

Opening Times



STOCKPORT AND SOUTH MANCHESTER CAMRA DECEMBER 1987 No. 44

IT'S HOW MUCH A PINT?

By John Clarke.

For the third year running members of the Stockport and South Manchester Branch of CAMRA have carried out a survey of pubs to see how many comply with the law and display a legible price list. For the third year running the results have been dismal.

A total of 158 pubs were checked out, of which only 84 had a legible list, a mere 53%, and 51 no list at all. Worst offenders were local independents, Boddingtons, with only 7 out of 20 pubs checked having a list, and Holts with 2 out of 6.

In addition 23 pubs had lists which were for one reason or another illegible - the comments of our surveyors speak volumes:

- * "Can be read if you stand in one particular spot, leaning across the bar and in danger of getting a pool cue up your backside."
- * "Can only be read from one end of the bar by leaning over it and looking sideways."
- * "Handscribbled on a piece of cardboard, many alterations..."
- * "...visible to bar staff but not customers without binoculars."
- * "Hidden behind Grove United F.C. Shield."

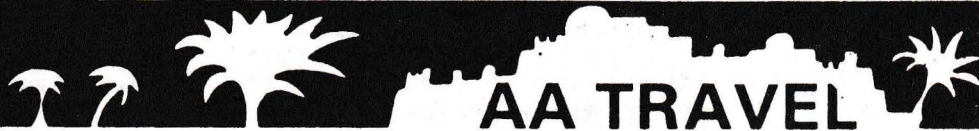
CAMRA is often criticised by the Trade for venturing opinions on subjects we "know nothing about" - here however the position is clear, it's the law to display a price list - the lip service that many pubs seem to be paying to this aspect is deplorable. The overall results have been reported to both Manchester & Stockport Trading Standards Departments - Manchester have replied describing the results as 'disturbing'. We are checking again on those pubs that had no list at all, just to make sure, before submitting our final findings.

THIS MONTH IN YOUR SPECIAL 14 PAGE 'OPENING TIMES':

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+ local news and greetings from your local!!

CAMRA wishes all its readers & advertisers a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy & Prosperous New Year.

A special thank you to our Advertisers whose continued support over the year has so helped to make 'Opening Times' such a great success.



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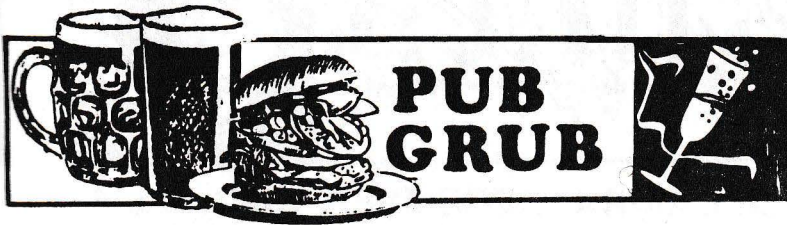
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By John Clarke.

A bit of a departure this month as the pub visited isn't in the Stockport & South Manchester area. In actual fact our destination is the **Queens Arms, Honey Street, Red Bank** (off Cheetham Hill Road).

Notable for the excellent tiled exterior advertising Empress Ales, the pub was a Tetley House for many years, followed by a period of closure and subsequent re-opening as a keg-only Scottish & Newcastle 'free' house. Not surprisingly this venture failed and a further period of closure followed until the pub was rescued by Dave Glass, erstwhile manager of the Crown & Anchor, Hilton St. a pub which despite being nominally a Whitbread-Chesters House became known for the quality of the Taylors beers sold.

The Queens re-opened about 4 months ago and is already establishing a healthy trade, particularly at lunchtimes. The range of beers is currently Theakstons Bitter, XB & Old Peculier plus Taylors Landlord & Porter. An old ale will feature throughout the winter on a guest basis & the first is Enochs Hammer from the Sair Inn near Huddersfield, the first time this has been available in the City, I believe.

So what about the food? The menu is quite wide ranging offering a selection of standard pub fare, most of which is priced at about £1.50 with, say, 20p either way. Some of the barms are unusual - Salami or Garlic Sausage at 75p, Pastrami at 95p. The chilis & curries which were so popular at the Crown & Anchor still feature as does a range of filled jacket potatoes including Ratatouille which sounds tempting.

De Olde Vic CHATHAM ST.,
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* Restaurant Now Open *
Full à la carte Tues - Sat.
7.00 - 10.30
Superb Cuisine - Fish a speciality

A variety of specials are featured including, for example, Chicken & Veg Curry + Pillau Rice (£1.99) or Donner Kebab. I chose Tandoori Chicken Breast with salad & raita at £2.35 (chips at 50p extra are a little bit expensive perhaps) and was well satisfied. A spicy quarter chicken cooked to perfection, a generous crisp salad & yoghurt flavoured with mint & spices made a filling plateful & certainly good value for money. Other customers were trying the more standard food on offer and this looked equally well cooked & good value.

