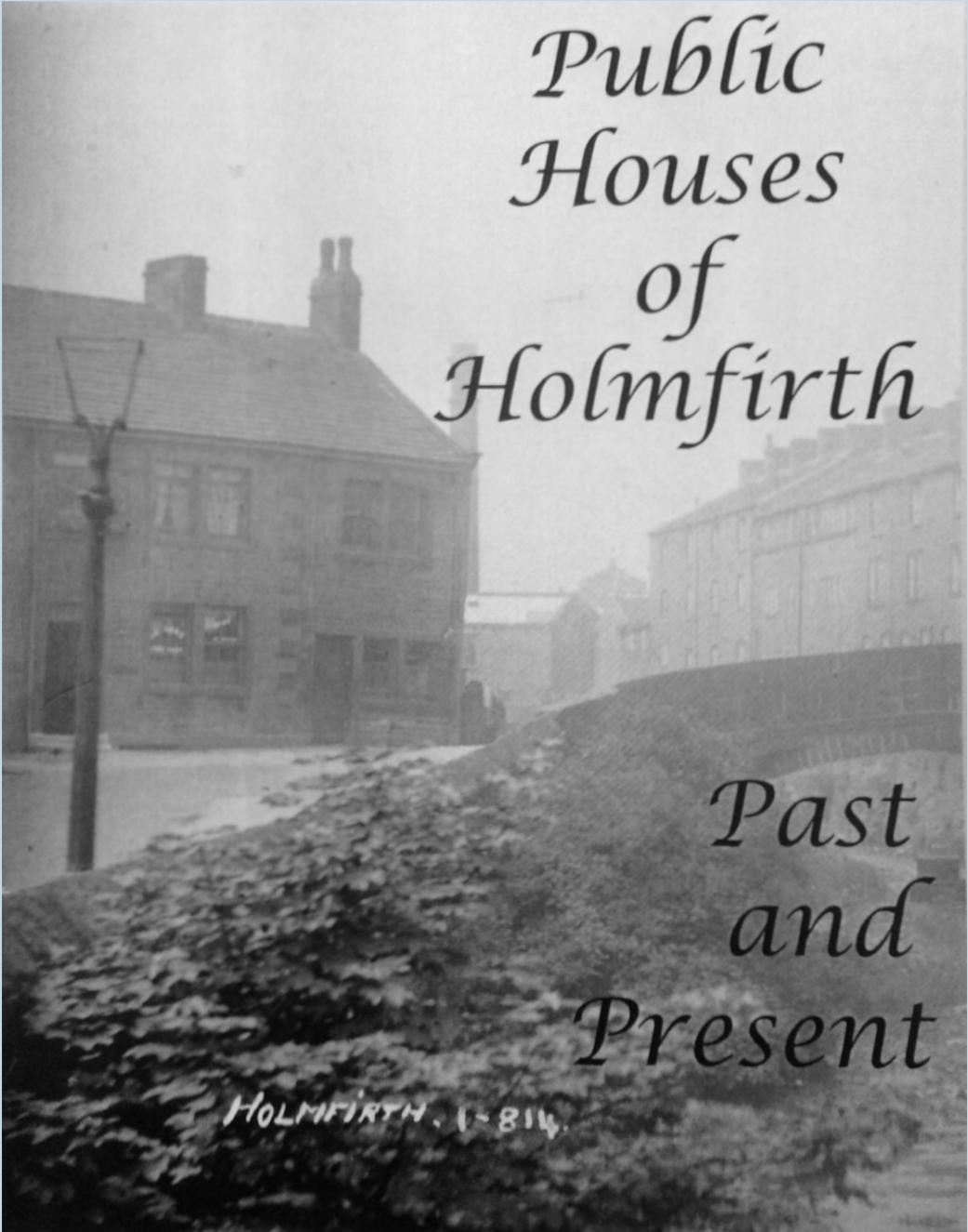


*Holme Valley Civic Society
Local History Group*



*Public
Houses
of
Holmfirth*

*Past
and
Present*

HOLMFIRTH, 1814.

Public Houses

of

Holmfirth

Past

and

Present

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Front cover: Elephant and Castle Inn, 1910

Back cover: List of Alehouse Keepers in Holmfirth, 1803

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We are indebted to Dave Green, the well-known Huddersfield public house historian, for sharing his knowledge with us.

We have greatly appreciated the contribution made by local landlords and the people who have shared their knowledge and memories with us.

Introduction

The intention of the members of the Holme Valley Civic Society Local History Group was to locate, record and describe the past and present public houses of central Holmfirth. It was decided to create a walk following the route of the Holmfirth History Trail giving selected information for the numbered pubs. Where known, the following aspects have been included in this: origin, description, valuation, closure and compensation, replacement use and interesting facts. Unfortunately the available surviving records are incomplete in

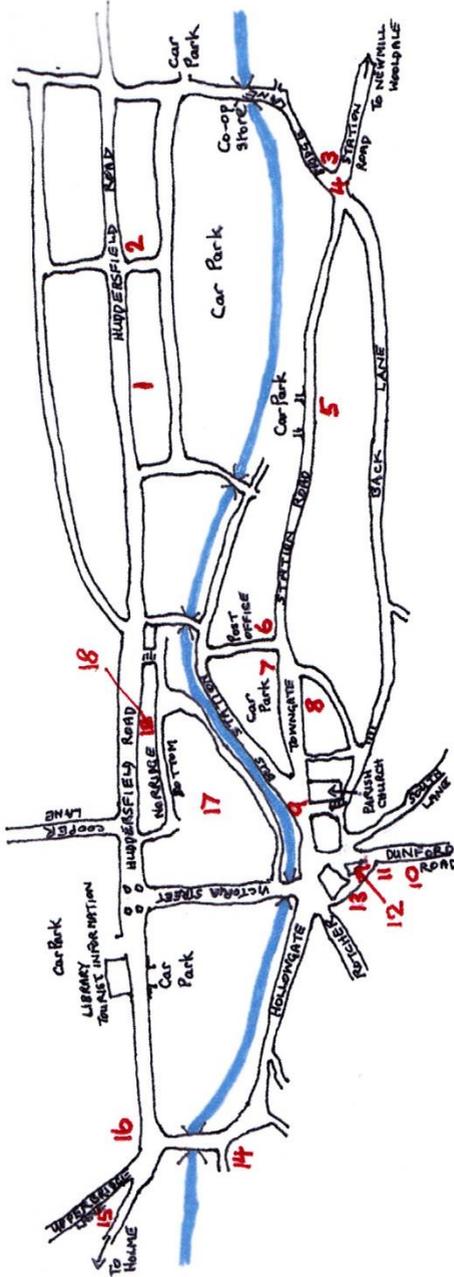
the details given and there is often an inconsistency in the presentation of some of this information. Quotations from these are written in italics and are in their original form regarding spelling, punctuation and words used.

The text has been researched and written by members of the Local History Group, particularly the Pub Project Group, Deborah Wyles, Vivien Aizlewood and Katrina Riley.

Prior to 1800 Holmfirth was a small village with a Chapel of Ease and several inns lying at the confluence of the Holme and Ribble watercourses and at the junction of the two earliest routes through and across the valley. As such it was the centre of rural community consisting of the scattered hillside villages and hamlets. The majority of families who lived in these earned a livelihood as farmers and handloom weavers. The dramatic change to their way of life came about with the mechanisation of the woollen cloth industry and the building of textile mills along the sides of both the Ribble and Holme rivers. By the middle of the 19th century Holmfirth had developed into what was described in Kelly's Trade Directory of 1861 as: *“a large and prosperous town.”*

For many people going to the numerous town centre pubs and beerhouses was an important feature of their lives. However, for others within the community these establishments were not acceptable. The Holmfirth Temperance Association was formed in 1835 by those concerned about the effects of drunkenness for both the individual and families. Highlighting the “evils of drink” they strongly urged people to stop drinking alcohol and the frequenting of inns and beerhouses. Such beliefs and activities brought them into direct opposition with those variously involved in local brewing and the liquor trade.

Sketch Map of Central Holmfirth showing the locations of the inns, beerhouses and hotels past and present



1	Gas Tavern	7	George and Dragon Inn	13	Princess Royal Beerhouse
2	Crown Hotel (The Postcard)	8	White Hart Inn	14	Elephant and Castle Inn
3	Victoria Hotel	9	Jolly Hatters Beerhouse	15	George Inn
4	Brown Cow Inn	10	Ring O' Bells Beerhouse	16	Kings Head Inn
5	The Druids Hotel	11	Shoulder of Mutton Inn	17	Old Bridge Hotel
6	Friendship Inn	12	Rose and Crown Inn	18	Waggon and Horses Inn

Looking at the map of Holmfirth it can be seen that the early road layout influenced the location and size of the pubs. From their positions it is clear where the principal highways into and through Holmfirth were situated. The route, which came from Huddersfield via Honley, ran from Thongsbridge along Berry Bank Lane to Station Road then Town Gate, Higgin Brigg, Hollowgate and Upperbridge, from where it made its way to the village of Holme lying at the head of the valley. It was along this oldest route, subsequently to be the first turnpike to run through the town, that a variety of public houses were built to serve both those living locally or visiting the valley. Improved in 1768, this continued to be a well-used route even after the more direct road from Thongsbridge to Holmfirth was built in 1771. This second highway became part of the Huddersfield and Woodhead Turnpike, now known as the Woodhead Road, A6024. The development of a third route into the town with the building of a new Turnpike in the mid-1820s, the present-day Dunford Road, B6106, helped maintain the importance of the area around Higgin Brigg. Certainly during the eighteenth century there were a number of alehouses, beerhouses or inns to be found along these routes. However, it is difficult to establish exactly what and where. There will also be a number for which no record has survived.

There are two early records of an innkeeper in Holmfirth. The first of these are the entries in the surviving pages of the diary of Arthur Jessop (1682-1751) a local Apothecary, which detail his frequent visits to: "*the house of William Shackleton*" in Holmfirth where he drank and also met with other members of a Book Club to which he belonged. The second is an advertisement in the Leeds Intelligencer dated 9th December, 1760: "*To be sold, together or in Parcels at the house of Mr William Shackleton, in Holmfirth in the County of York, on Thursday the 8th Day of January 1761the property of the late Mr David Battye.*" It has not been possible to establish whether or not the William Shackleton referred to in these is indeed the same man or two men who were in some way related. Most likely, the inn was situated near to the Church on the old route thorough Holmfirth at this time.

In the earliest surviving Records of the Upper Agbrigg Brewster Sessions for Holmfirth dated 1771, 1773, 1777 and 1781 only the name of the licensee was noted.

Using these and contemporary newspaper advertisements the Brown Cow Inn, the Rose and Crown Inn (the Nook), the Shoulder of Mutton Inn and the Kings Head Inn have been verified as being open in the second half of the eighteenth century.

Alehouse Keeper		£	Surtees	£
Holmfirth	Beaumont Joshua	10	Geo. Brook	10
	Barber Joseph	10	Joshua Beaumont	10
	Booth John (Miller)	10	Dan ^e Addy	10
	Batty Joseph	10	W ^m Doornolly	10
alort	Brook George	10	Jos ^s Beaumont	10
	Booth John (Butcher)	10	Joseph Batty	10
alort	Bower Sam ^l	10	Sona: Moorhouse	10

Holmfirth	Dickinson John	10	Eleanor Smithcliffe	10
	Doornolly William	10	In ^o Booth	10
contm. ²	Smithiff Eleanor	10	Same	10
alortif	Groom Benjamin (alortif)	10	Sona: Moorhouse, Jos ^s Turner &	10
	Honyon John	10	Geo: Brook	10
	Moorhouse Sona:	10	Bonj: Groom	10
	Moorhouse Geo:	10	Joseph Turner?	10
	Parson Samou - absent	10	W ^m Doornolly & In ^o Booth - E	10
	Swallow William	10	In ^o Booth	10
	Turner Joseph	10	Geo. Moorhouse	10

Entries on two pages of the List of Holmfirth Alehouse Keepers Brewster Records, 1771

It was not until 1803 that both the name of an alehouse or inn and the licensee were recorded. The name of the licensee was that of the landlord who could also have been the owner. Additional information possibly provided by these records includes names of owners, guarantors and prosecutions.

It has been possible to locate all but one of the named inns found in the List of Alehouse Keepers of 1803, this being the White Lion where the landlord was Jonas Roberts.

An earlier Licensing Record reveals that a Jonas Roberts had been licensed in 1777 as: *“a person of sober life and conversation and duly qualified to keep a Public Inn.”* The name of the inn was not recorded. However in 1803, at the time of the resumption of the Napoleonic War, from a newspaper report it is known that a Jonas Roberts, innkeeper of the White Lion, Holmfirth held a meeting at: *“his house”* in the matter of: *“the necessity of Peace and the propriety of petitioning for it at the present crisis.”* Unfortunately it has not been possible to establish whether or not the Jonas Roberts of 1777 and 1803 is the same man (if he is, then he had a rather lengthy tenure of the inn). Perhaps we are talking of father and son or a relation in some other way.

Holmfirth

Thomas Blythe, Brown Cow	in	10
Jonas Roberts, White Lion	in	10
John Barrage, George & Dragon	in	10
John Boothroyd, White Hart	in	10
George Brown, Elephant and Castle	in	10
Matthew Bower, King's Head	in	10
Jonathan Turner, George	in	10
Jonas Turner, Bull and Dog	in	10
Alexander Hellingworth, Duke of Cumberland	10	
Jonathan Goddard, New Mill	in	10
William Bradford, Angel	in	10
Joseph Woodhouse, Buck	in	10
James Boothroyd	in	10
John Booth Shoulder of Mutton	in	10
John Haasfield	in	10
Jonathan Eastwood	in	10

**List of Alehouse Keepers in Holmfirth
Brewster Records, 1803**

Holmfirth lies within the three ancient Townships of Wooldale, Cartworth and Upperrhong and as such within the Graveship of Holme in the Manor of Wakefield. At the time of writing there was no access to the Court Rolls of the Manor of Wakefield, one of the major sources of information about the transfer of Copyhold property within these Townships. The majority of the premises investigated were such properties, so it has not been possible to include detailed information relating to the names of copyhold tenants and the descriptions of properties. This situation arose due to the relocation of the Archive and Library of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society to the Special Collections, Brotherton Library at Leeds University.

However, it has been possible to use some published transcriptions for the Court Rolls of 1286, 1308, 1333, 1339, 1790, 1792 and 1882.

Particulars relating to a number of the sales of freehold premises were found in entries in the West Yorkshire Land Registry.

At the time of a change of landlord, an inventory was made of the furnishings, fittings and stock-in-trade being transferred to the new tenant. Where found these and the accompanying descriptions give a fascinating insight into the layout and nature of the premises. Likewise a sale or lettings advertisement occasionally provided a contemporary view as to the nature of the business or the status of the establishment.

The names of the Landlords have been compiled from a range of Sources such as the Court Rolls, Land Registry Deeds, Brewster Records, Inventories compiled at the time of the Transfer of Licence, Census Returns, Rate Books, Trade Directories and advertisements and articles in Newspapers.

The names of landlords have been listed for each pub under the heading of Known Landlords with the following key:

- CR Court Roll of the Manor of Wakefield
- BR Brewster Sessions Record:
 - Annual Lists of Licensees/Alehouse Keepers
 - Records of Transfer of Licence
 - Extinguishing Licenses Records
 - Compensation Authority Papers
- I Inventory on the Transfer of Licence
- LR West Yorkshire Land Registry Deed
- C Census Return
- ER Electoral Roll
- D Trade Directory
- R Rate Book
- A Auction Particulars of Sales
- N Newspaper Advertisement or Article

A Landlord, as owner or licensee, frequently combined inn keeping with another trade, for example, as a tailor, butcher, shoemaker, stonemason or blacksmith. In these circumstances, his wife would often run the day to day business of the inn or beerhouse. After the death of her husband, a wife could assume the responsibility for managing the business becoming the landlady in her own right.

The length of tenure could vary greatly, ranging from just a few months to spanning many years. In the latter cases family members became involved, sometimes over several generations.

The majority of landlords were valley-born, with a small number coming from elsewhere. Occasionally they moved from one town centre inn or beerhouse to another, or in some instances moved away from the valley.

Bankruptcy appears to have been the experience of several landlords, the circumstances for this are not on record.

Selected notes on the history of Brewing

Traditional English ale made solely from fermented malt was brewed by people in their own homes and then sold to neighbours or within houses, known as alehouses or taverns. Each of the keepers of these would brew their own distinctive ale for the local population. The practice of adding hops to the ale to produce beer was well established by the mid-1550s. From this time, any house selling home-brewed ale and beer could be referred to as an alehouse, a beerhouse or a tavern. Those that offered accommodation were called inns. Later, local independent commercial breweries were established, these soon became the major suppliers to what became known as public houses in their neighbourhood.

Lying within the Graveship of Holme, the area we know as the Holme Valley was part of the Manor of Wakefield. The main source of evidence for the brewers in the medieval period comes from the records of the courts of the manor, which sat to hear of infringements of local laws and of disputes between tenants every three weeks. The manor court imposed fines against those found guilty, and these were a significant source of income for the lord of the manor.

Brewing of ale was a common occupation in the valley and the majority of brewers seem to have been women. Sometimes the women brewers were identified, such as Margery of Holme and Juliana of Cartworth, but more often it was their husbands who were named, such as this reference from 1308: “*the wife of Jordan the Miller*”. They brewed and sold their ales from their homes, but the absence of specific reference to ‘brewsters’ or similar official titles in the records suggests that brewing in the medieval Holme Valley was a subsidiary occupation. This is reinforced by references such as this from 1286: “*John the Cobbler is fined 12d for brewing contrary to the assize*”.

In 1215, the Magna Carta had stipulated standard measures for wine and ale. Further requirements were put in place in 1277 to ensure brewers only used properly stamped measures.

In the mid thirteenth century a law was also passed that was enacted throughout England called the “*Assize of Ale*”. This law fixed the price brewers could charge for ale and linked that charge to the price of wheat, barley and oats. It also linked the cost of ale to its strength. The Manor of Wakefield would have had an aletaster whose job it was to monitor the brewers of the area and to report infringements of the assize to the manor court. The fines levied for “*brewing against the assize*”, were typically 2d, 6d and 12d although it is not clear what the different levels of fine represent. The same brewers are often fined repeatedly and their names are found in the court rolls time and again suggesting that the fine for breaking the assize was in reality a local tax on brewing rather than a genuine punishment.



Drinking game.
Marginal detail from the Luttrell Psalter (1325-1340)

An interesting record heard by the court in January 1333 tells us that the whole settlement of Hepworth was 'distrained' or held in debt, for: "*concealing that Beatrice, wife of Richard de Heppworth brewed at 1d contrary to the assize*". In the court of April 1339 the township of Wooldale was fined 40d for: "*concealing*" Alice de Bothe who was herself fined 2d for brewing against the assize.

Responsibility for brewing changed when the Act for Licensing Alehouses was introduced in 1552 and the enforcement of brewing laws moved from local manorial courts to Justices of the Peace. Such was the Government's concern over the social problems associated with drunkenness that Justices of the Peace, who already carried the responsibility: "*to bind over unruly persons to be of good behaviour*" were given additional powers to enforce civil order. They were also required to licence all alehouses in their locality.

At the start of the English Civil War in May 1643, Parliament imposed a tax on beer at the rate of two shillings per barrel in order to raise money for the war against the King. Following the restoration of the monarchy in 1690 taxation of all types of liquors continued and Parliament then levied further taxes to beer, ale and other liquors to: "*protect trade*" and: "*to pay for the navy and maintain the war against France*".

In 1751 the retail sale of spirits was restricted to licensed public houses and additional duties were raised. In 1753 Clerks of the Peace were required to keep registers of licensed victuallers in their locality. These were then included in the Brewster Session Records.

An increase in the numbers of British distilleries for the manufacture of spirits, including gin in particular, came about as a result of the French Revolution. In 1789 the government passed an Act banning trade with France which included the importing of wine and brandy. This boosted local liquor

production and promoted the already popular consumption of gin, with its resulting social ills. It was during the latter half of the eighteenth century that the terms alehouse, inn, and tavern were gradually replaced by public house.

These years also saw the introduction of turnpike roads on which travelling became easier, particularly by coach. Public houses were built along these improved highways to provide the services required by those travelling. These included overnight accommodation, a supply of food as well as drink, stabling and food for horses and space for the coaches.

The coming of the railways during the nineteenth century created similar requirements for those travelling by train, so public houses were often sited near the railway station.

The Weights and Measures Act of 1824 sanctioned a single imperial gallon to replace the variable wine, ale, and corn (wheat) gallons then in general use. The new imperial standard gallon was equal to eight imperial pints.

Aimed at reducing the amount of gin consumed under the 1830 Act, any rate-paying householder could apply, with a one-off payment of two guineas, to brew and sell beer or cider in their home. The beer was usually served in jugs or dispensed directly from tapped wooden barrels on a table in the corner of the room. The permission did not extend to the sale of spirits and fortified wines, and any beerhouse discovered selling those items was closed down and the owner heavily fined. Although not allowed to open on Sundays, it was not long before the new beerhouses far outnumbered the combined total of long-established taverns, pubs, inns and hotels. Finally in 1869, this growth was checked by greater magisterial control and the introduction of new licensing laws which prevented the creation of new beerhouses whilst allowing those already in existence to continue. Many did so whilst others made application to become fully licensed.

The Licensing Act of 1872 imposed several new conditions on publicans; closing times were altered to midnight in towns and 11pm in the country; the offence of being “*drunk in public*” was created; all drink retailers were placed under the authority of the licensing magistrates.

The Act of 1887, known as the Anti-Sipping Act was aimed at preventing children whose parents had sent them to fetch beer from drinking some of it as they returned home. It also required that when carrying beer the bottles were to be sealed and jugs covered.

Following the Licensing Act of 1839, by which the opening of public houses on Sundays was restricted, this became a most contentious national issue throughout the nineteenth century. Considered at a public meeting held in Holmfirth Town Hall in May 1888, the motion supporting this proposal for Sunday opening was passed unanimously. However, many of those attending were to be disappointed, because later that year, Sunday closing was introduced by The Lord’s Day Observance Act. During the 1900s numerous Acts were then passed adjusting and amending the legalities of opening hours.

The sale of beer to children under 14 was first prohibited in 1901. Children and adults frequently drank “small beer” - a less alcoholic beer brewed from the second “*runnings*” of the mash.

