

Opening Times



STOCKPORT AND SOUTH MANCHESTER CAMRA

No. 36 APRIL 1987

THE E.E.C. DAMBUSTERS

By Peter Edwardson.

The European Court of Justice has carried out a "dambusting raid against West Germany's pure beer laws that threatens to unleash a flood of inferior foreign beer onto the German market.

The Court has ruled that German's 470 year-old "Reinheitsgebot" was a restraint of trade which stopped foreign brewers competing in the German market. This law originated in Bavaria & was adopted all over West Germany in 1952. It lays down that the only ingredients permitted in beer are malt, hops, yeast & water, plus wheat in some traditional specialities.

Foreign brewers can, and do, use all kinds of inferior materials, including sugar, maize, rice, potato starch and a variety of chemical additives such as enzymes, alginates, ascorbic acid & sulphur dioxide. In many countries, including Britain, there is no requirement to list ingredients on the label. Interestingly, Guinness was one of the few foreign beers that could be sold in Germany.

The Germans are the EEC's most enthusiastic beer drinkers, with an average consumption of 250 pints a year, compared with 190 in Britain. Most German beer is of the lager type, but, brewed from high quality materials, lagered for months, unpasteurised & only lightly carbonated. There is a wide variety of beer styles - dark lagers, smoked beers, wheat beers & top fermenting "altbier" similar to British ales, all brewed under the 'Reinheitsgebot'.

The Germans have a fierce pride in the purity of their national drink, and are unlikely to welcome foreign beers with open arms. They argued that the average male gets over 25% of his daily nutrition from beer & so would be at risk from large doses of additives in foreign beers. The European Court would have none of it & insisted that they open their market to inferior beers.

The decision goes against the whole trend of thinking which sees additives in food & drink as dangerous and unnecessary. Competition should not be put before quality & purity to allow the free distribution of potentially harmful rubbish.

Would it not have been better if the Court had banned all additives and insisted that all beer be brewed only from pure, wholesome and traditional ingredients - malt, hops, yeast and water?



Leadboiler, Titanic, Moonraker, Owd Rodger, Pendle Witches Brew, Miners Arms Governors Ale, Oakhill Farmers Ale, English Guineas Stout, Merrie Monk, Robinsons Dark Mild, London Pride - all these, and many more traditional British Beers, together with Kingston Black Cider, Perry, Dry & Sweet Ciders will be assembled for your taste buds to be well and truly tickled at the First Stockport Beer Festival to be held at the College of Technology, Wellington Road South from the 23rd., to the 25th., April.

In all there should be over 30 beers from 20 Breweries from as far afield as Scotland, Somerset, Herefordshire and Middleton Junction!

Full details of Opening Times etc., will be found inside but in the meantime make sure you leave at least one evening free to taste the Best of British Beers!

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LUNCH & EVE



MONROES

We reported in February's 'Opening Times' that Monroes, London Road, Manchester, was undergoing a major revamp. The thoughts at the time were that the pub would become 'instant Victorian' and get a new name.

Wrong on both counts!

Still callwd Monroes, it's now a two roomer with a semi-Victorian themed public bar (the pin ball machine looks out of place to say the least) and a huge completely over the top lounge. Large pictures of Marilyn Monroe predominate, overshadowed only by the vast illuminated Wurlitzer Jukebox. It's so kitsch and tacky that it's quite attractive in a strange sort of way.

Only one cask beer is available - the less than inspiring Chesters Bitter which will set you back 78p a pint - or 40p a half - I always thought that a half of 78 was 39 - but we'll let that pass.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH.

No the Austrian Government have decided to use their confiscated contaminated wine mixed with salt to de-ice the roads - isn't it time our Government used our own brewed chemicals, lager, in the same manner?

CAMRA CALLING

This month is Beer Festival Month - so not quite so much going on.

