



PRESENTS

**THE SECOND NORTHERN
MALE VOICE CHOIR
CHAMPIONSHIP**

SATURDAY, 17th MAY, 1986
IN
THE TOWN HALL, HUDDERSFIELD

CONTEST SESSION — 1.00 P.M.
CELEBRITY CONCERT — 7.15 P.M.

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WHO'S WHO

CASTLEFORD MALE VOICE CHOIR

**Musical Director
Accompanist**

**Gordon D. Bellamy
Freda Hodgson**

Castleford is situated equi-distant from Leeds and Wakefield in the heart of the coal-mining and rugby league stronghold of West Yorkshire. The Choir is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year having been formed during the General Strike in 1926. During the whole of this time there have only been four musical directors and the present incumbent has held the post for about twenty years. There are nearly 70 members in the Choir and they regularly give concerts throughout West and South Yorkshire as well as further afield. The choir has always been active in the competitive field and this aspect of their work complements the concert schedule.

They have a wide and varied repertoire, including competition test pieces, traditional male voice songs, sacred songs and hymns, light opera as well as songs from musical shows — many items featuring on their two L.P. records. The Choir has taken part on twelve occasions in performances of Handel's Messiah with Massed London Choirs at the Royal Albert Hall.

DORE MALE VOICE CHOIR

**Musical Director
Accompanist**

**Frederick Butler
Mrs. B. Hayles**

Based in Dore Village, south-west of Sheffield City Centre and on the borders of Derbyshire, the Choir was formed in the early '60's and now has a singing strength of over 70 with members from all parts of Sheffield and the surrounding district.

The present Conductor and Musical Director has been in the post for seventeen years and, in that time, the reputation of the Choir has become firmly established with an enviable record of success in competition and concert performance. Through the initial enthusiasm of a past Chairman, Bryon Jarvis, the Choir has done much to promote the wider interest in choral music through active membership of the National Association of Choirs. The South Yorkshire group of member choirs are one of the most active in the NAC and highlights have included massed choir concerts in Sheffield City Hall and in York Minster. Particular highlights in the concert activities of the Choir were when they performed with and were hosts to foreign choirs — Pro Musica from Sweden and the Stockton Chorale from California. Apart from the big events, the Choir performs many concerts in halls and churches for fund raising organisations and charities. In competition, from 27 appearances, the Choir has gained twelve first place awards plus several 'Best in Festival' awards; it has also been placed second six times, and third, four times.

GKN SANKEY MALE VOICE CHOIR

**Musical Director
Accompanist**

**Donald A. Johnson
Rita Windsor**

GKN Sankey M.V.C. was founded in 1941 and, since then, has grown in membership and musical stature to become one of the Country's leading Male Choirs.

Since the early days, they have given repeated radio concerts, often with well known musicians and artists and have competed twice recently in the BBC Radio Wales Male Voice Choir of the Year Competition. The Choir has achieved National and International recognition in the competitive field having won premier awards at Blackpool Musical Festival and first prizes at most of the other main Festivals.

They were invited to compete in the European Choral Competition at Montreux, Switzerland in 1982 and were highly commended by the adjudicators. The life-blood of the Choir is giving pleasure by performing music from their wide repertoire at many concerts and they were particularly thrilled to appear at the Festival of Choirs Concert at the Royal Festival Hall, London in November, 1984.

The Choir have just completed a very successful tour of Holland, Germany and Belgium where they and their singing were very warmly and enthusiastically received. In June this year, they will host the internationally renowned California Girls Choir from America.

HALIFAX MALE VOICE CHOIR**Musical Director
Accompanist****Paul Iredale
David Whiteley**

Halifax Male Voice Choir was formed in January 1931 and six months later with 40 members they gained their first success at Stocksbridge Musical Festival. They have been active in the competitive field throughout their existence having won prizes in musical festivals at Huddersfield, Holmfirth, Skipton, with a particular highlight at Morecambe against stiff opposition last year. The Choir have supported the National Association of Choirs since they first joined in 1937. In 1964, they forged a link with the St. Marien-Gesangverein Male Voice Choir at Aachen-Horbach and exchange visits are made at intervals. Under their young enthusiastic musical director the Choir has grown in numbers and continues to maintain a high standard of quality and performance.