The 1904 Licensing Act, known as the Compensation Act, introduced a national plan related to the closure of public houses. Owing to the success of the Surrender Scheme, first undertaken in Birmingham, whereby: “*a company was formed amongst the brewers, and they negotiated with the licensing justices for the surrender of licences ... and the company was able to pay compensation to the members who lost those licences out of the funds which they themselves subscribed*’ Licensing Magistrates could refuse an application for the

renewal of a licence if it was considered that the pub was “*unnecessary*.” Compensation was paid both to the owner of the premises and the licensee although, typically, only about 10% of the compensation went to the licensee. This law angered many members of the Temperance movement. Believing that there were too many public houses compared with the need of the public they had actively supported a law that would lead to the closure of many of them. However, they regarded the financial compensation as a: “*subsidy on sin*”. We can be sure that those advocating temperance in the Holme Valley would have expressed their view on this issue.

Legislation during and after WW1 under Lloyd George, a fearsome devotee of temperance, tended to relate to changes to opening hours, these being reduced from twelve to five and a half daily, and to the increase in duty.

In 1923 it became illegal for those aged under 18 to buy or serve alcoholic drinks on licensed premises.

“At the sign of”

It is unclear how the names of individual pubs were acquired. A number of Holmfirth pubs reflect a common practice of names with royal or heraldic origins, whilst others have names with unmistakable local associations like Gas Tavern, Ring O’ Bells or The Druids. Well into the 1800s when reference was being made to the name of a tavern, an inn or public house the phrase “*Sign of the*” continued to be used.

Originally, in common with other tradesmen of the time, owners of these establishments advertised their business with a sign hanging outside for the benefit of the majority of the

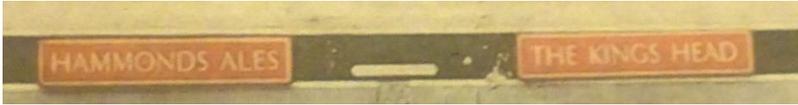
population, those unable to read or write. In 1393, hanging of signs was made compulsory by King Richard II so they could be recognized by the official Ale Taster who regulated the quality of ale sold. Richard II's emblem of a white hart became a very popular pub name.

The evidence for these in Holmfirth can be found in surviving photographs, the earliest being those from the first and second decades of the twentieth century, and those listed in the Inventories made on the transfer of a landlord's licence.

Most pubs were identified by a hanging sign or their names on boarding on the front of the building. The name of the supplying brewery was frequently included in the signing.



Sign of the White Hart Inn c1905



Hammonds Ales Kings Head Inn 1950s



Sign of the Elephant and Castle Inn 2015

In recent years, the changing of pub names has been an integral part of rebranding, a name still being acknowledged as having a crucial role in the age-old function of attracting attention for the promotion of the sale of alcohol, food and accommodation.



Sign of Brambles Bar and Café (White Hart Inn) 2015

Centres of community life

Public houses played an important part in the life of the local community, hosting all kinds of activities. Housing in Holmfirth was generally small in size and often overcrowded and so much social activity had to take place outside the home. There were flourishing sports clubs, hobby groups, religious and political organisations which held both regular and celebratory meetings in local hostelrys. These events were usually reported in the local press, as were Coroners' inquests, auctions, meetings of creditors in cases of bankruptcy, trade meetings for local employers and employees. Specific examples of these are given in the individual pub histories.

Many people were members of Friendly Societies, formed on the basis of friendship and benevolence. Often established on religious, political, or trade affiliations these organisations would support members (known as brethren), their widows and children in times of financial need from sickness, loss of wage, injury or death in return for a small regular subscription. Responsible for its own affairs, each Lodge was often affiliated to a National Order of Lodges. Friendly Societies such as the Old Friendly Society, (the oldest benevolent society in the town), the Oddfellows, the Order of Foresters, the Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds and the Ancient Order of Druids had branches in the town.

Female Lodges also existed for the large numbers of women who worked, as was the case in the Holme Valley with so many textile mills. Lodges for women recorded as meeting in Holmfirth included the Female Foresters; the Ancient Order of Druidesses and the Female Friends of Secret Orders.

The Crown Hotel, Rose and Crown Inn, Friendship Inn, the Druids Hotel, Victoria Hotel, White Hart Inn, Waggon and Horses Inn and the Jolly Hatters Beerhouse all had designated

Lodge rooms. Annual feasts were also provided at which large numbers would sit down for dinner followed by an evening's entertainment. Such feasts were often preceded by a church service or a procession around the town behind a brass band.

The activities relating to the use of public houses by the three local Freemason Lodges were regularly recorded in the local press. The Victoria Hotel and the Druids Hotel provided lodge rooms for the Holme Valley Lodge, the Kings Head for the Loyal Yorkshire Lodge and the White Hart Inn for the Lodge of the Yorkshire Man.

Before the existence of the local police constabulary the Holmfirth Society for the Prosecution of Felons was established in 1804 to help dispense justice against criminals: "*within seven miles of Holmfirth*". Regular meetings held at the Victoria Hotel, the Shoulder of Mutton Inn and the Kings Head Inn were attended by the members who paid dues to cover one another's costs of privately prosecuting offenders should a crime be committed against them. This organisation exists to this day but for social purposes only!

From the reporting of the dinners and celebratory occasions it would appear that Holmfirth folk shared a great capacity for enjoying themselves. Such gatherings inevitably included "*speechifying*" which was then frequently followed by entertainments such as solo singing, instrumental music, recitations, magic tricks or dancing.

The most frequent public administrative function conducted in pubs and inns was that of inquests, for deaths following accidents of every conceivable kind, suicides, those unexpectedly found dead or bodies discovered in millponds. Inquests would generally take place in the nearest inn, overseen by a coroner with a jury in attendance and witnesses called.

Pubs became important centres following the large loss of life which took place in 1852 when the Bilberry reservoir at the head of the Holme Valley burst its banks and inundated the town. Substantial damage was caused, many buildings were swept away and 81 people lost their lives. Local pubs acted as collection points for recovered bodies, and inquests were held for the identification and their return to families for burial. Such Inquests were held at the George Inn, Kings Head Inn, Elephant and Castle Inn, Rose and Crown Inn, Shoulder of Mutton Inn, Waggon and Horses Inn, White Hart Inn and the Crown Hotel. The full Coroner-led inquests were then held in the Town Hall.

Another important function was that of meetings of the Court Leet and the Court Baron of the Manor of Wakefield. Twenty-three of these sessions took place at the White Hart between 1850 and 1890.

Other administrative functions recorded related to registration of voters, the work of the local civic boards responsible for local affairs prior to the establishment of Holmfirth Urban District Council in 1894 and meetings held to discuss the proposed Greenfield to Shepley Lane Head turnpike.

It was not uncommon for a room to be known as the commercial room. Business related meetings were frequently held in pubs, but it was auctions that were the main commercial activity, relating to both local properties and those from a wide area around the district. With a significant number of interested parties attending, these gatherings were generally scheduled for early evening to allow for food and other refreshment to be taken.

A common feature of pub life was the breaking of licensing laws and the committing of a crime by both landlords and their customers or passers-by. Those relating to landlords centred on

opening hours, permitting gambling, drunkenness and rowdy behaviour on their premises. Two prosecutions in the same year could lead to a landlord losing his licence. Crimes committed by customers or passers-by would include drunkenness, disorderly behaviour and violence to varying degrees. Interestingly, the authorities occasionally turned a blind eye to drunkenness if no disorderly behaviour occurred, as happened in the Friendship Inn in April 1873 when the defendant was discharged on these grounds. Difficulties often arose for a local Constable for he only had the legal right to enter licensed premises to take account of the liquor stored there, for any other purpose a warrant had to be obtained from a magistrate.

A number of local and national breweries supplied beer, wine and spirits at different times and for varying periods of time to beerhouses, inns and public houses:

Bentley and Shaw, Lockwood Breweries, Huddersfield
 Bentleys Yorkshire Brewery, Woodlesford
 Seth Senior and Sons, Highfield Brewery, Shepley
 (brewers of the popular Stingo beer)
 J. D. Roberts, Farnley Tyas Brewery
 Samuel Smith, Old Brewery, Tadcaster
 Whittakers Brewery, Halifax
 Messrs Stones Ltd, Cannon Brewery, Sheffield
 Hammonds United Breweries, Bradford, Huddersfield
 Charrington Yorkshire Breweries, York
 Bass Charrington, Bradford
 Marstons Brewery, Wolverhampton

Of the eighteen public houses situated in central Holmfirth nothing remains of eight, the premises of three remain and eight are still open, of which three have been re-named.

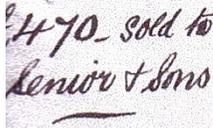
1. Gas Tavern, Huddersfield Road

This beerhouse would have been found on the Huddersfield Road opposite the Civic Hall, in the middle of the terrace of houses at today's number 124. So situated it was close to the site of the town gasworks, gas having been introduced to Holmfirth in 1840. According to the writer of a letter published in the Holmfirth Express in May, 1900 the Gas Tavern was 27 yards from the Crown Hotel.

Newtown		John Goldthorp	Case		3		
		Mary Goldthorp	Daughter		11		Schooler
		Ann	do		8		do
		Mary	do		8		do
	1	John L. Goldthorp	Wife	Mar	14		Woolen Weaver
		John Bradley	Head	Mar	27		Beerhouse Keeper
		Mary	Wife	Mar	38		
		Ann	do		12		
		Ann	do		6		
		Ann	do		11		
		Ann	do		3		
		Mrs. the Beerhouse	Wife		4		
	1	John Hellingwood	Head	Mar	1/20		
	1	Ann Hellingwood	Wife	Mar	11		Wife and shoe maker
		Robert	do	Wife	11		
		John	do	Mar	16		Wife and shoe maker
		Benjamin	do	Mar	12		
		William	do	Mar	9		Schooler
		Mary	do	Mar	3		
	1	John Johnson	Head	Mar	42		Brewer & Tinner
		Ann	Wife	Mar	38		
		Ann	do	Mar	16		
		Ann	do	Mar	12		
		Elizabeth	do	Mar	11		Schooler
		Harriet	do	Mar	8		

Census Return 1861 Section of the entry for Newtown, Holmfirth showing John Bradley, Beerhouse Keeper and John Johnson, Ironmonger and Tinner

After the death of the owner, Mr John Johnson, in September 1885 the tavern was put up for auction during the following year along with the adjoining three properties: "fronting Huddersfield Road" and the two lower-dwellings under one of these. R. and J. Senior, Brewers, bought the inn for £470.



LOT 2.

All that BEERHOUSE, known as the Gas Tavern, and fronting Huddersfield-road aforesaid; a DWELLING-HOUSE adjoining Lot 1 on the north, with Cellar Dwelling under same; and a Two storey COTTAGE, fronting to Crown Bottom, together with back-yard and outbuildings thereto belonging, as the same are now in the occupation of William Coldwell, James Charlesworth, David Johnson, and Mitchell Roberts.

**Entry in Solicitors Diary of the sale advertisement
with recorded purchaser and sale price 1886**

In October 1898 when the tenancy was transferred from Wimpenny Lindley to Samuel Shaw Wimpenny, the accommodation consisted of 2 bedrooms, tap room, bar parlour, in which there was a violin and bow, filling bar, bagatelle room with table frame and slate bed, 4 cues, marking board and fittings, kitchen and a coal place. Outside there was a sign board. The value of the furnishings, fittings and stock-in-trade was assessed at £36-19s-6d.

In July 1903 on the change of landlord from Samuel Shaw Wimpenny to Fred Howard, it was noted in the inventory that the two bedrooms were now without beds, the tap room had two ale tables and the bar parlour had one ale table and stools. The value of the furnishings, fittings, stock-in-trade and the unexpired licence had fallen to £36-5s-5d, reflecting a fall in the stock held at that time.

In 1908 at the Brewster sessions Fred Howard's application for the renewal of the license was refused on the grounds that the tavern was unnecessary. It was described as: *"a beerhouse on the Huddersfield Road with three entrances and was therefore difficult to police. The landlord made four or five dinners a day for work people at Albert Mill. He had ten customers a night. Referred to the Compensation Authority."*

Following the decision that the tavern should close, the valuation of the premises as trade premises was £1,284-8s-4d and the estimated value of the premises per annum as a private dwelling was £10. At time of closure the owners, then Seth Senior and Sons, were awarded £950, the premises subsequently becoming a private house.

The first known account of this beerhouse is a newspaper report of a Floral and Vegetable Show in October 1855 at the Town Hall which lies almost directly opposite the tavern. It was stated that the supper for the exhibitors and those closely connected with the show was provided at the Gas Tavern.

It is however, the breaking of licensing laws and associated crime that was the most apparent newsworthiness of this pub. There are numerous reports of court appearances where the Gas Tavern was the scene of drunkenness of both customers and landlord, was found open out-of-hours or reported for the use of bad language.

In January 1861 the police, convinced that the tavern was open out-of-hours, were: "*standing looking across the valley where there was a fair view of the back rooms.*" It is likely that they were watching from the higher ground of Station Road near The Druids. As they then attempted to enter the premises the landlord, John Bradley, refused to admit them. In Court, Bradley claimed that he had been in bed and never heard them. He was found guilty and fined.

Charged with assault by his "*better half*" in June 1863, the landlord, Edward Ashwell, was brought before the magistrates and judged to be guilty. For this he was sentenced to three months with hard labour in the Wakefield House of Correction.

William Coldwell, the landlord in 1878, was fortunate in that although charged and found guilty of being drunk in his own house along with three regular customers and five

“*showpeople*”¹ he was fined twenty shillings and costs but there was no endorsement of his licence.

A theft charge came to court in March 1886 when Ebenezer Coldwell, the son of William Coldwell, accused Arthur Brearley with stealing his watch. Brearley had asked for a room at the Gas Tavern and had slept in the same room as Coldwell junior who, having hung up his watch, later found it was gone. Brearley had by then left for Manchester where he had pawned the watch. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six weeks hard labour.

The Gas Tavern was frequently visited before or after men had been elsewhere to drink. Such was the case in the records of the following two inquests.

It was reported on 18th July 1868 that George Morton, having spent four hours drinking in the Gas Tavern before leaving, had quarrelled with a man called Brooke. Morton was the only man to strike any blows but it was Morton who died later that evening in his mother's house. The surgeon, Mr C. J. Trotter ascribed the death to apoplexy.

In July 1871 John Shaw, a painter of Lane End who was the worse for drink after visiting several pubs including the Gas Tavern and the nearby Crown Hotel, became embroiled in a disagreement with Joseph Turner which led to a fight. Turner died a day later from head and spine injuries but there was however, insufficient evidence to “*criminate*” John Shaw.

A family disagreement occurred in 1889 which resulted in the licensee, William Wike, suing and securing judgement against his brother-in-law, Thomas Simpson, of Hill Top, chimney sweep, for the return of £9 borrowed money.

¹ Possibly travelling players performing in the nearby Town Hall



**Location of the former Gas Tavern in a row of terraced houses,
Huddersfield Road 2015**

Known Landlords

1861	John Bradley	C	1890	John Hartley	BR
1863	Edward Ashwell	N	1895	Martha Hartley	BR
1878	William Coldwell	N	1896	Wimpenny Lindley	BR
1887	Hannah Coldwell	BR	1898	Samuel Shaw Wimpenny	BR
1889	Allen Lockwood	BR	1903	Fred Howard	I

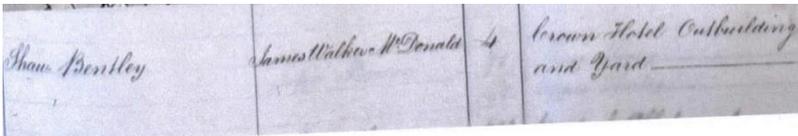
2. Crown Hotel (The Post Card)



Crown hotel, Huddersfield Road early 1960s

Situated at 134, Huddersfield Road and therefore on the direct road from Huddersfield to Holmfirth via Thongsbridge, this was one of the larger licensed premises in the town.

The Upperthong Tith Map and Book dated 1847 provide the earliest record of the Crown Hotel and indeed Dave Green gives this year for the opening date.



Section of the entry in the Upperthong Tith Book dated 1847 showing Bentley Shaw as the proprietor and James Walker McDonald the occupier



CROWN HOTEL, HOLMFIRTH.

JAMES W. MACDONALD begs to return his thanks to the Inhabitants of Holmfirth, and the Public generally, for the very liberal support he has enjoyed since he opened the above Hotel, and takes this opportunity of assuring them that the house has been most beautifully fitted up, re-painted, &c., and will be found by Commercial Gentlemen especially, to combine the elegance and comfort of home with a close proximity to the Railway, being within about three minutes' walk of the station.

J. W. M. has selected a first-rate stock of Wines, Spirits, Ales, &c., and hopes, by the strictest attention to the requirements and comfort of his friends, to obtain a continuance of their patronage and support. In addition to the usual apartments of the Hotel there is a

LARGE AND COMMODIOUS ROOM,

suitable for Estate and general Auction Sales.

WELL-AIRED BEDS.

An elegant One or Two-Horse CAB ready at the shortest notice.

J. W. M. has great pleasure in intimating that a GLEE CLUB, of superior talent, is being established at the Hotel.

N.B.—For the convenience of Private Families, J. W. M. has also ensured a constant supply of ALE and PORTER, in small casks, from the Lockwood Brewery, at the following prices —

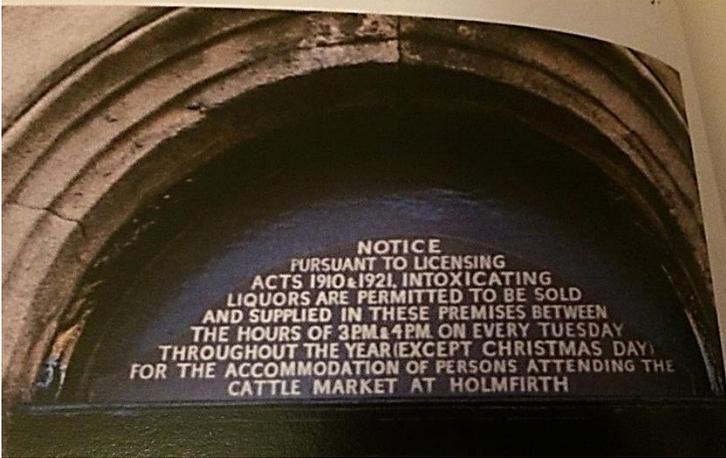
ALE, 6 gallons and upwards,	1s. 1s. 2d. and 1s. 6d. per gal.
PORTER, ditto,	1s. 2d. and 1s. 6d. per gal.

By 1857 James W. McDonald, had left and John Haigh was landlord for the following three years. It was during the tenure of the next landlord, John Earnshaw, that the premises underwent an internal renovation, for in April 1864 he issued a notice stating that: *“The hotel has undergone a thorough internal renovation in re-papering, painting, cleaning, etc, and is now replete with every convenience. Being opposite the Town-Hall, the Crown is the most convenient place in Holmfirth for gentlemen attending the Magistrates’ Court, the County Court, or the Chamber of Commerce. At the Crown Hotel travellers will find first-class Bedrooms and Beds; good Stabling for horses and Coach-house in an enclosed yard. With these advantages and a determination to supply Wines, Spirits, Ales, Porters, etc of the best qualities and on reasonable terms together with strict attention to business, J. E. hopes to merit share of public patronage.”*

In 1892, when a new landlord was being sought following the departure of Robert Turner, an inventory of the rooms and stock was included in the advertisement. The rooms listed were: *“Lodge room, bar, bar parlour, filling room, commercial room, tap room, billiard room, kitchen, wash kitchen, 2 bedrooms, six attics, two cellars and a coal cellar, ale cellar and wine cellar, yard, and stable.”*

Six years later when the same situation had arisen with the departure of Henry Hirst Higgins, the new landlord, William Hartley paid £221-5s-10d for the furnishings, fittings and stock-in-trade. The inn was said to consist of: *“7 attic bedrooms, landing and stairs, no. 1 bedroom, no. 2 bedroom, billiard room, landing and stairs, Lodge room, commercial room, tap room, bar, bar parlour, passage, wash kitchen, store cellar, tap room, passage and coal cellar, ale cellar, wine cellar, provision cellar. Outside a yard, filling bar, stables.”* There were two good signs with wording *“Good Stabling”*, also lettering, *“Crown Hotel”*, on the side of the house.

Changes to the accommodation made between 1907 and 1909, whilst Ben Littlewood was the landlord, appear to have arisen because of a need for more bedrooms: bedrooms 1 and 2 and the nearby billiard room were altered into four bedrooms. This upgrading of the accommodation was undertaken by the new owners, Bentley and Shaw Ltd., Lockwood Brewery.



Notice placed above the door of the Crown Hotel permitting extended opening hours on cattle market days

With an original name that declared a sign of loyalty to the reigning monarch the public house was renamed The Post Card in 1975. This was in recognition of its links in the early twentieth century with Bamforth & Co., the Holmfirth business that produced postcards and films. The lower public bar had been used as a film location and in honour of this it was known as Winkys after one of Bamforth's star actors, Reggie Switz, who played a Chaplin-like character known as Winky in many short comedy films. His escapades were usually the result of him being slightly tipsy! The bar was also called Stamps, the name by which it is known today.



**Keith McDonald,
licensee, takes
delivery of this
giant postcard
from Walter
Pawson, the local
postman**

March 1984

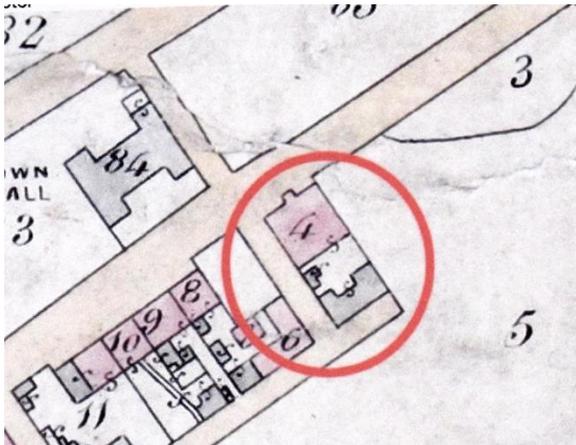
**New logo
2016**



In 2013, the pub was acquired by Punch Taverns with Kevin Sanders as manager. The premises have undergone an internal refurbishment and a new signboard and a contemporary logo have been created.

