

WHAT'S DOING

NUMBER 9 JULY 1976

The Newsletter of the North Manchester Branch of CAMRA

THE PUBS OF SALFORD

In the last fifteen years Salford has lost almost 100 pubs due to demolition for rehousing and road building. The new pubs built in their place are, for the most part, 'keg palaces' which serve only bright beer and lack the atmosphere and character of the old pubs.

The demolition has not yet stopped. There are over 30 pubs due to go in the near future. Salford Corporation have not given any reason why the pubs should be knocked down except to say that it is for 'housing development' or a 'road scheme'.

Much of the demolition seems to be needless and thoughtless. Many of the old pubs could serve as the focal points for the development of new communities if they were allowed to remain. The planners of Salford Corporation, however, seem determined to continue with their policy of destroying communities and building a new Salford which is anonymous, alien and hostile. The

brewers have not protested loudly because the larger estate pubs which are replacing the street corner locals are more profitable, especially if tank beer is sold.

The Chequerboard, despite its merits is no substitute for the Derby Hotel. The new Woolpack does not merit comparison with its forerunner. How can pubs with the character and individuality of the St. James Hotel, The Papermakers Arms, The Priory and The Hyde Park Corner possibly be replaced?

A City is more than roads and houses and factories. It is an organism, a mixture of people, communities, traditions, beliefs and values which is influenced by the environment in which it exists. Since the war Salford has lost its identity as a City as a result of the breaking up of complete communities. Pubs are a small but essential part of what may be called our 'cultural heritage' and as such should be preserved rather than destroyed.

Roger Hall

**THE FOLLOWING SALFORD REAL ALE PUBS
ARE SCHEDULED FOR DEMOLITION:-**

ORDSALL LANE

The Welcome
The Albion
The Bricklayers Arms

Lees
Tetley
Holts

DERBY STREET

The Derby Hotel
The Derby Arms

Wilsons
Boddingtons

REGENT ROAD

The Wellington
The Grove
Gloucester Arms
Spread Eagle
Albert Inn
Gas Tavern
Borough Inn
Peeping Tom
Star Inn

Boddingtons
Greenall
Free House
Holts
Bass
Greenall
Greenall
Tetley
Greenall

TRAFFORD AREA

St James Hotel
Clowes Hotel
Broadway Inn

Greenall
Wilsons
Holts

ECCLES NEW ROAD

Grove Inn
Osborne Inn

Wilsons
Wilsons

CROSS LANE AREA

Wellington Inn
Railway Inn
Station Hotel
Falcon Inn
Red Cow
Corporation Inn
Windsor Castle

Wilsons
Greenall
Greenall
Wilsons
Boddingtons
Wilsons
Wilsons

BROUGHTON

Sun Inn
Papermakers Arms
Post Office
Dover Inn
Original Inn

Boddingtons
Greenall
Wilsons
Greenall
Wilsons

PENDLETON

Windsor Bridge Tavern
Bridge Inn
Priory Arms
Unicorn Inn
Railway Inn

Wilsons
Wilsons
Boddingtons
Greenall
Boddingtons

ADELPHI

Hyde Park Corner

Tetleys

THE FOLLOWING PUBS ARE SAFE:-

Railway
Greyhound Inn
Globz Hotel
The Chequerboard
The Paddock
Star
Church Inn
Duke of York
Albert Park Inn
Duke of York
Kersal Hotel
The Winston
Old House at Home
Feathers Inn
Bee Hive Inn
Red Lion Hotel
Wellington Hotel
Waggon and Horses
The White Horse
Kildakin

Liverpool Street
Woden Street
Regent Road
Tatton Street
Cross Lane
Back Hope Street
Hilton Street
Marlborough Road
Duke Street
York Street
Moor Lane
Churchill Way
Whit Lane
Laundry Street
Holland Street
Bolton Road
Bolton Road
Bolton Road
Gilda Brook Road
St Kildas Drive

The other 30 pubs, mainly in the Greengate and Chapel Street areas, are safe for the time being, but the areas in which they stand make it possible that demolition will eventually take place.

The branch meeting last month was held on Wednesday, 16th May, in The Gloucester, a free house on Regent Road, but was later adjourned by common consent to the Derby, Derby Street, in view of the quality of the beer. A letter has been sent to Boddingtons about this.

