

May 2011

Opening

TIMES

THE FREE CAMRA REGIONAL MAGAZINE

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CAMPAIGN
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The Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA Pub of the Month for May is the Turnpike, Wilmslow Road, Withington. Dave Platt explains why it won the award.



FOR many years the Turnpike in Withington held no attractions for the cask ale drinker – resolutely sticking with keg beers when all pubs around them sold cask. Luckily things took a turn for the better three years ago when cask ale fans Rob Higgs and Jodie Wilkinson took over this Sam Smiths pub.

It didn't take too long before cask ale was introduced and handpumps dispense well kept pints of Sam Smiths Old Brewery Bitter to a loyal crowd of regulars in what is a proper community local.

The pub is also a recent entry on CAMRA's National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors. What makes the Turnpike special is its almost intact interior dating from an extension and refurbishment in 1962. Survivors from this time are



very rare. Panelling and bar fixtures are all original and of particular note are the floor to ceiling fire surrounds – cobble effect in the vault and stone in the best room.

The pub hosts darts nights, quiz night and is home to its own football team, the Turnpike Pirates. Rob and Jodie have worked hard to make this such a good pub and our award recognises this as well as the welcome return of the pub to the real ale fold.

The presentation will be made on the evening of Thursday 24 May from 8pm onwards. We hope for a good turnout from both regulars and CAMRA members alike – the pub is at 522 Wilmslow Road and is well served by the many buses that travel between Manchester and Didsbury. From Stockport Bus nos. 23, 42 and 370 will get you there.



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Comment, Notes & Contents

What's On

Opening Times – Comment

Stockport Beer & Cider Festival is almost upon us and I hope all of you come along to have a drink or, if you are a member of CAMRA, offer to work for an hour or two as extra staff are always welcome. This year we are hosting our first ever trade session so I hope to see lots of local licensees along for a chat on Thursday afternoon.

Elsewhere in this issue you will see a preview of some of the beers we hope to have available. The cider and perry order is still being put together and as usual we will aim to have many of the winners from CAMRA's National Cider & Perry Championships, due to be held at Reading Beer Festival the last weekend in April.

If you are not a member of CAMRA please consider joining up at the Festival. The Stockport & South Manchester Branch confidently expects to sign up its 1,100th member – look out for a full report in the July issue.

Finally – didn't we do well? Elsewhere we report that at this year's CAMRA AGM held in Sheffield last month, Stockport & South Manchester Branch won a national award for promoting beer styles – not only for mild through Mild Magic (still time to take part this year – see page 12) but also other styles through the Winter Warmer Wander. Well done to all – and thanks, also, to our colleagues in the Trafford & Hulme and High Peak CAMRA branches whose help with these promotions is invaluable.

Opening Times – Information

Opening Times is produced by the Stockport & South Manchester Branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale. Additional material is supplied by the High Peak & NE Cheshire, Trafford & Hulme, North Manchester and Macclesfield & E Cheshire Branches. The views expressed are not necessarily those of CAMRA either locally or nationally. 7,200 copies a month are printed by Phil Powell Printing of Failsworth. All articles copyright CAMRA unless otherwise stated.

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Copy Date for the June issue is Friday 13 May

Contributors to this issue: John Clarke, John Tune, Dave Hanson, Peter Butler, Robin Wignall, Peter Edwardson, Frank Wood, Phil Booton, Jim Flynn, Mike Rose, Mark McConachie, Caroline O'Donnell, John O'Donnell, Beverley Gobbett, Andy Jenkinson, Dave Platt, Geoff Williamson, Dave Burston, Alan Gent, Paul France, Mike Gilroy.

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Local CAMRA branches organise regular events in pubs across the region – members of other branches & general public are welcome to attend except some Branch business meetings (contact branch contact if in doubt). Organising branch in brackets.

May

Saturday 7th – Social at Macclesfield Beer Festival. 12 noon onwards, (SSM)

Saturday 7th – Joint Social in Hyde and Denton. Meet 2pm Lowes Arms, Hyde Road, Denton, then on to Cheshire Ring and Wetherspoons. Finish Sportsman, Mottram Rd, Hyde. (TRH & HPNC)

Monday 9th – Pub of the Season Presentation to the Royal, Hayfield. From 8.30pm (HPNC)

Saturday 7th – National Mild Day Crawl Part 1- details tba (NM)

Thursday 12th – Castlefield Social: Castlefield Hotel 8pm, Dukes 92 9pm. Cask 9.30pm, Finish Knott. (TRH)

Thursday 12th – National Mild Day Crawl Part 2- details tba (NM)

Thursday 12th – Macclesfield Crawl. Start Chester Road Tavern 7.30pm, then Barnfield (MEC)

Thursday 19th – Club of Year presentation to Timperley Taverners, Park Rd, Timperley. 8pm for 8.30. (TRH)

Friday 20th - Offerton Stagger: 7.30pm Gardeners Arms, Little St; 8.30pm Fingerpost, Hempshaw Lane (SSM)

Saturday 21st – New Members Social: New Oxford, Bexley Sq, Salford. Starts 2pm. (NM)

Saturday 21st – Mid-Cheshire Rail Trail. Meet Mill, Chester 12 noon.

Wednesday 25th – Branch Pub of the Year presentation to Marble Arch, Rochdale Rd, Manchester. From 7.30pm (NM)

Thursday 26th – Pub of the Month Presentation to the Turnpike, Wilmslow Road, Withington. From 8:00pm (SSM)

June

Wednesday 1st - Gay Village Crawl: Paddy's Goose 7.30pm, Eden 8.15pm, Molly House 9pm (NM)

Your Local CAMRA Branches:

SSM: Stockport & South Manchester	www.ssmcamra.org.uk
<i>Contact: Mark McConachie 0161 429 9356, mark.mcconachie@o2.co.uk</i>	
NM – North Manchester	www.northmanchestercamra.org.uk
<i>Contact: Phil Booton 0161 957 7148, phbooton@hotmail.com</i>	
HPNC – High Peak & North Cheshire	www.hpneccamra.org.uk
<i>Contact: Mike Rose 07986 458517. mikewrose@gmail.com</i>	
MEC – Macclesfield & East Cheshire	www.eastcheshirecamra.org.uk
<i>Contact Tony Icke 01625 861833, contact@eastcheshirecamra.org.uk</i>	
TRH – Trafford & Hulme	www.thcamra.org.uk
<i>Branch Contact: John Ison 0161 962 7976, enquiries@thcamra.org.uk</i>	

CAMRA Branch Business Meetings

Monday 9th - Royal Hotel, Market St, Hayfield Starts 8.30pm (HPNC)

Thursday 12th – Nursery, Green Lane, Heaton Norris. **Guest speaker Paul Jefferies, Hydes Production Director.** Starts 8pm. (SSM)

Wednesday 18th – New Oxford, Bexley Sq, Salford. Starts 7.30pm (NM)

Thursday 2nd June – Altrincham Conservative Club, Market St, Altrincham. Starts 8pm (TRH)

Saturday 18th – AGM, Ramsay's Bar, Buckingham Hotel, Burlington Rd, Buxton. Starts 1.30pm (HPNC)



Cat to be Castrated?

