

WHAT'S DOING

AUG
1982

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

MORE TRADITIONAL TETLEYS FOR BOLTON

Tetley Walker have introduced handpumped traditional mild and bitter in the following Bolton pubs:

Doffcocker	Chorley Old Road
Colliers	1053 Chorely Old Road
Hare & Hounds	539 Bury Road

The last named is soon to be converted to Walkers beers along with the Howcroft, Pool Street and the Ainsworth Arms, Halliwell Road.



GREENALLS SURVEY (SOUTH LANCS)

The South Lancs branch survey of the 188 Greenall Whitley pubs in and around Wigan, Leigh and St Helens has been completed and the results are shown below:

	Real ale pubs	Fizz pubs	Keg mild/real bitter pubs	Tank pubs	keg pubs
Now	120 64%	68	13	31	37
5 years ago	158 82%	35	1	27	8

During the last 5 years:

Conversion to Fizz	Conversion to real ale	Conversion to tank	Conversion to keg
31	0	2	29

New pubs (all tank) 2

Closures (all real ale) 7

Over 5 years ago there was a wholesale conversion of pubs with a high turnover of beer to tanks, with much fewer changes to keg. During the last 5 years there has been a slow, steady conversion from real ale to keg, with around 6 pubs (5% of total real ale) being lost every year. There is no sign of an end to this as 4 have already gone in the last six months. During the 5 year period it is significant that only two houses changed to tank, suggesting all those viable for tanks already have them. Included in the 120 real ale pubs are 13 selling traditional bitter and keg mild, and these are houses with a low throughput of mild, where quality was poor when they were on traditional. As it is unrealistic to expect Greenalls to invest heavily in pins and firkins, the cask breather would seem to be the only chance of real (or quasi-real) mild in these establishments. A worrying factor is that several pubs sold real bitter and keg mild for a time and then with no justification (only excuses like "hygiene" and "less work") bitter went keg also.

Whilst overall 64% of Greenall pubs have real ale in St Helens, which had its own Greenalls brewery until 1974, leaving a legacy of a 65% pub monopoly, only 30 out of 61 pubs are selling cask beer, suggesting processed beer is more the rule where they enjoy a monopoly.

Seven real ale pubs have closed, three have been sold with licence (and gratefully bought by Burtonwood, Ihwaites and Matthew Brown) and two new, bland estate pubs have been built, both with tank beer.

Whilst no pubs have been converted from being keg 5 years ago to real ale now, one, the Golden Ball, went from traditional to keg two years ago and in June this year was restored to real ale - at a price (see

elsewhere). This upped the total number of Greenalls handpump outlets to 4. Handpumps have also been sprouting in Cheshire and this is perhaps the only glimmer of hope in this area, and could be encouraged.

Brian Gleave

GEORGIAN DRAGON?

Remember the Wrecker, the Jules Verne and other tasteful conversions of the early 1970s? Bet you thought that the fellow responsible had been given a free transfer to Whitbread or turned into glue? Well, it ain't necessarily so, no sirree! A press release from Tudor Taverns reads as follows:

"District managers Patrick Pease and Phil Bromley are being joined by architect Joe Higgins, when they will fly to Atlanta, Georgia, then Louisville, Kentucky. The trio will visit up to six discos per day, in a gruelling schedule to pick America's brains on developments in the food, drink and entertainments business. As well as looking at exciting disco ideas, they are hoping to learn the secret of the country's traditionally excellent standards of service and presentation."

Anybody who has visited the USA will accept that standards of service and cleanliness in restaurants and fast food outlets leave us standing, but the nearest American thing to a pub - the bar - is about as exciting as cocaine in a spermicidal gel.

Why can't we just have pubs? If deranged breweries want to muck around with roller disco minstrel crocodile farms, can't they do it to restaurants, clubs or disused cinemas? The British public house is an institution with centuries of tradition - that is not to say it is static, it will change and adapt to the demands of society. However, adaptation does not mean the total denial of everything which has stood the test of time and the radical alteration of pub premises to pander to every momentary whim of popular fashion. Meaningless bric-a-brac and pointless alien themes surely have no place in any English public house.

Roger Hall

MORE REAL ALE IN SALE

REGENT ROAD NEWS

Closure continues apace. Following the demolition of the Duke of York, vandals have started on the Albert next door and the pub is now closed. The Gloucester seems to have kicked cask beer into touch and was selling fizzy Snotes recently.

