

# WHAT'S DOING



JAN  
1983

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

## LONGEST SERVING LANDLADY RETIRES



After 31 years at the Friendship, Prestwich, and almost a lifetime in the trade, Mrs Ellien Butcher retired recently. Holts presented Mrs Butcher, who in her late eighties was probably the oldest licensee in the country, with an inscribed carriage clock and a bouquet of flowers, together with a framed print of the Friendship to remind her of the pub that was her home for so many years. The photograph shows Holts Chairman Peter Kershaw, Jack Butcher (son), Mrs Butcher, Leonard Bielby (Holts Tenancy Manager), Mr Peter Pritchard, Mr Richard Kershaw and Bill Butcher (son) in the front.

Mrs Butcher's first pub was the Vine on Kennedy Street Manchester, which she left in 1927 to take over at the original Eagle & Child, Whitefield. In 1931, five years before the Eagle & Child was rebuilt, she moved to the White Swan in Swinton, to remain there until 1942.

After 9 years away from the trade, Mrs Butcher arrived at the Friendship in 1951.

The new landlord at the Friendship, Jim Etchells, previously ran the Abbey Lakes Hotel in Wigan. The Friendship is now a managed house, with prices of 49p for bitter and 46p for mild, each 1p cheaper in the vault, making it the cheapest pub in Prestwich - 10p cheaper, in many instances, than local pubs owned by the big brewers.

David Rowlinson (photo courtesy Prestwich & Whitefield Guide)

## WOULD YOU MIND ANSWERING A FEW QUESTIONS?

**"Why is it that the breweries which carry out the most market research are less successful than those who do none?"**

This apparently flippanant remark was made to a marketing executive of one of the larger brewers. The fact that he found the question impossible to answer is an indication that there may be serious doubts about the value of market research.

Small regional brewers are usually in close touch with their customers. It is only the remoteness of the larger brewers which makes them turn to market research to find out what their customers need. There have been so many catastophic mistakes made, that one wonders what they did find out. In the last few years Wilsons have introduced Brewers Bitter and DPA, Bass have increased the gravity of draught Bass, doubled the number of outlets, discontinued the Union system, played with cask Stones and introduced Cask SB. Walkers and Whitbread have both brewed high gravity bitters and withdrawn them. Pubs have been turned into discotheques, wild west saloons, desert islands and junkyards. Who on earth told them that this was what people wanted?

Apart from the odd aberration like Holts keg, the local brewers haven't been guilty of the same cock ups - they'd have gone to the wall if they had. But have you noticed the tendency for the local brewers to follow in the footsteps of the Big Six as they themselves get bigger? No longer does the product sell itself - it has to be advertised and marketed. Thus the plethora of Boddingtons and Greenalls adverts - a sure sign that they're on the slippery slope. At the same time they're doing things which are likely to alienate them from their customers, an indication that they've no longer got their ears to the ground.

Market research is a useful tool which is capable of identifying valuable market sectors. In practice in the brewing industry it has tended to level things down to the lowest common denominator of taste. What will happen to Holts if it is to be marketed outside Greater Manchester? It would be fairly safe to predict that it would lose its individuality and uncompromising acerbity.

If market research merely found out what people really wanted and encouraged the brewers to provide it, nobody could really complain. However, this never seems to occur. There is a breakdown in the chain at some point. Brewers with common sense who produce decent, distinctive brews and sell them in ordinary pubs seem to succeed without market research. A hundred thousand pounds budget which tells you what you ought to know anyway is unjustified. If the same expenditure comes up with something less than the truth it is worse than useless.

Roger Hall

## WHAT'S DOING

### MANCHESTER BAR TO RE-OPEN

The licensed premises on Corporation Street incorporated into the Corn Exchange building will be called the Exchange Inn when it eventually opens after a very long closure. Alterations have been taking place and Whitbread applied for an entertainment licence in October. More recently Rowntrees music and disco bar, around 20 years ago it was a Chesters pub called Wynns Bar. Anyone remember?

### CORNBROOK

Bass have recently got around to telling CAMRA about "Cornbrook Bitter". It appears this keg-only beer (og 1033) is being "test marketed" in Greater Manchester and "has been developed as a lower gravity bitter to underpin and complement our very successful Stones Best Bitter". Oh well.

