

WHAT'S DOING

JAN
1984

THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE



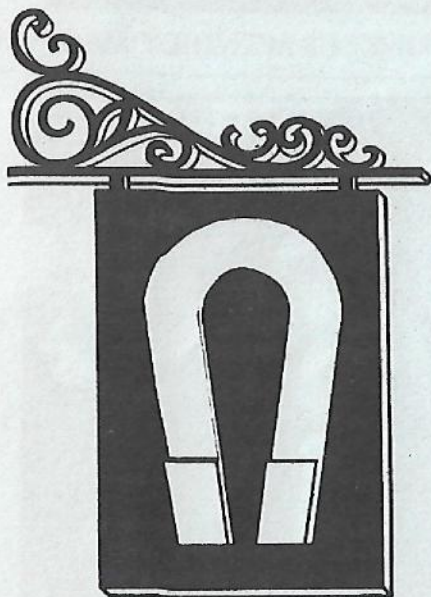
MORE OLDHAM BREWERY GAINS

More Oldham Brewery houses have been converted to real ale. The King George on Hollins Road, Oldham, has undergone some structural alterations, including the provision of a charcoal grill restaurant. Beers on handpump are OB mild and bitter and Boddies bitter. The photo shows 85 year old George Davies, a regular customer for 64 years, Ewart Boddington and licensees Tony and Pat Eaves.

The Angel, Nicholson Street, Lees, now provides some welcome irrigation to this real ale desert with traditional OB mild and bitter and Boddies bitter. Also in Oldham, the Hathershaw Hotel on Ashton Road now serves Boddies bitter alongside the keg OB ales.

In Rochdale, the recently renovated Citizen Inn on Drake Street now serves handpumped OB mild and bitter and Boddies bitter. Unfortunately the four room layout has been made into a single partitioned bar. As with other recently announced refurbishments, all these pubs are expected to draw in customers by providing quite extensive catering facilities.

JOHN SMITHS REAL ALE



Well, that's it then! The last bastion of intransigence has fallen - John Smiths are brewing real ale again. Time to get out our slippers and retire, bathing in the achievements of the last ten years - or is it? To a large extent the success is illusory. Certainly real ale is more widely available and all the brewers operating in the North West will soon be serving traditional beer but much remains to be done before we can consider the success to be 100%. Traditional mild is disappearing from pubs - even those which are owned by breweries committed to cask beer; takeovers still threaten individual breweries and beers (Oldham, Hartleys, Theakstons); beers of stature

have been emasculated (Bass, Boddingtons); brewers have a cynical or half-hearted commitment to traditional beer (Whitbread, Bass, Scottish & Newcastle, Greenalls); brewers have an unhealthy disregard for their pub buildings and refurbish and desecrate them in a tasteless manner (Whitbread, Wilsons, Robinsons); brewers have little interest in keeping open marginal houses (Tetleys, Wilsons, Greenalls) and the quality of cask beer in many outlets leaves much to be desired.

By all means celebrate the capitulation of John Smiths - it's an excellent victory - but let's not rest on our laurels. Much remains to be done. Brewers are not munificent benefactors and never will be; they will only respond to the wishes of the pub-user and drinker when those wishes are forcefully expressed. Many of the improvements we have seen have been forced on the brewers by public opinion led by CAMRA. Let that voice not diminish.

Roger Hall

WHAT'S DOING

TUNNEL VISION

Why do P.R. people insist on writing puerile tripe about pubs and breweries? The latest offering is from RB Public Relations about the Grove Inn on Bury New Road. It's fairly obvious that whoever wrote the blurb isn't particularly au fait with pubs in the North West. What you or I would refer to as "the vault" is called "the vaults", conjuring up an image of a twee reconstruction of a Victorian wine vaults. The hapless hack also falls into the trap of mentioning tunnels built by Cistercian monks in the 11th and 12th centuries, one of which runs into the cellars of the Grove Inn where the ghost of "The Lady in Grey" has been seen. What a load of bilge! Surely there are enough historical facts about the Grove Inn - tea gardens, tram terminus, etc, which can be elicited from the title deeds and contemporary records without printing baseless rumour as established fact. Come on, Boddingtons deserve better than this. Oh, by the way, the Grove re-opened on 15th December after a £160,000 alteration. When the Grove was built it was in Manchester. The P.R. people seem to believe that the pub has moved a little to the left into Salford. Is this true? We should be told.

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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

MANAGEMENT MATTERS

The managed house sections of Wilsons have changed their name yet again. They are now known as Pennine Hosts. Is this another excuse to raise the price again?

WHITER SWAN

The Swan in Weaste, already one of Whitbread's better pubs, is to have an external facelift costing some £10,000.

BURTONWOOD

Cask Burtonwood mild has disappeared from the Ship Hotel, Millgate, Wigan, but handpumps have been installed to serve the bitter..