WHAT'S DOING



NEW PUB

A new John Willie Lees pub, the Colliers Return, will be open in High Crompton, near Oldham, by Christmas. Pictured here cutting the first sod are architect Harry Briggs and Lees' company secretary and director, Harry Wilde. The Colliers Return is being built in the site of the old Colliers Arms, which was pulled down in the 1960s after falling into disrepair. The pub was closed by the landlord, Bill Schofield, in 1941, when he decided to concentrate on his farming business.

MORE REAL ALE IN SALE

The Volunteer, Cross Street, Sale, is one of the most recent Whitbread conversion jobs, from a fairly plain working person's pub to a trendy theme pub of the type described in last month's WD (old bricks, subdued coloured lighting, antique books, etc). It reopened on July 1st with both Chesters bitter and mild on handpumps (58p and 56p a pint) and seems very popular among the younger age group (young being anyone under 35!) Full lunches are also available.

UP THE JUNCTION

The Junction on Queens Road, Smedley, is not exactly the type of pub which caters for the socio-economic group A expense account clientele. So why, one wonders, have Tetleys applied for permission to convert part of the first floor into public dining rooms? Perhaps they know something we don't. Surely we should be told.

VILE BODDIES

Stickers have appeared in the windows of the Railway, a Boddingtons pub on Commercial Brow, Newton, Hyde stating "Now available here - Oldham Fine Ales." In fact, only the mild is available, and that is keg.

GROTTY GREENALLS

A new pub opened its doors this month - "The Tansy Green", Brightmet, Bolton, a fizzy Greenalls outlet. The name means "flowering meadow", which seems a little odd for the suburban sprawl of Brightmet. The name was chosen by a competition run by the local evening paper (first prize a year's free Greenalls, second prize five years' free Greenalls?) The Bolton branch's suggestions, "The Farting Fred" and "The Domestos Arms" didn't seem to get far. Perhaps the "Tansy Greenalls" is best.

RILEY'S RADCLIFFE REAL ALE

Riley's off-licence/general store on Ainsworth Road, Radcliffe now sells Theakstons and Timothy Taylors beers on handpump.

AMBER NECTAR SHOW (1)

The South Lancs branch of CAMRA are once again holding a real ale exhibition at the Newton Town Show. It will be on Saturday August 14th and licensing hours are 11.30-5.00. The venue is the Selwyn Jones Lower School, Crow Lane, Newton. There will be at least 18 different beers including Theakstons (bitter and Old Peculier), Boddingtons, Vaux, Wards, Darleys, Lees (bitter, Moonraker and cask lager), Burtonwood, Peter Walker and scrumpy cider. There will be a small admission charge to enter the showground, which has many other attractions, including a carnival, half-marathon, dog show, horsejumping and a fairground.





DOWN THE JUNCTION

The Junction Inn, Middleton Junction, closed its doors for the last time recently. The photo shows J W Lees Head Brewer Giles Dennis with Billy Booth and Joe Roberts, both regulars of 40 years standing. Lees had owned the Junction since 1889, when they paid just £1,200 for the pub.

BOB BOB BOBBIN' ALONG...

Robin Bence and Whitbread have kissed and made up. So the Duke of York will remain Eccles' favourite amber nectar emporium for the foreseeable future.

EXIT WINOS & FLEAS

The Wheatsheaf, Oak Street, Manchester has been completely redecorated and handpumps now dispense the Tetley mild and bitter. The atmosphere has changed considerably since the write-up earlier this year, when some of Manchester's less pleasant citizens frequented the pub. These have since departed and while it has managed to retain its liveliness, the Wheatsheaf is now a safe and friendly place to visit.

PEEL APPEAL

The Peels Arms, Halliwell Road, Bolton (Wilsons) has now returned to

normal after having been a 'mixed clientele' (nudge, nudge) pub for some years. The new signs on the outside proclaim traditional mild and bitter, but this was not in evidence inside recently. Presumably the handpumps installation team will catch up with the sign writers shortly.

ECCLE NOTES

The established weekend singalongs at the White Lion, Liverpool Road, Patricroft are to be augmented by a Wednesday Folk Club.

Beer Engines have appeared at the Ellesmere, Liverpool Road (Boddingtons). The tenants moved there recently from the Red Lion, Chapel Street, where they had also been responsible for the reintroduction of handpumps.

