

WHAT'S DOING



JUNE
1983

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

PLOUGH SUCCESS



A Roll of Honour, listing Marland men who died in the Great War, has been restored to the Success to the Plough, Bolton Road, Marland, Rochdale, after an absence of 15 years. J W Lees, owners of the Plough, had given up hope of tracing the missing roll years ago, until new licensee Les Duckworth was contacted by a curio collector who had noticed it at an auction in Ashton. The Roll of Honour is now back on display in the Plough, although not very prominently. Several of the regulars of the pub are descendants of the soldiers and sailors listed on the roll and the photo shows Harry Whitelegge, four of whose uncles are mentioned. The Success to the Plough has recently had a £150,000 face-lift, quite a transformation.

WHAT'S DOING

HORRORSCOPE

Whitbread have recently spent around £100,000 doing up three Bolton pubs, all of which now sell Castle Eden and Duttons bitter at prices varying between 59p and 64p. There is the Flag Inn on Hardman's Lane, Bromley Cross, where fairly dismal surroundings have been transformed into a pleasant, comfortable pub with a separate food servery (open lunchtimes and evenings). Car parking could be a problem at weekends. In the centre of Bolton there is the Cattlemarket, Orlando Street. It is a teeny bit more subdued than some earlier Whitbread debacles: no garden gates, no orange frogs, barrels, crates or sewing machines - not even the ubiquitous green paint (they must have run out!) Instead, just a few books, an occasional barrel end, some scales, a couple of pots, a stuffed duck, a washbasin, a po and a few bemused customers.

Meanwhile, down the road, the Duck and Firkin on Bradshawgate has become one of those light and sound experience things. Hartleys, Marstons Pedigree and Castle Eden beers and Bulmers traditional cider are on sale in this illuminated epileptic fit.

The third of the new conversions is the Railway on St Helens Road, Daubhill, which was reluctantly one of the original Special Cask pubs back in 1980. It has remained reasonably untouched, with few of the usual House of Horrors features in evidence. If the present rate of Whitbread conversions continues, then they will have more cask outlets than Greenalls or Tetleys in the Bolton area.

CENTRAL MANCHESTER ALE

Real ale, in the form of Youngers IPA or McEwans 80/-, has been dropped from the Portland Grapevine bar. This is sad, as it was usually a decent, distinctly flavoured pint. However, the "20 Brew City Centre Crawl" is not numerically threatened as the Coach and Horses, London Road, has added Ruddles bitter to its variety of real ales.

WILSONS BACK TO REAL ALE

Wilsons continue returning pubs to real ale. The Oaks, Barlow Moor Road, West Didsbury, is a recent conversion. Handpumps have been installed at long last. The Fallowfield Hotel, Wilbraham Road, Fallowfield, will probably also have real ale by the time What's Doing is in circulation.

GRAPES GROAN

The Grapes, Bury New Road, Prestwich, said goodbye to hosts John and May Burn recently. This Greenall Whitley pub also said goodbye to real ale - the first loss in the town for many a year. It is hoped that traditional beer will return when a permanent new landlord has settled in, but we are dealing with Greenall Whitley....

ARK ROYAL

Although as a building the Ark Royal in Harpurhey would not win any prizes, at least the name is original. So those associated with the late aircraft carrier have felt a connection with the pub, which has received Christmas cards and other correspondence over the years. And when the ship went to the scrapyard recently, landlord Ken Upton was interviewed on Radio Manchester. Non-nautical people do not need to think of water at all, because Ken and his wife Winnie keep an excellent pint of Robinsons best mild and best bitter, and as a result have doubled the turnover in the six months since they have had the licence. The other Robinsons house across Rochdale Road, the Milan, now has a really good rival.

SALFORD SUPERSTARS

Our literary spies have noticed bright young Whitbread media persons looking up famous Salfordians in the local library with a view to incorporating sporting persons in a new advertising campaign. (Remember Giant Haystacks?) Whatever next?