We kick off on the 6th., April with a social at the SUN IN SEPTEMBER, Burnage Lane. A good Sam Smiths pub, this, selling excellent Old Brewery Bitter. We start at 8-30-9-00 pm.

The Branch Annual General Meeting is on Thursday, April 9th., at the Blossoms, and we follow this on Monday, 13th., with a two-way social in Hazel Grove. Times are 8-30 - 10-00 in the Grove and 10-00 - 11-00 across the road in the Woodman.

Pub of the Month is on Thursday, 16th., at the ROMPER, Pinfold Lane, Ringway. A bit out of the way this one, so transport will be laid on. Phone me for details. On Monday 20th., we have a social at the Waggon & Horses on Hyde Road. This is a Holts pub and rather run down at the moment - there's a new landlord however & the brewery are apparently going to spend about £70,000 on the place.

Thursday 23rd., to Saturday 25th., sees the event of the year - the First Stockport Beer Festival - Be there!!!

On Monday 27th., we'll be winding down from the Festival at the Station in Didsbury (Marstons) and we finish off April's events on Friday, 1st., May (!) with the 'Portwood Circular' crawl - 7-00 pm kick off at the Arden Arms, 8-30 in the Rifle Volunteer and back to the Arden Arms again by 10-45pm.

As usual, if you want more information, please phone me, John Clarke, on 831-7222 extension 307 in the day, or 477-1973 at night.

FAIR SHARES?

CAMRA once spawned a pub-owning offshoot called CAMRA (Real Ale) Investments. Through the vagaries of takeovers, this has now become a firm called Midsummer Leisure PLC; at their last AGM, the Registrar stated that some 75 shareholders from the old CAMRA Investments days were still on the books but could not be traced owing to change of address or a similar reason. If any of the 75 are reading this and would like to either realise their investment or explore the delights of their Company - which range from a disco in the Swansea valley to a snooker hall in Derby the Registrar can be contacted at: City Gate Registrars Ltd., 2, Canary Wharf, London E14 0SI

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PLACES TO VISIT AROUND AND ABOUT.....

ECCLES

By Humphrey Higgins.

The North Manchester town of Eccles is not renowned for examples of scenic delight or architectural beauty - but what it lacks in this respect it more than adequately makes up for in its wide range of excellent and varied watering holes!

Transport to Eccles is very good - with the 22 bus going direct from Stockport via Chorlton, Stretford & Urmston (last bus back is 10-46 from Eccles bus station) and there is an excellent rail service from Manchester Victoria.

Thanks to the efforts of North Manchester Camra, the drinker can now enjoy his pint up to the civilised hour of 11 pm every weekday - a freedom that we in Stockport have had for the past two years.

Anyway - onto the pubs and with seven real ale outlets on Church Street alone a full day out is advised! The RAILWAY offers a very acceptable pint of Tetleys in a traditional atmosphere and opposite you could try the CROSS KEYS for Bass & Stones but the Bass was off and the Stones variable to say the least on my visit. There's a good pint of Boddies to be had in the ODDFELLOWS and Greenalls can be sampled in the FOX VAULTS. For Wilsons make a bee line for the TOWN HALL where there is an excellent pint of mild, bitter and Websters

The Castlewoodⁿ

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Children Welcome 11-3 & 5.30-7pm

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

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SAMUEL WEBSTER



WILSONS

Choice - which, surprisingly is a very good seller. Yorkshire Bitter is also available and it's not surprising that the quality is good as the pub is now tenanted by Gordon McTear from the GBG listed New Inn in Stockport

Opposite is the DUKE OF YORK, recently refurbished and serving good Taylors Landlord, Best Bitter & Ram Tam along with Chesters mild and bitter & Marstons Pedigree and there is also a fortnightly guest beer.

Sam Smiths OBB was on good form at the ALBERT EDWARD on my last visit and this is a nice little pub to boot.