The 3p a pint increase in Wilsons' draught beers was greeted with dismay by their tenants, who have struggled to maintain price parity with the many Holts pubs in the area. This increase will be particularly damaging since their bitter is now above the psychologically significant 50p a pint mark.

DUTTONS

The latest pubs to gain Duttons bitter are the Fusilier, Bolton Road West, Ramsbottom; Footballer, Higher Summerseat; Chetham Arms, Turton; Brown Cow, Edenfield Road, Norden, Rochdale and the Flag Inn, Hardmans Lane, Bromley Cross. Thankfully, none of these pubs have had the House of Horrors treatment. The Black Horse, 378 Bury Road, Bolton now has Castle Eden as well as Duttons bitter.

Marston's

BURTON-ON-TRENT



... The Home of Traditional Beer

AMBER NECTAR SHOW (2)

Rochdale Round Table are holding the third Rochdale Beer Festival on Saturday, Sunday, Monday 28-30 August, as part of the Rochdale Festival in the Town Hall Square. There will be beer from about 30 different breweries and the opening hours are:

Saturday & Monday 11.30-3.00, 4.30-11.00

Sunday 12.00-2.00, 4.00-11.00.

Entertainment includes rock bands, escapologists, street theatres, a talent competition, craft stalls and fairground. Last year £4,000 was raised for local charities.



BALLS

Believe it or not, Greenalls have converted the Golden Ball, Bryn, Ashton in Makerfield from a keg house to one serving traditional hand-pumped beers. The snag is that the pub has been gutted and turned into a 'Fun Pub' called Flanagans. Pre-increase prices were 56p bitter and 54p mild.

UP FOR SALE

The Printers Arms, Denshaw, Oldham is being offered for sale at an undisclosed price. Currently the beers on sale are Thwaites mild and bitter and Tetley mild and bitter. What chance Matthew Brown extending their thrust in this part of Oldham?

JAZZY SHOVELS

The Malt Shovels (Sam Smiths, handpumped bitter), Stamford Street, Altrincham has recently been completely redecorated (without the structure being mucked about). To complete the picture, landlord Peter Beardow requires anything to do with jazz for wall display, old posters, prints, adverts, etc. If you can help, please call in and see Pete or phone 928 2053. All types of jazz are played every night except Friday (piano singalong) and Sunday (banjo band) and as the entertainment is downstairs there is, of course, no admission charge. The folk club also continues to flourish and meets every Wednesday in the function room upstairs.

GUEST BEERS?

Boddingtons have applied for permission to turn the Springfield Guest House on the corner of Agecroft Road and Bolton Road in Pendlebury into a public house.

DENTON CHESTERS

The Kings (formerly Kings Head), Crown Point, Denton, reopened on 12th July after being given the Whitbread "treatment". The interior has been completely redesigned and there are now three main seating areas on different levels. Attractions include two large barrels with peep holes and a pair of boots buried in the wall. The two cask beers on sale are Chesters mild and bitter.

SMITHFIELD

Sold signs have appeared in Swan Street, Manchester. Who's bought it? We wait with baited breath.

MORE BRIGHT BEER FROM BODDINGTONS

The George Hotel, Sedgley Park, Prestwich now sells OB mild and bitter alongside the Boddies. Needless to say, neither are cask conditioned. Further 'Boddification' of the George is under way.

NICE PRICES

Wilsons special prices continue along their merry way. The Victoria, Oldham Road, Newton Heath advertises a "Special, Each Evening", with bitter at 40p a pint, spirits 40p and lager 50p (sorry, no real mild) between 6 and 7pm. At 16p cheaper than the Crown and Kettle and some 20p cheaper than the Crown on Blackfriars Street, Salford, it's great value for an hour's guzzling.

ROLLING STONES

Wilsons have applied for permission to build a games room, toilet and storage room extension at the Moss Tavern, Ashton Road, Droylsden.

PRESTWICH PREFERENCE

Castle Eden Ale has been replaced by Thwaites at the Barley Malt (nee Wilton) in Prestwich village.