RAIL ALE (147)

Following on from Rail Ale (146) in November WD, the Stockport Times reported that British Rail has been given the go-ahead to turn the Victorian Cheadle Station premises into a pub and to build an extension so that ale can be brewed on the premises. The station was part of the old Cheshire Lines network which used to run to Stockport Tiviot Dale Station. A much earlier report had it that David Pollard was involved - back on the rails?

PARK EXPANSION

J W Lees have applied to extend the vault area of the Park, Sledmore Road, Wythenshawe, into the now defunct off-sales department. The council rejected the first application - how dare they prevent the expansion of this very busy Good Beer Guide pub, with possibly Lees' highest turnover of their excellent amber nectar! Let's hope the revised application is accepted.

GLOBE HEARTIES?

Gentrification of the Ordsall flats is well under way - but what will become of Burtonwood's Globe? Not many years ago the pub was turning over £70 per week, mainly in crisps, and on one visit the only other customer was a prematurely ageing young woman who was recovering from being stabbed in the breast at lunchtime by the pub's other customer. Will Burtonwoods gentrify the Globe so that the new elite of Salford will have somewhere to go without fear of assault? Or will they let it rot and make Wilsons glad they got shut of it?

CASTLE & FALCON

Keg Burtonwood mild has replaced handpumped traditional mild in this 1984 Good Beer Guide Manchester pub. The usual excuse of low sales has been given. Traditional bitter is still selling well.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

South Manchester branch of CAMRA is 10 this month. While occasionally fractious, like any 10-year-old, the branch has every intention of maintaining a strong and constructive campaigning effort through into the second half of the 1980's and beyond. While no special events are planned in celebration (livers and bank balances will still be recovering from the Hillgate Crawl and similar excesses), links with the past were remembered at the Christmas Social on December 8th, when long-serving ex-chairman Alan Kellet was presented with a pewter tankard in recognition of his distinguished service to the Campaign. Thanks for a great effort, Alan!

DRABS

Joseph Holts beers are now on sale in Downtown City Centre Manchester. Aficionados of the amber nectar should follow the trail to the Post Office Club in Quay Street (next to Overseas House).

ATTRACTION

The Magnet on Wellington Road North, Stockport, has had a £100,000 refit. Wilsons handpumped bitter (55p) and mild is now available.

THE ALMA INN **152 Bradshawgate, Bolton**



The Alma is a quaint town centre pub which has recently been extended and refurbished with a real old fashioned range fire. Fine traditional handpumped Burtonwood beers and home cooked food are provided by hosts Tom and Edna Boyle; there is even a waiter service at weekends.

So if you are in the area pop in and relax in the warm, friendly atmosphere of the Alma. CAMRA members always welcome!

LITTLE COMPENSATION

Advertisements have been appearing in the trade press for refunds from the funds of the former Licence Compensation Authorities. Most of the former counties, including Lancashire and Cheshire, don't qualify, but county boroughs including Bolton, Oldham, Rochdale, Stockport, Salford and Wigan should have a few bob to distribute to pubs which were licensed between 1904 and 1981. No doubt even some of the pubs which have been closed since 1981 will qualify - lucky Tetleys.

NORTHENDEN AND DIDSBURY ALE

All pubs but one in Northenden now sell real ale and all but one in Didsbury now sell real ale.

NORTHENDEN: The latest pub to transfer to real ale is the Church Inn on Church Road. It has been altered slightly and the usual raised seating has been built in. An annoying feature in many of these pubs is the colour red - seating, carpeting, windows, curtains, lights, you name it! However, traditional handpumped Tetley mild and bitter (64p a pint) is at long last on sale. Other real ale pubs in Northenden are as follows:

Crown, Boat Lane (Boddingtons) M,B(H)

Farmers Arms, Longley Lane (Greenalls) M,B(E)

Jolly Carter, Royle Green Road (Boddingtons) M,B(E)

Tatton Arms, Ford Lane, off Boat Lane (Wilsons) M,B(H)

The non-real ale outlet is the Spread Eagle, Royle Green Road (Greenalls)

DIDSBURY: The Didsbury (Wilsons), a Berni steak house, now sells handpumped Wilsons bitter at 66p. Unfortunately the mild is not real ale. The nearby pub, Ye Olde Cock Inn, no longer sells handpumped Trophy due to low demand. The real ale pubs in Didsbury are:

Albert, Albert Edward Street (Hydes) M,B(E)

Crown, Wilmslow Road (Greenalls) M,B(E)

Nelson Inn, Barlow Moor Road (Wilsons) B(H)

Old Grey Horse, Wilmslow Rd/Barlow Moor Rd (Wilsons) (H)

Parrs Wood, Parrs Wood Road/School La (Boddingtons) M,B(E)

Royal Oak, Wilmslow Road (Marstons) Pedigree, M,B(H)

Station, Wilmslow Road (Marstons) M,B(H)

Ye Olde Cock Inn, Wilmslow Road (Whitbread) Chesters B(H)

The non-real ale outlet is the Dog & Partridge (Greenalls again).

