

Opening Times



STOCKPORT AND SOUTH MANCHESTER CAMRA

FEBRUARY 1988

No.46

BODDIES AXE OLDHAM

By Andy Cooper.

Once again CAMRAs predictions regarding the future of Oldham Brewery, following the expiry of the five year guarantee given by Boddingtons, have proved to be well founded.

Many of you will probably remember the letter sent by Boddies Management to their licensees accusing this paper, amongst others, of being charlatans for daring to suggest that Boddies had any intention of not continuing brewing at Oldham for the foreseeable future.

However the truth became clear in recent weeks with the announcement from the Brewery that they would be axeing 200 jobs and closing Oldham later this year. The Brewery even have the gall to suggest that the closure is being done to enable Boddingtons "to expand into the 1990s offering one of the widest choices of Branded products" (sic).

The closure is a classic proof of CAMRAs view that all takeovers ultimately lead to 'rationalisation' in the name of efficiency. It is easy for Boddies to claim that they were not making sufficient money from Oldham, but surely some promotion of the excellent Oldham products could have gone some way to saving the brewery.

The closure of another Greater Manchester Brewery only goes to show that the excellent brewing heritage is not safe in the hands of the brewers, and is further proof of the old dictum that in the field of Brewery takeovers, there are only "lies, damned lies and Brewers assurances"!!

This month in your 10 Page "Opening Times" -

Page 2 : Pub Grub.

Page 3 : Letters.

Page 4 : Stagger.

Page 6 : Camra Calling.

Page 7 : New Pub Opens.

Page 8 : New Free House news.

Page 9 : Real Ale in Central & South Update.

Page 10: Pub News.

"OPENING TIMES" - GREATER MANCHESTERS' BIGGEST PUB NEWSPAPER - 1500 COPIES DISTRIBUTED FREE EVERY MONTH IN OVER 80 PUBS & OFF-LICENCES.

FESTIVAL LATEST

Stockport's very own Beer Festival hits the road again in April & plans are well in hand to make it even bigger and better than last year's widely-praised event. Some of your favourite beers & ciders from last year will be there again and we're searching high and low through the Nation's Brewers to find even more rare, quality brews - we're even hoping to have a special 'hush-hush' exclusive Festival Brew! All this + CAMRA goodies, top local entertainment, - games - and perhaps the odd surprise - guarantees a weekend to remember.

The Festival will be held in the Stockport College of Technology, Wellington Road entrance on Thursday April 7th., from 5-30 - 11 pm & on Friday 8th., & Saturday 9th., from 11 am - 3-00 pm & 5-30 - 11 pm. Last admissions to evening sessions will be 10-30 pm and right of admission is reserved.

Lunchtime admission will again be Free, with a door charge of just £1.00 in the evenings (Free to CAMRA members). Special souvenir glasses will be on sale, or you can hire a glass for a small refundable deposit.

More news next month.

Bakers Vaults

MARKET PLACE, STOCKPORT

FINE ROBINSONS ALES

superb cuisine

including traditional
Sunday Lunch

LIVE MUSIC MOST EVENINGS

BOOGIE CLUB

SUNDAY NIGHT

TEL. 480 3182



Richard and Sue Genders

The Bottle Stop

136 Acre Lane Bramhall

* FULLERS LONDON PRIDE * GALES HSB *

* TAYLORS LANDLORD * BATEMANS *

WARSTEINER PILS & BOCK BEERS ONTAP

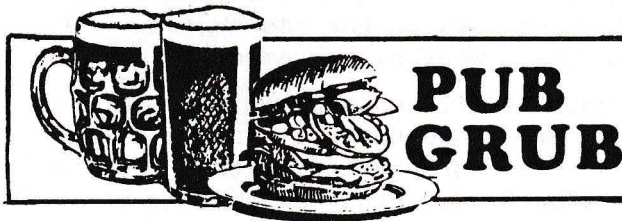
OCCASIONAL BEERS FROM:

RUDDLES * BRAKSPEARS * SHEPHERD NEAME

PINTS POLYPINS FIRKINS BARRELS

OPEN MON-FRI 3-10-30, SAT 11-11, SUN 11-10.

