

**STOCKPORT  
AND SOUTH  
MANCHESTER  
CAMRA**

**No:  
89**

# OPENING TIMES

SEPTEMBER 1991

CAMRA  
FREE

## The Price is Wrong

Evidence has emerged to back up what has been obvious to drinkers for a long time now - brewery price increases are leading to a serious drop in Britain's beer consumption. Market researchers Mintel have produced a report which shows that drinkers gave 'money' as the main reason for their drinking less. The report suggests that the total beer market could fall by another million barrels over the next five years and, with the take-home sector increasing rapidly, up to 10,000 pubs could close in the next two years.

CAMRA's national Campaigns Manager points out that the average price of a pint has soared from £1.02 last July to £1.20 this and puts the brewers firmly at the root of the problem.

"People are drinking less in pubs and probably buying take-home instead. If customers are buying a can of lager for well under £1, the brewers don't lose out - it's the poor bloody publican in the front line who is going to lose out" he explained.

Mintel says the brewers must be concerned by the statistics. Unfortunately this message doesn't seem to have reached the Brewers Society, seen by many as little more than a mouthpiece for the national brewers, who suggested that the data seemed to put a lot of emphasis on 1990 when beer sales had been fairly static for the past five years.

This attitude, dismissive of their customers, is in many ways typical of the big brewers and perhaps it is hardly surprising, when it is they who are the major culprits in the over-pricing stakes.

Locally we are lucky to have a variety of independent brewers who believe in offering quality beers at sensible prices - Robinsons, Hydes, Lees, West Coast (bitter 90p in its one tied house) and of course Holts,

who still lead the pack with managed house prices of 79p for mild and 84p for bitter, all offer better value than the national brewers.

What then can drinkers and publicans alike do about all of this? Drinkers should vote with their pockets and seek out those pubs which offer locally brewed beers at value for money prices - national brewery tenants and leaseholders who don't already do so should put on a sensibly priced, independently-brewed guest beer, you should still be able to both maintain your profit margins and offer a cheaper pint.

Only by a determined stand by all consumers can this national scandal be brought to a halt. The time for action is now.

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## Station - Update

The campaign to prevent Marstons turning Didsbury's last true local, The Station, into a managed house continues.

Letters have been sent to local MP Keith Bradley and Trade Secretary Peter Lilley asking for their support. The next stage will be to set up a meeting with the brewery to try and make them see the strength of feeling against what is planned. Their response so far has been trite and unsympathetic with spokesperson Sandy Dennis being either unavailable for comment or suggesting that the decision is simply a commercial one and not in any way personal.

Licensee Ann Wigglesworth and her loyal customers deserve better than this and we aim to see that they get it. More next month.

**The Olde Vic** Chatham St.  
Edgeley

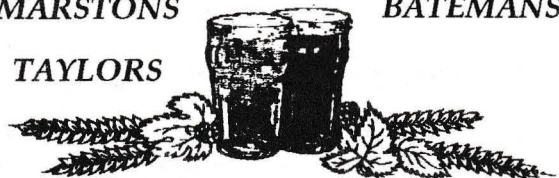
**STOCKPORT'S PREMIER  
FREEHOUSE**

**Guest Beers Weekly**

MARSTONS

BATEMANS

TAYLORS







## PUB of the Month September

Su	M	T	W	H	F	Sa
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

### The Nursery Inn

GREEN LANE, HEATON NORRIS,  
STOCKPORT

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

Hydes  
Anvil Ales  
Brewers of  
Traditional  
Cask  
Beers

Always in  
good taste

Phil Welcomes You To The

### Arden Arms

MILLGATE, STOCKPORT

Robinsons Traditional Ales

BITTER, MILD, OLD TOM  
ON DRAUGHT

Open ALL DAY Fri. / Sat.

BAR MEALS AVAILABLE

### The Red Lion

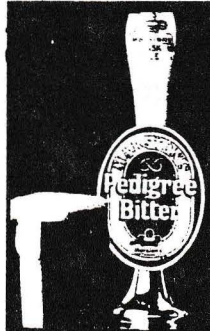
WITHINGTON

Mon. - Sat. 11 - 11

Handpulled Marstons

Pedigree and Burton

Best Bitter



★ LUNCH 7 DAYS A WEEK ★

★ EVENING MEALS MON. - FRI. 5.30 - 8.00 ★

The Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA Pub of the Month for September 1991 is Ye Olde Woolpack, Brinksway, Stockport.

Once a run-down, little-used Greenalls pub, the Woolpack had a brief incarnation as a trendy free house called the Hague, before it looked as though it would be closed for good. Then, though, it was taken on by Bob and Gill Dickinson, who proceeded to turn it back into a good traditional pub with a range of well-kept real ales. Their achievements were recognised when the Woolpack was made Pub of the Month in January 1989.

What, you may wonder, have they done to deserve a second award only two and a half years later? The answer is quite simple - they have introduced Guest Beers! As well as the regular beers, each month Bob has a constantly changing selection of ten or more guests, including brews from all over the country, many from the small new breweries. As soon as one is sold out, the next is put on. The quality is consistently good, and the prices compare favourably with other free houses in the area. It's always worth popping in the Woolpack to see what's on today, and an increasing number of people do. It serves as an example of enterprise to the many national brewery tenants who are now entitled to take guest beers, but mostly can't be bothered. Little wonder, then, that the Woolpack appears in CAMRA's 1992 Good Beer Guide, published in October.

Guest beers apart, the Woolpack has gone from strength to strength, developments including the introduction of real draught mild and the expansion of catering, particularly Sunday lunches. Despite the lack of parking in the immediate area, and parking problems caused by the roadworks which currently surround the pub (the new Brinksway Bridge works), Bob and Gill have built up a strong following of customers from near and far.

Why not join us for the presentation on Thursday 26 September, when an extremely enjoyable night is in prospect? Get there early if you want a seat!

### King's Arms Curry K.O.'d

Very sadly, the catering concession held by the Cuckoo Chef Indian restaurant at the Kings Arms in Chorlton-on-Medlock has ceased following an incident in which the chef was robbed of the evenings takings while awaiting his taxi home. Conventional pub grub is now available at the Kings, with hot dishes at lunchtime and barmcakes at most reasonable hours in the evening.

While this latest violent damage to the local pub trade is much to be regretted, it should perhaps be stressed that the pub itself, whether for casual or for regular customers, remains as trouble-free as anywhere is in these turbulent times.