Eccles is, of course, a veritable Mecca for Holts lovers and no better example of this fine brew is the LAMB on Regent Street. A fine, traditional pub, this - lots of polished wood and etched windows and the bar is very reminiscent of that in the Griffin, Heaton Mersey - pity about the flock wallpaper, though. Another good pint of Holts can be had in the WELLINGTON, though the pub is pretty uninspiring.

On Liverpool Road there are two traditional Wilsons pubs - the DIAMOND XX and the BLACK BOY - both decent ale and no-nonsense boozers. Decent Boddingtons, too, in the 'estate type' ELLESMERE opposite.

There's also an excellent curry house to while away the closed session - the Selina on Church Street.

I've hardly done credit to the whole of the town - the SWINGING BRIDGE out on Barton Road is well worth a visit as is the DROP INN on Monton Road - both Free Houses.

All in all a town to come back to!

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STAGGER

THE CHEADLE CHALLENGE - By Rhys Jones.

As one of the more pleasant urban villages on Manchester's Southern rim, Cheadle is prime pub-crawling territory. No surprise, then, that our recent crawl attracted a large and enthusiastic turnout. As ever, comments on the pubs and the beers are based on how we found things on the night, and shouldn't be taken as "CAMRA's last word."

We started in the WHITE HART, at the western end of High Street. An imposing building, it's been much revamped inside to provide a fairly standard lounge, though some attractive etched glass still remains in the front door. It sells both Boddingtons beers, now on handpump; mild was judged good, while bitter was well above average.

Just across the road lies the CROWN, a Hydes pub converted from a couple of shops in the early 70s and selling mild and bitter on electric pump. This has never been Cheadle's most attractive pub, but it's looking rather pleasanter since the arrival of Ralph Heatley, formerly of East Didsbury's Gateway - whose pledge to remove the hideous wallpaper has been fulfilled! Both beers were above average, with the mild securing higher marks by the merest whisker.

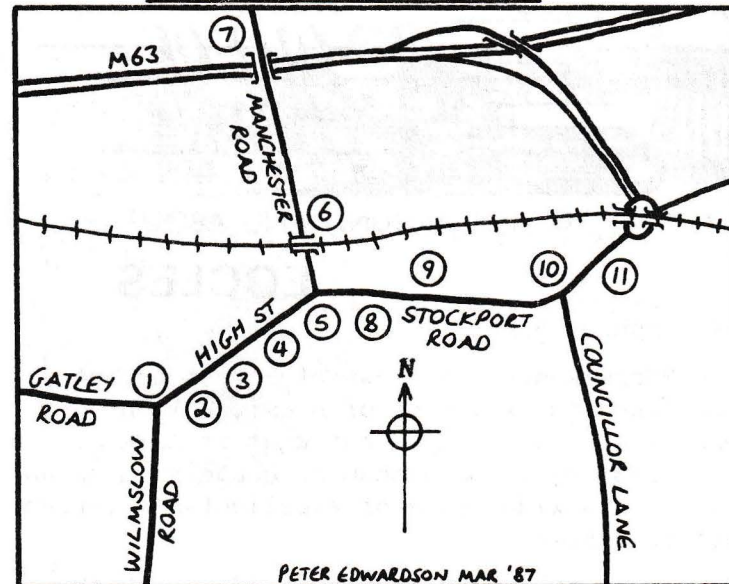
The VINE is the only pub in the village owned by Pennine Hosts. The decor is tasteful but oh so familiar from so many other pubs run by Hosts. Surprisingly, only one real ale is on sale. Wilsons bitter on handpump - many Hosts

The Nursery Inn

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THE CHEADLE CRAWL



KEY: 1. WHITE HART; 2. CROWN; 3. VINE; 4. STAR;
5. GEORGE & DRAGON (KEG ONLY); 6. RAILWAY; 7. STATION;
8. ROYAL OAK; 9. RED LION; 10. QUEENS; 11. PRINTERS.

pubs now have at least one Websters beer. Whilst one or two of the party managed to enjoy it, the beer was generally rated below average. A notable feature of the pub was the obtrusive piped music.

