

WHAT'S DOING



JULY
1982

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

MISTER CHESTERS GOES BRIGHT



Whitbread's flagship, Mr Chesters on Cateaton Street, Manchester, no longer serves traditional beer. This recently revamped pub is still festooned with adverts for traditional beer and sold more cask mild than any other Chesters house. Mr Chesters was in the running for the 1983 Good Beer Guide, but was left out, justifiably as it turns out, because of Whitbread's mercurial attitude to their cask beer outlets.

DOUBLE GLOUCESTER

Despite the closure of the Duke of York, the remaining Regent Road pubs continue to trade. The landlord of the Gloucester has signed a two year lease with the Council. Surely this will prove a serious impediment to the development of the Enterprise Zone? Traditional Cestrian bitter and mild has replaced Pollards at the pub.

FULL CYCLE

In 1962 virtually all the beer in Greater Manchester was real ale. Sadly, much of it was pretty awful. Swales was almost universally undrinkable and Holts was so often vinegary that it was avoided by practically an entire generation. Most of the rest was badly kept and badly served. Cellar management was abysmal, with slops and stale ale being poured back. Cleaning was by no means thorough and stale pints were more common than palatable ones. Admittedly, one or two bright lights shone through, pubs where caring and skilled landlords always kept their beer in excellent condition, but if we blow away the fog of nostalgia it must be admitted that these were few and far between.

By 1972 many of the smaller brewers had been swallowed up and many of the big brewers had stopped serving real ale. Your chances of getting a pint of traditional beer were less than 50/50. Paradoxically, your chances of getting a decent pint of real ale were higher than they were ten years earlier. The conventional wisdom is that technological factors like cellar refrigeration, stainless steel and polypropylene fittings in the pub and similar improvements at the brewery were responsible.

It may seem heretical, but is it not possible that the reason that the beer had improved was that it was brewed and served only by people who cared about it? Lazy licensees would jump at tank or keg beer and those who didn't bother about the quality of cask beer could easily be persuaded to kick it into touch. The smaller brewers still sold traditional beer and obviously cared for it - those who didn't had gone to the wall. Even Holts had ironed out their quality control problems, although a new generation of drinkers needed to be weaned on to their distinctive beers.

It is now 1982 and the big brewers have jumped on the real ale bandwagon - Allied, Grand Met, Whitbread are all at it, pushing traditional beer in their pubs. But they don't really care about real ale - they're into whatever is all the rage at the time. You've now got something like an 80/20 chance of getting real ale, but your chances of finding a decent pint have dropped alarmingly. Landlords forced to sell cask beer by the brewery aren't going to be terribly bothered about keeping it in excellent condition.

One of the major objectives of CAMRA is the availability of cask beer in all outlets. The wisdom of this aim is questionable. Is it progress when, in the furtherance of this objective, the average quality of cask conditioned beer deteriorates? It was, after all, the appalling condition of beer in the early 1960s which led to the keg revolution. Unless you were possessed of intimate local knowledge, the best bet

was a pint of universal keg. Traditional beer served badly is likely to turn people off cask beer - even in establishments where it is, and always has been, in excellent condition. Perhaps we should be making a greater effort to ensure that quality is maintained in all existing real ale outlets rather than attempting to increase the absolute number indiscriminately.

Roger Hall

HOLTS NOTES

In Joseph Holts' 1981 accounts, published last month, Chairman Peter Kershaw linked their current success to the value-for-money price of their draught beers (Whitbread please note). With bitter at 46p and mild at 44p, he forecast results for the current year depended on keeping Holts' prices down, and hoped to hold prices until at least November.

With profits up over a third, it is reassuring to find that a local company like Holts, who don't indulge in extravagant advertising, brand-new megabreweries, takeovers or keg beer are doing far better than their Big Six rivals with their fancy London prices. We hope that they stick to their tried and tested formula and that dabbling with new light lagers (Holtenbrau) and contemplating expansion into the free trade are not the first signs of a belated attempt to jump on the bandwagon.

For the market analysts out there, Holts' rocketing share price, which now values the company at over £21,000,000, continues to arouse speculation that they will follow Oldham Brewery as the next North West brewery to be swallowed up by a takeover. It seems that no takeover could succeed without the backing of the board, and many drinkers would welcome a statement from Mr Kershaw on their determination to maintain independence.

Dave Eckett

The Holts AGM

Joseph Holt PLC held its AGM at the Melville, Stretford on 23 June. It was, not unexpectedly, a rubber stamping exercise and lasted all of 15½ minutes - CAMRA AGM organisers please note! (Mind you, if Holts had made a loss of £20,000 instead of returning a profit of £1.8 million, it might have been a little more protracted.)

Concern was expressed at the price of the 5/-shares, which are currently changing hands at around the £8 mark. Did this suggest a take-over in the pipeline? The Chairman felt it did not. He had no knowledge of one.

Boddingtons, incidentally, have an interest in 9.77% of the shares of

the company and Robinsons 4.87%, with a possible 8.5% indirectly.