Christ (Robert Powell) and Gandhi (Ben Kingsley) were brought up in the City of Chesters Fighting Mild. I suppose "A Taste of Honey" might be useful, but they'd better forget Vinegar Vera.. Lowry, Alistair Cooke, Joule, Albert Finney, Mark Addy and Walter Greenwood wouldn't appear to have much to offer, and they've already used Hobson's Choice. None of these are desperately sporting. There's not much mileage in John Virgo, who's better at imitating people than becoming a champion, Albert Scanlon, Gus Risan and Eddie Coleman aren't famous enough, so they'll have to invent some:- "Roy of the Rovers drinks Trophy", "Alf Tupper swills his chips down with Chesters Bitter". Or perhaps they should give up and concentrate on trying to brew quality beer to safeguard the future of Cook Street Brewery?

BARLEY MALT

Thwaites bitter has been taken out of the Barley Malt (Wilton Arms), Prestwich, by Whitbread. Will it be replaced by Castle Eden? Not as yet.

PARK ENQUIRY

The Public Enquiry into the Wigan Centre Redevelopment is under way. Objections to the demolition of the Park Hotel were heard from Steve Foster of CAMRA and Mrs Rosina Brown, who spoke of the excellence

of the pub. Mr Hunt, from Peter Walker, said the brewery would not be interested in a new pub within the development, as Walkers were only interested in traditional pubs like the Park. The petition with over 1,600 signatures collected entirely within the pub, was also presented.

Peter Walker later called on an architect, who had drawn up new plans to show that it was possible to retain the Park by resiting the car park ramp in front of the pub, thus maintaining a link with the past and saving the ratepayers over £100,000.

Campaign for Metro Disarmament



WHY ? DESTROY THE PARK HOTEL



ANOTHER WIGAN METRO BLUNDER

THE PARK HOTEL, MARKET SQUARE, WIGAN. NEEDS YOUR
SUPPORT!

Another expert witness argued that the scheme retaining the Park would not cause traffic flow problems, as the Metro were suggesting. All witnesses were severely cross-examined by counsel for the Metro, who still seem determined to destroy the town's greatest pub. The result of the enquiry is not expected for several months.

AMBER NECTAR SHOW

After two successful years in Leeds, CAMRA is moving the Great British Beer Festival to Birmingham. This year the festival is being held from the 7th to the 10th September at the Bingley Hall, Birmingham. The Hall is in the centre of the city and Birmingham is easy to get to from many parts of the country. At the festival one will be able to sample beers from 100 different brewers. Parties of 20 or more will be admitted free if booked before 20th August with Ken Mathews, 74 Raleigh Road, Hornsey, London N8 0JA

NEW BEER FOR GREENALLS

Our Prestbury correspondent recently stumbled upon a Greenall Whitley promotion photographing session at the bar of a well known free house near the Cheshire village. The photographs are to be used in the promotion of a new Greenall Whitley beer called "Old Original". Handpumps featured prominently in the shots, so let us hope that this is translated into reality when the beer appears on the bar. The P.R. man was less than forthcoming (what P.R. man isn't?), when asked if the new beer would replace the ubiquitous "Local" bitter or merely complement it. Fred Dibnah was nowhere in sight. (Wrong image, Fred.)

SAMS IN OLDHAM

Slowly but surely Sam Smiths are converting their pubs to cask beer. The latest convert is the Hark to Topper, Bow Street, Oldham. Situated off Yorkshire Street, the pub, once called the Manor, stands on the town's oldest thoroughfare. The new licensees have carried out some alterations to the pub itself, which was in a pretty run-down state. Let us wish them all the best in this, their first pub.

SERIOUS COMIC

A more serious role for comedian Gerry Harris, landlord of the Commercial Inn, Prestwich (Letleys), is seen in the video film "GBH, Grievous Bodily Harm". The film is billed as "More brutal than the Long Good Friday" and sees Gerry mixed up with the gangsters of Manchester's clubland in days gone by.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE EDEN

Whitbread have converted the Elephant and Castle in Bamford, Rochdale, to a quasi-House of Horrors pub, frequented by the Bamford 'O' Level discussion group-cum-jet set. It is pleasing to note that Whitbread have resisted the temptation to inhabit the building with a stuffed elephant or a 1:10 scale castle. However, the usual features predominate, as does the routine serving of keg Trophy to anyone stupid enough to ask for bitter, when Castle Eden and Duttons bitter are available, albeit at high prices (64p and 61p)

Whitbread have also introduced Castle Eden ale into the Wheatsheaf in the centre of Littleborough (62p), the Dog and Partridge on Bury Road, Rochdale and the Winston Churchill eating place in Bamford.