Cider drinkers should also note that the Kings' now offers one traditional cider at a time - the Hartland's was succeeded by Thatcher's for much of August (any chance of a perry, Simon?)



# RHYTHM and BOOZE

By Chris Stone and Sue Tittensor

This month we introduce a new feature to Opening Times. Each month Chris & Sue will be looking at the thriving pub music scene in and around the Stockport & South Manchester area. Some months they will concentrate on just one pub and what it has to offer, some months will focus on one particular group and sometimes, like this month's introductory feature it will be a quick dip into a few pubs on the same night to see what's on offer. And what better place to start than in and around Stockport Market Place.

A drizzly midweek evening saw us set off to sample the delights of real ale accompanied by real music - not so hard to find in the Stockport & South Manchester area, blessed as it is by much fine beer and plenty of good local live bands. The Market Place is the hub of the Stockport pub and music scene with many pubs in and around the market offering entertainment some or all nights of the week.

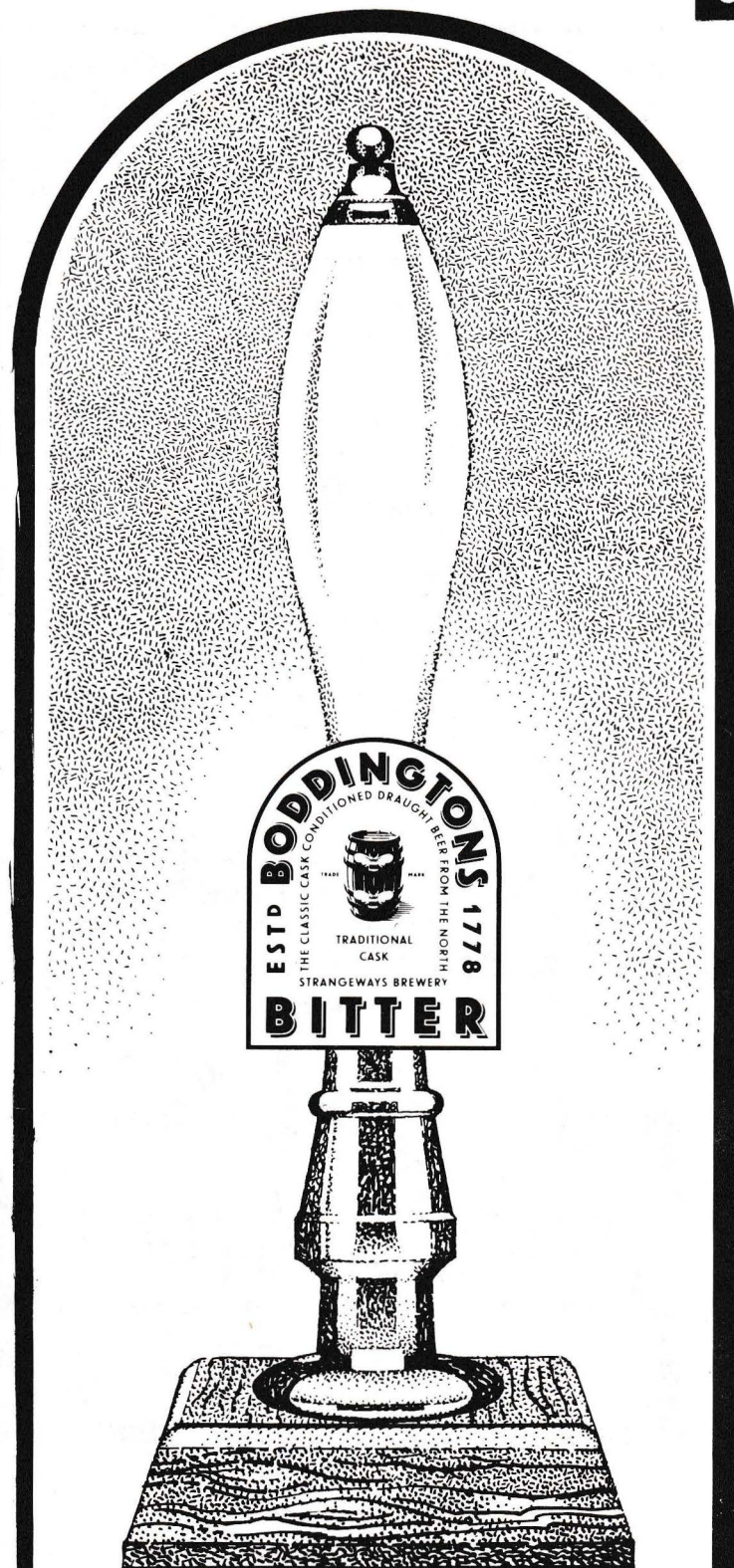
First stop was the Bulls Head, a Robinsons house with frequent live music. Tonight it was Victor Brox, who has been on the Manchester music scene longer than many would care to remember (and who, legend has it, "toured with Hendrix", or so we have been told). The 4-piece outfit was somewhat disappointing, comprising Victor on electric piano, tambourine etc with guitar, bass player and saxophonist. The sparkle and originality which used to be present when the 'Blues Train' played a residency at the Black Horse in Oldham was sadly missing, and in the interval we departed to see what else the Market Place had to offer.

Across the cobble to the Bakers Vaults, we were surprised to find, instead of the raucous music expected, a solo guitarist, Rambling Pete, who was telling jokes as we arrived. Damp and disappointed we decided to opt instead for a quiet drink of Sam Smiths at the Queens Head on Underbank. We were delighted to find a two-piece modern jazz performance in progress. Joe Garry (guitar) and Steve Downs (guitar and bass) were playing mellow contemporary jazz to unwind to - perfectly in tune with the surroundings of the Queens Head. Both players performed expertly, Steve accompanied by a backing track for several numbers. Live jazz is a regular feature at the Queens Head on Wednesdays and Sundays, and deserves more promotion and public support. Certainly this pub seems an ideal venue for this type of music. Incidentally, Steve and Joe, joined by a saxophonist, appear regularly on Fridays at the Bulls Head in Handforth.

We hope you found this, our first feature, interesting - if you know of pubs with a good music scene (and real ale) then drop us a line, c/o Opening Times and we will do our best to drop in over the coming months.