### DEAR BEER

The Brahms & Liszt, once one of central Manchester's new wave of real ale emporia, is selling traditional beer again after a lapse of a few years. This time the amber nectar is said to be Websters (handpumped) - 70p a pint if you're daft enough to pay it.

### NEW HANDS ON THE SHOVELS

New tenants at the Malt Shovels, Altrincham, are Dave and Liz Crank,



formerly of the Peacock Hotel, Doncaster, which was also a cask Sam Smiths house. Dave is an ex-pro footballer (it might be worth giving Altrincham a ring, the way things are going!), though he readily admits he wasn't in the Liverpool or United class (maybe City?) They are a very welcoming couple and the future of the Shovels appears to be in good hands.

### MILD HOUSE

The winner of Wilsons No.1 Mild House competition, based on presentation, condition, taste and sales performance, was the White Hart at Royton. Good to see at least one brewery promoting a beer which seems to be on the decline.

### TAMESIDE LOSSES

The Wellington, Manchester Road, Hyde, no longer sells cask Chesters bitter. Peg's Lantern, St Alban's Avenue, Ashton-under-Lyne, has stopped selling cask Stones bitter.

### TUDOR TAVERNS

Tudor Taverns have been spending a bob or two on the Trafford, Chester Road, and the Old Priory, Higher Broughton. Most of the £60,000 spent on the Trafford has gone to improve the food service. The Old Priory has been given a new lounge extension as part of "Phase 1" of a face-lift. Let's hope there are plans to do something about the ale in "Phase 2". The company has also laid out £20,000 on their architectural aberration, the House that Jack Built. It seems this establishment was in Egon Ronay's pub guide, so the money's gone towards providing more seating for Cheetham Hill's scampi 'n' chips set. Real ale is not expected.

### BRIDGE THAT GAP

The Ducie Bridge (Wilson's) at the corner of Miller Street and Corporation Street, Manchester 4, now sells handpumped mild and bitter

### BACK ON THE RAILS

The Railway, Stamford Street, Altrincham (Marstons Pedigree, mild and bitter), has taken on a new lease of life since the arrival of Joe and Margaret Murphy in early December. They took over the Railway tenancy after managing the Royal Standard, West Derby, Liverpool, a traditional Greenalls outlet which recently changed to cellar tanks. Immediate plans for the Railway are to redecorate, brighten the place up - and serve a consistently good pint! There are already signs that former regulars have started to return.



### WIN SOME, LOSE SOME

The Fourgates on the A6 in Westhoughton, north of Bolton, now serves Greenalls via handpumps (mild at 55p a pint and bitter at 57). The handpumps were installed at the landlord's expense. This popular roadside pub provides good lunch and evening catering (Italian meals a speciality). Dance nights are Friday and Saturday - 8.00pm to midnight. There are now two Greenalls pubs in Bolton serving cask beer through handpumps - the other is the Boars Head on Churchgate in the town centre.

Down the road in Blackrod, the Victoria Inn on New Street has served its last pint and Greenalls (who else!) have put the premises up for sale, without a licence (surprise, surprise). Reason for closure:- too many pubs (mainly Greenalls) competing for too small a trade.

### SALFORD SHUTDOWN

Not long after the Brunswick on Ordsall Lane closed, another Salford pub has ceased trading. This time it is the turn of the Lord Nelson on Chapel Street (Wilson's). The Lord Nelson was one of the oldest surviving Salford pubs, first licensed in 1799.

## PAVILION PALAVER

The White Lion (Wilsons) on the corner of Wilmslow Road and Burton Road, Withington, has been modernised and both room and vault are now one area. The pub is now called the Pavilion and is done out in tropical flavour, with hanging palms and sun blinds shutting out the light. Neon lights illuminate the place and pine tables and bamboo-style chairs and stools blend with the traditional cloth seating. Traditional handpumped bitter (no mild) sells for an exorbitant 64p a pint. The White Lion Bar, adjoining the Cine City (late Scala Cinema), is gained by going down some wooden steps. This is the games room - no handpumps, just the oval bar mountings. Our correspondent did not try them, but suspects the mild and bitter are not of the real variety.

## PLANNING NEWS

Plans have been submitted for extending the Travellers Call on the corner of Church Street and George Street, Stalybridge, into adjoining property.