LADYSMITH

The Railway, behind Tameside Civic Centre in Ashton under Lyne, has been renamed the Ladysmith. The pub has been knocked into one big room and Wilsons traditional mild and bitter are available on handpumps.

CLUB ALE

Rumour has it that handpumped traditional Tetley beers are now on sale at Langworthy ARLFC. The club is at the top of Bank Lane, Irlams o'th' Height.

TO CLOSE

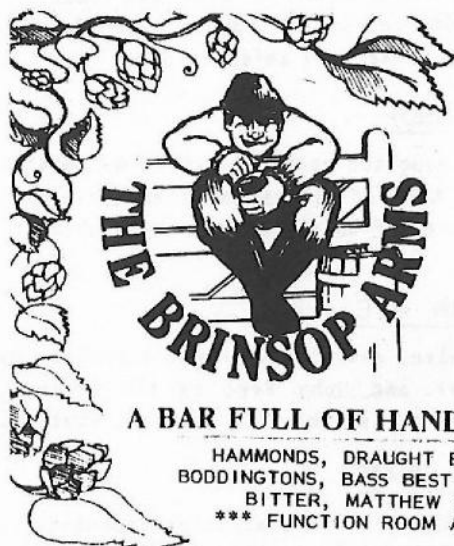
The Black Horse, a real ale Wilsons pub on the corner of Lees Road and Glodwick Road, Oldham, is to be knocked down for road widening early in the New Year.

NEW VETERAN?

It looks like plans are afoot to redevelop the Old Veteran in Weaste. This was one of the Salford pubs saved from the bulldozer by CAMRA's campaigning. Was it for alteration and rebuilding that the pub was saved? Could we expect anything better of Greenalls?

TO LET

The Waterloo in Cheetwood, Manchester, is to let. If Boddingtons couldn't make it pay, will a new entrepreneurial talent do any better?



THE BRINSOP ARMS
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Nr BOLTON
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JIM HARDY & ANDY BARTON
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A BAR FULL OF HANDPUMPS SERVING

HAMMONDS, DRAUGHT BASS, HARTLEYS
BODDINGTONS, BASS BEST MILD, JOHN PEEL
BITTER, MATTHEW BROWN MILD
*** FUNCTION ROOM AVAILABLE ***

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

FILLED BAKED POTATOES OUR SPECIALITY



ORIGINAL

Another Greenalls Original Bitter outlet has been noted. This is the Blue Bell Inn, Lyme Street, Warrington. The beer is handpumped.

TO WHAT PORPOISE?

The Dolphin at the Manchester end of Broughton Lane is for sale, fully licensed and free from brewer's tie - an unusual step for Greenalls. Stranger still is the fact that Waterpark Charitable Trust have applied for permission to change the pub into a wholesale jeweller's.



NEW BREW

On 9th December the Old Bank Street Brewhouse (formerly Mariners Bar), between St Ann's Square and Cross Street, became Manchester's second home brew pub. Old Bank Bitter (og 1045.75) is a very pleasant, distinctive pint, served from hand-pumps in both the upstairs and downstairs bars at the surprising price of 60p per pint. This is in marked contrast with the Lass o' Gowrie, which charges over 70p for a weaker and inferior pint.

BRINSOP

The Brinsop Arms on the A6 at Westhoughton recently opened a function room in the latest improvement to the facilities. Matthew Brown mild has been added to the range of beers, of which four are available in the function room.

BROWN ALE

Matthew Brown have made a long awaited move in the right direction by installing handpumped mild, bitter and John Peel in the Railway, Chapelton Road, Bromley Cross, right across the road from the station.

NEW SWAN

After being closed for most of 1983, the Swan, Wilmslow, reopened on Wednesday 7th December. Handpumped Boddingtons bitter and mild have been joined by the keg OB range. Sales of the latter appear to be non-existent. The conversion is quite tasteful, but the vault has gone and a restaurant has appeared. This house, which used to be one of the poorest in the town, is now the most up-market.

REAL ALE in ROSSENDALE



BEER IN T'VALLEY (2).