As widely predicted, in this year's budget the government announced that, as well as increasing beer duty across the board by 7.2%, from October it would impose an additional 25% duty on all beers over 7.5% ABV. The main target of this measure is the super-strength lagers such as Carlsberg Special Brew and Tennent's Super which are widely associated with problem drinking. However, what you can easily see happening is the makers of these products simply reformulating them to bring them down below the cut-off point and avoid the higher duty. When a 500ml can at 9.0% ABV will attract duty plus VAT of 125p, whereas at 7.5% it will only be 84p, it looks like a very obvious move to make. And, ironically, at a reduced strength, these beers are likely to be more palatable and have greater appeal to mainstream customers, so the legislation could end up backfiring and leading to more strong lager being sold, not less.

You may not be too concerned for Special Brew drinkers, but the really bad news is that this duty rise will also affect many high-quality beers from independent breweries, not least our own local favourite Robinson's Old Tom, together with Belgian imports such as Chimay and Duvel. These products, by and large, are consumed responsibly by discerning drinkers and are not a cause of alcohol-related disorder. Recent years have also seen a growing variety of innovative, distinctive beers produced at this kind of strength by the burgeoning craft beer movement. Yet this measure threatens to bring this to a juddering halt. A pint of Old Tom at the current 8.5% ABV will incur duty plus VAT of 134p – reduce it to 7.5% and the cost falls to 95p. The option of castrating the cat must look very attractive, especially as the alternative could be putting it down entirely.

It is also unfair to single out beer when pretty much all wines and spirits are stronger than 7.5% and can't be claimed to be innocent of involvement in alcohol-related problems. The ultimate effect of this ill-considered measure will simply be to snuff out one of the most innovative and characterful segments of British brewing. It won't raise more money for the Treasury, it won't do anything to reduce problem drinking – in fact it could be regarded as a prime example of shooting yourself in the foot.

Watering the Workers' Beer

NOT only are the government "encouraging" the reduction of beer strengths, but the brewers seem keen to do their job for them. As part of a "social responsibility" deal with the government, Heineken UK have undertaken to cut the strength of one of their main brands (believed to be canned and bottled Strongbow) by 1% ABV. This is portrayed as a "voluntary agreement" but in reality, if you're having your arm twisted up your back, how voluntary is it? This is a further example of a growing trend that in recent years has seen a number of well-known brands having their strength cut, including Blackthorn cider, Caffrey's and, most notably, Britain's best selling beer brand Stella Artois.

These are not real ales, but there's also a growing number of well-known cask beers such as Old Speckled Hen, Young's Special and recently Batemans XXXB having their strength reduced to supposedly give them a wider appeal. Outside of specialist pubs, it's now hard to find any cask beers above about 4.5% regularly available on the bar. The worry must be that, in the coming years, though a misguided desire to appear "responsible", this will become a *de facto* ceiling for draught beer strength in the UK.

Curmudgeon Online:
www.curmudgeoncolumns.blogspot.com

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Stagger...

Shaw Heath & Higher Hillgate With Peter Edwardson

A chilly night in February saw us exploring the area just to the south of Stockport town centre around Shaw Heath and Higher Hillgate.



We kicked off at the **Adswood Hotel**, tucked away rather off the beaten track on Adswood Lane West. This is a substantial three-bay pub set back from the road behind a cobbled forecourt. The interior has been considerably modernised, but still retains three separate areas along the front, one with a pool table, plus a small vault-cum-TV room at the rear. Behind the pub is one of Stockport's most extensive smoking shelters, and an extensive beer garden, which obviously tonight was not getting any use. There was a lively group of customers around the bar. It's a Robinson's pub, with Hatters and Unicorn available, both of which were rated well above average.



Back on Shaw Heath, we came to the **Plough**, a four-square redbrick pub that has now been opened up inside but obviously once had four separate rooms. The bar is in the rear right-hand corner, and there's a congenial lounge-type area with wall benches at the front left. There was a reasonable number of customers for early evening. As in the Adswood, the volume of the music being played made sustaining conversation a little difficult. For many years only offering keg beers, the pub is to be congratulated for putting on a cask beer from a small independent brewery in the shape of Copper Dragon Best Bitter, which was generally felt to

be on good form, although one or two of the party felt it was served a little too cold.

The next port of call was the **Blossoms**, a well-known landmark in the apex of the junction between the A6 London Road and Bramhall Lane. The unspoilt interior comprises three separate rooms around a central bar with, unusually, two of the three being basically of a "vault" character. There was a throng around the bar, but we found seats in the rather Spartan room at the front left which features a vintage "Addams Family" pinball machine, now a very rare sight in pubs. Robinson's again, with Hatters pretty good, Unicorn better still and a decent drop of the powerful Old Tom strong ale available from a small cask on the bar.



The next two pubs, the **Wheatsheaf** on Higher Hillgate and the **Bowling Green** on Charles Street, had both sold real ale in recent years, but neither had any tonight, so we moved quickly on to the **Flying Dutchman** further down Higher Hillgate. This is a compact modern pub that, with loud music and strobe lighting, seemed to be appealing to a younger clientele than some of its nearby competitors. Nevertheless, it has no shortage of comfortable seating in three distinct areas. The only cask beer available is Robinson's Unicorn, which was well above average although not as good as that in the Blossoms. Until recently, this was one of the last local pubs to dispense real ale via an electric metered pump into oversize glasses.



The **Star & Garter** is an imposing three-storey pub commanding a view down the middle part of Hillgate. Inside it has been opened out but retains several separate

areas. While not particularly busy, trade was ticking over and there was a good buzz of conversation, helped by the fact that the music was notably quieter than most of the earlier pubs. Yet more Robinson's, with Unicorn and Hatters both comfortably above average; there was also a handpump for the current seasonal beer but it wasn't on at the time.

Passing the **Crown** on our left, which has only sold keg beers for a number of years and was now closed, we came to the **Sun & Castle**, an impressive Holts pub dating from the 1930s which has been refurbished in Victorian style. The vault side was closed and darkened, but the lounge was lively, with karaoke in progress. One song that caught my ear was Bruno Mars' "Grenade", which I must confess I had never heard before. The sole cask beer was Holts Bitter, opinions of which ranged from above average to good.



Our final port of call was the **Red Bull**, which was extended and thoroughly refurbished by Robinson's a couple of years ago. Although now very spacious inside, it was by some margin the busiest pub of the evening, but we managed to find a seat in the area towards the front that has a stone-flagged floor carried over from the previous layout. The interior has several separate drinking areas and features extensive wood panelling. Unicorn and Hatters went untried as we were attracted by the **Dizzy Blonde**, which was good, and by the latest seasonal beer, Hannibal's Nectar, which was on excellent form and shaded the Unicorn in the Blossoms for best beer of the night. This pub stayed open beyond 11 pm so some of us were able to have a second drink before heading home.

Thus ended an enjoyable evening's drinking in which the beer in every pub was sufficiently good that you wouldn't have minded staying there all night. It was noticeable, though, that the pub company outlets didn't seem to be making much of an effort on the beer front, with two offering keg only, another recently closed, and only the **Plough** flying the flag for cask. As ever, these are only the impressions of a particular group of people on one specific night. Why not try the pubs for yourself and see what you think?