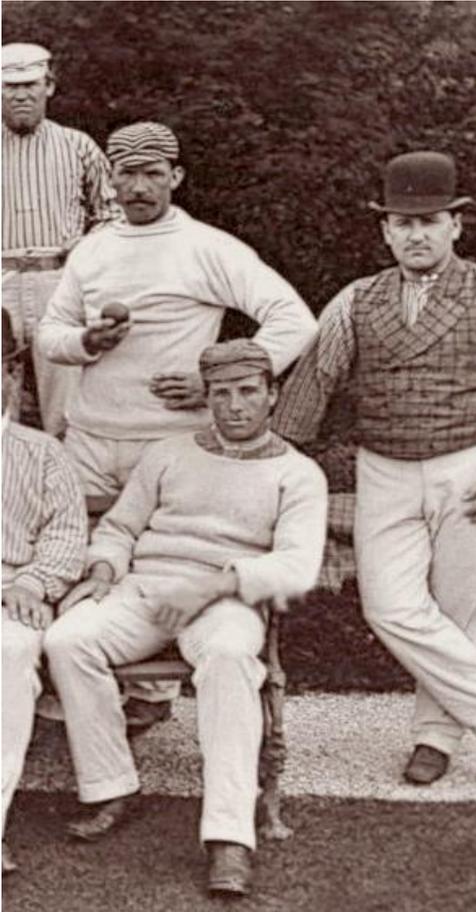
Being one of the larger licensed premises, the Crown was the venue for auctions, inquests and the meeting place for many societies and clubs in Holmfirth. Numbered among the later were Holmfirth Glee Club, various Orders of Druids, different Orders of Druidesses, Holmfirth Agricultural Society, Huddersfield and Holmfirth Dyers, Holmfirth & District Chrysanthemum Society, Holmfirth Flower Show, Holmfirth Vegetable Show, Holmfirth Association Football Club, Holmfirth Harriers and Holme Valley Beagles.

There is evidence of a connection with cricket and this Hotel, for Holmfirth Cricket Club ground was situated at the rear of the premises from 1847 to 1856. In November 1850 the third anniversary celebrations of the Club were held here. After a match with Dalton Cricket Club sixty people sat down to a very substantial dinner. *“After the cloth was drawn, toasts were given, recitations and singing also prevailed till a late hour, when the company broke up highly satisfied with their evenings enjoyments.”*



Part of the Upperrhong Tithe Map dated 1847 showing the Crown Hotel (4) and open ground (5) to the rear which later became the Holmfirth Cricket Club ground

A second link is that Andrew Greenwood, the landlord in 1879, was a former professional cricketer having played for Yorkshire from 1869 to 1880 where he encountered the Gloucestershire and England player, W. G. Grace. Greenwood played for England 1876-1877 and was a member of the first England team to play Australia.



**Andrew Greenwood
(standing right)
with members of
the 1875 Yorkshire
County team,
Allen Hill and
Charlie Ullathorne**

The Crown Hotel also had political connections that included the premises being used in 1858 for a meeting of the Revision of the Registry of Voters. This was necessary, as at the time there had been a limited extension in voting rights.

Ten years later, it was the scene of the Liberal Parliamentary Candidates election rally. The crowds, reported as being both electors and non-electors despite continuing restrictions on eligibility to vote, assembled on Crown Bottom in appallingly wet weather,. The Liberal candidates, Lord Milton and Mr. H. F. Beaumont, were given a hugely enthusiastic welcome. Amidst banners that were said to have been displayed everywhere, both candidates addressed the crowds from the balcony of the Crown Hotel.

Benjamin Mellor, owner of the nearby Albert Mill used the pub for the works suppers in 1872, 1879 and 1882. On these occasions some fifty six employees attending were treated to: *“food, games, singing and dancing.”*

There are only a few recorded instances of the landlord breaking licensing laws. However, Edward Lodge appears to be the exception, for in 1871 he was called before the magistrates sitting for the Brewster Sessions. He was warned that his behaviour towards the police following his conviction for: *“having his house open for the sale of drink in prohibited hours”* was unacceptable and if this continued he would lose his licence. The following year he had been fined for flouting the licensing laws on two separate occasions. The first offence was for selling beer at the Town Hall, just over the road, without a licence. He had claimed that in the past he had had a temporary licence for events at the Town Hall, but on this occasion he had merely got consent and not the licence. He complained that he had to get to Huddersfield to obtain the licence and had not made the journey. The second infringement was selling gin early one Sunday morning to a girl who had

been sent by her stepmother to buy it for her father's breakfast!

Robert Turner in 1892 was charged with selling diluted brandy, in fact 30 degrees under strength. His defence was that he had bought the brandy in small lots and he did not know how to account for the decrease in its strength. He was found guilty and fined ten shillings with costs.

When Friend Shaw was discovered to be serving customers after closing time in March 1906 it was stated in court that he had unsuccessfully tried to bribe the policeman with a box of cigars.

As with most of the large pubs, the Crown has its own 1852 flood story, but not one related to the flood waters and the destruction and loss of life caused by them. Being undamaged by the flood, the premises became the venue for three important meetings dedicated to dealing with the consequences of the flood and the necessary actions to be taken. Issues raised at these were the matter of alleviating destitution in the town, the opening of a public subscription fund by donors and the discussions of the plans for the re-building all those areas damaged by the waters. An additional meeting was arranged to determine the most appropriate way to thank the British public for the noble manner in which sympathy had been shown.

An additional crucial concern was the safety of another nearby reservoir, namely Holme Styes, which although remaining intact, was very full.

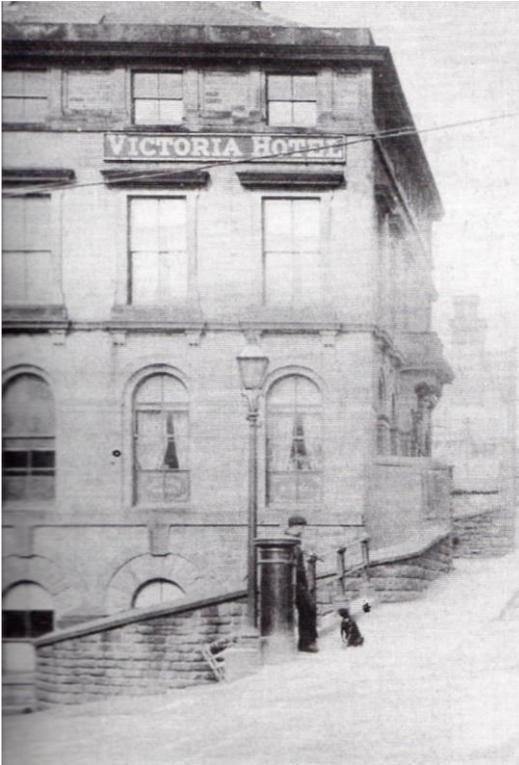
Known Landlords

1847	C. S. Floyd (licensee)	N	1899	James H Fourness	BR
1847	James W McDonald	N	1900	Margaret J Fourness	BR
1857	Thomas Haigh	D	1903	Friend James Shaw	I
1860	John Earnshaw	D	1906	Allen Fox	I
1870	Charles Cromack	D	1907	Benjamin Littlewood	I
1871	Edward Lodge	C	1909	Fred Jepson	I
1876	Henry Roebuck	N	1929	Henry Wimpenny	BR
1879	Andrew Greenwood	N	1942	Frank Haigh	BR
1882	Robert Turner	BR	1943	Sydney Hart	BR
1892	Ruth Biltcliffe	BR	1951	Jack Sykes	BR
1893	Charles W. Woodhead	BR	1960	Elsie Sykes	BR
1893	Robert Taylor	BR	1961	Arthur Curten	BR
1895	Henry H. Higgins	BR	1984	Keith McDonald	N
1898	William Hartley	BR	2013	Kevin Sanders	



**The Post Card 2015, with a yellow bicycle
for the Tour de France (2014) hanging over the door**

3. **Victoria Hotel, Station Road**



The now demolished Victoria Hotel stood on the corner of Station Road and Bridge Lane

On entering Holmfirth, either from New Mill and Wooldale or from the direct Thongsbridge to Holmfirth road via County Bridge and Bridge Lane, this would have been the first public house encountered at Lane End.

The arrival of the railway in Holmfirth in June 1850 was seen by many as being of crucial importance to the standing and prosperity of the town. The building of the station brought with it the need for the development of the adjacent area of Lane End.

At the beginning of 1851 there was a public: *"invitation to*

tender for masons, carpenters, joiners, plasterers, slaters, plumbers, glaziers and painters for the erection of a new hotel near the railway station. Drawings and specifications may be seen at the Railway Inn, Holmfirth." The Railway Inn was shown on the O. S. Map dated 1854 to be near Lane End, the surveying for this was undertaken circa 1850. The value of the arrival of the railway to the town would mean it is not inconceivable that an existing inn could have been renamed the Railway Inn. Could it be that it was the White Lion Inn that was so renamed?

It was stated that the new hotel would be built on: *"the site of the old buildings which now disfigure it"* and that it would be: *"an hotel on a grand scale and which when completed will nearly equal the George in Huddersfield in magnificence of design."*

Built by Mr Bentley Shaw of Lockwood Brewery and called the Victoria Hotel, it did indeed meet all expectations, for soon it became the premier establishment in the town being large in size and wide-reaching in the number of functions it performed.

The hotel was certainly open by 1852 for in that year the first landlord, John Dyson, expressed his thanks to the inhabitants of Holmfirth and the public generally for the extensive support he had received since he entered the hotel. When informing the public that he now had a choice stock of high-class wines, spirits and London bottled Porter supplied by Bentley and Shaw of Lockwood breweries he stated: *"The comforts of commercial gentlemen and railway travellers are especially provided for and as the hotel immediately adjoins the railway station it presents conveniences and advantages to the public in general not to be surpassed."*

By 1861 it would appear that a resident at the Victoria Hotel, Abraham Haley, a Cab Proprietor, and his son were providing horse-driven transport for both those living locally and visitors

to the town. The close proximity to the station meant that this service was particularly convenient for those travelling by train and hotel guests.

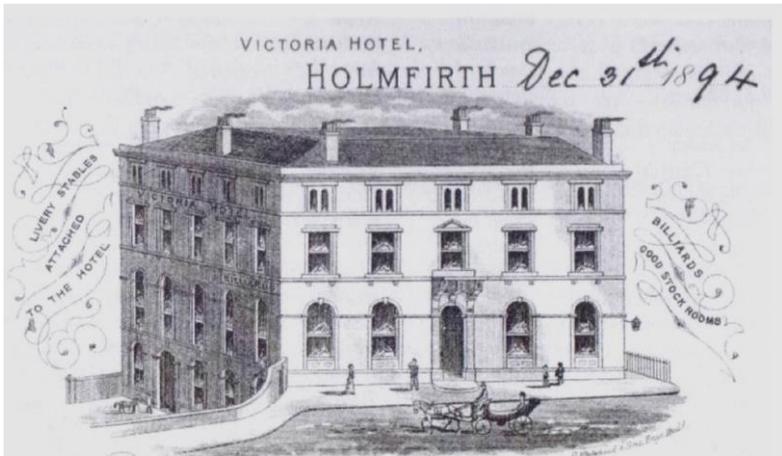
This establishment was held in high regard by those who frequented it for a variety of activities and events. Between 1854 and 1900 there were three hundred and seventy-nine articles in the Huddersfield Chronicle which related to the Victoria Hotel and which give an indication of its standing in the town.

From 1855 to 1921 it was the long-time home to the Freemasons belonging to the Holme Valley Lodge No. 652. For the purpose of the regular Lodge meetings there was a dedicated Masonic room or Blue room with Masonic emblems in the plasterwork. It was reported that the proprietor of the Victoria Hotel, Bentley Shaw Esq: *“has spared no expense in making it the most convenient and perhaps the most elegant room for such purpose in England.”* However, by 1912 the Masons were expressing concerns that it was then in a bad state of repair with water coming in through the ceiling.

Besides meetings, the Masons also held eminent dinners and balls here. One such celebratory dinner on 21st April, 1856 was held to commemorate the laying of the foundation stone for the Almshouses further up Station Road built with funds raised following the 1852 Holmfirth flood. Commencing at 3:30pm this was a splendid occasion with the Victoria Hotel playing host to a grand dinner for eighty Freemason public figures. Included in the meal was mock turtle soup.

Interestingly little is known of the proceedings however, the editor of the Huddersfield Chronicle wrote: *“our reporter was not permitted to be present, we are unable to do more than announce the fact that an interesting correspondence took*

place between Rev. R. E. L.² and Mr Floyd³ which we have obtained for publication. Describing the letters as: “just mutual congratulations” he quoted from Floyd’s letter: “You will readily excuse both the soiled paper and possible illegibility of style when I tell you I am writing amidst much clatter and on a dessert plate.” A second festive dinner was held for sixty non-masons dignitaries at the Elephant and Castle. Included in this meal was real turtle soup!



The Victoria Hotel

Picture taken from an account sent to the Lodge in 1894

In 1921 the Masons moved to larger and extensively renovated premises down Station Road at the Druids Hotel.

The first meeting of Holmfirth Choral Society for both vocalists and instrumentalists was held here in 1856. In the same year a performance of "The Creation" by Haydn was

² Rev. R. E. Leach Vicar of Holmfirth

³ Mr C. S. Floyd

given conducted by Joe Perkin, who later became renowned for his arrangement of the song Pratty Flowers – which was then sung at countless celebratory functions held in the town and became known locally as the Holmfirth Anthem.

Other interest groups meeting here included the local Chess Club, Royal Patriotic Fund, the committee for the Holmfirth Flower Show, the Holmfirth Branch of Conservative Association, the Prosecution of Felons Society and the (Bird) Fanciers Society, Parish Choir, Chamber of Commerce and the Trustees of the Dunford District Turnpike Trust.

The public were invited to view the audit of the accounts of the Local Boards here and in 1893 and 1896 to attend the two arbitration meetings of a dispute between Ebenezer Heeley, colliery owner and Fulstone Local Board. During the Holmfirth and New Mill weavers strike of 1872 the employers committee and the weavers' representatives met here with the appointed mediators in an attempt to find a resolution to what had become a dire situation locally.

In January 1900 before departing for the Boer War (1899-1902) the following volunteers were entertained to dinner here Lance/Sergeant Hirst, Lance/Corporal W. E. Tolson, Corporal J. E. Kimberley, Pte. H. Wadsworth and Pte. J. Quin of Holmfirth, Corporal F. Eastwood and Pte. J. Bray of Netherthong, Pte. J. R. Woodhead of Holme Bridge, Pte. J. W. Brook and Pte. Jepson Brook of Hill, Pte. J. Dearnley of Hinchliffe Mill and Pte. J. H. Booth of Meltham.

During June 1928, the town's manual telephone exchange was relocated from the Post Office into the two lower floors of the Victoria Hotel. Whether or not this was due to an under-use of the hotel accommodation can only be a matter of conjecture. Apparatus for testing appliances, a batteries room, a battery charging plant and the linesmen's room were accommodated on the lower floor, an up-to-date four-operator switchboard was

installed on the upper floor where there was also staff living quarters including a bedroom for the night operator. There was no thoroughfare from the exchange premises into the remaining hotel rooms. Wilfred Swift, the landlord at the time, was summoned for non-payment of the General District Rate and Poor Rate, but he appealed against this maintaining exemption from payment because the building in part was being used as a telephone exchange.



**Victoria Hotel with Bridge mill chimney
in the distance undated**

The viability of the hotel business appears to have been seriously affected by the closure of the railway to passengers in November 1959 and six years later, in April to freight.

The Victoria Hotel closed in October 1966 and the Telephone Exchange moved to newly built premises in Wood Lane the following year. Between closure and 1970 members of Holmfirth Youth Club were the sole users of the building. The following year, the then derelict Victoria Hotel was demolished.

Today the site the Victoria Hotel once occupied has a modern house on it.



The part-demolished Victoria Hotel 1971

Known Landlords

1852	John Dyson	N	1900	Elizabeth Roper	I
1855	Henry Jenkinson	N	1908	Elizabeth Holdsworth	I
1855	Mrs E. Kippax	N	1916	Hannah Higgins	I
1861	Charles Taylor	C	1920	Albert E. Hayes	I
1871	Hannah Taylor	C	1921	Wilfred Swift	BR
1879	Wright Lee	BR	1928	Walter Sheard	BR
1881	Jonas Hobson	BR	1949	John Colithan	BR
1884	Frank Wintermann	BR	1955	Frank Edwards	BR
1887	Thomas Hesketh	BR	1957	Arthur Littlewood	BR
1890	William Taylor	BR	1959	Frederick Jakeman	BR
1892	James Ogden	BR	1959	Tom Brook	BR
1895	Edwin Eastwood	BR	1961	George Holmes	BR
1897	John Roper	I	1966	David T Smith	BR

To be S O L D,
*At the House of John Dickenson, Innholder in Holmfirth,
 on Monday the 11th of November Instant,*
ALL that One undivided Moiety, or equal
 half Part of all that MESSUAGE LANDS,
 and PREMISES, situate and being in Austonley, near

Part of an advertisement Leeds Intelligencer 5th November 1771
 for the sale of land and property in Austonley, near Holmfirth

of Derby, called or known by the several Names of Lock-
 wood-Barr, Honley-Bridge-Barr, Upper-Bridge-Barr, and
 Eden-Booth-Barr, will be LETT by AUCTION, to the
 BEST BIDDER, at the House of Mr John Dickinson, the
 Brown-Cow in Holmfirth, on Thursday the Twentieth Day
 of May next, between the Hours of Two and Four of the
 Clock in the Afternoon, in the Manner directed by the Act

Part of an advertisement Leeds Intelligencer 6th April 1779
 for the letting of the Tolls arising from the Toll Bars at
 Lockwood, Honley Bridge, Upper Bridge and Eden Booth Bar

*Chester, called or known by the Name of Wood-
 head Bars, will be Lett by Auction to the best
 Bidder, at the House of Mrs. Dickinson, the Sign
 of the Brown Cow, in Holmfirth, on Saturday
 the Eleventh Day of July next, betwixt the Hours
 of Two and Four of the Clock in the Afternoon,*

Part of an advertisement Leeds Intelligencer 1st June 1795
 for the letting of the Tolls

However at some point during the three years between this latter date and 1798 Thomas Blythe, an auctioneer and appraiser, had become the landlord. The circumstances within his life and work that later led to his being committed to jail as an insolvent debtor are not known. However on his release in 1823 ironically, his creditors were notified of a meeting to be held in August at the Brown Cow Inn, Holmfirth, by then the house of John Roberts.

WOOD.

TO BE

Sold by Auction,

BY MR. THOMAS BLYTH,

At the White Hart Inn, in Holmfirth,

On Monday, Dec. 30th, 1822,

Between the Hours of Four and Six in the Afternoon, subject to such
Conditions as shall be then and there produced:

All those 35 Numbered

TREES,

And 794 Poles,

With the Bark and Cordwood, as now marked
and set out for Sale, in the Wood called *Binns*
Wood, near Holmfirth, belonging to Mr. JOSEPH
HIRST, of Upperthong, who will show the
Wood.

T. KEMP, PRINTER, HUDDERSFIELD.

**Advertisement for an auction of wood by Thomas Blythe,
December, 1822, interestingly prior to the date of his insolvency**

By 1843 the Inn was owned by the Shaw family of Lockwood Brewery, for in that year the business premises in Lockwood and the public houses owned by them were put up for sale. Although included in the list of public houses so listed the Brown Cow Inn, Holmfirth was not sold

Closure followed the refusal of John Marsden's application for the renewal of the licence at the Brewster Sessions in 1852.

The only recorded evidence of a crime relating to this pub appeared when "a case of gambling by moonlight" was tried in April, 1851. After: "drinking in Matthew Lockwood's The Brown Cow at Lane End" and later in: "William How's unnamed beerhouse" (the George and Dragon) the accused, Walter Charlesworth, was arrested for assaulting John Jenkinson during a game of chance known as marrowing, that was taking place in the Parish Church yard.

Back Lane	John Lockwood	Head	Mar	26	Excavator
	Mary Ann Do	Wife	Mar	26	
	Wm Do	Son		5	
	William Do	Son		4	
	Sarah Do	Son		10 wks	
Back Lane	John Gullide	Head	Mar	56	Woolen Weaver
	Ann Do	Wife	Mar	56	Do. Weaver's Wife
	John Do	Son	11	14	Shoemaker (London)
★ Lane End	Matthew Lockwood	Head	Mar	38	Inn Keeper
	Elizabeth Do	Wife	Mar	32	Do. Do. Wife
	James Do	Son	11	22	Do. Do. Son
	Wright Do	Son	11	16	Woolen Weaver
	Ben Do	Son	1	7	Scholar
	Mary Ann	Servant	11	22	Widow
	Ann & Lockwood	Grand Child		9 wks	
Back Lane	Jonathan Booth	Head	Mar	35	Widow
	Mary Do	Wife	Mar	32	Shoemaker
	Jane Charles	Wife's Son		10	Scholar

Census Return 1851 Section of entry for Lane End showing the Inn kept by Matthew Lockwood

Bankruptcy proceedings including meetings for creditors took place at the Brown Cow such as those relating to that of Thomas and Jabez Stutterd of Lindley and Thomas Littlewood of Oldfield, Merchants, Manufacturers and Chapmen in 1807, and two years later those for J. Holmes, of Underbank, Holmfirth, a Yorkshire merchant. The Brown Cow Inn also appeared in the advertised list of meetings for the Creditors of Francis Burgess of Denby in 1811 and George and Thomas Roebuck of Penistone, Clothiers and Chapmen in 1815.

The only known auction held here was that of the house and land belonging to Jonas Heap of West Nelly in Wooldale following his bankruptcy in 1815.



Lane End 2016

Known Landlords

1771	Mr Dickinson	N	1841	Elizabeth Rogers	C
1781	Mrs Sarah Dickinson	N	1847	John Baldwin	N
1798	Thomas Blythe	N	1847	Matthew Lockwood	N
1823	John Roberts	N	1852	John Marsden	N
1828	Isaac Rogers	D			

5. The Druids Hotel, Station Road



The Druids Hotel 2015

It is known that in May 1846 Jonathon Thorpe and Joseph Crawshaw sold the land in Station Road, on which this building stands, to the Ancient Order of Druids. The building then constructed by them at a cost of over £2,000 was known as the Druids Hall. The accommodation comprised of: *“a ground floor with two large kitchens and four good sized, well-furnished sitting rooms. On the second floor there were five beautifully fitted bedrooms and the whole top floor consisted of one very large room.”*

The two wings provided rented housing and indeed the Census Returns show that there were several families living on the premises, only one family being that of the landlord.