AMBER NECTAR SHOW



Camra South Lancs are running a real ale tent at Leigh Carnival on Saturday June 11th. Ten different real ales are expected, including Taylors BB and Landlord, Moorhouses bitter and Pendle Witch; plus the Tetley Walker/Peter Walker range of beers. The event will be licensed from 1.00 until 6.00pm, so there is plenty of drinking time.

In addition, on Friday June 10th there will be a Folk Evening in the beer tent; tickets £1.50 from Peter Richardson, Railway Hotel, Twist Lane, Leigh (tel Leigh 673916). The entrance fee includes refreshments and most of the above beers will be available.

MOORHOUSES

Moorhouses, the Burnley five-man brewery, were awarded second place in the 1983 Brewing, Bottling and Allied Trades Exhibition. There were 127 entries in the Brewex 83 Draught Beer (Cask Conditioned) Competition for the best pale ale of an original gravity of 1030° to 1037°.

NORMAN CONQUEST

The Norman on Oxford Road, Dukinfield, now sells handpumped Wilsons mild and bitter.

SALE ALE

Wilson's traditional mild and bitter have replaced the tanked beer in the Sale Hotel, Marsland Road, Sale.

CANVA CON



Whitbread's latest marketing ploy to push their range of canned beers and lagers relies heavily on CAMRA's good name in promoting decent beers. Their Campaign for Value posters and local radio promotions obviously hope for some spin-off from our own organisation.

Come on, you marketing men, be a little more original with your ideas. Simply tell the customer how wonderful your canned beers taste, how cheap they are compared to that nasty traditional draught beer and how their original gravity strengths are

almost off the top of the scale. What are a few white lies between brewer and drinker?

JUMP AT FROGGIES

Froggies Fun Pub opened recently in Oldham (keg Wilsons and SEN beers, so don't all rush at once), in a blaze of publicity. The pub offers "...a continuous programme of music and a light show, a fun squad providing various gimmicks and tricks to keep you entertained and a fun dartboard..." One intrepid local CAMRA committee member decided to take them up on their offer made in the local newspaper advertisement, "Join us for a jump at Froggies." He now realises the error of his ways, and didn't even get his money back!

DRABS

Handpumps have been installed at the Golden Lion, Blackley.

COOK STREET

An application has been made to the Department of the Environment to list Whitbread's Brewery as a building of Architectural and Historic Merit.

GOOD BOY

We welcome Abe and Carol Kearsley, new licensees at the Black Boy (Wilson's); Eccles. Abe is a keen believer in the cause of real ale and hopes to continue the tradition of fine ales associated with the pub. Well worth a visit.

WHITBREAD IN GOOD TASTE

The Stamford Arms, Little Bollington (main A56 from Bowden to Lymm) has reopened after being closed since December. The old interior has been completely ripped out and the Stamford Arms is now a comfortable upmarket lounge pub with different seating areas, plenty of bare brickwork and real wood. Not the usual House of Horrors treatment this - good lighting, no disco noise, snacks and meals available. Accompanied children are welcome in the restaurant or outside seating area and new manager Geoff Fahey and wife Pat welcome new customers. Chesters bitter is currently available at 62p, mild may follow if there is sufficient demand.

WHIM WIN

The Odd Whim, Mossley Road, Ashton under Lyne, is now selling Wilsons traditional ales again - on handpumps.

PUB OF THE MONTH

The South Manchester and Trafford & Hulme branches' Pub of the Month for June 1983 is the Griffin Hotel on Didsbury Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport. In November 1980, when the Griffin first won this award, its very existence was in question. Happily, that is no longer the case and this second award is as much a celebration of that fact as it is a recognition of the acerbic Holts ales, splendidly kept by mine hosts. The Griffin's renowned atmosphere and historical importance well merit its continued selection as a Good Beer Guide pub and we are looking for an extra large turnout for the social on Thursday 23rd June, when the Pub of the Month plaque will be presented.

