

12p

WHAT'S DOING



APRIL
1983

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

TWENTY UP



The introduction of Taylors at the Coach and Horses, Websters at the Brahms & Liszt and Yates' enterprising free trade concept have combined to make possible a 20 brew city centre pub crawl. The following route covers a variety of pubs and the dedicated boozier can visit a

INSIDE THIS ISSUE - THE NEW COMPREHENSIVE
GUIDE TO REAL ALE WITHIN 1 MILE OF MANCHESTER
CITY CENTRE

good selection to enjoy his 20 brews.

Coach & Horses, London Rd (Winkles, Taylors, Boddingtons)
Crown & Anchor, Hilton Street (Chesters)
Ancoats, Great Ancoats Street (Greenalls)
Crown & Kettle, Great Ancoats Street (Wilsons)
Castle, Oldham Street (Robinsons)
King, Oldham Street (Tetley)
Yates, Oldham St (Thwaites, B'wood, Bodd, S Smith, John Peel, OB)
Unicorn, Church Street (Bass)
Brahms & Liszt, New Brown Street (Websters)
Sinclairs, Old Shambles (Sam Smiths)
John Willie Lees, Withy Grove (Lees)
Castle & Falcon, Bradshaw Street (Burtonwood)
Burton Arms, Swan Street (Bass)
Hat & Feathers, Mason Street (Chesters)
Harp & Shamrock, New Mount Street (Marstons)
Bolton Arms, New Bridge Street (Youngers)
Dutton, Park Street (Hydes)
Royal Oak, Great Ducie Street (Boddingtons)
Eagle, Collier Street (Holts)
Three Legs of Man, Greengate (Robinsons)

A CAUTIONARY TALE

Jack and Peggy Smith had always thought about running their own pub. Jack is in his mid 50s and when his firm offered a substantial cash sum for early retirement in 1981, it seemed an ideal opportunity to achieve their dream. With Jack's lump sum and the proceeds from their terraced cottage in Handforth they reckoned they would have over £40,000 to buy their way into the trade. They saw an advert in the press from a local brewery who were looking for people with capital to invest for training as future tenants.

Jack and Peggy answered the advert, were interviewed by the brewery and accepted as provisional tenants. They were shown several public houses and one took their fancy. It was in an inner city district on the main road but had been completely renovated by the brewery. The living quarters were well appointed and the lounge of the pub was well furnished with fitted carpets, plush seats, velvet curtains and traditional pub furniture. A kitchen and food bar had been fitted at a cost of over £6,000. The Black Lion seemed to have everything that Jack and Peggy were looking for and they agreed to pay £42,000 for the ingoing.

Six weeks later, after a short training course, the Smiths moved in and the problems began. The Black Lion had been closed for six months and trade was slow. What trade there was, was not what Jack and Peggy really wanted. Food was a dead loss and most of it was thrown away. Fights broke out regularly and there was serious damage to fixtures and fittings, including the television and the bar fittings. The rent was fairly high and trade never reached the point where the Black Lion was breaking even. Help from the brewery was not particularly useful. Jack and Peggy even applied for another pub, but to no avail. After three months, Peggy was on the verge of a nervous breakdown because violence and vandalism were continuing. With no further word to the brewery, the Smiths hired a large van, loaded up all their possessions, locked up the pub and left - wiser but £42,000 poorer.

There is probably no shortage of people queuing up to buy ingoings with their life savings or redundancy money. Some breweries are only too willing to take money off inexperienced people and put them into pubs which could never be viable. This policy is cynical and dishonest insofar as it exploits inexperience and ensures the continued profitability of the brewery at the expense of unsuspecting tenants.

Roger Hall

(for obvious reasons, names have been changed in the above article)

FIFTH SADDLEWORTH AMBER NECTAR EXTRAVAGANZA



For the past four years the Rochdale, Oldham & Bury branch of CAMRA has helped to raise funds for the Saddleworth Museum and Art Gallery extension fund. This year the branch hope to better their previous donations and to this end both the number of breweries represented and the amount of beer ordered have been significantly increased to cope with the expected demand.

Details are as follows:-

VENUE: CIVIC HALL, COURT STREET, UPPERMILL, near OLDHAM

OPENING TIMES: FRIDAY 6th MAY 5.30pm - 11.00pm

SATURDAY 7th MAY 11.30am - 3.00pm & 5.30pm - 11.00pm

SUNDAY 8th MAY 12.00 noon - 2.00pm

ADMISSION: No tickets, just pay at the door.

