

BRADWELL PUBS IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

By

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(written in 2007)

As we moved into the twentieth century the population recorded for the village in the 1901 Census was 1033 and serving these people were seven Public Houses. The Licensees at the time in question were as follows:-

The Bowling Green Inn, Smalldale – Mrs. Samuel Bramall,
The Bulls Head, Towngate - Mr. William Hill
The Bridge Inn, Netherside - Mr. James Quince
The Newburgh Arms, Netherside - Mr. George Bradwell
The New Bath Hotel, Main Road – Mr. William Eyre
The White Hart Inn – Mr. Henry Bradwell
The Shoulder of Mutton, Church Street – Mr. Abraham Hall

As we then move on a few years there was a turnover of landlords in several of the pubs who realised that they could not survive on the sale of beer alone and therefore had to find another job to subsidise themselves. One such landlord was Albert Sugden who ran the Bridge Inn from 1907 until 1909. He started running an omnibus service taking passengers to and from Hope Railway Station, and at various times in the summer he ran trips to the seaside. Several landlords owned small-holdings on which they raised cattle and pigs. There was also a butcher's shop on the White Hart premises.



Omnibus to Hope Station

With the start of the 1st World War many of the young men in the village left to fight in foreign countries. Landlords during this troubled time were – Henry Higgs at the New Bath, Mrs. Florence Caterer at the Newburgh Arms, Mr. Bernard Bellamy at the Bull's Head, Mr. William Shaw at the Bowling Green, Jane Hucknall Lomas at the Shoulder of Mutton and James Henry Knowles at the White Hart.

The Bridge Inn

Alfred Lessons became the landlord of the Bridge Inn in 1909 and two years later in October 1911 the premises came up for sale. The prospectus for the sale noted good stabling accommodation and excellent facilities for the establishment of a motor omnibus service to and from Hope railway station. The purchasers were Messrs. Chambers & Co. Ltd., Brewers of Sheffield. Alfred Lessons was then offered a 10 year lease that was due to expire on Lady Day (25th March) 1921. The offer was based on a nominal rent of £13 per annum granted in consideration of the large original expenditure made by Alfred on moving into the pub. But he was also expected to pay all outgoings and for repairs. By 1915 Alfred Lessons had moved on and George Downes succeeded him but only for a very short time as Frederick Storey was the landlord in 1916 when, according to a report in the local paper sometime in 1916, the Bridge had a problem with rats. It is reported that on the instruction of the magistrates the police had objected to the renewal of the license on the ground of redundancy. Constable Wilson stated this was a fully licensed public house and that it was in a dilapidated condition. The house was overrun with rats and was not fit for use as a public house. Within 200 yards there were 4 other licensed houses and the Bridge Inn was not required for the needs of the district and in its present condition it was the worst public house in Bradwell. The population at the time was 1325 and all together there were seven public houses, an average of one pub for every 189 people. When asked about the situation Mr. Chambers of Chambers & Co. the owners said this was the only public house in Bradwell which was owned by the firm and for that reason alone they were prepared to let it go for compensation. The trade was good for a country house but it was too far to carry out stuff (presumably beer etc) from Rotherham. He agreed there were too many public houses in Bradwell for present day trade. The house was referred for compensation and the license was

granted a temporary renewal but the Bridge Inn was finally closed in late 1916.



The Bridge Inn

The Newburgh Arms

Also for sale on the same day as the Bridge Inn (October 1911) was the fully licensed premises known as the Newburgh Arms and the adjoining land. All these sub-lots were owned by the Newburgh Arms and there was a sitting tenant. She was Mrs. Florence Caterer who was also the licensee of the pub. She was paying the rent for not only the Newburgh Arms itself but also the adjoining land that included Townend Meadow, Bramwell Croft, Salt Sich, Mesne Yard and Birchin Leach at an inclusive rent of £50-5s-0p per annum. Emma and Alfred Middleton sub-rented the buildings in this plot on a Lady Day yearly tenancy of £2-0-00 and Mrs. Mary Walker paid a quarterly tenancy for the garden it contained at a cost of 6s per annum. Although Mrs. Caterer continued to run the pub with the support of her two daughters it finally closed as a public house in 1923.

When the Newburgh Arms came up for sale it is thought that the Bradwell Liberal Club might have bought it, although this is by no means certain, as in 1923 when the Newburgh Arms closed the estate of the Liberal Club then decided to turn the farm building at the side from a cowshed into a large clubroom for billiards, snooker and other games. Two mahogany billiard tables were installed and the hall was opened on Saturday 19th January, 1924.

No fewer than 60 additional members were enrolled in a week with new members enrolling all the time, but the Newburgh Arms never sold beer again and was turned into a shop selling cigarettes, pop and sweets.