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REAL ale has always been a mainstay of Manchester's Northern Quarter with pubs including **Bar Fringe**, the **Castle** and the **Smithfield**. Now the trendier end of the area are catching on too with three more pubs on Thomas Street, **Bluu**, the **Bay Horse** and **TV21**, adding cask ale to their range. With Lee's **Millstone**, **Odd Bar** and Marble's **57 Thomas Street** there are now six outlets on the one street. TV21 is also stocking real cider.

The Castlefield area has lost one of its real ale outlets with the former **Barca** in Castlefield Basin re-opening as **Bohemia**. An extensive refit has changed the internal layout to install a larger kitchen but sadly seen the two handpumps removed. However, just down the road there is now cask ale in Deansgate Locks with the **Pitcher & Piano** installing two handpumps. When OT called Marston's EPA was being served from both.

After a successful first event with Huddersfield brewer Mallinson's in March, Chorlton's **Oddest** bar is to host its second Meet The Brewer event on Tuesday 14th June when Bollington Brewery staff will be on hand. Normal service has been resumed at the re-opened **Dulcimer** - apart from a lick of paint and a new sign outside, not much has changed - which seems to suit the local customers who have flocked back like it never went away. Owner Will told OT that he is considering reducing the current six handpumps to five to allow them all to fit on the front of the bar (currently two are a little isolated on the bar end). At least three real cider and perries are available from the downstairs bar with an additional cider to be added to the range on the smaller upstairs bar.

As many readers will have seen in the Manchester Evening News, the **Hope** in Hulme is closed and occupied by squatters. Although the pub has not yet been formally sold by owners Hyde's, it seems like it is likely to be and is expected to be converted to a Chinese take-away. This is a sad loss for the Hulme community that now has only **The Junction** on Roll's Crescent as the only pub selling traditional ales.

In Whalley Range, **Jam Street Cafe** has expanded its range with a second handpump. With their first serving an ever changing Dunham Massey beer, the new one will be dedicated to Bury's Outstanding Beers (who already supply the bar with their Outstanding Pilsner lager). When OT called, Outstanding Blonde was on sale alongside Dunham Massey Stamford Bitter. The small strip of bars on Upper Chorlton Road now offers an ale drinkers an interesting night out within twenty yards with **Nip & Tipple** bar offering beers from Hornbeam on hand pump and in bottles and neighbouring **Hilary Step** maintaining its range of five beers including

permanent pumps for Lancaster & Phoenix beers.

The **Quarrybank** on Bloomsbury Lane in Timperley has undergone what owners Hydes describe as a "medium refurbishment". Staff have been given fresh training in the care and serving of ales so we should be able to look forward to an improvement in this previously unremarkable pub. Just down the road, the **Stonemasons Arms** in Timperley centre which previously only sold an uninspiring Tetley Bitter now has four handpumps - when OT called Copper Dragon Golden Pippin, Black Sheep Ale and Greene King IPA were alongside the Tetley's.

The Woodman, Hazel Grove

THE Woodman has closed for good, partly owing to a nearby supermarket development. Someone has commented that this closure is no great loss to the cause of real ale. Perhaps so. But I cannot let its passing go without paying tribute to its past glory *writes Mike Wilson*.

I was a regular in the Woodman from the early seventies, having been introduced to it by my father. So my family's connection with what was a very fine community local goes back something like 50 years. So good were the licensees their names have stuck in our joint memory: Jack & Jean Vaggers followed by Wilf & Marjorie Austin. Of course, all this was before Robbies decided to "improve" the pub some years ago, thus destroying a pub of real character and charm.

Robbies have long operated a near monopoly along the A6 in Hazel Grove and, latterly, they have been derided for the fact this presents a very limited choice of ale. But let us remember that, in the seventies, it was this monopoly that kept the real ale flag flying in places like Hazel Grove. The only alternatives would be the occasional Double Diamond or Grotneys.



The Woodman was the sort of pub you could easily wander into on your own, order a truly excellent pint and then chat to the locals. As corny as it sounds, there was often some extemporere singing in the snug, aided and abetted by Bertha and Jenny who sat conveniently close to the snug's serving hatch, thus ensuring a ready supply of free drinks as new customers arrived. At one point an argument broke out between Bertha and Jenny and they were never reconciled to my knowledge, with the result that Jenny then

took residence in the other front room - but this wasn't nearly as effective for her supply of free drinks, no longer being visible from the main bar.

These were great days for the pubs along the A6, including the other pub which has recently closed, The Grove, which was under the management of one Ron Weston. He looked like a Boson and you really wouldn't want to argue with him.

There are signs that Robbies are now ready to introduce more variety in their outlets, and this will be welcome. But before we criticise their prevalence, we should pause in gratitude for the fact that, through pubs such as The Woodman, they continued to champion the cause of real ale at a time when keg was king and CAMRA hadn't even got started.

Emigration, Offerton



Lifelong friends Mike McNally and Tony Heapy have shown they have the courage to follow their convictions by giving up their jobs to take over as licensees of their favourite pub. Tony said: "It's been a big part of our lives for a long time, and now with the right training we have been able to start out in new careers and do something that we really enjoy."

"We've thrown ourselves headlong into the new job. Between the two of us we are covering all the shifts behind the bar while we become established. The training we received from Robinson's gave us a great start and builds on Mike's experience from having worked here as a part-time barman."

Getting the condition of the cask beer just right has been a main point of concentration since taking over, and feedback is already very positive. In addition Tony and Mike are also balancing their time behind the bar with renovating the beer garden at The Emigration.

"We have a lot of good plans and there is more that we want to do. The pub is very much alive with a host of clubs and societies at its heart and for us it's great to be active at the centre of our community and we wish we had done it sooner."

Offerton also looks set to get a new pub. Hyde businessman has submitted a retrospective application to turn the Offerton Social Club on Mallowdale Road into a pub. More news next time.

What's Brewing

Beer Festival Beers – a brief look at what's on

WELL, it wouldn't be a beer festival without any beer would it? Once again this year we ripped up last year's list to start from scratch to bring some absolutely top rate beers from around the country. The finishing touches were being put to the beer order but here's a brief taster of what you can expect.

Mild – there will be 13 of these and will include some real stars. Local favourites include Nutty Slack from Prospect Brewery, Malt Mountain Mild from Hornbeam and Dark Hatters from Robinsons. Titanic Mild is always a winner and we have two milds from the award-winning Arbor Ales from Bristol – Mild West and the stronger (5.2%) Festival Mild.

Bitter (up to 4.2% ABV) – there should be about 45 of these. We hope to have the debut brews from Worth Brewing at Poynton and Jay Krause's Shaw's Brewery, relocated from Dukinfield (see this month's Brewery News). One or two beers should be along from Sheffield's new Blue Bee Brewery and look out too for the pale and hoppy Zenith from Summer Wine Brewery. New from Cumbria are Katalyst and Cool Fusion from the cutting edge Hardknott Brewery. Closer to home check out beers from Bollington's Bollington and Happy Valley breweries and Macclesfield's Redwillow. Don't forget the Festival Special, this year sponsored by the Magnet and brewed by Bury's Outstanding Brewery – about 4.2% and laced with the superb Citra hop.

