

# WHAT'S DOING

NOV  
1991



THE MANCHESTER BEER DRINKER'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

## FREE HOUSE FOR FARNWORTH



The old fire station on Albert Road, Farnworth, near Asda's car park, has become a free house called the Albert. The pub is owned by partners Willy Rignall (licensee) and Jack Cartwright and the beers currently on sale are Bass Light (£1.06), Stones (£1.16) and J W Lees (85p), all on handpump. Holts may make an appearance in January.

Stewart Revell

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## ELECTION FEVER

Already bored with the forthcoming General Election? Well, the Campaign for Real Ale recently launched its own manifesto and its policies will be presented to candidates of all political parties for action in the new parliament. The Campaign attacks the carve-up of the brewing industry by vested interests, and the way that large companies are getting around the 1989 Monopolies & Mergers Report proposals. It wants a ban on takeovers, greater control over supply deals between brewers and pub-owning companies, the extension of the guest beer to managed houses and action on local monopolies. Other policies include Sunday afternoon opening and the right of customers to be consulted about changes to their pubs, such as major refurbishments.

"As a strictly non-political campaign, we believe that politicians of all parties will listen to our views," says Campaigns Manager Stephen Cox. "Whenever the election comes, we want the two-thirds of adults who use pubs - not to mention the million people whose work is connected with the licensed trade - to be considered."

## PRESTWICH NEWS

The refurbishment of the Welcome Inn (Holts) on Bury Old Road is now well under way. It is the first major modernisation since the pub was rebuilt in 1936. Handpumps have made a "welcome" return to the newly-designed bars, which make the place look like a real pub again. The live entertainment on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights continues throughout the alterations.

Websters Green Label has reappeared at the Plough, Rainsough, at £1.06 per pint.

At the Commercial (Tetley), Heaton Park, the guest beer (Thwaites) seems to have become a regular. It sells well at 5p cheaper than Tetleys bitter at £1.10.

## LANCASTRIAN

The Lancastrian, a former Bass pub on Little Hulton's Kenyon Estate, is now a Hydes outlet (see August WD). On a recent visit Hydes bitter (£1.10) and mild (or light, £1.04) were on sale. The outside of the pub is in urgent need of attention, although some attempt has been made at removing the graffiti.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Believe it or not, the Ashley Brook (Holts, Seedley), is one year old this December. Trade has increased steadily over the year and the pub appears in the 1992 Good Beer Guide.

## BIG BREWERS PASS THE BUCK

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on brewing has become the whipping boy for all the ills of the industry. So successful has been the big brewers' propaganda machine that conventional wisdom now blames the MMC for many things. The police, Licensed Victuallers' Associations, tenants, managers, the general public and even members of CAMRA may believe that the MMC is responsible for:

- \* Pub closures
- \* Pub sales
- \* Brewery closures
- \* Breweries ceasing brewing
- \* 20-year leases
- \* Termination of tenancies
- \* Increased rents
- \* Price increases

Not true.

Pub closures are not new. In run down inner city districts pubs have been closing for years. As the recession has deepened, the rate of closure has accelerated. Not all closures are economic but may be related to drugs, violence, arson and revocation orders. Not all closures are confined to big brewers' pubs. In North Manchester, closures include free houses and pubs belonging to local independents and pub-owning groups as well as National brewers' pubs.

Pub sales were well under way long before the MMC first considered beer. Whitbread and Grand Met have been flogging pubs off for years. Current sales are not confined to the big brewers. If you drive round Manchester you're as likely to find as many Boddies and Greenalls pubs up for sale as Tetley or John Smiths houses. Boddies and Greenalls aren't affected by the MMC by virtue of both size and lack of brewing. Grand Met have moved out of brewing so they don't need to sell their pubs, but there are plenty of Wilsons pubs for sale.

Brewery closures have continued apace but this has more to do with overcapacity than the MMC. Rationalisation, badge brewing and branding are a symptom of our times and owe nothing to the MMC. The closure of Higsons, Oldham Brewery, Cook Street, Matthew Brown, Hartleys, etc, is a continuation of a process which has been in progress for a century or more.

Only one of the big six brewers has moved out of brewing - Grand Met. The others - Allied, Bass, Courage, S&N and Whitbread are both brewers and pub owners. Greenalls and Boddingtons have moved out of brewing - they didn't have to, so we can't blame the MMC.



