

# OPENING TIMES.

NUMBER THREE

AUGUST 1984.

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

## Yesterday's Man!

Those of you who read the August 'What's Doing?' distributed with this number of 'Opening Times' will notice an unsigned contribution on the letters page which is critical of the establishment of 'Opening Times'; in particular, it suggests that South Manchester Camra members are so busy writing for 'Opening Times' that they've no time for 'What's Doing'.

Let's get one thing straight. The reason there's so little South Manchester/Stockport news in "What's Doing" is that the Editor won't print it - for some reason the traditional rivalry between North & South Manchester Camra has reached a point at which a magazine produced by North Manchester Members prints hardly any South Manchester News.

This was one of the main reasons we started 'Opening Times'. To be sure, we didn't stress the point at the time, as we wished to maintain a semblance of unity within the Campaign, but now the mud-slinging's started the facts should be known.

All that said, there remains an important point. The Manchester Branches of Camra are collaborating in some important ventures in the near future - notably a City Centre Beer Festival in late November and a GMC Beer Guide next year. We can't afford disunity. Fortunately, South Manchester enjoys an excellent relationship with the vast majority of North Manchester members. I therefore call upon North Manchester Camra to cleanse itself of those few (perhaps only one person?) who are more interested in in-fighting than inn-keeping, who would rather bicker than Campaign, and who account the discomfiture of a neighbouring Branch a personal triumph.

Come in Rupert Periwinkle - your time is up!

Rhys Jones - Chairman, South Manchester Camra.

PS: Apologies to non-Camra readers for the internal politics. Normal service will be resumed next month.

### "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,  
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Manchester M19 1WH.

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

## PUB OF THE MONTH - AUGUST 1984.

The South Manchester Pub of the Month for August is the Station in Didsbury - not (hopefully!) to be confused with the Railway, West Didsbury which is a John Smiths Pub!

The Station is a small two-roomed local which serves handpumped Marstons Mercian Mild & Burton Bitter. The back room is reached via the bar or through a back door which at first guess gives the impression that you are about to step into someones' house. It is a genuine 'local' - the landlady is often to be seen enjoying a game of cards with a group of regulars and one long standing customer has his seat kept and his drink put on the table when he is seen approaching! A word of warning - there are many who appreciate the Station - arrive early on the 23rd., August for the presentation night.

Alan Seal.

## Silver Jubilee.

OFF BELMONT WAY,

HEATON NORRIS.

ROBINSONS

BEERS

LUNCHTIME SNACKS.

LIVE MUSIC 0

THURS., FRIDAY, SATURDAY.

PARTIES

CATERED

FOR.

TEL: 480 3321

## A ROUND IN THE TOWN

A one-man look at Openshaw/Ashton Old Road.

As with the Clayton crawl featured last month, the aim of this crawl was to boldly go where Camra members have 'nt been for a long time!

Unfortunately they still have 'nt. So on my own with restricted finances I thought I'd risk a half in a Whitbread House. Namely the recently decorated Star & Garter, Fairfiedl St. and was pleased to see the retention of the vault and the introduction of real Trophy on handpump. However, on a subsequent visit only keg was available.

Next the Bridge Inn which also sported a handpump. However the Landlady seemed to have forgotten it existed and so I sampled my first, but not unfortunately my last, keg Trophy of the day.

Next came a very reasonable pint of Greenalls on handpump in the Kings Head. This was followed by Chesters Bitter in the Steam Engine Tavern (od Coronation Street fame) across the road and by Wilsons Bitter in the Union, Ardwick.

The next stretch began in another Bridge Inn (Whitbread) on Pin Mill Brow, with Chesters Bitter. Due to an early start several pubs were still shut, though I concluded that if it was run by a woman and belonged to Whitbread it would probably be open!