During a year in which beer consumption nationally fell by 5.74%, Holts sales have held up, and the brewery is actively looking for new viable outlets. Three were purchased during the year: Kings Arms, Salford; Cross Yates, Rochdale and the Knowsley, Cheetham Hill Road.

Further, with the appointment of a Free Trade Manager imminent, Holts hope to expand rapidly in this field. There are no plans as yet to produce a brewery-conditioned beer for this market; the "Derby Bitter" which made a fleeting appearance in some pubs a while ago was merely an exercise.

At this point it might be worth noting that Holts will not supply draught beer in anything other than 54 or 36 gallon casks. 18 gallons and smaller containers are not considered viable - "beer exhibition" type pubs should bear this in mind.

CAMRA members may be surprised to learn that the company's two lagers now constitute over 5% of the Derby Brewery's production, and this figure could increase slightly. It is far more economic for the brewery to produce its own lagers than to buy in from outside.

D Busman

WHAT'S DOING

REAL STONES HIT TAMESIDE

The Corporation at Guide Bridge, Ashton-under-Lyne is now serving cask Stones bitter from handpumps. Both keg Stones and cask bitter have disappeared to make way for the new beer. The real thing is also being sold at the Peg's Lantern on the Hartshead estate, Ashton-under-Lyne.

HALF NELSON

Messrs Barnes & Bordi (sic) plan to change part of the Trafalgar Hotel, Palatine Road, Didsbury into a public house. This back door method of obtaining a full licence is not common in this area, as applications have often been contested by both residents and publicans

MACCLESFIELD BEER FESTIVAL

The Macclesfield and East Cheshire branch of CAMRA are holding their second beer festival on the weekend of 13th-15th August. It will take place in the stable yard of the Nags Head, opposite the railway station, in Macclesfield. Opening times are: Friday and Saturday evening from 7.00pm; Saturday lunch from 12.00 noon and, if there is anything left, Sunday lunch from 12.00 noon. There will be about eight beers from five West Midlands breweries, evening "folk" entertainment

and lunchtime food will be available.

All CAMRA members are welcome, particularly if they are prepared to help out at the evening sessions. Contact Geoff Atkin 0625 27217 for details.

CHESHIRE RING IMPROVES CHOICE IN HYDE

The former Navigation Inn at 72 Manchester Road, Hyde, has been redecorated and recently reopened under a new licensee and a new name, The Cheshire Ring. The name derives from the nearby Peak Forest Canal, which forms part of the Cheshire Ring of canals.

The Cheshire Ring has a formidable range of cask conditioned beers, all on handpump, which more or less doubles the choice of brews in this small town. The regular brews available are:

Moorhouses	Thwaites Bitter
Theakstons Old Peculier	Thwaites Mild
Winkles Saxon Cross	Timothy Taylor Landlord
Cheshire Ring Bitter	John Peel Special Bitter
Boddingtons Bitter	

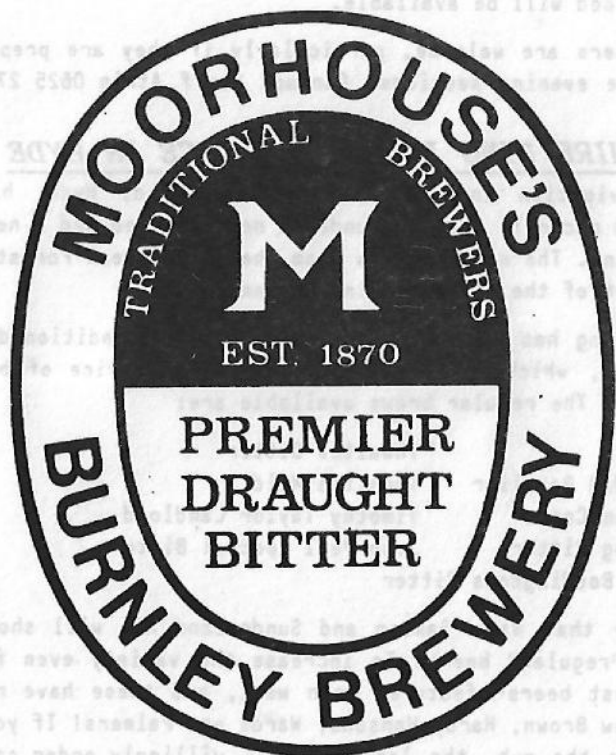
It is probably that Vaux Samson and Sunderland Ale will shortly be added to the "regular" beers. To increase the variety even further, there are "guest beers" featured each week, and these have recently included Matthew Brown, Hardy Hansons, Wards and Palmers! If you can't drink enough in the pub, the landlord will willingly order cask beer for you and bed and breakfast is also available.