AMBER NECTAR SHOW (3)

There will be a CAMRA beer festival at Stoke on Trent on Thursday 2nd - Saturday 4th September. It will be in the Kings Hall (part of the Town Hall, less than 5 minutes totter from the station). Entry is 50p (free to current card carrying CAMRA members) and the festival will be open for all sessions from Thursday night to Saturday night. Buckton and Parker permitting, the last train on Saturday from Stoke to Piccadilly is at 10.27am

SAMS PICKS UP

The Roebuck at Newgate, Rochdale has reopened following alterations. Sam Smiths Old Brewery Bitter has replaced the keg variety.

WHITEFIELD WILSONS

Traditional Wilsons will shortly replace the bright variety at the Cross Keys, Whitefield.

HOUSE OF HORRORS

The latest Whitbread House of Horrors pub has opened in Burnley. Formerly called the Hop, it now rejoices under the name "The Bitter End" (where have we heard that name before?) It's on Trafalgar Street and sells Duttons, Marstons Pedigree and Whitbread Sheffield's Bentley's Yorkshire Bitter (BYB). As the pub was a disco in its last incarnation, it is unlikely that the clientele will have improved. It is pleasing to note that Whitbread have at last found a home for the other half of the cart which is glued to the wall of the Moses Gate Hotel in Farnworth.

SOUNDS PROMISING

The General Havelock, Sydney Street, Bolton has been sold to some chappie who is going to convert it into a free house - handpumped Molestrangers and gravity Drabs perhaps?

Contributors: Jim Hurst, Roger Hall, Steve Lawton, Mick Rottenbury, Don Chattwood, Duncan Busman, Dave Hale, Terry Cunliffe, P Higson, Rhys P Jones, Brian Gleave, Rob Dunford, Leo King, David Rowlinson

SOUTH LANCS REAL ALE REPORT

Once again Greenalls are the Bad Boys in the South Lancashire area. They have converted the Running Horses, Aspull, the Masons Arms and Unicorn, Billinge, the Birkett Bank and the Beech Tree, Beech Hill, Wigan to chilled and filtered beer. There has been one change to hand-pumps, the Golden Ball (see elsewhere).

Tetley Walker, on the other hand, has done us proud. The Ball and Boot on Orchard Street, Wigan has gone over to cask beer, the Derby Arms, a free house on the corner of Chapel Lane and Darlington Street now sells handpumped Tetley bitter and there are strong rumours that the Colliers in Frog Lane, Wigan might also go on to cask beer. Wigan's most recent free house, the Crown in Bradley village, Standish (an ex-Bass house which formerly belonged to the Blackpool brewery of Catterall & Swarbrick) is now selling handpumped Boddies. The Farmers Arms, Heskin, is selling Duttons bitter through handpumps, and is well worth a visit. The Boilermaker, a non real ale pub in St Helens, is to become a Peter Walker house - a prize indeed for St Helens - and the Springfield in Wigan is expected to have the same treatment.

The Bird in Hand (Hen 'ole) in Gidlow Lane, Wigan would make a fine

Walker house. It has a marvellous "Walkers Warrington Ales" mosaic across the front. The Royal Oak, Standish Lower Ground, after some smart alterations, has handpumped Burtonwood bitter and dark mild (alas no light mild yet). Light mild is still available at the Kirkless Hall, Woodhouses and the Old Springs in Wigan.

So on the whole South Lancs is not doing too badly. But there is still a long way to go. Of the 200 or so clubs in the area, only a handful sell real ale, so get your steward or committee to try it.

Alan Ball

THE MARATHON MAN

Sir - Ambling along Liverpool Road, Irlam, early one evening, I thought I recognised a lonely long distance runner moving apace in the opposite direction. I rubbed my eyes and lo and behold it was Mr Alan Shaw, the landlord of the White Horse in Irlam.

Further enquiries revealed that this was not just a thirst-raiser.

Alan is training for the 26 mile Bolton Marathon to be run on 22nd August, and he hopes to raise money for the South Atlantic Fund. Any one who wishes to sponsor Alan can contact him at the pub (handpumped Tetley) or phone 061 775 2820.

Bill Collier



DRUNKS

Sir - We would all dearly have loved to visit Tetley Walker for the CAMRA mirror presentation thrash. However, we noted that branch drinks were not allowed and in a vote to decide who this might be, there was a 16 way tie for first place. Yours more in his cups than in anger,

Roger Hall

(Secretary, North Manchester Branch)

HOLTS

Sir - With reference to D Busman's article on the Holts AGM in the July edition of WD. When I obtained my regular copy of WD this month I decided to take it along to my local beer exhibition pub and digest it along with a few pints of the guest beer. When I arrived I was pleasantly surprised to find Holts bitter available, and very good it was too. As I was supping and reading I came across the article stating that Holts would not supply beer in containers less than 36 gallon.