## SHUT

The Bay Horse (Wilsons) on Thomas Street, Manchester 4, has been closed for quite some time now. It appears that the building is in danger of collapse. Traditional beer was on sale, dispensed by electric pumps, in this rather basic and somehow dark and lifeless pub.

## MORE CASTLE EDEN

Castle Eden has appeared at the Original Bay Horse, Lee Lane, Horwich. Also available by handpump is Bulmers Cider.

## PICTURES FOR SALE

Landlord Bert Wright of the Victoria British Queen, Blackburn Road, Bolton, is due to retire next year. Over the years he has always kept a good pint of Greenalls and has built up a collection of 86 water colours of Bolton's pubs, past and present, painted by the well known R E Cooper. These paintings are now being sold for £20 each, which makes a very good buy. We wish Albert all the best in his retirement.

## NEW BLUE BOAR

Whitbread's latest pub transformation in Bolton reopened at the end of November. The Blue Boar, Deansgate, now sells Castle Eden and Duttons bitter by handpump. It is a welcome change from the boring, standard House of Horrors pub. Exactly what theme the Blue Boar is now trying to convey is a little obscure; there is no carpet on the floor

and the bar, walls and beams are made of rough timber. The ceilings are lacking in the usual over-abundance of junk, save for the odd farm implement and a series of large chains. The inside door of the pub appears to be on the wrong way round, as the letterbox and door hinges are on the inside! Trust Whitbread.

### CENTRAL MANCHESTER ALE

The Smithfield, Swan Street, reopened on Saturday 18th December. It looks like Boddingtons have been forking out the brass again. Like the Grapes, off Deansgate, this new "free house" sells Boddies bitter and the inevitable keg Oldham mild.

The Swan (now bereft of its "Two Necks") on Shudehill opened on 3rd December. Wilsons have done the place out quite tastefully and the bitter is 59p a pint (handpumps).

The Grapevine Bar of the Portland Hotel is selling Youngers IPA on handpump at 64p a pint.



### NEW-LOOK SOUTHERN

Boddingtons reopened the Southern Hotel, Mauldeth Road, Chorlton on 16th December. Internal walls have been knocked down, the bar has been enlarged and there is a new food preparation and serving area. The photo shows Mr Ewart Boddington manning the (electric) pumps and licensees Elsie and Roy Fitzgerald.

## SIGN LANGUAGE

The Wilsons sign people have been busy in Rossendale in the last few months. Most of the new offerings are eye-catching and attractive, replacing a motley collection of signs, many dating back to pre-Watney days, when Wilsons really was Wilsons. Only around half the pubs ever got Watneyised, a few became "Watney-Wilsons" and the rest were untouched by the Red Revolution. Rossendale was probably the only area in the country which wasn't overrun with keg beer, and this is particularly notable as 70% of the pubs are owned by Bass and Wilsons.

## KEARSLEY-ALE

The Market Street Tavern, Kearsley, has had a change of landlord and gained handpumps for the Wilsons mild and bitter.

## TWIN SET

Taylor's beers continue to gain a foothold in Manchester city centre. Both Landlord and bitter are on sale at Badgers, a restaurant which opened on the 14th December in Kennedy Street. Badgers operated on two floors with either self or waitress service and serves traditional food to which the Taylors is an excellent traditional accompaniment. At the moment the restaurant is only open at lunchtimes from Monday to Friday, but it may open in the evenings as custom increases.

## ODD BODDY BEHAVIOUR

The Golden Ball, Spotland Road, Rochdale, now sells Boddingtons bitter on handpump, in addition to the cask OB mild and bitter on electric. It's a stark contrast to the revamped Baths Hotel, Smith Street, where electric pumped Boddingtons bitter (no mild) is on sale alongside keg OB mild and bitter. It really is crazy that you can get cask Boddingtons bitter in OB pubs but only keg OB in Boddingtons pubs. Would the person responsible for this policy care to explain the logic to us? - Preferably over a pint of cask OB in a Boddingtons house!