The Queens is certainly worth a visit - you might think it out of the way - it's not really - a bus up Cheetham Hill Road dropping you off at the Derby Brewery Arms will leave you with at most a 2-3 minute walk.

Food is also available early evenings but you should note that the pub doesn't open until 7-00 pm.

Footnote: The Empress Brewery was sited on Chester Road and is in fact still standing. It was eventually taken over by Peter Walker of Warrington and ceased brewing in 1930.

HEARD AT THE BAR: A local couple wished to book a pub room for a function and approached a well-known (but keg) Whitbread house in East Manchester: Customer: "We'd like to book the upstairs room for a do". Licensee: "You can forget it - if it's a wet night it rains in".

★ SEASONS GREETINGS ★

FROM CAMRA AND YOUR LOCAL

Merry Christmas
TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS FROM
Ian and Dot
Bakers Vaults
□ STOCKPORT □

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR from
Jeff and Phyllis
The Printers,
CHEADLE

MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM *Barbara and Family*. IT'S BLOOMIN'
LOVELY AT THE
Blossoms
LONDON RD., HEAVILEY



Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year FROM
RALPH and JEAN
THE CROWN
❖ Cheadle ❖

MERRY XMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS FROM
* *Kevin & Sue* *
Swan With Two Necks
PRINCES ST., STOCKPORT

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from RICHARD and SUSAN at
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Sunday: ROCKIN VICAR
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HAPPY NEW YEAR from
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THE RED BULL
HILLGATE
STOCKPORT

MERRY CHRISTMAS
From the Management and
Staff of the *Midway*
NEWBRIDGE LANE, STOCKPORT
Xmas Lunch on Xmas Day
Sittings: 11-12.30, 12.30-2, 2-3.30





CAMRA CALLING!



A full programme of events in the run-up to Christmas, starting on **Friday 4th.**, with 'Eccles by Night' an evening visiting the largest concentration of Holts pubs in Manchester. We assemble at 7-30 pm at the **Duke of York**, Church Street, 'phone me for later venues.

Monday 7th., sees a social at the **Midway**, Newbridge Lane, Stockport from about 9pm onwards. Now a John Smiths house, the licensees are very keen. Later in the week on **Thursday 10th.**, we have our Branch Meeting at the **Victoria**, Wilmslow Road, Withington. Kicking off at 8pm there will be a special Christmas Raffle and some sort of quiz.

Saturday, 12th., sees our Christmas Buffet at the **Bakers Vaults**, Market Place, Stockport - arrive 7pm for 7-30. Ticket only, our guest speaker will be Paul Soden, Chairman of the Small Independent Brewers Association. Tickets cost £7.50 per head and this should include some free Old Tom for the toast.

Monday, 14th., 9pm sees a social at the **Prince of Wales**, Gatley and **Thursday 17th.** sees us back in Gatley for **Pub of the Month** at the **Horse & Farrier**. A hectic week is rounded off on **Friday 18th.**, with the **BIG ONE!!** - the famous **Christmas Hillgate Crawl**. 7pm at the **Blossoms** 8-30 at the **Star & Garter**.

On **Monday 21st.**, there's a social at the **Travelers Call**, Hyde Road and for those with enough strength after Christmas on **Monday 28th.**, we have a social at the **Whitworth**, Moss Lane East - well placed for a curry afterwards!

And, finally, the first event of 1988 - a social at

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GM buses

Greenall's Crown, Didsbury on **Monday 4th.**, January.

If you want more info. please phone me - John Clarke - on 061 831 7222 ext 3411 (day) or 061 477 1973 (night).

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FREE HOUSE

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(off Redbank)

Manchester

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THEAKSTONS & TIMOTHY TAYLORS

Best Bitter, XB, Old Peculier,
Landlord and Porter
all on handpump

GUEST OLD ALE FOR DECEMBER: ENOCH'S HAMMER

OPENING HOURS

LUNCH: 11.30 to 3.00 Monday to Saturday
12.00 to 2.00 Sunday

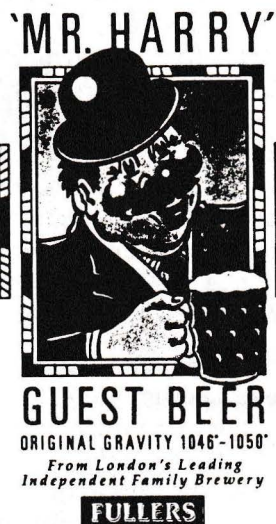
EVENING: 7.00 to 11.00 Monday to Saturday
7.00 to 10.30 Sunday

A selection of hot and cold food at lunchtime and early evening, including chilli and curry

Special menu for weekends available

MR. HARRY MEETS MR. RICHARD.