LUNCHTIME SESSIONS AND EVENINGS BEFORE 7.00pm - 30p

AFTER 7.00pm - 50p

FREE ADMISSION TO CURRENT CARD CARRYING CAMRA MEMBERS

Entertainment: FRIDAY NIGHT: THE CADISHEAD BRASS BAND

SATURDAY LUNCHTIME AND EVENING: THE BEN CROSLAND BAND

SUNDAY LUNCHTIME: TO BE ARRANGED

FOOD: WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT

In addition to the beer, traditional farmhouse scrumpy will be available, together with red and white wines.

Altogether 33 real ales will be on sale, from 25 countrywide breweries. The recently opened Failsworth Brewery will be represented, together with other micro brewers such as Franklins, Archers, Woodforde, Phillips and John Thompson. Riddleys (not to be confused with Newton & Ridley of Coronation Street fame) will be on sale and Gales famous HSB (High Speed Bitter) will destroy a few brain cells in those foolish enough to overindulge. Other similar high gravity beers come from Greene King (Abbot), Ruddles (County), Lees (Moonraker) and Hook Norton (Old Hookey). Mild beers from Taylors, Greene King, Home, Hardys & Hansons and Morlands are expected to be popular.

With beer names such as Ram Tam, Ned Belcher, Varsity, Pendle Witch and Royai Love Potion, there should be something there for everyone. But please, if you intend to come on Friday or Saturday evenings - **BE SOON!** Last year many disappointed drinkers were turned away from about 8.30 onwards. For further details contact the ROB branch (see Branch Diary)

Steve Lawton

WHAT'S DOING

IT'S ABOUT TIME, TOO

The Salisbury, Wakefield Street, off Oxford Street, Manchester, is now selling real ale through handpumps.

FREE HOLTS

Holts free trade push continues apace. Their uncompromisingly acerbic amber nectar is now being served in the Cemetery in Rochdale, the Higher Blackley Royal British Legion Club on Victoria Avenue and Whitworth Working Men's Club. When Urmston's Yates' reopens, Holts will be on sale along with traditional S&N and Wilsons.

GREAT EXPECTORATIONS

Yates' Merchants Bar on Oldham Street currently serves five bitters

JIA 3142

(Boddingtons, Burtonwood, Thwaites, John Peel, Sam Smiths) and real Oldham mild. Prices vary from 54p for Oldham and Sam Smiths to 62p for Thwaites and John Peel. The beer has been variable but the staff are keen and obliging and there is every indication that the quality and consistency will improve.

OLDEST LICENSEE RETIRES

The Hare & Hounds, a Boddingtons house on Werneth Low, Hyde, will never be the same again. Walter Mansfield, who has been the licensee of the pub for the past 54 years, has finally retired, at the age of 82. The pub, which is one of the highest in the Manchester area and one of the oldest Boddingtons houses, had no electricity or piped water when Mr Mansfield became the tenant. The new landlord comes from the Crown, Ashton Old Road, Openshaw.

WHAT'S THE SCORE?

The Lloyds Arms on Higher Ormond Street is one of the few Bass pubs to sell traditional beer. Sadly this will not continue much longer. The tenant for the past 33 years, Mr John Byrne, is due to retire in June and the Royal Northern College of Music have made successful overtures (geddit?) to Bass NW, who are to sell them the pub and the land. The College are unlikely to find a place for it in their scheme of things. A pity they couldn't have bought the Bass Drum, the Phoenix or some other hideous place instead.

PIFFLE

THE Broadway Hotel, Fleetwood, is the latest pub to benefit from Whitbread's Brewery's West Pennine Division's extensive modernisation programme.

Another House of Horrors is born. Included in the ad-agency driven in the local newspaper is the line "...its sophisticated sound and light effects cater for all tastes and age groups under one roof." One wonders which particular sound and light effects they have in mind to keep all age groups happy. A video of

some 100 watt bulbs in nice lampshades, perhaps? A background tape of people in another pub enjoying themselves; shuffling dominoes, that sort of thing? Or have Whitbread stumbled upon the ultimate sound and light effect which has eluded man since he first started wondering why it went dark after tea? Doubtful.