ROCK FOLLIES

A further item of Eccles' pub history has disappeared, courtesy of Greenall Whitley. The famous "Now Thus" inn sign, which has hung outside the present Rock House Hotel and its predecessor for well over 100 years, is now in the cellar. The new sign depicts a person resembling Mel Brooks in a tin helmet next to three "olde worlde" cottages and the De Trafford family crest. This, we are told, is the winner of Greenall's "Paint-A-Pub-Sign" publicity gimmick. Apparently, the old sign will "eventually" be put on display in the pub. Regulars who still resent the way Greenalls let the pub's bowling green be neglected aren't too happy at this latest act of pub vandalism. Wouldn't it be in better taste to display the new sign inside the pub and restore the old one to its rightful place?

POSHED UP

Yates' reopened their Albion Wine Bar (the old Merchants Hotel behind Woolies in Manchester) last month. They are trying to give the place an up-market image, so don't forget the white tie and tails if you fancy trying the Boddies.



Premier Draught Bitter

THE REAL ONE

THE BREWERY, MOORHOUSE STREET
BURNLEY, ENGLAND. Tel. Burnley 22864.

CATCH 22

Wilsons, shunning elaborate marketing gimmicks like making mild 4p a pint cheaper than bitter, continue to push sales of mild by a variety of ploys. The latest special mild offer is to give you a free glass if you buy 2 pints. Unfortunately the Crown & Kettle, Manchester, where this was advertised quite prominently, didn't have any mild on a recent visit!

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR BILL, SIR?

An idea which might just catch on has been launched at the One and Three, Manchester Street in Oldham town centre. Till receipts - the supermarket type - are now proffered with your change. So now, when, the morning after, you are aghast at the emptiness of your wallet, you can at least see where it went!

PUB OF THE MONTH

Trafford & Hulme's choice for the Pub of the Month for July is the Faulkners Arms, Stamford New Road, Altrincham. Irene and Dan Bailey have had the tenancy since they left the Wheatsheaf, also Altrincham, in January 1970 and the care taken over the Wilsons bitter and mild (handpumped) has earned the pub a place in the Good Beer Guide almost since its inception. According to two excellent local history books, "Bygone Altrincham" by Chas Nixon and "Looking Back at Altrincham" by Basil Morrison, the present Faulkners Arms was built after the construction of Stamford New Road (about 1880) and commemorates the original thatched building of "Faulkner, Grocer, Provision, Ale, Porter Dealer", which stood roughly opposite and was demolished to make way for the new road. The Faulkners is a friendly, single room pub with a thriving chess club and dominoes team. Hot snacks and butties are available lunchtime and evenings and there is no intrusive jukebox, music being provided by a cassette player on the bar and not piped all over the pub. All are welcome to the presentation night on July 22nd. It promises to be a good do.

ECCLES EUPHORIA

Beer Garden Fever has descended on Eccles. Several tons of rubbish have been removed from the back yards of the Bird in Hand and the Golden Cross and the transformations completed by the judicious application of turf and garden furniture. These examples of enterprise have provided the Greater Eccles beer consumer with a place to take his/her kids whilst he/she sups his/her pint or six of Holts. The Ship Canal on Barton Lane has re-opened its beer garden, whilst the Star nearby, under new management, has had a facelift. Business in the Star seems to have picked up. The bitter continues to be cask conditioned and the mild remains keg. Rather confusingly, they are both dispensed by identical bar mountings.

LOSSES 1 GAINS 0

Two pubs recently reopened after alterations are the Bulls Head, Chester Road, Hulme, which used to have handpumped Chesters bitter and the Bridge, Moss Lane, Altrincham, formerly serving chilled and filtered Bass products. Neither pub now keeps real ale, though the Bridge must still be considered a possibility for the future if we can convince the licensee of the demand!

CIDER

The Bulmers rep has been busy in Whitbread pubs recently, with hand-pumps sprouting on bars at the Lamb, Bradshaw Road, and the House Without a Name, Lee Gate, both in Bradshaw, Bolton, and also at the Lord Raglan on Halliwell Road, Bolton.

WESTHOUGHTON WEBSTERS

The landlord of the Old Three Crowns, Deansgate, Bolton has left for the White Lion, Westhoughton. Brian Firth, a CAMRA member, has been promised Websters beers to sell alongside the Wilsons. Websters beers are also promised at the Jolly Miller, Johnson Fold, Bolton. This is a new brew for the Bolton area and its introduction is largely attributed to Brian's persistence in asking for it.

**Tetley Bittermen.
Join'em.**

SMITHFIELD FOR SALE

Greenalls have put the Smithfield Vaults, Swan Street, Manchester on the market complete with licence. Enquiries indicate that a serious purchaser has been found, but the "For Sale" boards remain.

REAL TETLEY IN OLDHAM

Traditional beers from the Warrington brewery have made a welcome return to Oldham. The Hope, Greenacres Road, an ex-Wilsons free house, now sells mild and bitter alongside the ubiquitous Boddingtons bitter. What a pity the only tied Tetley house, the Carrion Crow, sells keg.

FLOODS

The thunderstorms of the first weekend in June caused flooding problems to a number of Rossendale pubs, including the Swan, Bacup, where Bacup's longest serving landlord, Jack Whitehead, had to have 5 feet of water pumped out of the cellar. Similar problems hit the Buck Inn at Cowpe and the Horse & Jockey at Edenfield.