WOOLDALE		of HOLMFIRTH					of HOLMFIRTH			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES The number of houses at (2.)	7 Total number of persons in the house (3.)	8 Whether the house is a dwelling (4.)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	OC- CUPATION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Male / Female	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	
Most new ten.	1	1								
★ Druids road (Druids' Hotel buildings)	1	3		Jessie Bates	Head	W	36		Druid Farmer	
				Sarah do.	Wife	W	34			
				Edgar do.	Son	S	25		Druid's Assistant (unmarried)	
				James H. do.	Son	S	22			
				James H. do.	Son	S	21		Druid's Assistant (unmarried)	
				Ernest do.	Son	S	18		Druid's Assistant	
				Joseph G. do.	Son	S	18		Druid's Assistant	
				Laurence do.	Son	S	14		Scholar	
★ do. (Druids' Hotel)	1	3		Joseph Littlewood	Head	W	35		Hotel Keeper	
				Ellen do.	Wife	W	31			
				John A. do.	Son	-	-		Scholar	
				Ellen G. do.	Son	-	-			
				Thomas do.	Son	-	-			
				Edith A. do.	Son	-	-			
				Sarah A. do.	Son	-	-		Domestic servant	
				Mark B. Benson	Visitor	S	79		Retired	
				Henry Gallagher	do.	S	78		do.	
				Amie Purcott	do.	S	77		do.	
				Abra A. Brown	do.	S	79		do.	
★ Beechdown (Druids' Hotel buildings)	1	3		Wallace Beardsell	Head	W	28		Druid's Assistant	
				Elizabeth A. do.	Wife	W	24		Druid's Assistant	
				James A. do.	Son	-	-			
★ Druids road (Holly branch)	1	3		Alfred Peace	Head	W	40		Druid	
				Ann E. do.	Wife	W	39			
				Mabel do.	Son	-	-		Scholar	
				Edith do.	Son	-	-		do.	
				Olivia do.	Son	-	-			
				Anna Schofield	Son	S	29		General servant (Druid's)	

Census Return 1901 Section of the entry for part of Station Road showing the Druids Hotel and the two associated dwellings

Although built by the Ancient Order of Druids Lodge No. 150 the premises were also used by other Druids Lodges. In May 1852 the local paper recorded the events surrounding the inaugural use of the hall by Lodge No. 346 of the Royal Order of Modern Druids, which had previously met in the Crown Hotel. On this occasion, it was stated that: "a little after noon,

two hundred druids having assembled at the Crown Hotel, they formed a procession, the office bearers in full druidical uniform and headed by the Temperance Band, walked through the town, and afterwards took a wide circuit through the neighbouring district.” The report explained that the hall had been constructed not only to provide larger accommodation but also to: *“free themselves of public houses as a considerable number were teetotal”*. This decision appears to have reflected the strong following that the Temperance Movement had in the valley at this time.

However, in 1873 when the landlord, Hugh Holmes, was applying for an innkeepers licence it was stated that the premises had become a beerhouse in 1853 and that: *“there were two highly respectable (public) houses within 150 yards, the Victoria in one direction and the Friendship in the other”* and *“that they would prefer having a neighbour who had a spirit licence than a beerhouse near them.”* Having a seating capacity for five hundred on his top floor, he also wanted the right to hold auctions and at the time these could not be held in non-licensed premises. In an era when many landlords applied for such licences and when most applications were turned down this licence was granted. It may have helped that Holme’s application was signed by two clergymen and other prominent gentlemen.

In 1906 Lodge members took the decision to disband and the premises in which they had met for sixty years were advertised for sale by auction as: *“The Druid’s Hotel - a fully - licensed public house with brew house, two dwellings, stable, carriage house, outbuildings, yard and vacant ground.”* They were bought by Joseph Beardsell and James Mettrick, who five years later sold them to John Henry Stockwell and John Edward Heap.

Between 1907 and 1911 there were three different landlords, for in January 1907 the licence transferred from Albert Stockwell Heap to Young Walker. At the time the accommodation consisted of bedroom, no.1 front bedroom, no. 2 front bedroom, stairs, entrance, Lodge Room, darts room, back wash kitchen, stairs, entrance and passage, barber shop, snug, tap room, kitchen, ale cellar, wine cellar, filling bar, coal place. Outside Front there was an oak sign over the door and a swing sign. Young Walker then left and John Leeman became landlord. The valuation, dated October 1909, taken on the transfer of the licence from W. Braithwaite to Mrs L. Owen for the furnishings, fittings, stock-in-trade and an unexpired licence was set at £74-18s-4d. It was noted that there were no beds in front bedrooms nos. 1 and 2 and in the Lodge Room there was 26ft of upholstered seating and a singing platform.

In August 1908, the licence was acquired by Whittakers Brewery of Bradford.

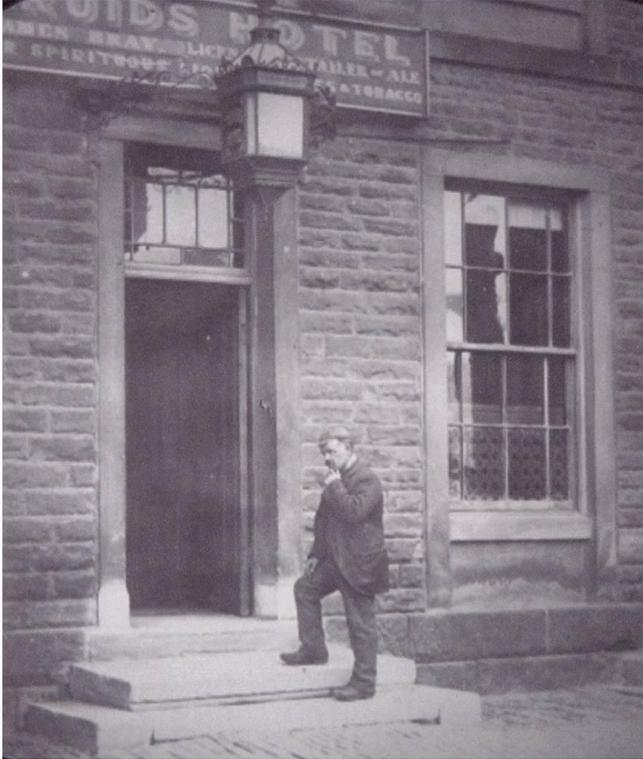
When the hotel closed on 30th December 1916 the compensation paid amounted to £716-2s-0d. During the following year, after a protracted four year negotiation undertaken by Robert Turner, John William Shaw and William Heeley, members of Lodge No. 346 of the Royal Order of Modern Druids purchased the Druids Hall for seven hundred pounds. Extensive renovations of the building were then carried out at a cost of £2,000. On the completion of these in 1921 they relocated, the premises then becoming a private club in which alcohol was sold to members and their guests. As such Freemasons have continued to the present day as Holme Valley Lodge No. 652.

The size and nature of the premises meant that besides auctions being held here they became the regular meeting place for a number of local societies and their special functions and events. Among their number were Holmfirth Cricket and

Athletic club, Holmfirth Agricultural Society and Naturalists Society. After the United Methodists broke away from the Wesleyans in 1849 they held services and meetings here until their own chapel was built in 1860. Members of the West Yorkshire Regiment Rifle Volunteers formed in 1860 used the premises to store their arms and the main room as a drill hall until 1892 when they moved to the newly built all-purpose Drill Hall. The nearby mill of Messrs B. Mellor of Albert Mills held treats here on three occasions for their employees between 1878 and 1887.

Hugh Holmes, landlord in the 1870s, was also a cab driver. He ran an omnibus service between Lane End where, of course, the Victoria Hotel was situated and Holmbridge. In 1872 he threatened to axe the service as it was running at a loss. However, subscribers paid in to defray expenses, and so the service continued. Holmes had stables for seven horses in his own yard and also took the yard at the Crown Inn in which he kept his cab and omnibus.

A later landlord, Michael Redfearn, appears to have continued this provision of transport, for in 1883 on the sale of a waggonette, a dog cart and harnesses it was reported that he: *"is giving up the business."* During the following year Redfearn and Tom Haigh, a butcher from Meltham, were involved in a dispute regarding an alleged breach of warranty on the sale of a horse. Haigh successfully sued Redfearn for non-payment in a case brought to the Huddersfield County Court. Redfearn remained at the Druids Hotel until September 1890 when Joseph Littlewood, a well-known local cricketer became the new the landlord. Unfortunately he suffered a severe illness in 1892 which must have badly affected his business for during the following year he was declared a bankrupt.

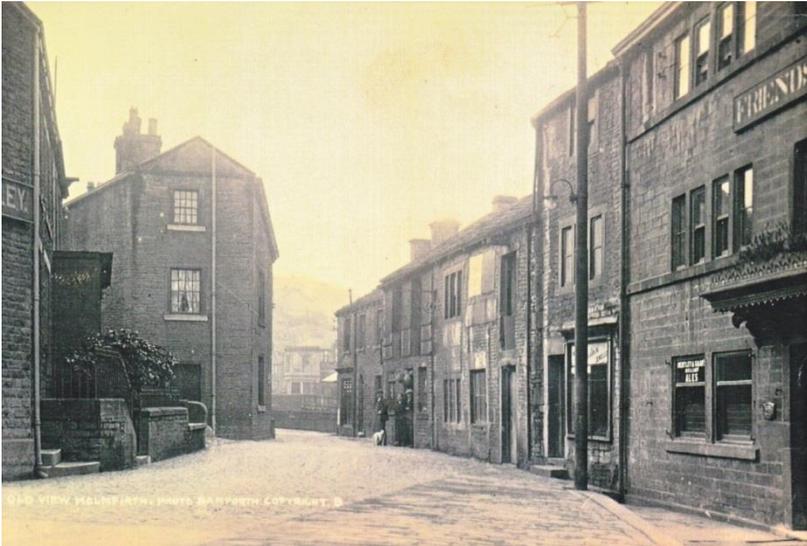


A Bamforth film actor entering the Druids Hotel early 1900s

Known Landlords

1855	A. Haley	N	1897	James Bray	I
1861	Benjamin Woodhead	C	1902	Thomas Barden	I
1871	Hugh Holmes	C	1906	Albert S. Heap	I
1879	Michael Redfean	N	1907	Young Walker	I
1890	Joseph Littlewood	I	1907	John Leeman	I
1893	Joe Wood	I	1908	W. Braithwaite	I
1893	Hiram Mellor	I	1909	Lavinia Owen	I
1894	James Bray	I	1911	George H. Hirst	I
1895	Daniel Broadhead	I	1911	Brook Horsfall	BR
1896	Christopher Abbott	I	1916	Elisabeth Holdsworth	BR

6. Friendship Inn, Station Road



Town Gate showing part of the frontage of the Friendship Inn

This inn stood on a section of the road known as Town Gate opposite the present-day Cornerhouse Café. Following the opening of the railway this later became part of the re-named Station Road.

The circumstances that gave rise to the following advertisement for the inn published in June 1843 are not known: *“To Let with immediate possession, Brewhouse, Stable and other conveniences and well supplied with good soft water.”* Neither is there any information about the outcome. What is known however is that by an Indenture dated May 1845, for Admittance of Mary Gartside with Joshua Moorhouse and Nathan Thewliss, trustees of George Gartside (died 1844), the Friendship Inn became part of the Gartside Estate.

The sale notice for the auction of the Friendship Inn in 1860 described the inn as: *“all that old and well accustomed Inn or public house – the inn and part of the outbuildings are Copyhold of the Manor of Wakefield”* having *“stabling, brewhouse, outbuildings, - appurtenances built on a plot 40sq. yards of freehold land - situate near the Church and in the very centre of the populous and increasingly prosperous town of Holmfirth. The buildings are conveniently arranged and well adapted for the purpose for which they are intended and merit the attention of brewers or any other person wishing for a safe and at the same time a remunerating investment of capital.”*

By May 1893 the lessees were Bentley and Shaw of Lockwood Brewery. In the Inventory compiled during that year on the licence transfer from the landlord, John Brooke Jun. to Sam Booth the premises consisted of: *“a long room, tap room, bar, filling bar, kitchen, back porch (brewing carried out here), Lodge room, laundry, 3 bedrooms, dining room (with bagatelle), Cellar.”* There was also outside stabling and a butchers shop.

In April 1899, with the transfer of tenancy from Sam Booth to Jonathon Brook, the landlord’s furnishings, fittings and stock-in-trade were valued at £292-4s-0d. Brook’s method of payment was: *“York Penny Bank a cheque; four £5 Bank of England notes; two £5 local notes ⁴; sixteen gold £1 coins; forty-seven 10s silver coins; change 5s 7d and a £150 promisory note.”* The premises were described as consisting of: *“entrance, tap room, commercial room, bar, filling bar, bar parlour, kitchen, cupboard, back porch, outside kitchen, cellar head 1 cellar, 2 cellar, attic, four bedrooms, Lodge room,*

⁴ Most likely those of the Huddersfield Banking Company

landing. Outside stable and a butcher's shop."

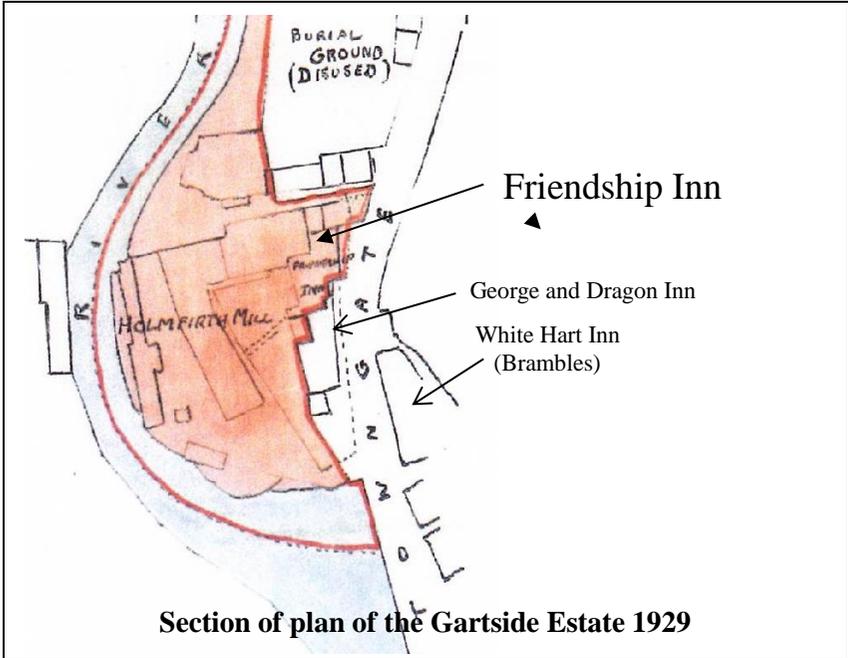
In 1901 Hannah Elizabeth Gartside, widow, of Carr House, Holmfirth signed a lease for fourteen years with Bentley & Shaw Brewer, Huddersfield for: "*All that messuage or tenement used as a public house situate in Holmfirth called by the name of Friendship Inn and now in the occupation of the said lessees Also all that building thereto used formerly as a butchers shop also the building used as a stable adjoining to the said butchers shop now in the occupation of the lessees.*"

During the following year the Trustees of the Gartside Estate sold freehold land and property to the Holmfirth Urban District Council for £6,405 of which £2,000 was for the Friendship Inn.

In the Particulars of Claim to the Compensation Authorities dated June 20th, 1929 it was noted that the owners were Holmfirth UDC, the lessee was Bentley and Shaw Ltd., and James McGuin was the tenant. The total award was £1,810, apportioned to tenant £340, to lessee £116, to owners £1,354.

In the Extinguishing Licence for the Friendship Inn in 1929 it was stated that it was: "*in the occupation of Bentley and Shaw and subtenants, with wash kitchen and conveniences thereto belonging and a shop, stable and storeroom. And also that 4 storey mill with attic over adjoining the Inn in occupation of H Mettrick and part unoccupied.*"

The demolition of the Inn and parts of the mill began in September 1934 in preparation for the continued re-development of Town Gate.



Taking into consideration its location it is surprising that none of the identification inquests for those who died in the 1852 flood took place here. This may have been because the building had suffered considerable damage during the flood, the major loss arising from the waters having entered the cellar. John Bower, the landlord, reported losing liquor and spirits worth fifty pounds.

With seating for up to ninety people various Lodges of the Ancient Order of Druids United and the Order of United Oddfellows held their anniversary dinners here. Members of the Old Friendly Society, the Spinners Club and Holmfirth District Farmers also met here. Two inquests were also held on the premises.

On occasions local landlords held garden produce competitions. Such an event was held here in 1906 but only for: *“red cabbage, these not to exceed 1lb, and dish of 6 potatoes.”*

Given the importance of brass bands in the musical life of the valley it is surprising that this is the only inn with any known recorded connection with one. In January 1876 the landlord, Jonathan Turner, welcomed eleven players of the Holmfirth Old Brass Band and forty of their wives, relatives and friends for a tea and evening entertainment. The latter consisting of songs, readings and recitations by members of the band contributed to the time being spent: *“in a very pleasant and orderly manner until eleven o’clock.”* In 1871 an unplanned competitive event occurred between the brass bands from Wooldale and Wooldale Town End. Both bands having assembled at the same time outside the Friendship Inn intending to play neither would give way. Drinkers in the inn and those walking in Town Gate were then entertained by both bands continuing to play at the same time but different tunes until sore lips stopped them.

The Leeds Mercury dated 12th August, 1843 carried the following account: *“A poacher, being apprehended by the local Constable for not paying a surcharge and taxes by the Commissioner of taxes, pleaded with him not to put up in the lock-up which was: “a very uncomfortable place.” The Constable took pity on him and took him to the Friendship Inn where he saw him undress and get into bed and having secured the door, the Constable left for the White Hart. Returning some time later to see all was O.K, he was surprised to see the prisoner in bed but fully dressed. This aroused the constable’s suspicions, so he saw him undress and in bed again but this time he handcuffed him to his bed and took the man’s clothes with him. The following morning the constable was amazed to*

find the poacher missing along with the bed cover to hide his nakedness. If the offender is not found the kind-hearted Constable will have to do him another good turn, that of paying the charge and expenses due from him, amounting to about £12.”

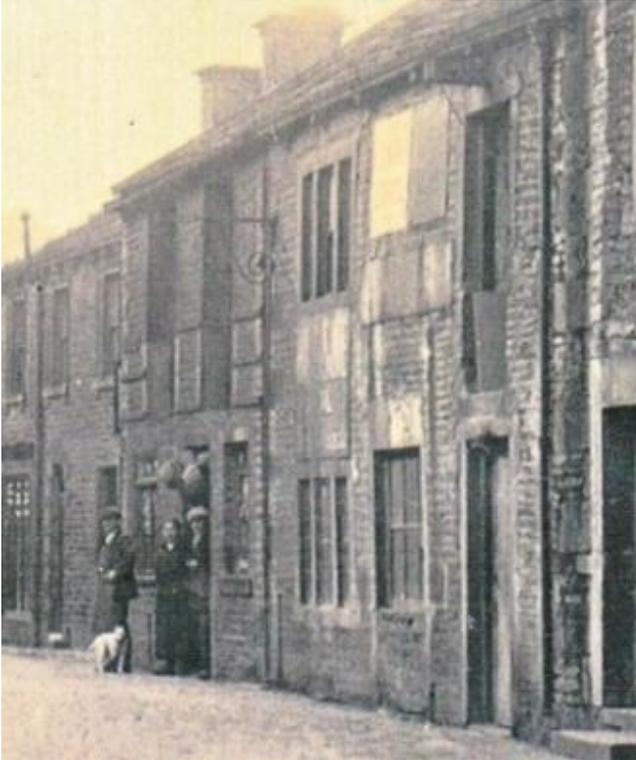


Site of the former Friendship Inn, Station Road 2016

Known Landlords

1834	Jonathan Turner	D	1887	Harriet Turner	N
1848	John Bower	D	1891	John Brooke	C
1858	John Wadsworth	N	1893	Sam Booth	I
1861	William Wadsworth	C	1899	Jonathan Brook	I
1866	Mrs Wadsworth	N	1926	Edward Morton	BR
1870	Joseph Barrow	D	1927	Wilfred Kaye	BR
1876	Jonathan Turner	N	1927	James McGuin	BR

7. George and Dragon Inn, Town Gate

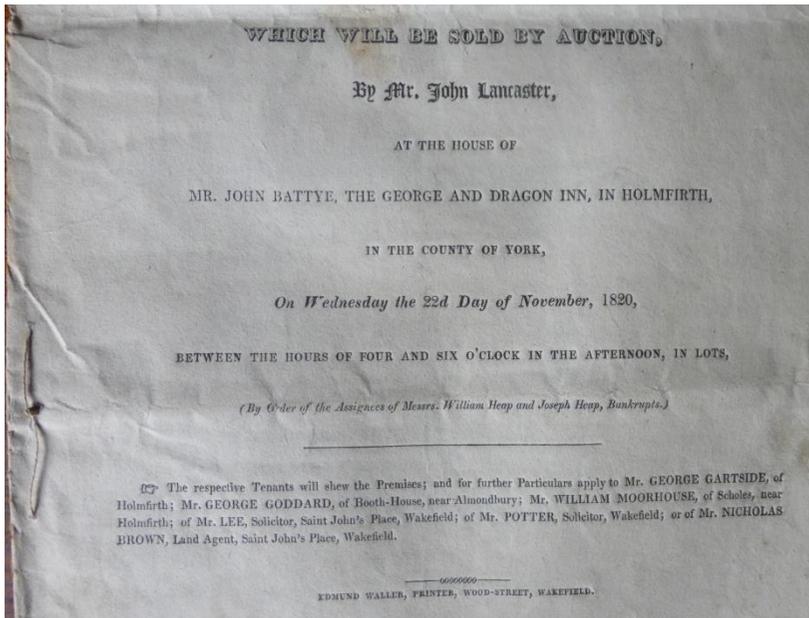


The building in Town Gate showing the hanging sign fittings for the George and Dragon Inn

This inn was situated in Town Gate approximately opposite the White Hart Inn (Brambles) in an area known as Mill Hill owing to the proximity to Holmfirth Mill. (see p62) It would appear that it was two buildings down from the Friendship Inn. These buildings were demolished in the early 1920s as part of the scheme for the re-development of Town Gate, but the George and Dragon had clearly closed long before that, indeed

before 1900. The writer of the letter published in the Holmfirth Express in May 1900 makes no mention of this inn as he describes the inns lying in close proximity to the Holmfirth Parish Church. In like manner Frank Marsh on his sketch map of Holmfirth in the 1900s, (drawn in the 1980s), that Wylbert Kemp included in his book, *Holmfirth by Lamplight*, gave no indication of this inn.

Known records exist from 1820 until 1865 though these provide scant information about the Inn itself, the landlords or how it was used by local folk. After that date there was no mention of it in either the local newspapers of the time or brewery records. The first known landlord was John Battye



Section of the notice for an auction of dwellinghouses at the house of John Battye, the George and Dragon Inn November 1820

Reports of the damage caused by the flood of 1852 described how the rush of water was so great that it caused the cellar arch to collapse and the upper walls to subside.