## PRICES

The Pineapple, Howard Street, and the Globe, Whitworth Road, both in Rochdale, have ceased selling Duttons bitter as there was little demand for it. We may ask the question, "Who knew it was available, and would they have paid the asking price (58p) when Holts bitter is available up the road at the Cross Yates (bitter 49p and mild 47p) and Sam Smiths Old Brewery Bitter at the Alpine Gasthof (52p)?" One of these days it might dawn on Whitbread (and Bass, for that matter) that they are hopelessly uncompetitive on the prices of their beers.





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## IRLAM VAULT NEWS

Chesters recently increased the price of beer in the Nags Head vault by 3p for tank Chesters bitter and 2p for the handpumped best mild, thus making them equal to the lounge prices. The regulars objected to these unjustified increases and the brewery was made aware of their complaints. The increases were subsequently cancelled and the price of both drinks remains at 54p a pint.

Rumours are rife that Tudor Taverns intend to reopen the White Lion vault. It was closed about a year ago and turned into an intended upmarket functions room. The room was immediately nicknamed the White Elephant, but it is still in operation. Bedlam nights are an occasional feature at the pub, with a disco in this room, supplemented by the juke box in the adjacent lounge. Let's hope that the new management broom brushes away the "functions" room in the not too distant future.

## HOUSE OF HORRORS

Bury's latest pub conversion reopened in early December. The Pack Horse, Manchester Road, is now officially declared a House of Horrors pub, selling Castle Eden and Duttons bitter at around the 60p mark. Make sure that you specify which beer you want, as in virtually all Whitbread pubs if you ask for bitter you get keg Trophy. The place has been completely altered and the usual raised drinking areas predominate, together with the green paint and red lights. Obvious plastic fruit hangs from the ceiling (the bananas are really bad imitations), but pride of place is given to the poor old stuffed horse that adorns one of the raised drinking areas. It is so big that they've had to cut one of those silly canopies to get its ears and head in. Could this be the horse that pulled the cart, half of which is in the Moses Gate, Farnworth, the other half in the Bitter End (nee Hop) in Burnley?

## PRICES

Despite a 2p a pint increase to catch the Christmas trade, Holts still offers good value for money at 49p a pint in managed houses, particularly when compared with Chesters, which is 4° weaker and over 10p a pint more expensive.

## TURNED TURF

The Turf on Wash Lane in Bury has had the electric pumps replaced with handpumps for the Matthew Brown mild and bitter. The pub itself has now dropped its disco image and is being modernised, in a style which Whitbread seem to have forgotten about.

## SPRUNG

The transformation of the Springfield Guest House, Bolton Road,

Pendlebury, by Boddingtons is not going to happen. The County Engineer reckons there will be traffic problems because the building is on the corner of Agecroft road. Pity, really. There was even a petition for the pub signed by 250 local residents; the rival petition against the idea only got 75.



### CHURCH CHANGES

The Church Inn, Church Road, Farnworth, reopened on 21st December as a Thwaites house (ex-Greenalls). For many years this traditional pub has had the distinction of being the only one for miles around without a jukebox or gaming machines. Let's hope it stays that way! Handpumps have appeared and little else has changed.