Best Bitter (up to 5.5% ABV) – about 45 of these, too. Well, where to start? Check out two beers from Sheffield's Steel City Brewery – both will be pale and **very** hoppy. There will be a new beer from Happy Valley Brewery and two new beers from Thornbridge – Alchemy X and

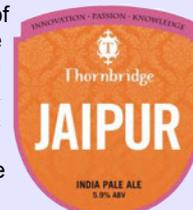
XI, both 5% hoppy beers brewed using English hop varieties. Make sure you also try Black Rocks, a new-style "Black IPA" from Buxton Brewery. An essential beer will be this year's Summer Marble, a stunning beer with a new hop recipe each year.

Strong Beers (over 5.5%) – will be ten or so of these. Robinson's Old Tom will be there of course along with that perennial favourite Jaipur IPA from Thornbridge. Hardknott Brewery's Infra Red IPA is a fantastic beer as is Ageless, the 7.2% IPA from Redwillow. There will be another black IPA, too – the latest in the Summer Wine Nerotype series of single hop beers.

Stouts & Porters – we plan to have about a dozen of these. There will be a rum porter from Liverpool Organic Brewery and a coffee stout from Summer Wine. From Titanic Brewery there will be a superb chocolate and vanilla stout and don't miss the excellent Scoresby Stout from Yorkshire's Cropton Brewery. We also have the last cask of Matron's Delight, a 8% ABV imperial stout brewed by Outstanding Brewery in conjunction with festival staffing officer Margaret Corlett. This cask will have at least six months age on it so should be on superb form.

Special Beers – about ten of these. There will be a Heather Ale from Hornbeam Brewery. Wheat beers will include Way Out Wheat from Offbeat Brewery, White Rose Wheat from Ossett Brewery, and the new Belgian style White Queen from Tatton Brewery. Don't miss Smokeless, the smoked chilli stout from Redwillow.

As ever there should be something for everyone with timeless classics rubbing shoulders with new beers from top-rated micros. Don't miss them.



Stockport Beer Festival Corporate Booking



Now the word is them folks in Stockport have clocked up 25 years at their Beer Festival, so don't you think you owe it to yourself to get on down there and darn well enjoy yourself with them??

If there's a group of you who likes a beer, or its your team or some customers who you've done business with, why not use their Corporate booking and let them sort it for you? Now as I understand it you put this link into your computer <http://www.stockportfestival.org.uk/> and click on Corporate Entertainment.

Read what they got to say, then you get to contact this good guy called Alan, on alan.gent@me.com or 07798571354 who sorts it all for you! Nothing simpler in my book.

You still here? What're you waiting for???

**Stockport Beer Festival
Its beer Jim, but not as we know it.....**

Pub News Extra

Robinsons sometimes have difficulty in letting some of their pubs. Rather than use a variety of pub management companies to run them in the interim, they have engaged the services of Mitchells of Lancaster (who themselves run a pub estate and York Brewery). Several Stockport pubs are now among those managed by Mitchells for Robinsons - the **Bulls Head** (Market Place), **Royal Oak** (High Street), **Bird in Hand** (Hazel Grove), **Florist** (Shaw Heath and the **Blossoms** (Heaviley are amongst them).

The Mitchells man at the **Blossoms** is Eric Mills, an affable southerner who has an enviable track record when it comes to running pubs. For 10 years he was licensee of the Wellington in Bedford, a pub owned by the Banks & Taylor micro, and which won branch, regional and super-regional pub of the year awards under his stewardship. His impact at the Blossoms is already evident – Unicorn remains, but the Hatters has been replaced by the dark variety, and welcome additions are Dizzy Blonde and the current seasonal. Further handpumps for Westons Cider and Perry may follow.



Hydes Pub News

Quite a few snippets from the Hydes estate. First the rumour department – we hear that closed **Four Heatons** may become a Tesco Metro (as may the also closed but non-Hydes **Red Lion** in Gatley). More significantly word is that Hydes are also negotiating to sell the **Gateway** in Didsbury to Wetherspoons. Obviously more news on all of these in due course. Good news, though, at the **Fletcher Moss** Didsbury where handpumped cider has joined the wide range of cask beers (Hydes and guests) on offer.

Having successfully purchased the Robin Hood Pub in Helmshore earlier this year, Hydes have announced their acquisition of the **Queen of Hearts** in the centre of Fallowfield. The prominent site was purchased for a seven figure sum and is split into two trading units, one being the Cheshire Cat Pub and the other, The Queen of Hearts, has been operated as a student venue. To date no cask ale has been sold although traditional cider is on handpump. With Hydes involvement we hope this will change. Hydes Chief Executive has confirmed that they are already “working on some very exciting development plans which we believe will fully exploit the tremendous potential the property offers.”



Here and There

In Didsbury the **Fat Loaf** has a good range of foreign bottled beers available and this has now been joined by a cask beer from Dunham Massey Brewery. Well worth a visit, we think.

In the City Centre, **Fab Café** on Portland Street had two cask beers when we last called - Black Sheep Bitter has been joined by a Hornbeam beer. Cask Ale is now on sale and selling well at the **Soup Kitchen** on Spear Street (off Stephenson Square). Indeed demand is such that two cask beers now feature on handpump – all from micro breweries. The food is excellent too – review soon.

The **Mark Addy** got a rave review for its food in the *Observer Magazine* at Easter. Highly deserved, too. The author found the wine good value, too. However this being the *Observer* there was, needless to say, no mention of the excellent cask beer available. There are up to four cask beers on handpump reflecting a more active interest in the beer side of the operation. This is courtesy of (newish) bar manager James Ratcliffe who is very much a cask ale fan. The pub also does an excellent line in bar snacks, too. Very highly recommended.



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There is still time to take part in this year's Mild Magic trail. Mild Magic runs until Sunday 22 May and offers everyone taking part the chance to win something. All completed entries will receive either a free entry ticket for the 2011 Stockport Beer & Cider Festival or, if you're a member of CAMRA, vouchers for two free half pints of mild at the festival. Other prizes include t-shirts, polo shirts and brewery visits.

Get a card from a participating pub and when you've filled it in (you'll need 12 different stickers from 12 different pubs) send it to the Mild Magic address on the card and, after our closing date, we will send you your Stockport Beer & Cider Festival tickets, and a special invite to our prize and awards evening.

Mild Magic Launch

Mild Magic was launched at the Nursery, Heaton Norris when a good turnout of press and CAMRA was able to enjoy Hydes Owd Oak and 1863 milds along with the excellent



Hornbeam Malt Mountain Mild available as a guest.