Richard Genders has been test marketing a new strong bitter from London Brewers Fullers at his off-licence, the BOTTLE STOP in Bramhall. Described as a 'Guest Beer', Richard is not sure yet whether it will make a future guest appearance. It has a distinctive taste and we hope that Fullers will brew it again - perhaps with a different name? The beer is also available at the Romper in Marple, which is being supplied with guest beers by the Bottle Stop, and it has



also been on sale at the Marble Arch, Rochdale Road Manchester.

CLARENCE CHEER

The CLARENCE HOTEL, Wilmslow Road, Rusholme, re-opened on October 30th. after a 12 month closure following a major fire which gutted the interior. This revamped Bass house has been tastefully decorated and has acquired a new range of clientele though it still retains a strong Irish connection. Licensees Eric & Maureen Wilson are back behind the bar after looking after the Crown in Hulme whilst the Clarence was closed.

Cask conditioned Stones Best Bitter is available on handpump at 76p and a possibility for the future is cask Dark Mild, but no Draught Bass. With a sign near the front door which says in Gaelic 'A Hundred Thousand Welcomes' this is a most welcome addition to the pubs in the area.

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STOCKPORT
Tel 061 480 2852



CLASSIC JUKE BOX
★
BIKERS WELCOME
★
ROBINSONS FINEST ALES
★
MARTIN & SANDY

NEW HEADS FOR THE KING

Gentlerose Ltd., the Midlands pub management company who have run Greenalls' KINGS HEAD on Chancellor Lane, Ardwick for most of 1987 have now been replaced for the pub has been bought by Audrey & Tony Stokes who are now running it as a Free House selling Youngers Scotch Bitter & IPA on handpumps. Though this is their first pub Audrey & Tony are no strangers to bar work having run a club in Bradford for several years. As well as the beer, home-cooked food is likely to feature strongly in the new-look Kings Head - Tony has little time for fast food and promises "proper meals and proper puddings".

PIGS' EAR?

Latest opening date for the PIG & BALL BEARING on the corner of Hyde Road & Parkdale Avenue in Gorton was December 10th. The hoped-for October opening was delayed because Boddingtons, who supply the beer and the licence, applied for a transfer of licence from one of their long-demolished Gorton pubs - but it turned out that the pub in question had ended its days as a beer-only house - that meant no spirits licence, that meant no instant rip-off cocktails for the young & impressionable! We await developments at the Pig & Ball Bearing with some interest, particularly since the announcement (O.T. November) that Boddingtons are producing brewery-conditioned ('bright') beer for the Free Trade.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FROM CAMRA.

1988 GOOD BEER GUIDE £5.95.
CHESHIRE BEER GUIDE £2.25.
MACCLESFIELD & ROLLINGTON BEER GUIDE £1.20.
SAM SMITHS BREWERY TIE £3.95.
All inc p & p within Manchester & Stockport.
Send cheque payable to 'Camra - Stockport & South Manchester to 66, Downham Rd, Heaton Chp.

Richard and Sue Genders

The Bottle Stop

136 Acre Lane Bramhall

* FULLERS LONDON PRIDE * ADNAMS *

* TAYLORS LANDLORD * BATEMANS *

WARSTEINER PILS & BOCK BEERS ONTAP

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PINTS POLYPINS FIRKINS BARRELS**

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LOCAL BREW

By Rhys Jones.

This month we start an occasional series profiling the Breweries that supply our local pubs. We kick off with a look at Boddingtons - once local favourites, now a takeover target.

The name of Boddingtons is held in high regard amongst knowledgeable beer drinkers - in the 1970s, when the birth of CAMRA was sparking renewed interest in beer, not only did they brew an outstandingly distinctive product, they also enhanced their 'pub credibility' by fighting off the 1969/70 takeover bid from Allied Breweries in a battle which was widely seen as uniting customers and shareholders - often, then as now, the same people - in defence of a cohesive North Western community against big Metropolitan money. Since then, though, the philosophy that 'quality sells itself' has been replaced, or at least supplemented, by a sharp public-relations approach - the latest issue of house newspaper "The Bodfan" gives more coverage to the latest advertising campaign than to the beer.

The Strangeways Brewery has expanded a lot since the '70s, in the wake of the beers's popularity. However the re-equipment of the brewery employed traditional brewing methods, simply scaled up. While brewing methods and recipes have not changed, though, the same cannot

be said for the raw materials used. In particular around 1980 the brewery switched from the classic malting barley varieties to a German-originated barley called Triumph, of which many brewers are privately scathing; while it would be wrong to exaggerate the change in character of the bitter to a blander brew, the trend is certainly there, and suspicion must fall on this raw material switch as a contributory factor.