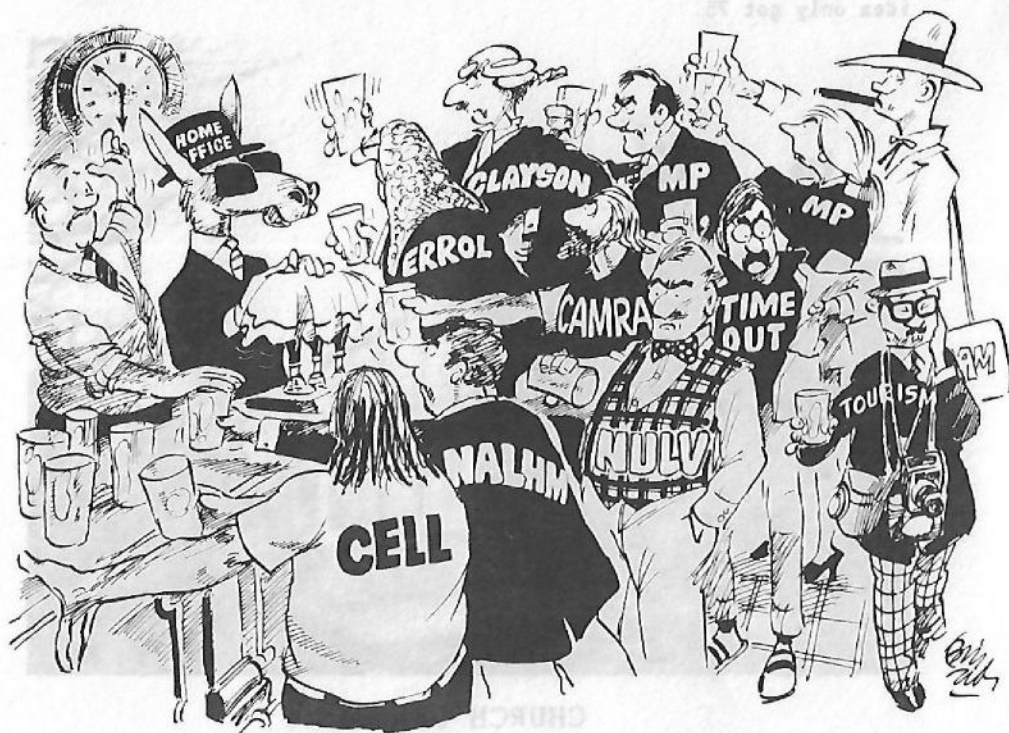
Another recent Thwaites acquisition from Greenalls is the Union Inn at Tyldesley.

### BRIEF BODDIES

Concern over the type of beer to be served at the new Streetbridge Inn at Hollinwood (Oldham Brewery), currently under construction behind the existing pub, was voiced by the Rochdale, Oldham & Bury branch to Boddingtons. The branch fear that the bulk OB beers will be tank, with the possibility of some cask Boddies bitter. The terse reply from Boddies stated: "...the beer dispensed will be appropriate to the business." Well, that seems to clear that up!



# TIME for CHANGE



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for**

# FLEXIBLE PUB OPENING HOURS

**CHANGE for TIME**





## GOATS GATE

Harry and Audrey, hosts at the Goats Gate, Whitefield (Holts), retired from the trade recently after 19 years at the pub. They now run a snooker hall in Stockport. The new landlord, Bob Rafferty, is no stranger to Holts pubs and in planning to replace the present electric pumps with handpumps. Prices at the Goats Gate are 52p for bitter and 51p for mild.

## TETLEY MOVES

Geoff and Kate have left the Cornbrook in Hulme to take over the tenancy of the Hill Top in Blackley. Geoff, who was recently presented with a "Best Kept Cellar Award" at his old pub, will be doing his best to convince Tetleys that there is a demand for the real thing in Blackley.

## GROVE ASH

The Grove on Regent Road, Salford, finally closed its doors on New Year's Eve to join the throng of Salford Greenalls pubs on Boot Hill. Known locally as the Dolls House, the pub should create little difficulty for the bulldozers.

## BURY BEER FESTIVAL OUTSELLS THE OKTOBERFEST!

Record attendances at the recent Bury Real Ale Festival meant that the staff "clearing up" drinks were in very short supply. First beers to sell out were Failsworth Original and Strong, and last to go was Lorimers 70/-. In all 50 kils of beer, 50 gallons of scrumpy and 50 litres of wine were hastily put away over the four sessions. Even the famous Oktoberfest cannot hope to compete with the 120 lbs of Bury black puddings

and 25 lbs of black peas which helped to soak up the beer. Recent reports have confirmed that the Dixies Cripple Cock scrumpy did in fact live up to its name. Thanks to the Cadishead Brass Band and the Ben Crossland Band, and to all who helped make the festival a success.



## PUB OF THE MONTH

8.00pm, Thursday 27 January will be a good time to be in the Bakers, Pownall Road, Altrincham. The Trafford & Hulme branch have selected this excellent Hydes house as their Pub of the Month. Built in 1967

to replace premises of the same name, it was acquired by Hydes from Whitbread in 1981. In the November of that year Sheila and Peter Hastwell started selling the excellent Hydes best mild and bitter which has helped develop a welcoming atmosphere in this friendly, community pub. Live music is performed in the lounge on some evenings and there is a good vault. The Bakers may soon overlook a new Sainsburys supermarket, which could lead to even more thirsty lunchtime visitors. Beat them to it and come to the Social/Plaque Presentation for a good night out.