The Mild Magic Pubs

ADSWOOD Adswood Hotel; **ALL SAINTS** Sandbar; **ALTRINCHAM** Costello's Bar; **BROADHEATH** Old Packet House; **BREDBURY** Greyhound; **BRIDGEMONT** Dog & Partridge; **BURNAGE** Albion; **BUXWORTH** Navigation; **CHEADLE*** Crown, Red Lion, Cheshire Line; **CHEADLE HULME** Cheadle Hulme, Church Inn; **CHORLTON*** Oddest, The Bar, Famous Trevor Arms, Beech, Pi, Sedge Lynn; **COMPSTALL*** Andrew Arms, Northumberland Arms; **DENTON** Chapel House; **DIDSBURY** Fletcher Moss, Milson Rhodes; **DISLEY** White Lion; **EDGELEY** Olde Woolpack; **FALLOWFIELD** Friendship; **FURNESS VALE** Crossings; **GATLEY** Horse & Farrier; **GORTON** Waggon & Horses; **GREAT MOOR** Travellers Call; **HAUGHTON GREEN** Chapel House; **HAZEL GROVE*** Royal Oak, Grapes, Three Tunnes; **HEALD GREEN** Griffin; **HEATON MERSEY** Crown, Griffin; **HEATON MOOR** Moor Top; **HEATON NORRIS*** Magnet, Nursery; **HYDE*** Cotton Bale, Queens, Sportsman, Cheshire Ring; **LANCASHIRE HILL** Navigation; **LANE ENDS** Travellers Call; **LONGSIGHT** New Victoria; **MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE*** Castle, Marble Arch, Smithfield, Crown & Anchor (Cateaton St), Micro Bar, Moon Under Water, Bulls Head, Grey Horse, Old Monkey, Ape & Apple, Paramount, Waterhouse; **MARPLE (ROSE HILL)** Railway; **MARPLE BRIDGE** Royal Scot; **MARPLE*** Hatters Arms, Navigation, Ring O'Bells; **MELLOR** Royal Oak; **NEW MILLS** Masons Arms; **OFFERTON** Fingerpost; **PORTWOOD** Railway; **ROMILEY** Friendship; **RUSHOLME** Ford Madox Brown; **SALE*** JP Joule, Volunteer, Plough Hotel; **SALFORD** New Oxford; **SHAW HEATH** Armoury; **STALYBRIDGE*** Station Buffet Bar, Q; **STOCKPORT TOWN CENTRE*** Tiviot, Arden Arms, Bakers Vaults, Calverts Court, Red Bull, Waterloo, Crown (Heaton Lane), Pineapple, Swan With Two Necks; **STRETFORD** Bishop Blaize; **STRINES** Royal Oak; **TIMPERLEY** Quarry Bank; **WHALEY BRIDGE** Shepherds Arms; **WHITEHOUGH (CHINLEY)** Old Hall; **WITHINGTON** Victoria; **WOODFORD** Davenport Arms

* These areas are subdivided on the card to make it easier for you to complete the Mild Magic Extra, Super and Ultra.

40 YEARS OF
CAMPAIGNING

CAMRA at 40



This year CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, celebrates its 40th birthday (the actual anniversary was on 16 March). Over the rest of this year Opening Times will be running a series of articles to mark the event. We start off with a look back at the very early days.

The first proper Good Beer Guide was published in 1974, based on research carried out in late 1973. Before that however a pioneering edition was published by the then Campaign for the Revitalisation of Ale in November 1972.

The authors freely admitted it was a temporary stop-gap measure and did not claim to offer anything like comprehensive coverage of the county. Despite being decidedly tilted towards entries in the south east there were a handful of entries in what is now Greater Manchester. We decided to revisit this handful of pubs and see how they compare today. There were just seven of them, starting with...

Britannia, 2 Bolton Road, Pendlebury. The beers were Wilsons Mild and Bitter on handpump and the pub was described as a "superb unspoilt alehouse. So typical of the area. Very friendly". The pub didn't survive for much longer and was demolished in 1975 to make way for a roundabout. Not a good start.

Crown, 24 Blackfriars Street, Salford. Wilsons Mild and Bitter again. Rather prosaically described as "ordinary town pub; just within Salford boundary. Close to Manchester city centre". At least the Crown is still standing but has been disused for many years. However there has recently been considerable work carried out on the premises and a new license application has been made. Will it reopen as a pub?



King, Oldham Street, Manchester. Tetley Mild and Bitter on handpump here and briefly described as "pleasant city centre pub". Having spent many years as one of the roughest pubs in the city centre, the King was rejuvenated a few years ago and is now the Northern. Real ale is no longer available.

Rising Sun, Queen Street, Manchester. Back to Wilsons Mild and Bitter sold in an "old-time pub, which is not authentic, but atmosphere and ale are excellent". Happily, they still are but the long gone Wilsons beers have been replaced by five cask beers - Marstons EPA, Moorhouses Pride of Pendle, Taylor's Landlord, Titanic White Star and Hook Norton Hooky Gold plus a traditional perry when we called.

Vine, Washway Road, Sale. Wilsons Mild and Bitter again, this time supplemented by Draught Bass. "Patronised by bank manager and dustman alike" said the 1972 Good Beer Guide. Today the Vine is basically one open-plan L-shaped room much given over to televised sport. Wells Bombardier was the sole cask beer when we called.



Wellington, 345 Bolton Road, Salford. Holts Mild and Bitter here sold in a "typical Lancashire ale house. Piano". This pub was knocked down in 1973 but a new Wellington was built on the site and is still with us today. Holts Mild and Bitter remain on handpump, and had been joined by Fullers London Pride as a guest beer when OT called.

York Inn, 11 York Street, Manchester. Wilsons Mild and Bitter again in a "busy, new pub. Businessman's haunt, popular with young people by night". Today it is a sandwich shop.

So, three out of seven gone and one of the remainder with no cask ale. But in the three remaining a greater range of beers in total than would have been conceivable in 1972.

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High Peak Pubs of the Year

High Peak & NE Cheshire CAMRA are able to select two pubs of the year – one for Derbyshire and one for Greater Manchester (which for this purpose includes a tiny bit of Cheshire). Geoff Williamson introduces the lucky winners:

White Lion, Disley

THIS town style pub towards the edge of Disley Village underwent a major refurbishment by Enterprise Pub Co. approximately four years ago, but the biggest transformation at that time was brought about by the pub's management.



Sheena, Ray and Martin introduced a drinking revolution into the area by offering consistently high quality cask conditioned beers, many of them from microbreweries, through eight hand pumps despite the restricted choice and inflated costs imposed by Enterprise.

The pub also embraces many of CAMRA's aims including supporting local breweries under the LocAle scheme and runs a very successful beer festival in August. These are a few of the merits of the White Lion that resulted in the High Peak branch of CAMRA voting the pub as its Pub of the Year for the Greater Manchester part of the Branch area. This pub is a great asset not only to Disley but to the whole area and deserves the support of all discerning drinkers.

Old Hall Inn, Whitehough

THE Old Hall's rise in popularity in recent years is entirely due to the limitless enthusiasm and energy displayed by licensee Dan Capper and his excellent support team.



This free house incorporated within a magnificent 16th Century manor house has gone from strength to strength with even the two superb beer festivals run each year becoming better with each event. Offering an exemplary array of interesting and well-kept cask ales, many from local breweries, and sharing many of CAMRA's values resulted in the pub scoring higher than all the other Derbyshire Branch's nominations last year. It deservedly won the award for CAMRA's Derbyshire Pub of the Year in 2010 along with many other accolades.

The High Peak branch of CAMRA again voted the Old Hall its Pub of the Year for the Derbyshire part of the Branch area for 2011. The Old Hall has become a flagship pub for the whole of northern Derbyshire.

Featured Pub: The Gun Inn, Hollingworth

Since Emma Cooper and Stuart Wilson took over this fading Hollingworth pub last year, its fortunes have turned around. Previously, several televisions, loud music and fruit machines were the order of the day but these have all gone. The pub has re-introduced cask ale and has quiet background music. It has been transformed back into a traditional pub, and its good features have been re-emphasised.

