

Opening Times



STOCKPORT AND SOUTH MANCHESTER CAMRA

No. 47 MARCH 1988



OLDHAM BREWERY - THE FIGHT IS ON!

By Rhys Jones.

As we reported last month, Boddingtons are to close Oldham Brewery in April with the loss of nearly 80 jobs. These job losses are apart from those at Strangeways and Liverpool and CAMRA's fight to prevent the closure gets into full swing this month.

The centrepiece will be a march through Oldham Town Centre on Saturday, March 12th., starting around noon (final details can be had by 'phoning Rhys Jones on 231 6465). Why not make it a day out, drinking the excellent, yet little known, Oldham beers and swelling the crowds to show **YOUR** opposition to yet another Brewery closure?

Petitions are also circulating and can be found in all Oldham Brewery pubs and at CAMRA meetings hereabouts. There will be a mass "handing-in" at Boddingtons' Brewery on Maunday Thursday, March 31st.

In contrast to previous Brewery closures the Trade Unions are working closely with CAMRA to fight the closure - there has already been Industrial action at both Manchester and Liverpool to protest against the redundancies on the distribution side.

So if **YOU** care about this damaging closure **TELL** someone; you could write to the Manchester Evening News or to the Oldham Evening Chronicle or to Boddingtons Managing Director, Hubert Reid (address: Marton House, Marton, Macclesfield, Cheshire). Help CAMRA **now** in the fight to retain this fine brewery.

REMEMBER: OB MEANS OLDHAM BREWED!!

This month in your even bigger, 12 page, "Opening Times":

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



Everything is now in hand for the **Second Stockport Beer Festival**. full details of Opening Hours etc. are overleaf, but how about this to whet your appetite?

We have ordered over 7000 pints of Traditional beers and over 600 pints of Traditional cider. Amongst the beers there will be the return of favourites like Taylors Landlord, Moorhouses Pendle Witch & Miners Arms Guvnors Ale and newcomers will include Felinfoel Double Dragon & Brains S.A. (known in Cardiff as 'Skull Attack!') from Wales and Belhaven 60/- & 70/- from Scotland. Also available will be a special beer brewed for the Festival by the Linfit Brewery in Linthwaite, Huddersfield.

In all there will be 35 beers from 24 Breweries - Be there!!

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MARKET PLACE, STOCKPORT

FINE ROBINSONS ALES

superb cuisine
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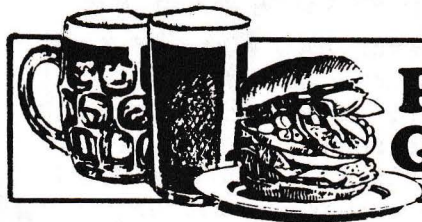
* FULLERS LONDON RIDE * GALES HSB *
* TAYLORS LANDLORD * BATEMANS *

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OCCASIONAL BEERS -

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PUB GRUB

By John Clarke.

This month's visit is to a pub slightly off the beaten track - the ANGEL INN, Wellington St., Gorton. An excellent Greenalls pub, altered over the years but still retaining a cosy, multi-roomed atmosphere, the Angel is very much a locals pub, although the passing caller is made equally welcome. Both cask Mild & Bitter are available via handpumps the former beer making its second appearance of recent years - the Landlord is a mild fan but unfortunately his enthusiasm isn't shared by too many of the locals who stick to the bitter which, I must say, was on fine form on my visit.

The menu offers a fairly standard selection of pub food with one or two more unusual items which lifts it out of the ordinary. The usual items such as Roast Chicken (£1.80), Scampi (1.60) & Gammon (1.60) are featured alongside the likes of Breaded Mushrooms with Garlic Dip (95p) & Chop Suey Rolls (1.60). I chose the Breaded Haddock at £1.60 - a good portion accompanied by a huge helping of freshly made chips and extensive salad garnish made for a filling, value for money plateful.

Other main course items include such as Sausage/Onion at £1.40 & ¼ pound Burger at £1.20. All main courses come with chips & veg & garnish or a full salad. A plate of chips will set you back 45p and coffee is 40p.