Onward now to the STAR, a Hydes' pub whose splendid exterior and revolving door must surely raise the highest expectations in any newcomer to the area. Once inside, though, such hopes are dashed by the drab and box-like interior, complemented on our visit by equally dismal beer - both electric pumped mild and bitter were judged below average.

Despite having no passenger station, Cheadle is traversed by two railways, so it's no surprise to find pubs called both the Railway and the Station and Boddingtons RAILWAY, on Manchester Road, was our next call. This is a theme pub where the railway theme has been laid on with a trowel, and although there are a number of authentic items lurking amongst the tat, it was far too busy for us to find them. The beers, handpumped mild and bitter, were both above average, the bitter being marginally preferred.

The STATION, opened to a fanfare last year as one of Banks's growing holding in the area, is in fact the old Cheadle North railway station and as such doesn't need an applied railway theme - it has the real thing out the back in the shape of the freight line down which trundle 500 ton loads of limestone (mind you, there are a couple of semaphore signal arms displayed in the pub if you know where to look). This place produced the only bouncer of the night - however only one of the two doors was so guarded and while bouncers and good pubs don't usually

STAGGER - continued.

Go together this one at least fulfilled one useful function by opening the door for us on entering and leaving. Mild and bitter, both on electric pumps, were both above average, with the bitter rated slightly more highly; nobody tried the Black Country Bitter, though this is understood to be one of the few pubs in the area where the lower gravity bitter is still available cask-conditioned.

Back into the village centre now, to Robinsons' ROYAL OAK, a pub which never seems quite to live up to its potential, though that's not to deny that it's a perfectly good pleasant and friendly local - nice to see a flight of Guinness toucans on the wall. The handpumped bitter was above average, while those seeking something different opted not for mild, but for Old Tom, which was predictably very good.

Across to the RED LION, where it was standing room only in an odd semi-open plan layout. The pub boasts a handsome bank of five handpumps, and the very prominent pricelist is praise-worthy - nice to see licensees taking their legal obligations seriously. The pubs real claim to fame is to be one of the very few pubs selling Robinsons Ordinary Bitter, a distinctive brew well worth seeking out. We found it to be on good form, as was the mild.

Our next call, the PRINTERS, was, as expected, the busiest pub of the night. It's a small pub, retaining a choice of rooms, and its strong local following means it soon fills up. The beers available are Robinsons mild and best bitter, both on electric pump. Bitter was good, mild was very good.

On our way to the Printers, we had deliberately skipped the QUEENS ARMS on the other side of the road, intending to finish there. This proved a wise decision, since, while the pub was busy enough, there was significantly more room than in the Printers. The Queens is another outlet for Robinsons Ordinary Bitter, served on handpump alongside mild, with Old Tom from the cask in the winter months. Our decision to finish here was doubly justified by the quality of the beer, which gained the most consistently high ratings of the evening - a fitting result for a fine local.

FOOTNOTE: There is one other real ale outlet in the village - the Conservative Club, which sells Boddingtons bitter & Robinsons mild and going in to check it out local CAMRA stalwart Neil Kellett was apparently publicly harangued and dealt a £2 fine for late payment of subscriptions! When eventually obtained, the Boddingtons bitter rated slightly above average.

ON THE RIGHT LINES

We are delighted to welcome Eric and Sylvia Sandiford as the new Tenants at Holts' Railway on Manshaw Road, Openshaw.

Eric and Sylvia, whose first pub this is, took over in the last week of February - and their first task was to clean the pub of its accumulation of dirt! It's good to have a couple in the Railway who appreciate the importance of hygiene, and the difference is obvious - the pub's infamous musty aroma has gone, and the place looks altogether sprucer.

Further progress depends on the brewery matching the time and effort (and money) that the new licensees have put into the place. Holts' plans include restoring the famous outside lamp to its former glory, and doubling the size of the ladies toilet to two spaces - though whether the wooden seats will remain is unknown!