## Strange Shoot

Stockport's Sun & Castle was the scene of a TV commercial shoot last month. Oddly though, the beer being promoted was not one of the products of pub owners Tetley-Walker, but rather one by Bedford brewers Charles Wells ("A Norfolk beer", as one of the film crew described it to Opening Times!).



**THE CLASSIC  
CASK  
CONDITIONED  
BITTER**



# STAGGER

with Ian Saunders

## Fallowfield and Ladybarn

A small number of CAMRA stalwarts gathered in the **White Swan** in the midst of Ladybarn for the start of the latest instalment of "Stagger". For our Stockport members the sight of a Robinsons sign brings on a slight yawn, but for those on the South Manchester side a refreshing smile is more likely. Where we did agree was in the fact that this was a fine place for a drink, a traditional pub with five rooms including a large main room and small vault. A function room upstairs, which serves up folk and Jazz music on Wednesdays and Fridays respectively, and a beer garden with facilities for kids also go to make this a fine community local. The handpumped Robinsons beers were Best Mild and Best Bitter. The Mild was off and had to be returned but the bitter was well thought of. The backwards clock above the bar reminded us that the unspoil atmosphere of this pub makes you feel as if you've gone back in time, especially when compared with the surrounding pubs. It was with trepidation then that we ventured to the next port of call.

The **Mauldeth** on Kingsway (officially in Burnage) is the type of pub that, partly because of its location, tends to attract passing trade only. The large main room serves as meeting point for those commencing a pub crawl or moving on to a city centre night spot. There is also a spacious vault here which attracts a more loyal following. The only handpumped beer is Wilsons bitter which yielded some fairly low scores. The decor is very similar to other Grand Met pubs, i.e. bland and boring. This, the fact that the bar person was slow serving us and smoking behind the bar and the sight of the poster advertising Karaoke nights made us want to leave a.s.a.p.

Two Whitbread pubs next. The first, the **Talbot**, provided us with a very quick stop as it was still keg, but the **Brewers Arms** now sells the real stuff. Since our last stagger this open plan one-roomed pub has been refurbished in typical Whitbread style. When it first re-opened, two handpumps had been installed dispensing Boddingtons bitter and Bantleys Yorkshire bitter although the Bantleys was now keg. The Boddies was rated poor to average. Most of the clientele were riveted to Coronation Street and much as I hate soap operas this was really one of the most exciting aspects of the pub. Still, at least they have real ale. Come on Whitbread, what about the Talbot?

Next was the **Derby Arms**. When this pub was revamped a couple of years ago they destroyed a perfectly good local. But, what they replaced it with is also quite acceptable. It was also re-signed as a Websters house and the Yorkshire brew introduced. Now only Wilsons bitter is available making this the reverse of a more familiar situation! This pint of Wilsons was much better than the previous one and the spare handpump on the bar gave way to rumours of a guest beer. On the down side handpumped KEG scrumpy jack is on sale. Another TV was on show here but the atmosphere was more convivial and it was largely ignored. Next on the list was another conversion to real ale, **The Old House at Home** on Braemar Road. A good street corner local this, tastefully refurbished and looking remarkably bigger on the inside than it is on the outside. A traditional layout with lounge and vault with the odd potted plant for decoration. It sells handpumped Greenalls bitter and Stones Bitter (Original is no longer available). Unfortunately both beers were scored fairly badly, but a nice boozier nonetheless.

Our next port of call was the **Friendship** on Wilmslow Road. During term time many students drink in this area, as there is a hall of residence nearby, but this is one of the few pubs that has a healthy mix of students and locals. On this occasion it was fairly quiet but the horseshoe-shaped bar arrangement is such that it doesn't take too many punters to make it look full. As the weather was nice we sat outside on the benches looking out onto the busy main road from our raised position. The beers were Hydes bitter and light on electric pumps and both were quite passable.

Across the road is the **Sherwood**, a Whitbread pub with a Pizza Hut attached (emphasising the link between the two). When the restaurant was added the whole place was renovated, although the style remained the same, that of a large open planned pub attracting students and young people. The real ales on offer here (which can be taken into the restaurant) are Trophy bitter and Boddingtons bitter (both below average) and Marstons Pedigree which wasn't on!

Next was the **Queen of Hearts** on the corner of Wilmslow Road and Wilbraham Road. A huge pub this forming part of a hotel and restaurant complex housed in what used to be a church. In common with other pubs in the area, the decor is designed to be "trendy" with a raised area and a bal-

ESTD  1867

# BURTONWOOD BREWERY



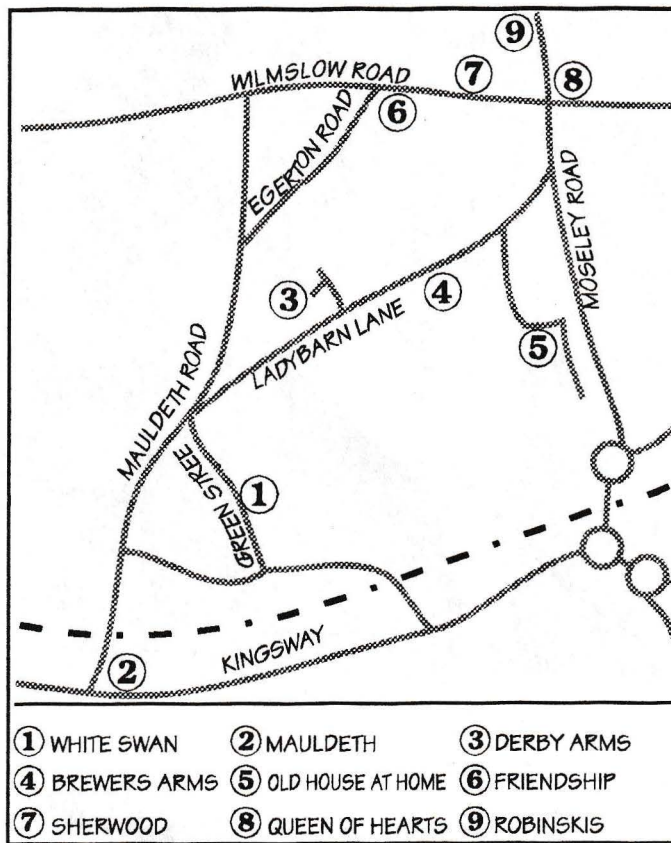
**A FAMILY TRADITION  
OF FINE BREWING**



cony. There is also a large beer garden outside which we took advantage of. Although technically a free house all the beers on offer are from the Allied Breweries stable including a new addition in the form of Walkers bitter! Unfortunately, it was off and had to be returned, as did the Jennings bitter. The other two beers, Tetley bitter and dark mild were both rated average.