Sad to say, I was the only one eating and I believe that the full menu is a recent innovation. It would be sad if this enterprising, good value food operation had to be curtailed through lack of support.

Despite my description of being off the beaten track the Angel is surprisingly easy to get to - Little Gem 205, GM 202 & BeeLine 11 run from Piccadilly to Stockport every 7-8 minutes and will drop you off virtually at the door - do try it out, the Angel both needs and deserves support.

STOCKPORT Beer Festival
APRIL 7TH, 8TH, 9TH
STOCKPORT COLLEGE
WELLINGTON ROAD STH. (A6) ENTRANCE
OVER 30 BEERS FROM FAR AND WIDE
CIDER · FOOD · SOUVENIR GLASSES
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALL SESSIONS
OPENING HOURS:
THURS: 5.30-11.00PM
FRI: 11-3.00 : 5.30-11.00PM
SAT: 11-3.00 : 5.30-11.00PM
FREE ADMISSION AT LUNCHTIMES
EVENINGS : £1.00

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

PUB OF THE YEAR '87 YE OLDE VIC

The prestigious Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA Pub of the Year 1987 Award has gone to Ye Olde Vic, Chatham Street, Edgeley, Stockport, after a closely fought battle between all the contenders.

A small, open-plan, lounge, the Vic is undistinguished architecturally - what really makes the pub stand out is the enthusiasm and commitment of Landlady, Kay Ord.

Kay took over the pub about 18 months ago after it had been run down by its previous owners and has since faced an uphill task to rebuild trade. Her determination now seems to be paying off - helped, no doubt, by the fact that hers is the only pub in Stockport to offer guest beers -

the past twelve months have seen beers from far and wide from brewers large and small. CAMRA has long campaigned for the true Free House that will support the Independent Breweries, big and small, unlike those who are tied by loans solely to the products of the Big 7 Brewers. The Vic is a shining example of this and Kays' determination and commitment make it a most worthy winner.

The presentation night is on Tuesday, March 15th., when friends old and new are warmly invited to what should be a night to remember.



YE OLDE VIC, EDGELEY.

Photograph: George Symes.

HEARD AT THE BAR:

Elderly customer in a real ale Free House:

"What do they all want this real ale for nowadays? What was wrong with the stuff we had before the War?"

Ye Olde Vic CHATHAM ST.,
EDGELEY

Stockport's Premier
Free House
TAYLORS LANDLORD

TETLEY MILD & BITTER
Guest Beers Weekly

tel. 480 2410




UP FOR GRABS

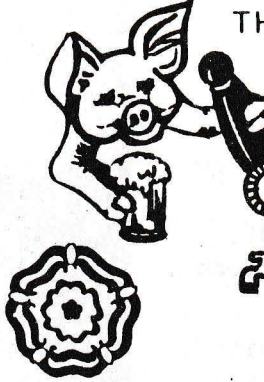
Last month Grand Metropolitan stunned the Brewing industry by announcing the sell-off of 700 of their pubs. Being offered in 3 lots, one consists of 99 Websters/Wilsons pubs together with 130 Manns houses in the Midlands. Grand Met are rumoured to be after £120-150 Million in total although this has been dismissed by Brewery Industry experts as over-optimistic - not only does the size of the lots appear to be putting off many would be purchasers, the pubs being sold represent the 'bottom of the range' of the Grand Met estate, a point illustrated by the fact that although the pubs make up 12% of the Groups tied estate, they only represent some 5% of turnover.

The Company have also come under fire for not telling those tenants whose pubs are up for grabs - hardly a way to boost confidence with your employees. The closing date for bids was February 15th., just as we went to press - we hope to bring you more news next month.