There is a folk night every other Thursday evening, with an open mike night on the other Thursday. Bar snacks are on sale daily from 12-9pm and there is a restaurant upstairs open from Thursday to Sunday. The pub got its Cask Marque award in early April and by the time you read this, the beer festival running from 30th April to May 2nd will have taken place. The beers were Howard Town Best Bitter, Moorhouses Pride of Pendle and Theakstons Bitter.

To illustrate Stuart and Emma's passion for real ale, they joined CAMRA when they got the pub and introduced real ales as their first aim. The pub is handy for the 236 & 237 buses running between Glossop and Manchester via Ashton at a rate of 2 each hour.

High Peak Pub Scene

Frank Wood with Pubs News from High Peak & North East Cheshire CAMRA plus Robin Wignall's monthly round-up of the Peak District Pub scene

High Peak Pub News With Frank Wood

Focussing on Hayfield this month after a very pleasant evening there on the last Saturday in March.



STARTING in the **Waltzing Weazel** (pictured above), just out of the village on New Mills Road, it was the first time for me since last year's refurbishment when it was shut for two months. The beer choice was Brains Rev James, Ruddles County (rarely seen in this area) and Copper Dragon Best Bitter. Very much a pub concentrating on quality food, I picked up on a drop in from a potential customer who was told they were virtually booked up for that night (again) and his choice of slot was restricted.

A ten minute walk back into the village brings you to the **Kinder Lodge**. That evening, though only just after 6pm, it was very lively. Graham, the landlord has been at the pub for many years and has built up a solid locally based custom, with very much an emphasis on sport. The Rev James was present again. This beer has been on the past three times I have been in now so is obviously popular as Graham sticks to the customers' choice. Taylor Best Bitter is a permanent beer and Copper Dragon Best Bitter the guest beer completing the three beers on sale.

On then to the **Pack Horse** at the other end of the village. Theakston's Dark Mild was on here, along with Thwaites Wainwright, Taylor Landlord and Winkle Rumbler. At this point can I say that we were drinking in halves so we could try as many as possible between the two of us on the night, and all were of the utmost quality so far, as they were for the remainder of the evening?

On then to the **Royal Hotel**, the village's Good Beer Guide listed pub in 2011. Hydes Original is the regular beer in here. It was joined by Winkle Undertaker, Hornbeam Mild, Thornbridge Wild Swan and Osset Pale Gold. A cider is also served on handpump here, being Gwynt y Ddraig Scrumpy on this evening.

Finally, at the **George**, back over the River Sett bridge, Jennings Cumberland and Banks's Bitter are the two regular beers and on this occasion were joined by Caledonian Wit Beer which at 4.5% was very nice too. The

Bulls Head does not sell real ale. The main aim of the evening was to attend the 21st birthday bash of a work colleague at Hayfield Conservative Club. I did not expect real ale here but was pleasantly surprised to find that Tetley's current guest beer was available, and topped up the evening quite well.

So lots of choice in the village. Unfortunately, we did not have the time to visit the **Sportsman** up on Kinder Road but I believe that since the pub changed hands, the Thwaites beers are just as good as normal. Also in Little Hayfield the **Lantern Pike** goes on as usual, selling quality beers (also Good Beer Guide 2011) which include Taylor Landlord and Howard Town beers. Locally, the **Little Mill** at Rowarth still sells Marston's Bitter and Pedigree and also guest beers that are sourced from anywhere, being a free house. However, down at Birch Vale, the **Grouse** has been shut for some months though a rumour is now, that Robinsons have sold it and the new owners will be opening it up in the coming months. The **Sycamore**, also in Birch Vale, a large prominent pub, that has been a popular pub for many years, is now shut. This leaves the small friendly **Vine** on Hayfield Road (Robinsons) as the only pub locally.

Good news in Thornsett however, as the **Printers Arms** is still doing well. On my visit there on 6 April, Storm Tornado (4.2%) Storm Ale Force (4.2%) and Millstone Grainstorm (4.3%) were moving well on the three pumps. I stuck on the Millstone and the quality was excellent. Free food is always on when either the Manchester clubs are featured on Sky TV.

Finally, good news about the **Heroes of Waterloo** in Ashton, on Mossley Road. It recently re-opened after a long time shut and in the opening weeks it has featured two beers regularly, being Shaws Golden Globe and Taylor Landlord, and is described by a local branch member as being a "pub with a restaurant emphasis".

Peak Practice With Robin Wignall

AN article from *The Local Historian* from earlier last year contains comment on an 1817 Select Committee of the House of Commons Report on licensed premises. Some things don't change as this report found that the monopoly of the 'common brewers was very prejudicial to the community at large.' Behaviour inside and outside licensed premises was a concern in the early 19th century, as was the suitability of licensees. Licensing sessions, the court process for obtaining a license, often became special occasions and an opportunity for merrymaking. One report noted that a Yorkshire licensee returning from the local sessions and follow-up was 'a good deal

hellewated,' so much so that he fell from his horse. Now there is a good word, presumably dialect that seems not to have survived into the 21st century.

Of course these days for the 'common brewer' read big national or multi-national brewer and big pubcos. However in amongst the aspects of their domination and near monopoly which deserve criticism, there are aspects which are more praiseworthy.

I have written favourably recently about the Punch Finest Cask List and the Enterprise SIBA list. Marston's also provides its licensees with a choice of beers. Throughout the year beers from the five fief breweries are available. At the Good Beer Guide listed **Shepherds' Arms** in Whaley Bridge Sue Greenwood orders a good range of these beers. Additionally a couple of times a year Marston's make available beers from other brewers. In early April the spring festival was underway at the Shepherds and beers from Holt's, Everards, Okells and Batemans were available with more goodies to follow. Up to ten beers at a time can be available at the Shepherds, with beer quality consistently good.

Other Marston's houses in the area also access some of the variety of beers to be had. Up at the **Shady Oak** at Fernilee, still badged Jennings, three or four beers from the Marston's breweries are usually available and in good form.

I managed to call in at the **Oddfellows** at Whitehough, Chinley recently. Mark Parsons is there for the time being as relief manager. Locally he has previously been at the Shady Oak and the Board Inn at Whaley Bridge. When I called very good Jennings Mild was to be had alongside Snecklifter and Marston's Bitter and Pedigree. The Oddfellows is certainly another good reason to visit Whitehough.

Free houses obviously have a big advantage in choosing their beers. At the **Old Hall** at Whitehough I have often reported on the range of pale, hoppy brews from microbreweries. A March visit found beers from Storm and Spire and three ales from Marble.

Along the Peak Forest Tramway at the **Navigation**, Buxworth recent delights have included beers from Lancaster and Titanic. There is also an intention to hold a Spring Bank Holiday beer festival and a charity event on 29 April, which it is hoped would feature Robinson's shire horses.

In the Robinson's estate the latest seasonal beer, Ginger Tom has been well received. At the **Crossings** at Furness Vale sales were rapid. At the **Cock** at Whaley Bridge it is a beer which has attracted women drinkers.

Providing choice can certainly be rewarding.

SSM CAMRA Pub of the Year 2011

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Stockport Cider Pub of the Year

FOR the first time, Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA has decided to make a Cider Pub of the Year Award. This reflects the growing interest in traditional cider and perry both locally with more and more pubs selling the real thing.

