

WHAT'S DOING



DEC
1983

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



SALFORD BORN AND BURIED

On Wednesday 23rd November all Whitbread's 38 Salford pubs were surveyed by the North Manchester branch of CAMRA. Sadly, only 12 pubs served any cask beer at all and of these only 3 sold more than one. There were one or two oases in the desert - the Duke of York, Eccles, which was busy (and cheap) at seven o'clock, and the Swan, Weaste; where the beer and the service were excellent. But generally the story was one of disinterest, apathy and ignorance. Bar staff did not know what cask beer was; requests for bitter were frequently responded to by reaching for tank Trophy. Apart from one or two exceptions, there was no active marketing of cask beers. Small wonder that cask beer has been withdrawn from so many outlets which still advertise the beer. If the lack of motivation continues, then Cook Street Brewery will disappear from the city just as Alastair Cooke, Robert Powell and Ben Kingsley have done!

Roger Hall

WHAT'S DOING

FAILSWORTH FIRST

Failsworth Brewery have now moved into the New Wellington on Manchester Road, Hyde. This ex-Whitbread pub now sells Failsworth Original and Strong beers (54p and 60p), together with Chesters mild (54p). All beers are handpumped. Whitbread have also retained an interest in the pub with their range of bottled beers and lagers. The New Wellington is managed by Denis and Glenys Guy, who would welcome local CAMRA branches who wish to hold their socials at the pub. An upstairs room, with bar, will soon be available for meetings and functions.

BOARDED UP

Following the departure of the tenant, Wilsons have boarded up the King George V in the centre of Bacup. The pub has been closed in the past and the brewery have succeeded in reopening it; this time things look more doubtful.

CHORLEY CHANGES

The Leigh Arms and Station Hotel, Chapel Street, Chorley, recently closed by Burtonwood, has reopened as the "Wierd Armz" (sic). Several interior walls have been demolished and the "thème" of the decor is a cross between a Hallowe'en Night Party and a cheapo House of Horrors. As far as the beer is concerned, handpumped bitter has replaced the electric version but the mild is no longer traditional. The pub is very handy for Chorley railway station, but travellers requiring a drink in a more normal environment should cross over the tracks to the Railway (Matthew Brown) in Steeley Lane, where a pint of handpumped Lion mild or bitter can be enjoyed whilst sitting in a seat removed from a Fishwick bus!

TWADDLE

Has anyone else come across the Taverner, which purports to be a pub, club and restaurant guide? It's full of the kind of sycophantic drivel that one would expect from something which relies so heavily on advertising. Typical of the mindless tripe is a feature about the Grove in Blackley. The pub is exactly 200 years old in 1983, it says. In fact, the Grove was a field in 1783 and could not possibly have been licensed until the Beerhouse Act of 1830. The Taverner is printed on glossy paper so it's not much use for wrapping chips in either.

TOMMY ALE

The Thomas Dutton on Blackburn Road, Egerton, Bolton, a plush Whitbread food emporium with a bar, has started selling Castle Eden at the now standard Whitbread managed house price of 67p.

CROWN, DEANS GATE

Thomas Richardson of the Crown, Deansgate, Manchester, is retiring from the licensed trade after ten years in this pub. Over the years he has done sterling service in maintaining the quality of the Wilsons mild and bitter, served by handpumps. Trade at this pub involves a nucleus of regulars and it is badly situated to attract the night-life of "uptown" Manchester. Thomas will be missed by the Trafford & Hulme branch of CAMRA - a man worthy of his Crown!

BODDIES GET A STEAK IN OLDHAM

The Bulls Head at Millbottom, Waterhead, Oldham, a Boddingtons house serving handpumped bitter, has started serving restaurant meals at lunchtimes (except Fridays) and early evenings. As the dining area has been imaginatively culled from the lounge, the meals are restricted to early evenings so that the full lounge space can be given over to honest boozing later on.

YATES HICCUP

Yates's Merchants Hotel on Oldham Street/Back Piccadilly has suffered a vast reduction in the number of handpumps. We are told that an entirely different range of beers will be introduced after Christmas.

HINDLEY HAPPENINGS

Greenalls traditional representation has fallen in Hindley as the Cross Keys and Spinners Arms have defected to keg beer. Traditional Greenalls mild is available at the Lancashire Union, whilst the bitter is cask at the Hand and Heart. These pubs have only the one cask beer and represent the only traditional Greenalls outlets in Hindley. On a happier note, the Ellesmere now sells Burtonwood mild and bitter exclusively by handpump.

FIZZ FUZZ

In the recent press reports concerning Chief Constable James Anderton's "hand picked" Vice Squad "nabbed" for late drinking, the Lord Nelson, Newton Street, Manchester, was cited. No doubt the boys had to stay late to get any effect from the beer - it's a John Smiths house!