FOCUS ON CAMRA

We joined CAMRA at Stockports' first Beer Festival last year & the following week went along to the Monday social, feeling very conspicuous, but made most welcome. We joined the cheerful characters finding kindred spirits. We've been to several more of the Monday socials and to other events including Brewery trips & Pub of the Month awards but by far the most memorable was the Pub Treasure Hunt. We'd trained for this for months drinking only in Stockport Town Centre. On the night a 'course of 8 pubs had to be found from the cryptic clues given and whilst the seasoned campaigners romped in long before the 10-30 deadline we, with only seconds to go, had only 5 under our belt & many more drinks inside us for we'd been in a couple of wrong ones!

Another memorable night was the Christmas Buffet evening at the Bakers Vaults. After hearing our guest speaker from CAMRAS' HQ



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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.

we settled into the cask of Old Tom, which made us feel very content and in an amnesic state we still cannot remember leaving the Market Place!

If the Big Seven Brewers are not to spell the demise of Real Ale which we enjoy so much, if YOU care about our Traditional drink and our traditional pub, then why not join CAMRA. We need your help in the Campaign and you can have pleasure knowing that as you enjoy your pint you are playing your part in the fight.

Cheers! - Derek & Barbara.

NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN CAMRA!

Not only do you get a FREE Good Beer Guide if you join during March but membership of CAMRA entitles you to free entry to the Beer drinkers' event of the Year - the Second Stockport Beer Festival, held on April 7th., 8th., and 9th. Entry is free at all sessions for members.

A membership form is printed below so why not take advantage of our special offers and join the Campaign now?

APPLICATION FOR CAMRA MEMBERSHIP

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale Limited, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Campaign.

NAME(S) DATE

ADDRESS

..... POSTCODE

SIGNATURE TELEPHONE NUMBER(S)

I/We enclose remittance for individual/joint membership for one year: **U.K.** **£9**

Overseas £12

I/We would like to receive further information about CAMRA

*Please send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Limited) with this application form to:
S. Ballantyne, 62, Cheltenham Road, Chedle Heath, Stockport SK3 0SL.*

THE OLD STEAM BREWERY

A new cafe bar has opened on York Street on the City side of the University precinct in Manchester.

Inside, on the ground floor, you find yourself in a dark room with loud music & bare brick walls. There are handpumps dispensing Wilsons & Websters Yorkshire Bitters. Although I wasn't impressed with the decor the Wilsons was excellent.

In the customers side of the bar there are a couple of busts which look as if they were once in a Roman Catholic Church (one seems to be of the Virgin Mary) - they don't fit in with the rest of the decor.

It situation, directly opposite a students hall of residence, would suggest that it aiming for the student trade. However the advertised lunchtime food at over £2 a head is by pub standards (& student standards) no means cheap.

Downstairs the music didn't seem as loud and as a bonus there's Websters Choice & though good it wasn't in the same class as the Wilsons. The walls are bare brick again & just as gloomy. The roof is supported by several large black columns & there are several video machines with a pinball by the entrance.

At the end of drinking-up time the place adopts the method of playing silly music at high levels to drive people away - it worked very well in my case!

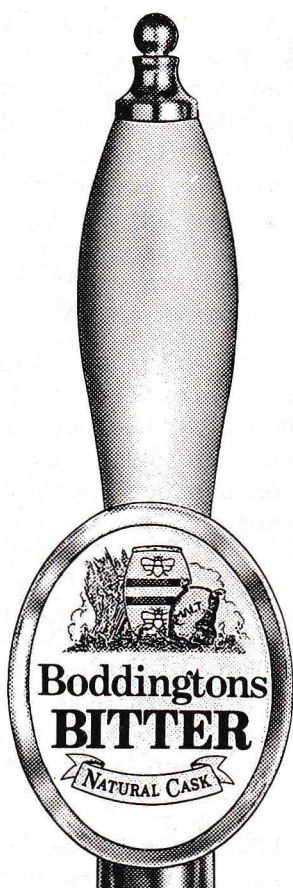
LETTERS...

From Mr. P.G.Edwardson.

A recent Sunday lunchtime visit to a Stockport pub was completely spoilt by noisy young children in the main bar. Not only is this very annoying to those in search of a quiet pint, it's also illegal, if the children are under 14. But I doubt whether the landlord would thank you for reminding him of the fact, so I'll vote with my feet and use another pub.