However, two visitors from Thwaites, Mr Tann, the Second Brewer and Mr Swindon, the manager in charge of free trade outlets, helped to make our stay in the Gloucester more enjoyable by talking about the history of the brewery and its present policies. The following is a summary of what was said.

The brewery was founded nearly 170 years ago in Blackburn and is still run by two brothers from the Thwaites family. It was built at the bottom of the valley so that use could be made of the natural water table there, and two wells were later added to the original one, one called the Mafeking and one Ward Well after a certain gentleman who quarrelled with the brewery and decided to reduce their water supply. His plot, however, was foiled since the water table itself was so abundant. The wells are no longer used for brewing. This is partly because the brewery has to pay water rates anyway in order to dispose of waste water, and partly because the laboratory checks necessary to ensure that the well water is absolutely sterile would be additionally costly.

About 80% of Thwaites beer is natural, although they do have a new bottling plant and also distribute keg and bright beer to certain outlets. Most of their pubs are in the Blackburn - Bury area, although they did take over six Whitbread houses in Liverpool not long ago. However, pubs supplied from outside their area are usually the result of special requests, as, for example, the recent arrangement to supply Salford University's Castle Irwell with real ale. They don't use substitutes for any of the ingred-

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

ients, believing that it's false economy to do so since taste is often lost and additives then have to be purchased to replace it. They don't have a set policy on refurbishing pubs, except to try to do it 'tastefully'.

Policy on supplying clubs is that they usually insist on bright beer. The argument in support of this is that stewards were more easily tempted than landlords to become careless about keeping the beer and that to serve a top quality product all the time in a small club would involve a lot of wastage.

Mr Tann ended by giving his personal views on CAMRA in response to a question. He is a CAMRA member himself and thus in sympathy with the main aims of the organisation, but was pessimistic about the future. He pointed out that many of the members he had seen at various CAMRA meetings were young people and said that in his view their interest would wane as their family responsibilities became greater and would no longer be replaced by support from younger generations after a few years. However, after howls of protest from various quarters, he did say that he thought real ale would last for the lifetimes of everyone present, before being phased out, so at least we have some time in which to convince him that he's wrong.

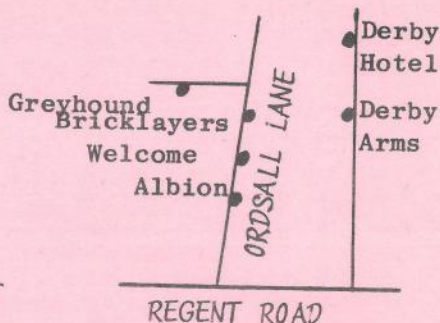
NORTH MANCHESTER PUB CRAWL

ORDSALL LANE

The 'revised' Ordsall Lane pub crawl is second only to the Greengate crawl in the choice of beers available to the Salford drinker. It takes in six pubs, all within a few hundred yards of one another, with six different brews served in surroundings which range from the monumental to the modest. All the pubs, with the exception of the Greyhound, are due for demolition in the near future and it would be an optimist indeed who looked forward to the same choice in the new generation of pubs - if any - which are to replace them.

The Bricklayers Arms is a large Holts pub about halfway down Ordsall Lane. The exterior is in the unmistakable Holts style of the early years of the century, the date of construction and the name of the brewer appearing high up in the brickwork above the door. The original black and gold signboard outside is in keeping with the tiled and panelled interior with its vault, parlour with a piano and lobby down one side of the bar. Both the mild and the bitter are handpumped. In sharp contrast to the Bricklayers Arms is the Greyhound, a Greenall Whitley pub on Woden Street just across Ordsall Lane. This pub has been recently and tastefully modernised, the previous three or four rooms having given way to a vault with pool table and a comfortable lounge, the piano of which blends in rather better than the elaborately camouflaged jukebox. Signs of the old pub still remain in the etched glass windows, although its handpumps have long since been replaced by handpumps.