A lot of water has flowed down the Irwell since the last Real Ale in Rossendale (May 1980). Needless to say, the real ale scene has been transformed, even though the majority of pubs have remained untouched in this brewers' backwater. The current state is as follows:

<u>BREWERY</u>	<u>REAL ALE</u>	<u>NON-REAL ALE</u>	<u>CURRENTLY SHUT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Wilsons	43	-	2	45
Bass	23	1	-	24
Thwaites	7	1	-	8
Free Houses	6	3	-	9
Whitbread	2	2	-	4
Matthew Brown	1	-	-	1
Tetley	-	1	-	1
John Smith	-	1	-	1
	<u>82</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>93</u>

Wilsons have two pubs temporarily (?) closed, one of which was on cask beer before being boarded up. The other lived down to its name - Tankards. Bass have only one real ale pub - the Bridge at Ewood Bridge, where keg 4X mild is served through a Toby Light pump. Jennings bitter was introduced by Bass to a number of outlets in Rossendale, with some success, if only for the fact that it was cheaper than their own mild. The Half Way House, Whitworth, still has a disused handpump, complete with pump clip, "for show", whilst the Birches down the road has to make do with just a handpump and no advertising or publicity material whatsoever. It is amazing that the beer is still on sale. All the pubs sold into the free trade are now selling at least two cask beers, while there are still three of the old free houses selling nothing but a sea of fizzy keg beers from breweries who feel that getting their beers in a pub is more important than the quality of the beer - Wilsons, Tetleys and Youngers, especially, take note. The Whitbread pubs seem to be blowing hot and cold with cask beer as in other areas. The Farmers Glory has sold cask beer under the previous landlord since Special Cask was introduced. His successor apparently can't be bothered. Perhaps the most interesting pub in the valley is the Red Lion (Tetley) at Whitworth, with its own cobbled courtyard. Unfortunately the gallows no longer stands to hang the person who has decreed that this pub shall serve only fizzy Tetleys at its worst. As for the single John Smiths pub, it would be a move in the right direction if we could include it next time around, preferably early this year.

BACUP

British Queen	Union Street	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Flowers	Todmorden Road	Greave	Wilsons	M,B(H)
George & Dragon	Rochdale Road	Rockcliffe	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)
Irwell Inn	Burnley Road	Broadclough	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)
Joiners Arms	South Street	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Market Hotel	Market Street	Centre	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)
New Inn	St James Street	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Queens	Yorkshire Street	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Swan	Market Street	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(H)
Waterloo	Rochdale Rd/Union St	Centre	Thwaites	M,B(H)
Waterworks Tavern	Market Street	Centre	Youngers	IPA, No3(H)
Wellington	Todmorden Road	Centre	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)

BRITANNIA

Travellers Rest	Rochdale Road	Centre	Wilsons	M,B(E)
Wellington	Rochdale Road	Centre	Jennings	B(H), Bass Cask, 4X(E)

COWPE

Buck Inn	Cowpe Road	off A681	Taylor's DM, BB(H) Thwaites BM, B(H)
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CRAWSHAWBOOTH

Black Dog	Burnley Road	Centre	Wilsons M, B(E)
Jester	Burnley Road	Goodshaw	Jennings B(H) Bass Cask, 4X (E)
New Masons	Co-operation Street	Centre	Jennings B(H) Bass Cask, 4X(E)

EDENFIELD

Coach & Horses	Market Street	Centre	Wilsons M, B(H)
Horse & Jockey	Market Street	Centre	Boddingtons B(E) Thwaites M, B(E)
Pack Horse	Market Street	Centre	Taylor's BB(E)
Rostrons Arms	Market Place	Centre	Wilsons M, B(E)

HASLINGDEN

Bay Horse	Helmshore Road	Centre	Thwaites M, B(E)
Black Bull	Blackburn Road	Centre	Wilsons M, B(H)
Clarence	Helmshore Road	Flax Moss	Wilsons M, B(H)
Commercial	Manchester Road	Centre	Wilsons M, B(E)
Crown	Manchester Road	Centre	Wilsons M, B(H)
Duke of Wellington	Grane Road	B6232	Taylor's BB(H) Youngers Scotch (E)
Foresters	Pleasant Street	Centre	Wilsons M, B(H)
Great Tree	Blackburn Road	Acre	Thwaites M, B(H)
Griffin	Hudrake	Centre	Wilsons M, B(H)
Holden Arms	Three Lane Ends	Grane Road	Wilsons M, B(E)
Roebuck	Lower Deardengate	Centre	Bass Cask, 4X(E)
Rose & Crown	Manchester Road	Lane Side	Bass Cask, 4X(E)
Thorn	Bury Road	Centre	Wilsons M, B(H)
Woolpack	Manchester Road	Bentgate	Wilsons M, B(H)

HELMSHORE

Bridge End	Helmshore Road	Centre	Wilsons M, B(E)
Robin Hood	Holcombe Road	B6235	Wilsons M, B(H)
Station	Helmshore Road	Centre	Thwaites M, B(E)
White Horse	Holcombe Road	B6235	Castle Eden, Trophy(H)

LOVECLOUGH

Huntsman	Burnley Road	Centre	Wilsons M, B(H)
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LUMB IN ROSSENDALE

Hargreaves Arms	Burnley Road East	Centre	Wilsons M, B(H)
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NEWCHURCH IN ROSSENDALE

Blue Bell	Old Street	Centre	Wilsons M, B(H)
Boars Head	Church Street	Centre	Jennings B(H) Bass Cask, 4X(E)
Volunteers	Turnpike	Centre	Wilsons M, B(E)