TRADITIONAL PHOTOS

The Friendship, Lees Road, Oldham, a Good Beer Guide listed Wilsons house serving handpumped mild and bitter, won second prize in a brewery-run competition for traditional photos based on their recent TV advertisement. Landlord Phil Whiteman is delighted with the success of the picture, which will be hung in the pub along with other sepia photographs of Lees and Salem and the sign from the Oddfellows Hall, which sadly vanished from across the road nearly three years ago.

FUN PUB

The Commercial, Melbourne Street, Stalybridge, has been converted into the Jameside area's first fun pub. Handpumped Wilsons bitter is available.

NAUGHTY

It looks like the Whitbread-Chesters fibs department are at it again. The sticky tape which covered the word "traditional" outside Mister Chesters in Manchester has been removed. The word was covered up when this former Chesters "flagship" ceased selling real ale and CAMRA complained about misleading advertising. Is real ale to come back or are they thinking that we've gone away and forgotten about it?

SIR ROBERT PEEL

The Sir Robert Peel on Castle Street, Edgeley, Stockport, is undergoing major alterations. The pub previously sold rather variable Greenalls mild and bitter on handpumps; it remains to be seen whether they survive the "improvements".

WHITBREAD

Whitbread have started revamping their middle-of-the-road pubs: the Dog & Partridge on Bury Road, Rochdale, has been renamed Burlington Berties (we close at ten thirty?) The pub previously sold Castle Eden and continues to do so, albeit at the special knock-up price of 68p a pint or 35p a half. The decor is dull red, relieved with orange antique lamps, some of which still have part of their plastic wrapping attached.

REAL CROSS

The Cross Keys in Eccles has reopened serving Bass, Stones, 4X and Toby Light on draught. When the pub served no real ale at all it was the training centre for cask beer cellar management. So what will they do now? All that's missing is the lovely Bernard to throw people out.

PUB OF THE MONTH

December's Pub of the Month is the George, Mersey Square, Stockport, the only outlet for traditional Higsons in the South Manchester branch area. Handpumped mild and bitter is supplemented by draught Bass. The George has been tenanted for the last three years by Dallas and Marion Davenport, formerly of the Pineapple, Heaton Lane. A car body builder by trade, Dallas prefers building better bodies through his excellent ales, wide range of good food and the comfort of this Good Beer Guide pub, ably assisted by his home-trained cellarman Tony Harrison. The George was built in 1934 and the superb woodwork in the pub was designed by the builder of the Queen Mary. Apart from a period of aberration, when the pub was turned into the "Manhattan", the George has always served traditional beer and first appeared in the Good Beer Guide in 1975. Dallas has the enviable record of the most barrings in Stockport. All well-behaved CAMRA members can be assured of a good do on Monday 19th December.

TON UP

February's edition of What's Doing will be the 100th. To celebrate this amazing feat, a bumper edition is planned, with blasts from the past so you can see how its gone down the drain over the years. Eddie Nestfeather will be pleased, not to say delighted, to receive contributions from readers to include in this collectors' issue, which is a milestone in the illiterary heritage of the North West.

ORIGINAL BITTER

Greenalls Original Bitter (66p) is now on sale on handpump at the Welcome, Rusholme Grove, Rusholme. The standard cask bitter is also still available (63p), served through metered electric dispensers. The mild is bright.

TRAFFORD & HULME BRANCH LINES

Following Trafford & Hulme branch's AGM the new committee is:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| CHAIRMAN | Keith Egerton |
| SECRETARY | David Shelton |
| TREASURER | Dave Ward |
| SOCIAL SECRETARY | Mike Goode |
| PUBS OFFICER | Alan Hurdle |
| PUBLICATIONS | Mick Rottenbury |
| BRANCH CONTACT AND BRANCH PUBLICITY OFFICER | |

David Shelton 061 795 2113

Branch meetings are still held regularly on the third Thursday of the month. These days support is small, so do come along and have a chat with us. We're quite nice really!

N.E. IN WIGAN

CAMRA's National Executive and Regional Organisers are holding meetings in Wigan on 9th/10th December and any members wishing to quietly observe these meetings are welcome. There will also be an opportunity to hob-nob with and lobby our hierarchical heroes. The Branches Committee of Regional Organisers (chaired by local lad made good Ted Sharp) will meet in the Park Hotel (Walkers & Bass) on Friday evening, whilst the National Executive will meet in the Wheatsheaf, Wallgate (to prove that Greenalls beer is not all bad) on Saturday morning and afternoon. On Saturday evening the National Executive are holding a pie 'n' pint crawl of Wigan centre, attempting to sample the 16 beers available and washing each pint down with that local delicacy - a meat and prater pie from one of Wigan's independent bakers. The event will be sponsored in aid of the Save the Great British Beer Festival appeal. Sponsorship forms are available from, and donations should be sent to, Iain Dobson, Save the GBBF, 34 Alma Rd, St Albans. Cheques should be made payable to CAMRA Ltd (GBBF Appeal).