Finally, and with some relief, we reached **Robinski's Walle**t for some decent beer! I never thought I'd be writing that comment about the former Sandpiper Hotel as it sold keg Greenalls for many years. Under new ownership it is having a new lease of life and operates in the way a free house should i.e. not taking all its beers from the same brewery. The new regime brought with it a total refit and it is now an American theme bar which works quite well (if a little over the top) but anything's better than the garish fluorescent green of the old pub. The best news is that there is always at least one beer from our local West Coast Brewery Company in Chorlton-on-Medlock. On this occasion Dobbins bitter and Guiltless stout were available and both were far superior to anything else drunk that night. Other beers available were Ruddles bitter and Country and Websters bitter. Strangely, no-one tried these. So warm was it that we could still sit out.

And so ended an evening (except those of us who went on to the local curry house) of varied pubs and consistently poor beer. Only our local independent brewers, Robinsons, Hydes and West Coast provided us with a good pint. Certainly, it was a hot night, but that's not much of an excuse. Still, as always, don't take our word for it, try the pubs yourselves.



Copy Date for October Edition - Sept. 18

# SWINGING SPORRAN

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(opposite UMIST)**

**BEER FESTIVAL**

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21**

**TUES  
22**

**WED  
23**

**OCTOBER**

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TRADITIONAL CIDERS**

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MUSIC**

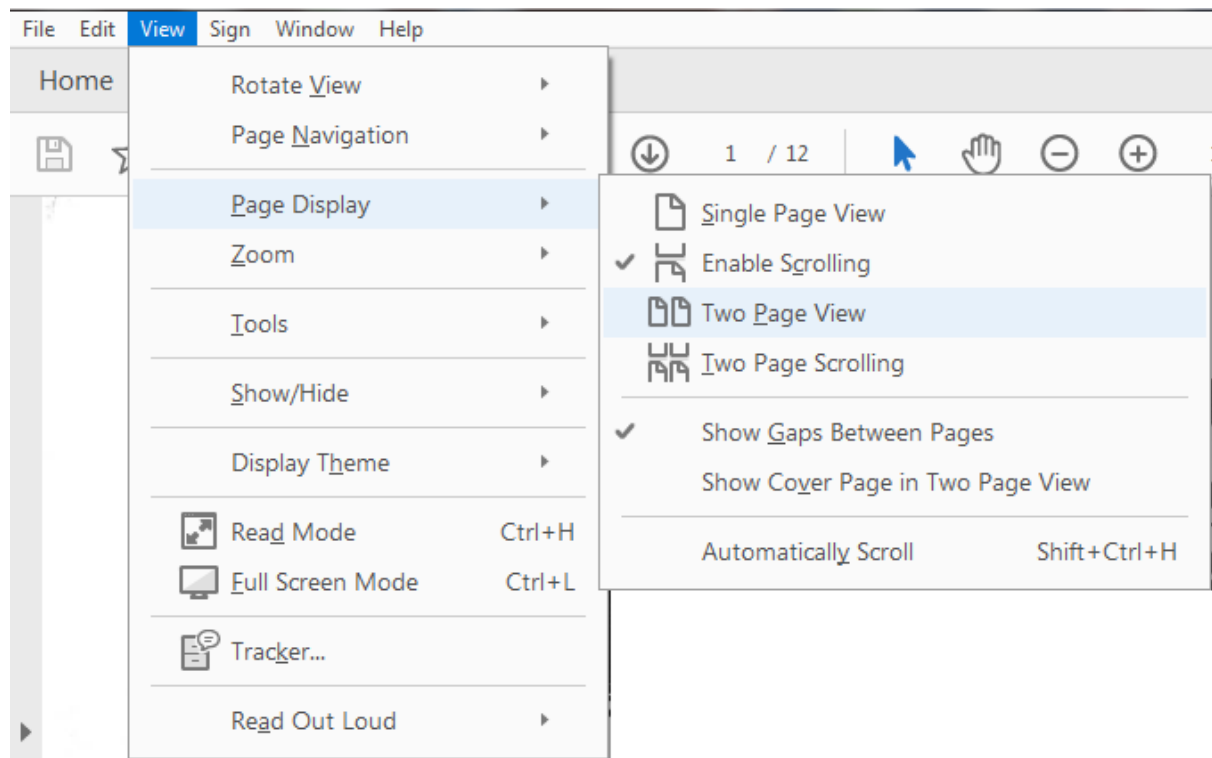
**12.00 noon till 11.00 pm**

**FOOD**



**Because pages 6 and 7 were laid out across the centre page.**

**To aid reading across the page it is best to swap the display to side-by-side two page display.**

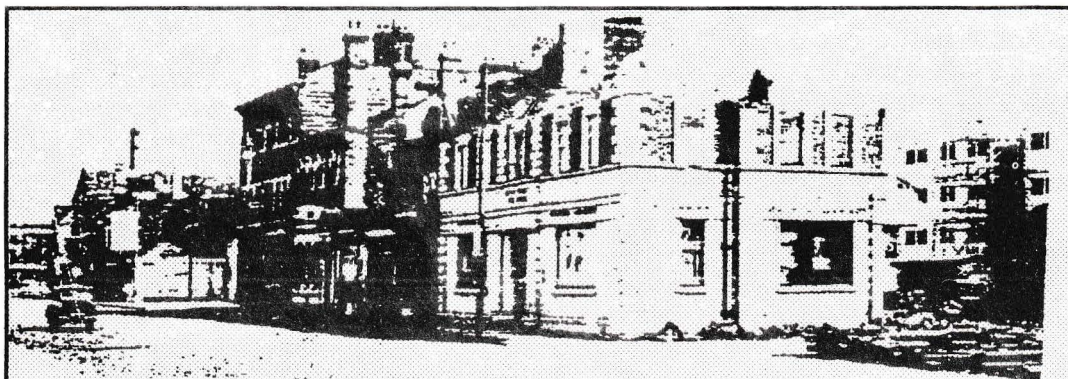


**And change the display zoom level to 100%**





Will the imaginative scheme to re-site the existing Plough pub fall victim to the high cost?