Twenty-year leases have been on the way for some time. Grand Met's Innpreneur scheme predates the MMC report by some years. Twenty-year leases are being introduced not only by the big brewers but also by the pub-owning groups.

The termination of tenancies has more to do with the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Act than with the MMC. Security of tenure has made pub-owners reconsider their tenancy agreements. The 1992 single market will allow tenants greater freedom in purchasing which will affect all pub owners, big or small, brewers or not.

Rents have increased as a result of changes in the law of tenancy and provisions of the single market. Brewers have shifted the risk from themselves to the licensee where the licensee is not a manager under their control. To suggest that rents were subsidised in the past is a nonsense. If breweries are renting out buildings not businesses, then the rent should reflect the value of the building, not the business. There is a vast difference between the value of a pub as a building and as a business which includes fittings, fixtures and goodwill.

Price increases have nothing to do with the MMC. We're paying more than we were. Where's the money going if it's not going to the brewers and pub owners? Certainly not to the remaining tenants, who are often struggling to make ends meet.

The changes that have taken place would have happened anyway. They'd already started and they've applied to groups not affected by the MMC as well as those affected by it.

Big brewers are rapacious and greedy. They have little or no consideration for their employees, tenants, customers or public houses. They close breweries they've taken over, they dispossess long-standing tenants, overcharge their customers and ruin their pubs. But they're a little sensitive - they want to appear nice and caring - so what could be easier than to blame it on someone else - how's about the MMC?

Don't you believe it. All the ills of the brewing industry can be put at the door of the brewers. The MMC tried to remedy this. The fact that it seems set to fail is a testimony to the power of the brewers.

Roger Hall

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### CHURCH CHANGE

The Church on Church Road, Farnworth, is now a Websters "free house". It was a Thwaites's pub for a few years, and before that was a Greenalls pub.

## BODPUBCO NEWS

Peter Barnes

Two BodPubCo pubs in Stockport are for sale - the Kings Head and the Kings Arms. The Crown, Birkenhead, is soon to become the second free-of-tie alehouse along the lines of the Kings Arms in Salford. Old Shilling, the new low gravity beer, is on sale in the following outlets:

Farmers Arms, Brinnington Road, Brinnington, Stockport  
Crown, Ashton Old Road, Higher Openshaw, Manchester  
Gardners Arms, Lightbowne Road, Moston, Manchester  
George Hotel, Bury New Road, Prestwich, Manchester  
Grove Inn, Bury New Road, Higher Broughton, Salford  
Kersal Hotel, Moor Lane, Kersal, Salford  
Mechanics Arms, Dudley Street, Cheetham, Manchester  
Old Ship Hotel, Chapel Street, Salford  
Union Inn, Stockport Road, Levenshulme, Manchester  
Polygon, Barlow Lane, Levenshulme, Manchester  
Red Lion, Chapel Street, Patricroft  
Golden Lion, Barton Road, Eccles  
Grey Horse, Broadstone Road, Reddish, Stockport  
Victoria Inn, Burnage Lane, Levenshulme, Manchester  
Dutton Arms, Barton Road, Patricroft  
Ellesmere, Liverpool Road, Patricroft  
Huntsman, Firs Way, Catterick Avenue, Sale  
Manor Inn, Abbeyhills Road, Oldham  
Church Inn, Hilton Street North, Higher Broughton, Salford  
Gilnow Arms, Deane Road, Bolton  
Boddington 200, Carisbrook Street, Harpurhey, Manchester

The beer is also in pubs on the Wirral. The Gorton Mount, Mount Road, Gorton, is expected to join the list soon.

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## HIGHER IRLAM NEWS

The "Midsummer Madness" campaign, promoting Poachers cheap keg beers, stretches into winter at the Nags Head (Whitbread). A temporary (we hope) real ale casualty has been Chesters mild. Boddies and Chesters are over 20p a pint dearer than Poachers, but they should survive this intense keg campaign.

The White Lion/Sports (Websters) is in the doldrums. There's no cheap beer and no real ale either.

The Tiger Moth (Websters) is doing well after introducing Holts bitter as a guest brew. Holts mild may become a second guest beer.

## TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

The Shakespeare on Forge Lane in Bradford is a free house in an area which boasts no houses and few factories. Surrounded by the old gas works site, Philips Park and an old steel works, it is not the ideal situation for a pub. There are plans, however, to develop the area to include a new Olympic stadium. It was with this in mind that Jackie Young bought the Shakespeare some two years ago. It was a former Whitbread pub but had been vandalised and it cost Jackie some £60,000 to put the place into good order.