Tel 061 439 4904



By John Clarke.

Back to Stockport for the first review of 1988 and the **Manchester Arms**, Wellington Road South. Known to many Stockport drinkers simply as the M.A. the pub is a long standing entry in CAMRA's National Good Beer Guide, latterly under the able stewardship of Martin & Sandy Gibbs. Robinsons Best Mild, Best Bitter and Old Tom are all available on draught and on my visit the Bitter was particularly good.

The menu provides fairly standard pub fare (Chili, Curry, Steak Pie, Gammon etc.) with one or two particularly nice individual touches. For example the Chili comes not with boring old chips or rice but several thick slices of good crusty bread. (Where are the fishes? exclaimed one customer, surprised at the amount he received!) Indeed it was the Chili I went for and at £1.60 it couldn't be faulted, the Chili itself coming in a deceptively large bowl. Thick and well spiced it made a pleasant change from the excuses for Chili served up in some pubs.

There are a good range of barmes (Gammon & Egg proving particularly popular on my visit) and toasties to complement the hot dishes. Service is quick and efficient and with its central location the Manchester Arms is a must for those in Stockport after a good cheap meal.

Finally - still no takers as yet to the 'pub grub challenge' - do you know a pub that regularly serves a proper meal eg Shepherds Pie, two veg and chips at £1.00?

DICEYS ROLLS!

As we reported last month, DICEY REILLYS in Levenshulme opened just before Christmas and as expected a range of cask beers largely new to the area are available, namely, Robnisons Best Bitter, Boddingtons Bitter, Draught Bass, Stones Bitter and, surprisingly, Bass XXXX Mild. It's not the type of pub you'd expect to sell a lot of mild and on a visit early in the New Year it wasn't on very good form.

The pub itself has been interestingly renovated in a split-level manner, an upstairs gallery being accessed by a flight of stairs half-way up which is a DJs console and record-deck. Much use has been made of natural materials, including a bare wooden floor for most of the downstairs, although there is also a carpeted lounge area off this.

Interestingly, all the keg beers are dispensed through fairly anonymous brass fonts with the result that all that really stands out are the cask beers, and that's no bad thing!

On balance then a welcome, if pricey, (85p for ½ of Robbies and ½ of Mild) addition to the Levenshulme drinking scene.

HEARD AT THE BAR:

Drunk (On not being served): "It's alright, if I was the Landlord I wouldn't serve me either."

SHAPERS

BARBERS SHOP

17 SCHOOL LANE

HEATON CHAPEL

STOCKPORT

432 6080

ALSO

CUT-BACK

44 ST. PETERSGATE

STOCKPORT

477 6739



LETTERS...

From Mr. P.B. Robinson, Frederic Robinson Ltd.

I have just been reading the December edition of 'Opening Times' & there are a few points I would like to comment on.

Firstly, I entirely agree with you about a legible price list being visible to customers. This is a constant problem, & if you would care to let me have a list of any of our houses that are offenders, I will do what I can to rectify the omission.

The second point concerns the comments on various of our houses in Hazel Grove under the heading 'Stagger'. Whilst you or your correspondent is perfectly free to write what he likes I do feel that the article on the whole is destructive. One gets the feeling that the beer was sub-standard virtually wherever your correspondent called, and he had nothing but criticism of the structures also. It is so easy to criticise, but when virtually every comment is a criticism, the value of the criticism largely disappears and the reader is left with the feeling that the writer must have a very large chip on his shoulder.

The houses that are mentioned are without exception all good houses, but I am left with the impression that once an alteration is carried out, regardless of what is done, the house will be classed as having been Robinsonised. That presumably means that both The Woodman & the Three Tuns will immediately be damned regardless of what we do.

What a pity, because the recent alterations in Stockport, namely the Unity, Star & Garter, Royal Oak, High St., and most recently the Flying Dutchman are all proving most popular with their new facilities - not forgetting the Bird in Hand, Hazel Grove & the Travellers Call, Great Moor.

I think it might be worth considering whether you do not do yourself more harm than good by publishing such articles. I have already received complaints from some of the houses mentioned in the article, and perhaps most interesting of all, they have come from customers who appreciate what we have done for them, and cannot understand your correspondents somewhat negative and destructive attitude.