MORE REAL ALE FOR HULME

The Gamecock, Boundary Lane/Booth Street West, Hulme, has been converted to real ale. Handpumps have been installed and both mild and bitter are sold. Bitter is 57p a pint.

SALE ALE

Real ale has returned to the Vine on Washway Road, Sale, after nearly ten years. The pub was listed in the first Good Beer Guide in 1974 but was enlarged a few months later and lost its real ale. The excuse was that the cellars were too small for casks in the larger pub, but now Wilsons handpumped mild and bitter are available at 58p and 60p.

GOOD BOG GUIDE

Health Inspectors have completed an investigation of Stockport pubs which will result in over 100 pubs being asked to bring their lavatories up to standard. All breweries with pubs in the town are being sent a copy of the report by Stockport Environmental Health Department. It is to be hoped that breweries react positively and do not use this as an excuse to justify closure of "uneconomic" pubs. We shall see.

WIGAN NEWS

Over the last few months Boddingtons have been modernising and extending the Bowling Green, Ormskirk Road, Newtown. The old Farrimonds brewery, which for many years stood derelict behind the pub, has been demolished to make way for a car park. The old cottage next door has been incorporated into the pub.

Scottish and Newcastle are building a new pub on Merton Road/Billinge Road, Wigan. It is expected to open at the end of May and we are promised at least one real ale.

GOOD CAUSE

Ruby Fildes, landlady of the White Swan, Swinton, recently became the Chairlady of the Licensed Trades Convalescent Homes. This is a national organisation, founded in 1962, which runs houses in Exmouth, St Annes and Margate for the benefit of members who are recovering from illness or who need a rest from the rigours of the trade. The LTCH organises various fund raising activities, so if you're asked, buy a ticket for a 'tasting', it's in a good cause.

MIDDLETON ALE

The tenancy of the Dog and Partridge, Middleton, was taken over on the 21st March by Margaret Heathcote, formerly of the Ladybrook, Bramhall (Pub of the Month August 1980). Margaret hopes soon to be able to install handpumps to serve the traditional Oldham and Boddingtons beers.

ILLAWALLA ALE (2)

A craft brewery in Thornton has won approval from the DoE for their scheme to convert an old stable block at the Illawalla Country Club into a traditional brewery. The output is expected to be between 50 and 100 barrels per week. The site is in a green belt and the scheme was originally turned down by the Wyre Planning Committee. However,

the Department Inspector ruled that the safeguards were such that an exception could be made in this case.

FROM THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FAT?

The Woodcourt Hotel, Brooklands Road, Sale, the magnificent former home of the Kilvert family (of lard fame), has changed manager. Tony and Janet Alexander have come to this Good Beer Guide Pub from the Rams Head, Disley, which is now being converted to a Berni Inn.

PARK PLIGHT

The fight to save the Park Hotel, Wigan, continues. The owners, Peter Walker Ltd, are still keen to retain the pub and the cause has received much publicity, particularly from the local paper, the Evening Post and Chronicle. The Park was assessed during a recent DoE survey of old buildings in the area but it didn't meet the standard necessary to qualify for listing - a bitter disappointment. One wonders if a DoE Inspector actually looked at the building. If he had bothered to go in for a pint he might have changed his mind. The campaign's hopes are now pinned on the Public Enquiry into the CPO, which should take place in the spring.



PUB PRESERVATION AWARDS

Wilsons Brewery have put forward seven of their pubs for consideration for one of CAMRA's new Pub Preservation Awards. What's Doing would like to hear from readers with any comments to make. The pubs are

listed below, together with a summary of the brewery's remarks:

WHITE HART, Mottram. Stone fronted building with a history which can be traced back 200 years. The pub has been themed (sic) in keeping with the village. The interior is warm and comfortable with a lounge complete with open log fire, bar lounge and vault. Hand-pumped traditional mild and bitter.

IMPERIAL, Piccadilly, Manchester. City centre pub; refurbishment completed November 1982. Traditional mild and bitter on handpumps and a good choice of hot and cold lunches available.

CARTERS, Wilmslow. Refurbishments (that word again) completed December 1982; comprises lounge and vault areas. Handpumped mild and bitter competitively priced. Good hot food available at lunchtime and sandwiches in the evenings.