Unlike other pubs in the area, which had remained open and retained a clientele of former residents and workers, the Shakespeare had been closed and its trade had vanished. Jackie sold traditional beer but trade was slow and half a barrel of Boddingtons a week was the norm. The pub had previously had a reputation for drugs and the police weren't too keen on its reopening. Jackie struggled to make the Shakespeare into a decent pub, but geography and delayed plans were against her and eventually she went to the council, who agreed to buy the premises to develop the area along Philips Park Road.

Enter the local CAMRA branch, who campaign to save the pub along with some others affected by the development. Result, one aggrieved landlady who wants out as soon as possible. It is sad that we should lose any pub, but lose some we will, it's inevitable. I doubt whether any-





one could have made a success of the Shakespeare when history, reputation and location were against it. Other nearby free houses, like the Alexandra, the Hat & Feathers and the Bird in Hand, have also closed.

CAMRA cannot save every pub. We must set priorities. A pub of no particular architectural merit, with few customers, few CAMRA visitors, a reluctant licensee and no community support seems an unlikely candidate for a campaign. It has virtually no chance of success and is likely to alienate a licensee who's already pretty choked off with the licensed trade. Far better that efforts be channelled into pubs with architectural merit, with a loyal clientele, a keen licensee and deep community roots. CAMRA must be realistic as well as idealistic.

Roger Hall

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### PENDLETON POLE

The Maypole in Pendleton has joined the growing list of boarded up pubs in the inner (and not-so-inner) city.

### AND THE LORD SPAKE UNTO SAMUEL

The Lowry on Langley Road South, Salford, has been closed for a month or two and now it appears that the former Whitbread pub will reopen as something completely different. The nearby St George's Church is in a bad state of repair and there are plans to turn the 1970s estate pub into the new St George's.

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## ROCHDALE NEWS

The Cemetery Hotel, Bury Road, has not been bought by Whitbread, as reported recently. Instead, Martin Barrass has bought the place with the help of a tied loan from Whitbread. Martin runs the pub himself, rather than employing a manager, as happened in the past. Before coming to Rochdale, he kept pubs in Todmorden.

Whitbread, who originally sold the premises, have come full circle and spent several thousand pounds on improvements to the cellar. The thirteen handpumps which once adorned the bar are now down to seven, and six of these are devoted to Whitbread products, namely Boddingtons bitter, Flowers IPA and Castle Eden. Thankfully, the "guest pump" still serves a Taylors beer, either best bitter or Landlord. Other beers from Whitbread's "Guest Beer Portfolio" (most of which they brew themselves) will be sold, and it is possible that the Cemetery may take one of the true guests, such as Brakspears, Fullers or even Brains, which also appear on the Whitbread-approved list.

## HOLTS BRIDGEWATER

On the opening night of the new Bridgewater at Hollinwood (WD last month), the pub was extremely busy and 90% of the customers would probably not have been seen dead in the old pub! Some had never had the pleasure of drinking Holts beer before and most thought the 84p price tag was an opening night offer. Since the opening, pubs nearby seem quieter. Their prices are in the region of 110p-120p a pint and one, an Intreprenuer venture, has put up banners proclaiming, "Special offer - Websters Pennine Bitter only 99 pence!"

## PUB BEER FESTIVAL

Tetleys are putting on a traditional beer festival at the Barleycorn, Barlow Moor Road, West Didsbury. There will be about twenty cask beers available and the festival runs from 22nd November to 8th December.

## BURTON BEERS

The Burton Arms on Swan Street, Manchester, is now selling beers from the S&N range. These are Matthew Brown bitter, Theakstons best bitter and Old Peculier. Draught Bass is expected to stay, although it was not available on a recent visit.

## SHIP RE-LAUNCH

Nearly a year ago we reported that the Ship (Greenalls) at Irlam was about to start selling real ale. Well, these things take time(!) but in the next week or two the Ship will close for an expensive refit. Traditional ales will be on sale when it reopens.



## TRAFFORD & HULME NEWS

Last month we reported that the Church, Flixton, is selling Coachmans bitter. As well as being the first pub outside the city centre to serve the new beer, the Church is a conversion to real ale. It had been on fizz for many years, but now sells Greenalls mild, bitter and Original alongside the Coachmans.