CARPETED CARTERS

Some while back there was a heart-felt plea in What's Doing from regulars at the Carters Arms, Sale Moor. They wanted their pub decorating. Well, it's been done - and very nice it is too. The Carters is in the 1982 Good Beer Guide and is very much a "local" with a lively vault, separate TV room, bar area and lounge with a frequently played piano. The beer is Marstons mild, bitter and Pedigree and the surroundings are (at last) very smart - fully carpeted, prints on the walls, renovated fireplace in the TV room - and all this without knocking walls down.

WHITBREAD CONVERSIONS

Latest converts by Whitbread to real ale in Bury have been the Waggon & Horses in Hawkshaw and the Old White Horse in Ainsworth. Both are decent pubs and now sell Castle Eden Ale on handpumps. It also seems to be getting through to Whitbread locally that introduction of new products might be helped along by some form of promotion. No, they haven't managed to provide pump clips yet, but a couple of large posters were on display at the Old White Horse.

HARP & SHAMROCK

Because of Hughie's retirement, one of Manchester's most obscure pubs was omitted from the 1983 Good Beer Guide. Yet, the quality of the beer has been maintained and in the case of the mild, significantly improved.

BREWERY TAP CLOSES

Sunday 11 July marks the end of the long running saga of the J W Lees brewery tap - the Junction Inn. The pub is to be demolished to allow widening at the end of Greengate, opposite the brewery.

GREENALLS TASTER WANTED

Can anyone confirm the story reported in the "Around the Houses" column in the Withington Reporter that the Farmers Arms on Burnage Lane is now selling traditional Greenalls?

WICKETS

The Railway, A Tetley pub at the top of Church Street, Eccles, has recently seen the introduction of handpumps.

BRANCHING OUT

In the June issue of WD details were given about the revamped Greyhound (Tudor Taverns) at Boothstown. Yes, it is very nice inside - quite plush in fact - but with bitter at 56p a pint! A far better bet for a good pint of Wilsons is the Royal Oak about 100 yards away, where bitter is still only 50p and mild 48p. The Royal Oak is to be extended into the hairdressers next door to give more elbow room and the bar floor will be raised to the same level as the rest of the pub. Licensees Marie and Don Fraser are from the Black Boy in Patricroft and have been at the Royal Oak for the last eighteen months.

#####

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you want to be sure of getting WHAT'S DOING every month,

why not subscribe? It costs £1.70 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

Name.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

Please send me the next six issues, starting with.....

(state month)

BACK NUMBERS

These are available from the above address at 10p a copy. Please

send a large stamped, addressed envelope

WHAT'S DOING

WHAT'S DOING is edited by Neil Richardson, 375 Chorley Road,

Swinton, Manchester M27 2AY

COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS THE 20th OF THIS MONTH

JOIN CAMRA

To join CAMRA send £7 to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St

Albans, Herts AL1 3BW

#####

TROUBLE ON TOTTY ROAD

Unsuspecting drinkers on Tottington Road, Bury, are warned that the unmarked handpump in the Globe dispenses bright Trophy bitter, and not any of the four cask beers which are available to the licensee. Further up the road at the Lamb, bright Duttons Light is also on hand-pump. However, cask Castle Eden is still available here. Needless to say, the local Whitbread management have been informed about this disgraceful state of affairs, we await the outcome with interest.

CORNFLAKES & ALE

If you can't keep out of pubs even when they are normally closed, the Hart Common, 490 Wigan Road, Westhoughton is now serving breakfasts and the Plane Tree, Rochdale Road, Turn Village, Ramsbottom is serving afternoon teas from 3.30-5.30. During opening hours the Hartcommon sells Lion mild and bitter and the Plane Tree Bass Cask Bitter and 404 mild.

CITY CENTRE GBG ENTRIES

Last month What's Doing gave a list of likely candidates for the 1983 Good Beer Guide in Manchester City Centre. These included Peveril of the Peak (Wilsons), Cox's Bar (Boddingtons) and Square Albert (Tetley) which are covered by the Trafford & Hulme branch. In fact, the likely candidates in this branch's sector of the Centre are the Peveril; Square Albert; Crown, Deansgate (Wilsons) and City Arms, Kennedy Street (Ind Coope Burton Ale) which represents an increase of one in the branch's City Centre allocation on last year's guide.

MANOR TRIES AGAIN

What's Doing's keener readers may recall back in good old November 1980, when beer prices were ridiculously sensible, that the Manor at Norden opened its doors to sell keg Tetley mild (47p) and bitter (50p) even though they had thoughtfully provided five handpumps on the bar. Needless to say, the grandiose mansion closed down soon afterwards. We await with interest to see what beers will be available, and what prices will be charged, when the Manor reopens its doors in the near future. Access cards at the ready, lads!

NO MILD

It looks like another Greenalls mild loss in Newton le Willows. A recent visit to the Pied Bull revealed a magnificent row of handpumps (yes, handpumps) in the bar, but unfortunately the mild was being served chilled from behind a horrible little red box. The Pied Bull is the only handpumped (bitter) Greenalls pub in Newton.

