

# WHAT'S DOING

DEC  
1982

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

## MONTON ALE

On November 2nd the number of real ale pubs in Monton doubled! The former Bluebell, now known as the Monton Green, started selling handpumped Wilsons mild and bitter.

The former dreadful image of the pub has been totally transformed, a point which was underlined by landlord Myles Foley politely refusing entry to anybody wearing jeans, trainers or outlandish attire or hairstyles.

The ceiling has been lowered considerably and the whole pub transformed. Live plants abound and much use is made of tubular chrome and smoked glass. Unpolished pine and mirrors adorn the walls, interspersed with small, framed pictures and soft lighting. A considerable amount of space is devoted to the preparation and serving of food; at present lunches are available from 12 to 2 Monday-Friday, though this may be extended to weekends.

Like many Tudor Taverns, there is no price differential between mild and bitter; both are 60p. Let us hope they follow Wilsons experiment with cheaper mild. The overall atmosphere was relaxed, almost gracious, and a far cry from the former Bluebell, or indeed from the "House of Horrors" treatment being forced upon many Whitbread customers.

P Cash





## DOES ANYBODY CARE ABOUT O.B.?

... was the title of a leaflet published by the Rochdale, Oldham & Bury branch of CAMRA and distributed around all 86 Oldham Brewery tied houses at the end of October. Much has been said within these pages of the possible effects of the recent takeover of OB by Boddingtons. A recent article by Bill Collier (WD Nov) summed it up pretty well in the final paragraph - "Their (Boddingtons) bitter was rightly described as one of the best in the country, and the brewery was held up by CAMRA as a model for all others to follow. How times change! I can hardly believe that Boddingtons of all people are now actively promoting tank and keg beer. I refer of course to their policy with regard to Oldham ales..."

The ROB four page leaflet concentrated on this theme, giving the drinking public an insight into what might happen in the future if Boddingtons' plans for OB go unchallenged.

Copies of this leaflet were sent to both breweries and an article in the Oldham Chronicle elicited the following response from the Strangers Brewery:-

"Boddingtons and Oldham Brewery are wholly committed to working together for a successful future for both breweries and intend to continue to provide the products enjoyed by their customers, including cask conditioned OB mild and bitter beers, at competitive prices.

A substantial building and plant installation programme at OB is now under way as part of the long term investment plan, and the strong local support for OB beers is both recognised and valued."

It should be noted that the plant installation referred to is undoubtedly the kegging line for Whitbread's Heineken lager!

Certain copies of this issue of WD, circulated around the OB trading area, will carry a copy of the leaflet

## **DOES ANYBODDY CARE ABOUT O.B.?**



Steve Lawton

## ALE IN THE CENTRE

Earlier this year it was proposed that the Central Manchester entries in the Good Beer Guide should be selected by a committee of interested parties to ensure consistency, rather than separately by three different branches. This sensible and progressive suggestion was thrown out by the intransigence of two branches, who insisted on retaining control of their own entries in the City.

Now that the 1983 Guide has been published it is worthwhile having a look at the pubs selected and seeing how they stand up to examination. But first of all we should examine what the reader of the National Good Beer Guide expects. It is not a comprehensive guide, so the purchaser won't be expecting to track down the only John Willie Lees/Youngers/Sam Smiths pub in the City. He will expect to find a representative cross-section of brewers in the city in a variety of pubs spread across the city. He's not necessarily looking for the best pint of whosoever's beer, but quality and reliability are paramount. Let's see how the unco-ordinated 1983 entries shape up to the criteria Quality, Representativeness and Geographical coverage.

The 1983 entries are:

Crown	Deansgate	Wilsons	Trafford & Hulme
Peveril of the Peak	Gt Bridgewater St	Wilsons	" "
Square Albert	Albert Square	Tetleys	" "
City Arms	Kennedy Street	Ind Coope	" "
Grey Horse	Portland Street	Hydes	South Manchester
Coach & Horses	London Road	Sax X, Bod, Tet	" "
Bulls Head	London Road	Burtonwood	" "
Hare & Hounds	Shudehill	Tetley	North Manchester
Crown & Kettle	Gt Ancoats St	Wilsons	" "
Jolly Angler	Ducie Street	Hydes	" "
Sinclairs	Old Shambles	Sam Smiths	" "
Unicorn	Church St	Bass, 4X, Toby, Stones	" "

Apart from the City Arms, which serves only one draught beer, I don't think anyone would argue about the quality of beer in any of the pubs selected. But are they representative?