CROSS KEYS

The new landlord of the Cross Keys (Wilson's fizz), Whitefield, is Dave Wolfenden, who previously had the Smedley in Collyhurst. Alterations are planned for the near future and Dave hinted that fizzy beer in the Cross Keys may become a thing of the past. Present prices are 56p for bitter and 54p for mild - considerably below the prices charged in Wilsons' Elizabethan on the nearby Hillock estate.

BUCKING UP

The Buck and Hawthorn on Katherine Street, Ashton under Lyne, is being given a facelift. This street-corner Robinsons house, situated just outside the town centre, will not be knocked about in any way. The brewery have introduced central heating, re-wired the house and generally tidied the place up. None of the traditional atmosphere and character of the pub has been lost.

WHITE HORSE TOPS THE LEAGUE

In only their second season, Bury ARLFC, based at the White Horse Inn, Prestwich, won the Division Seven Championship last month. Landlord Mick Connaughton (an ex-player himself), when not pulling pints of Holts, helped coach the team to the top and also to their first ever Cup Final earlier in the year. Perhaps it's Holts that reaches those parts of the body and not a certain lager?

JOHN SMITHS NEWS

John Smith's Tadcaster Brewery Limited.

Magnet House
Station Road, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire, LS24 9JF

Telephone: Tadcaster 832091



Registered Office: THE BREWERY
TADCASTER, NORTH YORKSHIRE
Registered Number 719645 England

Our Ref: CMF/LW

Your Ref:

Date: 9th May, 1983.

Mr. M.J. Longbottom,
Grove Inn,
Back Row,
Holbeck,
Leeds.
LS11 5PL.

Dear Mr. Longbottom,

Further to my letter dated 25th March, 1983 when I informed you that dispensing beer via hand pulls was against Company policy I understand that this practice is still continuing. I must now warn you that if you do not stop dispensing beer via hand pulls within seven days of receipt of this letter Disciplinary action will be taken against you. This may well take the form of issuing Notice to Quit.

Yours sincerely,

C.M. Faircliffe,
Area Retail Manager, West Yorkshire.

JENNINGS AND BASS CHARRINGTON

Recently Bass North West agreed to take Jennings cask bitter in 100 of their pubs, supplied from their Barrow and Colne depots. In return, all Jennings' 96 houses take keg Stones bitter. One local Bass house to benefit from this agreement is the Bulls Head, Ogden (between Newhey and Denshaw). This former all-keg Bass house is now selling Jennings bitter. If you can't find the pub, ask for directions at the Good Beer Guide listed Bird in Hand on Rochdale Road, Newhey, but beware, the Sam Smiths beers available there are such that you might decide to travel no further!

LOST LOCALS

The Castlewood (Wilsons), Bridge Street, Stockport, has run into financial difficulties and is presently closed. The Castlewood, an entry in the 1983 Good Beer Guide, thus joins, at least for the moment, Stockport's "Lost Locals" list, which includes the Beehive (Wilsons), the County Hotel (Boddingtons) and the Victoria Vaults (Wilsons).

DENTON NEWS

Handpumped Chesters mild and bitter are now available at the Silver Springs, Ashton New Road. Traditional mild has disappeared from the Toll Point, Stockport Road (Wilsons). Cask bitter is still available on handpump. The landlord of the Jolly Hatters on Houghton Green Road, Denton, has decided to put tables, chairs and ashtrays on the ceiling. The brewery, Bass NW, say sales of beer have gone up. What will they think of next?



North Manchester's entries for the reduced 1984 Good Beer Guide are:-

Eccles Duke of York (Whitbread/free), Grapes, Park (Holts), Queens Arms (Boddingtons)

Irlam White Horse (Tetley)

Swinton & Pendlebury White Lion (Robinsons), White Swan (Holts), Windmill (Sam Smiths)

Worsley Royal Oak (Wilsons), Morning Star (Holts)

Salford Union Tavern, Bricklayers, Waggon & Horses (Holts), Horseshoe (Bass), Spinners (Marstons)

Cheetham Derby Brewery Arms (Holts)

Blackley Old House at Home (Wilsons)

Moston Bluebell (Holts)

Newton Heath Prince of Wales (Wilsons), Dean Brook (Marstons)

City Centre Jolly Angler (Hydes), Harp & Shamrock (Marstons), Unicorn (Bass), Castle & Falcon (Burtonwood), Sinclairs (Sam Smiths)

Spares: Eagle, Salford (Holts), White Lion, Eccles (Holts)

Holts 9, Wilsons 3, Marstons 3, Bass 2, Sam Smiths 2, Hydes 1, Burtonwood 1, Whitbread 1, Boddingtons 1, Tetley 1, Robinsons 1.