HAYDOCK MALE VOICE CHOIR**Musical Director
Conductor
Accompanist****Albert E. Gleave
Gregory S. Warren
Paul Mather**

In March 1983, Haydock M.V.C. celebrated its sixtieth anniversary. It would be true to say that in all their long history they have never been as successful or as thriving as during the last decade. Although their membership of 85 singers has decreased slightly in the last three years, the quality of their singing has not been affected. The Choir has a good record in competitive singing; since 1980 they have been awarded three First prizes and two Second Prizes at Freckleton Music Festival. In 1983, they were awarded First Prize at the Blackpool Festival, in 1984 they were semi-finalists in the BBC Radio Wales Male Voice Choir of the Year Competition and last year they were awarded third prize in the First N.M.V.C.C. They have broadcast on radio and television in this country and in the U.S.A. Their three L.P. records have won wide acclaim in record reviews and with the music loving public and two years ago they produced their first Cassette and their second cassette entitled "Haydock in Harmony" was recorded in March this year. Since 1975 the Choir has undertaken four Concert Tours to Germany, one to Scotland and one to the U.S.A. On their last visit to Germany in October 1984, they also visited Vienna in Austria where they were invited to give two concerts.

HONLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR**Musical Director
Accompanists****Roy Firth
John Oldfield
George Marsden**

Honley Male Voice Choir was formed in the village of Honley in the Holme Valley, a few miles south of Huddersfield town centre, and are this year celebrating 50 years of music making. From a small membership of 18, the Choir has grown in numbers and stature to their present strength of over 80 voices. It is acknowledged to be one of the leading male voice choirs in the North of England having shared concert platforms with many of Britain's finest brass and military bands. The men of Honley believe that music is meant to be enjoyed by performers and listeners alike and rehearsals and performances are enriched with an abundance of good humour. In addition to its fine reputation as a concert choir, Honley M.V.C. has enjoyed numerous successes at Music Festivals, including fourth prize at the First N.M.V.C.C. last year and has also appeared on BBC Radio and Television. The Choir has already made two excellent records, items from which are played regularly on BBC Radio Leeds and another record is to be released later this year. Over the years, the Choir has established firm bonds of friendship through exchange visits with choirs in Bath, Swansea and St. Austell, Cornwall and with the Uift Mannenkoor '57 in Holland. The Choir's popular Musical Director and Conductor, Roy Firth, is only the third person to hold this position and his zeal and exacting standards have been instrumental in producing an enthusiastic male voice choir.

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR**Musical Director
Accompanist****Arthur Kay
Nancy Gibson**

Based in the small mining town of Hetton-le-Hole roughly mid-way between the city of Durham and Sunderland, Lyons M.V.C. are the most northerly of the choirs in the Championship. Many of the mining rights in the Hetton area were owned by the Bowes-Lyon family and the Choir have been granted permission to use the Bowes-Lyon Family Crest in one segment of the Choir badge. Formed in 1947, they have a membership of about 75 members, including a number of 'father and son' partnerships. Lyons M.V.C. have had a lot of experience in competitive singing having competed many times at Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, Cleveland Inter-Tie Festival and Blackpool Musical Festival where it has gained five major successes, the last being in 1982. In 1968, the Choir took part in the prestigious Montreux International Festival where they were placed 5th out of 15 competing choirs from all over the world for which they were awarded a Rose Bowl. They visited California, U.S.A. on a concert tour in 1972 and in 1981 and 1982 completed exchange visits with a Male Voice Choir from Rheinhausen, West Germany and the Choir went to Germany again last year and will welcome their friends to Hetton in July 1987. Their current L.P. record "Out of the Lyons Mouth" makes good sales at their many concerts.

NELSON ARION GLEE UNION**Conductor
Accompanist****F. E. H. Smith
John Taylor**

In 1887, a group of eight men formed themselves into the Nelson Arion Glee Party and this small band grew very rapidly during the next twenty five years establishing a fine reputation across the North of England and beyond. Records show that the Arion has always been a highly active choir and concert engagements were and always will be the staple diet of the choir's music making. As a complement to this, the choir has kept the edge on its performances by competing in festivals throughout England and Wales. There have been pinnacles of achievement over the years but, more recently, the choir has captured first prize at all Northern Festivals, most notably at Blackpool in 1973 and 1980. Topping all this, the Arion won first prize at the International Eisteddfod at Llangollen in 1982, 1983 and 1984, were the BBC Radio Wales Male Voice Choir of the year in 1983 and last year they were the first winners of the N.M.V.C.C. Trophy. Despite their busy schedule, the Choir has made two highly successful tours of West Germany in 1978 and 1981, and has formed strong links with the Gesangverein Blumenheck from Pforzheim, near Stuttgart, acting as their hosts in reciprocal visits in 1979 and 1983. They are currently busy planning for their centenary celebrations next year.