Back across Ordsall Lane is the Welcome Inn, the only Lees house in Salford. It is a quiet ordinary pub with a friendly landlady and a comfortable, if rather gloomy atmosphere. The steel handpumps are an unusual



feature, as are the old sewing machine treadles which support the tables in the lounge. Hot snacks are available at lunchtime. A few yards up from the Welcome is a small Tetley pub, the Albion, which has an interesting layout in that the bar and vault are on the left hand side of the pub, the lounge taking the form of two alcoves on the right. There is also a small pool room at the back of the bar from which the mild and bitter are served from handpumps. The walls carry impressive certificates of the sums raised for the blind by the pub's customers.

The easiest way of reaching the last two pubs on the crawl is to clamber over the rubble of the demolished terraces behind the Bricklayers Arms, the Welcome and the Albion. The Derby Arms and the Derby Hotel are not difficult to find since they are literally the only buildings left standing and both are worth the walk. The former was a street corner Boddingtons pub typical of the old Salford and it retains a friendly community atmosphere. Although the life of the pub is limited, it has nevertheless been redecorated and the lounge and vault are far from empty. The handpumped mild and bitter are of the usual high Boddingtons standard. But perhaps the most consistent pint on the whole crawl is found in the last pub, the Derby Hotel.

The Derby Hotel is by any standards an exceptional pub. It is an imposing, three-storied Wilsons house which appears massive on the outside and yet modestly proportioned within. Although the pub does not make the same superficial concessions to comfort as its neighbour the newly built Chequer-board nearby, it is a thriving and popular community pub still patronised by the residents of the former terrace houses. The landlord turns over some 30 barrels a week of excellent hand drawn mild and bitter. There is a pool room and lounge at the back, but the vault and lobby with the bar inbetween always fill up first. At the week-ends, however, the lounge comes into its own with a pianist and spontaneous singing. The Derby in a true local and it would be sad indeed if it were demolished. It would, admittedly, benefit from having some money spent on it, but that would cost far less than the alternative of knocking it down and building afresh. It is doubtful whether a new pub would attract the same customers or the same trade, and in any case there already is one a stone's throw away. In the case of the Derby, even the economic arguments seem in favour of keeping it open.

For five of the six pubs on the Ordsall Lane crawl, demolition seems almost certain. If you fancy demolishing a pint or two in them, you had better act quickly.

Jem Callaghan

LANDLORD TO MOVE

Albert Valentine, landlord of the Queens Arms in Patricroft, is moving to The Boathouse, Irlam, in August. The present landlord of the Boathouse retires this summer and Boddingtons begin modernising (bye bye handpumps) when Albert moves in.

Albert will have had the Queens for three years in November, and since he came to the pub he has improved it considerably. The beer is consistently good; and he assures us that in The Boathouse he will be making every effort to maintain the same high standard.

The next licensee of the Queens will be Alan Bennett, at present full-time cellarman at the Dog and Partidge, Heaton Mersey.

No change in the Sporrán..

Branch members will be agonised to learn that the Swinging Sporrán, a new Scottish and Newcastle drinking building on Liverpool Road, Eccles, will not be selling cask-conditioned beer in the foreseeable future.

However, all is not lost. We have been informed by the Group Public Relations Officer that S & N cask-conditioned beer is available literally on our doorstep at the Peel Arms in Padfield, Cheshire, and the Swan Inn, Wybunbury, Cheshire. Worth passing that many pubs for?

Incidentally, no mention was made in S&Ns letter of the Bolton Arms in Manchester which does serve their cask-conditioned beer on handpumps.

POLLARDS COMES TO ECCLES

Pollards' fans will be pleased to hear that their favourite ale is now available on draught in Eccles. Pollards' bitter is now being sold from wooden casks in the off license on Barton Lane next door to the Ship Canal pub, and is retailing at 20p per pint (bring your own jug/bottle). The beer was introduced at the beginning of June and sales are building up 'fairly well' although as yet they have not reached a high enough level to make the exercise viable. The proprietor however is optimistic and plans to step up his campaign to convert the locals to 'real ale' by widening the range of draught beers available, should the initial experiment prove a success. Also in the Eccles area draught Hydes mild continues to be available from their off license at 482 Liverpool Road, Peel Green.