A further possibility, though a decision on this has yet to be taken, is knocking through from the main bar to a currently unused back room which boasts a broad brick chimney-breast - this offers some interesting decorative possibilities, and it is to be hoped that Holts pursue the idea.

Thank goodness, it's back.

Now you can try a taste of J.B.A. Premium bitter - the beer that became a legend in its own time.

Originally brewed at the Almond family brewery in Wigan, this superb full-bodied beer captures the full flavour of a bygone era.

J.B.A. Premium bitter is now being brewed again in the time-honoured tradition, allowing you to enjoy a

J.B.A. taste of the past again.

Welcome home.



Brewed by Burtonwood Brewery



By John Clarke.

Back to Manchester this month and the Bowling Green, Grafton Street, Chorlton-on-Medlock. The Bowling Green once belonged to the Salford brewer, Groves and Whitnall who fell victim to Big Seven member Greenall Whitley in 1961. The brewery was closed in 1972 and the Bowling Green now offers Greenalls cask beers, unusually selling the full range - mild, bitter and Original, all on handpump.

Custom comes mainly from the nearby hospitals and medical school and although fairly quiet on my visit, it gets busy at the end of the week. The food is fairly standard pub food but portions are generous and the price low.

On my visit there were two specials available; 'Home-made' steak and kidney pie, chips, peas (or beans) and gravy at £1.10 or chicken, veg & chips also at £1.10. I chose the steak and kidney pie and was most impressed - a large slice of pie with chunks of meat and kidney, a good portion of chips & peas (processed unfortunately, but you can't have everything.) Very tasty and filling to say the least. The chicken etc. looked equally good.

Apart from the two specials there are a variety of other items, divided up on the menu into 'snacks' and 'meals'.

The snacks range from salads (ham, cheese, beef at 40-45p; toasties (cheese, ham, cheese and ham) at 40-50p to a variety of barmes, for example steak & onion 45p, sausage 35p.

The meals are similar but larger - ham or cheese salad at £1.25, steak barm, burger barm or sausage all with chips and veg at 90p which will also get you sausage, egg and chips. Curry with rice or chips is available at £1.25 and this looked extremely good.

An unusual feature is that you give your christian name when ordering, which is then called out when the food arrives - much nicer than an anonymous number!

So, not very sophisticated food, but good, plain and filling and at prices that are difficult to beat. Definitely one to visit if you are in the area.

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BASS NEWS

The tied estates director of Bass North West has recently told CAMRA that the conversions of pubs to cask Stones are proceeding apace. They have apparently starting selling cask beer in 50 of their 140 managed houses.

We have also been assured that if any licensee wishes to sell cask beer, provided that the cellar facilities are suitable, the brewery would provide the beers required.

Locally the plan to start selling cask Stones at Fobs Wine Bar in Didsbury has temporarily foundered but Bass assure us that they are looking at the possibilities of spending some money to provide suitable cellar facilities. Meanwhile the 'on-off' saga of whither cask? at the Hope, Heaton Norris, looks set for a satisfactory conclusion. Bass plan to refurbish the pub and have told us that when work is complete the pub WILL be selling cask beers.

So all is not too bad on the Bass front - remember when you're in your Bass local, ask the licensee to request cask beer from the brewery.

REAL SYRUP?

You might be forgiven for thinking that it would be hard to make processed beer taste any worse than it does at the moment. However you can rest assured, because apparently the big brewers have teams of dedicated scientists working on the problem at this very moment! Perhaps that's why the price of a pint is so high.....

According to no less an organ than the "Financial Times", 'Processes have been perfected by leading Brewers in Britain and the Netherlands for concentrating beer into a highly intoxicating syrup.

'In theory, rather in the fashion of pub cola dispensers the syrup can be diluted into an acceptable drink, reputedly indistinguishable from 'real' beer, by the addition of carbonated water at the bar.'