RAWTENSTALL

Ashworth Arms	Burnley Road	Constable Lee	Bass Cask, 4X(E)
Ashworth Arms	Bacup Road	Cloughfold	Bass Cask, 4X(E)
Bishop Blaize	Burnley Road	Centre	Wilsons M, B(H)
Craven Heifer	Burnley Road	Reeds Holme	Wilsons M, B(H)
Crown	Bacup Road	Centre	Wilsons M, B(E)
Old House at Home	Newchurch Road	Centre	Wilsons M, B(H)
Queens Arms	Queens Square	Centre	Bass Cask, 4X(E)
Railway Tavern	Bury Road	Wood Top	Thwaites BM, B(E)

Rams Head	Newchurch Road	Hr Cloughfold	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Shepherds	Haslingden Road	Whittaker Park	Wilsons	M, B(E)
White Lion	Burnley Road	Constable Lee	Castle Eden	(H)
<u>RISING BRIDGE</u>				
Rising Bridge	Accrington Road	Centre	Lion	M, B(H)
<u>STACKSTEADS</u>				
Beehive	Newchurch Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Commercial	Newchurch Road	Centre	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)
Farholme Tavern	Newchurch Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Hare & Hounds	Newchurch Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Railway Tavern	Newchurch Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Royal Oak	Newchurch Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)

STUBBINS

Corner Pin	Bolton Road North	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(H)
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TURN

Plane Tree	Rochdale Road	Centre	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)
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WATER

Commercial	Burnley Road East	Centre	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)
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WATERFOOT

Jolly Sailor	Booth Road	Centre	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)
Masons	Burnley Road East	B6238	Bass	Cask, 4X(E)
Moulders	Bacup Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Railway	Bacup Road	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Roebuck	Burnley Road East	B6238	Wilsons	M, B(E)
White Horse	Edgeside Lane	Edgeside	Wilsons	M, B(H)
Ye Olde Boot & Shoe	Miller Barn Lane	off Booth Road	Taylor's	DM, BB(H)
			Thwaites	BM, B(H)

WEIR

Weir Hotel	Burnley Road	Centre	Thwaites	M, B(H)
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WHITWORTH

Birches	Market Street	Broadley	Jennings	B(H)
			Bass	Bass(H)
Cock & Magpie	Tong End	Centre	Jennings	B(H)
			Bass	4X(H)
Dog & Partridge	Market Street	Centre	Wilsons	B(E)
Half Way House	Station Road	Facit	Bass	4X(E)
Rawstrons Arms	Market Street	Centre	Bass	4X(E)
Red Lion	Market Street	Shawforth	Wilsons	M, B(E)
Whitworth Arms	Market Street	Centre	Wilsons	M, B(H)

THE CLOSED PUBS

Bacup	King George V	St James Square	Wilsons
Haslingden	Tankards	Blackburn Road	Wilsons

THE KEG PUBS

Crown	Bacup	Free
Royal	Waterfoot	Free
Regent	Haslingden	Whitbread
Bridge	Ewood Bridge	Bass
Sun Inn	Rawtenstall	Thwaites
Duke of Buccleugh	Waterfoot	John Smiths
Red Lion	Whitworth	Tetley
Whitchaff	Townsendfold	Free
Farmers Glory	Haslingden	Whitbread

THE HOUSE THAT MIKE AND JACK BUILT

Otherwise known as the Printers Arms at Denshaw, Mike and Jack's place has been sold, somewhat surprisingly. Rumour has it that Wilsons have stepped in with the readies. Let us hope that they do better with the Printers than they did with the Golden Fleece just up the road (a one time free house). After the Wilsons takeover trade at the once-busy Fleece dropped dramatically. At the moment the Printers is extremely busy...!

TO THE MANOR DRAWN

The Manor, formerly the Golden Lion, Withington, reopened on December 16th and now sells handpumped Tetley bitter (64p) and mild (61p). £200,000 has been lavished on "A new concept in pub environment", featuring a Library Lounge, Cocktail Folly, Gazebo (?!), Baronial Lounge, Grecian Pillars and Internal Stone Courtyard. The licensees, Alan and Mary Butterworth, hail from a home brew pub in Lincolnshire, and were recently presented with a "10 years in the Good Beer Guide" award. More real ales from other parts of the Allied Group are expected in the near future, so if your suit of armour is rusty, this is the place to get well oiled!

ENJOY A FREE PINT WITH US!



Bury Road
Rochdale
Rochdale 43214

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

BEYOND OUR KEN?

An unusual sign in Wilsons popular green and gold livery has appeared on the wall at the Kensington, Newton Street, Manchester. It reads: "Another Wilsons house is being decorated". The sign has replaced the name "Kensington". Is there yet another name change in progress? What chance real ale returning? The pub hasn't sold a drop of the stuff for several years!