This seems to be an aspect of licensing law that is flouted far too often by licensees. I'm all in favour of letting children in pubs - but in proper, separate family rooms, not in the bars. The bars of pubs are not a suitable place for children, as the law quite rightly says.

Of course, if the brewers hadn't knocked down so many walls in the first place, they would find it much easier to set aside family rooms in their pubs.



Two Bevvies of Beauty

BODDINGTONS AND HIGSONS
TOGETHER.

A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES,
NOT TO MENTION DRY THROATS.

TRULY TWO BEVVIES OF
BEAUTY, YOU COULD SAY!

As Real Ale Lovers, you need no introduction to the deliciously nutty tang of Boddies bitter.

Now, however, you can also try the superb individual flavour of Higsons at many Boddies' pubs in the Stockport area. This noble brew from down the M62 has been winning friends among real ale drinkers for many years - 200 to be exact!

Like Boddies, Higsons is brewed in the traditional way, using only the finest malt and hops. So whether you stick to the local favourite or sample the strength of the guest from 'out west', you're still in for a treat.

Try a bevvie of beauty today. Or better still, try both.



STAGGER

WITHINGTON & WEST DIDSBURY.

By Stuart Ballantyne.

It was a large group of drinkers who gathered in the Midland, on the corner of Burton Road & Lapwing Lane, for this month's Stagger around West Didsbury and Withington.

The MIDLAND, a modernised, open-plan Whitbread pub, is tastefully decorated inside but this is spoiled by a number of obtrusive beeping and shrieking video games. The Chesters Bitter scored average marks, and the Castle Eden (which at 88p is reasonably priced in comparison with other Whitbread pubs in our area) was felt to be very good. Unfortunately the same could not be said for some of the pubs' customers as, even at the early hour of 7pm, two were so drunk that they had difficulty in remaining upright!

A few of our group made a quick dash across the

road to the Railway, a John Smiths pub, albeit a keg one. This is a truly marvellous small two-roomed traditional pub, retaining many original features and giving few concessions to the twentieth century. Definitely worth a 'CAMRA Pub Preservation Order' as it is one of the few pubs in the area that is genuinely unspoilt. A big question mark hangs over its future, however, as the brewery plans to extend the pub into the building next door - so please John Smiths take care over any renovations and at the same time reintroduce cask beer - the place deserves it.

We pressed on with anticipation to the Old House at Home on Burton Road but we were in for a shock as no real ale was in evidence. We learnt that a few weeks previous it had converted to keg for no apparent reason. We did what all discerning drinkers would do and took our twentyparty down the road to a pub that did sell the real stuff.

The WATERLOO, serving Wilsons & Websters Bitter was thus the next stop. Both beers were considered average, the mild, being keg, was not sampled. This is one of the pubs where the beer seems to have suffered since the closure of Wilsons Brewery in Manchester and the transfer of brewing to Websters in Halifax. Previously the beer was so good that you could smell the hops - on our visit it was not a patch on what it used to be. The pub itself is a nicely furnished two-roomer only spoiled by fake coal fires. It was nice to see customers playing chess on the bar, but I was disappointed to note the absence of the brass plaque in honour of the Secretary of the long standing bowling club, which was lost during the last refurbishment. In case you are wondering the pub is named after a greyhound that won the Waterloo Cup and is buried in the back yard. A sad reflection on recent troubles means that the pub closes 15 minutes earlier in the evenings - 10-45 - on Mondays to Saturdays.

Next onto the VICTORIA on Wilmslow Road (bypassing the Orion which is still keg-only). The Victoria has featured in the Good Beer Guide and on our visit both the Hydes Bitter and Mild scored between average and good. A nice touch was being able to listen to the pianist in one corner of the lounge.

Heading back up Wilmslow Road it's only a few yards walk to the ALBERT, the tiny Wilsons pub, recently redecorated outside. The pub can best be described as a basic, no frills, traditional locals pub. No mild was available but the Bitter was on and was thought to be in good condition.