## Pub Vandalism Awards 1991



The Travellers Call is yet another pub whose existence is threatened by a road scheme. Will there be anything left for these cars to travel to?

Once again it's that time of year when the bouquets (this year to SA for the refurbishment of Turners Vaults) we bring you the Pub Vandalism Awards.

Whilst real ale is currently on the decline, many pubs selling the stuff, the place public houses, are under threat. The low barrelage pubs and unsympathetic schemes that remain are more and more scarce each day. Often it's because the breweries simply see them as retail outlets from which beer can be obtained, by whatever means necessary, through incompetence....

Despite a strong field, our two winners stand head and shoulders above the rest. Our first award, subtitled 'The Pub of the Year', goes to a wholesale urban destruction goes to their impressive array of road schemes that have gone to the East Manchester area. It has gone to an organisation outside the industry. The judges felt that the sheer determination in the years in depleting the inner city has earned recognition. What they missed in the 70's they seem determined to get in the 90's.

On Hyde Road, a widening scheme for the Horseshoe and another six are under threat. The Plough - proposals to widen the road could fall victim to the apocalyptic. Just to the north the inner relief roads are being built including the excellent Duke Street. It has already claimed the Travellers Call. The much-lamented Railway on Potter Street has been taken up and by the end of this century the temperance movement never free city.

It's not East Manchester's best that goes to a pub not far from those of Joseph Holt are widely praised for their prices; clearly something they are very good at is conserving some of what they have done to the Severn. The fate of this pub has been well documented. It suffices to say that the removal of

In celebration of their Pub Vandalism Awards Manchester's planners have announced a further scheme which will threaten yet more of East Manchester's dwindling pub stock.

As if the destruction being wreaked on the area's pubs by road schemes wasn't enough, now comes of a further threat in the shape of the Eastman sports stadium, planned for the old gasworks site opposite Philips Park as part of Manchester's renewed Olympic bid. Associated development planned to lead to the demolition of four pubs - the Britannia, the Little Bradford, the Moseley and the Shakespeare. All are well-liked locals; all but the Moseley sell real ale; and the Britannia particularly is one of Manchester's finest pubs, with a crackling local atmosphere you would have to go a long way to equal.

It is time to call a halt. Change and development are necessary, but should respect the best of what already exists. CAMRA will be fighting these demolitions all the way - watch this space to find out how YOU can help.



ar when, having handed out  
m Smiths for their excellent  
we let fly with the brickbats as  
m Awards of 1991.

he up and up with ever more  
s to drink it in, our traditional  
t as never before. Closure of  
pathetic alterations to those  
e becoming the order of the  
wers increasingly look on their  
n which the most money must  
ans. Sometimes it's just plain

winners this year really did sink  
st in the pub demolition derby  
he 'Scorched Earth Award' for  
to Manchester City Council for  
emes which threaten over 20  
his is the first time the award has  
the brewing industry but the  
ation shown by the council over  
ty's pub stock at last deserved  
e clearances of the 1960's and  
this time round.

eme has already claimed the  
initely for the chop. Also under  
move the pub to the new line of  
parent high cost of the scheme.  
ad threatens another clutch of  
of Edinburgh on Mill Street and  
s Call, the Grey Mare and the  
y Lane. Well done chaps - keep  
you could have achieved what  
r managed in the last, a pub-

r because our second award  
just mentioned. Local brewers  
selling quality beers at low, low  
very good at. What they are not  
f their finer pubs as is shown by  
Stars on Ashton Old Road. The  
ocumented in Opening Times,  
a wealth of Victorian tiling, ma-



The Duke of Edinburgh - threatened with demolition for another east Mcr. road scheme

hogany and etched glass in favour of a new  
extension which, for the most part, is barely  
used, makes Holts a worthy winner of our sec-  
ond award this year, the "Golden Sledgeham-  
mer" for sensitive refurbishment. Again well  
done, after all, who wants tradition when you  
can have an aircraft hangar?

That's it for 1991 - the search is now on for  
the 1992 winners. Will your local be closed,  
guffed or knocked down in the next 12 months?  
Watch this space in 12 months time when we  
announce the winners of our Pub Vandalism  
Awards for 1992.



The Horseshoe - already lost to the insatiable destructive urges of Manchester's planners.

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## Pub in the Peak: The Highwayman, Rainow

The highest pub in the Peak District, and probably the most famous, is the Cat and Fiddle, standing almost 1700 feet above sea level on the pass between Macclesfield and Buxton which bears its name. The situation is spectacular, the pub, unfortunately isn't, to be blunt, it's been "Robinsonised" and is pretty bland and boring.

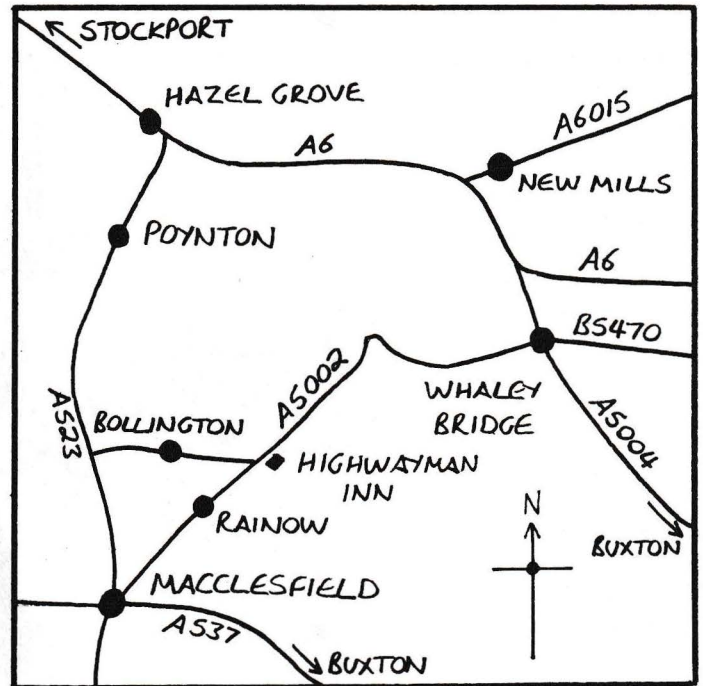
However, a few miles to the north, and still well above the thousand-foot contour, is a pub that is everything you would expect to do justice to a bleak, windswept Peak District setting, and more - the Highwayman at Rainow, near the eastern boundary of Cheshire. Over 300 years old, it was called the Blacksmith's Arms until 1949, and is often referred to locally as "The Patch".