Alongside the expansion at Strangeways, the company has grown by taking over breweries at Oldham (Oldham Brewery 1982) and Liverpool (Higsons, 1985), both of which remain open at present. However Oldham Brewery is now brewing only three days a week for its 70 pubs, having lost a number of the club accounts which were once its mainstay, and it would surprise no-one if its Coldhurst site were soon to become merely a kegging plant - already as much Heineken is kegged there as Oldham beers are brewed, and the plant also kegs smaller quantities of Stella Artois and the new version of Boddingtons Bitter.

The question must now be whether Boddingtons itself can retain its independence. While this autumn's cheeky bid from snooker-hall operators Midsummer Leisure was perhaps never likely to succeed, there are more serious predators stalking the brewing industry. Think, for example, of Elders IXL, the Australian firm that took over Courage/John Smiths in 1986 and whose purchase of Stockports' Midway was rapidly followed by other free house purchases in Barton-on-Irwell and Monton - a North-Western brewer with some 500 pubs would plug a yawning gap in their national coverage.

It seems all too likely that the alliance of customers and shareholders that saved Boddingtons in 1970 will need to be re-forged, this time backed by the Campaign for Real Ale, to meet the threats of the late 1980s. When that happens, let's hope the people of the North-West still think the beer's worth saving.

HEARD AT THE BAR:

Elderly Customer: "Half of Bitter, please"

Barmaid: "48p please." "Is that right?"

"Yes, half of 96p - 48p"

"What kind of shampoo do you use?"

"Why?"

"Well, you can have a beer one tonight, I'm not having that!!"

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BREW BEERS LIKE THOSE YOU BUY.





★ SEASONS GREETINGS ★

FROM CAMRA AND YOUR LOCAL

MERRY XMAS

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS FROM

Barry and Sue

Grafton Arms

CHORLTON ON MEDLOCK

MERRY CHRISTMAS to

all our customers from

Dave and

Sandra

The Grapes

Castle St., Edgeley

Good Beer Guide 1988

Clarence Hotel

RUSHOLME

Eric and Maureen

wish all their customers

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a

HAPPY NEW YEAR

seasons greetings

Dave and Yvonne

The Duke of Edinburgh,

MILL ST, BRADFORD. FUNCTION ROOM

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GOOD BEER GUIDE 1988



MERRY XMAS

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

from Linda & Trevor

Britannia Inn

ROWSLEY ST., BESWICK



Whitworth Hotel

RUSHOLME

Brenda and John

wish all their customers

Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year



Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year

TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS FROM

Pat, Pauline and Staff

at the **Gladstone**

LOWER HILLGATE, STOCKPORT

Merry Xmas

TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS FROM

John, Joan & Staff

Egerton Arms

Stockport



seasons greetings

TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS FROM

David, Roy, Elsie & Mike

THE TIVOT, Stockport

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS from

Jack & Beryl NOW IN THEIR 24th

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STAGGER

HALLOWEEN GRIND IN HAZEL GROVE - By Alastair Walker.

Firstly I have been told that I have to say that the following diatribe is not necessarily true, nor is it necessarily the opinion of the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd., nationally or locally. Now read on.....

The problem with a pub crawl in Hazel Grove is that there is such a preponderance of Robinson's pubs that the enjoyability of the event is directly related to the quality (or lack of quality) of Robinson's beers on the actual night of the bash. Suffice it to say that I, personally, have never left so much undrunk beer behind on a crawl before.

Idiosyncratically, the crawl started in a pub which is not in Hazel Grove, i.e. the CROWN in Great Moor. This homely pub has several comfortable rooms and some nice ironwork and wood panelling. Unfortunately, the effect is somewhat spoiled by the tasteless 'Robinsons arches' and a naff, featureless bar area. However, both the mild and the bitter were considered to be good. Although draught Old Tom is available all year round, no one felt brave enough to sample it at 7pm.

Next stop was the GEORGE & DRAGON, a bit further up the A6 towards Hazel Grove. This Whitbread house has several internal peculiarities, such as mirrors on the ceiling and bar, not to mention a fake colonnaded fake snug. However, the overall effect is not unpleasant. Oddly, there are no Whitbread real ales available, with Thwaites Bitter being the sole cask beer on offer. This normally dependable brew invoked a distinct polarisation in scoring, with half the group considering it to be good, and the other half

seasons greetings

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HEATON CHAPEL

STOCKPORT

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ALSO

CUT-BACK

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STOCKPORT

477 6739



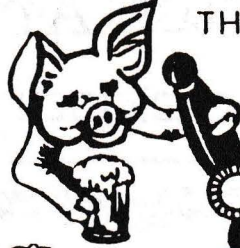
thinking it poor with a peculiar after-taste.

Further up the A6, on the other side, is the GROVE. Two pleasant rooms to the left of the entrance hallway are counterbalanced by a featureless open-plan lounge to the right. Robinsons mild was rated between good and excellent, and the bitter rated between average and good.