ENJOY A FREE PINT WITH US!



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A fine selection of handpumped real ales in traditional surroundings. Our current range is:-
**RUDDLES COUNTY, HOLTS BITTER, VAUX SAMSON,
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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. The first pint each is on us.

OOPS

Contrary to the impression given in last month's WD, the Loose Goose in Westhoughton only sells tank mild and bitter, though Greenalls did describe the beer as traditional in the local paper. Dishonest, that.

STRANGERWAYS

After the success of Dr Jonathan Miller's magnum opus, Manchester's favourite brewers have issued their own guide to your Boddies. It might not have any pop-up pictures but it's full of mistakes. Unlike What's Doing, there are no spelling mistakes on the front page, but some of the pubs seem to have moved a bit. The Brewers Arms, which is not a stone's throw up from Ewart's office, has been moved across the river into Salford along with the Ducie Hotel and the Grove Inn, whilst the Kildakin has been shifted into Manchester. Irlam, Cadishead, Prestwich, Whitefield, Stretford, Heywood, Denton and Walkden have all become part of Manchester, whilst in Eccles the Packet House has become the Bridgewater Packet House and the Egerton has changed its spelling. By the way, Boddies have 12 pubs in Pudshire and not 10 (WD Oct), assuming the information is correct.

DOWN 'N' OUT

Stockport Council have complained to Burtonwood Brewery about the run-down appearance of Ups 'n' Downs in Mersey Square. It seems that this original House of Horrors has only just come into the full possession of the brewery. So improvements - and cask beers, we hope - may be in the pipeline.

GUEST BEERS

Guest beers are visiting the more remote areas of Saddleworth. In the last few weeks the Horse and Jockey, a Good Beer Guide listed free house on the A62 above Delph, has been host to Ruddles County, Theakstons XB and Everard Old Original. It is rumoured that Tim Taylors Porter will shortly make an appearance.

Meanwhile, just up the road at Stanedge, plans are afoot to promote guest beers at the Floating Light, currently offering Tetleys bitter alongside the Bass Yorkshire and Boddies/OB range.

NARROW MINDS

Greenalls have lost a good chance to market their new Original Bitter, for the opening of the Narrow Boat on the site of the former Ellesmere Restaurant, East Lancs Road, Swinton, sees only tank beer on sale. Similarly, Tetleys overlooked an opportunity to introduce handpumps when the Brook Tavern at nearby Moorside had "the treatment" recently.

SOLD

The Assheton Arms, Booth Street, Ashton-under-Lyne has been sold and the new landlord intends to provide ballroom dancing in the upstairs room.

MOTHER MACS

Mother Macs (formerly the Wellington) on Back Piccadilly, Manchester, has again been modernised. This small pub is named after the late, long-serving landlady, Nora McMahon. Long ago, before the last alterations, it was possible to order your drinks in the vault while still seated, as the long bench seat was very close to the bar (anybody remember this?) The pub still retains the name "Mother Macs" and the sign shows a conical caricature of "Mother Mac" in true Scottish style, complete with tam o'shanter, scottie dress, kilt and kiltie socks. It also shows her in a rocking chair, wearing spectacles and smoking a pipe - quite different from the real Mrs Mac! The pub is now under new management. No House of Horrors treatment has been applied - in fact, this latest alteration has given the place an air of sophistication. Handpumped Chesters mild and bitter sell at 59p and 60p.



THE BRINSOP ARMS

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THE FREEHOUSE FULL OF FINE TRADITIONAL ALES
AND STOCKED HIGH WITH WHOLESOME FOOD



FILLED BAKED POTATOES OUR SPECIALITY

YELLOW AND WET

The following interesting analysis of the downgrading of Manchester's favourite beer has been provided by Kevin Buckley....

The character of Boddingtons bitter has been changed. The changes have been such that the distinctive palate of 10 years ago has given way to a "blander" palate which is no doubt thought to be more suitable for expansion in a national market. This is the same process as most of the major "national" breweries carried out in the late 1960's and early 1970's. To a certain extent this process has now been reversed by the major brewers. The original gravity of Boddingtons bitter was kept constant until recently, although the alcoholic strength has been reduced by altering the degree of fermentation. The traditional bitter was fermented to a very low final gravity - around 1000 - removing all fermentable sugars. Now fermentation is allowed to stop at an earlier stage. (This can be controlled by chilling the fermenting vessel towards the end of fermentation, by a variation in the yeast strain, or by manipulation of mashing temperatures to change the proportion of fermentable sugars and leave an increased level of dextrin sugars.) This affects the palate of the beer, increasing the "palate fullness" or "body" of the beer, so the light, slightly thin palate becomes smoother.