There are 72 real ale outlets in the area covered by these entries. Wilsons with 3 pubs out of 18 seem to be fairly represented. The three pubs selected all sell draught mild. Tetleys, with 3 out of 10, would seem to have more than their fair share, whilst Hydes with 2 out of 3 certainly have. There are also some glaring omissions. Chesters have 10 pubs in the area. Surely someone coming to Manchester would want to give it a try? Why have we done nothing to encourage a brewer who's

reaction to criticism has been to introduce cask beer? A sad omission. Boddingtons are thin on the ground in the City Centre and their exclusion can be understood when you look at their pubs (Royal Oak, Ducie, Cox's, Old Garratt) but what about Greenalls? Were we frightened that the Ancoats, the Pack Horse and the Churchill would be keg by the time the guide was out? Of the brewers with only one or two pubs (Youngers, Robinsons, Marstons, Lees, Sam Smiths), Sinclairs may well have been the best choice.

All in all, I don't suppose the selection is too bad, perhaps more by good luck than good management. But if the branches could get together, I'm sure that entries for the 1984 guide could avoid duplication and correct some of the omissions.

Roger Hall

## WHAT'S DOING

### BOVINE EXCREMENT SECTION

Have you seen it? Greenalls' latest advert, "No Bull!" Who're you trying to kid? "Greenalls' beer's for drinking, not talking about." They're on the defensive. Have we got through to them at last? If anyone talked about Greenalls beer, perhaps it wouldn't be too complimentary. If they spent more time looking after their cask conditioned beer and tied estate instead of running barmy advertising campaigns, punters in the North West might actually drink Greenalls instead of talking about it or not talking about it. At least they haven't done a Whitbread and started festooning their pubs with stuffed bulls.

### GAY NEWS

The Gay Willows, Bolton Road, Clifton, was recently selling handpumped Theakstons bitter. Will it last?

### DARCY LEVER REAL ALE

Whitbread have at last managed to modernise a pub and install cask beer without resorting to the House of Horrors treatment. The Levers Arms, 3 Top o' th' Lane, Darcy Lever, Bolton, now sells Duttons bitter (60p) and Castle Eden Ale (60p). The inside of the pub has been left more or less intact, particularly the locals' bar area, and there is also a separate darts area. Though why the false beams end midway along one of the walls is a mystery - did they just run out of planks?

### NOT SO SMART

After surviving the Moss Side riots and being tarted up and renamed, the Big Alex is now a pile of rubble. A House of Horrors gone wrong? Holts wouldn't buy it? New road? Who knows? We should be told.



## FREEMASONS FOLLY

The Freemasons (Bass), Heywood, was revamped during the summer and adorned with signs on the outside stating that traditional cask beers were available, and a large mirror sign over the bar makes a similar claim. According to the staff of this managed house, none of the beers are cask beers; handpumps were expected many months ago, but have failed to materialise. Gass North West fail miserably yet again. The only thing they are good at is promoting keg beers and lagers and charging the highest prices around.

## BUSY BODDIES

The Southern Hotel in Chorlton (Boddingtons) is having the large lounge altered and the private room on the right of the main entrance is being used while the work is taking place. Rumours are rife that handpumps will be installed to replace the electric pumps, but we will have to wait and see. Another Boddingtons pub, the Victoria at the corner of Mauldeth Road and Burnage Lane, Burnage, is being altered to a great extent. The main door on Mauldeth Road, which was the lounge entrance, has now been bricked up and drinking is at present restricted to the small vault.

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juices with Chesters Best Mild, continue your  
pleasure via bitters from Chesters and Thwaites,  
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boldness of the (Taylors) Landlord. Finally,  
seal your fate with Ram Tam winter ale and  
Bulmers real cider if you dare!*

*Take home orders now taken - containers from  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  gall up to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  gall instantly available, larger  
sizes to order.*

Bed & Breakfast

Function Rooms

Hot food (nearly) always available

## SALFORD GREENALLS

The Unicorn in Pendleton has reopened with a new landlord but the Grove on Regent Road remains closed at lunchtimes. How long before it joins the others on Boot Hill?

## SAM SMITHS IN BOLTON

Sam Smiths have successfully applied to turn a rambling house on Chorley New Road, Bolton, into a pub. In the Bridgewater, Farnworth, at present the only Sam Smith pub in the Bolton area, the vault has been carpeted and turned into an extension of the lounge. A wider range of food will soon be available at lunchtimes and Saturday evenings.