Over in Chorlton, the Beech has expanded its guest beer range with the introduction of Cains alongside Taylors Landlord.

Wilson's mild continues to decline and probably will not last out the year. It has been replaced by Websters Green Label in the Orange Tree, Altrincham, and in the Peveril of the Peak, city centre.

### KING BILLY

The King William at Mosley Common, Boothstown, has been threatened with alterations for a number of years. Until recently the pub was being run by Cumbrian Leisure, but now Tetleys have taken it back and modernisation is imminent. The present "best room" will become the vault; a wall near the passageway will come down to create a larger drinking area and the bar will be extended.

### FIRE & FEATHER

The Hat & Feathers, a free house on Varley Street, Miles Platting, closed in September. It has been burnt out and is now boarded up, a sad end to an enterprising experiment in a difficult area. Round the corner on Bradford Road, the Fountain, a former Greenalls pub, now sells John Smith's ales, but it's still keg.

### OLD BOB

Readers who found themselves in BodPubCo establishments recently may have spotted beer mats and possibly a pump clip with "Old Shilling" emblazoned across it. This is a 3.1% ABV beer brewed by Mansfield Brewery and sold at the un-Whitbread price of 89p a pint. This is to get people to think they are getting a bargain, which they are, if you compare the price with the 115p being charged for Boddingtons bitter. Are Holts' prices having an effect on other brewers' prices? It is more likely that the clever marketing people are trying to fool people into believing that Boddies is stronger than it is. In fact, Boddies has a gravity of 1035 and can cost almost half as much again as Holts beers.

### VAUX IN OLDHAM

Vaux Brewery recently acquired three Wilson's pubs in Oldham - the Roebuck, King Street; Alexandra, Derker Street, and Church, Lee Street. The purchase is part of a deal involving some thirty Wilson's pubs in all.

## PASSPORT A SUCCESS

July's "Independents Passport" competition, organised by the Rochdale, Oldham & Bury branch of CAMRA, proved to be quite a success. Sixteen people actually completed the course and visited the required number of pubs in the branch area owned by independent brewers and two free houses. Last month the sixteen received their prizes at a presentation evening at the Tap & Spile in Rochdale. Various local brewers had kindly donated items. David Nightingale was the overall winner and he took away a voucher for a polypin of one of Oak Brewery's beers, donated by Tony Allen.



The pubs involved were the Help Me Thro', Bury (Thwaites); Dusty Miller, Bury (Moorhouses); Rose & Crown, Bury (free); Royal Oak, Heaton Park (Hydes); Ostrich, Heaton Park (Holts); Railway & Linnet, Middleton Junction (Lees); Radcliffe Arms, Middleton Junction (Burtonwood); White Hart, Oldham (Banks's); Oldham Hotel (Marstons); Dog & Partridge, Buersil (Vaux); Tap & Spile, Rochdale (free), and Browns No.1, Heywood (Oak).

The branch will be holding a bigger and better event next year.

**THE TORIES** in Scotland are determined to avoid an ignominious rout at the hands of Labour and the Liberal Democrats, and thus the constituency association in Kincardine and Deeshire has chosen a candidate who perfectly represents John Major's vision of Britain.

He is a 55-year-old Old Etonian, a prominent freemason and a member of the Royal Company of Archers called Humphrey Dumptie.

## HAD A GREAT FALL

It seems that the ban imposed by CAMRA HQ on writing about a former Campaign stalwart does not extend to Private Eye.



# LETTERS



## CORRECTION

Sir - There are a number of errors in the article by Peter Alexander (Oldham, Middleton & Bury News) in the October issue of What's Doing. The Beer Emporium on Union Street, at the corner of Waterloo Street, was formerly a Wilsons pub called the Waterloo, not the Nelson. The Nelson, a former Threlfalls pub, is on the corner of Union Street and Hobson Street. This pub has been tarted up and is now owned by Foo Foo Lamarr. It is not frequented by real ale lovers.

The Assheton Arms on Clegg Street is the ASHTON Arms. In addition to those beers listed, it has Old Peculier on handpump. Butterflies club is on the corner of King Street and Union Street and used to be the Astoria-Gaumont-Grand Theatre.

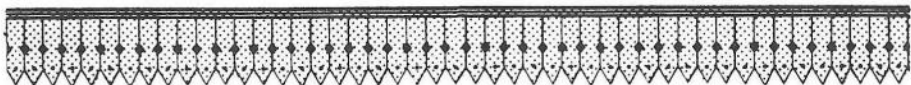
K Taylor

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## WHERE IS IT?