Wilson's Old House at Home was shut so I had more Keg Trophy (handpumped Chesters had run out) at the General Birch. Holts, Seven Stars, Chesters, Openshaw Inn & Whitbreads Old Brewery were shut. A Wilsons Pub believed to be the Travellers Call was shut for good. This was followed by more Keg Trophy in the Grey Mare, Legh Arms, Lord Wolsley & Drovers Inn. The Star, Chesters was still shut. Next - a couple of Wilsons Pubs - The Drop Forge, Greenside St., remarkably similar to the Falcon, and the Staff of Life. The Malcolm was yet another Wilsons pub for sale - is it true that part of the 150 year celebrations Wilsons are selling 150pubs?

A couple of Boddies pubs followed, the Locomotive & the Wrexham. These were followed by two Bass pubs, The George, keg Stones ('nuff said) and the Prince of Wales selling excellent 4X mild (Bass can do it right when they want to) alongside REAL Stones & Toby light, with a welcome break of Robinsons in the Forresters in between.

Another couple of Wilsons on handpump, the Grove and the Gransmoor. The Crown had both Boddies and Oldham - and last but not least was Holts Railway, just in time for me to fall down the Railway steps and roll onto the train!

Leigh Musselwhite.

# THE CASTLEWOOD

(HOLE IN WALL)

BRIDGE STREET BROW, MARKET, STOCKPORT.

TEL: 480 5529.

WILSONS REAL ALES

HANDPUMPS

PUB FOOD MONDAY TO SATURDAY (INC BANK HOL)  
11-30 - 2-00 pm

FUNCTION ROOM AVAILABLE FOR  
MEETINGS, PARTIES ETC.

## WILSONS FOLK

The Castlewood, Bridge Street Brow, Stockport now boasts a regular Folk Club on Wednesday nights with the group Proof Spirit who play traditional Country music, bluegrass and Country Swing.

BANKS'S - Planning problems were forecast for two schemes in our area. We now hear that the Brook House Hotel will not become a pub. Also the site for a pub in Burnage is already selling many gallons of a very pale liquid - the petrol station has re-opened.

# TROPHY

A LOOK AT WHERE  
TO FIND THE  
CASK VARIETY.

In case you're still waiting for the cask Trophy at the Lass O'Gowrie (June O.T.), you've missed it - it's been and gone. Sales weren't high enough to justify its retention, probably because there were already 4 cask conditioned ales on sale (Chesters M & B, LOG 35 & 42)

When cask Trophy first arrived in the North West it was greeted enthusiastically, but it doesn't appear to have been a great success in the Branch Area. Four pubs put it in and then took it out: The Olde Cock, Didsbury; Parkside, Lloyd St., Halfway House, Ashton Old Road; Houldsworth, Reddish.

It has now appeared at the Red Lion, Gatley (former Bitter End) where it is selling alongside the Chesters Mild and Bitter - its progress will be watched with interest.

The Beech Tree in Outwood Rd., Heald Green used to sell Chesters Bitter - the hand-pump is still on the bar, and kept nicely polished. The pub is now receiving an expensive facelift - will cask ale return, or even Trophy?

The Hunting Lodge on Oxford Road sells handpumped Trophy alongside the Chesters Bitter. The cask mild has gone keg.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Preliminary notification of two Major happenings:

GREATER MANCHESTER BEER FESTIVAL at UMIST 23rd. - 24th., NOVEMBER.

GREATER MANCHESTER BEER GUIDE expected to be published fairly early in 1985.

Full news soon.

# SWAN with 2

NECKS PRINCE'S STREET.  
THE SHOPPING CENTRE PUB.

GOOD ROBBIE'S ALE

PLEASANT COMPANY

LUNCHES 11-30 - 2-00

HOT/COLD EVERY WEEKDAY - COLD ON SATS.

ROOM FOR CHILDREN  
AT LUNCHTIME.

## LETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERS

One of the problems with Real Ale is that when it has reached the pub it requires some effort of the Landlord for the beer to be at its best. Even then it is possible for it to go off during a session. Anyone who gets a bad pint is entitled to return it, but this can lead to mixed results. Some Landlords are apologetic and helpful - others take it as an insult or feel the customer is trying to make trouble.

For example on the crawl round Stockport last month two of us received vinegary pints of mild in the Silver Jubilee. A quick word with the Landlord who pulled off the offending mild & we were presented with 2 good pints of Robinsons - no hassle, no fuss.