THE SITUATION OF THE GRAVITY

The original gravities of Wilsons beers have fallen to 1036 for bitter and 1032.1 for mild. No wonder some licensees can't keep the mild and some have difficulty in selling it at 56p a pint. If the mild was much weaker, Wilsons would be able to avoid Excise Duty completely and sell it in unlicensed pop shops.

BLACKLEY BOOST (2)

The old ICI Social Club that was offered to Wilsons when ICI wanted to knock down the Old House at Home has been taken over by the NW Hospitals Board for Crumpsall Hospital. The Boddingtons beers have gone and in their place will be cask J W Lees. Rumour has it that ICI management were a bit upset at not having their tipple of Boddies, and so they introduced it to the executive Woodlands Club. This will save them the bother of having to smuggle the occasional barrel in through the back door.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENT?

The General Havelock, Sydney Street, Bolton is up for sale. It is a former Bass house and one time Good Beer Guide entry and is being offered complete with licence. Anyone fancy their chances of doing a Bilko in Bolton?

NOT MUCH BODDY

North Manchester, where Boddingtons pubs are thick on the ground, has chosen only one for inclusion in the 1983 Good Beer Guide. We wonder why.

CHILLING NEWS

Wilsons traditional ales have been replaced by the chilled and filtered variety in the Hillgate public house on Pot Hill, Ashton-under-Lyne.

BOWLS

The newly laid bowling green at the Howcroft, Pool Street, Bolton is now in use. Although it won't be ready for matches until next year, at the moment one can enjoy a quiet game of Barnes Wallace!

BASS IS BACK

Draught Bass has returned to the Norfolk Arms, Marple Bridge, Stockport after a long absence. The beer is served through electric free-flow dispensers and tastes slightly fizzy - although we are told no gas is used.

Contributors: Tom Lord, Dave Hale, Roger Hall, Paul Roberts, Hexagon Harry, Mick Rottenbury, Jim Hurst, Don Chattwood, Dave White, Ken Linkman, Duncan Busman, Steve Lawton, Tony Flynn, Stewart Revell, Dave Eckett

IT'S ALL DONE IN THE BEST POSSIBLE TASTE

Whitbread (Hammer Films Reject Dept.) have done it again. OK, the Farmyard in Blackley wasn't the most exciting pub in the world, but surely it didn't need the House of Horrors stamp. Among the artefacts adorning the false beams and festooning the ceiling and walls are the following:- Plastic fronds, shackle, old telephone, wheel brace, brace and bit, spanner, spring balance, fire grate, grease gun, bulkhead light, $\frac{1}{2}$ garden fork, nest, flat iron bookend, photo of bloated nude, stuffed duck, stirrup, secateurs, photo of Robert Redford, dolly tubs, 4 gallon jerry can, screwdriver, spade, top of streetlight, common bricks, plastering trowel, pliers, calor gas regulator, basket crab vomiting plastic grapes, plastic scythe, photo of nude woman being examined by a monkey dressed as a doctor, dusty books (Church leaders in primitive times, Memoirs of the life and reign of George III), cast iron coathanger, axehead, demijohn of hops labelled "Hops", wall of R Whites crates, wickerwork frog, framework iron tortoise, bedstead rails, iron torch holder, double lock cash box inscribed "Pleasure Beagle Exhibition Ltd," plastic plunger, bicycle saddle, chopper, red barrel.

Is this really what people want from a pub? The dubious taste was reflected in the beer, which was warm and unpalatable on a recent visit.

What a contrast the Farmyard, with its mindless jumble of junk, makes with, say, the Duke of York, Eccles, which was redecorated at a fraction of the cost and serves a range of cask beers as well. Cask conditioned beer served badly gives real ale a bad name. It would be better if they served keg Trophy in these Madame Tussaud's aberrations. Surely anyone who actually likes pubs like these would prefer Pernod and Par-aquat to Castle Eden and Hartleys. Let's hope that Whitbread realise they've got their head screwed on the wrong way and either screw in on right or else unscrew it, spray it with plastic dust and hang it up in the Boardroom as a warning to potential barmpots of the future.

Roger Hall

COCK O.B. IN

The Cock in Worsley, a huge Boddingtons establishment, is now serving bright OB mild alongside traditional Boddingtons mild and bitter. Elsewhere, Cox's Bar in Manchester has stopped selling Boddingtons mild in favour of the fizzy Oldham variety. Is this the shape of things to come?