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Rochdale 43214

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 TAYLORS BITTER, BODDINGTONS BITTER**

Guest beers are always available and in 1982 these included Adnams, Batemans, Matthew Brown, Clarks, Darleys, Failsworth, Hydes, Lorimer & Clark, Marstons, Moorhouses, Oldham, Priory, Robinsons, Theakstons, West Riding, Wilsons, Winkles

Why not organise a trip to see us. For parties we can provide a room, food and a beer of your choice (within reason!) Phone Ethel or Colin for further information.



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"RUDDLING
GOOD
BEER..."



SAMS IN HEYWOOD

At the same time as the Hark to Topper, Oldham, was returned to real ale (see earlier), the Engineers Arms, Aspinall Street, Heywood, underwent the same transformation.

Contributors: Steve Lawton, Roger Hall, Mick Rottenbury, Leo King, Dave Hale, Dave Eckett, David Rowlinson, Don Chattwood, K Egerton, Jim Hurst, Roger Bullock, Brian Gleave, Rob Dunford.

CENTRAL MANCHESTER ALE

Sir - In addition to the errata printed in the May 1983 WD, may I suggest you check the following observations:-

Brick House - not real ale
Clynes Wine Bar - no mild
Cob o'Coal - Chesters Mild only, no Bitter!

Harp & Shamrock - No Pedigree
King Arms, Bloom Street - not real ale
Nelson - keg mild

Nip & Tipple (or White Hart, preferably!) - Chesters mild also
Square Albert - Tetley mild also

Three Legs of Man, Stretford Road - no mild

Last time I ventured inside the Weavers, admittedly four years ago, the beer was fizzy.

J Gaunt

P.S. The Crown & Sceptre fizz emporium (May WD) has been open (under new management) for a few weeks.

DUCK

Sir - The landlord of the Strawbury Duck, Entwistle, has banned would-be customers arriving by train! Only those arriving by car or on foot will be served in future. The "Duck" is a very popular pub because of its selection of real ales - Taylors, Hartleys, Ruddles, etc - and because of its location in something of a beauty spot. However, the licensee, Roger Duxbury, claims that train-borne customers were stealing up to 50 glasses a night, apart from being noisy and upsetting the local residents.

But I find Mr Duxbury's action unreasonable and silly. Why? 1) He is the licensee of a public house and should not stop the public going there in whatever way they choose. He can, however, do what is necessary to maintain control of the licensed premises. 2) Mr Duxbury will encourage more drunken drivers and consequently this will lead to more noise and dangerous traffic congestion near the pub. Dangerous driving down the narrow country lane leading to the pub will be a real



threat to the safety of pedestrians. A lot of people from the towns like to venture into the countryside now and then. As the Duck is so remote, the safest way they can enjoy a pint or two at the Duck is to arrive and depart by train.

3) As a CAMRA member in the licensed trade, Mr Duxbury's action is unreasonable and is not in the best interests of the Campaign.

Jim Hurst

WILSONS

Sir - The piece on Wilsons' re-launched beers in May's WD was interesting - particularly the statement that Wilsons will not regain their reputation until they sell real ale in all their pubs. No doubt it is quite inconceivable that this can have been penned by a member of the local branch, one of whose national AGM motions stated that the aim of "Real Ale in Every Pub" can be detrimental to the reputation of real beer...

Rhys P Jones

CORRECTION

Sir - For B J Brownsword's information, the N Manchester motion re. GBG selection in city centres was not passed at the CAMRA AGM, but instead the Chairman moved "next business" without taking a vote. He also stated that the matter should be decided by the local branches concerned. Since it had previously been decided at a regional meeting that South Manchester and Trafford & Hulme wished the individual branches to be responsible for selecting their own city centre entries, this motion should not have been tabled at the national AGM. Rather than a successful motion, this item was a rebuttal which might stop North Manchester from wanting to select everybody else's GBG entries for them in future.