AULD LANG SYNE, Pollard Street, Ancoats. One roomed local, refurbishment completed July 1982. Traditional mild and bitter on hand-pumps. A clean little pub catering for, in the main, the "down and outs" of the Ancoats area.

GLOBE, Hyde. A typical local, comprising vault and lounge. The present licensee, Mr F Kinder, adopted fined beer and has installed handpumps instead of the electric motor keg system, which he inherited when he took over in May 1982. The pub has had full central heating installed by Mr Kinder and has been decorated throughout to a very high standard. The exterior displays very attractive green Victorian tiles.

GARDNERS ARMS, Edge Lane, Droylsden. Recently extended and completely refurbished with large lounge and games room. Handpumped mild and bitter. Friendly atmosphere for young and old customers with sing-along to the organist at weekends.

OLD RAMS HEAD, 106 Higher Hillgate, Stockport. Refurbishment completed mid 1982. Handpumped mild and bitter. Male dominated vault (what other kind is there?) Attractively furnished lounge. Good use of mirrors. Good choice of hot meals and sandwiches, unusual dishes.

Wilsons also put forward the following as candidates for "Best Refurbished Public House": Greengate, Wardle; White Hart, Royton; Crown, Chadderton; Hargreaves, Lumb; Golden Lion, Hindley.

DWINDLING TETLEYS

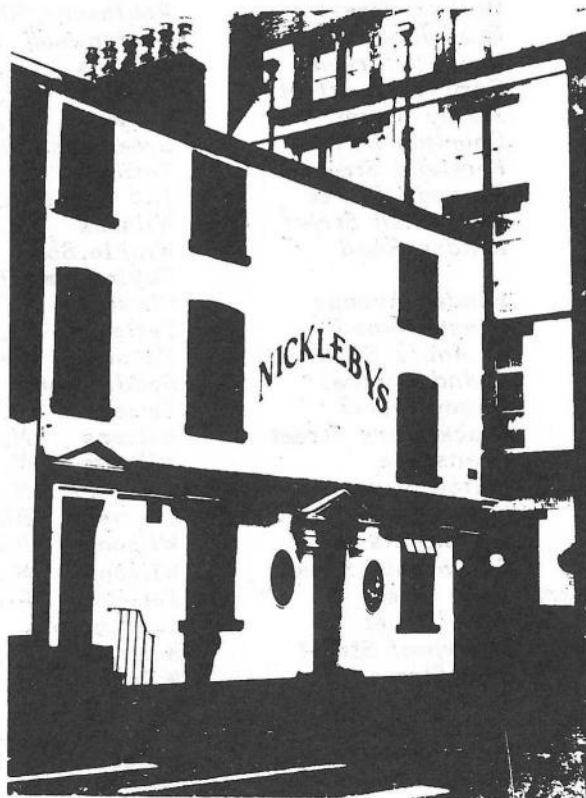
The Queens Arms at the top of Red Bank is boarded up and up for sale. Just down Queens Road the Junction - a former Boddys pub which Tetleys have done up and where they have introduced food - has been seen at times with a notice on the door reading "Closed for Lunch".

PLANNING NEWS

Applications have been made by Boddingtons to extend the Railway at Newton Moor, Hyde, and the Hare and Hounds at Werneth Low. Bass intend