MANCHESTER BREWERIES 25

Hardy's Crown Brewery, Hulme

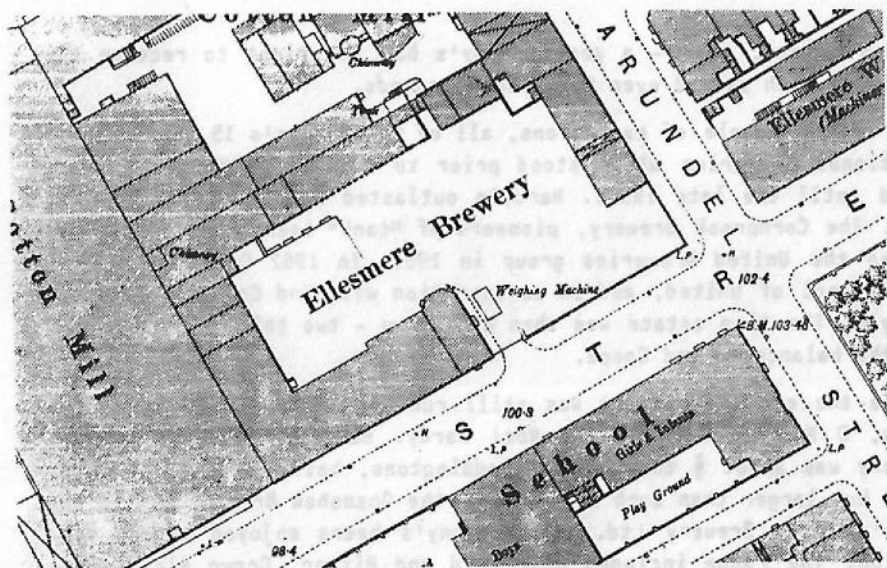


Hardy & Sons, Brewers, Ellesmere Brewery, off Chester Road.—As an important branch of industry, and a source of heavy revenue to the country, the brewing trade stands pre-eminent in the industrial and commercial world. A well-known firm of brewers in the city is that of Messrs. Hardy & Sons, Ellesmere Brewery, which has been established for a quarter of a century. The firm has a splendid reputation for the strength, purity, and general quality of its ales, beer, porter, and stout. The brewery is large and extensive, and in every respect a perfect model. The machinery and appliances used are of the latest improvement and the most powerful description. The trade done is important and widespread, and is rapidly increasing. The firm also do a very large wine and spirit trade. Messrs. Hardy & Sons are gentlemen of the highest reputation for the honourable and talented manner in which they conduct their business. Their financial and commercial status is beyond question, and at no time of their existence has the business been in a more prosperous position.

The above article appeared in "Manchester of Today", an 1888 publication extolling the virtues of local tradesmen and manufacturers. During the following year Hardy & Son moved out of the Ellesmere Brewery to take over larger premises on the other side of Hulme. The company then became Hardy's Crown Brewery Ltd, a familiar name for the next seventy years.

The history of Hardy's spans a hundred years. Like Swales, another Hulme-based brewery of recent times, they originated in Salford. But, unlike J G Swales & Co, this connection was very short lived. In 1863 Joseph Hardy & Son were renting the Ordsall Lane Brewery, a small building near to the Regent Road Brewery later run by Groves & Whittall. The Ordsall Lane Brewery seems to have been first used by George Roberts in about 1845 and last used by the Union Brewery Co Ltd in the late 1860s, finally being demolished during extensions to Wilburn Street.

Hardy's moved to the Ellesmere Brewery after only about a year in Salford. Further down the street from the Ellesmere, on the same side, was the rival concern of the Cornbrook Brewery Company, which was destined to be involved with Hardy's demise almost a century later. One pub known to have been supplied from the Ellesmere Brewery, and owned by George Hardy, was the Albert Inn on Regent Road in Salford.



The Albert gained its first licence in 1865. Operating the brewery were Joseph Hardy's two sons, Henry and George. Henry lived close by at St Andrews Terrace on Chester Road, whilst George lived at Pickering Lodge, Timperley.

On 30 May 1889, Hardy's Crown Brewery Ltd was registered, shortly after they had moved to the Crown Brewery on Renshaw Street. The Crown Brewery dated back to the time when Hulme's largely rural aspect first gave way to massive development. It was one of a number of new breweries to spring up during the late 1840s in an area that had never had more than about three for half a century. The brewery prospered under its founder, William Roberts, taking advantage of the trade brought by the rapidly growing number of beerhouses in that part of Manchester. So when Hardy's moved in, the brewery had over 40 years of trade behind it.

Hardy's tied estate soon covered an extensive area. By 1900 they owned such pubs as the Spinners Arms on Palmerston Street, Bollington; the Green Dragon, Warburton Road, Lymm; the Bulls Head, Cross Street, Sale and the Waggon & Horses, Islington Street, Altrincham. In addition, there were many outlets in Salford and Manchester.

Some years before the First World War, alterations were made to the brewery, including the provision of several windows at the southern end. As the south wall overlooked the St John the Baptist School, it was necessary to get permission from the school's trustees. In 1910, Fred Hardy signed an agreement with the Rev Edmund Arbuthnott, where-

by, on payment of 1/- a year, Hardy's had the right to receive the sunlight which passed over the school grounds.

With only a couple of exceptions, all of Manchester's 15 independent, functional breweries which stood prior to the Second World War survived until the late 1950s. Hardy's outlasted most, but not by very long. The Cornbrook Brewery, pioneers of "tank" beer in the area, had joined the United Breweries group in 1961. In 1962 Cornbrook, under the control of United, and in co-operation with Ind Coope, bought out Hardy's. The tied estate was then carved up - two thirds to Cornbrook and the balance to Ind Coope.