"The whingeing sartorial Scot"

HORRORS

Sir - The Whitbread House of Horrors team have done their worst at the Rose and Crown, Starling, near Ainsworth. Within a few weeks they've managed to transform a pleasant, old fashioned local into an ill-lit nightmare of unplanned wood smelling of creosote, complete with two-inch splinters for the unwary hand, plus the usual job-lot of Whitbread rubbish - dusty old books, bits of sewing machines, disused jerries, plants in genuine Victorian pots recently made in Hong Kong, feathered quills, broken cider flagons with in-built cobwebs, and everything else apart from Auntie Maggie's whalebone corsets - and no doubt they are in there somewhere, if only one can peer hard enough into the gloom of the sepulchral lighting!

Time was, not so many weeks ago, when, due to the great good fortune of a notoriously excellent cellar immediately below the bar, and the

diligence and constant attention of the landlord, even the Whitbread beer achieved a certain palatability. Whitbread must have got wind of this and in great alarm decided it couldn't go on. Obviously, the offending cellar was the cause of the good ale. So they decided to build a refrigerated outhouse and site the bar on the far side of the building, which entailed great lengths of pipework. Their end was achieved with great success. The beer is now down to their usual standard, and 3p dearer to boot!

Most of the regulars have vanished like the proverbial arabs, folding up their spends and disappearing into the night. A juke box has been inserted next to the yokels' toilet, and this has attracted the usual crowd of trendy, half-a-lager-drinking, limp-wristed wassocks and their liberated birds. What an unholy alliance! They deserve the pub and the pub deserves them.

RUPERT

Sir - Out here in the land of a dozen different beers or less, I look forward to reading my What's Doing whilst drinking my imported Newcastle Brown. I thumb eagerly through the news pages, recommended crawls and real ale guides until I get to the Rupert Periwinkle pages, and what a disappointment it is! It is just like finding pages printed in Bantu (I can't understand that either.)

I'm sure Rupert Periwinkle is quite amusing to some, but not being a member of the Manchester CAMRA "in crowd", I don't know what the chuffing heck he's on about and I'm sure most of your casual readers don't either!

What's wrong with having a couple of extra pages of news? Perhaps a few snippets from other areas that may be of interest? Unfortunately I personally have no such information, but maybe others have.

Keep on rockin', Dave Arnold, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

ALL HANDS TO THE PUMPS

Sir - Once upon a time (and not really long ago) a Robinsons pub called the Star and Garter on Higher Hillgate, Stockport, was the only one left with gravity dispense. (Handpumps were also in use for those drinkers preferring them.) A new licensee took over and the gravity method was done away with. On a very recent visit to the pub I found that the handpumps had been taken out and replaced by electric ones. On ordering a pint, I was sold a very large half pint. With a couple of cherries on top of the mountain of froth it would have looked like a nice ice cream sundae. The bitter appeared to have lost the characteristic Robby's flavour. The same applied to the Bakers Vaults in the Market Place, which has also transferred to electric pumps.

In April WD Geoff Williamson made a point, which I fully agree with, about Robinsons electrically dispensed beer. I must also emphasise that Robby's beers taste much better when served through handpumps.

Are Robinsons following in the footsteps of the Hydes of some years ago, when they too started pulling out all their handpumps in favour of electric ones? One only has to taste the beer at the Jolly Angler in Manchester, where that rare sight, Hydes handpumps, was retained thanks to Kath and Dave. The beers here have to be appreciated; they taste far better than those in the vast majority of Hydes outlets using electric pumps.

Leo King

BERKS

Sir - With regard to last month's letter about the special CAMRA AGM What's Doing April issue, complete with Berks Beerage and Central Manchester Guide (before any corrections). The remaining 111 copies are now available by post from Roger Hall at his usual abode. They were also available at the Saddleworth Beer Festival; where were you, Bernie?

Tattlecopse

BODMASS AND GROTNEYS

Sir - At last CAMRA nationally has decided to campaign against poor beer - whether it be keg or these new-fangled cask-conditioned beers. When a customer goes into a traditional beer house he doesn't want a pint of warm slutch or a pint of dark-coloured water. Neither does he want a pint of sweet, a pint of chemic or a pint of bland. He wants a pint of tasty traditional mild or bitter of medium strength served at the correct temperature. Surely all breweries must have got the message by now. Some breweries, of course, are blameless, but others have been very naughty.