The WITHINGTON ALE HOUSE was our next stop, selling Websters Choice and Wilsons Bitter. This house has split level seating areas, a

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BURTONWOOD
BREWERY



**A FAMILY TRADITION
OF FINE BREWING**

loud juke-box and a predominantly young clientele. I didn't like the (empty?) barrel of Hartleys suspended from the ceiling in a sling as to the best of my knowledge the place has never sold the products of Robinsons' Cumbrian subsidiary! Nor did I like the Real Ale posters advertising Lager & Stout! Both real beers were tried and were considered to be in average condition.

Now onto the RED LION passing the Turnpike having confirmed our suspicions that it was still keg-only. The Red Lion has recently been refurbished, and more extensive catering facilities added. This is a genuine old coaching inn and was so busy during our visit that we could only squeeze into the public bar. Full marks go to the regulars of the pub who, over recent years, have raised over £10,000 for the Pendlebury Childrens Hospital. Both the Marstons Bitter and Pedigree were well thought of scoring above average marks.

Just time now for a quick one in our last call of the evening at the MANOR HOUSE mid way between Withington and Didsbury. This large Tetley pub has a central bar, surrounded by drinking areas designed to look like separate rooms of a house. Home comforts abound with settees and armchairs to sit in, a conservatory, a library and roaring fires in the grates. One has the

feeling that all this is just a bit 'over the top' but it seems to work quite well and is evidently extremely popular judging by the crowds at the bar at last orders. The beer was remarkably good with the Tetley Bitter above average and the Burton Ale and Jennings Bitter very good indeed.

All in all an interesting and varied night, with some good pubs and some disappointing ones. Let's hope that the Railway in West Didsbury comes through the proposed changes unscathed, and, as ever, when we have more news, we will let you know through the pages of 'Opening Times'.

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

BROOKERS

We've been remiss in not mentioning the return of real ale to the former Brookfield Hotel on Wellington Road South in Stockport; now styled 'Brookers Bistrottheque' (whatever that means), it sells Websters & Wilsons Bitter and Websters Choie on handpump and boasts a late bar - it's certainly late opening, at 8pm. Don't expect a cheap pint - pre-budget Websters Choice was £1.03 which'll get you stronger Ruddles elsewhere.

THE BEER HOUSE

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

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Brown & Linfit Beers**

**Thatchers Traditional Cider
Hot and Cold Food**

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

Tel. 061 832 1452



PUB SHOPPING

Pubs traditionally sell beer, spirits, wine, non-alcoholic drinks & food, however there are many pubs throughout England that sell other items as well. How about the following: The Jolly Angler in Reading sells cream cakes over the bar & the Queens Arms at Ewshot, Hampshire does a nice line in hand made chocolates. Whilst food is generally available these days the White Hart, Hampstead Marshall, Berkshire specialises in Italian and the Castle in Shrewsbury serves Mexican (the Landlord has a Mexican wife!)

Forget Marks & Spencer, the Three Tuns, Henley, sells ladies knickers with the pub name on them and the Flying Dutchman at Biggin Hill has a launderette in the basement with lights over the bar to tell you when your wash is done.

The Castle in Farringdon tube station, London, is the only pub in the country to hold a pawnbrokers licence, the reason being that the Prince Regent lost his shirt on a cockfight and had to hock his watch over the bar.

The Plough, Oswestry has a tattooist actually in the pub (upstairs) and also has a decor featuring shop dummies dressed in fishnet stockings and suspender belts! Can you add to the list?

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CAMRA CALLING!

Once again we have our usual mixed bag starting on Monday, 7th. March with a social at The Fingerpost, Dialstone Lane, Offerton. As with all Monday socials we start about 8-30 to 9-00 pm.

Saturday 12th. sees us in Oldham with the rest of the Manchester Branches protesting about the planned closure of the Brewery there. See the front page for contact details.