Does anyone recognise this pub? It is believed the photo was taken in the Manchester area in the 1950s or 60s. The words "Clarence Hotel" are just visible above the windows. Please let What's Doing know if you recognise it.





**WE'RE IN  
THE  
GOOD BEER  
GUIDE**



# THE STATION

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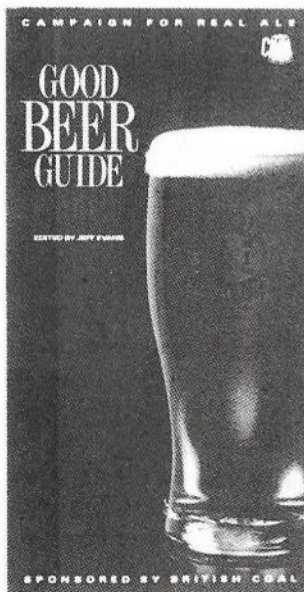


## SAVE THE PUBLICAN

In a new campaign, CAMRA is drawing attention to one of the biggest assets in the brewing industry - its people. Loyal, dedicated and hard-working tenants are being sacked, with untold damage to the character of the pubs they used to run. This is because many brewers are taking the best of their tenanted pubs into management. The breweries make higher profits in the short term, but the tenants are left with nothing for years of hard work.

Pub owners are switching to long leases, imposing impossible rents on tenants and making them responsible for expensive repairs. In some cases rents will treble, implying price increases of 20p a pint or more. Licensees will be caught between drinkers reluctant to pay higher prices and vastly higher payments to brewers. Not surprisingly, thousands of tenants are leaving their pubs, rather than signing agreements they believe will bankrupt them.

The magic ingredient of a good pub is atmosphere, and the hard work of a motivated tenant is vital in achieving this. For decades it has been tenanted pubs which have got into the Good Beer Guide ahead of the breweries' managed houses. In a couple of years, pub bankruptcies, soaring prices and collapsing trade will convince the brewers that they were wrong. But by then thousands of pubs of real character will never be the same again. It will also be too late for the tenants, who will have left the trade.



## NEW BEER GUIDE

The 1992 Good Beer Guide went on sale in October, price £7.99. It contains a county-by-county guide to nearly 5,000 pubs serving quality British beer, with all pub facilities highlighted: accommodation, meals, gardens, family rooms and, for the first time, no-smoking areas. There is up-to-date information on all Britain's 185 breweries and the 53 pubs which brew their own beer, listing all the 900 traditional ales they produce. Other features include articles on drinking beer at home, finding real ale abroad, the porter and stout revival, the death of keg beer and a review of television pubs.

# NOW & THEN

by Rob Magee

No.59

## AULD LANG SYNE

14 Manchester Road,  
Werneth, Oldham

The Auld Lang Syne closes on October 31st 1991 after nearly 140 years as a beerhouse and a public house. John Dunkerley obtained the first beerhouse licence in 1852. He applied for a full licence a couple of years later, but was refused. However, he must have been happy with his lot as he stayed at the beerhouse for over twenty years.

The address was at first given as Oldham Road, but by 1865 it had settled down to 14 Manchester Road. After Mr Dunkerley there came Sarah Lucas (1878-81) and John Clough (1883-91). Mr Clough also owned the property and during his time there was a survey of Oldham's beerhouses. This found that the Auld Lang Syne had no backyard and the back door opened on to a court which contained three cottages. It wasn't the ideal situation for a licensed house and any improvement to the sanitary conditions would have been expensive. Probably in view of this, John Clough sold out to Wilsons Brewery in 1891. Wilsons enclosed the yard and made other improvements, which led to the Auld Lang Syne acquiring a wine licence.





A report of 1894 found the beerhouse had four drinking rooms and two bedrooms but no bathroom. There was no overnight accommodation and no stabling. However, it was in good repair and very clean.

The "Auld Lang" was granted a music licence in 1953 and a full licence about ten years later. The ladies' toilets were moved inside in 1962, but during Barry Malpuse's tenancy (1981-85) new gents' and ladies' were provided (the best in Werneth!)