When I asked the licensee what size his Holts cask was he replied 18 gallon. I then showed him the article in question and he explained how he had obtained it. It seems that an enterprising free trade licensee went to Holts armed with 12 empty 18 gallon casks and waited around until they were filled. He then returned to Shropshire and sold some of them to the local free trade. So perhaps other licensees in other areas could get together and obtain a delivery if they so desire. Obviously, the cost of a pint increases by this method, but I was quite happy to pay 54p for it in a remote part of Shropshire.

Barry Malone,
Telford, Shropshire

WILSONS MILD

Sir - My attention is being drawn to the increasing number of Wilsons pubs where the traditional mild is no longer available and tank beer is appearing at an alarming rate. Some may blame the brewery, others the licensee. Obviously, neither are to blame. Wilsons went wild in converting many of their pubs to real ale and are still doing so. If the licensee could sell mild, he would. It has nothing to do with lazy or inexperienced licensees, if it were, they would not sell traditional bitter. So it must be the customer who prefers to drink bitter. As a matter of interest, I have visited some Wilsons pubs and the following sell traditional bitter (handpumps) and bright mild:

Alexandra Park, Alexandra Road, Moss Side, Manchester 14

Grenadier, Oldham Street, Manchester 4

Lord Raglan, Ashton Old Road/Ogden Lane, Openshaw, Manchester 11

Nelson Vaults, Oldham Road, New Cross, Manchester 4

Victoria, Oldham Road, Newton Heath, Manchester 10

As regards the Victoria, the nearby White Hart (corner of Collyhurst Street), the Lancaster and the Heywood Arms sell real mild on hand-pumps. Finally, as a matter of contrast, the Wheatsheaf on Oldham Road (a Bass House) is equipped with two handpumps (the only ones on the bar) selling mild!

Leo King

GOOD BEER GUIDE

Sir - I am absolutely amazed that the City Arms, Manchester, is being seriously considered for the 1983 Good Beer Guide. I have visited the pub five times since the Burton Ale has been on sale and only once was the beer in good condition. On the other four occasions it ranged from mediocre to (literally) undrinkable. I appreciate that the brew is unique in the area, but that is not sufficient reason for its inclusion.

Mike Day

TWADDLE

AFTER an exciting day at Old Trafford, when he scored 128 runs and broke his toe all in the same innings, England cricket star, Ian Botham took time off to talk about ... BEER!

The occasion was the re-opening of the newly-restored Grants Arms in

Hulme by West Manchester brewery Boddingtons.

Ian Botham is a real ale drinker and in his native Lincolnshire drinks John Smith's. "But it does not travel too well across the Pennines," he said.

West Manchester News

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

DUKE OF YORK, ECCLES



Although the Duke of York is well into its third century as one of Eccles' public houses, neither the present building nor the present name can be traced back quite that far. The pub was first called the Duke of York in 1794 and the name probably commemorates those who had volunteered for war against the French rather than a royal personage. The French Revolution and the attack on British institutions in Tom Paine's "The Rights of Man" had generated considerable patriotic fervour amongst the population, not least in the North West.

When the war against the French began in 1793 there was no shortage of volunteers from Manchester to enlist in the service of their country. In April, 1794, "the regiment of Independent Manchester Volunteers was incorporated in the 53rd or the Duke of York's Brigade, as soon as it arrived at Chatham." It is no doubt in recognition of this that the Bull changed its name in that year to the Duke of York.

The Bull can be traced back some twenty years earlier. It first appears in the alehouse recognizances for 1773 when John Chorlton was the licensee. The Chorlton name had been associated with Eccles pubs since the early years of the eighteenth century and under their ownership the Bull enjoyed several minor name changes until it finally became the Duke of York. The variety of names - Bulls Head, Bull & Last, Bull & Dog, gives rise to some speculation as to why a second

pub called the Bull should open only 50 yards from Jonathan Shaw's original Bulls Head near Eccles Cross. In fact the new Bull was the third rather than the second in Eccles. The second Bull, which was tenanted by Ralph Brownhill and which closed in 1777, was in existence at least five years earlier. One possible explanation for the duplication of names concerns the somewhat barbarous practice of bull baiting which was carried out at the annual wakes. Pubs with the sign of the bull's head were usually associated with this form of entertainment. Indeed, bull baiting had been carried out on Church Street outside the Bulls Head for centuries.