In combination with the reduction in "bitterness" and the use of a less fragrant hop, the net effect is to produce a beer with a "smoother mouthfeel", less after-palate, less alcoholic and less hop-aroma. This means that Boddingtons are producing a "blander" pint for the less-educated palate. The colour of the beer has also apparently deepened - to mimic the more commonly accepted "national" bitters.

PUTTING THE DUKES UP

The tenancy of the Dukes in Pendlebury (formerly the Duke of Welling-ton) is up for grabs. No doubt there'll be a negative ingoing so that the lucky new tenant will be able to afford to turn it into a pub.

FIZZ

As part of the Matthew Brown takeover of Theakstons and the subsequent sale of John Smiths houses in the Carlisle area to Matthew Brown, two Blackburn pubs already on fizz are going over to John Smiths super fizz. The pubs to avoid even more so are the Three Pigeons, Oakenhurst Road, and the Cabin End at Knuzden.

TIE

The Queens Arms in Red Bank is on offer at £20,000 with a licence. That's the good news. The bad news is that there's a five year tie to Tetleys.

CORRECTIONS

Corrections to last month's Bury Real Ale Guide are as follows:-

BURY

ADD

Bridge, Bridge Street. Thwaites M,B(H)
Hark to Dandler, Walmersley Old Road, Nangreaves
Youngers (E)

DELETE

Duttons B(H) from Jolly Waggoners, Manchester Road
ADD

RAMSBOTTOM

Old Mill, Springwood Avenue (off Carr Street)
Castle Eden (H)
Waterloo, Bolton Road West, Holcombe Brook, Castle
Eden (H)

AMEND

Red Lion, Hawkshaw (E) not (H)

WHITE HOUSE FOR SALE

No - Ron and Nancy haven't gone back to the obscurity from whence they came. Wilsons ill-fated pub on Great Ancoats Street is on the market. There's not much competition, but then again there's not much custom to compete for.

WELCOME BACK

Two pubs come off the Stockport Lost Locals list. The Castlewood (Wilsons) re-opened on 13th November after a closure of several months and, over on King Street West, the Victoria Vaults (ex-Wilsons) re-opened, after about two years, as "Ye Olde Vic". Considering the latter is only Stockport's second free house, it sells a rather disappointing range of Wilsons mild and bitter plus Tetley bitter (at 65p a pint). The pub has, however, been very comfortably refurbished and it is to be hoped that the range of beers will improve. Regrettably, the third Wilsons lost local - the Beehive on St Petersgate - is now up for sale; perhaps Holts would be interested...?

FISHY GREENALLS

The Lively Lobster, Manor Avenue, Sale, was recently refurbished in "tropical style", with cane and wicker abounding, hanging lobster pots, plastic lobsters and a false ceiling has been fitted using trellis work from the local garden centre. They might have real lobsters in the fish tank but there are no signs of real beer!

THWAITES

The Millstone Inn, Wigan Lane, Wigan, has changed hands from Greenalls to Thwaites, after a year of speculation that it would. Handpumps have appeared and cask mild makes a welcome return. A juke box is in, the White Shield (alas) is out. Half a wall in this tiny three-room pub has been knocked down, but the Millstone retains its friendly character.

Thwaites took over the Seven Stars Hotel from Greenall Whitley last December and so the only pub in the town centre still selling Greenalls is the Wheatsheaf, Wallgate. Lovers of White Shield will now have to make do with the Bowling Green Hotel, also in Wigan Lane.

OWD RODGER BACK AT THE CARTERS

The Carters Arms, Northenden Road, Sale Moor, is under new management. Neville and Val Williams took over on Friday October 28th and, while there are no changes planned, they intend to run a smart, clean and comfortable pub with a strong emphasis on the quality of the beer (Marstons Pedigree, bitter, mild and Owd Rodger). Piano singalongs will continue on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings and lunches will be available to suit local demand.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you want to be sure of getting **WHAT'S DOING** every month, why not subscribe? It costs £1.90 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

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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

JOIN CAMRA

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

WICKET WICKETS?

Stretford Cricket Club, Lesley Road, off Urmston Lane, sells Matthew Brown Lion Cask bitter on handpumps. There are occasional visits by mild and John Peel as demand requires. The Trafford & Hulme branch of CAMRA are holding their January Committee Meeting/Social here and CAMRA members can be signed in for the evening (see Branch Diary).

FOR SALE

Bass Charrington have put the Red Lion on Stamford Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, on the market.

'BYE, BERT

The Albert, a tiny Greenalls pub in Hulme, certainly possessed what the erudite Bogbrush might have described as "the quintessentially enigmatic quality of pubness". Yet this little gem has joined the growing band of boarded up premises. Why?

