

SOUTH MANCHESTER CAMRA'S PUB NEWSHEET - ISSUED FREE WITH 'WHAT'S DOING?'

ROBBIES RAPE!

DEFEND YOUR
ROBINSONS LOCAL

Ask the average Stockport drinker to name their favourite drink, and there's a fair chance they'll say Robinsons.

CAMRA certainly agrees - that's why so many of their pubs are in our National Good Beer Guide.

BUT - seek out the Robbies pubs in the Cheshire and Derbyshire countryside, and too often, while the beer's still pretty good, the pub has been raped - all the separate rooms and individual features have been torn out to make way for a single large faceless impersonal lounge with nothing to remind you of the Traditional Pub.

I'M talking about places like the White Horse at Disley, the Moss Rose at Alderley Edge, the Rock at New Mills - the list is long and growing.

Robinsons should take note that CAMRA will not stand idly by if they try the same treatment on their Manchester and Stockport pubs. They have some fine unspoilt traditional in the area covered by 'Opening Times' - we highlighted three in our 'Pub Crawl' feature last month, while another, the Florist, was our Pub of the Month for June.

The balance sheet may say these pubs are owned by Robinsons, but their true owners are the people who drink in them - you and me. They are our heritage.

If you drink in - or run - a Robbies pub and are worried about what might be planned for it, tell us at CAMRA, either write to Opening Times or come for a chat at a CAMRA meeting - together we can stop Robinsons raping our Pubs.

PS - We hear that the Union, Reddish, a superb community pub, is threatened with the treatment. The Union is not just a good local, it's one of the best pubs in the Country - that's why it's been in the Good Beer Guide since 1979. If you think it should stay that way, contact us NOW.

THE DRINKERS UNITED WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED!

Rhys P. Jones,
Chairman - South Manchester Camra.

EXTRA TIME

The Stockport and District Licensed Victuallers Association have launched a petition aimed at securing 11 pm closing on Mondays to Thursdays.

Regulars in many of the areas Pubs are being urged to sign and it is hoped to spread the Campaign over a wider area.

CAMRA gives its full support to any move to liberalise the antiquated licensing laws, having last year organised a Nationwide petition in favour of 'flexi-time'

'OPENING TIMES'

- is written & published by CAMRA South Manchester, send us your news, views and comments about the pubs and the beer to: 'Opening Times', S.H.Higgins, 48, Moorcroft Drive, Burnage, Manchester M19 1WH.

Silver Jubilee

OFF BELMONT WAY,

HEATON NORRIS.

ROBINSONS

BEERS.

LUNCHTIME SNACKS.

LIVE MUSIC

THURS., FRIDAY, SATURDAY.

PARTIES

CATERED

FOR.

TEL: 480 3321

A ROUND IN THE TOWN

The second in a series in which CAMRA members appraise the area's Pubs - this Month -
CLAYTON

The Clayton Area tends to be one of the neglected parts of our Branch Area but this year a determined effort is being made to put things right. With this in mind a crawl of the area was arranged in late April and what follows are the exploits of the intrepid five who took part. As usual notes were taken of prices and drinkability on a range of 0 (undrinkable) to 4 (excellent).

The starting point was the DUKE OF EDINBURGH on Mill St. This Pub is a recent conversion to Real Ale with a keen Landlord, and it shows in the quality of the Tetley Beer. The mild (59p) scored 4 and the Bitter (60p) 3.3; a promising start to an evenings' boozing!

The second port of call was the WHY NOT? on Ashton New Road, the Pub itself, adorned with window-boxes, flaga and canopies, looks totally out of place sandwiched as it is between two factories. Inside, it's rather like drinking in someones' front room with book-cases, sofas etc. The beers available were Boddingtons Bitter, Chesters Bitter and Matthew Brown John Peel Special all at 62p. The John Peel was off and I was given an alternative of Fosters or Heineken! I settled for the Boddingtons which was about as good as you can expect these days and scored 2½.