I hope you will find these comments constructive.

I'm a Little Gem

and I'm now available for hire



Just ring 061-480 0110 for further details.

A gem of an idea from **GM**

The Castlewood

(HOLE IN WALL)

Opposite TSB, Bridge St., Stockport

Children Welcome 11-3 & 5.30-7pm

Pub Meals .. Lunch Mon - Sat. 11.30 - 2pm

Hand pumped ~ ~ ~ Real Ales



SAMUEL WEBSTER



WILSONS

From F.S. Fisher, c/o The Grapes, Hazel Grove.

Having read previous copies of 'Opening Times', the contents of the issue for December '87 caused me some surprise. The 'Stagger' article under the name Alastair Walker had as the start to its opening paragraph: "Firstly I have been told to say that the following diatribe is not necessarily true etc. etc."

DIATRIBE according to my dictionary means 'Piece of bitter criticism, invective, denunciation' Invective is defined as a "violent attack in words, abusive oratory." As Editor you must have been concerned that your publication contained a "diatribe not necessarily true" and you no doubt pondered its purpose & the effect it would have on your readers, advertisers etc. You would probably consider that some pub readers may now regard future editions with scepticism - that is supposing that copies are to be made available - by courtesy of the licencees.

It would seem a pity that Alastair Walker & his group, after their viewing & tasting, failed to discuss their complaints with the respective licensees (or their representative) before leaving their 'undrunk beer' - constructive/practical criticism would no doubt have been received with a measure of understanding.

There are many of us who frequent 'Robbies Houses' in Hazel Grove & Great Moor - we know our locals, the decor, the condition of the beer - if we didn't like it (& very likely having said so!) we would stay away & go elsewhere. Is it possible that Alastair Walker may do likewise?

STAGGER

BESWICK & BRADFORD - THE EAST SIDE RUN.

By Andy Cooper.

An evening in late November saw 4 hardy stalwarts gather at the BRITANNIA, Mill Street, Beswick at the start of a stroll around one of the lesser visited parts of the Stockport & South Manchester Branch area. The Britannia is a quiet but pleasant basic two roomed pub, selling very pleasant Lees beers. Unfortunately due to the lack of houses in the area, there is no obvious source of evening trade.

After a walk through areas of urban decay, followed by the industrial heartland of East Manchester, passing swiftly by the Chesters keg only pub, the Shakespeare, we arrived at the PARK INN on the corner of Forge Lane and Mill Street. This Chesters pub had recently sported a handpump for the bitter but by the time of our visit it had

disappeared leaving the pub without traditional beer.

We then headed up Mill Street to the ALEXANDRA, nominally a Free House, but selling only traditional, and indifferent, Tetleys Mild and Bitter. This reopened a couple of years ago, originally with a range of beers which have now disappeared. The pub itself is fairly nondescript, featuring a loud video juke-box and a motley collection of African weaponry. The Rolls Royce parked outside seemed a little out of place.

We then walked on to the WHY NOT INN on Ashton New Road, another Free House selling Tetley Mild, poor Tetley Bitter, okay Banks's Bitter and also Boddingtons Bitter. The Youngers Scotch Bitter and Burton Ale were not available. This is a quite unusual pub, with one side being modern and pretty unforgettable, whilst the other is very traditional, even to the extent of a real fire and a nice collection of tiles and mirrors. The corridor is also nicely tiled.

We then travelled on to a current Good Beer Guide entry, Tetley's DUKE OF EDINBURGH on Mill Street. Not surprisingly the quality of both the mild and the bitter was better than we had experienced so far in the evening. The pub itself is well worth finding and features an unusual motif around the top of the walls. Shame about the Indian Restaurant style wallpaper, however.

More urban desolation took us swiftly pass Greenalls keg-only Bobbin on Grey Mare Lane and shortly to be demolished flats, on to Chesters QUEEN VICTORIA, a modern estate pub selling only poor to average Chesters Bitter on the occasion of our visit. There was a great distinction between the basic vault and plush lounge, and it was very nice to see the TV switched off.