## HOUSE OF HORRORS

Yet another House of Horrors pub has been inflicted on an unsuspecting public. This time it's the Rose & Crown in Edgworth. As usual, it has the raised drinking areas, green paint and red lights, not to mention the Castle Eden and the Duttons bitter. The only problem with this pub is that it's a little too small and over the first weekend people were falling about over the steps to get to the essentials of the pub, like the bar and the toilets. It may have been like an overcrowded,

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### WHAT'S DOING

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

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

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### JOIN CAMRA

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

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licensed dentist's waiting room before, but surely Whitbread could have done better than this.

On a brighter note, Castle Eden on handpumps has appeared recently at the Church Inn on Spring Street and the Peel Hotel on Rochdale Road, both in Bury (61p and 63p respectively). Both are genuine pubs without the plastic prevalent in other Whitbread pubs in Bury.

## IT'S ALL DONE IN THE BEST POSSIBLE TASTE

Word has it that a pub near Preston will be renamed "The Falklands Heroes". Well, some of these Whitbread pubs do look as if they've been used as an Argentinian Naffi in the rainy season!

Contributors: Roger Hall, Steve Lawton, D Shelton, Don Chattwood, Rob Dunford, Bert Kerks, Paul Roberts, Bill Collier, David Rowlinson, Leo King, Mick Rottenbury, Dave Hale.



### MOAN

Sir - I am getting sick and tired of the sundry interior design "experts" from the local CAMRA branches, slagging off the Whitbread so-called "House of Horrors" pubs. Anyone who picks up a national or local real ale guide will find it saturated with such comments as "basic local",

"friendly local", "drinking man's pub", "modern estate pub" and the like. From this fact alone there is obviously room amongst the huge number of pubs in the country for a few Whitbread fun houses. Furthermore, the most important point about the fun houses seems to have been totally ignored, namely, that most of these pubs previously sold only fizzy processed beer and now sell traditional cask conditioned beer, including excellent brews such as Hartleys and Castle Eden which were previously unavailable in our area.

There is no doubt that many young drinkers are attracted to gimmick pubs or those with discos, etc, and surely it must be better to have them drawn into a Whitbread fun pub where they might be persuaded to drink real ale rather than automatically reaching for lager. On the several occasions that I have been in a "House of Horrors" pub, I have found the beer to be in very good condition, and surely this is the most important consideration. Perhaps some people prefer to go into a pub that is at least different in its decor and actually has something new to look at, instead of passing the time admiring the vomit

on the vault floor, counting the fag ends on the lounge "carpet" or marvelling at the rich colours of the nicotine-encrusted walls and ceilings.

It all points to the well-known adage among members of the general public that the typical CAMRA member is a pot-bellied beer bore, who not only knows everything about beer but also tells everybody what sort of pub he should drink in. What a load of boring old fuddy-duddies.

Alastair L Walker

#### WIGAN ALE

Sir - Concerning the article on Wigan's pubs in December's WD. I can't understand what is meant by the "town centre". For instance, it is stated that there are no Tetley houses in the town centre, when in fact the Bricklayers Arms in Hallgate sells an excellent pint, while the Derby Arms at the bottom of King Street sometimes sells Tetley bitter. These two houses are far nearer the "town centre" than one of the Bass houses in the survey (the Bowling Green).

McEwans has also been omitted from the survey. The handpumped bitter is available in the Turnkey, King Street. The Burtonwood light mild outlets are down to two since its demise in the Woodhouses Inn.

Dave White

#### PELICAN PLEA

Sir - What on earth have these so-called planners done to the Pelican? It used to be a pleasure to stop and have a drink there. It was a nice homely pub and I and many others used it many times over the years. It was very comfy. Then it was decided to have it altered. I imagine it must have cost thousands of pounds and they have made it into a wreck. Many people are disgusted by the terrible decor, and they now charge 63p a pint for the beer. Many customers have found other pubs to go to. Where on earth do these planners get the idea that iron bedsteads and old sewing machines for tables are the 'in' thing? I can't fathom why the breweries allow it to happen. The Pelican was a fine pub and now they have lost a large number of customers - including all the vault lads as there is now no vault. The sting of putting the beer up to 63p a pint is an insult. If you knew the Pelican before alteration then visit it now, you wouldn't believe the wreck they have made of it.