The passing of the Nuisances Removal Act in 1857 gave powers to Surveyors and Highway Committees to inspect, check and have rectified: “*unwholesome or crowded dwellings, bad drainage, offensive accumulations, unfit or unwholesome food, foul ditches, drains or sewers, pigstyes etc.*” Members of the public wishing to complain about such problems in Holmfirth could do so in the local Presentment Book which was available daily in the George and Dragon Inn where the landlord, William Howe, had been the Surveyor of the Highway for Wooldale Township for twenty years.

After the 1852 flood the Benefits Club was established here and during 1854 The Order of Druidesses held their meetings here.

The only Society that appears to have met regularly here was the Good Samaritans of the Independent Order of Oddfellows. In 1858 they moved to the Royal Oak in Upperthong.

	<i>Saved Quarry</i>						
	<i>George Brook</i>	<i>D.</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>36</i>			<i>Boardwagner</i>
★ <i>Holmfirth.</i>	<i>William Howe</i>	<i>Hd.</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>32</i>			<i>Victualler</i>
	<i>Mannah Do</i>	<i>clerk</i>			<i>11</i>		<i>Scholar</i>
	<i>Ann Do</i>	<i>clerk</i>			<i>4</i>		<i>Do</i>
	<i>Elizabeth Rogers</i>	<i>Letter</i>	<i>6</i>		<i>54</i>		<i>Housekeeper</i>
	<i>Rosier Smith</i>	<i>clerk</i>	<i>11</i>		<i>13</i>		
	<i>James Birch</i>	<i>Lodger</i>	<i>11</i>		<i>15</i>		<i>James Waller</i>
<i>Holmfirth</i>	<i>John Senior</i>	<i>clerk</i>	<i>11</i>		<i>40</i>		<i>Steam Engine Tester</i>

Census Return 1851 Section of the entry for William Howe

Recorded accounts of the breaking of licensing laws here included how in 1853 William Howe was accused of opening

on a Sunday: *“the churchwardens of Holmfirth Parish Church preferred the charge for allowing his house to be open on the feast Sunday eighth of May during the hours of afternoon service.”* Howe acknowledged his offence and was fined two shillings and sixpence and eleven shillings expenses.

The law relating to the playing of bagatelle in unlawful hours was clear: *“no publican can allow gaming in his house for money or moneysworth. Then again if gentlemen be playing merely for amusement if a landlord suffers them to play after one o' clock in the morning, he is guilty of a breach of the law.”* In November 1861 when charged with permitting men to play bagatelle at 3am the landlord, Mr Westerby, pleaded guilty whilst claiming to be unaware of the law as he was: *“only new at public house keeping.”* This being his first offence he was not fined, he did however have to pay seven shillings costs. Whether or not it was this incident that prompted Mr Westerby's departure is not known but by the spring of the following year the licence had been transferred to John Hebblethwaite, who had previously had been employed as a journeyman brewer. In May 1862 when announcing his arrival John Hebblethwaite said that he hoped: *“to be favoured with the share of public patronage by keeping ale, porter and spirits of the best quality, at reasonable prices and by paying attention to the comfort and accommodation of his customers.”* It would appear however that his high expectations were not met for in March 1865 Hebblethwaite, who by then working as a blacksmith, was declared a bankrupt, with debts of £130. It was stated in Court that these had been contracted in the previous three years during which time he was landlord of the George and Dragon Inn, Holmfirth. A month before being declared bankrupt, Hebblethwaite was in court having been accused by the Officer of the Excise with the offence of having brewed six bushels of malt without making the required entry in the book. The court, accepting that there had not been any

intention to defraud the revenue, reduced the fine from the possible £200 to forty shillings, money that possibly being added to his accumulating debts contributed to his bankruptcy.

The inn was then advertised as being: *“To be let with immediate possession with the Brewing Utensils etc.”* Specifically noted advantages were that the inn was: *“situate in the centre of the town and is well supplied with water.”*

It is not known when the George and Dragon closed but it would appear that a most likely date is prior to 1871 as there is no entry in the Census Return of that year. The premises were demolished at the time of the continuation of the road widening of Town Gate in the early 1920s.



Site of the former George and Dragon Inn, Towngate 2016

Known Landlords

1803	John Battye	BR	1861	Elizabeth Rogers	C
1828	Sarah Battye	BR	1861	Mr Westerby	N
1838	Mary Turner	D	1862	John Hebblethwaite	N
1848	William Howe	D			

8. White Hart Inn, Town Gate



**White Hart Hotel (Brambles)
during the time Frank Wintermann was Landlord 1887-1894**

Situated in Town Gate near to the Parish Church, this was one of Holmfirth's larger inns. The original name referred to the White Hart having been the royal badge of King Richard II. The public house was re-named Brambles in 2012.

Exactly when the inn opened is not known but lying in a strategic position on one of the oldest routes in the town an early date would seem realistic. Indeed a lettings advertisement in 1852 appears to support this notion for in this it was described as: *"an old established and well-accustomed inn"*

with “*a brewhouse, coach house, stables.*” It was stated that: “*the house is well frequented, commands a good general business and presents a favourable opportunity to an active and respectable tenant*” who would also have: “*two acres of land not far distant.*”

In the List of Alehouse Keepers dated 1803, John Boothroyd is recorded as being at the White Hart Inn, but there are several references to the name Boothroyd, a name well associated with inns in Holmfirth that pre-date this.

Another record of a John Boothroyd appeared in the List of Alehouse Keepers, dated 1777 and 1778, included as both an alehouse keeper and a guarantor for Mary Swallow, widow. He is again listed in 1781 and as guarantor for Jonas Turner.

There are also references to John Boothroyd of Holmfirth, Innkeeper, in two Court Rolls dated 1790 and 1792 when he acquired properties and a small dyehouse.

199 Holme, mortgage, surrender by the hands of Cookson Stephenson, 2 July
 JOSHUA SMITH of Hill in Upper Thong, chapman, and ANN his wife (X) to JOHN BOOTHROYD of Holmfirth, innkeeper, forever, subject to mortgage

(i) a parcel of land in the north part of Cuttle Bottom Close in Upper Thong, by estimation ½ acre, with a mess lately erected there now occupied in 6 dwellings in the possession of James Hoyle, John Turner, Joshua and Thomas Charlesworth and Jonas and John Collier; (ii) a small dye-house nearby, now in the possession of SMITH. Consideration: £160; mortgage at 5% by 2 Jan for resurrender at request. Fine: 3d. Rent: 1d compounded.

**Extract from the Court Roll of the Manor of Wakefield
 July 1792**

An early record relating to this inn is an advertisement for the sale of trees and poles from Arrunden Wood near Holmfirth, the property of Joseph Hirst, of Upperrhong. The sale was to be held on the fifth day of February, 1809 at the house of Mr John Boothroyd. The sale of a public house in Netherthong was held at the house of Mr John Boothroyd, The White Hart, Holmfirth, on 3rd September, 1814.

WOOD.

To be SOLD by Ticket,

*At the House of Mr. JOHN BOOTHROYD, Innkeeper, in
HOLMFIRTH, on Wednesday the First Day of February, 1809, between
the Hours of Four and Six in the Afternoon,*

ALL THOSE

63 Numbered Trees

And 1369 POLES,

With the BARK and CORDWOOD; consisting of Oak, Ash, and Birch; now marked and set out for Sale in the Wood called *Arrenden Wood*, near Holmfirth;—the Property of Mr. Joseph Hirst, of Upperrhong.

↪ *JOSEPH KIRK, of Arrenden, will show the Wood.*

Printed by THOMAS SMART, Bookfeller, Kirkgate, Huddersfield.

**Advertisement for the sale of trees and poles
at the White Hart Inn February 1809**

In May 1815 there was public notification given of a meeting at the inn for: “*the proprietors of estates in the Graveship of Holme to discuss the proposed inclosure of waste and common land.*” The opinions voiced by the landowners of the area are not known as there appears not to have been a report of the proceedings.

By 1857 although it was described as: *“one of the oldest and most respectable commercial houses in the district”* it is clear that the condition of the building and décor had deteriorated. According to the inventory prepared for the sale of the inn in that year there were many rooms with evidence of damp, broken window panes, swollen doors and water penetration through the roof. The rooms within included Bar parlour, with: *“walls papered with race course pattern.....a black veined marble chimney piece and a half register stove,”* bar, little parlour, commercial room, larder, spirit cellar, front room or tap, cooking kitchen, brewhouse, Lodge or sale room, Blue room, four bedrooms, room over bar for the *“fountain cask”*,⁵ malt room, stable including hayloft, gig house in very poor repair and two mistals with lofts over, all not in good condition. *“All the household furniture, excellent beds, blankets, bed and table linen, china, glass, earthenware, hotel fixtures, brewery plant and utensils and stock in trade”* were also included in the sale. The last item, being the customary alcohol inventory, listed the usual whisky, rum, brandy, cognac brandy, gin, sherry and port, ale, porter, tobacco, lemonade, soda water, gingerette, peppermint, four bottles of Champagne, a bottle of Worcester sauce, capers and anchovies and fourteen pounds of soap. Also available were: *“a swing sign, grapes and fittings, letters over the door.”*

Described as: *“a valuable inn”* the White Hart was put up for sale again in 1872. In the occupation of Mr Thomas Boothroyd the sale included a Brewhouse, yard and adjoining conveniences, the adjacent dwelling house and slaughterhouse adjoining the rear of the premises in the occupation of Henry and George Haigh and a building across the road near the Friendship Inn used by Mr Boothroyd as a stable. George Fred

⁵ Possible reference to a cask produced by the Fountain Brewery, Bradford

Tinker, Auctioneer, bought the inn for £1,720. Ten years later the brewing of ale appears to have stopped as in that year it was described in a Court Roll as the "*Old Brewhouse.*"

In September 1899 at the time when the tenancy transferred from Mr Roper to the brewers, Messrs Senior and Sons, the furniture and fittings were valued at £260-7s-6d. The brewery appointed Joseph Tyas landlord, but he had left within a few months and Albert Blackburn took up the post. At this time the furnishings, fittings were valued at £337-9s-3d, the stock-in-trade at £67-14s-6d and the unexpired licence at £67-16s-3d. The inn consisted of: "*a front bedroom no.1 with beds, front bedroom no.2 with feather bed, back bedroom with beds, bath room, servants room, attic bedroom, billiard room, blue room, landing and stairs, Lodge room, tap room, passage, bar parlour, smoke room, commercial room, vault, new cellar, kitchen, pantry, wash kitchen, outside back ale cellar, stable, coach house.*" This description suggests the ample accommodation offered by this prestigious inn.

Interestingly in 1910 when Senior and Sons became the owners of what had been copyhold property within the description of the Inn it was stated: "*also all that dwellinghouse adjoining in occupation of Samuel Woodhead part of which was used by him as a dwellinghouse, the other part as a Boot Dealers Shop*" and "*also that stable formerly a slaughterhouse adjoining and the barn and hayloft over part of said slaughter house situate at the back of the Inn in occupation of Fritz Wintermann.*"

Members of the Wintermann family came from Plankenfels, Germany arriving in Hull during the 1870s where, from 1876 to 1878, Frank (Franz) was landlord of a city public house the Portland Arms. By 1884 with his wife Mary he had made his home in Holmfirth as landlord of the Victoria Hotel. In 1894 Frank took up an appointment as Hotel Keeper of the Cherry

Tree Hotel, Huddersfield. In 1901 his unmarried son Fritz became the landlord of the White Hart, his parents living with him. According to a newspaper advertisement placed by him in the winter of that year he advised Holmfirth folk to: *“Save Doctor’s Bills. If you have a cold try some WHISKEY as recommended by doctors.”*

During the centenary celebrations of the Battle of Trafalgar in 1905 Fritz Wintermann, wishing to show his patriotism to the country, displayed his copy of a newspaper announcing the Battle of Trafalgar and Nelson's death. During the First World War he was interned on the Isle of Man, a place he returned to for he died there aged eighty- eight in 1966.

In the Deed relating to the purchase of the inn by Luther Beardsell in 1937 the description of the property was as in 1910 with the addition of a reference to the land at the back of the premises on which there was a 2-storey workshop in the occupation of William Earnshaw. It was also stated that: *“any further building at the rear of the White Hart should not obstruct it, particularly of light.”*

A central location, the closeness to the railway station, the size of the premises and the nature of the accommodation offered by the White Hart contributed to its standing within the town.

This status was underlined in that from 1850 to 1890 both the Baron and Leet Courts of the Manor of Wakefield were regularly held here. A lavish dinner usually followed the proceedings.

Two entries in the Minutes of the April and May meetings of Wooldale Local Board in 1874 related to Dyson’s stewardship of this inn. Members ordered the removal of the pigsty situated behind the Inn and that the work to remedy the problems with the privy be carried out.

Recorded occasions when licensing laws were broken were few and included the typical offences of drinking after hours and permitting drunkenness. The landlord, Robert Dyson found himself before the magistrates several times in 1874 charged with allowing billiards to be played on Christmas day and selling of beer without a licence. The latter infringement occurred when Dyson who frequently supplied alcoholic drinks for events at the Town Hall did so without obtaining the required customary licence. Proceedings were again taken against Dyson when he was charged with permitting a pigsty to be kept behind the Inn, perhaps associated with the slaughterhouse. He was further charged three times with assault, but it was the fact that he had been fined for not allowing the police to enter his premises on two occasions that resulted in a two month loss of his licence. Interestingly the Magistrates found Dyson guilty on the grounds that the Constable in question on entering had been fulfilling his duty.

A court appearance was again required in 1874 following the theft of a hamper in the bar. Dyson accused David Johnson, a labourer from Holme, of stealing this, stating that it contained one dozen oranges, one pound of grapes, one bottle of calves foot jelly, one jar currant jelly, one pound of walnuts and two pounds of apples.

Easily accessible, spacious licensed premises such as those offered by this inn also made it a popular venue for auctions. For the same reasons many local groups and societies met here, the most longstanding being the United Order of Oddfellows; Rifle Corps/ Volunteer Corps; Working Men's Conservative Association; Cricket and Athletic club; Chrysanthemum Society; Yorkshireman's Lodge; Book Club, Angling Club and the Amateur Football League.

In March 1836 a meeting was called to consider the impact of the recent Factory Act and the changes in regulations

designed to improve the employment of children and also to flow shows yes mambo decide whether or not to petition Parliament for certain amendments regarding the health of children and the provision of medical certificates. In attendance were the owners and occupiers of the mills and their employees, both adults and children.

The opening of the town gas works on March 21st 1840 provided a memorable occasion for the large crowd of people who had gathered outside the White Hart inn to see the illumination of a neat device representing the Royal cypher of a star and crown formed of perforated piping. There was much disappointment expressed when: *“the gas for a long time either deficient in quality or quantity could not be kept burning eventually the flame shot along the pipes and gave the device a brilliant and beautiful appearance.”*



**Royal cypher for
Queen Victoria**

Shortly afterwards, a distant explosion was heard and the crowd rushed to Upperbridge where several yards of pavement had been blown up and windows damaged, gas having escaped somewhere igniting in a drain underneath the pavement in front of Mr Wylie's house.

In 1841 the plans for the construction of: "*Public rooms for Holmfirth*" were on view here alongside a list of all the tradespeople needed to construct the building, which in 1947 combined with the adjacent Drill Hall to become the Town Hall.

Amongst the various activities that accompanied the opening of the Holmfirth railway in June 1850 was an excursion by train to Penistone. On returning to Holmfirth the travellers ended the day enjoying a splendid feast here.

At the time of the Parliamentary Elections in November, 1868 the Conservative candidates, Messers Stanhope and Starkey on entering the town were met by an enthusiastic crowd reported to be of: "*some thousands of people decorated with blue favours*" who then followed them in a procession: "*with many flags hoisted*" to the White Hart inn. The two men then addressed those assembled: "*who refused to be repulsed even by drenching showers of rain,*" speaking from a window of the inn. When asked the question: "*Are you prepared to put the power of closing public houses into the hands of two-thirds of the ratepayers of any parish?*" Mr Stanhope replied that he wanted to know the opinion of the working men of England upon the subject. An answer that prompted the opposing shouts of: "*we want some beer*" and "*we want to close them.*" A banquet was then provided for the candidates and their principal supporters after which there were further speeches and convivial toasts.

A curious fact appeared in the Huddersfield Chronicle on 10th April, 1872: "*Longevity at Holmfirth. An instance of the*

abundant health and vigour that are yet to be found among the inhabitants of the Valley of the Holme is afforded in the fact that on Monday evening last ten old veterans happened to find themselves met together in the kitchen of the White Hart Inn kept by Mr T. Boothroyd. Their united ages amounted to 732 being made up as follows: John Dickinson, 81: William Buckley, 77: John Roebuck, 77: William Morehouse, 75; Jonathan Hinchliffe, 73; Thomas Bedford, 72; Joseph Haigh, 72; James Batty, 70: William Senior, 70; and John Duckenfield, 65; giving an average to each individual of more than 73 years."



White Hart Inn 1960s



Brambles, the renamed White Hart Inn 2015

Known Landlords

1803	John Boothroyd	BR	1901	Samuel Satchwell	I
1827	Richard Boothroyd	N	1901	Emily Satchwell	BR
1839	Christopher Moorhouse	N	1901	Fritz Wintermann	I
1847	William Dyson	N	1915	Jonathan W. Schofield	I
1856	Jonathan Gill	N	1926	Chas. Ed. Hinchliffe	BR
1860	Thomas Boothroyd	D	1936	Jesse Goddard	BR
1873	Robert Dyson	N	1957	Geoffrey S. Goddard	BR
1879	Jonas Woodhead	BR	1960	George Washington	BR
1887	Frank Wintermann	BR	1964	Arthur W. Tetley	BR
1894	William H. Roper	I	1966	Brian Calverley	BR
1899	Joseph Tyas	I	1967	Herbert Wills	BR
1900	Albert Blackburn	BR			

9. **Jolly Hatters Beerhouse, Town Gate**



Jolly Hatters Beerhouse c1906



Jolly Hatters Beerhouse Wylbert Kemp c1987

Backing on to the river, this small beerhouse was situated in copyhold property in lower Town Gate opposite the yard of the Parish Church. According to the writer of the letter published in the Holmfirth Express in May 1900 it was seventy yards from the White Hart Inn and sixty yards from the Shoulder of Mutton Inn. It stood in a row of buildings that were all demolished during the first phase of the widening of Town Gate in the early 1920s. Unfortunately there is little information about it.

The first known name associated with the beerhouse was Mary Booth, a widow, aged 43 who was the landlady in 1851. Interestingly, the next door neighbour at the time was Francis Vero, a hat manufacturer. Was this just a coincidence or could it have been that Vero had a connection with the beerhouse and its name?

The waters of the flood in 1852 caused great damage to the houses and shops at the lower end of Town Gate where it also: *“passed through the Jolly Hatters Beerhouse.”*

In April 1863 several Copyhold properties of the Manor of Wakefield in Town Gate were advertised. One was related to: *“three undivided fifth parts or shares in all that messuage or dwelling-house, three storeys high, now occupied as a Beerhouse, with the conveniences thereto, situate at Holmfirth aforesaid, (in the township of Wooldale), now in the occupation of Mr William Cartwright.”*

One famous landlord of the Jolly Hatters Inn during the 1890s was Mr Brierley Buckley, a well-known local cricketer, who subsequently became landlord of the Rose and Crown where he died in 1914.

In 1893 Joseph Edwards Roberts of Hinchliffe Mill died. Amongst his legacies to his father, James Roberts, was the Jolly

Hatters Inn, Holmfirth. By 1897, the owner is William Roberts.

It would appear that at some time after this date the Sheffield Brewery, Messrs William Stones Ltd, acquired the tenancy, for in August 1898 the bar effects, licence and stock-in-trade were valued at £7-9s-9d when it was transferred from William Stones Brewery Ltd to Hugh Mellor.



**Ash tray advertising
William Stones Cannon Brewery**

In April 1901, on the transfer of the landlord's tenancy from Friend Turner to George Booth, the premises were described as consisting of 3 attic rooms (only one having beds), bathroom with a fitted bath and wood panelling, bedroom, Lodge room, tap room with "Old Turk" a stuffed dog in a case, (see page 88) best room, filling bar, kitchen, back pantry, cellar. Booth paid £32 for the household furnishings, stock-in-trade and unexpired licence.

When George Booth left in July four years later the new landlord was Fred Beaumont. He paid £42-17s-3d for the furnishings, fixtures and stock in trade and the premises were described as consisting of four bedrooms, bathroom, Lodge room, tap room, best room, filling bar, kitchen, passage, cellars

and as having an outside sign board.

In 1910, now owned by Samuel Smith, Old Brewery, Fred Beaumont submitted the application to the Brewster Session for the renewal of the licence. This was rejected on the grounds of redundancy given that within a radius of 350 yards there were: *“fully ten licensed houses.”* It was considered these amply provided for the estimated adult population of eight hundred and ten that lived in three hundred and twenty-four dwelling houses. The Bench decided to refer the licence to the Compensation Authority and granted a temporary renewal. The house closed in December 1910. The compensation paid was £300. The premises were eventually demolished during the first phase of the widening of Town Gate in the early 1920s.