## PLANNING NEWS

Whilst other brewers are selling their pubs as chip shops and warehouses or closing them and letting them fall down, Wilsons alone seem to be improving their tied estate. Plans submitted in Manchester in November include extensions at the Cotton Tree in Gorton and the Golden Tavern in Harpurhey and new toilets at the Swan in Miles Platting.

## TETLEY TURNABOUT

Last month we reported that the Swan & Railway, Wallgate, Wigan, had been closed by Tetley Walker, who said that they were going to sell it de-licensed. Not so. A recent advertisement in the Morning Advertiser offered the pub for sale as a "free house" with a ten year product tie.

## PEEL APPEAL

The Peel Arms, Halliwell Road, Bolton, still has a sign outside proclaiming in large letters "Traditional Beer", but inside (as reported in August WD) the beer is still keg. It's about time Wilsons made up their minds and decided whether to install traditional beer or change the sign to "Keg Beer Here".

## TETLEY CHOICE

The Victoria, Crown Square, Manchester, has handpumped Tetley mild and bitter and Ind Coope Burton Ale, whilst still retaining the keg mild and bitter. Is it a case of the survival of the fittest?

## BIT' PIECE

The Bolton Institute of Higher Education Students Union Bar is now selling Timothy Taylors Landlord alongside Thwaites bitter and mild and Tetleys bitter on handpump. Taylors has alas now gone from the General Havelock.

## LOTTA NOT

The Why Not? free house on Ashton New Road, Clayton, opened their extension in October, aptly named the If Not? The enlarged pub now serves an excellent pint of Matthew Brown John Peel Special on hand-pumps alongside the Boddingtons bitter and Tetley mild and bitter.

## WILSONS REAL ALE GAIN

The latest convert to real ale in South Manchester is the Farmers Arms on Stockport Road, Cheadle Heath, which began selling traditional Wilsons at the beginning of November. No-one was more pleased at the installation of the handpumps than licensees Mal and Eileen Hill, who have been at the Farmers for 4½ years after moving from the Three Legs of Man on Stretford Road, Hulme.

The pub has been modernised by switching the rooms - the old lounge is now the vault and the former vault has been transformed into a spacious, comfortable and well decorated lounge. The first-class mild and bitter are complemented by a full range of lunchtime meals.

Wilson's are to be congratulated on the tasteful way in which they have improved the Farmers, retaining the traditional features of the pub. A certain brewery not 100 miles away would do well to cease scouring scrapyards and take a look at the Farmers Arms instead.

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Also - all your homebrewing requirements

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& prices, etc.

## PUB OF THE MONTH

The South Manchester Pub of the Month for December is the Unity Inn, Wellington Road South, Stockport. Serving an excellent pint of Robinsons mild and bitter on electrics and Old Tom from the cask, the Unity is a fine example of the traditional pub, retaining a warm and friendly atmosphere in comfortable surroundings. Under the energetic direction of tenants Ron and Colette Brindley, who have been at the Unity, their first pub, since 1978, the pub boasts a varied and active social life with two pool teams, ladies' and gents' darts teams and a football team unbeaten so far this season - and league winners last! The accent also falls on assistance to local charities and on the Pub of the Month Presentation night, Monday 20 December, a cheque for £200, being the latest of many fund-raising efforts in the pub, will be presented to the Beacon School for handicapped children at Adswold.

A licence extension has been applied for and a good night out is on the cards. All members and non-members are welcome.

## CHRISTMAS WITH CAMRA

With the festive season upon us once more the usual range of fun and cheer will be dispensed by the South Manchester branch during December Kick off is 8pm on the 9th December at the traditional Pub Games night at the Gateway, Wilmslow Road. Shove ha'penny, table skittles, etc, will this year be augmented with black puddings, hot dogs and, as an added bonus, former NE member Barrie Pepper will be crossing the Pennines to regale the assembly with his Yorkshire wit! A giant raffle is to be held and members and non-members alike are welcome.

The fourth annual Hillgate Crawl in Stockport will take place on Friday 17th December, starting at 6.30 - 7.00 at the Blossoms on Buxton Lane and proceeding in a downhill direction on as near to the timetable as possible. The Full crawl is:-

# THE HILLGATE CRAWL



- 1 Blossoms (Robinsons) 2 Wheatsheaf (Wilsons),  
3 Royal Mortar (Robinsons) 5 Flying Dutchman  
(Robinsons) 6 Star & Garter (Robinsons) 7 Rams Head (Wilsons) 8 Crown  
(Wilsons) 9 Golden Lion (Burtonwood) 10 Black Lion (Boddingtons) 11  
Waterloo (optional extra - Robbies) 12 Red Bull (Robinsons) 13 Glad-  
stone (Tetley) 14 Royal Oak (Robinsons) 15 Spread Eagle (Robinsons)



## RINGING THE CHANGES

Peter and Glenys Leary, of the Football Hotel, Swinton, have taken the tenancy of the Bell, Little Hulton. From the quality and consistency of the beer at the Football, this move will be welcomed by Tetley fans in Walkden. What's Doing will henceforth be on sale at the Bell.