Opposite the Grove is the ANCHOR. The somewhat gaudy, tasteless, shuttered exterior is complemented by a rather gaudy, tasteless interior which has an obscure pseudo-maritime theme in a pub which is about 50 miles from the nearest sea. Perhaps the rooms marked 'Jack Tars' and 'Jenny Wrens' are for road surfacing contractors and birdwatchers. The Robinsons mild scored as average but the bitter was nearer to poor. Half pints all round but still plenty of beer left on the bar.

Next-door-but-one is the WOODMAN, which represents the opposite extreme of Robinsons estate. A cosy, multi-roomed, traditional local with a piano in the back snug. Previously a bit grotty, a recent sensitive redecoration has enhanced the inherent character of the place. Both the mild and the bitter were considered to be between average and good.

A hundred yards and two headless Guy Fawkes later, we reached the OLD COCK. The raised entrance of this much under-rated pub leads to many interesting rooms with fittings to match. The cosy 'Commercial Room' can only



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*** SAM SMITHS REAL ALES ***

be reached by walking all the way round the bar. Note also the etched external windows. Although too cold for some peoples' liking, Robinsons mild was rated good and the bitter a bit less so.

A quick diversion up Commercial Road brought us to the ROYAL OAK, a somewhat tatty 1930s pub, the character of which is difficult to describe. You can draw your own conclusions from some of the comments from the assembled toppers.....

"gargoyles on the outside wall".....
 "KONDO machine in the gents toilet".....
 "gross light fittings".....
 "cannibalised revolving door".....
 "unfettered barmaid in green blouse".....
 "Hollywood staircase". The ubiquitous Robinsons mild and bitter were both rated just above average.

Back on to the A6 and past another two decapitated Guys, we arrived at..... yet another Robinsons pub (yawn), the BIRD IN HAND. This pub's best claim to fame is that it is one of the very rare cases where Robinsonisation has actually IMPROVED the pub, changing it from a grotty hole to a non-descript boozery. Also, be prepared for every pub regular to saunter up to the bar and be served before you. The mild was average and the bitter a bit less than good.

Further up the A6 we came upon the only Wilsons pub on the crawl, the HORSE AND JOCKEY. A pleasant exterior hides a very smokey, characterless interior. BEWARE of the fake brewery-conditioned mild being dispensed through a handpump (very naughty). The Wilsons Bitter was thought to be just above average overall.

Across the street (a hazardous manoeuvre in itself) is the GRAPES. A fairly tasteless pub, ruined by Robinsons some years previously. One noteworthy artefact is the rare Robert Dishers mirror on the wall near the entrance. The mild was unanimously average and the bitter just less than good.

And finally, next door to our last (eleventh) port of call on this marathon, YE OLDE THREE TUNNES, a multi-roomed hostelry frequented by CAMRA stalwarts (is this Malcolm's first mention in 'Opening Times'?) The bitter was considered to be above average and the mild above good. Unfortunately, the hand of doom casts a black shadow over this fine pub in the form of impending Robinsonisation. If Robinsons Brewery employ

their usual sensitive, intelligent and original approach, then this pub will become unrecognisable..... not only unrecognisable from its former self but also unrecognisable from all the other recently Robinsonised pubs.

PS.: all hate mail, writs, etc. should be sent to my address in Tristan Da Cunha!

Editors note: The comments expressed in this article are purely those of the author.

UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

We have just mounted our most successful Membership Recruitment Campaign since the early years of the Branch. In October almost 40 University & Polytechnic Students joined us showing that the Real Ale message appeals to all age groups. Following this success how sad it is to note that the University Students Union has now totally succumbed to the cheque books of the big brewers and the persuasive powers of the ad. men and sells no cask conditioned beers in its bars. Time was when Manchester University Students Union was the home of free thinking Independent people who believed in giving their members a choice!!

The tremendous interest shown in Real Ale by the supposed children of the lager revolution shows that there is a demand and so come on Students' Union - give your members the chance to drink decent beer in their bars!