Boddingtons have been singled out for special mention because of their present policies. CAMRA is worried that this famous brewery is going to "go keg" and is trying to step in before it happens. Boddingtons' recent policy has been to emphasise the name "Boddingtons" and their reputation for quality traditional beer. At the same time a sort of Bodmass has appeared, replacing the distinctive bitter of a few years ago.

Wilsons are moving in the right direction, but they've got to pay attention to price and quality. In other words, their beer must be as good as their ad-men say it is. Also, to increase customer credibility, please take an exorcist to the brewery and get rid of the ghost of Mr Grotney. This fellow still seems to be affecting management decisions at the brewery.

B.C.



"Underneath the Spreading Chestnut Tree" has taken on a new meaning since Ben Chestnut was caught in flagrante delicto practising pairs press-ups on top of Mr Busman's barge. It is believed that Ben misunderstood the meaning of "legging it", particularly as he now has one limb encased in plaster and has to hobble about with the aid of a Long John Silver kit.

I've had to have strong word with Mr Nestfeather about the content of What's Doing. He doesn't seem to appreciate that this cheeky little booklet should be a newsletter, not a vehicle for upsetting breweries. Mr Kepple tries very hard, brings back ox-drawn drays, clogs and doublets and what does he get - a bouquet? an accolade? No - a slap in the face with a wet haddock. So what's he going to think now? What a waste of time! They don't appreciate anything that lot; bring back Red Barrel.

And Efrem; heaven knows what he's going to do. He's trying very hard to rationalise and make lots of money for the Brobdingnags and all he gets is a boot in the naughty parts. If Mr Nestfeather thinks that this will make any difference to Efrem, he's got another think coming. He's probably already ordered a keggering plant and appointed a House of Horrors Director (Pub Destruction).

I suppose we can only be grateful that Perry Drab and the Brasso Brothers have been relatively blameless because the slightest deviation from the straight and narrow leads to scathing vituperation. Mr Boringsod has been kind enough to advertise in What's Doing so I believe he should be able to knock his own pubs about without let or hindrance, rather than be subjected to hatred, ridicule and contempt. The same goes for Mister Dillon, who has peppered the area with sporadic real ale and transformed dull mausoleums into jolly fun pubs and received nothing but brickbats from this quarter.

I've tried to persuade Mr Nestfeather to introduce a good news page where we can praise breweries for their continued contributions to Britain's architectural heritage, their appreciation of the function of the public house in the social structure of the country and their

determined dedication to traditional methods of brewing and dispensing beer. This will redress the balance and make us friends with all the brewers who must be doing something right. If you have any good news, please write and tell Mr Nestfeather.

BORIS PRATT CHANGES JOBS

Mayor's chain goes missing

THE CHAIN of office of the mayor of Islington, north London, has gone missing. A council spokesman said that the 83-year-old chain, which contains 18-carat gold, and is valued at about £10,000, was not in the safe at the town hall when an

attendant replaced the mayor's badge yesterday. Police were interviewing staff.

But the leftwing mayor, Councillor Pat Hayes believed the disappearance was a bit of mischief. He said: "Not everyone in Islington town hall is a dedicated socialist, and they may be playing fun and games."

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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

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To join **CAMRA** send £7 to Membership, **CAMRA**, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW



Branch Diary

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 2 June, Committee/Social, Bay Malton, Seamans Road, Broadheath 7.30
Thurs 16 June 8.00 Branch Meeting, Malt Shovels, Stamford Street, Altrincham
Thurs 23 June, Pub of the Month. See South Manchester
Thurs 30 June Social 8.00, Whipping Stocks, Over Peover
Contact: Alan Hurdle, 976 1337

NORTH MANCHESTER

Sat 11 June. Day trip to York for drinking/races and evening in Bradford for eating/
drinking. Coach from Duke of York, Eccles, 10.00am
Weds 15 June Branch meeting, Queens, Patricroft 8.00
Weds 22 June Cross town crawl. Leaving Lass o' Gowrie 7.00. Coach & Horses 8.00
Weds 29 June Return train ride to Strawberry Duck, Entwistle: Victoria 6.56, Clifton
7.06, Farnworth 7.14, Bolton 7.20. Trains hourly. Last train back 10.28
Weds 6 July, Pub Crawl Moston. 7.00 Bluebell, 8.00 Museum, both Moston Lane
Weds 13 July, Social/Committee, Shears, Greengate, Salford 8.00
Weds 20 July, Branch meeting, White Swan, Swinton 8.00