The last licensee of the Bell was Esther Bendelow, who has retired. Esther became the landlady of the old Commercial in 1948. The Bell was built on the site of the Commercial's bowling green.

## CHANGING STATIONS

The Station Hotel, a free house on Warrington Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, has changed hands; Arthur Williams has left to take a hotel in the Lake District. The range of beers is still the same: handpumped Boddingtons bitter, Marstons Pedigree, Merrie Monk, Mercian mild and, now that winter has arrived, Owd Rodger.

## GREENALLS BUSINESS

At the recent "Business to Business Exhibition" at Belle Vue, one exhibitor displayed a number of products manufactured for Greenalls. Among these was a handpump clip for Old Chester, their strong ale. Old Chester is normally sold only in bottles, with a small quantity available on draught for directors and the like. Occasional visitors to the sampling cellar (not the keg reception bar) have been known to empty the odd firkin on their visit, to join the privileged few. Knowing how keen Greenalls are to promote cask beers in their pubs and increase the number of cask outlets, the chances of getting cask Old Chester on handpump this Christmas must be as remote as every house in Greater Manchester having roast kiwi for Christmas dinner. What are these pump clips for? We should be told.

## MISS OUT MASSEYS

"Masseys" on Back Mawdsley Street, Bolton, has stopped selling Theakstons bitter and Old Peculier. The asking price, 50p per half pint of bitter, was probably too much for some customers.

## HOUSE OF HORRORS

In last month's WD we were warned that the Three Pigeons, Astley



**Pet-Proof Slug Pub**  
**£4.25**

At last, a way of getting rid of slugs without pellets which can be dangerous to pets. Just set the Slug Pub into the ground, fill with beer and watch unwanted slugs drown themselves

Bridge, Bolton, was going to become the latest in a regrettably long line of House of Horrors pubs. Well, it's happened. The beers are Duttons bitter (59p) and Castle Eden (60p). They have also installed a wall of cut-down telegraph poles, wickerwork vomiting frogs (without the grapes) and an olde worlde oil can (pre-Britoil).

### WILSONS KEG MILD

Wilsons keg mild has reared its ugly head in two Bury pubs recently, the New Inn, Walmersley Road and the Hare & Hounds, Bolton Street. This is because Wilsons have deemed that any pub selling less than 3 casks per week should go keg. The problem is that Wilsons do not have any container less than a kil (18 gall) to supply the beer in to the pubs. Remedy that problem and cask mild may well return.

### NEW IMAGE

After the stories of posh Yates's Wine Lodges opening in the Manchester area, comes the report of their transformation of Addisons in Preston. Yates's have renamed it the Grey Horse (the pub's original name) and among the amber nectars are Boddingtons, Thwaites and Matthew Brown.

Yates's Wine Lodge (ex-Merchants' Hotel) on Oldham Street/Back Piccadilly was closed again recently for further modernisation. It appears the long-established off-sales department has been given over to provide more space inside and no less than 12 handpumps have appeared on the bar. Five traditional bitters are now on sale: Boddingtons (60p), Matthew Brown (62p), Burtonwood (62p), Samuel Smith (54p) and Thwaites (62p). The Manchester 4 area now has a bigger variety of real ales than anywhere else in the city centre: Bass, Boddingtons, Matthew Brown, Burtonwood, Chesters, Greenall Whitley, Lees, Marstons, Robinsons, Sam Smiths, Stones, Tetleys, Thwaites and Wilsons. Now after all these don't go and wash your mouth out at the Lord Nelson!

### OLDHAM OBSERVATIONS

During a recent Oldham visit, two North Manchester CAMRA members went to the Clarkesfield, a large OB house. Large yellow window posters, ashtrays and beermats all proclaimed Boddingtons and the only pump clip advertised Boddingtons bitter. The two ladies behind the bar were apparently surprised by our request for Oldham bitter. Fortunately an excellent pint was served from one of the unmarked pumps, to be followed by equally good OB mild. Is the difference in emphasis between the two brews an oversight or part of some obscure policy?