Next another route march to the TRAVELLERS CALL on Ashton Old Road, a pleasant Free House selling Tetley Bitter, Border Bitter and Boddingtons Bitter, all of which were certainly very drinkable. The juke-box was a little on the loud side, but you could buy draught wine!

Our next stop was the CRESCENT, almost unique in the area in selling all three Chesters Beers - mild, bitter and trophy - in traditional form, and quite well at that! The pub itself is a typical modern estate pub situated next to the now demolished Fort Beswick. I am informed that the pub has improved markedly since the demise of Fort

Brewing a taste of tradition

Now available
in
TETLEY WALKER
houses
in your area



**Brewers of fine Cumbria Ales
since 1828**

JENNINGS BROTHERS PLC
Castle Brewery Cockermonth Cumbria CA13 9NE
Telephone: (0900) 823214

Beswick, and is quite pleasant. The clientele in the lounge seemed rather young, however.

Then on to the first Holts of the night, and very good it was too, at the SEVEN STARS, which is a fairly typical Holt's pub, with all that implies. The pool table is now hidden in an extension and the two rooms constituting the lounge have had their dividing wall demolished for no apparent reason. As usual, the vault featured a telly.

We then passed down the road to the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, a Wilsons pub selling indifferent mild and bitter. There is a vast collection of sporting trophies and the pub itself is now single roomed but with a clear demarcation between vault and lounge drinking areas.

Our final stop was the KINGS HEAD on Chancellor Lane. A former Good Beer Guide pub now sold into the free trade and selling good Youngers Scotch bitter & IPA. The pub itself is certainly well worth the visit.

Thus ended a crawl around some less well visited parts of the area - an interesting area with some unusual and rewarding pubs.

As ever, comments on the pubs and the beers simply reflect the opinions of those who undertook the crawl.

DRIVEN TO DRINK?

Publicity on the dangers of drinking & driving have resulted in an upsurge in the sales of low and non-alcohol beers, consumption of which is estimated at 1½ million pints a week.

Barbican is the Brand leader, and probably the one that most people think of - not least because a well-known football manager lost his licence after advertising it on television! Clausthaler is a beer brewed in Germany and, according to the label, complies with the Reinheitsgebot. It has a pleasant, malty aroma & a dry hoppy flavour. A comparative newcomer, Kaliber from Guinness is rapidly gaining popularity, and it is estimated to be available in a quarter of the pubs throughout the Country.

All three are lagers containing not more than 0.05% alcohol by volume, so you would have to drink a staggering 70 pints to equal the alcohol content of one pint of normal bitter! Some other brands, however, contain as much as 0.9% alcohol by volume - so check the label.

Two newcomers fall into this 'stronger' category Highway, from Fenland brewers Elgoods, who claimed this was the first low-alcohol bitter, until Whitbread weighed in with White Label (not to be confused with White Shield!!)

THE BEER HOUSE

ANGEL ST., off ROCHDALE RD., M/CR

**Theakstons, Holts, Matthew
Brown & Linfit Beers**

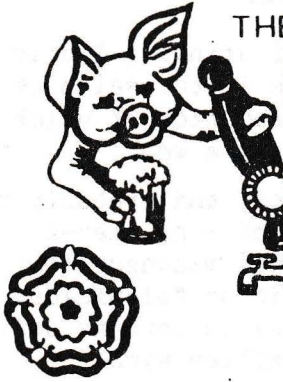

**Thatchers Traditional Cider
Hot and Cold Food**

MON.-SAT. 11.30-3., 5.30-11.

SUN. 12.-2., 7.-10.30



THE
Boars Head
MARKET PLACE, STOCKPORT
TEL. 480-3978
FOOD
DAILY
OPEN 6 DAYS
LIVE MUSIC 6 NIGHTS
*** SAM SMITHS REAL ALES ***

**CAMRA
CALLING!**

Again our usual mixed bag. The trip to **Mansfield Brewery** was featured last month so we start therefore with a social on the **8th.**, at the **Grove, Hazel Grove**, now under the capable stewardship of Tom Burke, formerly of the Three Tunnes. As with all Monday socials the starting time is 9pm. On **Thursday, 11th.**, we have our Branch meeting at the **Victoria Inn, Burnage**, with the pub photo quiz re-arranged from December. Lots of fabulous prizes (It says here!)