WILSONS

The Royal Thorn, Sharston, and Little B, Sale, are both undergoing major surgery. Let's hope this will result in the reappearance of real ale. The Royal Oak, Altrincham Road, Wythenshawe, was due for conversion to a "leisure pub" in October but this has been delayed until at least January due to yet another reorganisation of Wilsons' management companies. However, plans include the introduction of Original bitter and mild.

Contributors: Kevin Buckley, Roger Hall, Don Chattwood, John Clarke, Keith Egerton, Dave White, Mick Rottenbury, Brian Gleave, Leo King, S Roolager, Rob Dunford, Steve Lawton, Jim Davies, Adrian Cunningham, D R Shelton, Dave Hale, The Whingeing Sartorial Scot

Pseud's Corner

From a CAMRA Pub Preservation Officer's report on the 1983 awards. That officer is, of course, Bogbrush

"quality of pubness" appears to me to be a broad-based, quintessentially enigmatic, and often elusive, concept (especially to present day pub designers) that it shines through as instantly recognisable when it is present in an individual pub, overriding individual features and giving meaning, or "take-off" to the whole.

It is precisely because "Quality of pubness" must needs, in part, be subjective - relying, as it does, so much on individual human ability to relate to a pub. Pubs are social, and sociable, places - or they are nothing. And they are human - or not - because this humanity of identity transcends artefact (and towers over artifice) reaching out to grab the human soul.... or not, as the case may be. It follows that those who design and operate pubs should learn the essential lesson - that human sympathy cannot be bought, manufactured, or artificially cobbled together: it has to be worked for, to be won.



I was delighted to see that this year's Grotley launch of the Topers' Vademecum is to be held in a hostelry with a real fire. It was also pleasing to see that the new editor has been enterprising enough to obtain vast subsidies from the Peat Marketing Board and the Vile Splatting Lesbian Lumberjill Collective. A real fire is something which I for one have always sought in a tavern. Previous guides have been full of useless information about the types of beer on sale, the availability of meals and the existence of gardens and children's rooms, which is largely irrelevant. How much better it will be now that one can run one's finger down the pages and spot the real fire alehouse at a glance. In our inclement climate this will be really valuable during July and August.

I hope that this will only be the start of a new dynamic phase in beer guide symbols. To my mind the traditional pub not only has a real fire, but also a stone flagged floor, etched glass, mahogany architraves, brass footrails, a barmaid with massive mammaries and a stuffed fox in a bucket, smoking a pipe. Will it be beyond the ingenuity of man to design symbols for all these so that in 1985 we can all go to the pub of our dreams? I sincerely hope not. And whilst they're at it, perhaps a symbol of a dirty glass would be an excellent idea so that silly sensitive people don't have to argue with slovenly licensees who wash up in puddle water and wipe glasses with second hand shrouds from victims of AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, bilharzia, leprosy and beri-beri. This will leave the coast clear for Bunty Fortescue's instant whitewash squad to seek out these establishments, harrangue the unclean and subject them to total ignominy by ensuring visitations from the Health Department and the relatives of those millions who have fallen as a result of drinking from a dirty glass.

My sincere congratulations to the new editor. Perhaps it was a blessing in disguise when the over-tall Boris Pratt left in a hurry to become an apologist for Red Ken.



WIGAN

Sir - May I correct October's article entitled "Woe on Wallgate". It is the Grapes Hotel that has shut. As for the other pub mentioned, the Crofters Arms, this is in Hallgate and hasn't sold real ale since Adam was a lad.

Dave White

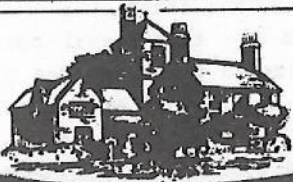
TROPHY

Sir - The cask Trophy in the Levers Arms, Darcy Lever (WD Oct) does, in fact, replace Duttons bitter. Castle Eden has also been on sale here since at least June, a fact previously unreported in What's Doing


Jim Davies

INTERALE

Sir - Your readers may be interested to know that our company, "Interale", is in some way responsible for the appearance of a wide range of Belgian beers on Northern shelves recently. Having acquired the taste of many (too many!) of the excellent brews during a four year stay in Brussels, my wife and I decided that the only way to



BURTONWOOD



TRADITIONAL ALES

Forshaws Burtonwood Brewery PLC. Burtonwood, Warrington,
Cheshire WA5 4PJ Telephone Newton-le-Willows 4281

avoid withdrawal symptoms was to import our needs directly, and Interale grew from there.