REAL ALE IN CENTRAL MANCHESTER



Abercrombie	Bootle Street	Chesters	B(H)
Albert	Erskine Street	Greenalls	B(E)
Albion	Ordsall Lane	Tetley	M,B(H)
Ancoats	Great Ancoats St	Greenalls	B(H)
Angel	Chapel Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Bird in Hand	St Stephens Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Black Friar	King Street	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Bolton Arms	New Bridge St	Youngers	B,IPA(H)
Borough	Encombe Place	Burtonwood	B(H)
Brahms & Liszt	New Brown St	Websters	B(H)
Braziers	Hodson Street	Boddingtons	B(E)
Brick House	Great Ancoats St	Chesters	M,B(H)
Bricklayers	Ordsall Lane	Holts	M,B(H)
Britannia	Newton Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Britons Protection	Gt Bridgewater St	Tetley	M,B(H)
Brown Bull	Chapel Street	Marstons	B,Ped(H)
Bulls Head	London Road	Burtonwood	BM,B(H)
Burton Arms	Swan Street	Bass	Bass,4X(E)
Castle	Oldham Street	Robinsons	BB,BM(H)OT(G)
Castle & Falcon	Bradshaw Street	Burtonwood	M,B(H)
Church	Ardwick Green	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Church	Cambridge Street	Lees	M,B(H)
Church	Jersey Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Churchill	Chorlton Street	Greenalls	B(H)
Circus Tavern	Portland Street	Tetley	B(H)
City Arms	Kennedy Street	Ind Coope Burton(H)	
Clynes Wine Bar	Cavendish Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Coach & Horses	London Road	Winkle,Bodd	B(H)
		Taylor Landlord	(H)
Cob of Coal	Winder Avenue	Chesters	B(H)
Cornbrook	Chester Road	Tetley	M,B(H)
Corbieres	St Ann's Square	Marstons	Ped(H)
Cox's Bar	Grand Central	Boddingtons	B(E)
Cross Keys	Jersey Street	Tetley	M,B(H)
Crown	Blackfriars Street	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Crown	Deansgate	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Crown & Anchor	Hilton Street	Chesters	M,B(H)
Crown & Cushion	Corporation St	Chesters	B(H)
Crown & Kettle	Gt Ancoats St	Wilsons	B(H)
Dancing Weasel	Gt Ancoats Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Deerings Trafalgar	York Street	Tetley	B(H)
Deerings Nelsons	York Street	Boddingtons	B(E)
Druids Arms	Liverpool Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Druids Home	Silk Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Ducie Arms	Gt Ducie Street	Boddingtons	M,B(H)
Ducie Bridge	Miller Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Dutton Arms	Park Street	Hydes	M,B(E)
Eagle	Collier Street	Holts	M,B(H)

Falstaff	Jenner Close	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Globe	Regent Road	Burtonwood	M,B(H/E)
Globe	Bury Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Grants Arms	Royce Road	Boddingtons	B(H)
Grenadier	Oldham Street	Wilsons	B(H)
Grey Horse	Portland Street	Hydes	M,B(E)
Hare & Hounds	Shudehill	Tetley	M,B(H)
Harp & Shamrock	New Mount Street	Marstons	M,B,Ped(H)
Hat & Feathers	Mason Street	Chesters	B(H)
Hope Inn	Chester Road	Hydes	M,B(E)
Hyde Park Corner	Silk Street	Tetley	M,B(H)
Imperial	London Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Irwell Castle	Gt Clowes Street	Wilsons	M,B(E)
John Willie Lees	Withy Grove	Lees	M,B(E)
Junction	Rolls Crescent	Hydes	M,B(E)
Jolly Angler	Ducie Street	Hydes	M,B,SA(H)
King	Oldham Street	Tetley	M,B(H)
Kings Arms	Bloom Street	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Kings Arms	Oldfield Road	Holts	M,B(H)
King William IV	Springfield Lane	Boddingtons	(E)
Last Hop	Chester Road	Bass	Stones (H)
Lloyds Arms	Higher Ormond St	Bass	Cask, 4X(H)
Lord Clyde	Chester Rd	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Lord Napier	Gt Jackson St	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Lower Turks Head	Shudehill	Wilsons	B(H)
Manchester Regiment	Chester Road	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Mancunian	Royce Road	Marstons	M,B,Ped(E)
Marble Arch	Rochdale Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Midland Butty Boat	Peter Street	Tetley	B(E)
Millstone	Thomas Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Mother Mac's	Back Piccadilly	Chesters	B(H)
Moulders Arms	Heyrod Street	Tetley	M,B(H)
Nelson	Oldham Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
New York	Bloom Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Nicklebys	Dale Street	Wilsons	B(H)
Nip & Tipple	London Road	Chesters	B(H)
Old Garratt	Princess Street	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Old Grapes	Quay Street	Bodd B, Chesters	M,B(H)
Old Ship	Chapel Street	Boddingtons	M,B(E)
Ordsall	Ordsall Lane	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Oxford	Bexley Square	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Pack Horse	Deansgate	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Paddy's Goose	Bloom Street	Wilsons	B(H)
Pen & Wig	New Bailey Street	Wilsons	B(H)
Peveril of the Peak	Gt Bridgewater St	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Platford	Stretford Road	Chesters	B(H)