The rear view of the Jolly Hatters Beerhouse in the middle of this row of buildings in Town Gate, backing on to river pre 1920

There was a report of “a storm dinner” being held here in 1861. When there was a storm of any duration the masons and builders of Holmfirth, no doubt to celebrate their success in getting plenty of anticipated repair work, used to have what was described as a “storm dinner”. Such a dinner or “tuck out” took place at the house of Mr W. Cartwright, the Jolly Hatters, in January 1861 during a period of very bad weather. “Twenty to thirty people enjoyed a meal of meat and a plentiful supply of beer” and “otherwise spent the day a cheering the drooping spirits of each other.” The entertainment was provided by: “Bob o’ th’ Loin, Clogger Ned, Owd Collops, and Bill o’ th’ owd tub.”

	no.	(B)	Sts		RELATION	SEX	AGE	PROF.
1	Town Gate	1		Jonathan Cartwright	Head	M	46	Woolcomber + General dealer
				Emma Cartwright	Wife	M	32	Wife
				Ann	Daughter	F	12	Wife
				Robert	Son	M	4	do
				Herbert	Son	M	2	do
				Edith	Daughter	F	2 years	do
				James H. Harris	Assistant	M	24	tail dresser
2	do	1	4	Henry Harey	Head	M	57	Woolcomber
				Baths	Wife	M	50	Cartwright's assistant
				Juliet	Daughter	F	22	Wife do do
				Quinn	Daughter	F	22	Woolcomber
				James R.	Son	M	21	Woolcomber
				James	Daughter	F	22	Woolcomber
				Herbert	Son	M	18	Woolcomber
				Ann	Daughter	F	15	Woolcomber
3	do (Jolly Hatters' inn)	1		Brierley Buckley	Head	M	30	Woolcomber
				Ann	Wife	M	27	Woolcomber
								do
4	Churchyard	1	4	Joe Crowther	Head	M	36	Woolcomber
				James	Wife	M	29	do
				Miss	Daughter	F	26	Woolcomber
				Ann J.	Daughter	F	24	Woolcomber

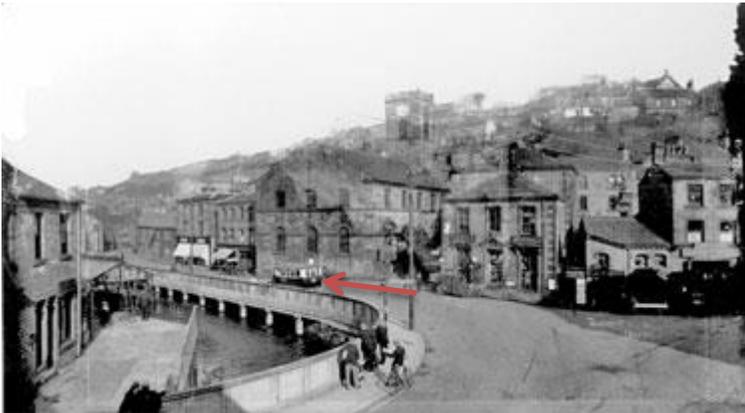
Census Return 1891 Section of entry for part of Town Gate showing the Jolly Hatters and Brierley Buckley, Publican

Interestingly there is lack of any reports of court proceedings having been taken against landlords of this beerhouse except those concerning Joe Brook during the 1880s. He was accused on more than one occasion of permitting drunkenness on the premises. He also had two convictions for gambling with drinkers for a pint or a quart of beer. On another occasion two police constables had: *“disguised themselves in navvies clothes”* in order to enter the beerhouse undetected to secure an arrest.

“Shiner” was a well-known Holmfirth character, named as such because he was a French polisher and also the landlord of the Jolly Hatters Beerhouse. Mr Wylbert Kemp (1903-1990) as a young boy would visit him, but he was strongly rebuked for politely calling him by his real name, “Mr Beaumont”. (Mr Fred Beaumont.)

Kemp frequently recounted a tale about Shiner who was: *“a great one for a prank to amuse the company at the Jolly Hatters. He had one regular, Harrop Bates, who loved his pint. It was said that once Harrop had a pint in his hand no power on earth, heaven too for that matter, could make him put it down until he’d drained the last sparkling drop. Now one particular evening Shiner had a coffin on the tap room table. He carried out his two trades of French polisher and landlord on the same premises. He was polishing the coffin and bet the customers he would make Harrop put his pint down before he’d even finished half of it. This was money for jam, and everyone rushed to lay their bets. He sent his son Joe to the door with instructions to call out immediately Harrop came in sight. The call duly came and Shiner climbed into the coffin. “Nathen” he said “pop t’lid on an’ draw Harrop his pint.” All went to plan, and Harrop raised his foaming tankard to his lips. A loud groan came from the coffin. “Oh St Peter, open them gates an’ let me in. Let me out o’ this damned coffin. It is cowd in here an’ I’m fair perished.” The coffin laid raised 3 inches. Then fell back*

with a dull thud. Harrop's eyes popped out of his head and he turned several shades paler. The coffin lid slowly raised again. There was another loud groan. "Dammit, St Peter, look sharp. Get me a harp an' a nice warm cloud." Harrop called out, "Look at that! The coffin lid rose for the third time but Harrop didn't stop. He dropped his unfinished pint and fled across to the 'Shoulder of Mutton'. The look of stark horror on his face turned all eyes towards him. "What's up Harrop" said Joe Barrow, the landlord "Tha looks as if tha's seen a ghost." "A ghost!" Retorted the shaking Harrop "I've seen summut war nor a ghost. They're screwing the buggers down wick across at 'Jolly Hatters'. Gimme a double brandy quick." Harrop never lived it down and the story still goes the rounds to this day."



Site of the former Jolly Hatters Beerhouse, Towngate 1930

Known Landlords

1851	Mary Booth	C	1895	David Hartley	BR
1861	William Cartwright	C	1895	Hugh Mellor	BR
1871	Joe Brook	N	1900	Crosland Marsh	BR
1890	Joseph Littlewood	BR	1900	Friend Turner	BR
1890	Brierley Buckley	BR	1901	George Booth	BR
1894	Elliott Charlesworth	BR	1905	Fred Beaumont	

THE LIFE AND DEATH

— OF —

“OLD TURK.”

CHAMPION OF THE WORLD.

I am a brave dog, and Turk is my name,
Six battles I've fought for honour and gain;
While I was young I'd a good master and dame,
And could beat any dog from wherever he came.

I belonged unto Spooner, whom most people knew;
He cared me and kept me till a champion I grew;
He trained me and backed me, much money I won,
But, alas! all was vanity which I had done;

For when I grew old and could gain him no more,
My master said I must be turned out of door.
I was given to a man, John Cuttell by name,
Who used me so basely, to tell is a shame.

He set off and left me, oh, hard was my lot!
My old master Spooner said I was to be shot,
So one Henry Beardsell gave me my death wound.
Fifteen days I was buried beneath yond grassy mound,

Until one human man my case undertook,
A hatter by trade, and his name was Joss Brook.
He hired a man to fetch me away,
And sent for a preserver without more delay,

Who put me in shape, made my coat soft as silk,
And the name of this man was the renowned Thomas Wilk.
I was placed in a box for the people to see,
Joss Brook was the man that took pity on me,

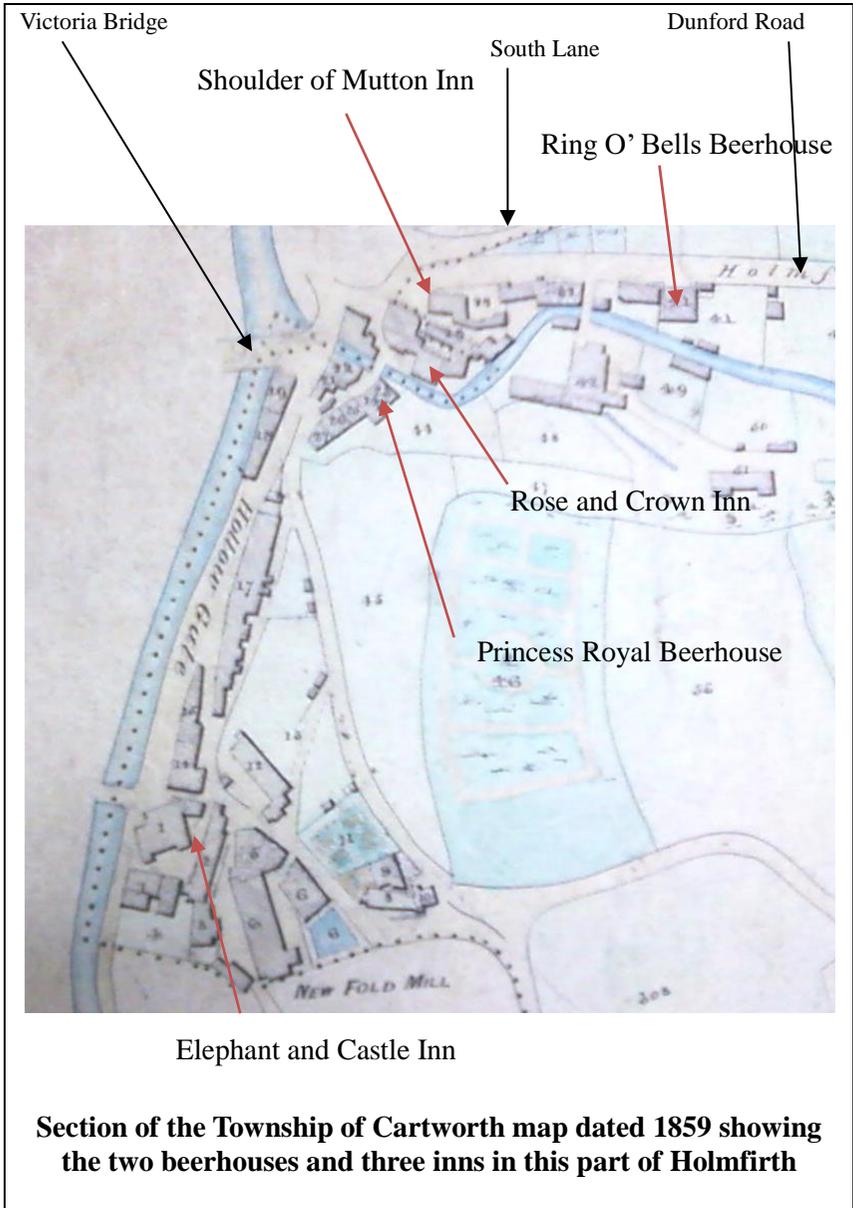
And now here I stand; I was once strong and hale,
Sandy Mellor he bought me at Jolly Hatter's sale;
I was taken away, it was early in Spring,
And placed in the tap room at Victoria Inn.

I stand in one corner for people to view,
And welcome and welcome are the old friends and new;
In the best of my days, no dog did I fear;
Please call in and see poor Old Turk while I'm here.

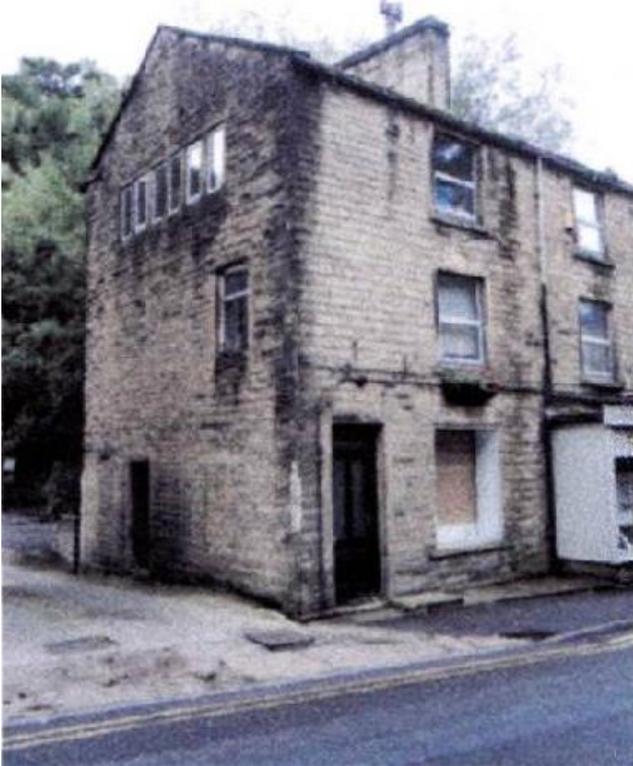
VICTORIA INN.

Proprietor—SANDY MELLOR.

PRICE ONE PENNY.



10. Ring O' Bells Beerhouse, Dunford Road



The premises of the former Ring O' Bells Beerhouse 2016

The location of this beerhouse was 22 Ribbleden Road, later renamed Dunford Road and as such was to be found in part of the building now used by Helen Bray, Photographers, which at the time consisted of four houses, nos.16, 18, 20, 22. It was therefore very close to several other pubs, especially the Shoulder of Mutton and the Rose and Crown.

It is thought that the name derives from its close proximity

furnishings and fittings, stock-in-trade and unexpired licence.

This was the first pub in Holmfirth to be closed under the Compensation Act. The doors shut on 28th November 1906 after the landlord, John Pexton's application for the renewal of the license had been refused on the grounds that: "*the house was not necessary. It is situated within 23 yards of other licensed house, it is the worst accommodated house I have ever seen. The house had been in the family of the present owner for forty years, the late owner having died fourteen years ago leaving it to his widow who was now aged seventy.*" It appears to have been a well-run, orderly house for it was described in a further statement as: "*an old-fashioned house with a twenty years clean record, legitimate and honest.*" It is however evident that prior to the twenty years before closure this was not the case, for throughout the years of the 1870s and 1880s the landlords of this tavern were regularly before the magistrates for permitting drunkenness and gambling on their premises. On frequent occasions when found guilty of the charges this resulted in the endorsement of licenses.

On closure the landlord, John Pexton, moved to the Albert Hotel, Thongsbridge and the Compensation Authority paid the owner, Samuel Smith of Tadcaster, £910.

Known Landlords

1861	William Cartwright	C	1893	Albert S. Heap	BR
1862	John Roberts	R	1893	George Beaumont	BR
1879	Daniel Stockwell	BR	1899	Jesse Green	BR
1881	Ben Hudson	BR	1901	Albert Hawkyard	BR
1886	John Bray	BR	1904	John Pexton	BR

11. Shoulder of Mutton Inn, Dunford Road



Shoulder of Mutton Hotel 1909

Situated at the end of the former Ribbleden Road, now known as Dunford Road, this pub had a very strategic position as it would be the first major hostelry encountered when travelling into Holmfirth from Barnsley and Sheffield.

John Booth the Licensee listed in the surviving Brewster Session Record of 1803 is the first known record relating to this inn, but Dave Green is of the opinion that it was established around 1788. The Shoulder of Mutton remains open to this day and as such it is one of the longest running public houses in Holmfirth, apparently without any change of name in its history.

From the entry in the Rate Books for Cartworth dated 1859, there appears to have been a brewhouse alongside the inn, both owned by George Haigh Sen., with the brewhouse occupied by Samuel Earnshaw and the inn by George Sandford. Adjacent to the inn were two cottages and a barn.

By 1885 Alice Barrow was the owner-occupier and the premises consisted of the inn, stable, chamber and an old cottage for bottles. In the inn yard was a slaughter-house occupied by George Haigh with barn, stable and cart shed.

In 1912, the tenancy licence was transferred from Joe Barrow to J.W. Seddon who paid £296-5s-10d for the furnishings, fittings and stock-in-trade. This sizable property consisted of a commercial room, tap room, bar parlour, filling bar, billiard room, separate wine and ale cellars, as well as private accommodation including five attics and two bedrooms. There was also a stable with hayloft. At the time the owner and supplier of wines, spirits and beer was Bentley and Shaw of Lockwood Brewery. In 1961 the Inn was sold to Hammonds United Fountain Brewery, Bradford.

There were auctions held here as well as meetings of the members of the various societies, the main ones being the Holmfirth Society for the Prosecution of Felons, Lodges of the Oddfellows and the Druids.

After the death of her husband in 1880, Alice Barrow continuing as landlady, had become a member of the Native

Oak Lodge of Druids of which her late husband had been a member. In 1891 she found herself in dispute with the Officials of the Lodge who had taken the decision to divide the property belonging to the Lodge and dissolve, the Lodge having got into financial difficulties. Having paid an entrance fee and then two shillings annually over a period of ten years, unlike other widows, she refused to accept the payment of five shillings. She considered this to be an inadequate share of the funds preferring to request £3-6s-0d as her rightful due as a member of the Lodge. She rejected the notion that her money had been paid as a relative of a former member solely to secure the payment of £4 at death. The case was heard in the County Court, but as it was shown that Lodge membership was only for men and that there was no provision in the Lodge rules that the widow of a deceased member should be on the same footing as a member, the Judge, as he awarded her £3-6s-0d ruled that: *“as she had paid so she should receive.”*

There is evidence of a connection between the inn and the political life of Holmfirth. In the town which had a Liberal majority it became the local Liberal Party HQ and the Liberal Registration Committee met here.

At a time when the vast majority of people in the country were not entitled to vote, an open air meeting was held outside this pub in the early 1830s and many of the crowd were: *“determined to have the Reform Bill”*. The gathering was addressed by a leading local Reform Liberal, German Woodhead, of Pog Ing, Wooldale and the elder brother of Joseph Woodhead, who became the owner and editor of the Huddersfield Examiner.

There were many people living in the Holme Valley who were supporters of both the Chartist movement and the Anti-Corn Law Repeal Association. In May 1843 following a lengthy local exchange of views, much of which had appeared

in the press, it was decided to have a meeting in Holmfirth Town Hall at which all the differing views could be aired. The meeting to determine how the sale of the three hundred tickets being allocated to the members of each faction was held at the Shoulder of Mutton Inn.

During the years 1851 to 1856 the inn was the venue for the Barristers Courts held to examine the qualification of all those men claiming the right to have their names placed on the voters list. Such lists were then publicly displayed on church and chapel doors.

In June 1898, whilst travelling through Yorkshire, members of the Labour Federation held one of their Red Van campaign meetings outside the inn. Many people gathered to hear the speakers, Messrs George Palmer and John Foster, advocating the taxation of land values, improved working conditions and the unity of working class labour.

Another indication of the relative importance of this pub is that it was used as a venue for inquests and magistrate court hearings. The inquests included the initial ones for the identification the three victims of the 1852 flood and in 1896 those for two separate suicide victims found drowned at Holmestyes reservoir.

Seeking to discover the identity of who had entered his garden and stolen all the parsley and destroyed a considerable quantity of garden produce James Haigh, the landlord in 1852, offered a reward for the apprehension of those guilty of the theft. Whether or not he was successful is not known for no court record has been found relating to this incident. How Haigh used the parsley and why it was sufficiently important to him that he was prepared to offer the reward is unclear.

The Court proceedings relating to this inn were few in number and included the customary drunkenness, refusal to

quit the premises, assault on the landlady, attempted theft.

The latter case in 1853 involved two travellers who requested overnight lodgings but were discovered by the landlord to be: "*opening drawers in the room.*" Fearing that the two men belonged to the: "*swell mob*"⁶ he immediately sent for Constable Earnshaw. A fight ensued after which they were arrested. It was discovered the two men had skeleton keys.

In 1863 Firth Broadbent of Liphill was brought before the magistrates charged with unwelcome intrusion. It was stated that after drinking at the Shoulder of Mutton, he made his way home but mistook his house for that of Henry Bower's at Park Head. On entering he had alarmed Mrs Bower in the bedroom. The magistrates determined that the intrusion was unpremeditated and dismissed the case. Broadbent apologised and was made to pay the court costs: "*for the annoyance he so unintentionally caused.*"

There was an altogether different court case in 1878. This was concerned with the unusual wager between the landlord, Joseph Barrow, and George Brook that Brook of St John's Place in Holmfirth could walk from the Shoulder of Mutton Inn to the Rose and Crown Inn in Meltham in fifty minutes. In addition he had to call by the Royal Oak in Upperthong and drink a glass of beer. The stake was £5. Both sides had their supporters. Those for Brook went on ahead to order the drink. Those for Joseph Barrow went on ahead too, but in order to distract the landlady of the Royal Oak and hide the pitcher of beer. This done, when Brook arrived it took seven or eight minutes to find the pitcher under the settle. The walk had taken fifty three minutes during which time Brook had sprained his leg. He took the case to court where he argued that because of the actions of Barrow's

⁶ Reference to the wealthy, club-land thieves of London

supporters it was unfair that he had lost. He also incidentally maintained that he could not afford to lose. The judge however ruled that the transaction was not a wager within the meaning of the Act of Parliament and as such was strictly void and could not be enforced in a County Court. This ruled therefore that the person who held the money on a wager had the legal responsibility to return the money.

In 1895 there was an unusual case when the landlord, John Haigh, was summonsed for selling diluted spirits. However Haigh maintained that he displayed a sign in his bar that read: *"all spirits sold in this establishment are diluted but not below half strength."* Two other local landlords, Harry Beal and Edgar Bray were called and testified that such a sign had been displayed for several months. The bench retired to the inn and saw that the sign was clearly visible. The case was dismissed.



Shoulder Mutton Inn, early 1960s

A ghost story associated with the Shoulder of Mutton dating from 1970 was first made public in 1984. It was then published by the History Press in 2012, in a book, *A Review of Haunted Huddersfield*, researched and written by Kai Roberts. Roberts listed this as the only pub in Holmfirth that had a ghost story.

There had been reports of rattling door handles, sounds of footsteps in empty rooms, flickering lights, relocated furniture and a nasty smell in one room. Even more disturbing, a young child was seen communicating with someone unseen and another child was mysteriously trapped in a wardrobe. When the pub sign got damaged it was thought it was time to call in a clairvoyant. She identified several ghosts: a little boy wanting a playmate, a mournful woman, a band of uniformed men in a bar and an old lady, dressed in black with a high-collared dress and smoking a clay joss.

In 1947 a tragic accident occurred outside the pub when the Bolsterstone Male Voice Choir was involved in a fatal bus crash. Perhaps the clairvoyant knew of this, as well as being aware of the pub being an inquest site for three bodies in 1852. She also believed a former landlady had been unhappy with alterations made to the pub, and it is known that there was a landlady here between 1880 and 1891. Whatever she claimed to know, she did carry out an exorcism and it seems the ghosts went away.



Shoulder of Mutton Inn 2016

Known Landlords

1803	John Booth	BR	1899	John Wood	I
1828	George Haigh	D	1905	Joe Barrow	I
1848	James Haigh	D	1912	James W. Seddon	I
1857	John Lodge	D	1915	Jonathan Mellor	BR
1859	Jonathan Sandford	R	1922	John F. Sanderson	I
1864	William Sandford	N	1923	Joe Platt	BR
1864	Joseph Marsden	N	1936	Harry Heap	BR
1870	Jonas Woodhead	D	1955	Robert W. Davies	BR
1879	Joseph Barrow	BR	1962	Hugh Sykes	BR
1881	Alice Barrow	BR	1969	Ethel M. Sykes	BR
1894	John Haigh	BR	1971	David C. Sykes	BR
1898	James Heppenstall	BR			

12. Rose and Crown Inn (The Nook), Victoria Sq.

**Rose and Crown Inn,
Higgin Brigg**

Occupying premises built in 1754 and rebuilt 1818, the Rose and Crown is another important inn owing to its strategic position, size and length of time in existence. Lying on the one-time main route through Holmfirth at Higgin Brigg alongside the water course known as Ribble Dyke it is now to be found tucked away in the part of Victoria Square behind the main road.

Known by locals for decades as The Nook, it has been referred to by either name for many years. The original name dates from the end of the War of the Roses (1485), when the victorious Duke of Lancaster of the county of the Red Rose, married Elizabeth of York of the county of the White Rose, thereby uniting the two houses and bringing the war to a close.

Brewing on the premises stopped when the Inn was bought by J.W. Roberts of Farnley Tyas Brewery sometime before 1857 for in December of that year the Inn with a butchers shop and stable was advertised To Let. Those interested were advised to contact J.W. Roberts at the Brewery.

The first known description of the inn is given in the details for the sale in June 1879.