### SPOT THE BRANCH DRUNK

Eminent, sober and upstanding CAMRA members posing (for the camera) at the recent CAMRA Mirror presentation thrash at Tetleys.

### PRICEY

Visitors to the Black Horse, 398 Bury Road, Bolton, are warned that the Castle Eden Ale hand-pump may well be dispensing Duttons bitter, even though there is a Duttons bitter pump also working on the bar. You also get charged the Castle Eden price.

### REAL OB BEERS

Whilst visiting every OB house on the recent leaflet campaign against Boddingtons (see elsewhere in this issue), the branch found that a couple of pubs had been omitted from the list of real ale houses. The Citizen, Drake Street, and the Golden Ball, Spotland Road, both Rochdale, sell OB mild and bitter through electric pumps. Also, due to an oversight, the Highfield, Ripponden Road, Oldham, and the Sun Mill Inn, Chadderton, were not mentioned. The Horse & Jockey (free house), Delph, no longer sells OB. Apologies to all concerned.

**A MAN** who drank nine pints of beer and had to be helped out of the Grapes pub, in Church Street, Eccles, was later found by a jogger lying in a pool of vomit in Eccles Churchyard.

**Moral:** Don't drink  
John Smiths!





**Millward Brown**  
Market and Social Research

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Guess which Manchester brewery was sponsoring this thrash in Wolverhampton recently - Holts!

Contributors: Don Chattwood, Leo King, Roger Hall, Dave Hale, Steve Lawton, John Richards, Pete Cash, Jim Hurst, Beryl Edwards, Alan Hurdle, Jim Davies, Dave Fleming, Steven Foster

#### NOTE FROM T'SMOKE

Sir - I was enjoying a pint of Grubb Dubbins Fizz Pop in a competitor's pub the other evening when a Mancunian had the affrontery to walk through the door clutching a copy of What's Doing. Not being familiar with the customs of those north of Watford, my reaction was to strike him dead with one blow. However, the man was able to speak, much to our surprise, and in exchange for his worthless life offered to give me the copy of What's Doing.

Languishing the next day in my heated ass's milk bath, I decided to allow a suitably disinfected servant to read What's Doing to me. I found on page 2 a reference to the inner sanctum of freehouses, the Ark of the Covenant of cask conditioned ales, Mecca of knowledgeable drinkers....The Sun Freehouse.



Please be informed that Boddingtons bitter is not charged at the rate of 86p per pint at the Sun, but at the rate of £466.23 per pint VAT inclusive. The only problem is that we have never actually had the stuff in London to sell, so whoever gave you the information should receive the same treatment as the poor Mancunian who purveyed the information.

R N Berman KB, CBE. Licensee, Sun Freehouse

### BOLTON BASS

Sir - Re your note in November's WD, entitled "Bye Bye Bass", stating that Crompton's Mule was Bolton's only outlet for draught Bass. Not strictly true! As Westhoughton comes under Bolton, the Brinsop Arms on Chorley Road must be the last outlet, as Bass is still on sale together with Hartleys XB and Bass Cask Bitter or, if you are driving, Boddingtons bitter. Bass cask mild is also available.

Bitterman

### THIN BODDIES

Sir - Further to the letter from Bill Collier (WD Oct) regarding the quality decline in Boddingtons bitter. For many years I have been an enthusiast of Boddies and I am also dismayed at the decline in what was once a great bitter. At first, I thought perhaps it was limited to the two Boddies pubs I regularly drink at, but upon visiting others I have found that the beer is just not as it should be. Perhaps it is a coincidence that the ones I've been in were not up to scratch, but Bill's letter seems to substantiate the problem.

My support for Boddies goes back a long time - I can remember the days when 3 pints of their bitter was more than enough for me. Those were the far off days when women were rarely seen drinking beer in their pubs! Now, since they've changed their image and the brew (about 15 years ago was it?) women can be seen swilling back the bitter like old hands. Until recently I was proud to be a Boddies shareholder but I am now dubious. If it is a pub problem why don't the management of the brewery take notice of their customers and go out and investigate?

Jack Hopwood

## ST HELENS ALE

Handpumps have arrived in St Helens again after an absence of twenty years. The Royal Alfred Hotel, after alterations, has an array of amber nectar wickets and the Boilermakers at Sutton now sells Walker bitter and mild (vault prices 52p & 51p). These are new beers for St Helens, bringing the total to 10. It is interesting to compare the St Helens area with Wigan as regards choice; unfortunately St Helens does not come out of it very well. Is it because of the Greenalls monopoly

or do St Helens beer drinkers not care? It is fair to say that most Greenalls pubs in St Helens serve real ale.