On **Monday 15th.**, we have another social, this time at **Lee's Suburban, Gorton Cross St., Gorton**. This is followed on **Friday 19th.**, by our monthly **Stagger**, this time round **Heatons Chapel and Moor** starting at 7-30 at the **Chapel House** and meeting at the **Plough, Heaton Moor Road** at 8-30.

A hectic week starts on **Monday 22nd.**, with a social at the **Crown, Heaton Lane** and this is followed on **Thursday 25th.**, with Pub of the Month at **Boddingtons Old Garratt, Granby Row** in Central Manchester. This will also offer one of the final chances to sample real (ie Oldham Brewed), Oldham Bitter.

The next evening is for you if you've joined CAMRA recently as we are holding a new members night out at the **Titanic Brewery & Travellers Rest in Burslem**. Members only on this one - price (if you're 'new') £3 per head.

Finally we see the month out with a social on **29th.**, at the **Travelers Call, Ashton Old Road**.

As usual, if you want more info. please 'phone me - John Clarke - on either 831 7222 ext. 3411 (daytime) or 477 1973 (Night).

It is with great regret that we report the sudden and tragic death last month of **Jeff Turner**, Landlord of the GBG listed **Printers Arms, Stockport Road, Cheadle**, for the past seven years and formerly of the old **Lowes Arms, Woodley**.

Jeff was a fine Landlord who will be sadly missed.

CAMRA extends its deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

COMPETITION CORNER

Despite a record number of entries, there was only one winner of the Competition in our December issue and a copy of "A History of Stockport Breweries" is on its way to June Gardner of Leyland, Lancashire.

The answers to the competitions' questions were as follows:

- 1) Richard Clarke and Sons were taken over by Boddingtons.
- 2) Bell & Co. were taken over by Robinsons.
- 3) The last Brewery to close in Stockport was Pollards of Reddish.

DON'T FORGET TO HAVE A GO IN THE LATEST COMPETITION IN "OPENING TIMES" - THE NAME-THE-PUB COMP!!

DETAILS ARE ON PAGE 8.

De Olde Vic CHATHAM ST.,
EDGELEY
Stockport's Premier
Free House
TAYLORS LANDLORD
TETLEY MILD & BITTER
Guest Beers Weekly
tel. 480 2410



HOLLAND HOUSE?

Just before Christmas Robinsons unveiled their latest revamp, the Flying Dutchman, Hillgate, Stockport.

More a complete rebuild than a revamp, the pub is apparently proving popular with the former regulars, although as is often the case with Robinsons new pubs these days, something does seem to be lacking a certain character.

As usual the pub is very bright, the unusual light wood used for the bar front and furniture adding to the effect. Despite the money that has obviously gone on the pub, it seems to be lacking 'soul'; bright, plush, but not a pub you can really relax in.

Beers available are Best Mild and Best Bitter via electric pumps.

HEARD AT THE BAR:

"Yates's Wine Lodge - huh - wall to wall pillocks!"

ESTD **B** **W** 1867
BURTONWOOD
BREWERY



**A FAMILY TRADITION
 OF FINE BREWING**

THE MANCHESTER ARMS

STOCKPORT
 Tel 061 480 2852



CLASSIC JUKE BOX

★

BIKERS WELCOME

★

ROBINSONS FINEST
 ALES

★

MARTIN & SANDY

JOIN THE CHESHIRE SET!

Heaton Chapel now offers the chance to drink in the atmosphere of a Cheshire Country Pub in Whitbread's Hind's Head, Manchester Road which opened just before Christmas. The name, by the way, refers to Whitbread's Company logo.

The half-timbered exterior hints at small rooms & low ceilings, but inside it's basically one large rectangular space with a lot of standing room around the bar. It's broken up by a raised section with benches around an open fireplace, and various rustic knick-knacks, which has more of a traditional pub character. Food is served every lunchtime - unusual for this area - and most evenings, and the menu includes some very reasonably priced snacks.