ROSSENDALE MALE VOICE CHOIR**Musical Director
Accompanist****Miss Beatrice M. Wade
Michael J. Farnworth**

Notes on Rossendale have to start with a reference to Fred Tomlinson, M.B.E. who was the Founder Conductor of the Choir in 1924 and a legend in the male voice choir world. He died in 1985 at the grand old age of 92 years having retired as Conductor in 1977 after 53 years service. The members of the Choir live in the Forest of Rossendale area, south of Burnley in Lancashire and north of Haslingden, Rawtenstall and Bacup. It has a long record of successes at leading musical festivals and has featured in most major concert halls in the North West with several leading orchestras and brass bands. Under the baton of Fred Tomlinson's son, Ernest, between 1977 and 1981 they were also successful in competitions on BBC Television. Their present Musical Director took over in 1981 and she is the first lady conductor to appear at the Championship. She has introduced many changes in approach and style and the success of the Choir has continued with prizes at Southport and Blackpool in 1985.

SHIFNAL & DISTRICT M.V.C.**Musical Director
Accompanist****Peter Davies
Suzanne Findlay**

Shifnal & District M.V.C. come to us from Shropshire and, since their formation in 1957, they have had a string of successes at musical festivals in England and Wales. In recent years, the present Musical Director, who took over in 1975, has led them to success at The Wrekin Music Festival, where they have been Choir of the Year for the past two years and at Blackpool Musical Festival, winning first prize in 1981 and second prizes in 1982 and 1984 against strong opposition. Their first appearance at Llangollen International Eisteddfod was in 1983 when they had a creditable placing and they are to compete there again later this year. They have a busy concert programme often appearing with leading brass bands. They have made three L.P. records, sales of which have been outstanding. They are currently planning for a tour of Holland in Spring 1987.

SKELMANTHORPE MALE VOICE CHOIR**Musical Director
Accompanist****Alan Simmons
Griffith W. Jones**

The Choir was formed in the 1930's in the village of Skelmanthorpe mid-way between Huddersfield and Barnsley when this very special way of making music provided a welcome diversion from the troubles of the world. Since then it has grown in strength, stature and reputation to a present membership of approximately 80 voices. The Choir has achieved many successes at Music Festivals including 10 consecutive first prizes at the Mrs. Sunderland Music Festival in Huddersfield but their finest came in 1979 when they were placed third at Llangollen Eisteddfod.

The Choir has also been invited five times to take part in the BBC's "Let the People Sing" Competition and has taken part in the BBC Radio Wales Choir of the Year Competition. They have established a link with Nordbogge Male Voice Choir from the Ruhr area of West Germany.

TEESSIDE APOLLO MALE VOICE CHOIR**Musical Director
Accompanist****Gwyn Morris
Corinne Johnson**

Formed in 1887 as an act of charity to raise money for a widow and family following a fatal accident at Acklam Steelworks, Middlesbrough, the Choir was initially comprised of all-Welsh members. They were so successful that they became the Apollo Choir and they have been singing continuously since that time. In 1985, they took second prize at the Welsh Eisteddfod, being the first English choir to take honours there.

In those early days, it was usual for alto lead to be the practice in male voice choirs and Teesside Apollo were one of the first choirs to win a major award with a first tenor lead — the Yorkshire Shield in 1901! The Choir now has a strength of over 100 members, four of them being descendants/relatives of the original Apollo members. They have performed with notable success in Norway, Cork, Switzerland, U.S.A., Yugoslavia, Poland and France. They have appeared on Swiss and British TV and radio and have performed as guest choir with the celebrated conductor, Harry Mortimer, C.B.E., O.B.E. The Choir's more recent successes in the competitive field include Llangollen, Blackpool, Harrogate, Teesside International Eisteddfod and took 2nd prize here last year. They have recorded for Decca and other recording companies and have a worldwide sale of records to their many overseas friends. They are going for a two week tour of Expo 86 in July/August at the invitation of the Canadian Government.