Nest was the GROVE INN, also on the New Road. A typical Holts pub - virtually no sign, peeling green paintwork outside and an almost bare vault. Unusually for a Holts house no mild was available. The bitter though was in fine form scoring an average of just over 3 and at 55 was the cheapest of the night.

On to the CHURCH INN on Clayton Lane, a small, sparsely furnished Bass Pub with a good atmosphere. The only Real Ale was 4X Mild, although the casual caller would have no way of knowing this since all the beers were dispensed through the same plastic box type bar mounting. One of CAMRA's aims is to have cask beers distinctly identified where they are also produced in processed form. However, plastic box or no, the beer was in superb condition scoring just under 3½ and at 54p was one of the cheapest of the night, remarkable for a product of one of the Big Six Breweries.

Next was the VICTORIA on Croft St., serving handpumped Wilsons mild and Bitter. An excellent Community pub, the busiest so far, although to be fair you're not going to find a packed pub at 7pm! The Bitter, 58p, scored 3½ and the Mild (55p) reached top marks with 4.

Dragging ourselves away we rejoined Ashton New Road near two Chesters pubs, the SIR HUMPHREY CHEETHAM & the DERBY. The trouble with many Chesters pubs is that even if they had a handpump (the cask is only on handpump) the last time you went in, the next time it's gone and the bar's full of fizz and the Humphrey Cheetham has lost its cask beer. The handpump popped up over the road however in the Derby Arms. The Bitter though was decidedly average and scored just over 1½. To be fair the turnover doesn't seem too high, we arrived at 9-30 and the first pint tasted as if it had been in the pipes for some time.

Next the METROPOLE, Rylance St. A busy new pub, none the worse for that, with a live DJ. Only the Bitter was Real and scored well at over 3.

The final stop was the SEVEN STARS on Ashton Old Rd. A superb unspilt Holts pub. Holts seem to be getting it right when improving pubs, the mahogany shone, the glasswork sparkled, the pub was packed & the beer fine. Mild, 54p, scored 3 & Bitter, 56p, 3½. The night had ended as well as it had begun.

John Clarke.

BULL'S HEAD HOTEL

MARKET PLACE, STOCKPORT

YOU'VE TRIED

THE REST!

NOW, TRY THE

BEST!

FINE TRADITIONAL ALES

BEST BITTER

BEST MILD

OLD TOM

ALL SERVED BY HANDPUMPS.

GONE!

The boarded up Bee Hive on Petersgate has reportedly at long last been sold.....to the Vernon Building Society who already have offices next door.

Apparently demolition is the next stop, soon to be followed by the Old County Hotel, of course.

Sad to see two more old Stockport locals biting the dust - where next?

The Australian Bar in London has removed Fosters Lager 'cos it does'nt sell, and replaced it with Real Ale!!

THE CASTLEWOOD

(HOLE IN WALL)

BRIDGE STREET BROW, MARKET, STOCKPORT.

TEL: 480 5529.

WILSONS REAL ALES - HANDPUMPS

PUB FOOD MONDAY TO SATURDAY (INC BANK HOLDS)

11-30 - 2-00pm

FUNCTION ROOM AVAILABLE

FOR MEETINGS, PARTIES ETC.

CAMRANEWSCAMRANEWSCAMRANEWSCAMRANEWS

The next article in the 'Round in the Town' series will feature Heaton Norris.

The crawl is on Friday, 13th., July, starting at 7-00 pm in the Bridge, Georges Road, and at 8-00 pm at the Silver Jubilee, off Belmont Way. Come along and watch journalism in the making!

The next Branch Meetig of CAMRA is on Thursday, 12th., July at the Coach and Horses, London Road, Manchester where there will be speakers from Timothy Taylors Brewery of Keighley. This small, 28 pub, Brewery boasts a range of six real ales and Landlord Bitter, winner of a barrell full of awards, is among the beers available at the Coach & Horses.

All visitors are welcome to attend.

The views expressed in Opening Times are not necessarily those of the Campaign for Real Ale

ARDEN ARMS

MILGATE, STOCKPORT.