The same, though, can't be said for the beer. The pub really looks as if it belongs in rural Surrey rather than Cheshire, and the prices are to match - 88p a pint for Chesters Mild and Bitter, and 98p for Castle Eden, all of which are available on handpump. In contrast, the Ash, almost opposite, which is a fairly plush pub, offers Wilsons Bitter for just 78p.

The Hind's Head is an interesting and different new pub, and Whitbread's deserve praise for installing three real ales, including mild, but unfortunately they have spoilt the whole effect by allowing their greed to run away with itself. Certainly I would find that the large hole in my pocket left a nasty taste in my mouth!

HEARD AT THE BAR:

1st Barmaid: "It goes funny when it's cold."

2nd Barmaid: "I know what you mean!"

(When trying to extract ice from an ice bucket)

THE GLADSTONE

Lower Hillgate, Stockport, 061, 4808359,
a fine unspoilt pub now under

NEW MANAGEMENT - PAT & PAULINE O'SULLIVAN

Handpumped TETLEY ALES, mild and bitter,

HOME COOKED FOOD AT LUNCHTIMES.....

LIVE MUSIC EVERY THURSDAY.....

with top folk group -

SULLY, SUZIE AND MICK RODDEN who play
a variety of folksongs and jigs on:
banjo, fiddle, whistle, bouzouki, spoons,
bones, bodhran and mouth organ.....
(for group, phone Sully on 0625-610849)



EAST OF ASHBURYS

After a fair while on the market, the **Railway** on Pottery Lane outside Ashburys Station - in earlier days the brewery tap for the Openshaw Brewery - at last looks set for a new lease of life. It's been bought by Graham Rawlinson of Heywood - as well as running a bar in his home town specialising in continental beers Graham has a keen interest in & knowledge of traditional cask ales, having worked at Rochdales premier free house, the Cemetary. As you read this, the builders should be in the Railway transforming this formerly drab pub (magistrates permitting) into Graham's favoured three-room format of lounge, snug and darts room. On re-opening, which is hoped to be end of February or early March, the beers on sale should include Taylors, Ruddles, Theakstons XB & Youngers, guest beers will also be regularly available.

Now here's your chance to help Graham. He would like to re-name the pub - after all there are plenty of pubs called the Railway - and he's running a **Name-the-Pub** competition in 'Opening Times'. Please send your entries to the editorial address - 48, **Moorcroft Drive, Burnage, Manchester M19 1WF** to arrive by February 27th. and on Monday February 29th., Graham will formally judge the entries and select a winner at Camra's Monday social at nearby Freehouse, the **Travellers Call**, Ashton Old Road. Enter now - and make your mark on Manchester's pub scene! A prize of beer awaits the winner.

PS: Graham has been heard to express a preference for names including the word 'Firkin' as popularised by David Bruce in London; however all entries will be judged on merit.

FEBRUARY

.	7	14	21	28	...
1	8	15	22	29	...
2	9	16	23	...	...
3	10	17	24	...	...
4	11	18	25	...	...
5	12	19	26	...	...
6	13	20	27	...	...

PUB OF The MONTH

Stockport & South Manchester Pub of the Month for February is the **Old Garratt**, Granby Row in Central Manchester. Formerly a very down at heel 1960s pub, at the base of an office block, the Garratt was transformed by Boddingtons in late 1986 into what can best be described as an up-market vault. New parquet flooring, stained glass and a more spacious layout have made the pub a must for many ale lovers in Manchester. Since re-opening the pub has been in the capable hands of Geoff & Shirley who actually took over before re-fermentation in April 1986 following a spell of relief management. Geoff certainly knows how to look after his ale, serving up consistently good pints of Boddies Mild & Bitter, Higsons Bitter and Oldham Bitter, all via handpumps. The presentation is on **Thursday, February 25th.**, and it promises to be a good night.

From Mr. Chris Hammond, Bar Manager, UMIST Union.