THURNSCOE HARMONIC M.V.C.**Musical Director
Accompanist****Colin Leech
Mrs. I. Hill**

Thurnscoe Harmonic M.V.C. was formed in 1924 and last year celebrated their diamond jubilee which included a visit to their twin town, Schwabisch Gmund near Stuttgart in West Germany. Three of the present members of the Choir have given over 50 years continuous service. Over the years the Choir has regularly competed in Festivals and has had a high percentage of success. They have twice been placed 1st at Blackpool Musical Festival and have gained first prize in competitions as far apart as the Isle of Man and Limburg in West Germany. They have appeared regularly on Television and radio in such shows as "Stars on Sunday" and with Sir Harry Secombe, Dame Vera Lynn and Gilbert O'Sullivan. A major activity of the Choir is the concert stage, being in constant demand locally as well as further afield.

* * * * *

The Organising Committee regrets that the following two choirs who had registered for the Championship have had to withdraw for various reasons:—

Reading Male Voice Choir
York Philharmonic M.V.C.

THE ADJUDICATORS



Courtesy - Huddersfield Daily Examiner

MALCOLM FAIRLESS

Malcolm Fairless hails from Consett, Co. Durham and, although he has lived in Huddersfield for the past fourteen years, he still requires an interpreter on occasions. He was for some time Organist and Choirmaster at Bede College, Durham University and he fills every available minute with some form of musical activity. During the day he teaches at Holmfirth High School in 'Last of the Summer Wine' country but, most evenings and weekends, you'll find him singing, arranging music or conducting. Both Malcolm and his wife Margaret are members of Huddersfield Choral Society and of the Karalian Quartet. He took over as Musical Director of Gledholt Male Voice Choir in 1978 when they had about 24 active members and since then his drive, enthusiasm, personality and talent have radically altered the ambitions of the Choir. His role as Festival Music Director has added a new dimension to his life and we value his work as Chairman of the adjudication panel bringing a vital element of continuity to the Championship. Malcolm and Margaret live in the village of Golcar and their family life is complete with their lively 5½ year old daughter, Cariad.



Courtesy - Clive Bards

ANDREW GREENWOOD

Born in West Yorkshire, Andrew Greenwood was educated at Manchester Grammar School and Clare College, Cambridge. He was an accomplished pianist and trained as a répétiteur at the London Opera Centre before joining the music staff at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden in 1977. In 1984 he was Chorus Master for the new production of Puccini's Turandot which had its premiere at the Olympic Arts Festival, Los Angeles in July 1984. He has been closely associated with the Philharmonia Chorus since 1981, having prepared them for many major choral works. In July last year, he conducted them at the Istanbul Festival. In August 1984, he was appointed Chorus Master of Welsh National Opera and is currently conducting performances of the much acclaimed new production of Verdi's Otello. He is particularly well known to us as the Adjudicator for the 1985 Radio Wales Male Voice Choir Competition.



DONALD HUNT

Donald Hunt is a native of Gloucester where he was a chorister before becoming an articled pupil and assistant to Dr. Herbert Sumsion, the composer of our commissioned test piece. Well known throughout West Yorkshire, Dr. Hunt was Director of Music at Leeds Parish Church for seventeen years before moving to his present post as Master of the Choristers and Organist at Worcester Cathedral in 1975. While in Yorkshire he established a high reputation as a choral and orchestral conductor, taking charge of Halifax Choral Society, Leeds Philharmonic Society and Leeds Festival Chorus. In 1971, he founded the Yorkshire Sinfonia becoming its principal conductor. In 1987 he takes charge of his fifth Worcester Festival and he now conducts the Worcester Festival Choral Society and the Halifax and Scunthorpe Choral Societies. He is well represented in the record shops with many recordings and broadcasts frequently on radio and television.

CONTEST ARRANGEMENTS

The draw for order of singing, the adjudication and announcement of results are based on practices commonly used in brass band championships. The draw will take place at noon in the presence of two representatives from each competing choir and an independent scrutineer, Ron Massey.

Each choir is allocated a programme number and, for the convenience of the audience, both the programme number and the order of singing numbers will be displayed on stage before a particular choir begins their performance.

The three adjudicators are in a sight-proof booth, "The Adjudicator's Box", and it is important that they do not know the identity of the choirs at the time of singing.