DERKER IMPROVEMENT

The Derker Hotel on Vulcan Street, Oldham, has lost all its keg beers! Bass have installed three triple sets of beer engines on the bars of this large, detached estate pub, and now serve cask conditioned Stones bitter and Toby Light. Live weekend entertainment is very popular.

NOTHING TO SMILE ABOUT

Contrary to the front page article of November's What's Doing, there is still a lot of gloom in Greenall Whitley land. The Manchester Regiment, a Greenalls pub on Chester Road, Hulme, used to sell cask mild and bitter through electric pumps, although there was no indication that it was traditional beer. After several weeks of closure, the pub reopened on 30th November and a large notice board outside now proclaims that "traditional beers" are now available. Inside, the bar appears to be adorned with handpumps. Sadly, these are fake, and the beer is fizzy variety. The dirty deeds department at Greenalls have had a field day. The only thing in law that any objector could require Greenalls to do would be to delete the word "traditional" from the notice board as it contravenes the Trades Descriptions Act. Unfortunately, nothing can be done about the fake handpumps.

BARRINGTON

Terry McQueeney has retired from the Barrington Hotel, Barrington Road, Altrincham, and Steve and Gaynor Derbyshire took over the tenancy at the beginning of December. Their immediate aim is to build up custom as the Barrington has always been a very quiet house and two alterations will certainly appeal to CAMRA members: the re-introduction of cask mild and the installation of handpumps for both mild and bitter. The Barrington is also one of the more reasonably priced Wilsons pubs in Altrincham. Live jazz is a likely future attraction and the bed and breakfast facilities will continue as before (very handy if you miss the last train!)

OLD TUP'S

The Rams Head, Denshaw, Oldham, has a new owner. The range of Theakstons beers on gravity dispense has given way to an all Youngers line up. For the first time in the pub's history, handpumps have appeared on the bar. However, gravity dispense has been retained.

LUCKY LEIGH

The Foundry, Chapel Lane, Leigh, is now selling Greenalls "Local" ales via handpumps. Leigh is now the only town for miles that has cask Greenalls in all its pubs - so what chance is there of Original bitter becoming available?

TEN YEARS IN THE G.B.G

Two pubs in the Rochdale, Oldham and Bury branch area have just chalked up an impressive ten years inclusion in the Good Beer Guide. The Pack Horse at Failsworth and the Rams Head, Denshaw, have appeared in every edition since 1975. The guide first appeared in 1974, but at that time the local branch had not been formed and the entries were chosen by CAMRA nationally. The branch intend to present the licensees of both pubs with mementoes of the occasion after the 1984 Guide is officially launched.

PLANS to put new signs on pubs in Saddleworth were described as "total overkill," by Councillor Robert Birse, chairman of the local Planning Committee, this week.

The committee were told that Bass Yorkshire wanted to put signs over the doors of their pubs, signs on the gable ends, hanging signs over the doors, and plastic barrels with lights inside on the front walls of their pubs.

But the committee decided that so many signs would be unsightly.

They have rejected plans for the large signs on the front walls and on the gable ends and are also opposed to the plastic barrels.

But the committee are in favour of hanging signs - so long as they are tastefully done - and favour individual lettering rather than solid signs over the doors of pubs

Marston's
BURTON
BITTER
BB
..better by far
by
Marston's

The graphic is a vertical rectangular advertisement for Marston's Burton Bitter. It features a dark background with white text. At the top, 'Marston's' is written in a script font inside a small oval. Below this, 'BURTON' and 'BITTER' are written in large, bold, serif capital letters, each enclosed in a decorative, slightly irregular border. Between these two words is a small crest containing the letters 'BB' flanked by two wheat stalks. At the bottom, the phrase '..better by far' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by 'by' in a smaller font, and 'Marston's' in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

NARROW MINDED (2)

As well as selling unpalatable beer, Greenalls' Narrowboat in Swinton has got a touch of the Miles Foleys. Persons dressed in jeans and training shoes get ejected by the heavy. Soon there won't be anywhere in the area you can go for a drink without full evening dress, cummerbund, medals, spurs and a diamond-studded codpiece.

ANGEL

The former Wilsons Angel on Chapel Street, Salford, reopened as a "free house" on Saturday 10th December. Handpumped Stones bitter and Wilsons bitter are featured alongside a mass of keg and bottled Bass and Watney products. The pub has been completely altered and quite tastefully renovated. Lunchtime and evening meals are to be introduced. An upstairs function room is soon to open, followed by a cellar bar featuring darts, pool, disco and traditional beer. Trade was quite brisk on opening night, helped, no doubt, by a bevy of beautiful barmaids dispensing the amber nectars and gaseous gunge.

ST MARKS

St Marks Band Club on Railway Street, Dukinfield, now sells Boddingtons bitter on electric pumps.