As Eccles grew and traffic increased in the 1770s it is possible that the bull ring may have been moved across the road. It is well known that the yard at the side of the Duke of York was the venue for another blood sport - cockfighting. Indeed, the cockpit could only be reached through the Duke of York.

The old pub, although by no means as imposing as its successor, was nevertheless an extensive establishment, catering for travellers and their horses well into the railway era. Perhaps because of some Victorian alterations the building does not seem like an eighteenth century structure. Yet, in 1884, whilst alterations were being carried out, workmen found a copy of the Manchester Mercury dated February 2nd 1796 in the rafters. This supports the belief that the Duke of York was over 100 years old when it was replaced by the present building in 1898.

The Duke of York was owned by the Altrincham Brewery, who had not maintained their houses in very good condition. When the brewery and its 21 tied houses were acquired by Chesters in 1890, the new owners started on a programme of refurbishing and rebuilding those houses which were not so run down as to warrant disposal. In 1896 Adam Oldfield, a well known and popular Eccles licensee, took over the Duke of York and applied for permission to rebuild the house on behalf of the brewery, stating that the new public house would add architecturally to the town and also compliment the new town hall, which was built in 1881. Permission was granted and in 1898 the new, luxurious Duke of York opened with Adam Oldfield as the first landlord. We probably owe the retention of the Duke of York's name not to Adam Oldfield but to the enterprise of the landlord of the pub across the road. There is little doubt that the new public house would have been called the Town Hall Hotel if the George III, or Kings Head, had not already assumed the name.

The Duke of York was without doubt the best appointed public house in Eccles and its facilities were soon in demand by a number of local

societies. This was something which did not continue after the First World War and has only recently been revived as the Duke has completed the cycle of brewery liveries from Chesters to Threlfalls to Whitbread and back to Chesters.

Roger Hall

NEW BOOK

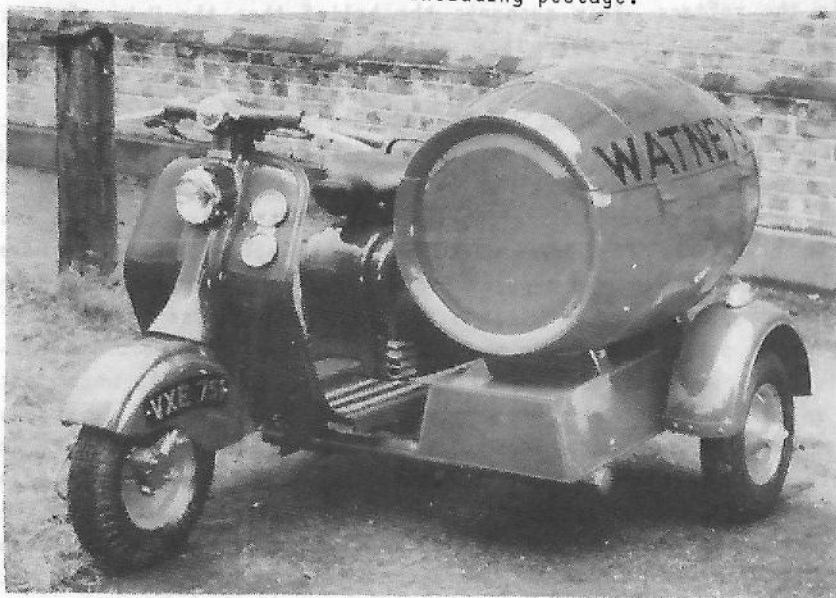
A HISTORY OF THE PUBS OF ECCLES



by Tony Flynn

£1.50

Tony Flynn's *History of the Pubs of Eccles*, out this month, is an entertaining account of the town's alehouses and beerhouses, and the characters who frequented them, over the last 200 years. The author has used contemporary newspaper reports of events from marathon walks round bowling greens and puppy shows to brawls and sparrow shooting contests to paint a lively picture of the town's beery past. The book is illustrated with many photographs and advertisements from 100 years ago and is available by post from Tony Flynn, 18 Gilda Crescent Road, Eccles for £1.75 including postage.