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★ SEASONS GREETINGS ★



FROM CAMRA AND YOUR LOCAL

MERRY XMAS
FROM ALL AT THE
Boars Head

MARKET PLACE,

STOCKPORT

Merry Xmas
AND A HAPPY NEW
YEAR FROM
Nora and Keith
Victoria Hotel
WITHINGTON

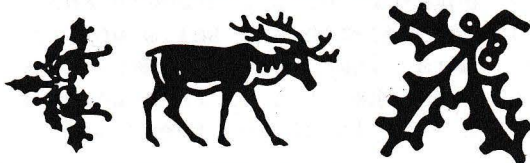
seasons
greetings

FROM

Iris and Rollo

★ *Hare and Hounds* ★

ABBEY HEY LANE



MERRY XMAS

from DON and ALINE at the

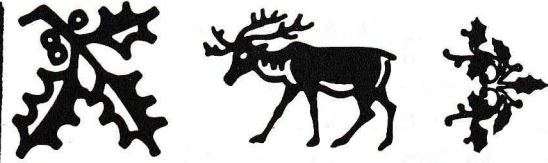
★ **Castlewood** ★

OPP. TSB, BRIDGE ST., STOCKPORT

merry xmas
& a happy
new year

TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS
FROM Allan and
Beryl at

The Florist
SHAW HEATH



LOTS OF FESTIVE SPIRIT—AND ALE
is now served at the new-look

CRESCENT

● BELL CRESCENT, BESWICK ●

MERRY XMAS
from **Ann & Fred**

DECEMBER

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



Bob Bennison has the proud distinction of having his pub, the HORSE & FARRIER in Gayley, in the Good Beer Guide for 9 years. To mark this feat and to reward the consistent high standard of the Hyde Bitter & Mild the pub has been given the Pub of the Month award for December.

Over the past year the pub has undergone structural restoration but it is very pleasing to note that the Brewery has resisted the temptation to restructure the multi-roomed traditional character by making wholesale changes. The only internal refurbishment was to the toilet block, which was much needed.

So come down on the 17th. December for the presentation to sample the delights of this village pub and its excellent beers - there'll be a warm welcome and no doubt a butty or two!

MERRY XMAS

to all our customers from

Michael J. Lyons
and Betty

The Crown
NORTHENDEN

Railway Hotel

OPENSHAW

Sylvia and Eric

Would like to wish their customers

old and new a **merry**

christmas and a
happy new year



TIME FOR CHANGE

At long last the first step has been taken to reform the Country's outdated licensing hours - the Bill passed its Second Reading in the House of Commons on November 9th. by a 206 vote majority, and should be in force to see the reform take effect next summer.

The Bill has come in for criticism from both the trade and CAMRA alike for not going far enough - a view echoed by several MPs in the House. The main plab is for 11am - 11pm opening for pubs in England and Wales, thus doing away with the compulsory afternoon break - but only for Mondays to Saturdays. Sundays will be left as present with their outdated restrictions.

By ignoring the main recreational day of the week the Government has chosen to be non-controversial, thereby guaranteeing the passage of the legislation. The Home Secretary told MPs it would be a mistake to overload the bill, but the Government doubtless had one eye on their defeat over the Shops Bill despite having a majority almost 50% greater than at present.

Another objection is the absence of any requirement in the proposals for opening hours to be displayed inside or outside the pubs - the need for

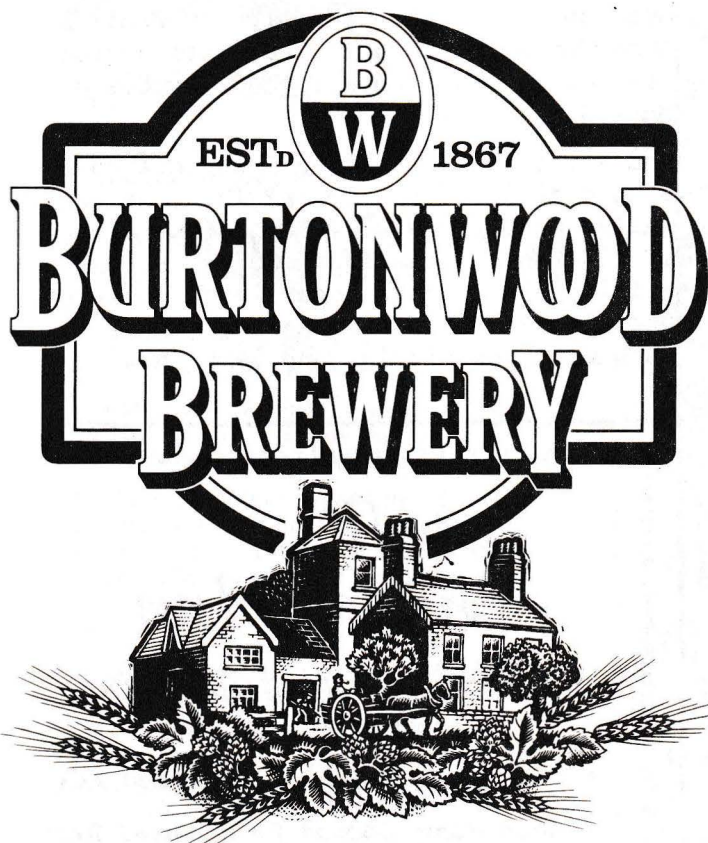
MERRY XMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
 TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS
from Andy & Eunice
The Queens
CHEADLE
 GOOD BEER GUIDE 1987 & '88

which speaks for itself from the consumers point of view. CAMRA would like to see the legislation state that hours chosen by the publican and not the Brewer who may be tempted to instruct pubs, particularly managed houses, to open all hours. Such an instruction in over pubbed and depressed areas, Clayton & Openshaw in Manchester for example, could see many publicans going to the wall & wholesale pub closures. The main trade lobby, the NVLA, wanted 10am to midnight permitted hours with final hours chosen by the licensee. Like CAMRA they want the same flexi-hours applied to Sunday.