OLD ALE

Three strong ales are on sale in the Bolton area: Robinsons Old Tom in the Brinsop Arms, Westhoughton; Hydes in the Horseshoe, Little Lever (both gravity); Lees at the Lodge Bank Tavern (electric).

Contributors: Bert Kerks, Steve Lawton, Roger Hall, Paul Roberts, Rob Dunford, Keith Egerton, Rhys P Jones, Philip Levison, Dave White, Sue Cunningham, Barry Pryme, Mick Rottenbury, Stewart Revell, Dave Hale, Don Chattwood, Leo King.



BOLTON BASH

Sir - As a CAMRA member who found himself in the North West with a free evening on Tuesday 22nd November, I was pleased to see in "What's Brewing" that Bolton Branch had a meeting in the Boars Head that very night. Your local newsletter confirmed this fact. Imagine my disappointment, therefore, when the only other people to appear were two local members who were as

perplexed as I at the non-arrival of the rest of the Branch. In future I shall attend North Manchester meetings as I understand they always take place on the date and at the place specified.

"Disappointed"

Sir - After your series on Indian restaurants, I thought I would tell you of an Italian restaurant which has opened in Monton (251 Monton Road) called "Leo's". Not only is the food good, but they actually sell eleven different beers from five different countries - including Grolsch, Becks, Dortmunder Union, Ceres Crystal and others I can't remember. Unusual combination, eh?

Dave Edwards

BOLTON BASH (2)

Sir - Do my taste buds deceive me, or is the handpumped Samson bitter at Maxims (Bradshawgate, Bolton) being served under blanket CO², cask breather or similar device? And what became of Lorimers 70/- (Oct WD)?

Pete Cash

COMPLAINT

Sir - I wish to disassociate myself from the "Bland Boddingtons" campaign. CAMRA was formed to promote the drinking and availability of real ale and it should not be used to attack a brewery which is dedicated to real ale. The taste of beer is subjective and Boddingtons, in my opinion, is among the best beers in the country. How many of the people who voted for the "Bland Boddingtons" resolution in Reading have drunk Boddingtons regularly over ten years?

David Armstrong

PS: When will the Jolly Angler receive its Pub of the Month plaque?

A MUCH Milder OUTLOOK

Sir - I am pleased to note and report on the increasing number of Whitbread Chesters outlets selling traditional Chesters mild via handpump. The following pubs in and around the city centre sell it:

Crown & Anchor, Hilton Street, M1
Land o'Cakes, Great Ancoats Street, M4
Lass o'Gowrie, Charles Street, M1
Mother Macs, Back Piccadilly, M1
Nip & Tipple, London Road, M1
Red Bull, Mason Street, Ancoats, M4
Seven Oaks, Nicholas Street, M1
Sir Ralph Abercrombie, Bootle Street, M2
White Lion, Liverpool Road, Knott Mill, M3
and the free from brewer pub - Hunting Lodge, Oxford Road, M1

Leo King



It is a sad reflection on Grotley that two leading members of the Campaign's Boss Group should be set upon whilst meeting in Friggin. Apparently they were walking along, munching potato and meat pies and inoffensively swinging their handbags when, with a cry of "Get them Southern Jessies!" a crowd of pimply youths leapt upon them and mugged the unfortunates. All they could manage in retaliation was a partial Reith Lecture and a pocketful of second hand diced carrots and kami-kaze XXXXX Python Bitter. Kneecapping has now been added to the Witter repertoire of riveting conversation pieces.

There is happier news from Snoot Magna. Only nine months after the disappearance of the immensely successful Lesser Kellet, the branch have saved up all their pennies and bought him a tankard. Unfortunately the enthusiastic and over-committed, not to say perpetually plastered, Mr Dumpty didn't have time to get it engraved. There's obviously been insidious infiltration at Snoot Magna meetings but the Whingeing Sartorial Scot is determined to stamp this out quite literally. In future if you want to vote on issues of great moment at Snoot Magna meetings, like "Where's the next freebie?", you'll not only have to have a membership card but it'll have to be stamped with the Branch Stamp. That'll stop raving dafties voting for the wrong pub.

The news that Jack Smugs is going real will be most welcome to joggers in Eccles. The days when their early morning meanderings were interrupted by tripping over a corpse at the back of a Smugs house are numbered. We have it on good authority that the new wicket-fed amber nectar will be less likely to make people choke and die than the previous chemic emetic.

Q: Who was the first landperson in all the world to get his 1984 toppers' vademecum?

A: The Noble Robin, who dragged the hapless Mr Dobchild out of an NE meeting and forced him at parrot-point to jemmy open several crates of the super stocking filler.