The winner of the inaugural award was the **Railway**, Portwood. Previously owned by Dave Porter's eponymous Porter Brewing Co, the pub is now an independent free house run by Sue Hitchen, who holds the pub on a lease from the potential developers of the site who plan to replace the whole block with a new Sainsburys.

The Railway has a long tradition of selling traditional cider and perry, being, we think, the first pub in the entire Stockport & South Manchester branch area to sell traditional cider, and certainly the first to sell a rotating guest cider or perry. In recent years this has been enhanced by the running of an annual cider festival. It therefore seemed appropriate to mark both the Railway's long history of support for traditional cider and Sue's current enthusiasm when deciding on the first winner of what should be an annual award.

Pictured below – Stockport & South Manchester Branch Chairman and Branch Cider Representative Mike Gilroy present Sue and Vince with their award (Mike's colleague as Branch Cider Rep, Dave Preston, is missing).



The presentation night saw a large crowd down at the pub where a party atmosphere prevailed with live music and generous buffet – and a good selection of traditional cider and perry, of course!

Greater Manchester Cider & Perry Festival – 2011

WITH the success of cider bars at beer festivals within the region, some of your cider representatives have got together to bring you the First Greater Manchester CAMRA Cider & Perry Festival. The festival will be held on 24 & 25 of June between the hours of 12.00 – 22.30.

It will be held at Copper Face Jacks in the Palace Hotel, Manchester M60 7HA. The entrance is on the corner of Oxford Street and Whitworth Street, which is opposite Oxford Road train station. The admission prices are on the door at £2.00. £1.00 for CAMRA members.

We are staffing the festival with only regional CAMRA members, training will be provided if you are new to a cider bar. We also need staff to do glasses and membership. If you would like to be a staff volunteer please contact Phil Moss on phil5494@gmail.com. There will be 60 tubs of cider and perry so lots of choice, with something for everybody. There will be food to soak up some of the cider & perry or if you are driving soft drinks are available. Much more next month.

Beer Festival Charity

Stockport Cerebral Palsy Society

THIS year is the silver anniversary for the Stockport Beer and Cider Festival and once again Stockport Cerebral Palsy Society has been chosen as the festival charity

Stockport Cerebral Palsy Society is a registered charity and was established in 1953 by carers of children who had cerebral palsy and associated disabilities. They now support over 500 children and adults in Stockport and other boroughs who have a range of physical and/or learning disabilities and autistic spectrum conditions. They particularly focus on individuals with the most complex needs and remain parent/carer-led and independent.

Their purpose is to provide a range of services which reflect individual need and choice and which improve disabled peoples quality of life. Their services include:

☞ A day service supporting approximately 100 adults, most of whom are wheelchair users. Service users choose from a wide range of centre-based and community-based activities. They also receive the benefits of a physiotherapy service;

☞ Leisure and sporting activities for over 200 children and adults. They include holiday play schemes, short break activity holidays, after-school clubs, outdoor pursuits for children, a football project, Duke of Edinburgh Award and activities such as walking, climbing, canoeing, sailing and skiing for adults;

☞ A Community Support service providing one-to-one support to children and adults in the home and within their local community promoting independence;

☞ A suitably adapted residential care home with 13 long-stay places for adult residents with complex needs;

☞ A Disability Equality Project that runs training courses and workshops in Stockport primary and secondary schools and in the public and private sector;

☞ A Volunteer Project. Almost all areas of the Society's work are underpinned by 170 trained and registered volunteers.

Stockport Cerebral Palsy Society is delighted, once again, to be the nominated Charity for the 2011 Stockport Beer Festival and they will have their own stall on the main concourse. They will be selling a range of beers kindly donated by local breweries, soft drinks, crisps and snacks together with a range of jewellery. Their staff and volunteers will also be selling tickets for a raffle which will be drawn on the Saturday evening at the festival. They will also be selling the festival programme which will help raise money for the charity.

Please show your support by buying some tickets and giving generously. All money raised will be used to support the Society's services. For the first time ever the charity will have its own festival sponsor and they would like to take this opportunity to thank Sue and Vince at the Railway Pub in Portwood, Stockport for their very kind support.

Finally, a local band, The Prospectors, will be performing at the festival on Friday 3 June at the lunchtime session. The band members are all service users with the Society and are supported by the Drake Music project.

For further information about the Society and its services please visit the Society's website at : www.stockportcp.co.uk



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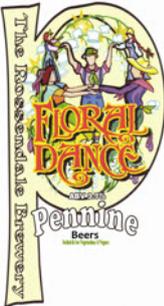
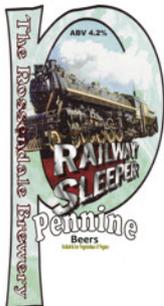
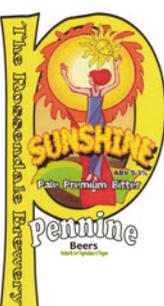
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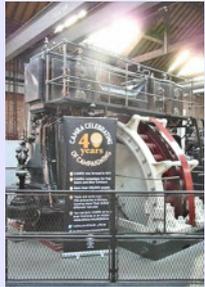
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MOSI Beer Festival

Sell-out success at first event

WE were all really looking forward to this new festival as it was to take place in such a fantastic setting in the Powerhall of the Museum of Science of Industry, unfortunately, so was everyone else, writes *Beverley Gobbett*.

The Museum decided not to keep to their original restrictions in



numbers so as not to disappoint so many people queuing outside. The atmosphere was brilliant but the stock of beer was getting very low. An emergency order was delivered by Dunham Massey Brewing Company at the close of play on the Friday and we opened again on the Saturday. This day was much quieter with lots of people enjoying the Museum to its full as well as the music and beer. That said, we did unfortunately run out of beer at 5.45pm and the festival was drawn to a very early close.

Thanks must go to everyone who volunteered to work at the festival (pictured below) and to everyone who came and enjoyed this brilliant community amenity we have in Manchester. The MOSI learnt a few lessons on getting large numbers of people through their doors in a timely manner. We all learnt that Steam engines and beer makes for great day out – well most of us already knew that one, hence why we sold out.

Hopefully, the MOSI will now be well on with its public appeal to raise £50,000 to fit a new boiler in the Powerhall. Thanks to everyone who was involved in this event and the breweries that sponsored their own beers to boost the appeal. Next year we hope to be bigger and better. More beers, more engines running and over a longer period of time. See you all there. Cheers



Locale Update

New Pubs on Trafford & Hulme Locale Scheme

MORE pubs in the Trafford & Hulme area are committing themselves to stocking locally brewed beers by signing up to CAMRA's LocAle Scheme.



Recent additions to the scheme include the King George (Moss Lane), the Tatton Arms (Tipping Street) and Costello's Bar (Goose Green) in Altrincham; the Railway at Broadheath; the Moss Trooper (Moss Lane) in Timperley; the Parlour (Beech Road), the Marble Beer House (Manchester Road) and the New Lloyds Hotel (Wilbraham Road) in Chorlton; the Commercial Inn (Liverpool Road) and the Ape & Apple (John Dalton Street) in Manchester City Centre.