ROBINSONS BEST MILD

BEST BITTER

on handpumps.

'A fine pub' -

Camra Good Beer Guide.

JOIN CAMRA - AND PROTECT
YOUR PINT!

Join Camra NOW by completing the form below and posting to CAMRA, 34, Alma Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 3BW.

I/We wish to become member/s of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd., and agree to bide by the Memorandum & Articles of Association of the Campaign.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____

Dte: _____

Enclose £7 for full membership for one year for an individual or for husband & wife joint membership.

Make cheques payable to the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd.

I TOLD 'EM OLDHAM.

The Ladybrook in Bramhall selld cask conditioned Oldham Bitter alongside the Boddingtons range.

Not only is this the only 'real Oldham outler in the area but it goes against the trend since the Boddies/OB takeover, you usually only find Keg OB Mild in Boddies pubs (luckily there's not much of that in South Manchester either!)

ALTERATIONS AT THE PRINCE OF WALES.

This Bass Pub on Ashton Old Road, (near to the junction with Ogden Lane/Fairfield Rd) has just undergone extensive alterations, including an extension into the adjoining former corner shop, which has now become the Vault.

Licensee Mrs. Angela Heard moved here several years ago from the Half Moon, Holland Street, Ancoats (the tiny Wilsons Pub backing onto the Rochdale Canal) and now serves excellent handpumped Toby Light, 4X Mild and Stones Bitter all at the same price of 62p a pint.

Bass pubs are a bit thin on the ground in the South Manchester Branch area and so the Prince of Wales with its three beers (nobody else has three) is all the more welcome.

TIGER AT THE VIC.

Ye Olde Vic on King Street West, Stockport, seems to be going from strength to strength. The Everards Tiger Bitter is now well established and a fifth cask beer is now being considered.

The choice has apparently been narrowed to either Draught Bass or Stones Bitter. Stones would be a good addition to the range of Stockports' Beers and from the standard of the other beers in this enterprising Free House would certainly be a good pint.

Ye Olde Vic regulars have noticed the absence of the Keg Websters Green Label - apparently it went so well it had to be sold off cheap!!

GOLD CROSS GOES.

The controversial Gold Cross Lager has now disappeared from the Greenwood Tree, Greenwood Road, Wythenshawe - 'nobody liked it, and it was too expensive.' Ale drinkers are unlikely to shed many tears over the loss, particularly as you can get an excellent pint of handpumped Tetley Mild or Bitter.

SAMS SOON?

The Milton Lodge Hotel on Burnage Lane, Burnage is now closed and boarded up pending alterations and refurbishment by Sam Smiths who are to reopen it as a pub. A very welcome addition to the beers in the area.

UPS AND DOWNS.

Work has now started on the Ups & Downs, the former Burtonwood Pub on Wellington Road, Stockport. The building is encased in scaffolding and a clearout inside is in progress. Rumour has it that Ladbrokes plan to convert it into a Snooker Hall.

HIDDEN TALENTS.

South Manchester Tetley outlets have just been increased by one, not by a new pub, but an old one that has been discovered by an intrepid explorer who has already been awarded for his exploits in foreign parts!

It's the Kings Arms, completely hidden amongst the Walks and Closes between Upper Brook Street and Ardwick Green South.

Tetley Mild at 60p a pint, and Bitter at 62p are served from handpumps without the usual pump clips.

Sykes
wine
bar

Heaton Lane, Stockport, off
Mersey Square - Tel: 480 5996

STOCKPORTS' WINE BAR WITH
REAL ALE -----

D R A U G H T B A S S
H I G S O N S B I T T E R
H I G S O N S M I L D

A T

T H E

21 GEORGEIA

Motor Insurance.

With this edition of 'What's Doing and 'Opening Times' you'll find an AA Autoquote Form - for a FREE mapbook just send off the form without obligation.

Contributors to this edition of Opening Times: J. Clarke, H. Higgins, R. Jones, P. Levison, R. Sproson.