On Monday 14th. we have a social at the Sidings, Holts new pub on Broom Lane, Levenshulme - proof that you can build a good new pub and not charge the earth for the beer (are you listening Whitbread?). The following night sees one of our major events - the presentation of our coveted Pub of the Year Award to Kay Ord at Ye Olde Vic, Chatham Street, Edgeley - a good night is promised.

A full week finishes on Friday 18th. with our ABC Stagger - Ardwick, Brunswick & Chorlton-on-Medlock. We meet at the Kings Head on Chancellor Lane at 7pm and again at the Church of Ardwick Green at 8-30 for those who prefer a later start.

Monday 21st. sees an, all too rare, social in East Manchester - the Locomotive on Ashton Old Road. A fine Boddies pub. This is followed on Thursday, 24th. by the Pub of the Month at the Arden Arms, Millgate, Stockport. An unspoilt gem where the licencees are also celebrating 25 years in the pub.

Something different on Saturday 26th. - a night out in Stalybridge including a visit to the Free House & Folk Club at the Station Buffet. It's best to catch either the 6.39 or 7.39 from Stockport & we'll all be meeting up in the Stamford Arms, Stamford Street at 8-30pm. (That's up the steps behind the old Town Hall).

Two more socials to see us into April - Monday 28th. at the Farmers Arms, Brinnington Road, Brinnington & 4th. April at the Milestone, Burnage Lane, Burnage.

If you want more info, please phone me, John Clarke, on either 477 1973 (night) or 831 7222 ext. 3411 (day).

MARCH				
.	6	13	20	27 ...
.	7	14	21	28 ...
1	8	15	22	29 ...
2	9	16	23	30 ...
3	10	17	24	31 ...
4	11	18	25	...
5	12	19	26	...

PUB OF The MONTH

The Pub of the Month Award for March has been given to the ARDEN ARMS, Millgate, Stockport. The Arden is a unique pub, rightly described in its entry in the Good Beer Guide for many years as a gem. Spotlessly clean, with gleaming brass, hand-restored highly polished tables - each with its own, real, pot-plant, three grandfather clocks, fish tank complete with goldfish, the snug only accesible by walking through the bar, Laurel the cat, with the endearing habit of walking across shoulders when the pub is full, oh, and the beer. Handpulled Robinsons Best Mild & Best Bitter, always in excellent condition. There's no draught lager, draught Guinness or draught cider.

Most importantly, however, is the fact that in March Jack & Beryl May celebrate their Silver Jubilee as tenants in the Arden.

Come along to the presentation night on Thursday, March 24th. and join us in congratulating Jack & Beryl on upholding the finest traditions of the English pub.

TO PULL OR NOT TO PULL

The Horse & Jockey in Hazel Grove is now selling handpumped Websters Bitter. Round the corner, the Royal Oak has bucked the usual Robinsons trend by installing hand-pumps to replace the electric variety. While this is an interesting move, it should be said that CAMRA has no intrinsic preference for either means of dispense. The criterion of a good pint is condition and taste - furthermore, the arguments of several respected Breweries (locally Hydes and in particular Banks's) in favour of electric pumps, on grounds of guaranteed full measure and ease of operation and maintenance are cogent and deserve respect.

SEEN OUTSIDE THE BAR:

Advertising banner outside Whitbread's Kings Tavern, Tyldesley:

"Traditional Sunday lunch served from 12 pm."

- Midnight feasts, perhaps?



The Red Lion WITHINGTON

LUNCH 7 DAYS A WEEK
ALSO MON.-FRI. 5.30-8.00

Handpulled Marstons
Pedigree and Bitter

Owd Rodger on draught
Newquay Steam Beers

PLATFORM ALTERATIONS?

Didsburys' only Good Beer Guide pub, the STATION, Wilmslow Road is about to be improved with the addition of an extra room providing much needed extra space. Presently the Station consists of a front bar behind which is the lounge. The old kitchen at the rear of this is to be converted into a games room where the cards & dominoes are to be supplemented by a darts board and a television (strictly sport only).