KING WILLIAM IV

It is sad but true that traditional Walkers' bitter is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain. If you peruse the list of Tetley-Walker tenanted pubs listed in What's Doing No. 5, there are none to be found in Salford or North Manchester. The nearest one to where I live (Walkden) is the King William, known locally as the King Billy. The postal address is given as Boothstown, but this is very misleading. I went on a safari looking for the King William and eventually found it near Mosley Common. Certainly, I would urge all members to pay it a visit. Take whatever transport you can - roller skates, bicycle, pram or even hoop and stick - along the East Lancs Road past the traffic lights at the A575 (if you turn right here you end up in Walkden). Carry on to the next set of lights but one and turn right onto the A577 (to Tyldesley). About 300 yards along this road you will find your destination set back on the right hand side. It is situated on an unmade road called 'Commonside'. If you look carefully, you will note that the two gas lights are still in use. The pub has recently been re-decorated inside and small wall lights have been installed. All this is in very good taste and the 'best room' is a delight in which to consume your pint (apart from the jukebox).

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Stewart Revell

AN UNPRETENTIOUS LITTLE LOCAL SERVING A CHEEKY LITTLE BITTER..

The 1977 Good Beer Guide is now being planned. The book is to be extended by 32 pages and the Greater Manchester allocation is now 169 pubs.

CAMRA headquarters have sent us their 'guidelines for selection' and a list of 29 CAMRA approved pub descriptions. Among the guidelines we find such items as (iv) Is the pub (and its lavatories) clean? and (v) Is everyone made to feel welcome? and (vii) Does the pub serve mild or a low-gravity bitter as well as a (sic) kami-kaze beer?

From these questions it would appear that CAMRA only approves of pubs where the landlady stays up half the night scrubbing the floors and tables, and the bogs smell of Sanilav; with a fawning, ingratiating landlord ready to welcome the most revolting CAMRA pseud with a well-hopped pint of low-gravity bitter favoured by oriental suicide cases.

The 29 approved pub descriptions, 'The kind of comment which should be used in the 1977 Guide' include (a) Unpretentious and quiet; (b) basic working class pub; (c) Old inn with a ceiling festooned with teapots; (d) Lively and full of character, ask for beer from the barrel; (e) delightful pub in a hidden hamlet; (f) Genuinely old, ask for Hook Norton bitter by name.

Well, it looks like CAMRA North Manchester has a problem, and we will have to have a campaign about it. We could take say The Eagle on Collier Street, which fits (a), (b), and (e) (well, nearly); have a raffle to raise money

to buy teapots, string and drawing pins to comply with (c); import CAMRA coach parties for the first half of (d), the second half being nonsense. (f) might take some organising, but then the Eagle is a Holts house and so you can't tell which brewery the pub is anyway. To be more convincing we could maybe throw a few Hook Norton beer mats about (the landlord would probably be glad of them), or possibly get a few AA signs up on Greengate saying 'This Way to Hook Norton Bitter' or something. As for asking for it by name, that's easily overcome by playing something loud on the jukebox.

Seriously, what a load of tripe. How could you possibly apply the same standards to a thriving Salford local as you would to, say, some 16th century coaching house in Devon. How could you do justice to either by choosing the nearest fit from a list of cliches. Surely, if we have to have some form of description it should run to more than two lines, and judging by the number of deletions and changes to this years Good Beer Guide which are published every month, it would do some branches good to spend some time in the pubs they recommend.

Neil Richardson

SALFORD 196 96 98 89 88 89 CLUB

The list below is a result of our pub crawls in Salford. It contains every real ale pub in the city, although those marked * have still to be checked out, and it is likely that at least two do not sell real ale. They are presented here in the order they will appear in the Salford pub guide. Since it was first mentioned in What's Doing last month, we have come a long way in preparing the guide, and in view of the amount of information we have on each pub it will now run to about 100 pages, not 56. The probable selling price will be 35p.