Before the end the brewery was still run as a family firm by George Hardy, D MacDonald Hardy and Noel Hardy. Based on assets, Hardy's Brewery was about $\frac{2}{3}$ the size of Boddingtons, half the size of Cornbrook but larger than such concerns as the Openshaw Brewery Co Ltd and Yates' Castle Brewery Ltd. The company's beers enjoyed a good reputation. The range included Best Mild and Bitter, Crown Ale, Double Crown, Nut Brown Ale, A S A and Happy Man Bitter Ale. A rather unusual name for a beer, Happy Man commemorated the name of the horse which won the 1923 Ascot Gold Cup. Following the takeover, the Crown Brewery was closed down and the demolition in 1975 ended almost 130 years of continuous operation on the site.

Alan Gall

MANCHESTER BREWERIES of times gone by Vol 2, based on articles which appeared in What's Doing, is available from Alan Gall, 22 Stoneleigh Drive, Stoneclough, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 9HA for £1.20 including postage.

The breweries in this volume are:- Bentley's Viaduct Brewery, Issotts Ardwick Place Brewery, Yates's Castle Brewery, the Cornbrook Brewery, J G Swales' Naval Brewery, the Openshaw Brewery Co, Rothwells Heath Brewery, McKenna's Harpurhey Brewery, the Manchester Brewery Co and the Moss Side Brewery 1875-1913.

MANCHESTER BREWERIES of times gone by



2 Alan Gall £1.00



BILKO'S

Sir - I recently visited "Bilko's" in Withington, a newly renovated Whitbread house. Inside, I was greeted by a sign saying "I want you to drink real ale". I asked for a pint of bitter and got TROPHY! It cost 56p; the Chesters from the pumps is also 56p a pint. If Whitbread really want us to drink real ale, surely that is what should be served, unless the customer asks for Trophy. It would help if it was a few pence cheaper, too.

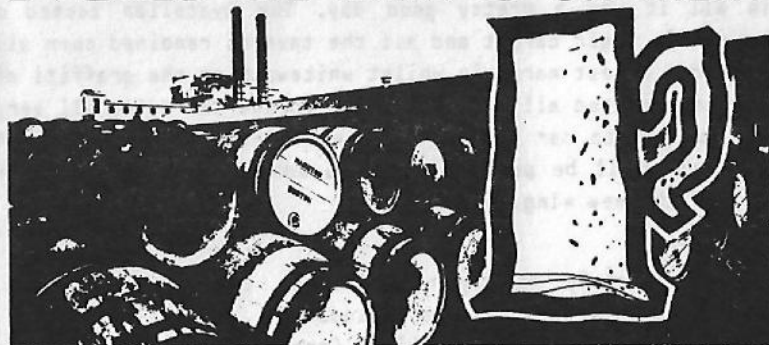
L Gladwell

SCENES OF JOY UNBOUNDED

Sir - When I chaired the Bolton CAMRA branch meeting at the Derby Arms last month, I announced the completion of the Greenalls Survey. "Yippee! Hurrah!" were the cries. I have never seen so many happy, smiling faces at a CAMRA meeting before.

Jim Hurst

Marston's **BURTON-ON-TRENT**



... The Home of Traditional Beer



We had not intended to be late. It was, after all, the first ever visit in the history of the world of the Maori Ayatollah to Grotley. The Inquest into the sudden death of the Noble's tailor had gone on much longer than anticipated. It was well past opening time when the Coroner came to the conclusion that he'd died of rabies after being bitten by his guide dog and gave a verdict of misadventure. The clever Mr Plod had stopped people parking as far away as Snoot Magna and Slutch, but this did not prevent hordes of the faithful flocking to Coldoff Park and slaking their thirsts in the local hostelries, which were bursting at the seams.

One Dillons house was so extremely busy that they sold a week's beer in two days - in fact it was so successful that they ran out of every variety of amber nectar and had to close for the rest of the week. Only one establishment remained aloof from the clamour - The Jeremy Forest - an imposing Drabs emporium where, appropriately enough, the founding father himself, Josiah Drab, was born at the early age of 23. Closing their doors to the perspiring masses, they continued to serve their regulars who'd crawled in through the kitchens.

All in all it was a pretty good day. The Ayatollah zoomed off to Tykeley on his magic carpet and all the taverns remained open all day. Bunty avoided arrest narrowly whilst whitewashing the graffiti off the M66 and Tish vomited all over the Koran in the K2. We're all very much looking forward to our return visit with the Slutch real ale Morris Persons when we'll be performing in Riyadh, Mecca, Jeddah and Medina in front of the new king.

RUMOUR DENIALS

There is absolutely no truth whatsoever in vicious rumours that D.O.G.S.H.I.I. International has collapsed.

The glass-bottomed boat in which General Galtieri reviewed his airforce has not been purchased by Dillons to festoon the ceiling of one of their new wonder hostelries.