On the other hand at the Camra meeting the night before in the Coach & Horses the beer was good at the start of the evening but by 10 pm the Tetley Bitter was very poor. A pint was returned and replaced by another poor one, when a complaint was made the barman said: 'You've had enough to drink, you can't taste that anyway.' We had consumed a fair amount but it was easy to tell the Tetleys was off - ideal for chips but not for drinking. The final outcome was the customer had his money refunded and was refused service. Action like this damages the reputation of the pub and of real ale. I'm sure this will be taken into account when selections for the Good Beer Guide are made. If you have incidents like this write in.

Paul Thompson, Brook Rd., Fallowfield.

Dear Opening Times,

I am an ardent advocate of the Arden Arms, Millgate: 'The finest pint of Robbies Best Bitter available'. However the construction of two monstrous superstores nearby spells disaster. Let us hope the financiers of Robinsons do not go for the younger end of the market. I oppose all House of Horrors jobs, especially when the pumps are replaced by grotesque plastic boxes. Yours, in non-satiation, Chris Doyle, c/o Stockport Rd., West, Lower Bredbury.

PS part of the younger end of the market who appreciates the bequests of the older end!

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

Despite unease over plans for some of their pubs, Host Group (Wilson's managed Houses) intentions towards the Church, Ardwick Green, appear to be honourable. The Church is to be classed as an 'English Ale House' which is Hosts Group code for a normal pub with a bias towards tradition - this will be reflected in removal of carpet to expose original stone-flagged floor, plus an increase in the range of real ales available. The new beers are likely to be supplied from within the Grand Metropolitan empire, so probably no Holts or Taylors, but a pint of, say, Websters from Halifax or Drybrough from Edinburgh would be a welcome addition to choice. Good quality Wilsons as already, as ever, on sale in comfortable and friendly surroundings - so why not try a spot of Churchgoing?

## MORE BURTONWOOD

A third pub in South Manchester City outlets now sells handpumped Burtonwood Mild & Bitter - the Coach & Horses, London Road. (The others are the Bulls Head further up London Road & the Union, Princess Street.

At the Coach the Ruddles has gone, so the complete range is now Boddingtons, Tetleys & Saxon Cross Bitter and the two from Burtonwood.

Sykes  
wine bar

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

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

DRAUGHT BASS  
HIGSONS BITTER  
HIGSONS MILD  
AT THE

GEORGE

## OPEN ALL HOURS.

The large banner on the front of the pub says 'Open all day from 10 am'. Had the flexible hours campaign finally had the desired result?

The doors of the Olde Cock in Didsbury are certainly open all day, but disappointment awaits eager toppers. It's an experiment, serving teas, coffee and soft drinks outside normal licensing hours, but it's a unique experience - who can remember when they last ordered coffee and a buttered scone across the bar?

## guest who?

Ye Olde Vic, Edgeley, will commence with guest beers in the near future, starting with Marstons Pedigree, closely followed by Draught Stones.

## ANY BIDS?

We hear that the Bridgewater (Wilson's, Brinksway, Stockport) is up for grabs. Auction Date August 26th., have your cheque books ready!

## Fit for a King?

Plans are afoot by Boddingtons to convert part of the Kings Arms, Great Portwood Street, into a restaurant as development of the area looms larger.

## 6amranewscamranewscamranewscamranews

Forthcoming Events - All are Welcome:

Saturday, 11th., August - visit to Macclesfield and Bollington. 10-39 train ex Piccadilly, 10-47 from Stockport.

Friday August 17th., Hyde Road Pub Crawl, 7pm Waggon & Horses, Stockport Road, Rock 8-30, Travellers Call 9-00pm.

Branch Meeting - August 9th., (Thursday), Gateway, Kingsway, E.Didsbury.

Look ahead - Saturday, 1st., September - Trip to the Weighley & Worth Valley Railway. 8-52 Train from Manchester Victoria.

Contributors to this 'Opening Times' -

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ALSO: Our Thanks to the Advertisers whose support makes 'Opening Times' Possible.