There are now 28 pubs in the Trafford & Hulme branch area signed up to the CAMRA run scheme which seeks to encourage pubs & bars to support their local brewers by committing to serve at least one real ale brewed within 20 miles. For a full list of participating pubs go to www.thcamra.org.uk

Briton's Bicentenary

Major Anniversary for Famous Pub

THE Britons Protection on Great Bridgewater Street in the City Centre is one of a handful of city centre pubs that is listed on the CAMRA National Heritage Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors. In June this year the building will have been there as a pub for 200 years and the current owner will have been there for thirty years. This calls for a big celebration.



Peter Barnett and business partner Markus Stephens together with their Manageress, Gwen Partridge and staff are planning a grand weekend of fun and fund raising on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th of June. The first 200 people at the bar each day will be able to buy a pint of beer for 10p to reflect the price of a pint in 1811. There will be cabaret in the upstairs room and a Hog Roast in the beer garden. There will also be various stalls in the garden for Bring and Buy and a Raffle in aid of Christies and the FLVA (Federation of Licensed Victuallers Association).



This building is steeped with history and so a visit is a must to find out the rest of the story and see for yourself. By the time you are reading this, the frontage of the pub should also have been renovated back to its original glory.

Please support Peter, Markus and Gwen over the weekend and make this a time to remember in the Britons Protection's history. The hardy amongst us may want to camp out over night.



Beer Style Champs

Top Award for Stockport & S Manchester CAMRA

LAST month CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, held its AGM & Members Weekend in Sheffield. Motions were debated, reports made and, as you might expect, the odd drop of beer was drunk. And a number of awards were presented.

Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA has had quite a good track record of picking up gongs over the years but this time a major award headed the branch's way.

The national award for Beer Styles Promotion was made in recognition of many years of campaigning for mild, via Mild Magic and its predecessors, and more recently for stouts, porters, old ales and barley wines with the Winter Warmer Wander. Pictured above, Jim Flynn (front left) joint organiser of this year's Mild Magic (co-organiser Dave Hanson could not be present) receives the award from National Beer Styles Co-ordinator Duncan Woodhead while branch members (left to right) John Sutcliffe, Mark McConachie, John Clarke and Dave Sharpe look on. *Picture by Kim Adams*

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Brewery News

New Faces

By the time you read this the two new local breweries we have trailed in recent months should at last be brewing. We have finally paid a visit to both of them:

Shaws / Quantum

It's sort of two for the price of one with Jay Krause's new brewing operation, based just off Hempshaw Lane a stones throw from the old Royal Oak Brewery.

We have previously reported how he planned to set up Quantum Brewing Co, and this will indeed be one strand of his brewing operation. The Quantum range will cover the more cutting edge beers such as hoppy strong IPAs and imperial stouts but the more mainstream beers will be brewed under the Shaws label.



Why Shaws? Well Jay has also purchased the brewing equipment, casks, recipes and brand names from the former Shaws Brewery in Dukinfield following the retirement of Shaws brewer Neil Hay – our pictures shows both Jay and Neil at the recent New Mills Beer Festival when the handover became official.



While Neil has retired, this is a brand new venture for Jay, a keen homebrewer who decided he needed a change from the day job. His homebrews were well received and this gave him added confidence (OT can testify to the quality of these) and this was boosted by attending one of Dave Porter's brewing courses in February this year.

Jay has already put three brews through the Shaws plant while it was at Dukinfield and plans to retain the popular Golden Globe (with perhaps a slight tweak of the aroma hops) and Shaws IPA will also reappear, albeit with a boost to the hopping regime. At some stage there will be a mild along with other beers inspired by Jay's researches into the old Shaws brewery history.

All being well you will be able to try one of the beers from the new brewery at Stockport Beer Festival.

Worth Brewing Co

Poynton is really Poynton-with-Worth, hence the name for Paul Hession's new brewery, based at the back of Poynton Royal British Legion.



It's very much Paul's project – we have previously reported how he sourced and restored the five barrel brewery from the long-closed Tap 'n' Tin pub in Chatham, Kent. Not only that but he also built the extension to the club premises that houses the kit. As our picture shows, the end result is very impressive.

While it's a separate business from the Legion, the club will obviously be the main customer for Paul's beers which will be brewed with an eye to the preferences of the club's customers – which tend to the pale and hoppy. Paul's personal preference is for darker, fuller bodied beer and the inaugural brew About Time (3.9-4%) will reflect that. Ultimately, though, Paul aims to produce a full portfolio of beers and also look at bottling, too.

Brewed using British ingredients as far as possible, the beers will be named after local features so one of the first beers (a core range of about four is planned) will be Incline (4% ABV). The artwork for the pumpclips will be based on a series of watercolours, and these will also be available as limited edition prints.



One thing that has struck Paul is the degree of help he has received from fellow brewers. "I've not come across a business community with the same attitude to co-operation and help" he told us and cited the "tremendous amount of help and inspiration" he had received. Once again we hope to have one of the early Worth beers at Stockport Beer Festival.

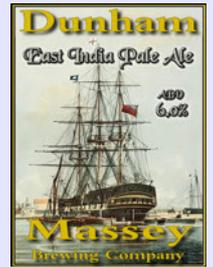
New Brews News

The **Outstanding Brewing Co** is looking forward to the next couple of months. In May the brewery's cask ales are going to be available nationally. The beers will be distributed by Flying Firkin, the Burnley based wholesaler. The month of May also sees the release of the one off brew of a 3.5% mild to coincide with CAMRA's Mild Month. In June the brewery is sponsoring the staff at the

25th Stockport Beer Festival and it is brewing the Festival's special beer in conjunction with the Magnet, Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA's Pub of the Year 2011. At the time of writing the exact details of the brew have not been finalised but Silver Magnet is likely to be a session ale at around 4% ABV and utilise the flavoursome North American Citra hop.

Dunham Massey Brewery has a new beer out: East India Pale Ale.

This is a strong, light and hoppy beer at 6% ABV, harking back to the export IPAs of the 19th Century. The powerful (7.2%) Dunham Gold has gone down so well that it has been kept on as a permanent beer until November when it will be replaced by Winter Warmer as the brewery's strong ale.



The brewery will be producing four milds for May – Dark, Light, Chocolate Cherry and Brown Ale. Dunham Light will also feature on CAMRA's website, Facebook and Twitter feeds as Mild of the Day for Wednesday 11 May. Meanwhile Chocolate Cherry continues to be a serial award winner, this time picking up the champion beer title at Salisbury Winterfest.

Hydes are launching a special charity beer to raise much needed funds for their local charity St Ann's Hospice. The Brewery is creating the special beer named 'Forget Me not', as an exclusive addition to its annual craft ale portfolio, and will donate 20p of every pint sold to St. Ann's Hospice. The 4% ABV beer (which will be available throughout May) was created to help celebrate the 40th year anniversary of St. Ann's Hospice. Hydes has supported the hospice for several years and last year raised over £20,000 through various Family Fundays, Raffles and Charity Nights across their estate.



Other beer news from Hydes, now. "Standard" Mild has been discontinued as volumes reached the stage where it was no longer viable. The brewery still offers two milds in the form of Owd Oak and 1863. At the other end of the range, Jekyll's Gold will now only be occasionally available, mainly in the summer months) and its place as permanent premium beer has been taken by the excellent Manchester's Finest.

Millstone Brewery is producing a range of four "classic beers". The copper coloured, hoppy Best Bitter (4.1%) is out now. Forthcoming beers include a Pale Ale and, yes (at last!), Millstone Stout for October.

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