Dear Sir, A few points arising from 'University Challenge' (OT Dec) Firstly 'almost 40' recruits from the total student population is a fraction of 1% of the total! More seriously beers in student union bars are determined by a combination of demand and financial constraints imposed ultimately by government policy. Whether unions are 'free thinking or not they still require finance in order to provide services for their members. Regarding students themselves being 'free thinking'; it is incontrovertable that they consume vast quantities of lager. Whether we attribute this to the product or to the image created for it by the brewers is debatable, but the fact is inescapable. Lastly, UMIST union has always maintained a policy of keeping cask-conditioned ales. At the moment we have 5 bitters & there are other unions serving cask so there is still some representation of decent beers available to your new recruits

The Nursery Inn

GREEN LANE, HEATON NORRIS
STOCKPORT

- * Traditionally Brewed Hyde's Anvil Ales
- * Good Home Cooked Food Served Daily
- * We now cater Mon-Fri for families in our upstairs Dining Room which is also available for functions.
- * Bowling Parties Catered for - Details on request.

REAL ALE IN CENTRAL & SOUTH MANCHESTER -
UPDATE NO. 5

Our Press date for January did not allow us to cover all of the usual Christmas clutch of pub openings and renovations. While we mentioned the welcome installation of hand-pumped Youngers Scotch at the Swinging Sporran, Sackville St, the big pre-Christmas event was the re-opening of the former Weavers Arms on Angel Street in the City Centre under its new name of the BEER HOUSE. Run by Simon Finch, formerly of TFC Ale Houses excellent Gamecock in Ashton-under-Lyne, the Beer House has a standard range of Holts Mild & Bitter; Matthew Brown John Peel; Theakstons Best Bitter, XB, & Old Peculier; and Thatchers cider, all on handpump. Guest beers & ciders can be expected from time to time. Still in the City Centre, two real ale gains are the City Road Inn at the junction of Whitworth St. West & Albion St., with handpumped Chesters Bitter, and the Place Next Door on Oxford Street with hand-pumped Stones Bitter (and bottles of White Shield).

In Chorlton-on-Medlock the Old Steam Brewery on York Street is now open with handpumped Websters & Wilsons Bitters, while Dicey Reillys on Stockport Road, Levenshulme opened as expected in mid-December with 5 beers on handpump - Boddingtons, Robinsons Best & Stones Bitters, Draught Bass & Bass Mild. Finally, the Nelson in Didsbury now sells Websters Choice on handpump, while Boddingtons Crown in Openshaw has switched from electric pumps to handpumps.

Late news of another Real Ale gain: the Bank on Mosley St. in the City Centre has removed most of its pseudo-continental fonts & replaced them with more conventional dispense equipment - this includes a handpump serving Tetley Bitter; keg bitter is also available, but the real thing seems to be offered in preference.

PS: Win some, lose some: it seems that recent visits to Pier One in Withington have failed to find it open - we would welcome any information on whether this is a permanent closure.

GREAT IRONIES DEPT: Colin Thomas has resigned from his managing directors seat at Buckleys. The Welsh company have been quick to scotch any talk of his being forced out in the wake of the takeover by Brodian, but the news of his departure came only a few weeks after he declared that the takeover would mean "greater security for the workforce".



KEVIN & SUE WELCOME YOU

TO **The Swan
with
Two Necks**

OPP. WOOLWORTHS, PRINCES ST., STOCKPORT

ROBINSONS BEST BEERS.

HOT & COLD LUNCHTIME FOOD.

CHILDRENS' ROOM.

A HAVEN IN THE SHOPPING PRECINCT!



STOCKPORT-ON-THAMES?

With two of the Big 7 Brewers opening pubs in the Stockport area recently it's becoming increasingly obvious that they are using the building of new pubs to spearhead a campaign to push the price of beer close to the rip-off prices found by our unfortunate fellow-drinkers in the London area.

In Heaton Chapel, not exactly chock-a-block with overt opulence the Hinds Head is selling Castle Eden at 98p & Chesters Bitter & Mild for an extortionate 88p. Meanwhile in upwardly mobile Cheadle Hulme Tetleys' are selling their Bitter at 90p a pint at the Mill obviously working on the assumption that despite 'Black Monday' all those yuppies & stockbrokers have still got money to burn!

What a contrast in Levenshulme where Holts have just built the Sidings where you can get a superior pint for less than 70p!

