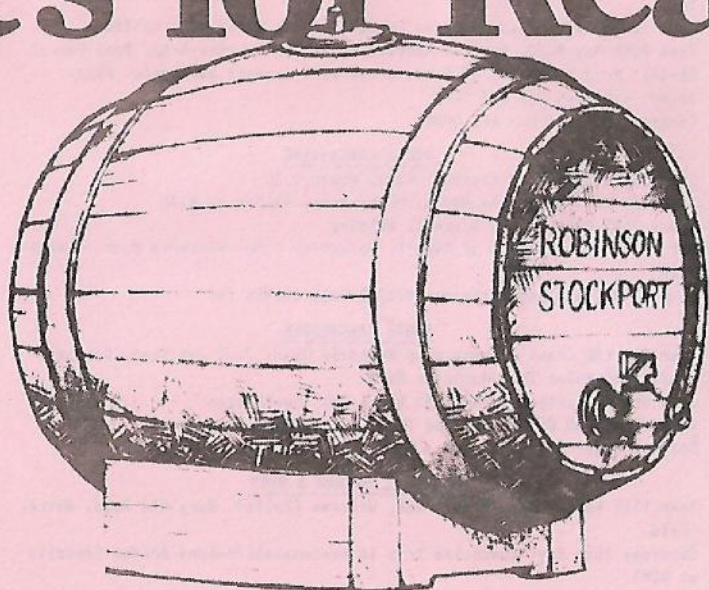
Sat 15th May 3pm. Branch Football Team v Enfield at Wembley. FA Trophy Final. Meet 12 noon Nag, Hampstead  
 Thurs 20 May 8pm, Branch Meeting, Malt Shovels, Stamford Street, Altrincham.  
 Thurs 27 May 8pm. Pub of the Month with South Manchester, Crown, Wilmslow Road, Didsbury.  
 Thurs 3 June 7.30pm. Committee/Social, Bay Malton, Seawons Road, Oldfield Brow, Altrincham.  
 Thurs 17 June 8pm, Branch meeting, Railway, Mobberley (by Mobberley Station)  
 Contact Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 (h)

## BOLTON

Mon 3 May (Bank Holiday) Awayday to Edinburgh. Train 0810 from Trinity Street, Bolton. £9 return.  
 Weds 12 May, Branch meeting, Sweet Green Tavern, Crook Street, Bolton  
 Sun 23 May, Lunchtime drink in Little Lever. 12.00 Horseshoe (Hydes)  
 Weds 2 June Branch meeting, Derby Arms, Derby Street, Bolton (Hartleys)  
 Possible speaker from Whitbread. PS don't forget your 'I love Ian' badges.  
 Weds 16 June 'Footy Watching' at York Hotel, Newport Street, Bolton  
 Contact James Hurst Tottington 3532



# 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**



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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.

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