PUBLIC-HOUSE, IN HOLMFIRTH.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY
MESSRS. GEORGE TINKER and SON, at
the George Hotel, in Huddersfield, on TUESDAY,
the 10th day of June, 1879, at Six for Seven o'clock in
the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.

All that well-accustomed INN called the "Rose and
Crown Inn," situate in the centre of Holmfirth, together
with stable, mistal, hayloft, and the building formerly
used as brew-house, large paved yard and conveniences,
also the building adjoining now used as a barber's shop,
and occupied by Mr. Benjamin Beal and his undertenant.

The house has four large rooms on the ground floor,
with ale and keeping cellars under, and two large lodge
rooms and four bedrooms on first and second floors, and
good attic bedrooms over all, and is well adapted for
carrying on a large business.

The above property is copyhold of the manor of Wake-
field, and compounded for.

For further information apply to the auctioneers, Hud-
dersfield, or to

MESSRS. LEAROYD AND CO.,
Solicitors, Huddersfield.

Sale notice for the Rose and Crown Inn June 1879

Six years later the then owners, Seth Senior and Sons, paid rates on the premises described as: “*a public house and wash kitchen, stables, piggery and fire engine house.*” The landlord was Charles Halstead. Adjacent there was a house, slaughterhouse and butchers shop in the occupation of George Bower and a cottage occupied by Aner Bailey.

As one would expect the regular meetings of a number of Clubs and Friendly Societies were held here including those of the Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds; Ancient Order of Forresters; Female Friends of Secret Orders Friendly Society; Ancient Order of Druidesses; Holmfirth Naturalists and Holmfirth Cricket & Athletic Club. In connection with the latter an important meeting was held in 1888 called by Eli Collins, editor of the Holmfirth Express, concerning a proposal for a bowling green in connection with the Club. Both the club and the bowling green continue in to this day.



During the years when Brierley Buckley (1879-1914) was Landlord, one of the two Lodge rooms was for the members of the Friendly Society known as The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes. It would appear from the valuation of £46 for the household furnishings and fittings in 1914 that this room was well provided for it was twice that for any other room!

Members' Insignia

The inn was a popular venue for annual and festive dinners, for as many as one hundred and fifty people could be seated. A notable account of one of the annual dinners was the occasion of a feast for the Female Club in 1861. The landlady, Mrs Bray, was said to have had the difficult task of: *“getting up a repast”* which had pleased the thirty six ladies who sat down to it. One: *“fruitful old dame”* who had had nineteen children said: *“well then lassies, we’ve nobbut a day once i’ th year, lets have a merry leetsome.”* Following the meal there was piano and fiddle playing and dancing.

Ninety members of Holmfirth Cricket & Athletic Club attended a dinner in December 1902 to celebrate the marriage of the Club captain, Albert Tinker.

In 1914 there was a celebration held for Harold Wagstaff, a local man who was an International Rugby player. This was arranged prior to his departure with the England team for their Australian tour of that year and to mark his appointment as Captain, a role he also undertook in 1920.

A remarkable rescue was performed on the night of the 1852 flood when the landlord, Thomas Boothroyd, held out a flagpole from an upper window. John Kaye who had been caught in the flood and was swirling in the high waters grabbed hold of it being then safely hauled into an upstairs room of the inn. The body of Eliza Marsden one of the victims of that dreadful night was brought here and the inquest into her death followed. Shortly after the flood it was reported that the road at Higgin Brigg was blocked with debris and therefore impassable and would cost £150 to repair. There was no report of the damage to the inn.

The reports of the occasions when Licensing Laws were broken were mainly concerned with the typical offence of drinking out of hours.

An interesting case relating to: "*Usage of base or illegal coin*" was recorded in 1857. The landlady, Mrs Lodge, took from John Beaumont, an engineer residing in Longwalls, Austonley, a half crown coin in payment for six pennyworth of rum. Later she went to the shop of Mr Wood where she tendered the coin and it had been refused. When Mrs Lodge got back to the inn Beaumont had left so she went looking for him with no success. However an hour later he returned and enquired about lodgings. She then had asked him to change the coin, but he refused. When the case came to court the bench threw the case out claiming there was insufficient evidence!

The circumstances that led to the bankruptcy of her husband, Joseph, in 1858, who by then was described as an innkeeper and coal agent, are not known nor indeed when they left the inn. Their departure was prior to 1861 however, for by then the landlord was William Bray.

There was an interesting case concerning gambling in 1864 when twenty people were in the house after closing time and the police had witnessed card playing through the keyhole. Banging on the door had not resulted in admittance, as the landlady, Martha Dearnley, declared that she had a system whereby the police knew to use their sticks, not hands to gain admittance. In court it was stated that although the evidence against her had not been good, she was made to pay a small fine and costs as a warning. Another gambling case was brought against the same landlady two years later. Having lost money during a game of toss-a-coin Aaron Turner had demanded repayment. When this had been refused he sent for the police. In evidence it was stated that the landlady had not been in the room at the time and the court ruled it was a false charge and the case was dismissed.

In 1970, Bentleys Yorkshire Breweries of Woodlesford sold the Rose and Crown to David Roberts and it has continued as a

family business through his children, Ian Roberts and Susan Sutton.

In 2009, in-house brewing returned to The Nook with the creation of the Nook Micro Brewery. The Nook Brewhouse was built on land just above the confluence of the Holme and Ribble rivers on the site of the original brewhouse dating from 1754. A constant cellar temperature throughout the year is created by an old cellar and the nearby spring. Nook Brew, known today as ‘Nook Yorks’ and a wide variety of ales ranging from pales and blondes, to deep red ales and stouts are now produced for both local and country-wide sales.



The Nook Brewhouse 2016



The Nook, otherwise the Rose and Crown Inn 2015

Known Landlords

1828	Asa Bywater	D	1914	David Shaw	N
1834	Jonathan Boothroyd	D	1916	Ann Shaw	BR
1848	George Higgins	D	1927	Joe Smith	I
1851	Thomas Boothroyd	C	1933	Elizabeth E. Smith	BR
1857	Joseph Lodge	D	1940	Brook Haigh	I
1861	William Bray	C	1949	Edward A. Jackson	I
1864	Martha Dearnley	N	1955	Harold Smith	BR
1870	Benjamin Beall	D	1961	Eveline Smith	BR
1881	Spoooner Booth	BR	1961	Frank Butters	BR
1885	Abel Beaumont	BR	1963	Thomas W Wright	BR
1894	Charles Hilton	BR	1964	David Roberts	BR
1894	Brierley Buckley	N	2000	Ian Roberts	
1904	Joe Booth	D			

13. Princess Royal Beerhouse, Higgin Brigg



**Princess Royal
Beerhouse
1901-1909**

This small beerhouse was situated in Victoria Square and practically next door to the Rose & Crown Inn. This situation placed it directly on one of the oldest routes through Holmfirth, namely Higgin Brigg. The site is now occupied by a private and relatively modern house.

Although a well-established beerhouse there is very little available information relating to it.

The date of the earliest known record is 1850 and dealt with the prosecution of the landlord, William Earnshaw. The dispute that followed presented a challenge to the then licensing laws relating to opening times in Holmfirth whilst highlighting the complication of there being three separate census townships covering Holmfirth, namely Cartworth, Upperthong and Wooldale with a combined population of more than 2,500. The Licensing Act of 1840 required that all public houses had to close at 10pm if they were in “a place” with a population of less than 2,500 and 11pm if the population exceeded this number. The licensees of Holmfirth therefore felt justified in remaining open until 11pm believing that the town had a population in excess of 2,500. However in May 1850, the superintendent constable, Mr Heaton, summonsed five licensees for serving beer after 10pm. Initially, three of the five were investigated of whom two, being from rural areas, were prosecuted. The case against the third, William Earnshaw landlord of the Princess Royal, developed into a most contentious case. Earnshaw maintained that his licence-paper described his premises, though in Cartworth, as located in Holmfirth. Mr C.S. Floyd for the prosecution argued that Holmfirth was not “a place” stating that the locality was: “*both undefined and undefinable*” whereas Mr Roberts of Manchester for the defence, (who was popularly known as “the miners’ Attorney General”) persisted in claiming that Holmfirth clearly had a population of over 2,500. The local magistrates, Joseph Charlesworth, William Leigh Brook and Joshua Moorhouse could not decide whether or not Holmfirth was indeed “a place”. In January 1851 the case was referred to the High Court where the Judge advised that Holmfirth fell within the meaning of place as described in the 1840 Licensing Act and the case was discharged. Nevertheless the Court avoided specifying the actual limits of the town. Given these circumstances the remaining two cases were dropped.

Elliott Whiteley, a shoemaker, having bought the beerhouse for £260 in 1874 very quickly put it up for re-sale. In September of that year the auction notice gave details of the freehold property.

VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY IN
HOLMFIRTH.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, by Mr. SAMUEL WIMPENNY, at the VICTORIA HOTEL, in Holmfirth, on THURSDAY, the 17th day of September, 1874, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to such Conditions as will then be produced and read,

ALL that BEERHOUSE, known by the name of the PRINCESS ROYAL, with the Ground, Out-buildings, and Conveniences thereto, situate in the centre of the town of Holmfirth, lately in the occupation of Mr. George Stanley, but now in the occupation of Mr. Elliott Whiteley.

The house is one of the oldest, and the situation the most noted in Holmfirth for a beerhouse.

The property is of freehold tenure.

The tenant will show the premises, and further information may be had on application to the Auctioneer, at his offices in Holmfirth, and No 38, Estate Buildings, Huddersfield; or at the offices of

IVESON & MELLER, Solicitors,
Holmfirth and Huddersfield.

4th September, 1874.

£100

120

200

220

240

260

Messrs Bentley & Shaw

Entry in an unnamed Solicitors Diary: Auction advertisement with record of the bids placed and the eventual purchasers, Messers. Bentley and Shaw

When James Bray left in 1893 and James Cartwright became landlord, the premises consisted of an attic, sitting room and a bedroom: “*divided with camp bedstead*”, club room, kitchen, tap room, passage or bar, cellar and a sign in front of the house. Cartwright paid £38-1s-8d for the furniture, fittings, stock-in-trade and the unexpired licence. In 1906, following the death of her husband, Elizabeth Cartwright became landlady and licensed retailer of ale, beer and porter.

At the Brewster Sessions March 1909 the licensing of: “*all that messuage known, used and occupied as a dwellinghouse and beerhouse called The Princess Royal*” was referred to the Compensation Authority. Owing to its close proximity to not only the Rose & Crown Inn, but also to several other pubs the decision was taken not to renew the licence. The compensation paid was £1,050.

The property, no longer a beerhouse, was bought by James Quarmby, of Rotcher, Holmfirth, a Painter, for £110. During the 1980s the premises were used by Douglas Kaye of J. W. Kaye, Ironmongers, as a garage and store. Above these he later built a flat for himself. The property has remained a private dwelling.

The Princess Royal was a law abiding house as there are no known recorded cases of drunkenness, illegal opening hours, (except that in 1850) or gambling.

The limitations of the premises due to their size would appear to be the reason why they were not used by any local groups or societies.

In 1853 William Earnshaw, landlord of the beerhouse, was thrown out of the gig in which he was riding with Mr Hepworth, Agent for Gotthard & Co Spirits Merchants of Wakefield. Having collided with some large stones in the road near Underbank the gig overturned, the axle broke and

Earnshaw was badly injured, no report was made as to the state of Hepworth! The horse then bolted making its way to the yard of the Elephant & Castle Inn where it was regularly stabled.



Higgin Brigg and the former Princess Royal Beerhouse 2016

Known Landlords

1850	William Earnshaw	N	1885	Sarah Bailey	BR
1862	James Whiteley	R	1886	Robinson Swire	BR
1871	George Stanley	C	1888	James Bray	BR
1874	Elliott Whiteley	N	1893	James Cartwright	BR
1879	Jonathan Roebuck	BR	1903	Elizabeth Cartwright	BR
1879	Joe Bailey	BR			

14. Elephant and Castle Inn, Hollowgate



Elephant and Castle Inn 1910

Standing in a key position on the bend of the oldest route through the town the original hostelry would have been a coaching inn dating back to the 18th century. Its name is attributed to the recognition of Queen Eleanor of Castile, the wife of King Edward I. The public house bearing the same name remains open today in a building dating from the 1820s.

Little has survived about the early landlords, George Bower in 1803 being the first recorded although it is highly likely that several of the names in the Lists of Alehouse keepers during the seventeen hundreds could have been associated with this inn.

In September 1855 an advertisement seeking a new tenant appeared in which it was stated that the present occupant was

Mrs Kippax. Those interested were advised to contact Mr G Hinchliffe of Nab. Mrs Kippax was in fact about to move to the Victoria Hotel and unusually in these circumstances, rather than selling the inn furniture belonging to her to the incoming landlord, she sold the items by auction, hoping perhaps for a better financial deal.

Two years later a dispute arose over the ownership of the inn and the profit- sharing between those involved. The situation was created following a decision taken by Mrs Kippax's successor, Miss Elizabeth Waterhouse. Being unmarried she had arranged with a Mrs Dyson that she should: *"live with her to give respectability to the house, receiving in return a share of the profits of the business."* Unfortunately no formal partnership agreement was made which gave rise to problems relating to the ownership of goods ordered and the non-payments for these. On Miss Waterhouse's marriage Mrs Dyson and her husband took possession of both the inn and the business but were soon facing financial difficulties. It was not long before the Dysons left and John and Sarah Lodge took over the business.

Reuben and James Senior became owners of the copyhold property in 1878 details were given as: *"All that inn , stables, coach house, outbuildings and yard in the occupation of Ben Robinson, Also all that dwellinghouse and Butchers Shop adjoining the above premises also the slaughter house at the back thereof now in the occupation of Luther Firth."*

The first known description of the accommodation within the inn is dated November 1892. On the transfer of the tenancy from Joe Quarmby to Thomas Willis the rooms were listed as: *"club room, best bedroom, commercial bedroom, bathroom, bedroom, passage and landing, bedroom over kitchen, attics, tap room, front room, commercial room, bar, filling bar, pantry."* It was also noted that outside there was a gilt-edged

sign board and a sign over the door. At the time the furniture, fixtures and stock-in-trade were valued at £276-10s-7d.

On the transfer of the licence from George L. Lindley to Brian Calverley in 1967 the account of the accommodation in the inn included bar lounge, filling bar, tap room, dining room, kitchen, pantry, wash kitchen, ale cellar, six bedrooms, two bathrooms and sitting room. The valuation of the fixtures, fittings, stock-in-trade and unexpired licence was £1,022-9s-3d.

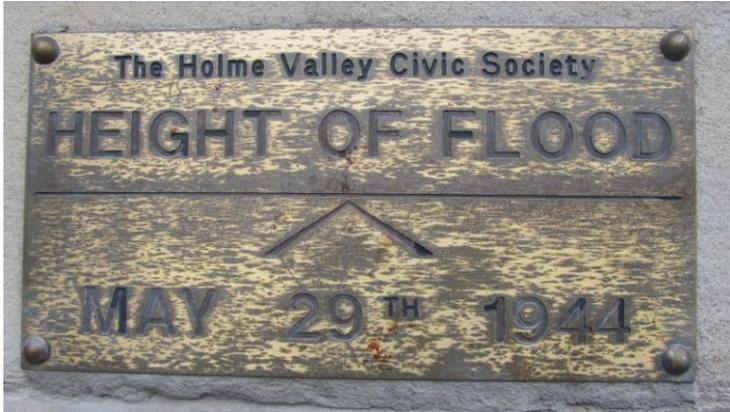


Elephant and Castle Inn c1960s

It could be seen as surprising that given the proximity of the inn to the river during the flood of 1852, when all the buildings from Scar Fold to the Toll House, Higgin Bridge and the far side of Hollowgate had all suffered devastating inundation, an early report stated that this building had: “*sustained damage more or less.*” Later it was confirmed that: “*a barn, stable and coach house belonging to Mrs Kippax was levelled.*” The fact that five flood victims were brought here is a clear indication of

the survival of the inn. It was perhaps the angled position of the building from the river that resulted in it escaping the worst of the flood damage.

The height of the water in the flood of 1944 was recorded on a marker placed on the outside wall of the Elephant and Castle Inn.



The standing of the inn in the locality and the nature of the accommodation offered meant that it was an appropriate venue for auctions and gatherings of mill owners and manufacturers.

During 1853 the Holme Reservoir Commissioners held a meeting here of local mill-owners to discuss whether or not to pursue proceeding with action relating to the bill pending in Parliament regarding the costs to mill-owners of the water they used in their businesses.

Throughout the following year an issue of major concern for the Factory Inspectors was the exact ages of children employed in local mills and a circular was sent to the mill owners and occupiers requiring them to ascertain and record these. The considerable opposition by those who objected to having to do this was then expressed at a protest meeting held here.

A similar meeting was convened by the same manufacturers at which they voiced their objections to what they regarded as the unrealistic demand of the Inspectors that the shafting in every mill had to be protected.

On two occasions, the location of the inn provided a temporary link with transport. In the 1840s for the convenience of people wishing to travel further afield, a daily omnibus service was run from here to Dunford Bridge in order for passengers to connect with the newly opened mainline railway. This was greatly appreciated by both those living locally and those visiting Holmfirth by train,

On 3rd December, 1865 the Mytholmbridge viaduct which carried the trains of the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway collapsed, fortunately without casualties. The temporary transport arrangements made during the period of rebuilding included an omnibus to convey passengers from Holmfirth to the main Penistone line. Fares were priced according to whether the passenger sat inside or outside the vehicle. A dispute with the Railway Company over the required payment when passing the Toll Bars en route was resolved after it was discovered that a journey was toll free if mail was being carried. Without doubt at least one letter would then have been on board every service!

Following a disastrous fire at Spring Lane Mills in 1853 there was considerable anxiety amongst local inhabitants about the lack of any fire engines nearer than four miles away, these being housed in Huddersfield, Meltham Mills and Milnsbridge. Two months later, a meeting was called here to discuss a way to remedy this situation. Subsequent to this on a number of occasions the Huddersfield and District Fire Brigade, the Holmfirth Fire Brigade and the Unity Fire Brigade all held meetings here and started their annual celebratory processions.

As part of the valley's Coronation celebrations in June 1911

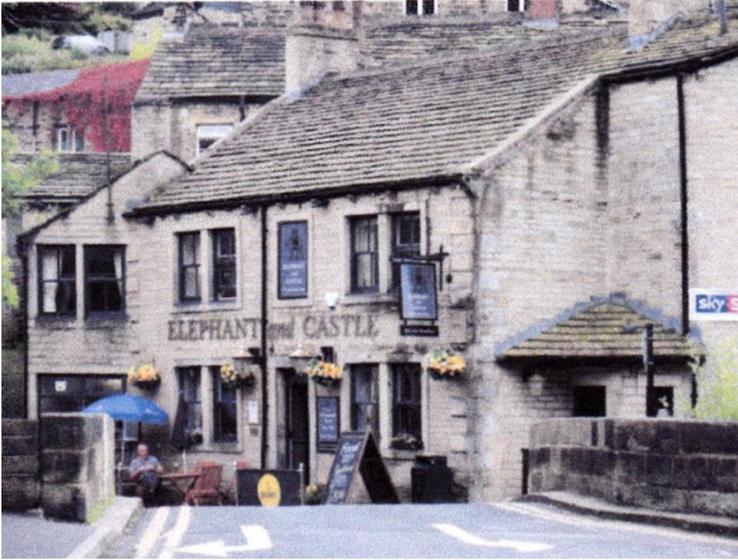
there was an ox-roast and the beast was photographed outside the Elephant and Castle Inn prior to the event.



**Outside the Elephant and Castle Inn before the ox-roast
June 1911**



Elephant and Castle Public House undated



Elephant and Castle Public House 2015

(note the differences on the right-hand side from the previous picture)

Known Landlords

1803	George Bower	BR	1895	Sedley Dickinson	BR
1838	Richard Birks	D	1897	Ben Robinson	BR
1848	Elizabeth Kippax	D	1916	Martha Robinson	BR
1855	Elizabeth Waterhouse	N	1922	Herbert Robinson	D
1857	Thomas Dyson	D	1934	Robert Schofield	BR
1857	John Lodge	BR	1954	Wilfred Hargreaves	BR
1866	Sarah Lodge	D	1958	Jack N. Swales	BR
1879	Jonas Hobson	BR	1960	John Mellor	BR
1881	Charles Halstead	BR	1962	George L Lindley	BR
1886	Joseph Quarmby	BR	1966	Brian Calverley	I
1892	Thomas Willis	BR	1967	Donald H. Birks	BR
1895	Mary A. Willis	BR	1972	Alexander Hair	BR

15. The George Inn, Upperbridge



**The George Inn 1902
at a time when it had a hanging inn sign**

Unfortunately it is unclear which one of the King Georges is recognised in the name of this inn, although it clearly reflects a loyalty to the throne.

Details of the location of the inn were given in the Extinguishing Licences paper dated 1923 in which this was described as being: *“All that piece or parcel of land or ground situate lying and being between the Smithy Fold at Upperbridge in Upperthong in the County of York and a small building heretofore used as a butchers shop on the other side of the highway leading from Holmfirth to Holme in the front and then the Road called The Lane on the back thereof containing in length front to back ten yards and in front hereof 13 yards Also the messuage or tenement (formerly known as The George Inn) erected and built on the same piece of land or some part thereof.”*

When the inn opened is not known but the earliest evidenced date relating to it is that for the first known landlord, John Beaumont, in 1792 found in the following Court Roll:

209 Holme, surrender by the hands of Cookson Stephenson, 11 July JOHN BEAUMONT of Upper Bridge, innkeeper, and ANN his wife (RL) and SAMUEL WALKER of Lascelles Hall, esq, to GEORGE CHARLESWORTH of Yew Tree in Austonley, clothier, forever

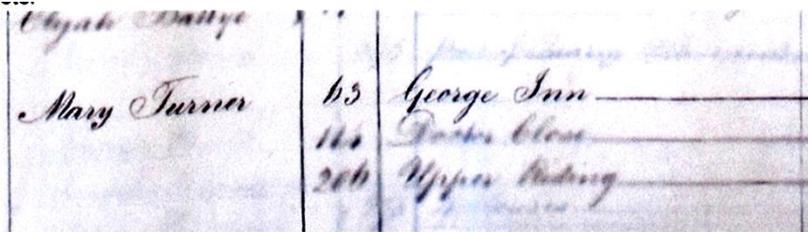
mess at Upper Bridge with the adjoining brewhouse, barn, cowhouse and nearby garden now in the occupation of BEAUMONT. WALKER is acting at his request. Consideration: in indenture of even date herewith, between: 1) BEAUMONT and ANN, 2) WALKER, 3) CHARLESWORTH. Fine and Rent: [blank] compounded.