Well, if some people can run their cars on chicken shit, what's wrong with trying rats' piss? This unlikely vehicle was once a proud asset of Watneys, in those days of Red Barrel



Asian CORNER

In previous issues readers may have noticed a preoccupation with the cuisine of the southern part of the Asian continent. Those of us to whom a curry is less than attractive know that the Chinese provide a much more appetising, varied and nutritional diet, and without the digestive and antisocial consequences associated with late-night visits to Indian restaurants.

The Greater Manchester area is well endowed with excellent Chinese restaurants, both of the conventional and takeaway variety. In the City Centre WOO SANG (19-21 George Street) is highly recommended for its extensive menu and brisk service, and a good sign is that it is always busy. Chinese people eat there as well, and also at KWOK MAN (28-32 Princess Street), which specialises in Cantonese dishes, such as sea bass and crab.

The LEE HONG (35 George Street) is advertised as Manchester's newest Chinese restaurant and boasts chefs specially brought from Hong Kong. Traditional teas are served from the trolley up to 6.00pm. My own favourite is KAM FONG (24 Deansgate, Market Place), where it is usually quiet, with friendly service and excellent spare ribs and Chinese vegetables.

Out of town, MAI WAH (485 Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton) is worth a visit, as is the BLUE LANTERN (Ashley Road, Altrincham). North of Manchester, restaurants are thinner on the ground (must be a social message there) but WAH YING (175 The Rock, Bury) comes to mind.

Drinkers in the North Trafford area should call at CHA SING takeaway (Barton Road, Stretford, opposite the Robin Hood) for a dish to complement the Boddingtons taste, or at the PEKING (93 Washway Road, Sale).

Of course, the great advantage of Chinese restaurants is that they always seem to be open, so you don't have to have a skinful of ale to enjoy them.

Dim Sum



Bunty's stalwarts have long been committed to the complete eradication of rampant pansyism in the corridors of power. The nocturnal patrolling of Buck House was, therefore, no surprise to regulars of the Gunge-smearers Arms. It was an inevitable concomitant of their determined vigilance. Mind you, other revelations have completely revolutionised sleeping patterns in Greater Grotley. Ophelia Hampton has insisted on sleeping in a separate bedroom from Alistair. This, I think, has less to do with emulating HM and more to do with Alistair's habits. One can't imagine the D of E reeking of Tandoori Chicken, Tarka Dall and Drabs, breathing and flatulating in the nuptial chamber.

The vogue for separate sleeping accommodation has led to a new outbreak of philandering amongst the roués of Smarmford. Even the Noble Robin has moved his sock drawer wherein sleeps the embryonic egg bound Boddington II, masquerading as a billiard ball. Who knows where all this might lead. Where for example, would ample Mole Whalebody kip down for the night if the double bed became unobtainable?

I must report on the changes afoot at Kepples. For the last 18 months there has been an ongoing Drabesque non-communication situation with regard to the Brewery. This coincides with the rule of supremo Mr Kepple, who came from Jack Smugs and declared his intention of turning Kepples into a megakeggery. This and his new beer were both thwarted by his disobedient employees who couldn't wait for him to go. Sadly, Mr Kepple soon reached the level of his incompetence and has moved on to pastures new, where they won't find out how successful he's been until he's gone. Signs are that Kepples are going to do a silly thing like convert more tenanted houses to amber nectar emporia, promote traditional beer, examine differentials and establish a positive image. The deluded fools - you wouldn't catch Snotes or Goosegrease & Dishwater doing anything like that, or Drabs for that matter. Where will it all lead? Breweries will be finding out what their customers want and provide it next. God forbid.



Branch Diary

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 19 Aug 8pm Branch Meeting, Crown, Deansgate (2 minutes from Deansgate Station)
Thurs 26 Aug 8.00 PUB OF THE MONTH with S Manchester. Why Not, Ashton New Road
Thurs 2 Sept 7.30 Committee/Social, Melville, Barton Road, Stretford
Thurs 16 Sept 8.00 Branch Meeting, Malt Shovels, Stamford Street, Altrincham
Thurs 23 Sept 8.00 PUB OF THE MONTH with S Manchester. Royal Oak, High Street, Stockport (opposite Robinsons brewery)
Contact Mick Rottenbury 969 7013 (home)