As far as the Stockport & South Manchester area is concerned it is doubtful whether many pubs will benefit from the current proposals - those in busy shopping areas possibly but for the suburban back-street pubs which are in the majority in this area the reform will be simply meaningless.

One body to welcome the Bill has been the Brewers Society who believe up to 25,000 new jobs could be created. Their most significant statement however, which CAMRA will be carefully monitoring, is - "because those pubs which decide to open longer will be able to spread their fixed overheads costs over increased trading, there should be no impact on prices. There have been no increases in prices in Scotland related to the flexible hours system."

We shall see.



**A FAMILY TRADITION
 OF FINE BREWING**





KEVIN & SUE WELCOME YOU

TO The Swan with Two Necks

OPP. WOOLWORTHS, PRINCES ST., STOCKPORT

ROBINSONS BEST BEERS.

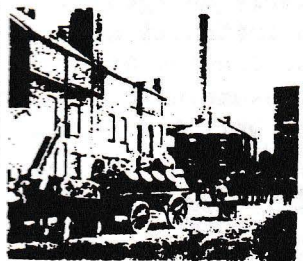
HOT & COLD LUNCHTIME FOOD.

CHILDRENS' ROOM.

A HAVEN IN THE SHOPPING PRECINCT!



A HISTORY OF STOCKPORT BREWERIES



Mike Ogden £2.25

The latest book from the Neil Richardson local history stable is a 'History of Stockport Breweries' by Australian Mike Ogden. Produced in the usual Richardson format, the book is a fascinating history of the towns' brewing over the last 200 years. Brewers large and small are featured from Robinsons, Bells & Clarkes (the latter two doubtless remembered by many 'O.T.' readers) to the more obscure such as Showells, Cliftons & Worralls. In addition 16 smaller concerns

and many home-brew houses are featured.

In addition the book is a good read although on occasion heavy going - the detailed description of Bells Brewery is perhaps a bit too detailed and personally I would have liked a mention of the beers produced by at least those concerns that disappeared in the post-war years, not even the famous 'Clarkes Blood Mixture' gets a mention!

Despite this the book is well written and well illustrated and well worth £2.25 (from all good bookshops) or £2.65 inc. p & p from Neil Richardson, 375 Chorley Road, Swinton M27 2AY. You could, however, also get one for the cost of a postage stamp by being one of the 3 lucky winners of our easy to enter competition. Just answer the following questions and post your entry to: CAMRA COMPETITION, 45, BULKELEY STREET, EDGELEY, STOCKPORT SK3 9HD.

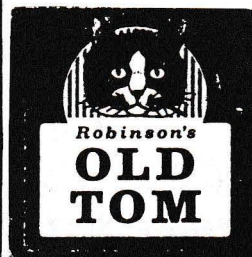
- 1) WHO TOOK OVER CLARKES BREWERY?
- 2) WHO TOOK OVER BELL & CO.?
- 3) THE LAST BREWERY TO CLOSE IN STOCKPORT DIDN'T OPEN UNTIL 1975 - WHO WERE THEY?

Closing date is 21st. December & the 3 winners will be picked out at the Branch Social that night. Winners will be published in February's 'Opening Times'.

NB The competition is not open to CAMRA members.

TETLEY IN WONDERLAND

Lewis Carroll fans and Owens Park students alike will chortle in their joy at the opening of the QUEEN OF HEARTS, which shares a converted Church Hall with Jabberwocky restaurant on Wilmslow Road, Fallowfield. Pleasantly fitted out and featuring a gallery, it offers Tetley mild and bitter, Jennings Bitter and Ind Coope Burton Ale, all on handpumps. It's a multi-level pub with the bars at the ground floor and seating at several levels. On my visit I was charged only 80p (mistakenly?) for Burton Ale - frabjous!



OLD TOM is not only an excellent drink on a cold Winters' night - it has its other uses - this Christmas why not try some OLD TOM Cake? All you need is 4oz. of Butter, 4 oz. sugar, 1 cup of dried mixed fruit, 1 bottle of Old Tom, 2 cupsd

of plain flour, 1 tsp bicarb of soda & 1 level tsp of mixed spice.

Place the butter, sugar, fruit and ale into a saucepan. Melt together and then boil for three minutes. Sieve flour, bicarbonate of soda and spice into a bowl, add fruit mixture and mix thoroughly. Put into a greased 2 lb. loaf tin and cook for 40 minutes at gas Mark 4.

And - while it's cooking - why not have a special Christmas Drink? This one is called a 'Dogs' Nose'! For 4 take a bottle of Old Tom & a glass of sherry. Bring to boiling & add brown sugar which has been rubbed with lemon, Add cinnamon, ginger & nutmeg, dash with Benedictine and serve hot!