BREWERY	BEERS	DISPENSE	AVAILABILITY
Greenalls	Mild Bitter	Mainly Elec.	Almost Everywhere
Tetley	Mild Bitter	Air Press or elec.	Three outlets: Woodlands, Turks Head, Hope & Anchor
Walker	Mild Bitter	Hand pumps	One outlet - Boilermakers, Sutton
Burtonwood	Mild Bitter	Elec	Two outlets, Glassblower, Brown Edge
Boddingtons	Mild Bitter	1 h/p & elec	Ten outlets
5	10		
WIGAN AREA			
Greenalls	Mild Bitter	Mainly Elec	One in town centre, quite a few in surrounding areas
Tetley	Mild Bitter	Mostly H/pumps	None now in town centre. Quite a lot just out of town
Walker	Mild Bitter Best Bitter	All H/pumps	Two town centre: Park, Raven. Rest in Ince, Platt Bridge, Springfield
Burtonwood	Mild Light Mild Bitter	H/pumps & elec	Four town centre, plentiful in surrounding area. Three outlets for light mild
Boddingtons	Mild Bitter	H/pumps	1 town centre, 1 Newtown, 1 Upholland & Aspull
Bass	Mild Cask Bitter Dr Bass	H/pumps	Two outlets for Draught Bass in town centre, rest Standish
Matthew Brown	Mild Bitter	H/pump & elec	Handpumps at Wigan Cricket Club. Rest Hindley & Ince area
Wilsons	Mild Bitter	H/pumps & Elec	Pemberton, Abbey Lakes, Standish Town centre
Thwaites	Mild Bitter	H/pumps	Pemberton, Copull
Youngers	Scotch IPA No.3	H/pumps	Town Centre: Market Tavern. Little Rock, Ince, for No 3
Whitbread	Duttons B Castle E	H/pumps	Derby Arms, Hindley; Belle Vue, Woodhouse La
11	26		

Alan Ball



## ALL CHANGE

The tastful transformation of the Bluebell (page 1) is to be welcomed. The brewers are to be congratulated in creating a pub atmosphere in a way that Whitbread have manifestly failed to achieve. Only one thing mars the project - the would-be customer is greeted at the door with a sign prohibiting jeans and training-shoes. Transgressors are quickly asked to leave by the licensee.

Nobody would deny the management the right to select the kind of clientele they desire, but such notices are arbitrary and insulting. Jeans and training shoes are by no means the uniform of the uncouth. They are established leisure wear for a wide cross-section of people of all ages, social classes and income groups. To deny access to potential customers on the basis of dress is high handed and dictatorial. It is totally out of keeping with the established traditions of the English public house. It is not difficult to create the atmosphere which the management wishes; usually the clientele is self regulating. After all, the Hotel Piccadilly is not crammed full of dossers and winos, nor do exemplars of sartorial elegance rush from Saville Row to frequent the Ducie Arms or the Old White Bear.

Notices are an unnecessary intrusion. Can we expect other establishments to follow suit - making transvestism compulsory near Chorlton Street Bus Station and prohibiting suits and ties in Miles Platting and Hulme? What a nonsense! By all means create upmarket pubs, but please don't insult your customers by introducing silly rules which are pointless, anachronistic and counterproductive.

Roger Hall



P.S Tudor Taverns are offering £100 for the design of a pub sign for the Monton Green Inn. This is What's Doing's suggestion. If you have a sensible idea (or a daft one) send it to the pub by December 15th.



Hard on the heels of Tarka Dhal's latest recommendation I visited the Lahore cafe on Union Street. Imagine the shock of seeing the dining room transformed! Gone were

the battered chairs and holey tablecloths with multi-hued stains. Instead there were smart wood-grain formica tables and dark green PVC tubular chairs which could have come straight from an up-market restaurant. Bright new wallpaper adorned the room and the ceiling was freshly painted. Despite all these changes, the food was just as good and cheap as on previous visits - average price with starters about £1.20.

For those who like to practise the Indian culinary art for themselves, I commend a book which I have just discovered "Mrs Balbir Singh's Indian Cookery" (Mills & Boon, Revised Edition 1975, c£3.25) Apart from detailed recipes and instructions for meat, fish, chicken, pork, kebabs, koftas, rice dishes, vegetarian, pulses, panir, breads, sweets, kulfi, savouries, sharbats, squashes, pickles, chutneys and jams, there are comprehensive sections on utensils, culinary methods, ingredients and typical uses, culinary terms, etc.