Branch Diary

NORTH MANCHESTER

Weds 18 Jan 8pm White Lion, Liverpool Road, Eccles
Weds 1st Feb Bury New Road Crawl. 7pm White Horse, 8pm Foresters
Weds 8th Feb Royal Oak, Boothstown 8pm
Weds 15th Feb White Swan, Sinton 8pm
Weds 22 Feb Whitbread Survey. Royal George, Rochdale Rd 7pm. Crown & Anchor 8pm
Weds 29 Feb Special Leap Crawl. Details next month
Contact Roger Hall 740 7937

BOLTON

Weds 11 Jan Branch Meeting, Lodge Bank Tavern, Bridgeman Street, Bolton 8pm
Weds 18th Jan Brewery visit to Sam Smiths. 5.30 Moor Lane Bus Station. 6pm Bridge-water, Farnworth. £3.50. Book with Bert Kerks, Bolton 388172
Sun 22 Jan 12 noon. Drinking Drabs at the Rose Hill Tavern, Daisy Hill, Westhoughton
Weds 8th Feb 8pm Branch Meeting, Falcon, Kay Street, Bolton. Possible speaker from Tetleys
Tues 14 Feb 8pm. "Fun in Fanny's", Victoria, Markland Hill, Bolton
Contact Jim Hurst Tottington 3532

HIGH PEAK & NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

Tues 10 Jan 8.30 Committee meeting, Royal Oak, New Mills (Robinsons)
Tues 17 Jan 8.30 Branch Meeting Grapes, Glossop (Boddingtons)
Fri 27 Jan Mini bus trip to Denton. Contact Bernie Brownsword for further details on New Mills 45286
Tues 14 Feb 8.30 Branch Meeting Navigation, Marple (Robinsons)
Contact Tom Lord 061 427 7099

TRAFFORD & HULME

Thurs 5 Jan 8pm Committee meeting/social Stretford Cricket Club, Lesley Rd, off Urston Lane, Stretford
Thurs 12 Jan Hulme Crawl. Pack Horse, Deansgate 8pm. Details from Branch Contact
Thurs 19 Jan 8pm Branch meeting Wardens Club, Wardle Rd, Sale
Thurs 26 Jan 8pm Pub of the Month, Britons Protection, Great Bridgewater St, M/cr
Thurs 2 Feb Committee Meeting/Social, Railway, Manchester Rd, Broadheath
Contact David Shelton, 061 795 2113 (h); 061 224 7341 x54 (w)

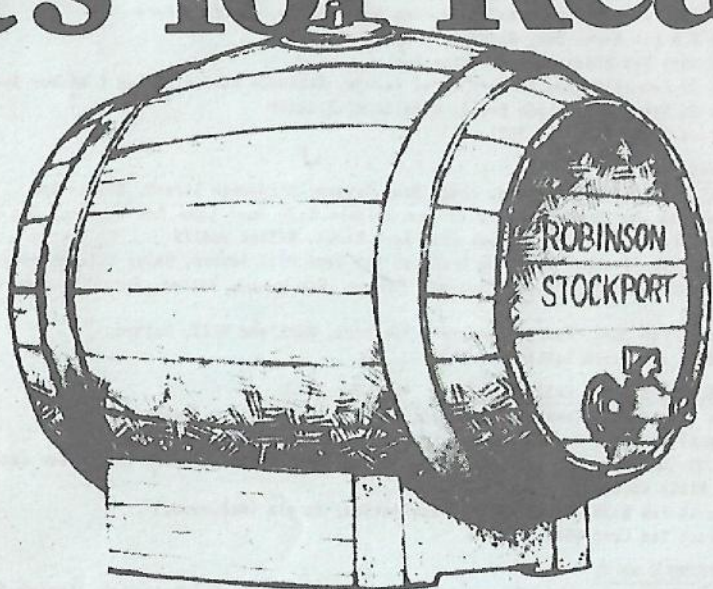
ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

Tues 17 Jan 8pm, Committee meeting Hark to Topper (Sam Smiths), Bow St, Oldham
Tues 7 Feb, 8pm, Branch Meeting, Albert (Burtonwood), Spotland Rd, Rochdale
Tues 21 Feb, 8pm, Committee meeting, Navigation (Holts), Drake St, Rochdale
Contact Steve Lawton 061 620 9239 (h) 061 775 3351 x248

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Tues 10 Jan, Open Committee meeting 8pm Manchester Arms, Wellington Rd South, Stockport. (Note change of date)
Thu 12 Jan Branch meeting, 8pm, Star & Garter, Middle Hillgate, Stockport
Thurs 19 Jan GBG Survey of Cheadle. Printers 7.30, Royal Oak 8.30, Star 9.30
Thurs 26 Jan Pub of the Month with Trafford & Hulme Branch
Tues 24 Jan Social at Manor House, Wilmslow Rd, Withington, 8pm
Tues 7 Feb Open Committee meeting, 8pm, Swan with two Necks, Princes St, Stockport Shopping Precinct
Thurs 9 Feb Branch Meeting, Gateway, Kingsway, E Didsbury 8pm
Contact S Sproson, 061 225 4058

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.**