Branch Diary

BOLTON

Weds 7 July 8pm Branch meeting at the George, Gt Moor Street, Bolton (Wilsons)
Sun 18 July 12noon "Save the Park" meeting with South Lancs Branch, Park Hotel, Wigan
Sun 25 July 12noon Social at the Bradford Arms, Longcauseway, Farnworth (Bodds) Moving to Bridgewater (Sam Smiths)
Sat 7 Aug Peak Wayfarer (£2.25) trip to Buxton (lunch) and Macclesfield (evening).
Catch 10.29 or 11.29 Buxton train from Piccadilly, arrive Buxton 11.30 or 12.30
Wed 4 Aug 8pm Branch Meeting, Peel Hotel, Higher Bridge Street, Bolton
Contact Jim Hurst Tottington 3532

NORTH MANCHESTER

Weds 21 July, Branch meeting White Swan, Swinton 8.00
Weds 4 Aug pub crawl of Chapel Street, Salford, Angel 7.00, Brown Bull 8.00
Weds 11 August, Committee/Social Park, Monton
Weds 18 August Branch meeting, Duke of York, Eccles. Speaker from Timothy Taylors
Contact Roger Hall 740 7937

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 13 July 8.00 Branch meeting. Please note new venue: Napier (Thwaites), Bolton Street, Bury.
Tues 27 July 8.00 Committee Meeting Brickcroft (Thwaites), Brook Street (Freetown), Bury
Tues 10 Aug 8.00 Branch Meeting, Grey Horse (Robinsons), Union Street, Oldham
Tues 24 Aug 8.00 Committee meeting, Carters Arms (Oldham), Rochdale Road, Royton
Contact Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h) or 061 236 4411 ext 7237

TRAFFORD & HULME

Sat 10 July Chester Awayday & Branch Regatta. Meet 12 noon Bull & Stirrup, Upper Northgate Street or 8.00pm Olde Customs House, Watergate Street
Thurs 15 July 8.00 Branch Meeting, Malt Shovels, Stamford Street, Altrincham
Thurs 22 July 8.00 Pub of the Month, Faulkners Arms, Stamford New Road, Altrincham
Thurs 5 Aug 7.30 Committee/Social, Volunteer, Cross Street, Sale
Thurs 19 Aug 8.00, Branch Meeting, Crown, Deansgate (2 mins from Deansgate Station)
Contact Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 (h)

ALL BRANCHES

Presentation of CAMRA mirror to Tetleys Warrington Brewery, August (Glorious) 12th.. Limited places available. Open to all branches, who **MUST** book their places with Bert Kerks, 83 Beaconsfield Street, Bolton, Phone 388172 by 8th August. (SERIOUS MEMBERS ONLY PLEASE, NO BRANCH DRUNKS!)

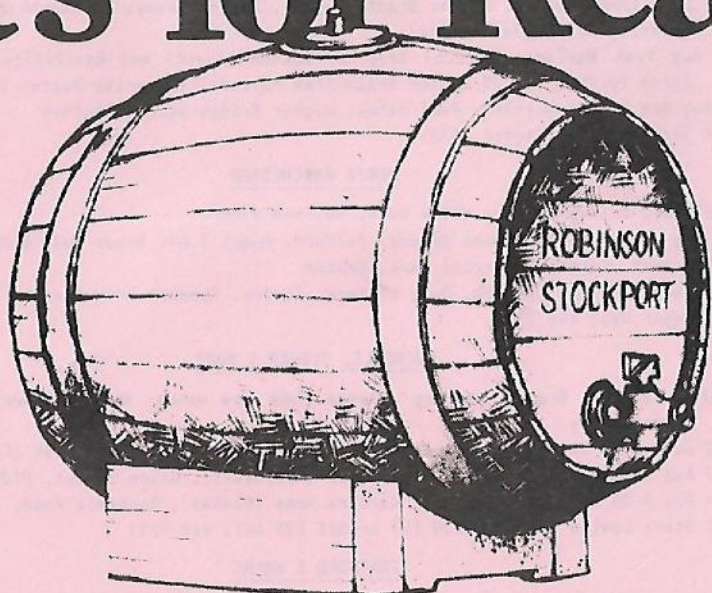
SOUTH MANCHESTER

Thur 8 July Branch Meeting, Gateway, Wilmslow Rd, 8.00
Thur 22 July PUB OF THE MONTH with Trafford & Hulme (see above)
Sat 17 July 7.30 start, Beer tent at Bramhall Festival (part of the Bavarian Evening)
£2.00 to get in, about 8 beers - range of Vaux, Winkles, Robbies Ordinary Bitter
Thurs 12 Aug Branch Meeting at Swan With Two Necks, Princes Street, Stockport
Aug 26th PUB OF THE MONTH Why Not, Ashton New Road 8.00pm
Contact Humphrey Higgins 432 0059

MORE CASK STONES

Cask Bitter has been replaced by traditional Stones bitter at the Last Hop on Chester Road

It's for Real



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

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

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

Old Tom Ale
Best Bitter Ale
Best Mild Ale



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

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

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

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

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