SOUTH LANCASHIRE

Tues 3 Aug Committee/social Legh Arms, Hindley 8.00
Sat 14 Aug Beer Tent at Newton Town Show
Sat 21 Aug Sponsored pub crawl with Leigh & District Breakers Association. Concert, Atherton 12.00; Botanical Gardens 12.30; Buckleys, Tyldesley 1.00; Railway 1.30; Mort Arms 2.00; TSBC 2.30; Foundry, Leigh 7.30; Three Crowns 8.00; Standard Mower 8.30; Eagle & Hawk 9.00; Courts 9.30; Pied Bull 10.00; Railway, Twist Lane 10.30. Sponsorship details from Ray Kruup Atherton 876884 (h), 061 736 1537 (w)
Tues 24 Aug Branch Meeting, Foresters, Billinge 8.00
Friday 3 Sept. Pemberton Pub Crawl. Fishergate 7.30, Dog & Partridge 8.30
Contact Brian Gleave Atherton 876200 (w) 892965 (h)

NORTH MANCHESTER

Weds 4 Aug Chapel Street Crawl. Angel 7pm, Brown Bull 8pm
Weds 11 Aug Park Hotel, Monton 8.00pm
Weds 18 Aug Timothy Taylor speaker at the Duke of York, Eccles. 8.00pm
Weds 1 Sept Crumpsall Crawl. Cleveland, Crumpsall Lane 7pm, Crumpsall, Bury New Road 8pm.
Weds 8 Sept Committee & Social, Queens Hall, Leeds
Weds 15 Sept White Swan, Swinton 8pm
Contact Roger Hall 740 7937 (h)

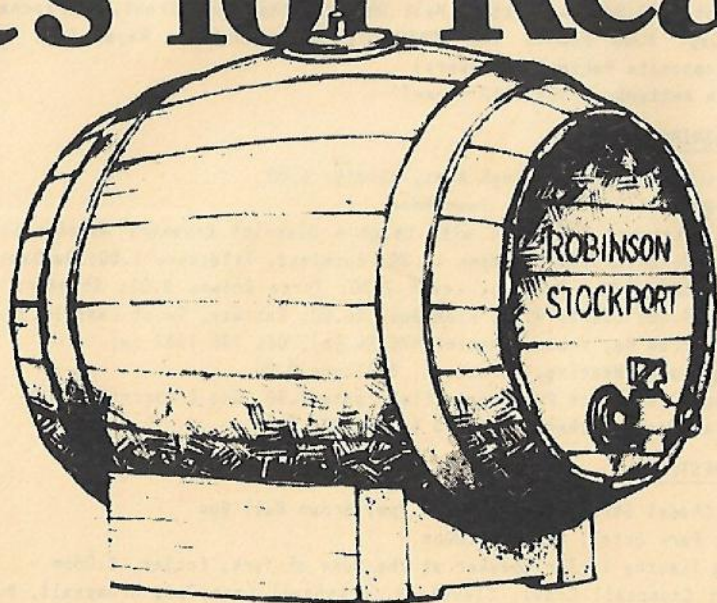
BOLTON

Weds 4 Aug 8pm Branch Meeting, Peel Hotel, Higher Bridge St, Bolton
Sat 7 Aug Peak Wayfarer to Buxton & Macclesfield. Buxton Train 11.29 from Manchester Piccadilly. Cost £2.25
THurs 12 Aug Presentation of CAMRA Mirror to Tetley Walker. Details from Bert
Weds 18 Aug 7pm. Trying the Walkers at the Howcroft, Pool Street, Bolton
Weds 1 Sept 8pm. Burtonwood Light Mild Meeting at the York Hotel, Newport St, Bolton
Sun 12 Sept Noon. Burtonwood Light Mild Meeting at the Peacher, Scot Lane, Blackrod
Contact James Hurst Tottington 3532

ROCHDALE OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 10 Aug 8pm Branch Meeting, Grey Horse (Robinsons) Union Street, Oldham
Tues 24 Aug Committee Meeting Carters Arms (OB), Rochdale Road, Royton
Tues 14 Sept Branch Meeting, Railway (Wilsons), Townley Street, Middleton. Good Beer Guide Editor Roger Protz in attendance to answer your questions.
Fri-Sun 17-19 Sept. Visit to Batemans Brewery & Lincoln. All places taken.
Tues 28 Sept Committee meeting Royal Oak (Lees), Boarshaw Road, Middleton 8.00pm
Contact Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h) 061 236 4411 ext 7237 (w)

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.**