Pomona	Cornbrook Road	Marstons	M,B(H)
Portland Grapevine	Bar Portland St	Youngers	IPA(H)
Prince of Wales	Oldfield Road	Tetley	M,B(H)
Punch Bowl	Chapel Street	Tetley	M,B(E)
Queens	Regent Road	Chesters	B(H)
Railway	Liverpool Street	Greenalls	M,B(E)
Red Admiral	Hulme Walk	Robinsons	BM,BB(E)
Red Lion	Chapel Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Rembrandt	Sackville Street	Lees	B(H)
Rising Sun	Queen Street	Wilsons	B(H)
Royal George	Lever Street	Wilsons	B(H)
Salford Arms	Chapel Street	Chesters	B(H)
Salisbury	Wakefield Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Sam's Chop House	Back Pool Fold	Wilsons, Marstons	B(H)
Seven Oaks	Nicholas Street	Chesters	B, Bass(H)
Sinclairs	Old Shambles	Sam Smiths	B(H)
Sir Henry Royce	Chichester Rd	Chesters	B(H)
Smithfield	Swan Street	Boddingtons	B(H)
Smiths Arms	Sherratt Street	Tetley	M,B(H)
Spinners Arms	Oldfield Road	Marstons	M,B(H)
Square Albert	Albert Square	Tetley	B(H)
Star	Greengate	Chesters	B(H)
Star & Garter	Fairfield Street	Chesters	B(H)
Talbot	Stretford Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Swan	Withy Grove	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Three Crowns	King Street	Chesters	B(H)
Three Legs of Man	Greengate	Robinsons	BB, BM, SA(H)
Three Legs of Man	Stretford Road	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Town Hall	Tib Lane	Bass	Bass(E)
Town Hall Tavern	Cleminson Street	Chesters	B(H)
Two Brewers	Regent Road	Chesters	B(H)
Unicorn	Church Street	Bass, Bass, 4X, Toby, Stones(H)	
Union	Liverpool Street	Holts	M,B(H)
Union	Princess Street	Burtonwood	M,B(E)
Victoria	Hardman Street	Tet M, B, Burton Ale(H)	
Victoria Station Bar	Victoria	Boddingtons	B(H)
Waggon & Horses	Southgate	Wilsons	B(H)
Waldorf	Gore Street	Chesters	B(H)
Waterloo	Greengate	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Weavers	Angel Street	Tetley	M,B(E)
Wellington	Old Shambles	Bass	Bass, Toby(E)
Wheatsheaf	Oak Street	Tetley	M,B(H)
White House	Gt Ancoats Street	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Yates	Oldham St	Boddingtons	B(E)
Yates	Oldham Street	B'wood, Thwaites, Bodd,	
		Sam Smith, Lion, OB	

to extend the Prince of Wales on Ashton Old Road.

PUB OF THE MONTH

8.00pm on Thursday 28th April will see the presentation of the Pub of the Month Award to the Victoria, Victoria Street, Altrincham. John and Eileen Grundy have been running this Bass pub for a number of years and recently major internal changes were completed. The pub retains its friendly atmosphere and the revised layout leaves more space for eager drinkers. Bass and 4X mild are dispensed by electric pumps and the quality of these beers puts the Victoria in the 1983 Good Beer Guide. The "Vic" is a special favourite of the Trafford & Hulme branch "Robins" and has rightly gained the Pub of the Month Award. Come along to the presentation on the plaque.

WESTHOUGHTON ALE

The Bridge Inn, Wigan Road, Westhoughton, the only Whitbread pub in Westhoughton, now sells real ale in the form of Duttons bitter. Buses 38 and 559 pass the door.

LAST BASS

What's Doing readers wishing to pay their last respects to Worthington

#####

#

#

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

why not subscribe? It costs £1.70 for six issues, postage paid.

Fill in the form below and send it together with a cheque or

postal order made out to "WHAT'S DOING" to Roger Hall, 123 Hill

Lane, Blackley, Manchester

#

Name.....

ADDRESS.....

#

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

(state month)

#

BACK NUMBERS

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

send a large stamped, addressed envelope

#

WHAT'S DOING

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

Swinton, Manchester M27 2AY

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

#

JOIN CAMRA

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

Albans, Herts AL1 3BW

#####

bitter are advised that the beer should be available in the North West's last remaining outlet, the Crown, Albert Road, Colne, until mid April. The Crown, which is residential and also has a separate steak house, has been in the Good Beer Guide for several years and was East Lancs branch Pub of the Month in March last year. The Crown is next to the station and open at 7.15pm. British Rail offer a 60p return fare from Blackburn to Colne after 6.00pm. Worthington bitter was available in several houses in the North West, but was slowly phased out by Bass in favour of Cask Bitter, then known as Brew Ten. The main area of sales is/was the midlands, where it made a very pleasant change from the sweetish bitters normally available in that area.