SALFORD 7

Star Inn	Back Hope Street	Robinsons	The Oxford	Bexley Square	Wilsons
Church Inn	Hilton Street	Boddingtons	Church Inn	Ford Street	Greenall
Sun Inn	Gt. Cheetham St.	E. Bod'tons	*Hyde Park Corner	Silk Street	Tetley
Papermakers Arms	Clifden Place	Greenall	*Druids Home	Silk Street	Wilsons
*Duke of York	Marlborough Rd.	Holts			
*The Kildakin	St. Kilda's Dr.	Boddingtons			
Post Office Inn	Hilton Street	Wilsons			
Dover Inn	Fenney Street	Greenall			
Albert Park Inn	Duke Street	Marstons			
Duke of York	York Street	Boddingtons			
Kersal Hotel	Moor Lane	Boddingtons			
Palatine Inn	Edward Street	Greenall			
Original Inn	Lwr.Broughton Rd.	Wilsons			

SALFORD 5

Windsor Bridge	Tavern Broad St.	Wilsons	Prince of Wales	Oldfield Road	Tetley
Bridge Inn	Strawberry Rd.	Wilsons	Kings Arms	Oldfield Road	Wilsons
Priory Arms	Gardner Street	Boddingtons	Spinners Arms	Oldfield Road	Marstons
The Winston	Churchill Way	Holts	Railway Hotel	Liverpool Street	Wilsons
Church Inn	Ford Lane	Wilsons	Druids Arms	Liverpool Street	Wilsons
Unicorn Inn	Broughton Rd.	Greenall	Union Tavern	Liverpool Street	Holts
Railway Inn	Broughton Rd.	Boddingtons	*Ordsall Hotel	Ordsall Lane	Wilsons
*Old House at Home	Whit Lane	Holts	Greyhound Inn	Woden Street	Greenall
Feathers Inn	Laundry Street	Wilsons	Bricklayers Arms	Ordsall Lane	Holts
*Bee Hive Inn	Holland Street	Greenall	Welcome Inn	Ordsall Lane	Lees
*Red Lion Hotel	Bolton Road	Holts	Albion Inn	Ordsall Lane	Tetley
*Wellington Hotel	Bolton Road	Holts	*Globe Hotel	Regent Road	Wilsons
*Waggon and Horses	Bolton Road	Holts	The Chequerboard	Tatton Street	Wilsons
The White Horse	Gilda Brook Rd.	Robinsons	Derby Hotel	Derby Street	Wilsons
			Derby Arms	Derby Street	Boddingtons
			Wellington	Regent Road	Boddingtons
			*Grove Inn	Regent Road	Greenall
			Gloucester Arms	Regent Road	Free Hse.
			Spread Eagle	Regent Road	Holts
			Albert Inn	Regent Road	Bass
			Gas Tavern	Regent Road	Greenall
			Borough Inn	Regent Road	Greenall
			Peeping Tom	Regent Road	Tetley
			Star Hotel	Regent Road	Greenall
			St. James Hotel	Markendale Street	Greenall
			*Clowes Hotel	Trafford Road	Wilsons
			Broadway Inn	Broadway	Holts
			Windsor Castle	Hotel Windsor	Wilsons
			*Corporation Inn	Cross Lane	Wilsons
			The Paddock	Cross Lane	Boddingtons
			Red Cow	Albion Street	Boddingtons
			Falcon Inn	Cross Lane	Wilsons
			*Station Hotel	Cross Lane	Greenall
			Railway Inn	Cross Lane	Greenall
			Wellington Inn	Cross Lane	Wilsons
			Grove Inn	Eccles New Road	Wilsons
			Osborne Inn	Eccles New Road	Wilsons
			Old Veteran Inn	Duxbury Street	Greenall
			Grapes Inn	Eccles New Road	Wilsons
			Grey Mare Inn	Eccles New Road	Greenall

SALFORD 3

Old Ship Hotel	Chapel Street	Boddingtons			
Old Shears	Greengate	Wilsons			
Three Legs of Man	Greengate	Robinsons			
Flying Horse	Greengate	Tetley			
The Waterloo	Greengate	Wilsons			
King William IV	Springfield Rd.	Marstons			
Eagle Inn	Collier Street	Holts			
Black Friar Inn	King Street	Boddingtons			
Braziers Arms	Hodson Street	Boddingtons			
Globe Hotel	Bury Street	Wilsons			
*The Punch Bowl	Chapel Street	Tetley			
*The Crown	Blackfriars St.	Wilsons			
*Lord Nelson Hotel	Chapel St.	Wilsons			
Wellington Inn	New Bailey St.	Wilsons			
The Brown Bull	Chapel Street	Marstons			
The Kings Arms	Bloom Street	Greenall			
The Red Lion	Chapel Street	Wilsons			

SALFORD 89 CLUB

The next three Salford pub crawls are as follows, all start at 7.00pm.