From the outside, it's a sturdy, stone-built pub, attractively cream-washed, with wooden shutters for the windows. Inside, you realise just how sturdy the construction is, the walls being several feet thick in places to withstand winter's icy blasts. One narrow passage between two rooms is almost like going through a tunnel.

Inside the main door, you are confronted with two ancient, latched wooden doors on either side - whichever one you choose, it's much the same, a warren of small, low-ceilinged rooms rambling around the central bar with its high, smooth, copper-topped counter. Genuine old dark oak is much in evidence in beams and panelling, and there are a number of ancient settles including a superb example with a richly carved back in the far room on the left.

In winter real fires blaze in the grates, although in summer they may be replaced by electric fires to give quick warmth during the sudden chills which can strike in such an exposed location. There's only one real ale available, but it's one of the best, Thwaites bitter on handpump, and the Highwayman has appeared regularly in CAMRA's national Good Beer Guide. A wide range of food is available lunchtimes and evenings, mostly standard pubfare, but good and reasonably priced nonetheless. Children are admitted at lunchtimes, to one of the back rooms.

The effect is completed by the magnificent view from the front of the pub across rolling hills gradually falling away to the Cheshire Plain and the distant Manchester conurbation.



tion. All in all, an unforgettable pub, one of the two or three most atmospheric in Cheshire, and one where you would scarcely believe you're only 16 miles from the centre of Stockport.

Peter Edwardson

## The Moss Rose Heaton Norris

Recently, we expressed some concern over the immediate future of the Moss Rose in Heaton Norris following the sudden departure of the previous manager.

However, all appears to have gone well in the pub over the past few months in the hands of experienced relief licensees Alan and Eileen Gough, who have worked in the past at local pubs such as the Vine at Dunham Massey and the Railway in Gorton. The good local atmosphere has been maintained, and the Hydes Light and Bitter have been in excellent condition on several visits. Delays in appointing a permanent manager mean that Alan and Eileen may be there for some time yet, but whenever their next posting takes them away we wish them well.



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Proprietors: Robert & Gillian Dickinson

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**Robinson's  
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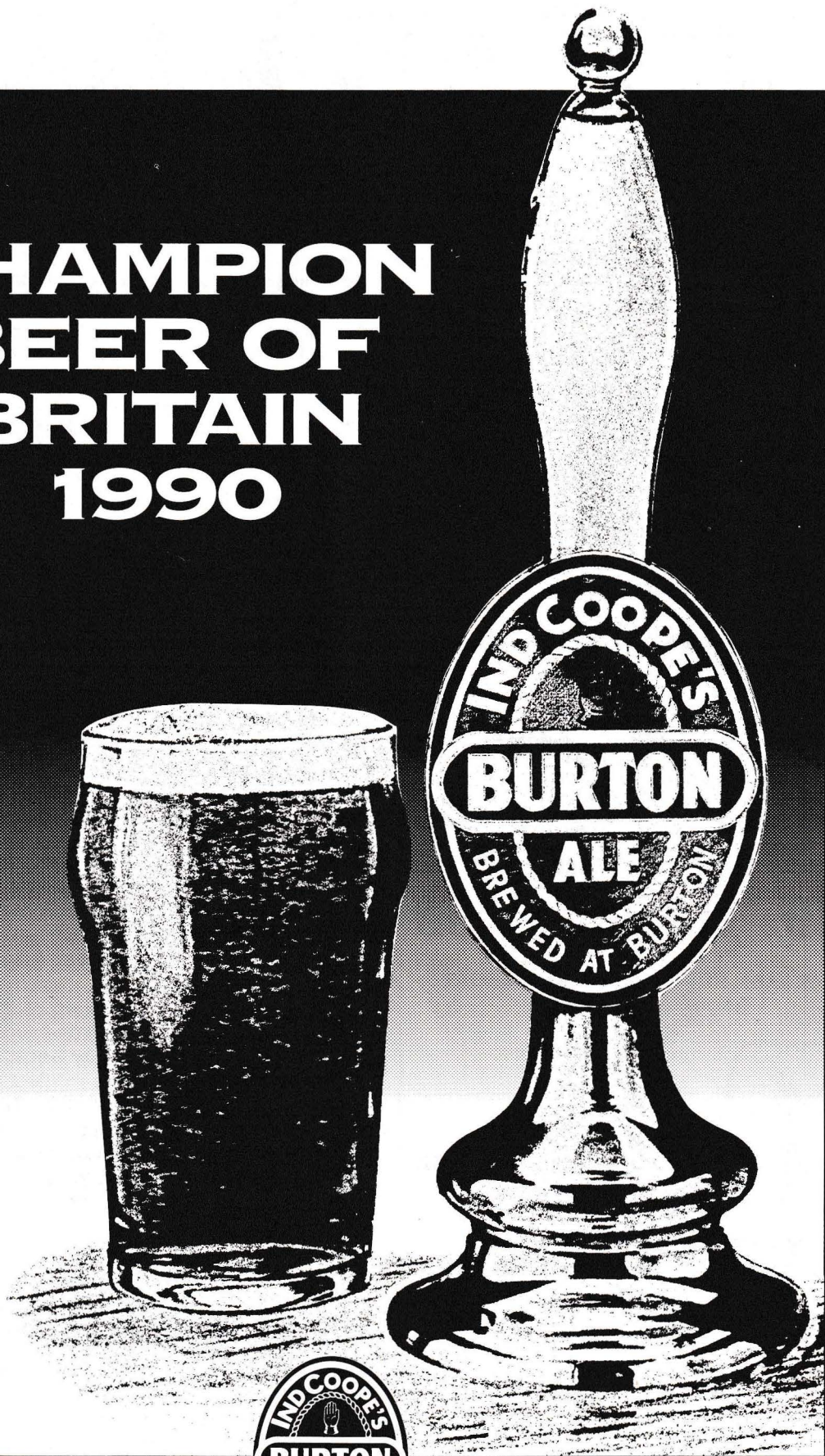
BOOGIE CLUB

SUNDAY NIGHT

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# CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN 1990



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**BURTON BREWED**

**BURTON ALE**



**The Stanley Arms**  
FREEHOUSE



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# 5 Years Ago

## SEPTEMBER 1986

by Phil Levison

The front page story in September 1986 told all about Ruddles being taken over by Grand Met, but it was the earlier part of the story that made such sad reading. In the mid-70's Ruddles were thriving, and in addition to their quite small, fairly localised tied estate, their beers were on sale almost country-wide in the free trade. Ruddles County in particular, was a highly respected premium beer, and much sought after.