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 7 June 8.00pm Branch AGM, White Lion (Whitbread), Bolton Street, Bury
All members are requested to attend
Sat/Sun 11/12 June Weekend away in Wye Valley. All places taken
Tues 21 June 8.00pm Committee meeting, Waterloo (Thwaites), Manchester Road, Bury
Tues 5 July 8.00pm, Branch Meeting, White Hart (Lees), Rochdale Road, Middleton
Tues 19 July 8.00pm, Committee Meeting, Hare & Hounds (Lees), Long Street, Middleton
Contact Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h), 061 775 3351 ext 248 (w)

SOUTH MANCHESTER

7 June Committee meeting, Gateway, Kingsway, E Didsbury 8.00
9 June Branch Meeting, Gateway 8.00
21 June Combined brewery visit to Marstons and Burton Bridge
30 June Pub of the Month with Trafford & Hulme - Griffin, Didsbury Road, Heaton
Mersey.
Contact: Sue Sproson 225 4058
Socials Contact Ian McDermott 776 3367 (w), 864 1668 (h)

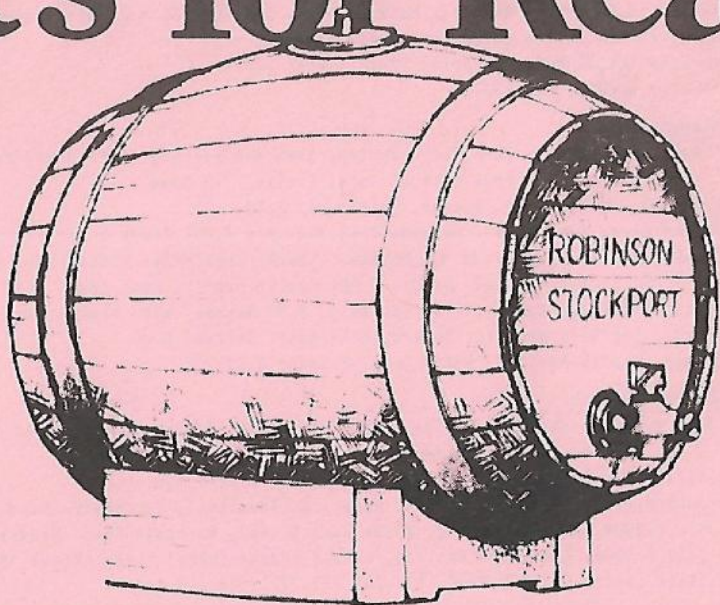
HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Tues 14 June Branch AGM, Travellers Call, Stockport Road, Bredbury 8.30 (Lees)
Fri 17th June, Coach Trip to High Peak of Derbyshire (evening)
Sunday 3 July, Real Ale Bar at Hawthorns Special School Summer Fete at Corporation
Road, Audenshaw, from 1.30 to 5.00pm - side shows, stalls, amusements, etc.
Traditional beer and cider.
Contact Tom Lord 061 427 7099

BOLTON

Wed 8 June 8.00pm. Branch Meeting, Peel Hotel, Higher Bridge Street, Bolton
Wed 22nd June 8.00pm. Pub Crawl of Little Lever. 8.00pm Queen Anne, High Street,
9.00pm Old Three Crowns, Fletcher Street
Wed 29th June, 8.00pm. Festival Update Meeting, George, Great Moor Street, Bolton
Wed. 6th July 8.00pm. Branch Meeting, Bridgewater, Buckley Lane, Farnworth. Speaker
from Sam Smiths
Sun 10th July 10.00am. Hike up to Black Dog, Belmont Village. Meet at the Three
Pigeons, Astley Bridge, Bolton, 10.00am
Weds 20th July, 8.00pm. Festival Update Meeting, George, Great Moor Street, Bolton
Contact Jim Hurst Tottington 3532

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.

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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.

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you are buying Traditional Draught Beer
- at its very best.**