CASTLE EDEN

The latest new outlets for Whitbread Castle Eden are the Dusty Miller on Crostons Road, Bury (58p), and the Waterloo on Bolton Road West in Ramsbottom (60p)

WHITEFIELD ALE

The Parkfield, Park Lane, Whitefield, has reopened selling Duttons bitter (60p) and Castle Eden (62p). The decor is the usual one, with raised drinking areas and shelves of junk and books - but without the dingy green paint, which makes this something of a respectable outlet.

FREE HOUSE

The Coach and Horses on the A681 between Haslingden and Blackburn has been sold by Matthew Brown and is now done out in true House of Horrors fashion. It is called a "free house", but may as well be a Bass tied house, selling only Cask Bitter and 4X mild on handpumps.

BORIS

Apologies to all those who attended ROB's March meeting at the Welcome in Prestwich. The (second) non-appearance of Good Beer Guide editor Roger Protz was a great disappointment to the branch committee. It would have presented us with an ideal opportunity to question Herr Protz on his proposals to decimate the GBG. It looks as though we will have to wait until the Reading AGM, and by then it may be too late!

LITTLEBOROUGH NEWS

The Railway, Inghams Lane, Littleborough, a 1983 Good Beer Guide pub, has just changed hands. Tony and Barbara Cook have taken over, having moved from a Wilsons house, the Enfield Inn, Wigan. The Railway was selling Bass Cask Bitter when Tony took over. He reintroduced the 4X mild (which had recently been taken off) and, in addition, now sells draught Bass. Let us wish him well with a brewery whose attitude to cask beers is not one of total commitment.

Contributors: Roger Hall, Steve Lawton, Dave Shelton, Don Chattwood, Jimmy Ribble, Steven Foster, Leo King, Alan Hurdle, Stewart Revell, Dave Eckett, Dave Hale.



Bunty Fortescue's instant white-wash squad has always had my support for its good works in eradicating graffiti from our hostels. Such scribblings, I've always thought, were the outward manifestations of diseased minds and an affront to common decency.

It had never crossed my mind, however, that Sweetie Bogbrush, by repeating these lame witticisms, was acting as an agent provocateur — But yes! A letter from an enraged hostelry keeper in the Daily Titter suggested that our marriage agency's despair was positively encouraging mural graphology by his competitions in the Scousely Imbiber. This has not struck me before, and I am now positively encouraged to introduce some What's Doing competitions which will make Bogbrush's pale into insignificance.

From next month there will be a prize of a hogshead of Drabs for the best entry in any of the following sections:

A Jack Smug's house falling down.

A Dodge City style brouhaha in a Dillons Fun Pub

Technicolour Yawn Conventions in Goosegrease and Dishwater pubs

Conversations between Efrem Brobdingnag and his psychiatrist

Bogbrush's second marriage certificate

Convictions for watering lager, serving half pints to women, selling full pints and serving under age toppers in fizz emporia.

Mole Whalebody's vital statistics.

Naturally photographs, tape recordings, sworn affidavits, fingerprints and other supporting evidence will be required, but a dim view will be taken of anyone committing arson, chundering, fisticuffing or

Q: Who turned up a month early at the Welcome in Prestwich to listen to the words of wisdom of the overtalk Boris Pratt?

Q: Who didn't turn up a month later to deliver those words of wisdom?

Q: Who parroted on in his absence?

A: That's right - Dermatitis.



Rearrange these televisual personalities and persons in the news of 1982 into the correct order. First prize:- a pair of "Monton Green" designer jeans and training shoes.



Sir - I wish to express my concern about the Royal Oak at Meller, a fine little pub which has featured in the Good Beer Guide many times, and recently became noteworthy as a "no smoking" pub (something which I understand has recently been relaxed). The pub is about to undergo one of Robinsons' notorious modernisation schemes, not so horrific as the recent Whitbread equivalent, but

guaranteed to give a pub of character a totally unmemorable interior. The particularly nasty feature of this modernisation is one common to Robinsons houses and concerns the modernisation of the bar, and with it the replacement of the handpumps with the illuminated push-button metered variety. In the case of the Royal Oak, I understand it is totally against the wishes of the landlord who feels, like many regular drinkers of Robinsons (and other beers), that these electric pumps alter the flavour of the beer. I feel this is a disgraceful action by the brewery management, who are disregarding the wishes of the licensee and the local drinkers.