It was about this time that Tony Ruddle made some very complimentary remarks about CAMRA, saying it was their efforts in reviving interest in cask beers that were primarily responsible for Ruddles thriving position. But then they made a fatal mistake - they sold their pubs to concentrate on the free trade, just when the free trade was becoming more tied up by loans from the big brewers.

So, with no pubs to fall back on and see them through a difficult period, an agreement was made with Grand Met to sell Ruddles County in Watneys pubs.

This arrangement was responsible for County losing its fine reputation - it has become much more readily available, but was often ill-kept, and even 5 years ago it was selling for £1.30 a pint in Watneys pubs in and around London. Ruddles had never been widely available in Greater Manchester, just appearing from time to time in a handful of local free houses; but coming up to date, it is now more available in the local Webster/Wilsons houses, where you can expect to pay about £1.50 for a pint of County - and there's still a feeling that you may be taking a chance on the quality.

The "Holiday Ale" series covered the City of York - Tetley pubs seemed to be well represented, with a couple of Heritage Inns and a Brewpub. There was a comment suggesting a visit to the Castle Museum during the "dry hours" - it would be interesting to know if the Museum takings went down when flexible licensing hours were introduced.

Alterations were announced at the Old Garratt on Princess Street, Manchester. At that time it was a run of the mill Boddingtons town pub, but some "City Gents" may remember the previous reconstruction - it was carried out entirely under plastic sheeting and scaffolding, and the building was literally demolished and rebuilt, whilst always remaining open - a complete rebuild, but you could always get a pint (during licensing hours of course) - it was a bit like the Windmill - "We never closed".

It was reported that the Oldham cask bitter had gone from the Ladybrook in Bramhall - it had been there for two years (they now sell Cains bitter - it will be interesting to see how long it lasts).

## Free House News

The beers from the new Warrington-based Coach House Brewery are starting to appear in the local free trade, at a price. The Marble Arch in Manchester was selling Coachmans Bitter (OG 1038) at £1.35 a pint. At least one local free house has declined to take the beers because of the price being charged for them. No sign of them yet in any local Greenalls pubs although they have undertaken to put the new beers in about 60 of their houses.

Popular Stockport free house the Woolpack has instituted a guest mild policy, replacing the Matthew Brown mild, to complement the guest biters. Over at the Stanley Arms the weekly guest milds continue to go well with recent appearances by a brand new mild from the Burton Bridge Brewery and some particularly fine Hoskins and Oldfield Best Mild Ale.



## CAMRA CALLING!

September sees a full social calendar as we move into the autumn. On Saturday 7th there is a new members trip to the Kelham Island Brewery in Sheffield. The minibus will leave the Crown, Heaton Lane, Stockport at 10.30am and there will be a buffet lunch at the brewery, which is based in the Fat Cat freehouse. Tracey has full details.

On Monday 9th there is a social at the Waggon and Horses, Hyde Road, Gorton. As with all Monday Social, this starts at 9.00pm. The branch meeting is the same week, on Thursday 12th and will be at the Gateway, East Didsbury.

The meeting starts at 8.00pm. That weekend (14th/15th) sees our annual stall at the Castlefield Carnival, where this year we will also be publicising the forthcoming Openshaw Octoberfest. If you can spare a couple of hours to help on either day then Jim Flynn would be delighted to hear from you (his number is 432 1816).

The social on Monday 16th is at the Nursery, Green Lane, Heaton Norris and on the Friday of that week (20th) it's Stagger time again which this month is a minibus tour round some of the better pubs in East Manchester. The minibus will depart from the Royal Oak, Didsbury at 7.15 and the Crown, Heaton Lane, Stockport at 7.30. Call Tracey to book a place.

Monday 23rd sees a social at the Hare and Hounds, Abbey Hey Lane, Openshaw and of course on Thursday 26th it's Pub of the Month at Ye Old Woolpack, Stockport (see feature on page 2). The social on Monday 30th is a little different - a minibus trip to Droylsden calling at the Halfway House and the Kings Head (both Holts). Pick ups are at the Royal Oak, Didsbury at 7.45 and at the Crown, Heaton Lane at 8.00.

Lastly, two events in early October for your diaries - on Friday 4th we are making a presentation to the former licensee at the Davenport Arms in Woodford. The minibus will leave the Royal Oak at 7.30 and the Crown at 7.45. The following night we are presenting Brendan Dobbin with an award for his success in the Champion Beer of Britain contest at the 1990 Great British Beer Festival. This will be at the Kings Arms, Helmshore Walk from 8.00pm onwards. For details, phone Tracey Clarke on 456 6354 (evenings).

### Heard at the Railway, Openshaw:

BARMAID: Oi, this isn't a 50p piece; it's Jamaican or something!

CUSTOMER: OK, give us a rum.

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## MANCHESTER MATTERS

**FG's Bar in the Dominion Hotel on Princess Street in the City Centre is selling handpumped Ind Coope Burton Ale at the nowadays not exorbitant rate, for such an establishment, of £1.25 a pint - the place must get some sort of record for having publicised details of this year's Christmas menus as early as July!**

Two Bass pubs in East Manchester have put in handpumps - the Crossroads at the corner of Ashton New Road and Grey Mare Lane in Bradford has 4X Mild; the Birch Arms on Gorton Lane in Gorton has Draught Bass and Boddingtons Bitter.

Two closures this month - the Star and Garter in the City Centre is up for sale, while the Smithfield (formerly the Locomotive) in Openshaw is closed until further notice owing to financial difficulties.

The Millstone in the City Centre no longer sells real Wilsons Mild but in its new leasehold state does have the added attraction of handpumped Banks's Bitter; the Little Bradford in Bradford no longer sells Tetley Mild while the Steelworks Tavern in Gorton has dropped its Chesters real ales in favour of handpumped Boddingtons Bitter.