WEDNESDAY 28 JULY - HEIGHT HOLTS & CHARLESTOWN

Waggon and Horses	Bolton Road	Holts
Wellington	Bolton Road	Holts
Red Lion	Bolton Road	Holts
L o n g W a l k		
Old House at Home	Whit Lane	Holts
Beehive	Holland Street	Greenall

WEDNESDAY 4 AUGUST - DERBY STREET

Globe Hotel	Regent Road	Wilsons
Wellington	Regent Road	Boddingtons
Grove Inn	Regent Road	Greenall
Derby Arms	Derby Street	Boddingtons
Chequerboard	Tatton Street	Wilsons
Derby Hotel	Derby Street	Wilsons

WEDNESDAY 11 AUGUST - HIGHTOWN

(Only two of these pubs are in Salford)

Waterloo	Waterloo Road	Boddingtons
Mechanics Arms	Waterloo Road	Boddingtons
Duke of York	Marlborough Road	Holts
Kildakin	St. Kildas Drive	Boddingtons
George	Bury New Road	Wilsons

PUBLICITY

Up until the last issue, What's Doing was distributed only to the branch membership at the monthly meetings. As an experiment more copies were printed last month and made available to the public in one or two pubs. We also mailed about twenty copies to local newspapers and radio stations. This mailing was the best thing the branch has ever done. As well as giving us one or two plugs in the press and some useful contacts, CAMRA now has a regular spot on John Richards 'This Evening' programme on Radio

Manchester (about 6.15pm on Tuesdays). We now have some influential support for our campaign in Salford, and things are looking up. Sadly, one paper which has not shown the slightest bit of interest is the Salford City Reporter.

This month the print run of What's Doing has again been extended for a wider distribution in North Manchester. Extra copies can be obtained from the Editor (address on the back page) for 5p plus postage.



J. Richardson

THE BARGE SAGA

When researching the pubs and breweries of Salford it is very easy to get sidetracked, my original idea for this article was a history of the Three Legs of Man in Greengate. As it turned out I wandered off on a tangent following the careers of the family Barge.....

In 1800 John Barge had a printing business in Water Street, between Deansgate and Regent Road. A few years later brother Robert set up as an engraver in Cook Street, a few houses away from the brewer John Adamthwaite, who later joined up with a Mr Lupton and founded the brewery taken over by John Threlfall of Liverpool, but that's another story. Another brother, William, had the Bridge Inn in an area of Greengate called 'Paradise'. In 1811 John moved his printing business to Cannon Street and Robert had given up engraving and had taken over the Royal Oak Hotel, 201 Deansgate. At this time there were only two Salford pubs listed in the city directory whose names and sites survive today; The Ship on Chapel Street and the Windsor Castle, Windsor.

In 1814 John Barge again moved premises, this time to Broughton, where he remained until 1840. In 1821 the Legs of Man was first mentioned in the city directory, with Robert as the owner. In 1825 William left the Bridge Inn to the care of Hannah

Barge and took over the Wheat Sheaf in Tib Street, Manchester. In this year another pub appeared in Salford, named the New Legs of Man, 206 Chapel Street.

In the 1830s the Three Legs of Man, possibly renamed to avoid confusion with this new pub, was run by Elizabeth Barge, probably the wife of Robert. Robert reappeared briefly in the 1850s as an engraver, 40 years after first leaving the family business for the victualling trade. Also in the 1830s Thomas Barge came on the scene as an engraver in King Street, Salford, and Thomas junior was a printer in Peel Street with a residence at no. 7 The Crescent.

The 1840s saw John junior breaking away from his fathers trade and taking the Blue Boar, Blue Boar Court. Thomas senior took the Three Legs of Man and William the Lloyds Arms in Chorlton-on-Medlock.

The Barges dissappeared without a trace around 1850, and in 1848 the Three Legs of Man passed into the hands of a Mr Thomas Sampson Smith.