Few concessions are made to Western methods - whilst hints are given on how to commission a newly bought tandoor. One notable exception is the use of the pressure cooker, especially for lentils and meat curries. The Indian housewife who allows servants to handle her pressure cooker is advised to keep at least one spare weight indicator!

It was with special satisfaction, remembering Dim Sum's remarks, that I read in the opening paragraph of this excellent tome "Those who once taste Indian food find that all other food is insipid and tasteless in comparison".

Al O'Matey

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COPY DATE for next month is 20th December



I am informed by former radio bore and televisual non-personality Royal Hall that certain Drabs imbibers on the fringes of Grotley have, in their befuddled state, been referring to my writings as "middle class drivél." I can accept drivél - but middle class - never! Despite Mummy's unfortunate background, the Periwinkles are still at the top of the pecking order.

Be that as it may, I must now relate a cautionary tale - middle class as it no doubt is. Once upon a time, human dynamo Humphrey Dumpty bought some amber nectar for the Sodall Show, using the Grotley Slush Fund name. Unfortunately Mr Dumpty's pillar box contains a voracious goat and the brewers never got the readies which Mr Dumpty sent to them on several occasions. After a little while Geordies got a little shirty and wouldn't send any of their Delilah ale to other amber nectar shows run by the Campaign. Let's hope that the good Mr Dumpty has sorted out this little hiccup and that the flow of amber nectar will continue unabated. No doubt Mr Dumpty has been too busy sorting out the new very wonderful Snoot Magna imbibers' vademecum, which will be in the bookshops in the next few years.

I must take this opportunity to put some things straight. Brobdingnags have not been on strike nor has the gravity of their beer been reduced for the Christmas period. Drabs have not been carrying out market research in Brunley with the intention of selling their beers in the Midlands. Nobody has died as a result of drinking Jack Smugg's beers. Bunty is not in prison, Bogbrush has not married Koc Stark and Brobdingnags will never ever close down Fuddy's brewery.



## CHRISTMAS QUIZ

(Anagrams of brewery names set by Leo King. Answers at end)

- 1 Decent ales from the north
- 2 Guts from our cage
- 3 You either get this right or else you don't
- 4 Put Leo's dog on the right track
- 5 Hid 7 - figure it out
- 6 So the tank beer does not apply here
- 7 There are ten ways to name this one - one will do
- 8 It has very good taste when settled
- 9 Stop red van, it's getting out of control
- 10 We hit Drabs
- 11 Oh! We be merry!
- 12 No sighs when it's on form
- 13 Grab Ann's ostrich
- 14 Ella Burns Ltd - Chemist  
Charles M Bull - Dentist  
Sean Mills Ltd - Butcher
- 15 Edgar Banks' Inn provides these ales
- 16 Les Hall's crew cause a confusion



1 Castle Eden, 2 Courage, 3 Lees, 4 Elgoods, 5 Devenish, 6 Theakston  
7 Watneys, 8 Harveys, 9 Davenport, 10 Whitbread, 11 Home Brewery,  
12 Higgs, 13 Bass Charrington, 14 Mitchells and Butlers, 15 King and  
Barnes, 16 Charles Wells.

## BUMPER CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFER

For the person in your life who has everything. Heated lavatory seat? Computer controlled intravenous Drabs injector? Got them already? Why not give a year's subscription to What's Doing? Only £3.00 on this special offer.

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PLEASE SEND WHAT'S DOING TO:

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose £3.00 made payable to What's Doing.

Please send form to Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley M9 2PW



# Branch Diary

## SOUTH LANCASHIRE

Tues Dec 7, 8.30 Branch Meeting, Hand & Banner, Hindley  
Weds 22 Dec 8.00 Christmas Party, Park Hotel, Wigan. Trad Jazz, Hot Pot. Tickets £1.50  
Contact Brian Gleave Atherton 876200 (w) 892965 (h)

## NORTH MANCHESTER

Wed 15 Dec Branch Meeting, Queens, Patricroft. 8.00  
Wed 22 Dec SOLSTICE pub crawl (see last month for details)  
Weds 29 Dec HUNGOVERS pub crawl (see last month for details)  
Weds 5 Jan Pub crawl of Hulme & Ordsall. 7.00pm Pomona, 8.00 Last Hop, ending up in revamped Bricklayers.  
Weds 12 Jan Committee/Social Bell, Little Hulton 8.00  
Wed 19 Jan Branch Meeting White Swan, Swinton 8.00  
16 Jan Sunday Rover trip to Cheshire Ring, Hyde. Details Jan WD  
Contact Roger Hall 740 7937