We began with the classics - Duvel, Chimay, Verboden Vrucht, and so on, to the present stage where we now have some 30 beers in stock, and even one example of "Scotch", which has to go all the way to Antwerp before returning to the UK, thanks to the not-too-obvious marketing policies of the big breweries. Our particular pride is "real" Gueuze and Kriek - corked, 75cl heavy bottles, unlabelled but for a splash of white or red paint respectively.

Your readers will probably know most of these already from the well-known free houses around the area: we'll be very glad to talk with anyone who wants to know a bit more about these beers from a country which has a brewing tradition every bit as rich as Britain.

David & Ann Sherry, "Interale", 8 Marigold Close, Macclesfield.

0625 617597

PRICE WAR

Sir - Just take a look at some of these prices for a pint of bitter (mild usually 1p less): Pavilion (formerly the White Lion), Withington (Wilsons) 70p. Not a million miles away at the Waterloo - same district, same beer - 60p. Higher gravity Holts sells for 50p-54p. The Old Shears, Greengate, and the Red Lion, Chapel Street, Salford, can sell Wilsons bitter for around 55p - 2p cheaper than Boddingtons. This is only a small example of what is going on. On entering the Pavilion one afternoon, only six people were in the pub, and that included the barman and myself. 70p a pint for bitter - even if it is real ale - is downright scandalous! Finally, has anyone noticed in certain pubs these days (especially where electric dispense is involved), we get a very good half litre for our money? One wonders whether it's worth having pint pots!

Leo King

BODDINGTONS "REAL ALE"

Sir - On a recent visit to Boddingtons prestigious new "brewery tap", the Brewers Arms, I decided to chance my luck and inquire whether the Oldham bitter and mild beers on sale were "real ale" or not. The barmaid assured me that they were, but she would have to go through to the other bar to serve them. Somewhat surprised, I nevertheless ordered a pint of OB mild, which I accepted with thanks, shortly to turn to dismay when, after the first sup, I realised I'd been served a pint of keg. So I took it back and asked her to swap it for a pint of Boddies mild as it wasn't, in fact, real ale. "What's real ale, then?" she inquired! After a brief explanation, I again asked her to change it. I was then informed that this wasn't possible as it was against management policy, even though I'd been misled. Come on, Boddingtons, surely customers should be treated better than this!

Kenneth Linkman

THE JENNINGS LIST

The following Bass pubs are selling Jennings bitter. The list is dated September so, knowing Bass, it is probably not accurate.

| | |
|--|--|
| Duke of Edinburgh, Abbey Rd, Barrow | Industry, Sladen St, Rochdale |
| Hartington Hotel, Duke St, Barrow | Mayfield, Albert Royds St, Rochdale |
| Anglers Arms, Newby Bridge, Haverthwaite | Dugdale Arms, Dugdale Rd, Burnley |
| Bird in Hand, Hart St, Ulverston | Deeplay, Bacup Road, Cliviger, Burnley |
| Cavendish Arms, Cartmel | Reindeer, Railway St, Burnley |
| Devonshire Arms, Albert St, Dalton | Turf Tavern, Yorkshire St, Burnley |
| Engine Inn, Flooksburch, Cark | Woodman Inn, Todmorden Rd, Burnley |
| Friars Hotel, Friars Lane, Barrow | Fanny Grey, High La, Salterforth, Colne |
| Kings Arms, Egremont | Craven Heifer, Briercliffe Rd, Burnley |
| Kings Arms, Dalton Rd, Barrow | General Gordon, Halifax Rd, Nelson |
| London Tavern, Duddon Rd, Askam | Crown Hotel, Albert Rd, Colne |
| Masons Arms, Market St, Dalton | Commercial, Skipton Rd, Colne |
| Rams Head, Rawlinson St, Barrow | Craven Heifer, Colne Rd, Kelbrook |
| Regal Bar, Forshaw St, Barrow | Derby Arms, Newmarket St, Colne |
| Swan Inn, Raglan St, Barrow | New Inn, Leeds Rd, Nelson |
| Sandgate Hotel, Salthouse Road, Barrow | Rock Tavern, Church St, Trawden |
| Vulcan Hotel, Duke St, Askam | Waggoners, Colne Rd, Burnley |
| White Horse Inn, Dalton | Ye Old Sparrow Hawk Inn, Wheatley Lane, Fence, Burnley |
| Washington Hotel, Roose Rd, Barrow | North Valley, North Valley Road, Colne |
| Welcome Inn, Quay St, Ulverston | Kings Head, Church Street, Colne |
| Periscope, Mill La, Walney, Barrow | Corners, Melbourne St, Accrington |
| Steelworks Hotel, Buchleigh Street, Barrow | Farthings, Rosewood Ave, Pleckgate |
| Bay Horse, Hawcoat La, Barrow | Packet House, Bancroft St, Blackburn |
| Tally Ho, Schneider Road, Barrow | Boars Head, Church St, Newchurch |
| Prince Albert, Curzon St, Burnley | Stag, Henry Street, Church |
| Halfway House, Market St, Facit, Rochdale | Alma Inn, West Street, Padiham |
| New Inn, 132 New Rd, Dearnley | Ashworth Arms, Burnley Rd, Rawtenstall |
| Drakes Wine Bar, Drake St, Rochdale | Bridge Inn, Henry St, Church |
| Ox & Plough, 178 New Rd, Dearnley | Britannia, Guy St, Padiham |
| Cock & Magpie, Tongue End Lane, Whitworth | Broadway, Burnley Rd, Accrington |
| Reed, Yorkshire St, Rochdale | Crown Inn, Whalley Rd, Dyke Neck, Accrington |
| Royal Oak, Church St, Littleboro' | |
| Royds Arms, Rooley Moor Rd, Spotland, Rochdale | |