At the end of the contest, the marks will be scrutinised on the stage by Ron Massey before the adjudication is announced and the Adjudicators will only refer to the Order of Singing number when declaring marks.

| Programme No. | Name of Choir | Order of Singing No. | Marks | | | Position |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------|----|-------|----------|
| | | | A | B | Total | |
| 1 | Castleford M.V.C. | 4 | 83 | 79 | 162 | |
| 2 | Dore M.V.C. | 1 | 84 | 82 | 166 | |
| 3 | GKN Sankey M.V.C. | 8 | 85 | 84 | 169 | |
| 4 | Halifax M.V.C. | 13 | 79 | 79 | 158 | |
| 5 | X Haydock M.V.C. | 11 | | | | |
| 6 | Honley M.V.C. | 10 | 87 | 87 | 174 | |
| 7 | X Lyons M.V.C. | 6 | 89 | 90 | 179 | |
| 8 | X Nelson Arion Glee Union | 5 | 80 | 87 | 167 | |
| 9 | Rosendale M.V.C. | 3 | 80 | 81 | 161 | |
| 10 | Shifnal & District M.V.C. | 9 | 81 | 80 | 161 | |
| 11 | Skelmanthorpe M.V.C. | 12 | 86 | 84 | 170 | |
| 12 | X Teesside Apollo M.V.C. | 7 | 88 | 87 | 175 | |
| 13 | Thurnscoe Harmonic M.V.C. | 2 | 82 | 81 | 163 | |

Coffee and soft drinks will be on sale in the foyer at the rear of the Area during the afternoon.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Selected Items by the winners of The Yorkshire Bank Prize:

Selected Items by the Winners of the W.Y.M.C.C. Prize:

The Orlyk Ukrainian Representative Folk Dance Ensemble

Gledholt Male Voice Choir, Huddersfield

Drinking Song.....R. Vaughan Williams
The BabyArr. Malcolm Fairless
Softly as I leave youArr. Alan Simmons

Combined Choirs:

I Was GladHerbert Sumsion
Close Thine EyesIeuan Rees-Davies
GwahoddiadArr. John Tudor Davies

INTERVAL

ERT PROGRAMME

Geoffrey Wheeler

The Trophy and Prizes will be presented to the winning choirs during the Concert by representatives of the Sponsors.

Selected Items by the winners of the
Kirklees Leisure Services Prize:

The Orlyk Ukrainian Representative Folk Dance Ensemble

Selected items by the Winners of The Northern Male Voice Choir
Championship Trophy and the First Prize of £1000.

Combined Choirs:

Llanfair Arr. Mansel Thomas
Feasting I watch Edward Elgar
Night Schubert
Morte Criste Emrys Jones

* * * * *

Coffee and soft drinks will be on sale in the foyer
at the rear of the Area during the interval.



GEOFFREY WHEELER

We are delighted to welcome Geoffrey to introduce our Celebrity Concert again this year. We know he thoroughly enjoyed himself at the First Championship but his many admirers insisted that we should make every effort to persuade him to return to Huddersfield — so here he is again!

Born in Manchester, Geoffrey Wheeler has been associated with radio since the early '50's while still studying for a law degree at Manchester University. Subsequently he was a producer with BBC North Region and, as a commentator, was one of a team covering the Royal visits to Paris and Copenhagen.

He left the BBC to start his own Company, training executives in the art of radio and television performance, public speaking and conference presentation. But he maintained his links particularly with television, and was Questionmaster of 'Television Top of the Form' throughout its long run. He still fills this role in the quiz he devised for Yorkshire Television 'Winner Takes All' which stars Jimmy Tarbuck and is in its 12th year. He is probably best known as presenter of BBC's 'Songs of Praise'.

Geoffrey lives with his wife Sheila in Hale, Cheshire, they have a son and a married daughter and since last year, they have become grandparents.

THE ORLYK UKRAINIAN REPRESENTATIVE FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE
Leaders and Choreographers: Mr. Dmytro Paradiuk & Mrs Maria Babych

"Orlyk" derives its name from a Ukrainian who lived from 1672 to 1742 and was formed in Manchester in 1949 by the late Petro Dnistrowyk. The original members were probably all expatriate Ukrainians who came to this country during the Second World War and many present members are descendants, second generation, anxious to maintain the high standards of folk dancing, reflecting in music and dance the spirit and soul of the Ukrainian people and the richness and beauty of the Ukrainian countryside. The dancers are drawn from many walks of life — University and College students and workers in industry and commerce. Their list of successes at International Festivals both at home and abroad would fill the page but each year they undertake overseas tours and, in recent years, visited Austria, Spain and France. National costumes are worn according to the dance being performed and each dance is full of meaning. Many dances are very vigorous but they are all danced with a careful precision, grace and personal dignity.