The bar is to be extended slightly, with new doorways to improve access. With the additional space it will be possible to include lunch time food though it is too early to say what this will consist of.

Work is due to start this month and should take only a few weeks to complete. The licensee assures us that the essential character of the pub will not be compromised **because of the alterations.**

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,

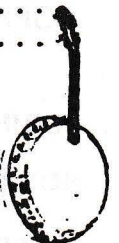
HOME COOKED FOOD AT LUNCHTIMES.....

LIVE MUSIC EVERY THURSDAY.....

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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)



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

MAKING A PILE

There are Penny Piles in many pubs, but has anyone seen one to rival the coin mountain at the Why Not?, Ashton New Road, Bradford? A yard high and more than a foot square at the bar, this three-tier monster was started two years ago by staff from the nearby Kaye Goodfellows plant hire firm. Since the pile is now distorting the bar, "it'll have to go" - and it will in fact be knocked over some time over Easter by a local celebrity.

All proceeds will go to the Cornea Graft Unit at Manchester Eye Hospital.

HEARD ON INTER-CITY:

Ladies & Gentlemen, this is the Chief Steward speaking. May I remind passengers this train has a Scottish licence and the bar is still open."



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!



REAL ALE IN CENTRAL & SOUTH MANCHESTER -

UPDATE NO. 6.

Sadly we must report the failure of Legendary Lancashire Heroes, the pioneering off-licence chain that first made good beer a take-home or party possibility throughout Greater Manchester. Their Withington shop went down in the general crash; and our other real ale losses this month are nearby for the Talbot in Fallowfield and the Old House at Home in Withington both now offer the Whitbread keg range only. To set against these losses, all we can offer is a clerical error - for the original list should have noted Yates's Merchants on Oldham Street in Central Manchester as offering Wilsons Bitter on its lone handpump.

There have been some changes of beer, though. In the Centre, the Beer House now has English Guineas Stout from Ron Crabtree's Sair home-brew pub near Huddersfield as a resident handpumped beer; the Crown & Anchor now has Taylors exquisite Porter instead of Ram Tam; the Coach & Horses is selling Tetley Mild instead of Burtonwood Mild; the Midland Hotel has Websters Bitter instead of Tetleys; and the Shakespeare has gained handpumped Websters Choice. On the Mild front, there have been several losses of real mild - at the Bridge Inn, Castle & Falcon, Crown (Deansgate), Crown & Kettle, Mama's and Pack Horse (all in the City Centre) - but a lone gain at the Crown & Cushion where Chesters Mild is now handpumped. Oh, and the Swan in Central Manchester has reverted to its old name, the Swan with Two Necks.

In the suburbs, we welcome the arrival of Ruddles Best Bitter at the Why Not? in Bradford; it should be noted, though, that to conserve quality not all beers listed as available here are necessarily on together. We have two mild gains in Levenshulme, Boddingtons on electrics at the Polygon, Wilsons on handpump in the Levenshulme - but in Withington, real Wilsons Mild has vanished from the Waterloo in favour of handpumped Websters Bitter. Finally, the Crown in Didsbury is now selling handpumped Davenports Bitter - a gesture towards choice which would have been more impressive had Greenalls not just shut down their splendid Wem Brewery in Shropshire.

Stop Press: We regret to report that the real Greenalls Mild has gone once more from the Angel, Wellington Street, Gorton (this pub is featured in our 'Pub Grub' column on Page 2)

THE NEW BREWERIES

THE FIRST PART IN A NEW SERIES - By Philip Levison.

In the South Manchester area we now have some 300 pubs selling 'real ale', but amongst that number there is one which is unique, because it's the only one that 'brews its own' - the Lass O'Gowrie, Charles Street, Manchester.

In order to appreciate fully how this has come about we have to go back into history, when local ale houses brewed their own beer, and each area, even each town, had its own distinctive brews. During the 18th. Century the trade developed, and one publican would perhaps supply a number of nearby pubs. Lack of transport kept this very much as a local trade initially, but then, as transport improved, and due to other factors (introduction of bottling, improvements in keeping quality), brewing companies started to emerge.