...and that is where my story should have started.

Neil Richardson

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Rumours about Holts come and go. The latest to join the ever swelling What's Doing Gossip and unsubstantiated rumour file is that the brewery will be pulled down soon. Roger Hall wrote a polite letter and got a denial by return. (It makes you think that there is something in it after all) As this is the first time that Holts have responded to our enquiries, this collectors item is reproduced below.

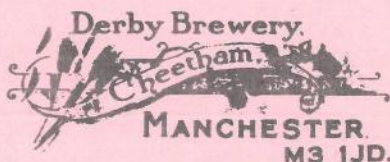
All business communications to be addressed to the firm, JOSEPH HOLT, LTD.

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PK/WL

21st June 1976

Mr. R.D. Hall,
123 Hill Lane
Blackley
Manchester 9

Dear Sir,

We have no knowledge that the Derby Brewery is going to be demolished at the present time.

Yours truly,

Joseph Holt Ltd.

BLACK COUNTRY TRIP

The coach trip to the Midlands on Saturday, 19th June, went off more smoothly than those experienced in CAMRA coach outings dared to hope. The first stop was Mrs Pardoe's in Netherton just after opening time, where we managed to fit ourselves in without apparently disrupting the locals. After a pleasant couple of pints, we went on down the Hadley Road where there were three pubs 'all within walking distance'. The less fit of the party didn't make it to all three, but there was an excellent pint of Simpkins bitter available in The Birch, where the landlord allowed us to eat our sandwiches, despite normal practice, and even presented us with a large pile of Simpkins beer mats. The homebrew Bathams at The Vine, about a mile down the road, was a real treat, especially for mild enthusiasts. A timely summons from Pete Cash then enabled us to reach a Holdens pub just before closing time.

The problem of what to do for the next 3½ hours then arose, since Midland pubs don't open until six in the evening, but the driver turned up trumps and suggested that we go to Bishops Castle in Shropshire, where there was another home-brew house, The Three Tuns, which we could patronise while he went to see his mum, who lived nearby. Most of us were in a pleasantly co-operative frame of mind by then anyway, so we settled down to a pretty drive across country, entertained by Pete Cash, Ken Birch and Bill Collier with spirited renderings of the 'LUT Blues' among other favourites.

The driver had already made a good impression, but he went up in people's estimation even more when at five o'clock he pulled up at the Stokesea Castle in Craven Arms and went in to ask if the landlord could

do us a meal. The result was a relaxing hour in the bar over food, darts and a good pint of Davenports before opening time. At six o'clock, however, duty called and we proceeded to the Three Tuns, where we were served despite the landlady's incantations, against coach parties. Some sat in the small bar for a game of dominoes while others made use of the comfortable lounge with its chintz-covered settee on which one member was observed to be taking an extended doze soon after arrival. There was also an old, wooden settle with a back which an expert declared was very definately plastic, but the imitation was so good that it would have fooled most of us. We did, in fact, make two trips to the Three Tuns, since there was a mass exodus to find the driver at one stage, which failed, so we decided that there was no point in wasting good drinking time and went back in.

The last pub was the Red Lion, a Greenall Whitley (Wem) house in Battlefield just north of Shrewsbury, which we left just on closing time. The beer was apparently unremarkable, but then again by that time such fine judgements as taste were beyond most people.

The trip was an unqualified success from start to finish, and our thanks are due to Pete Cash and Ken Birch for organising it so well and for finding such a helpful driver.

Sue Callaghan

ELEVEN BREWS

The following route takes in eleven real ale pubs belonging to eleven different brewers within a total distance of just over a mile.