JOHN HUGHES.....at the Organ

A close friend for many years of the Festival Music Director, John Hughes is a native of Llanymynech in the Welsh borders near Oswestry. He was Organist and Choirmaster at Bede College, Durham University immediately before Malcolm Fairless took over. He is a teacher at Driffield School and for some years has been Sub-Organist at Bridlington Priory.

**GLEDHOLT MALE VOICE CHOIR
HUDDERSFIELD**

**Musical Director
Accompanist**

**Malcolm Fairless
Maureen Davies**

The only male voice choir with roots within the borough boundary of Huddersfield, Gledholt M.V.C. was originally formed by members of Gledholt Methodist Church in 1947 when the principal form of their entertainment was Kentucky Minstrel Shows. They soon changed the emphasis to more serious singing and the current membership of approx. 70 are drawn from all parts of the district — the bass singer who travels from Guiseley is the farthest flung member! Even the rehearsal location was changed to Oakes some years ago and the final link with Gledholt was severed except for the name of the Choir. Joe Ripley was the founder conductor and he held the post for over 30 years until Malcolm Fairless took over the baton in 1978.

Over the years the Choir has had considerable success at local musical festivals, particularly at Horsforth in recent times, and on their first visit to Llangollen in 1979 they were pleased to receive a creditable placing. The Choir took part in the Massed English Male Choirs Concert in the Royal Albert Hall in 1983 and 1985. They have given concerts over a wide Area with Keswick and Bridlington being the more popular venues. The Choir are always pleased to join with other choirs from the Huddersfield area and, with Honley M.V.C. and Skelmanthorpe M.V.C., have recorded for the M.F.P. label 'Your Hundred Favourite Hymns' and Gledholt M.V.C. have also produced their own cassette recording from their wide concert repertoire.

THANKS

The Organising Committee wish to thank all who have contributed to the success of this Northern Male Voice Choir Championship.

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The Adjudicators

Geoffrey Wheeler

The "Orlyk" Dance Ensemble

John Hughes

Ron Massey

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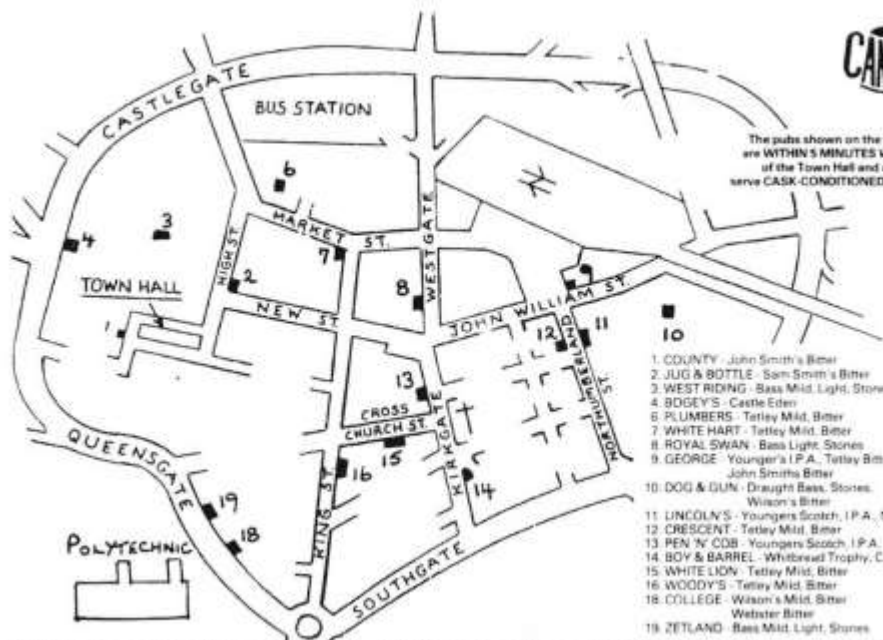


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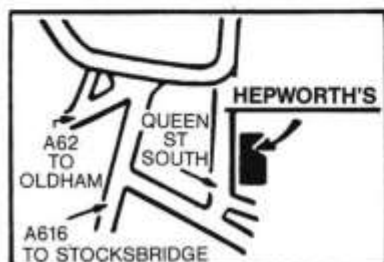


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