Geoff Williamson

(High Peak & N E Cheshire branch of CAMRA)





AVAILABLE ON HANDPUMP AT

THE CHESHIRE RING, HYDE * THE ROMPER, MARPLE
THE LITTLE MILL, ROWARTH
THE CEMETERY, ROCHDALE * CHESHIRE CHEESE, HOPE
SHOULDER OF MUTTON, HUDDERSFIELD
THE FARMERS ARMS, HOLMFIRTH
THE HUNTSMAN, THURLESTONE
CAVENDISH HOTEL, BASLOW

Why not add your name to the list?

TRADE ENQUIRIES TO

J.A.COOPER AND SON (GLOSSOP) LTD
58 SURREY STREET
GLOSSOP, DERBYSHIRE
TEL: GLOSSOP 2596 or 64906



"RUDDLING
GOOD
BEER..."





Branch Diary

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 5th April 8.00pm Branch Meeting, Healey (Robinsons), Shawclough Rd, Rochdale
Tues 19 April 8.00pm Committee Meeting, Lark (Bass), Durham Street, Rochdale
Tues 3 May 8.00pm, Branch Meeting, Horton Arms (Lees), Streetbridge, Chadderton
Fri/Sun 6/8 May Saddleworth Beer Festival - see elsewhere in this issue.
Tues 17 May 8.00pm, Committee Meeting, Bluebell (Robinsons), Market Street, Shaw.
Contact: Steve Lawton 061 236 4411 ext 7237 or 061 620 9239 (h)

NORTH MANCHESTER

Weds 13 April, Committee/Social, Coach & Horses, Cadishead 8.00pm
Wes 20 April Branch Meeting Bulls Head, Swinton. Speaker from Peter Walker. 8.00pm
Weds 27 April Mystery Event
Weds 4 May Pub Crawl of Broughton. 7.00 Horseshoe, 8.30 Hanky Park.
Weds 11 May, Committee/Social, Harp & Shamrock, New Mount Street, Manchester 8.00
Weds 18 May Branch Meeting, White Swan, Swinton, 8.00
Contact Roger Hall 740 7937

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Weds 20 April Robinsons Brewery Trip
Thurs 28 April Pub of the Month, Victoria, Altrincham (with Trafford & Hulme)
Thurs 12 May, Branch Meeting, Warren Bulkeley, Stockport
Weds 18 May, Hydes Brewery visit. Places still available.
Contact Sue Sproson 061 225 4058

HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Tues 12 April Branch Meeting, Andrew Arms, Compstall (Robinsons) 8.30pm. Speaker from Robinsons Brewery
Contact Tom Lord 061 427 7099

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 7 April Committee/Social, Windmill, Manchester Road, Carrington 8.00pm
Thurs 21 April Branch Meeting, Malt Shovels, Stamford Street, Altrincham 8.00pm
Thurs 28 April "Pub of the Month", Victoria Tavern, Victoria Street, Altrincham 8pm
Thurs 5 May, Committee/Social, Faulknors Arms, Stamford New Road, Altrincham 7.30pm
Contact Alan Hurdle 973 2103 (h)

BOLTON

Fri 1st April 7.30am Day trip to Brighton. Train from Bolton Trinity Street, fare £7
Tues 5th April 8pm..Branch Meeting, George, Gt Moor St, Bolton. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
Sun 17 April 12 noon. Session on the Jumpin' Joes, White Lion, Market St, W'houghton
Contact Jim Hurst Tottington 3532

A BREATH OF FRESH BULLSHIT

Do you find What's Doing stale and unpalatable? You're not reading quickly enough! The proprietors will not provide a single page edition for slow readers and dlysecixs. So, what to do?

Why not invest in a What's Doing book breather? This cunning little device surrounds the magazine with gaseous bovine excrement at one atmosphere, so that every page remains as fresh and lively as the day it was misprinted. Don't delay, invest today! Help keep real magazines alive.

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.**