Burton Arms	Swan Street	Manchester	Bass
Castle and Falcon	Bradshaw Street	Manchester	Burtonwood
Bolton Arms	New Bridge Street	Manchester	Scottish & Newcastle
Dutton Hotel	Park Street	Manchester	Hydes
Royal Oak	Great Ducie Street	Manchester	Boddingtons
Old Shears	Greengate	Salford	Wilsons
Three Legs of Man	Greengate	Salford	Robinsons
Flying Horse	Greengate	Salford	Tetley
Eagle	Collier Street	Salford	Holts
King William IV	Springfield Lane	Salford	Marstons
Palatine	Edward Street	Salford	Greenall Whitley

Some of the pubs are hidden away and take some finding, but the route is not too difficult to follow apart from the last bit. Bradshaw Street runs off Shudehill opposite The Lower Turks Head. The Bolton Arms is behind Victoria Station at the beginning of Cheetham Hill Road. The Dutton is behind the Bolton Arms at the junction of Park Street and Dutton Street. The Royal Oak is the brewery tap and marginally more salubrious than the Ducie Arms opposite. The Greengate pubs are easily found. Collier Street runs off the left hand side of Greengate just past the Flying Horse, and the Eagle lies unobtrusively on the left. Springfield Lane runs off the right hand side of Greengate almost opposite Collier Street. The Palatine is approached by crossing the footbridge at the bottom of Springfield Lane and turning right into Edward Street by the Vavasour.

It is doubtful whether any other area in the country can offer such a wide choice of draught beer in such a confined area.

**THE NEXT BRANCH MEETING
WILL BE IN THE LORD NELSON
ON WEDNESDAY 18th AUGUST**

JOIN

CAMRA

THE LAST PEOPLE to be given a say in decisions by the breweries are nearly always the drinkers. Have you, for instance, found the handpumps ripped out of a pub, only to be replaced by the flashing lights of pressurised pumps? How many times have you complained

about the brewers, despite their claims that they are satisfying public demand? How many times have you been forced to drink something you didn't like, because that's what the brewers reckon you ought to be drinking?

The six major brewing combines in Britain are, in the main, the ones to blame for this sad state of affairs. Between them, they produce nearly three-quarters of all our beer and own more than two-thirds of our pubs. Collectively, they have tried to do away with traditional draught beer and have been trying to replace it with filtered, pasteurised and pressurised products like keg beer.

It was clear some years ago that something needed to be done to give the beer drinker a say in what kind of ale would be made available to him. And that's where CAMRA — the Campaign for Real Ale — came in.

CAMRA is a democratic organisation run mainly on a voluntary basis, with a small paid staff. Its aims are to bring about an improvement in the choice and quality of real draught beer, and to fight

for an improvement in the character of Britain's pubs.

Since it was formed in 1971, CAMRA has fought against the odds, with no outside financial support, to preserve and promote real ale. With few resources to match the big brewers' millions of pounds, CAMRA has already persuaded dozens of pubs throughout the country to switch to the real thing instead of offering nothing but sterile beers which all taste boringly similar. In Kent alone, more than 30 pubs are now serving real draught beer again for the first time in years. At least one brewery has been persuaded against pressurising all its products, and others are now convinced that the future lies in giving their customers what they want — not what they're **told** to want.

Members of Parliament from both the major parties have joined CAMRA in its battle for legislation to give the beer drinker a fair deal. They have been calling for all beer — both draught and bottled — to be clearly labelled so that the customer will have an indication of the strength and content of what he's buying.

CAMRA keeps its members fully informed of news and developments in the brewing world through its own newspaper, What's Brewing, which is produced

entirely by CAMRA members and sent to every member each month. What's Brewing has proved many of the brewers' arguments to be false and has given the beer drinker vital facts which had previously been kept from him.

CAMRA also produces an annual Good Beer Guide, the first publication ever to assess pubs purely on the merit of their beer. It is a valuable asset to the beer drinker who finds himself in a strange town, not knowing where to find a good pint.

Every CAMRA member can take an active part in running the Campaign. There are CAMRA branches throughout the country and all members are encouraged to attend and to lend a hand. Branches organise the Campaign at a local level and some of them hold beer exhibitions and trips to breweries.

Membership of CAMRA costs only £2 a year. If you want to join, fill in the form on the right and send it with a cheque or postal order, payable to CAMRA, to

The Membership Secretary,
Campaign for Real Ale,
34 Alma Road,
St Albans, Herts.
AL1 3BW

I wish to become a member of CAMRA. I agree to abide by the ideals of the campaign and I enclose £2 (£3 for overseas Members) as my annual membership subscription. Any additional amount received will be welcomed as a donation.

NAME (block capitals).....

ADDRESS (block capitals).....

TELEPHONE NUMBER.....

SIGNATURE.....