Kings Head

CHANCELLOR LANE, ARDWICK

Hand-drawn Youngers

Traditional Ale

Nice Line in Malts & Blended Whiskies

Comfortable Lounge

Meals Served Until 10.30pm

Breakfast from 8am to 11am



WORTH A VISIT!





The prestigious Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA Pub of the Year 1987 Award has been won, after a close contest from among the 1987 Pubs of the Month, by the Free House, **The Olde Vic**, Chatham St., Edgeley, Stockport. The presentation will be made to licensee Kay Ord on Tuesday, March 15th. Full details next month.

 Banks's **Gransmoor**, Ashton Old Road, Openshaw, is now a tenancy and we welcome as tenant Derek Johns, a Bristolian by birth but formerly a club steward in Bury. We do understand that Derek has plans for the place - watch this space.....

 The **Pack Horse**, Hillgate, Stockport appears to have permanently discontinued Cask Trophy. 'Real' Chesters Mild and Bitter remain.

 Former CAMRA Branch Member, Bob Bromley, now living in deepest Sussex, reports that a local Free House, the **White Hart**, Arundel, recently featured Robinsons Best Bitter as a guest beer. The price? A mere £1.10p a pint.

 A change of licensee to reports at the **Pomona**, West Gorton (Wilson/Websters). We welcome as newcomers John & Jane Roberts.

 More real ale in clubs, and an interesting one at that. The **Selne Club**, Charles Street, Stockport sells the famed Timothy Taylors Landlord through handpumps.

 We hear that the **Dolphin** on Clowes Street, West Gorton (formerly Marstons, derelict for a couple of years) has at last been sold - more news when available.

 Fed up with dear beer? Try the **Gorton Arms**, near Ashburys Station in Gorton, where Banks's have just **Reduced** the lounge prices so it's vault price all through the pub. Mild and Bitter are available on electric pumps, in good condition.

 Still on the prices front - January 18th., saw local Brewers Robinsons put 2p on a pint of mild & bitter & 4p on Old Tom. At the same time Tetleys also raised their beer prices by 3p a pint. (That makes the ale in the Mill, Cheadle Humle 93p!!)

In Hazel Grove we report changes of tenants at the **Three Tuns & The Grove** - more next month.

 Alterations at the **Bulls Head**, Market Place, Stockport, bring the welcome news that the ladies toilets are now downstairs and similar moves are amongst the plans for the **Pack Horse** round the corner where more substantial alterations are also planned. Apologies, by the way, to Mabel at the Pack Horse, for spelling her name wrong last month!

 Contributors to this Edition:
 John Clarke, Andy Cooper, Peter Edwardson, Jim Flynn, Humphrey Higgins, Rhys Jones, Philip Levison, Angela Walker.

For details of advertising rates and Postal Sales please write to:

45, Bulkely Street, Edgeley, Stockport SK3 9HD.

Egerton Arms

**ST. PETERSGATE
 TEL: 477 8008**

Your hosts John & Joan Newport invite you to call in and sample their excellent food, whilst enjoying a relaxing drink.

We have an excellent selection of home-made Hot & Cold meals, boasting our famous Hot Roast Beef & Pork Sandwich Carvery at 95p and including chilli, curries, steak & mushroom pie, lasagne & daily specials.

Evening meals available, children welcome lunchtime & early evening.

"WHATS ON IN OUR CONCERT ROOM"
 Alternate Tuesdays: FOLK
 Thursday: 9.00pm POP MUSIC QUIZ PRIZE OF CHAMPERS
 Friday & Saturday: LIVE GROUPS
 Sunday: ROCKIN VICAR
 DISCO, HAPPY HOUR 8-9.00pm
 & FREE DRAW

Parties catered for - function room available.
HAPPY HOUR 5.30 - 7.00 MON - FRI



OPENING TIMES

IS PUBLISHED BY STOCKPORT & SOUTH MANCHESTER CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE LTD. AND THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE CAMPAIGN. CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE EDITOR, S. H. HIGGINS, 48 MOORCROFT DRIVE, BURNAGE, MANCHESTER M19 1WH.