## TRAFFORD & WULME

Thurs 2 Dec 7.30 Committee/Social Barrington Hotel, Barrington Rd, Altrincham  
Sat 4 Dec Altrincham Pub Crawl. Meet 7.00 Railway, Broadheath. 7.30 Wheatsheaf, 8.30 Victoria Tavern, 9.00 Malt Shovels, 10.00 Faulkners Arms. Maps Available  
Thurs 16 Dec 8pm Branch Meeting/Xmas Social, Melville, Barton Rd, Stretford. Games, Quizzes, etc.  
Mon 20 Dec 8pm Pub of the Month with S Manchester branch, Unity, Wellington Rd S, Stockport  
Thurs 6 Jan 7.30 Committee/Social, Crown, Deansgate, Manchester  
Thurs 20 Jan 8pm Branch meeting, Plough Hotel, Green Lane, Ashton on Mersey.

## ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 7 Dec 7.30 Christmas Social Eagle & Child (Holts), Higher La, Whitefield  
**FOOD 'n' DRABS**  
Tues 14 Dec 8.00 Branch Meeting Old Cross (Holts) Eton Hill Rd, Radcliffe  
Tues 4 Jan 8.00 Branch Meeting Hark to Towler (Thwaites), Market St, Tottington  
Tues 18 Jan 8.00 Committee meeting, Royal Oak (Thwaites), Bridge St, Ramsbottom  
**Please note: As from Jan 1983 branch meetings will be on first Tuesday in the month**  
Contact Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h) or 061 236 4411 ext 7237

## HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Sat 4 Dec Railway trip to Lincoln  
Tues 14 Dec 8.30 Branch meeting, Travellers Call (Lees), Stockport Rd/Ashton Rd, Bredbury  
Sat 18 Dec Christmas Social, Jodrell Arms (Wilsons), Whaley Bridge. Coach arrangements. For details contact Stuart Jamieson 427 2463  
Contact Tom Lord 427 7099

## BOLTON

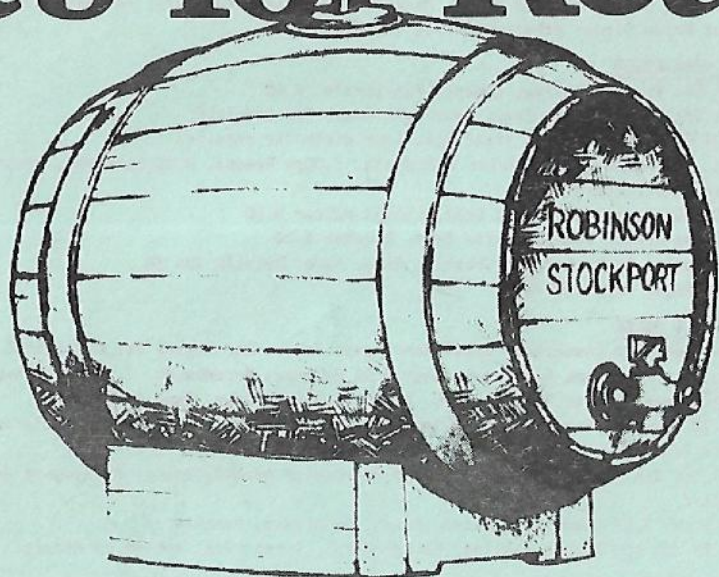
Weds 8 Dec 8pm Branch Meeting, Rawsons Arms, Farnworth  
Weds 22 Dec 7.30. Christmas Social, General Havelock, Sydney Street, Bolton  
Contact Jim Hurst Tottington 3532

## SOUTH MANCHESTER

Thurs Dec 9 Christmas Social - Pub Games night, supper - Gateway, Wilmslow Rd, 8pm (suggestions of, and loans of, games welcome)  
Fri Dec 17 4th Annual Christmas Crawl of Willgate - 6.30pm onwards - start at Blossoms, Buxton Rd  
Mon Dec 20 Pub of the Month, Unity Inn, Wellington Rd S, Stockport (Robinsons)  
Thurs Jan 13 Branch Meeting, Royal Oak, High St, Stockport (Note change of venue)  
Speaker from Robinsons  
Contact Humphrey Higgins 432 0059



# 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.**