| | |
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| Royal Exchange, Featherstall Rd, | New Masons Arms, Corporation St, |
| Littleborough | Crawshawbooth |
| Summit Inn, Summit, Littleborough | Masons Arms, Burnley Rd East, |
| Waggon & Horses, Halifax Road, | Waterfoot |
| Smallbridge | New Inn, Cheesden, Norden |
| Birches, Market Street, Broadley, | Jester, Burnley Rd, Crawshawbooth |
| Rochdale | Wellington & Britannia, Rochdale |
| Burns Tavern, Norden Rd, Bamford | Road, Bacup |
| Harrows, Bolton Road, Marland | Wellington, Town Gate, Gt Harwood |
| Dog Inn, Revedge Rd, Blackburn | Whalley Range, Church St, Padiham |



CHRISTMAS CRYPTOGRAMS

ENGLISH BREWERIES - Set by Leo King
(answers at the end)

- 1 Sounds like this brewery cannot be found. Only, if I can be replaced will you find this brewery.
- 2 Father's boys follow this little bird
- 3 He waits for the start of a tea break for a north star ale
- 4 It's odd interrupting Mr Crosby and not backing him at the end
- 5 Make a point to follow little David half way through Portsmouth
- 6 This brewery can deal some heavy blows
- 7 Take those gins of the hurricane snooker player, son
- 8 Adam has a break at North Central before travelling south
- 9 This brewery's partner returns from Wem
- 10 England's smallest city could help to distribute Charley's beers
- 11 A beam of light led the men along the small back street
- 12 Sounds like this monarch is off-colour
- 13 Send off two letters to arrive at a Wandsworth brewery
- 14 Help is at hand although hesitant at the end

- 15 The spar breaks and upsets a brewery
- 16 More cans lost in a maze
- 17 A starting point keeps Vera along the short roads
- 18 This gold reed pipe is out of tune
- 19 Ray lost his way to the bar, perhaps the landlord could help
- 20 Mixed-up little Kathleén sings the wrong notes, sounds peculiar to me
- 21 Start at five and finish at ten at this brewery
- 22 Sam's torn the note to identify this brewery
- 23 Personalities Stuart and Barbara could help you solve this brewery
- 24 This crazy din didn't let the cooper finish the final letter
- 25 By arranging a short holiday and using your loaf you could solve this brewery
- 26 Its trade mark could hardly be a pick-me-up to a real ale drinker
- 27 Puts a Sheffield beer on to a cargo, but it tastes different, somehow!
- 28 The uncrossed dollar ends with a drawback
- 29 This ambler meets up with the Queen
- 30 Good man joins in with the cheers
- 31 You could say this beer grows on you
- 32 Brewery with a deep-toning effect
- 33 Pubs don't cash cheques, but these do sell you beer
- 34 A slight burst of good cheer in a Vectis pub



ANSWERS: 1 Hydes 2 Robinsons 3 Thwaites 4 Boddington 5 Davenport
 6 Gales 7 Higson 8 Adams 9 Gibbs New 10 Charles Wells 11 Rayments
 12 Greene King 13 Wadworth 14 Palmer 15 Brakspears 16 Camerons
 17 Everards 18 Eldridge Pope 19 Taylors 20 Theakston 21 Vaux 22
 Marstons 23 Hall & Woodhouse 24 Ind Coope 25 Whitbread 26 John
 Smiths 27 Shipstones 28 Wards 29 Walker 30 Chesters 31 Beard 32
 Bass 33 Banks 34 Burts



Branch Diary

HIGH PEAK AND NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Friday 2 Dec Pub Crawl of Hadfield

Tues 6 Dec 9.00 Branch Committee Meeting, Dog & Partridge, Brook St, Ashton-u-Lyne (Lees)

Tues 13 Dec 8.30 Branch Meeting, New Wellington, Manchester Road, Hyde (Failsworth)