The pub became council property in the 1980s as they had plans to pull it down for redevelopment. It became a free house for a short time in 1988/9, then closed suddenly. Later in 1989 Robinwood Brewery of Todmorden took over. Sadly, the council announced their intention to close the Auld Lang Syne at the end of October. The manager, Brian Ashford (the pub's 30th licensee), is moving to the Beer Emporium on Union Street. This was called "Busby's" from 1986 and before that the Waterloo Hotel, first licensed in 1861 and kept by - but that's another story!

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## CITY FESTIVAL

Hard on the heels of the Manchester International Festival, the City is to host yet another worthwhile event. This time the City Arms, Kennedy Street, is holding a mini beer festival for the two weeks commencing 6th November. The beers on offer will include Everards Tiger, Jennings Sneek Lifter and Taylors Landlord, as well as Jennings bitter and Tetley dark mild and bitter.

**WHAT'S DOING** contributions should be sent to the editor c/o 88 Ringley Road, Stoneclough, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 9ET. News, articles, letters, etc, must arrive by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Send cheque/PO for £2.40, together with your name and address, to Roger Hall, 123 Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester M9 2PW, for 6 issues. Cheques made out to "What's Doing".

**BACK NUMBERS:** 15p per copy. Send stamped addressed envelope to Roger Hall, address above.

To join CAMRA send £10 to Membership, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3BW.

**WHAT'S DOING ADVERTISING:** Enquiries to the editor, address above. Full page £25,  $\frac{3}{4}$  page £20,  $\frac{1}{2}$  page £15,  $\frac{1}{4}$  page £7.50. Discount on bookings for 6 months or longer.



## OKTOBERFEST 1991

### BEINLOS BAYERISCHE BIER BERICHT

The first post-war Oktoberfest to take place in a reunited Germany ended on Sunday 6th October. The world-wide recession meant a marked drop in the number of overseas visitors, but this was partly offset by an increase in the number of locals. Despite the drop in numbers, the landlords seemed reasonably happy. Peter Schottenhamel, landlord of the tent of the same name, said that the lack of foreigners meant there were fewer problems and all in all it was more fun. Willy Heide,

landlord of Pschorr Bräurol, said that, with the exception of the last Saturday, when an Italian invasion had spoiled the fun, there had been a much more peaceful and local atmosphere. Even in the notorious Hofbräuzelt, landlord Günter Steinberg said there were far fewer foreigners and more locals, leading to a much more "Munich" atmosphere - his tent is usually full of brawling Aussies and Kiwis.

The local paper, TZ was campaigning against the rising prices. The average price this year of DM8.50 a litre is a 13% increase on last year. Over the last ten years prices have risen a "massive" 60%. There are horror stories of a DM10 litre by 1993! (In WD October 1981 Hydes mild was noted at 39p a pint and Boddies bitter 43p - both have risen by approximately 250%!)



A brand new home brew pub opened just in time for the millions of "wies'n" visitors. Löwenbräu have converted one of their premises into an immaculate home brewery/bar/restaurant. The Unions-Bräu, at Einsteinstrasse 42, sells unfiltered Helles straight from the wooden barrel on the bar at DM4.30 for half a litre. An excellent product served in an excellent atmosphere.

Final scores for the 1991 Oktoberfest - 6.4 million visitors, 5.2 million litres of beer, 155,000 litres of alcohol-free beer and 25,000 litres of milk.

Paul Roberts

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# PROTECT YOUR PLEASURE



## JOIN CAMRA NOW

Just fill in the form below and send, with a cheque for £10 (payable to CAMRA Ltd) to Fiona Gibbons, CAMRA, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3BW.

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ADDRESS .....

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..... POST CODE .....

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. I enclose a cheque for £10 (£14 if overseas).

Signed ..... Date .....

# rupert

I have been approached, albeit indirectly, by an exile from Scouseley with a request that he appear in these columns. Impeccable credentials as a general dick are necessary but not sufficient for inclusion. Evidence of past indiscretions, sexual, psychological or financial, will almost certainly guarantee consideration in a favourable light. An element of enthusiastic inadvertence can also play a part. For example, the Snobley and Snoot Magna branch produced a very wonderful imbiber's vademecum to the hostleries of Snobley. This went down like a lead balloon at HQ, who thought Rumpleshirtscream and his chaps a bit naughty for advertising Brobdingnags' nasty amber nectars. The postmen took to wearing asbestos-substitute gloves as vitriolic correspondence passed back and forth. The hapless reviewer was accused of being a prepubescent hack who was still in nappies when our stalwart Snoblies were beating Dillons into a pulp. Eventually Mr Boss Man had to be called in and he sent the squabbling parties into neutral corners and declared that never, ever again would St Allballs review the tortured scribblings of the nether regions. A sad move for an organization which has thrived on backstabbing and internecine strife.