I Goodwin

#### MANCHESTER ALE

Sir - I was amused by Roger Hall's comments about the Central Manchester 1983 Good Beer Guide entries. Who in their right mind would drink the thin, bland beers produced by Greenalls and Chesters, when



one can sample the delights of Tetley, Hydes, Wilsons, etc? Let's not forget that the GBG is about GOOD beer, rather than the variety within a district!

Joey Sidall

### ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Sir - It is really great to read of outlets converting to real ale, and many pubs in the city centre of Manchester can now be visited with this in mind. However, the city centre is still well stocked with pubs selling the other stuff. Here is a list of pubs which sell keg and/or tank beer within the city centre. So real beer drinkers, take note:

Auld Reekie, Market St (S&N)	Board Room, Portland St (Wilsons)
Brunswick, Piccadilly (Wilsons)	City, Oldham St (Whitbread)
City Road Inn, Albion St (W'bread)	Crown, Fountain St (Bass)
Vth Inn, Crown Square (Greenalls)	Gaythorn, Albion St (Bass)
Kensington, Newton St (Wilsons)	Lass o'Gowrie, Charles St (W'bread)
Lord Nelson, Newton St (Guess)	Mr Chesters, Cateaton St (W'bread)
Mr Thomas's, Cross St (Free)	Old Nags Head, Lloyd St (Greenalls)
Pineapple, Water St (Greenalls)	Portland Bars, Portland St (Tetley)
Rosies Bar, York St (Wilsons)	Salisbury, Wakefield St (Wilsons)
Sawyers Arms, Deansgate (Wilsons)	Shady Lady, Oxford St (Wilsons)
Shakespeare, Fountain St (Wilsons)	Swinging Sporrán, Sackville St (S&N)
Tommy Ducks, East St (Greenalls)	Vine, Kennedy St (Obviously)
Wheatsheaf, High St (Whitbread)	White Hart, London Rd (Whitbread)
White Lion, Liverpool Rd (W'bread)	Ye Old Wheatsheaf, Deansgate (Bass)

Leo King

### TEDIOUS

Sir - I am writing to WD to remind everyone that they have a Robinsons Brewery Liason Officer and that he would much appreciate it if, before people go into print, either in this magazine or What's Brewing, on anything to do with Robinsons beer or brewery, they would ascertain the facts either from him or the brewery. This would avoid much confusion and embarrassment all round.

Peter Broadbent, Robinson BL0



Who would ever have thought that the dynamic Tom Android would have thrown in the towel after stamping his blandness on the Campaign. He is certainly more memorable than other past supremos, whose names escape me. But who will step into the void left by his disappearance? Terry Clone is wearing the mantle until the AGM, but who will be the permanent supremo? Bogbrush is poised for something, having vacated the editorship of the Scousely Imbiber. Whether he is poised for leadership or an ongoing nuptial situation remains to be seen. Dermatitis, after his slightly less than wooden appearances on the box, might be in with a chance, particularly as Tom Duckfoot is still visiting the detoxification unit.

Elsie Clockwork Nun remains a dark horse of course, but Peter Hammerstein has blotted his copybook by introducing a pub preservation award for new pubs - silly boy. Nellie Tweed hasn't a cat in hell's chance of heading the hierarchy since he made a complete dog's breakfast of the petition forms by missing off a column for addresses.

Whether any of the other assembled worthies could front the movement remains to be seen. I sincerely hope that whoever gains control deals firmly with Boris Pratt, who seems to be able to do what he likes. Not that there's anything wrong with the new wonder guide, brought out to miss the Christmas trade four weeks after the Consumer Association's pale imitation hit the bookshops. Good judge, Boris.

Apart from Dermatitis, there's very little likely talent in Grotley. Bunty has little interest, Bilko has his hostelry to look after and Humphrey Dumpty has problems of his own. It's a tragedy that an area which nurtured the Campaign should have no representation at the top. - but perhaps our time will come.

**RUMOUR DENIAL:** The Snoot Magna branch is by no means insolvent. They have not issued any rubber cheques, nor has Mr Tweed decreed that they can't have any 1983 guides until they've paid for the 1982 ones. There is absolutely no need for the barrel-shaped accountant's ectomorphic sibling to put his house in order merely because of malicious unsubstantiated rumour with no basis in fact at all in any shape or form whatsoever.