Sat 17 Dec Christmas Social, Woodside Tennis Club, High Lane, Stockport

Contact Tom Lord 061 427 7099

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 1 Dec 7.30 Committee/Social, King William IV, Manchester Rd, Partington

Thurs 15 Dec 8.00 Branch Meeting. Contact David Shelton

Sat 17 Dec. Famous Altrincham Crawl. 6.00 Bakers, Pownall Rd. For details contact D.S

Thurs 5 Jan 7.30 Committee/Social, Stretford Cricket Club, Leslie Road, off Urmston Lane, Stretford

Contact David Shelton 061 795 2113 (H) 061 224 7341 x54 (W)

SOUTH LANCASHIRE

Fri 9 Dec National Branches Committee, Park Hotel, Hope Street, Wigan

Sat 10 Dec National Executive meeting, Wheatsheaf, Wallgate, Wigan, followed by pub crawl (see elsewhere in this issue)

Thurs Dec 15 Branch meeting, Old Crow, Newton le Willows 8.30

Thurs 22 Dec CHRISTMAS PARTY Trad food + keyboard player, Railway Hotel, Twist Lane, Leigh (Walker BB, Tetley M & Burton Ale)

Contact B Gleave Atherton 876200 (w) 892965 (h)

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Tues 6 Dec Open Committee Meeting, 8pm, Gateway, Kingsway, E Didsbury

Thurs 8 Dec Branch Meeting/Xmas Social, Gateway 8pm

Thurs 15 Dec, Xmas trip to Cemetery, Rochdale, private room, guest beers, etc. Details from B Pryme 061 225 6606 (h) 061 344 2721 (w)

Mon 19 Dec Pub of the Month, George, Wellington Road South, Stockport 8pm (note change of date)

Fri 23 Dec Traditional Hillgate pub crawl. Blossoms 7pm, Star & Garter 8pm, Golden Lion 9pm.

Tues 10 Jan Open Committee meeting, 8pm, Manchester Arms, Wellington Road South, Stockport (note change of date)

Thurs 12 Jan Branch meeting, 8pm Star & Garter, Hillgate, Stockport (provisional booking)

Thurs 19 Jan GBG survey pub crawl of Cheadle. Contact B Pryme

Contact S Sproson 061 225 4058

NORTH MANCHESTER

21 Dec Branch Meeting, White Swan, Swinton 8.00

Weds 28 Dec CRACKERS Crawl. 7.00 Crown & Anchor

Weds 4 Jan THE FIRST MILES PLATTING PUB CRAWL OF 1984! Prince of Wales, Oldham Road, 7.00. Victoria, Oldham Road 8.00

Weds 11 Jan Committee/Social Coach & Horses, Eccles New Road, Weaste 8.00

Weds 18 Jan Branch Meeting, White Lion, Liverpool Road, Patricroft 8.00

ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 6 Dec 8pm Branch meeting Royal Oak (Lees), Boarshaw Road, Middleton

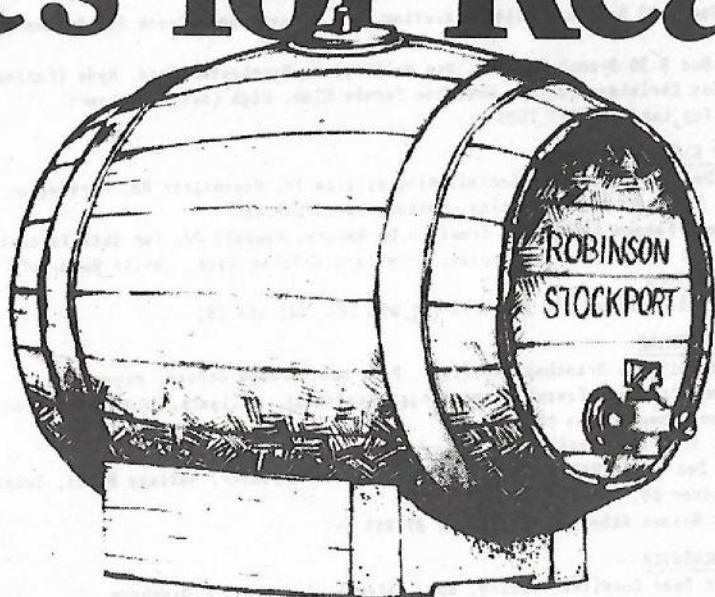
Weds 14 Dec 7.30 Xmas Social, Eagle & Child (Holts), Higher Lane, Whitefield. Including CAMRA Wet Underpants competition, etc.

Tues 3 Jan 8.00 Branch Meeting, Angel (Lees), Shaw Road, Royton

Tues 17 Jan 8pm Committee meeting, Hark to Topper (Sam Smiths), Bow Street, Oldham

Contact Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h) or 061 775 3351 x248 (w)

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.**