Just over 100 years ago, there were over 12,000 home-brew pubs, but due to changes just mentioned the number was steadily reducing and by 1914 it was down to about 1400. Incredibly, by 1974, only 4 had stayed the course. Familiar names to all real ale aficionados, these were:

THE ALL NATIONS at Madeley.
THE OLD SWAN at Netherton.
THE BLUE ANCHOR at Helston.
THE THREE TUNS at Bishops Castle.

Even in those far off early days of CAMRA, the esteem in which they were held can be judged by the adjectives used in the 1975 Good Beer Guide to describe their products - excellent, superb, exceptional, exalted - a different superlative for each brewery, making it impossible to differentiate one from another.

This opening article has only touched briefly on the early history of the small brewers, and further details will be given from time to time on what has happened during the last 7 or 8 years - how those original 4 stalwarts have been joined by first a trickle, then a noticeable flood of small brewers, scattered over the length and breadth of the country. Now standing at well over 100 new breweries, it has been called variously the "new wave", or the "pint sized revolution."

Part two next Month.

WONDERFUL WORTHINGTON

Bass in Burton brew a very special bottled beer, officially known as "Worthington White Shield", but better known to many barstaff as "White Worthy". As a naturally conditioned beer, with its own sediment in the bottle, it's a reminder of the classic bottled pale ales of years ago AND - we believe it's still fairly widely available in this area.

Certainly, a lot of Greenall's and Robinson's pubs stock White Shield, plus some Hydes's pubs (perhaps even a Bass pub?) If your local pub sells it please let us know, so that we can add this important item to our dossiers.



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Work is now well under way on the **Queens Head** (Turners Vaults) on Underbank, Stockport. The Wine Vaults have been leased and will become a Bistro whilst Sam Smiths have promised great things for the famous old pub, including cask beer - we'll keep you posted.

The Station, Didsbury, is to have a rear extension to the first floor. Full details on Page 9.

The **Cotton Tree**, Withington, (Keg only Greenalls) is to have a new entrance porch.

We are told that the mild in the **Railway**, Cheadle (Boddingtons) is now keg. Whilst on the subject of Boddies, can it really be true that a South Manchester licensee has been

asked whether she would like to take keg beer as well as or instead of cask? **We should be told!!**

Greenalls are making attempts to stop the confusion that exists with regard to their dispense equipment. They assure us that only cask conditioned beer will be dispensed from Handpumps, albeit the new-fangled electrically operated ones and that all keg beers will be dispensed from electric 'boxes'. This **should** end the dubious practice of pulling keg through handpulls but if you find an example where this is still going on please let us know.

We hear of impending changes of licences in two Burnage pubs - the **Milestone** (Banks's) and the **Victoria** (Boddies) both on Burnage Lane. More news when to hand.

In Central Manchester the new Free House, the **Beer House**, Angel St. off Rochdale Road, now sells Linfit English Guineas Stout on a regular basis. At 90p a pint it's a lot better value than the keg stout with a similar name!

Falling sales of Mild at the **Pack Horse**, Market Place, Stockport have resulted in a switch to keg. We are assured that if the demand is there that the traditional mild will return. This is a situation that is becoming all too familiar these days with the brewers refusing to promote mild why not make yours mild?

The **Golden Lion** (best known as the Yellow Cat), Hillgate, Stockport, is currently closed. The Brewery are actively seeking a new tenant for the pub - the only outlet in Stockport for Traditional Burtonwood Beers.

The Industrial action at Boddingtons last month brought a change of beer at the **Crown**. Heaton Lane & the **Greyhound**, Edgeley, Stockport with Robbies & Stones respectively being on offer after the Brewery lifted the tie.

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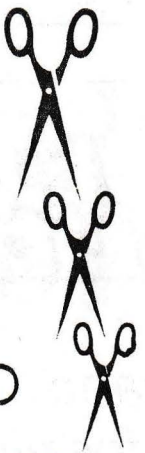
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