Extract from the Court Roll of the Manor of Wakefield July 1792

The records show that the Turner family had a long association with the George Inn, both as owners and landlords, the names of Jonathan, Joseph and Mary appearing from 1803 to the late 1850s.

★ Upperbridge		Flourish Platt	30	Painter	N.
	1	Mary Turner	65	Landlady	4
		James 2 ^d	35		4
		William 2 ^d	30		2
		Mary 2 ^d	25		2
		John 2 ^d	25		4
		Charles 2 ^d	25	Solicitor	4
		John Buxton	35	Laborer	2
		Sarah Marchant	15	Field	4
	d.	1	William Woodcock		Druggist

Census Return 1841 Section of the entry for Upperbridge showing Mary Turner as innkeeper



Entry in the Upperthong Tithe Book 1847
Mary Turner is the occupier of the George Inn, listed with the
land and property owned by Joseph Turner

On 3rd August 1861 an advertisement appeared for the sale of the George Inn: “*by order of the Judge in the High Court of Chancery following the case Turner v Turner.*” Little is known of the circumstances relating to this case, what is clear however is that following a family dispute land, property, a dyehouse and this inn were to be sold.

In 1885, having been landlord of the Ring O’ Bells Beerhouse for five years, Daniel Stockwell then became the owner of the George Inn, and landlord two years later. Nothing is known as to the circumstances that prompted him to let the premises and business in 1890 but the inn was advertised for rent by Messrs. Burkitt and Wimpenny, Public House Valuers. The rental was £35 per year and the incomings were described as moderate. In 1898 he sold the inn to W. Stones Brewery for £1,500.

A description of the internal accommodation was given on the transfer of the tenancy from Mr J.A. Heap to Mr. Jno. Wm. Robinson in November 1905. Noted were the bar parlour, snug, tap room, passage, filling bar, attic, club room, front bedroom, back bedroom, landing, kitchen, pantry, cellar and outside a swing, a sign and ironwork and the licence and lettering above door. The household furniture, fittings and stock-in-trade was valued at £86-17s-10d.

During the time Thomas Barden was the landlord, J. Smith Samuel Old Brewery, Tadcaster acquired the George Inn.

Being one of the nearest to the reservoirs up the valley, it is understandable that The George was a recipient of nine bodies after the 1852 flood, five from the same family. Other inquests held here include an accidental death by fall from a hayloft and two separate suicides in 1877.

Only one record of an auction was found, this being of oak and other trees from Brook Wood in Austonley in 1855.

There are only two known records of any club or society that used the premises. One was in 1861 when there was a club feast of the Friendly Society known as The Old 70 Brief Club. Every member was present at this event and it was noted that after dinner there was: "*singing, music and speechifying*" and that: "*everyone had paid their contributions.*" The other time a group met here was in 1872 when there was a lecture for another Friendly Society, the Holmfirth United Order of Gardeners.

A two man cricket match took place in 1862 between the landlord of the George Inn, Henry Netherwood and Mr Lancaster, the landlord of the Rose & Crown at Netherthong. The winner was then to pay for a supper for a dozen of their friends. Of the two men it was stated that Netherwood was: "*a dumpling little fellow*" and Lancaster: "*the opposite in length of limb.*" After the first innings the score was a draw (two runs apiece) and then Lancaster scored five more runs to Netherwood's four. The players then repaired to the George Inn and with twenty of their friends sat down to a good supper followed by a very agreeable evening. A return match was played at Netherthong the following Monday, unfortunately the outcome of that match is not known. Two years later Netherwood became yet another innkeeper to be declared a bankrupt.

The glory days of hunting were recalled in 1865 when the death of Benjamin Hudson, a well-known local huntsman triggered memories of the time when he and landlord, Henry Netherwood had raised a pack of hounds and re-established the local hunt, the Holmfirth Harriers. Not to be confused with the present day running organisation of the same name, members of the Harriers hunted mainly hares and rabbits and followed a pack of beagles on foot.

An intriguing advertisement was placed in the Huddersfield Chronicle on 4th August, 1866: "*seeking a person who perfectly understands the manufacture of chemicals. Apply personally, any day at the George Inn.*" Unfortunately no other information was given regarding this request.

A dispute over an advance of £50 came to court in 1877. This sum of money had been paid to Benjamin Sykes, the landlord of the George Inn, a few years previously in respect of a passage to Australia where work as a power loom tuner at the Castlemaine Woollen Co. Ltd had been promised. On his arrival in Melbourne, Sykes had discovered that the company did not own such a machine and consequently there was no work. As a consequence of this situation he had returned home but found himself being sued for refusing to pay back the advanced sum. The case was tried in Dewsbury and Sykes won.

In 1891 there was an unpleasant gun incident in the inn when Martha Bartholomew, a domestic servant resident in the pub was threatened by a farmer, Richard Littlewood from Alma Farm, Meltham with a revolver. In court Littlewood was described as a jealous lover, but it had been discovered that the gun was unloaded and out of order. Then on Martha's refusal to substantiate the charge the case was dismissed.

A sad account of neglect of children by a former landlord was reported in 1896 when Sylvester Kelly, then unemployed,

was charged with wilfully neglecting his four children in such a manner as to cause unnecessary suffering. The circumstances of this case are unclear but following an illness, Kelly had found himself destitute. It would appear that his arrest was the consequence of his continuing refusal to take any labouring work. He was found guilty and sent to the House of Correction in Wakefield for fourteen days without hard labour. His wife and three of the children were sent to the workhouse.



**George Inn
c1950s**

James Skidmore became landlord in June 1922 but twelve months later the inn was referred to the Compensation Authority. The application for the renewal of the licence was refused and the inn closed in December 1923. The compensation paid to the owners, Samuel Smith, The Old Brewery, Tadcaster, amounted to £1451-0s-0d.

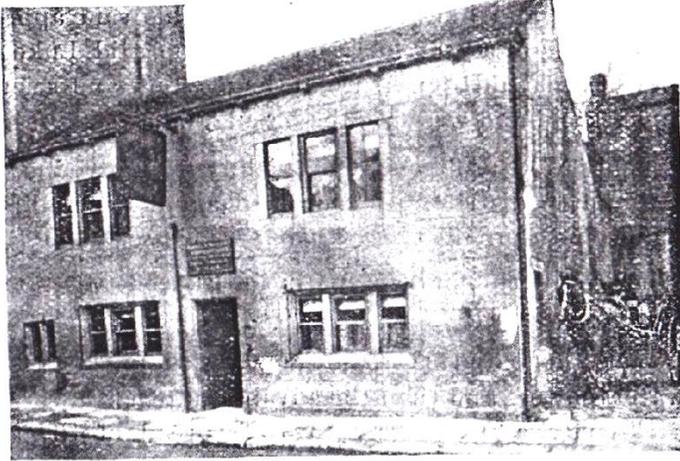


**The premises of the
former George Inn
now the Voda
Cocktail Bar 2016**

Known Landlords

1792	John Beaumont	CR	1894	Sylvester Kelly	I
1803	Jonathan Turner	BR	1895	Frederic Meed	I
1834	Mary Turner	D	1897	Thomas Sykes	I
1861	Henry Netherwood	C	1900	Joshua W. Heap	I
1864	Joe Hoyle	R	1905	John W. Robinson	I
1877	Benjamin Sykes	N	1906	Thomas Barden	I
1879	William Wilson	I	1910	Clara Barden	I
1879	John Hall	I	1912	Ben Kaye	I
1880	William Harrison	I	1914	Arkle Hirst	I
1881	Robert Turner	I	1917	Thomas Willams	I
1882	Henry Moore	I	1919	Elihu Hirst	I
1885	Daniel Stockwell	I	1920	William Schofield	I
1892	Martha Banks	I	1921	John Abbott	I
1893	Ernest Beaumont	I	1922	James Skidmore	I
1893	Joe Ramsden	I			

16. Kings Head Inn, Upperbridge



HOWARD'S, KING'S HEAD INN, HOLMFIRTH.

Wines and Spirits of excellent quality.
 Seth Senior & Sons' Fine Ales and Stout. * GOOD STABLING.
 R.A.O.B. Royal Lodge, 984 Monday Evenings.

1909

Speak to anyone who remembers the pubs in Holmfirth and this inn will always be referred to as the 'White Door', or more likely "*t' White Door.*" Photographs taken in the mid twentieth century do indeed show the door painted white but there are earlier photographs which show the entire front of the building white washed.

The Kings Head held a strategic position being at the junction of today's Huddersfield Road and Hollowgate. A door lintel inscribed "M. T. S. 1706", probably the initials of the first owner and his wife, was recovered on demolition of the pub. It was installed in a nearby wall, only to be lost during recent building work. The lintel dates the building's construction but the dating of when it became a pub is speculative. If it was, then this was one of the oldest, if not the

oldest of Holmfirth's inns.



Door lintel dated 1706 found near the site of the Kings Head Inn

A feature of this inn is the length of tenure of the licensee landlord. For seventy years of the nineteenth century, the surname of the landlord was Bower with at least five different forenames.

	Knathan Heley	7/10	
Bower George	Himself	66	Kings Head Inn Warehouse and Stabling
		70	River Water Dock
		72a	Upper Water Dock

Entry in the Upperthong Tithe Book 1847 for George Bower, Proprietor and Occupier of the Kings Head Inn

Then, from that time to almost the mid twentieth century, the landlords were four named members of the Howard family.

There was a yard attached to the premises and in 1887 an application was submitted to the Holmfirth Local Board by Messrs E. Coldwell and G. Kaye for permission to use a shed in Kings Yard as a slaughter house. Permission was granted.

In March 1904 Seth Senior and Sons became the licensee; the landlord at the time was Mr. Jno. Howard. The inn consisted of a front room, tap room, bar parlour, filling bar, kitchen, back kitchen, cellar, bedrooms, Lodge Room.

In 1910 Seth Senior and Sons acquired what had been a copyhold property and the occupant, Mrs Howard, renewed the licence, Elliot Hinchliffe being the landlord at the time. In addition there was also: *“all that plot of vacant land adjoining said inn upon which a cottage lately stood but which has now been pulled down. Also all those two dwellings and shops in Upperbridge formally in the occupation of Elliot Hinchliffe and Edgar Armitage adjoining said inn now in the occupation of Elliot Hinchliffe and James Seddon.”*

The stables belonging to the inn were across the road on a site now occupied by the Holmfirth Mill Shop. In 1915, these were requisitioned by the Duke of Wellington's Regiment whilst in the town for a recruitment campaign. An indication as the size of the stables is that there were stalls for ten horses.

In 1936 Frank Howard gave up the licence to Walter Moodycliffe. At the time the premises included a tap room, filling bar, kitchen, back kitchen, cellar, bedroom no. 1, bed room no. 2, Lodge room, landing, passage. Seth Senior and Sons sold the inn to Hammonds United Brewery in 1949. After the death of her husband in 1960, Maud Moodycliffe continued as landlady until 1964.

Being a licensed inn of some importance in the town it was here that auctions were organised as were inquests, including an initial one for identification from the 1852 flood.

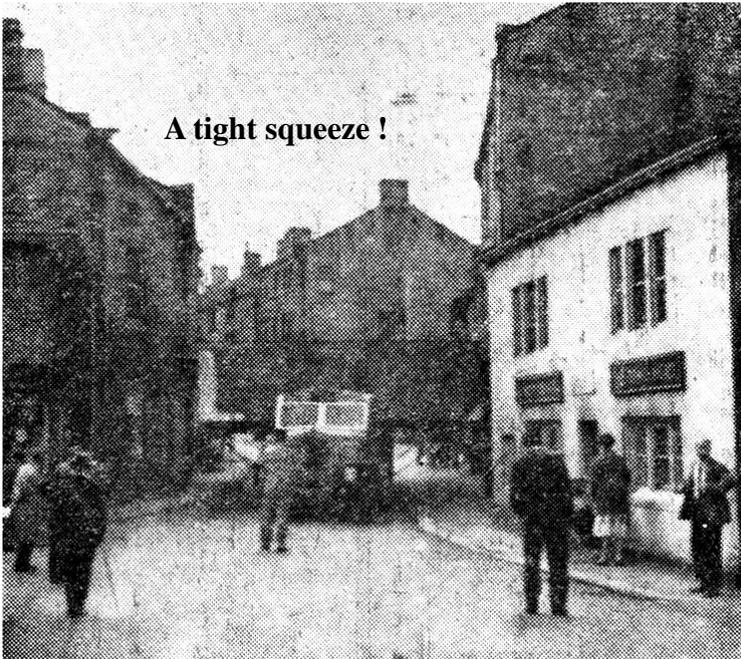


**Kings Head
Inn
before it
had the
white door!
1910**

The Holmfirth Pig and Poultry Society, Holmfirth Football Club, the Royal Lodge and the Holmfirth Prosecution of Felons Society frequently used the pub as a venue for their meetings and special dinners. It was recorded in 1861 that the A.G.M. of the Prosecution Society was attended by one hundred and sixty members and that the previous year had been costly to the society: “*in view of the extra number of prosecutions.*” 1861 also saw the annual dinner of the Mutton Chop Society. This group, with a coat of arms featuring a mutton chop, was established: “*for the purpose of making improvements in gastronomy.*” At their annual dinner after the meal: “*a splendid knife and fork chorus entered upon and carried on without regard to either time or tune.*” As part of the town’s peace celebrations at the end of the Crimean War in 1856 the employees at Green Lane Mill were provided with a dinner here.

The 1932 Holmfirth shopping week celebrations included an ox-roast. For this occasion, the 1,015lb beast was kept in the yard at the Kings Head Inn until slaughtered and taken to be roasted on a specially built temporary oven at Victoria Park.

Also in 1932, the then landlord Frank Howard was going to the races but unfortunately he had got on the wrong train, so at Melton Mowbray he pulled the communication cord. He was fined £6. The report of this incident gave no indication whether or not he got to the races or if he did whether his winnings would have compensated him.



**An overloaded lorry having problems in Upperbridge
near the Kings Head Inn 1950s**



Upperbridge showing the Kings Head Inn 1960s

The inn closed in August 1968 and no further use was made of the building. Lying empty it fell into a state of disrepair, becoming an unwanted eyesore to many.



The derelict Kings Head Inn 1968

In July 1969 a lorry laden with oil drums crashed into the house and shop next door to the inn. Although this caused much damage, fortunately no-one was injured.



Both buildings were later demolished



Today the site is an attractive public garden with a mosaic wall sculpture showing the industrial heritage of the area.



Known Landlords

1795	Matthew Bower	N	1918	Hannah Howard	I
1834	Mary Bower	D	1922	Frank Howard	I
1851	George Bower	C	1936	Walter Moodycliffe	I
1870	Mary Bower	D	1960	Maud Moodycliffe	I
1879	Jonathan H. Turner	BR	1964	Geoffrey Whiteley	I
1881	John Howard	BR	1965	Joseph Sanderson	I
1902	Martha H. Howard	BR	1966	Edith M. McCormick	I
1910	Elliot Hinchliffe	N	1968	John Beattie	BR

17. Old Bridge Hotel, Market Walk (Old Bridge Inn and Coffee Bar)

Prior to being opened as the Old Bridge Hotel in 1986 this copyhold property was known as Eldon House.

The one time home of Joseph Charlesworth, a well-known merchant and JP, this property was described in the auction notice after his death in 1852 as: *“A family residence. Commodious, genteel. Garden, summer house, carriage house, barn, stable, a convenient warehouse and other outbuildings. Also a cottage conveniently attached suitable for a servant.”* Bought by John Thorpe Taylor, a local manufacturer, the house continued as a family home until 1865. Remaining then unsold, in 1867 the property was used by the members of Holmfirth Working Men’s Club. Although the building offered members excellent indoor and outdoor facilities, the club cannot have enjoyed much in the way of success for by 1870 the property was once again advertised for auction as a domestic dwelling.

Other families recorded as having lived here were those of Mr George Ediss, Surgeon and General Practitioner; Joseph Shaw, joiner and cabinet maker who clearly used the outbuildings as his workshop for he paid rates in 1896 for premises described as: *“works and home”*; Charles Haigh, a local chemist; Henry W. Williams G.P. and Eli Collins, the owner and editor of the local newspaper. The Holme Valley Theatre, now known as the Picturedrome, was built in the grounds of Eldon House in 1913. It would appear that Eli’s son, Albert, sold the property early in the 1930s and it then became the home of the Holmfirth Conservative Club until 1984. In that year, having been bought by Hervey Woodhead, for £80,000 the building was converted into the Old Bridge Hotel. Included in the proposed plans were sixteen en-suite

bedrooms, public and lounge bars, a functions room, dining room and coffee lounge.



Reconstruction work in progress in February 1986

The intention had been to preserve the original frontage of Eldon House but this was not possible. When the alterations were completed and the extensions built, the only original part of Eldon House that remained was the main entrance.



The Old Bridge

Inn and Coffee Bar 2016

19. Waggon and Horses Inn, Huddersfield Road



Waggon and Horses Inn 1972

This inn was situated at 90-92 Huddersfield Road where today there is a chemist shop within the Riverside Shopping Centre. The date when the door to number 90 was blocked up is not known. The many valley textile mills and other local businesses were dependent on horse-drawn waggons and Wylbert Kemp described the Norridge Wells, where horses usually drank, as: "*being opposite Mettrick Butchers shop.*" They were at the bottom of Cooper Lane so perhaps the close proximity to this inn possibly led to its name?

The earliest records go back to 1828 when James Shackleton was landlord.

Joseph Tyas was certainly the landlord here by 1870 becoming the owner five years later.

NORRIDGE, HOLMFIRTH.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, by Mr. JOHN SANDERSON, at the Waggon and Horses Inn, Norridge, Holmfirth, on Wednesday the 24th day of March, 1875, at Seven p.m. (unless previously disposed of by private contract), in the following or such other lots as will be decided on at the time of sale, and subject to such conditions as will be then produced.

Lot 1. THE WAGGON and HORSES INN, with the butcher's shop, stable, brewhouse, joiner's shop, and the vacant ground in front of the said Inn, and the yard and outbuildings behind the same, situate at Norridge, in Holmfirth, in the county of York, in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Tyas; *to Tyas.*

Three **COTTAGES** in Norridge Bottom, in Holmfirth aforesaid, in the occupation of Michael Quoney, Margaret O'Mella, and Patrick Cooney; *£1450.*

and the stabling near thereto, in the occupation of Mr. Batley

**Entry in Solicitors Diary with copy of auction notice,
purchaser and sale price 1875**

In 1894 whilst employing W. Mosley as landlord, he undertook a redevelopment of the accommodation offered by pulling down the old stable and gig house and erecting new stables and a wash house.

By 1899, Seth Senior and Sons had acquired what had previously been copyhold property but in 1910 when they were able to buy it the description of the Inn included: *“also the buildings formally a butchers and joiners shop but afterwards a storeroom thereto belonging and the vacant ground in front of said messuage, also the ground at the northwardly end of the said messuage together with all the other stable and outbuildings in the occupation of Harry Bower.”*

A description of the internal accommodation was given on the transfer of the tenancy from Thomas Wilson to John Wood in February 1905. Listed were tap room, long room, snug, bar parlour, filling room, Lodge room, attic, landing and lavatory, 3

bedrooms, kitchen, wash kitchen, store room, 2 cellars, keeping cellar, small cellar and wine cellar. Outside there was a top stable, low yard and a trade sign. The furniture, fixtures and stock-in-trade at the time were valued at £288-12s-5d.

In 1908 when John Wood left and Harry Bower became landlord, the description of the rooms was the same except for the addition of "*a gas stove*" in the Lodge room.

The inn closed on 31st December 1954. Between 1990 and 1992 the premises were used by George Burgess & Son, Plumbers, Electricians and Heating Engineers. The buildings were then demolished and Lodges Supermarket was built on this and the adjoining site in 1975. This was later developed into the present day Riverside Shopping Centre where Medicare Chemists is located on the site of the Waggon and Horses Inn.

The usual events were held here: auctions, inquests including bodies from the 1852 flood, meetings of various groups and societies. The latter included the Friendly Societies of the Secret Order of the Golden Fleece, Shepherds and Oddfellows as well as the Holmfirth & New Mill Power Loom Weavers Association, Holmfirth Prosecution Society, Holmfirth Cricket & Lawn Tennis Club, Holmfirth Fanciers Society, (in 1896 there was a demonstration of how to wash a canary) Holmfirth Harriers, Holmfirth Tradesmen's Association and Holmfirth Butchers Trade and Benevolent Association. Holmfirth's annual flower show took place here in 1896 when an outstanding 593 entries were recorded. By contrast in 1873 there had also been a show but one solely for red cabbages.

The few recorded cases involving the breaking of licensing laws here involved the usual offence of allowing drunkenness and gambling for ale on the premises.

The early years of the 1870s witnessed much local industrial unrest arising from wage disputes and working hours and it

would appear that the public houses provided venues for campaign meetings. In 1871 the carpenters and joiners of the Holmfirth district held their meeting in this inn under the banner of "*Less hours and more wage*", prior to submitting their agreed resolution to their employers at a meeting at the Kings Head Inn.

The following year when there was continuing discontent in the local textile mills regarding levels of pay, the Waggon and Horses Inn was the starting point of a strike march to Huddersfield. 1200 weavers, both men and women, marched five abreast to Lockwood where they were joined by 400 more and a brass band. The whole body then continued to a fairground in Northumberland Street in central Huddersfield where a rally was held in order to protest about the unfair wage levels in the Holme Valley compared to Huddersfield rates of pay.

Another march, of a different order, was recorded in 1892 when there was a military marching competition. The distance from St Georges Square in Huddersfield and back again via Holmfirth, the Ford Inn on the Greenfield Road, Meltham and Crosland Moor was 16.75 miles. Thirteen teams took part comprising of eight men plus an officer or non-commissioned officer and an umpire. The men were in uniform and all carried 22lbs of equipment which was checked at "the examination point" at the Waggon and Horses in Holmfirth. The winning team completed the march in an impressive 3 hours and 46 minutes and won £6, the second prize was £4 and third prize was £2. Taking place in late November the weather was recorded as having been frosty and rainy. Despite these conditions there had been a good number of entries and afterwards all competitors had tea at the Zetland pub in Huddersfield.



Site of the former Waggon and Horses Inn 2016

Known Landlords

1828	James Shackleton	BR	1893	Thomas Wilson	I
1853	Andrew Sanderson	N	1905	John Wood	I
1857	Henry Wadsworth	D	1908	Harry Bower	I
1860	Joseph Beal	D	1915	Gam. Battye	BR
1861	Joseph Greaves	C	1926	Martha J. Battye	BR
1864	Mr Beall	R	1928	Joseph Haigh	BR
1870	Joseph Tyas	D	1940	Harry Beever	BR

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