The Nursery Inn

GREEN LANE, HEATON NORRIS
STOCKPORT

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



★ SEASONS GREETINGS ★



FROM CAMRA AND YOUR LOCAL

MERRY XMAS

from MELVYN and LINDA at

The
ALEXANDRA

Northgate Rd
Edgeley

Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year FROM

Pete & Hilary
The Longsight,

BELLE VUE
BANKS'S TRADITIONAL ALES
GOOD BEER GUIDE 1988

The Station, Didsbury

Ann & John

Would like to wish their customers

old and new a **merry**

christmas and a
happy new year

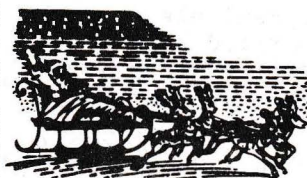
MERRY XMAS

to our customers from:

Mike, Jean & Staff
at the

Claremont Hotel

Claremont Rd., Moss Side



To all our customers Old & New
Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year FROM

Tom, Betty & Family

Golden Lion
Hillgate, Stockport

Junction Hotel

□ CHEADLE HULME □

seasons greetings

TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS & FRIENDS

FROM Diane and Bruce

MERRY CHRISTMAS from

Martin &

Sandra

at the

Manchester Arms

Stockport

THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

The George

STOCKPORT

Would like to wish their customers

old and new a **merry**

christmas and a
happy new year

Christmas ❄

❄ Greetings

from Cliff and Eileen

Suburban Hotel

★ Gorton ★

**Merry Christmas
+ Happy New Year**

FROM Tony and Anne

GOOD BEER GUIDE 1988

Travellers Call

ASHTON OLD ROAD



HOLTS continue to expand - they have applied for outline planning permission to convert existing offices & warehouse at 477 Barlow Moor Road (on the corner of Malton Ave) into a pub complete with landlords' flat.

On the subject of Holts we learn that the SIDINGS in Levenshulme is due to open on 10th. December

CONWAYS, Cheadle Hulme no longer sells Websters Green Label & fellow Pennine Hosts pub FAR PAVILIONS, Mersey Square, Stockport now sells Ruddles County.

New Manager at LEGENDARY LANCASHIRE HEROES, the real ale off licence on Burton Road, Withington, is Terry McCadden. He has served behind the bar from Glasgow to Cornwall and is hoping to give customers an even bigger choice of real ale and a large stock of bottled beer.

The CROWN in Northenden has a new licensee, Michael Lyons - the fourth in the last couple of years. Let's hope that Irishman Michael can make a success of the pub which has plenty of potential and is what the Editor would term a 'cracking little boozer'! CAMRA would suggest the first step would be to restore the cask conditioned Boddingtons Mild to the pub.

THWAITES appear to have bought the former 'CHEERS' premises on Chapel Street, Manchester as they've applied to turn the top floor into a residential flat.

For the second year running LEES have produced their Vintage Harvest Ale, original gravity 1100°. Made from the new harvest of hops and barley this is a beer that will keep, despite not being naturally conditioned in the bottle.

The ALBERT, Withington (Wilsons) is to have a single storey extension to form a beer cellar.

We earlier reported that Banks's GRANSMOOR, Ashton Old Road, Openshaw had been sold to a Blackpool based syndicate but we now learn that the deal has fallen through, and at the press date the pub is still on the market and is still open for business - our apologies for any embarrassment caused by our earlier piece.

STOCKPORT now boasts 2 new licensed establishments. With a fanfare of trumpets YATES' WINE LODGE, Market Place, opened last month. Alas, despite earlier reports, there's no real ale. Sumptuously fitted out the prices are equally sumptuous - 88p for a pint of fizzy Stones with gassy Tetley & Wilsns also on offer. Even a 'blob' will set you back £1. Lots of bouncers too - 8 were spotted on the opening night. Down on Vernon Street CHRISTYS Wine Bar is now open (above the Wimpy bar). Very nice, but no real beer!

Contributors to this Edition: John Clarke, Jim Flynn, Humphrey Higgins, John Hutchinsor, Rhys Jones, Paul Thompson, Alastair Walker. For details of advertising rates and Postal Sales please write to: 45, Bulkely Street, Edgeley, Stockport SK3 9 HD.



Christmas at the Bakers Vaults

MARKET PLACE, STOCKPORT
FINE ROBINSONS ALES

Christmas lunch or evening fayre now available to book tel:

480 3182

DON'T MISS THE BAKERS FESTIVE THRASH
ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17th. CAROLS,
CHRISTMAS SONGS AND GENERAL MERRIMENT



OPENING TIMES

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CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE EDITOR,

S. H. HIGGINS, 48 MOORCROFT DRIVE, BURNAGE, MANCHESTER M19 1WH.