It is crystal clear that nobody in Snobley and Snoot Magna, least of all Rumpleshirtscream and Charlie Super, has demonstrated the vision, evenhandedness and judgement necessary to become a campaign boss-person. Our own dear leader, Friggin Billy Bog, has certainly come up trumps in this department, don't you know. As he is only too well aware, secrecy in the venue for the launch of the Topers' Vademecum is a prerequisite. Billy had done this good. Without the local branch knowing anything at all about it, he'd arranged to launch the guide in a Slumley pub which sold Dane's Scouseley ale. The fact that the hostelry wasn't in the guide was an added bonus. When the pig-headed, argumentative and uncooperative spoilers from Slumley found out by accident what was going on, they were proper angry and failed to show the respect due to their superiors, threatening to have Billy tarred, feathered and pilloried. Quite rightly, Billy, conscious of their total ingratitude, thought them unworthy recipients of such an honour and accolade and took his bat and ball to Scouseley, where Dane's beer factory would host the launch. Snobley dignitaries should learn from Billy's example if they wish to nurture leaders of the future.

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Contributors to this issue: Glenn Worth, Paul Roberts, Roger Hall, Rob Magee, Keith Egerton, Peter O'Grady, Peter Barnes, Stewart Revell, Graham Mason, Jim Bracken, Bill Collier.  
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# Branch Diary

## ROCHDALE, OLDHAM & BURY

- Tues 5 Nov 8pm, Branch Meeting, Blue Bell, Sunnybank, Bury
- Sun 10 Nov, Middleton Crawl. 12.00 Crown, Long Street; 12.30 Boars Head; 1.00 Ring o'Bells; 1.30 Brunswick, Townley Street, then Odd-fellows Arms, Oldham Road.
- Thurs 14 Nov, 8pm. Social at the Beer Emporium, Union Street, Oldham. Free house with range of beers.
- Tues 19 Nov 8pm. Committee meeting, Old Dun Horse, Bolton Road West, Ramsbottom, Bury.
- Tues 3 Dec 8pm, Branch meeting, the Junction, Green Lane, Middleton Junction. Possible speakers from Trading Standards/Environmental Health.
- Sun 8 Dec 12.30pm. Social, Farmers Arms, Simister Lane, Simister, Prestwich
- Tues 10 Dec 8pm, Committee Meeting, Dog & Partridge - details next time.

ADVANCE NOTICE: Tues 17 Dec, Branch Xmas Social, Hunt Lane Tavern, Hunt Lane, Chadderton, 8pm.

Contact: B Lee 0706 824407 (h) 061 766 6601 (w)

## NORTH MANCHESTER

- Wed 6th November, Bradford (Manchester) Crawl. Cricketers Arms, Bradford Road, 7pm; Bradford 8pm, Magpie 8.30pm
- Wed 13 Nov, Committee/Social, Old House at Home (Holts), Whit Lane, Salford. 8pm
- Wed 20 Nov, Branch Meeting, Kings Arms, Bloom Street, Salford, 8pm.
- Wed 27th Nov, PRICES SURVEY. Report to Wheatsheaf, Oak Street, Manchester, from 7pm onwards to receive instructions.
- Wed 4 Dec, Weaste & Seedley Crawl. Swan, Eccles New Road, 7pm; Coach & Horses 8pm. Finish at Ashley Brook (Holts), Liverpool Street.

Contact: Roger Hall 740 7937

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## HOLTS IN CHINATOWN

Holts have applied for planning permission to build a three-storey pub on Portland Street, near the Circus on the corner of Princess Street. The existing buildings would be demolished but the facades would be retained with some alterations.

## NEW STAMPING GROUND

An application has been made to convert the Penny Black in Cheetham into a warehouse.



# THE QUEENS ARMS

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*and weekly guest beers from around  
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**\* \* OPENING HOURS \* \***

Sun: 12.00-3.00. 7.00-10.30

Mon: 12.00-4.00 7.00-11.00

Tues: 12.00-4.00 7.00-11.00

Weds: 12.00-4.00 6.00-11.00

Thur: 12.00-4.00 6.00-11.00

Fri: 12.00-11.00

Sat 12.00-4.00 7.00-11.00

A selection of hot & cold  
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