Whether British drinkers will really be unable to tell the difference is very doubtful, and it's most unlikely they'll give this new brainwave a 'cordial' reception!!

OLD TOM KING!

Regulars at the Old King, Portwood, Stockport, will have been surprised by the sight of a cask of Robbies Old Tom on the bar. Nothing odd about that you say, except that the Old King is a Bass pub.

At first we thought that it was a strange trading agreement (Robbies sell Tennants Extra Lager from Bass) but we have now been told that Old Tom was put into selected Bass houses for an experiment (it was also available in the Burton Arms, Swan Street, Manchester) which has now ended.

Let's hope that the experiment was a success - a quality Old Ale would improve the Bass range no end.

Stockport is to get its very own blob-shop. Yes, a Yates Wine Lodge is to open in the town by the end of the year. It'll be located in the old District Bank premises on St. Petersgate & will be one of the new up market lodges which are replacing the old spit and saw dust establishments. Most Yates' sell a cask beer into the bargain so that's something to look forward to as well - Holts would be nice.

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TETLEYS BRANCH OUT

Readers may recall the plans last year of Barry Sullivan, the former owner of the Shady Oak in Bramhall, to build a pub at the Seven Arches Garden Centre on Ladybridge Road, Cheadle Hulme. The plans fell through as a result of a large number of objections by local residents.

However, Tetleys have now succeeded in getting planning permission for the site and are building a new hostelry there.

Watch this space for more details.

BEER FESTIVAL SPECIAL OFFER.....

Reduced admission rates to evening sessions of the Stockport Festival can be had for parties of 10 or more. For details please contact Andy Cooper on 0625 872641 (day) or 477 2959 in the evenings.

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THE BEAKS TO BLAME?

It has come to light that the licensing Magistrates in Greater Manchester appear to be applying a very harsh interpretation to the laws regarding pub renovations.

The law requires that a licensee must be able to supervise adequately the whole of the licensed premises.

It appears that local magistrates take this to mean that the licensee must be able to see all parts of the pub from the bar. This has led to some appalling opening up of pubs in parts of our area - as readers will no doubt be aware.

Could this sound the death-knell for of Greater Manchesters' best pubs?

STRONGARM?

The campaign to abolish handpumps which dispense keg beer is not likely to meet with unfettered acclaim at the Grey Horse in Penshaw near Sunderland. One diminutive barmaid finds the engines so stiff that she is seen hanging in midair using her whole body weight to squeeze a half out of the things. The landlady, however, has no such problems. Although of average size she is of above average fitness and has twice managed to crack the pumps in two!!

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MARTIN & SANDY

REAL ALE IN CENTRAL & SOUTH MANCHESTER -
Update no. 13.

At long last the Shakespeare on Fountain Street, Manchester City Centre, has put in Real Ale, in the shape of Wilsons and Websters Bitters. However this central gain is balanced by the loss of the solitary handpump at Chesters Aces in West Gorton.

Back in the Centre, Bensons has dropped mild but added handpumped Pedigree; the Brewers Arms has no Higsons and now sells its Boddingtons beers exclusively on handpump; the Coach and Horses has gained Burtonwood JBA (though increasingly, not all of the full range of beers are on at any one time - a sensible move which has done wonders for the consistent quality of the pint served); and the King has stopped selling Burton Ale.

At the Longsight in Belle Vue, Black Country Bitter is back in cask form, on electric dispense - licensee Pete is making a real effort to promote it, so please give it a try if you're in the area - while at the nearby Imperial, West Gorton, has put Tetley mild on keg owing to slow sales, but has replaced it with Tetley bitter. The Duke of Edinburgh in Bradford has withdrawn Jennings bitter, while in Clayton the Strawberry Duck has, on a trial basis, replaced Wilsons mild with handpumped Websters Green Label.

Finally, at the Albion in Burnage, the mild should in fact read Best Mild.