Finally one or two changes of licensee to report starting with a belated greeting to Julie and Ian who have been running Banks's Gorton Arms since March. Previously suffering from a succession of short-term managers, the pub had declined almost to the status of a joke but, faced with this major challenge, Julie and Ian have improved the pub, its atmosphere and its beer to the extent that the place can once again be taken seriously as one of Gorton's better pubs.

At the Crescent in Beswick we welcome new licensees Kevin and Linda Boyle, formerly of Lees' Dog & Partridge in Ashton-under-Lyne. First impressions are that they are maintaining and indeed improving the pub's high standards, with an impressive increase reported in mild sales.

Lastly at Holt's Railway on Manshaw Road, Openshaw, we welcome new licensees John and Jackie Angove.

*by Rhys Jones*

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Dark Mild**

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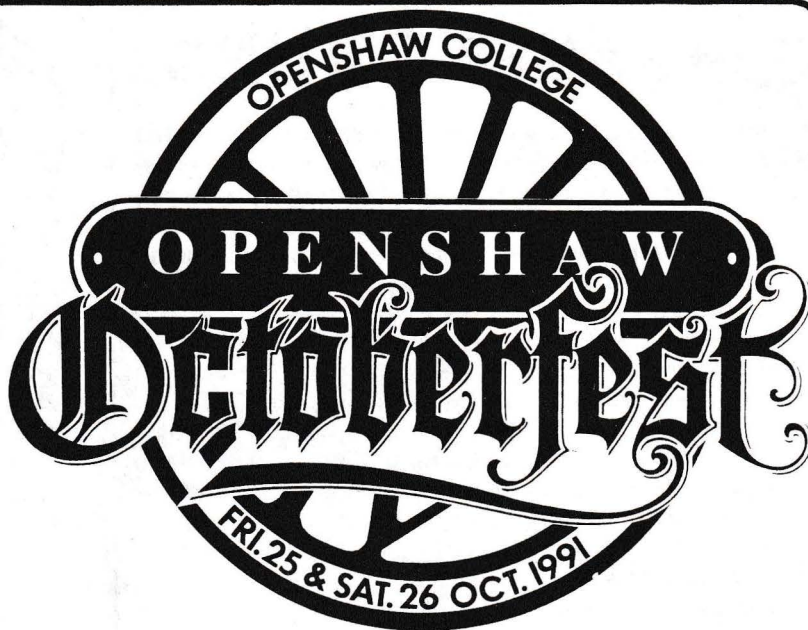
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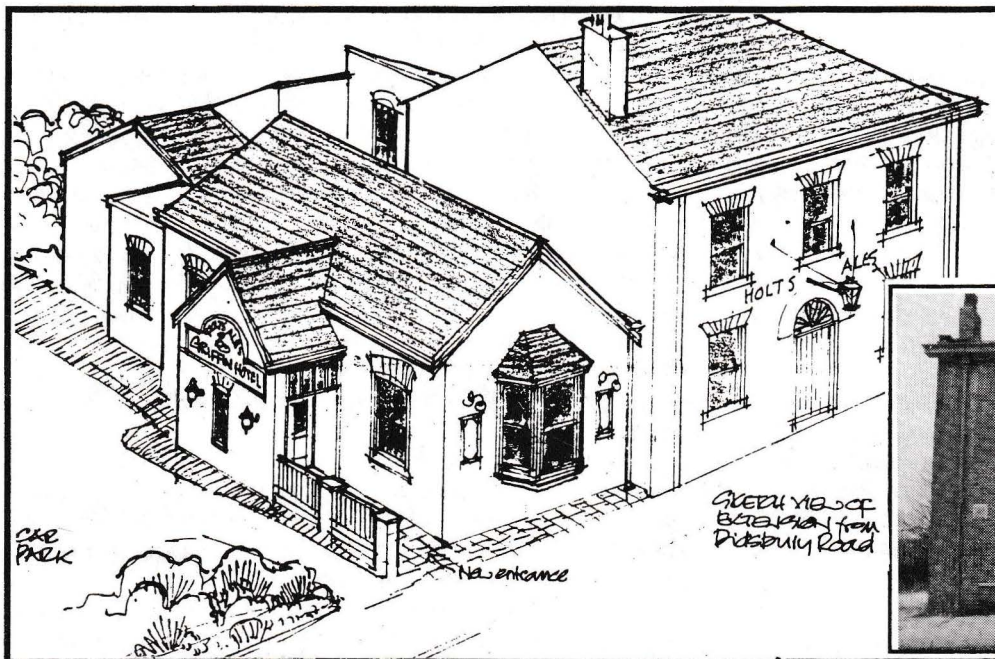
# Darts Tournament

There's still time to book a team place in the forthcoming CAMRA sponsored Manchester Darts Tournament, taking place at the Openshaw Beer Festival. Intended to be an enjoyable change from the usual pub-league games, there will be a separate tournament at each of the three sessions of the festival. To pre-book, write to Ian Saunders, 20 Farlands Drive, East Didsbury, Manchester M20 0GB enclosing a cheque for £5 per team of four. Pre-booked teams have guaranteed entry to the festival, with no queueing!

The festival offers more than 20 real ales and a range of traditional cider and perry, with soft drinks available for drivers, other pub games, and food at all sessions. Openshaw College, Fri 25 Oct, 6 - 11pm, Sat 26 Oct. 11.30-4pm & 6 - 11pm



## Holts to Extend The Griffin



Work is soon to start on an extension to The Griffin, Heaton Mersey (possibly as early as November). With the tragic fate of the Seven Stars (see p6) in mind, CAMRA will be keeping a close eye on what appears to be a fairly innocuous development. It would be an enormous tragedy if the extension were to damage the character of this fine multi-room beer house.



### APPLICATION FOR CAMRA MEMBERSHIP

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

NAME(S) ..... DATE .....

ADDRESS .....

POSTCODE .....

SIGNATURE ..... TELEPHONE NUMBER(S) .....

I/We enclose remittance for individual/joint membership for one year: U.K. £10  Joint membership £12

I/We would like to receive further information about CAMRA

Knowledge of the average age of our members would be helpful. The information need only be given if you wish.

AGE: 18-25  26-35  36-45  46-55  56-65  Over 65

Please send your remittance (payable to CAMRA Limited) with this application form to:

**John Hutchinson, 22 Arley Avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester, M20 8LQ**