# Branch Diary

## HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Tues Jan 11 8.30 Membership/Committee meeting, Spring Gardens (Wilsons), Compstall Rd, Marple Bridge

Tues Jan 18 8.30 Branch Meeting The Crown (Robinsons), Market St, Hyde

Contact Tom Lord 427 7099

## NORTH MANCHESTER

Sun 16 Jan Sunday Rover trip to Cheshire Ring, Hyde. Catch 215 (Glossop) bus at 11.33 from Piccadilly. (If you miss that there's the 211 at 11.48)

Wed 19 Jan Branch meeting 8.00 White Swan, Swinton

Wed 2 Feb Pub Crawl of Eccles New Road. 7.00 Swan, 8.00 Old Veteran, end in Broadway

Wed 9 Feb Committee/Social White Horse, Swinton 8.00

Wed 16 Feb Branch Meeting, Duke of York, Eccles, 8.00 Whitbread speaker

Wed 23 Feb, Train ride to Strawberry Duck, Entwistle. Hourly service from Victoria, Pendleton, Clifton Junction, Kearsley, Farnworth, etc. Last one back to Victoria 10.28

Contact Roger Hall 740 7937

## TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 6 Jan Committee meeting, Crown, Deansgate, Manchester 7.30

Thurs 20 Jan Branch Meeting, Old Plough, Green Lane, Ashton-on-Mersey 8.00

Thurs 27 Jan Pub of the Month, Bakers Arms, off Pownall Rd, Altrincham 8.00

Thurs 3 Feb 7.30 Committee meeting, Faulkners Arms, Stamford New Rd, Altrincham

Thurs 17 Feb, Branch meeting, Malt Shovels, Stamford St, Altrincham

Contact Alan Hurdle 973 2103

## BOLTON

Weds Jan 5th Branch Meeting George, Gt Moor Street, Bolton 8.30

Tues Jan 25th Social/Committee Ainsworth, Halliwell Rd, Bolton, 8.30

Sun Feb 6th Four Gates, Westhoughton, Lunch time social 12.00

Weds Feb 9th Branch meeting Falcon, Kay Street, Bolton, 8.30

Contact Jim Hurst Tottington 3532

## ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

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

Tues 1 Feb 8.00, Branch meeting, Pack Horse (Marstons), Wrigley Head, Failsworth

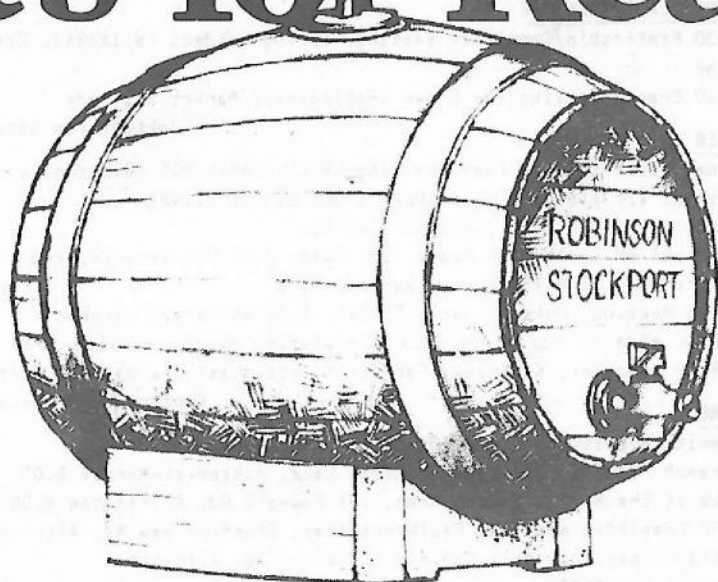
Tues 15 Feb 8.00pm, Committee meeting, Spinners (Sam Smiths), M/cr Rd, Hollinwood

Contact Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h), 061 236 4411 ext 7237 (w)

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Bolton branch members wish to express their deepest condolences to the friends and relatives of Phil Drake, who died suddenly on 11th December. Phil was an active member of the local committee and a respected social figure; he will be greatly missed by all those who knew him.

# 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.**