STOP PRESS: The Black Country Bitter at the Longsight has now returned to keg after the short-lived experiment with cask.

LETTER

Dear Sir,

Your exposé of fake handpumps (March O.T.) was not before time, as the Elizabethan in Heaton Moor is by no means the only pub indulging in this shameful practice. The Vale Cottage in Gorton for instance, a fine pub in many respects, uses a handpump to dispense Wilsons Special Mild - a beer only available in keg form - and compounds the deception by not even having a pump clip to tell you that's what you're getting. Isn't it odd how it's almost always the big brewers who get up to this sort of nonsense? Are they so ashamed of their product that they must try to dress it up as something it isn't?

Yours etc.,

Rhys P. Jones.

COURT IN THE ACT.

Regular users of the Good Beer Guide will be pleased to learn that the 1987 edition has kept up the tradition of including a deliberate error. Anyone who tries 'phoning Whitbread Wessex will find themselves talking to Portsmouth Crown Court!

RICHARD AND SUSAN GENDERS

The Bottle Stop

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PUB OF THE MONTH

The Pub of the Month for April is the Romper, on the edge of Ringway Airport on the corner of Pinfold Lane and Yewtree Lane near the A538, Wilmslow Road.

The Romper is a genuine old unspoilt pub, with stone floor, a low beam ceiling and log fires, making a stark contrast to the nearby urban sprawl of Manchester Airport and the M63.

It was recently under threat when the Happy Eater chain applied to build one of their restaurants on the adjoining site, but fortunately their application was turned down.

Run by friendly and energetic Licensees, Harry and Jessie Curran, the Romper serves consistently good Boddingtons Mild and Bitter, together with excellent food at lunchtimes.

Perhaps a little harder to find than other Pubs of the month, the effort will definitely be worth while, so why not join us on the evening of Thursday. April 16th., and be prepared for a good night.

Transport to the event is being laid on - 'phone John Clarke, 477 1973, evenings, 831 7222 ext. 307 daytime, for full details.

HEARD AT THE BAR: Customer: A pint of bitter, please, in a pot with a handle. Bar staff then delivers the pint in the water jug!

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PUB NEWS!

Last month we reported that a guest beer would be on sale at the **OLD VIC**, Shaw Heath, at the end of February - sorry, it wasn't, but it will be however when you read this (honest!)

As we went to press we were getting reports of a block of pubs coming on the market, vendor unknown. Rumours have circulated for weeks that **WILSONS** were hiving off a large number - we hope to let you have more news next month.

The new licensee at the **GLADSTONE** on Stockport's Hillgate is selling handpumped Tetley mild - as yet there's no pumpclip, and the mounting for keg mild is still on the bar, but if you ask for real mild you won't be disappointed. Another reason to call in at this attractive but sadly underused pub.

The **JUNCTION**. Cheadle Hulme, is changing hands and turning from a tenancy into a managed house. This is doubtless a prelude to the capital investment Holts are to make in the pub (over £100,000 we are told).

Rumour has it that the **RED LION** IN Gatley is to have the Whitbread treatment and that there is every likelihood that it may resemble a pub once more.

In Northenden **Burton Ale** has gone from the **CHURCH** while at the nearby **FARMERS** the Greenall mild is now keg.

A Websters Yorkshire Bitter handpump was spotted in the **JOLLY CROFTER**, Edgeley, on a recent visit but appeared to be unused.

News is to hand that we are shortly to see new tenants at two Wilsons pubs on Hillgate - the **WHEATSHEAF** and the **BOWLING GREEN** - more news soon.

Finally **BODDINGTONS** Bitter went up 1 - 3 p on March 2nd., but good news for mild drinkers is that the price for their drink is unchanged. However we understand that any price increase in the Budget will only be applied to mild, lager etc., with no further increase in the bitter price anticipated.

Contributors: John Clarke, Andy Cooper, Rhys Jones, Peter Edwardson, Humphrey Higgins, Stuart Ballantyne.

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