Newburgh Arms on right

The Bulls Head

During the Great War Bernard Bellamy was the licensee of the Bulls Head in Towngate and remained there until 1924, when Mrs. Florence Caterer, who had been the last licensee of the Newburgh Arms, now became the new licensee of the Bulls Head. Mrs. Caterer was the licensee there until 1934 when during the festive season she unfortunately slipped and fell to the bottom of the steps while descending into the cellar and tragically died as a result of the fall. Robert Ramsey then took over the license from 1934 until 1938. Before it was to close in the same year Aesop John Hall ran the pub for a brief period until the full license was transferred to the Derwent Hotel at Bamford. This left only four pubs still open in the village.



The Bull's Head

The Shoulder of Mutton

The next public house to discuss is the Shoulder of Mutton. Because as we see there have been two pubs called The Shoulder of Mutton in the village it is usual to refer to the earlier one as the Old Shoulder of Mutton although the word 'Old' never appeared on its sign. The licensee during the First World War was Charles Boulton and the only water supply to the pub came from a spring just a few yards away near the main road. Unfortunately Charles Boulton died in the early 1930`s and his wife Emma (Lily) became the new licensee and ran the pub with the help of her two sons Frank and Sidney; they also ran a bus service to Hope railway station from the premises. The Boulton family ran the pub for many years and were the only landlords in the village who moved to a new pub taking the name with them. They hadn't far to move, however because the new pub was just across the road from the old one. Mrs. Boulton had the privilege of laying the foundation stone of the new Shoulder of Mutton in 1937. After moving in to the premises Lily had her photograph taken outside the pub with her sons, having the satisfaction of being the first landlady to run a modern pub in the village.



The 'Old' Shoulder of Mutton – Bottom with window pointing up the road

Mr. Harry Bayman became the landlord in 1940 but when his wife became ill he retired from the business in 1946 when Mr. Alfred Eidson became the landlord, Mr. Eidson also ran a spar mine on Bradwell Moor with his sons. Many landlords have come and gone over the years and Mr. Alan Simpson bought the premises in 2002 and Mr. Alf Savage took over the running of the pub for Mr. Simpson in 2004.

The New Bath Hotel

The next public house to refer to in Bradwell is the New Bath Hotel, which takes its name from an old Roman Bath which was in a barn in the field where the Eden Tree Caravan Site now is, unfortunately neither the barn nor the Roman Bath any longer exist. Henry Higgs was the licensee during the 1st World War and until 1920. Mr. Frederick Green became the licensee on 20th May 1920. Mr. Green left the pub in January 1923 and between then and 1940 there were four more landlords. Mrs. Ethel Green became the landlady on 2nd May 1940 (No relation to Frederick Green). As women were not really allowed



Mrs Ethel Green outside The New Bath Hotel

to become licensees of public houses at this time unless they were taking over from their husbands, she had to get a magistrate, Mr. Sellers from Castleton, to vouch for her. The pub was owned by the Old Albion Brewery, Ecclesall Road, Sheffield. Many of these small breweries no longer exist having had to close down or have been taken over by larger breweries. Some of the pubs tied to these larger breweries were eventually sold to private owners. It would appear that a Mr. George Harris was the first person to buy the Bath from the brewery on 29th April 1971. The Bath has been sold many times since then and the owners in 2006 were Elizabeth & Steven Flemington.

The White Hart Inn

The White Hart Inn in Town Gate is the only pub in the village to never have had a car park for patrons. From just after the start of the 20th century, in 1908 when John Knowles became the landlord, the pub would remain in his family for the next fifty years. It was during 1916 that John's brother James Henry Knowles took over the responsibility of licensee and continued until he died in February 1937, leaving his widow Clara to take over, but this was only until 1940 when her daughter Evelyn with her husband Marshall (known to all his friends as Mac) Gibbons took over and ran the White Hart for the next 18 years. The pub was owned by John Smith Breweries of Tadcaster who eventually sold it to a private owner. It has been sold quite a few times since but is once again owned by a brewery - the Green King Brewery from Bury St. Edmonds and the licensee in 2006 was Jeanne Mason. The White Hart has always been known for the carol singing in the pub on Christmas Day dinner time, when traditionally at this time the Bradda Anthem (Peace O`er the World) is sung.



The White Hart

The Bowling Green

The final pub in Bradwell to be mentioned is the Bowling Green in Smalldale. William Shaw took over the licence on 15th January 1914 from the previous landlord Charles Brown. William Shaw ran the pub for the next 23 years for the Tomlinson Anchor Brewery until December 1936 when the licence was taken over by Joseph Rodgers Francis Mills who had to pay £114-15s-3d (One hundred and fourteen pounds fifteen shillings and threepence old money) being the value of the furniture, fixtures, fittings, utensils, stock in trade and effects on the premises of the Bowling Green Inn. The publican's licence for selling beer and spirits in 1936 was fourteen pounds and an additional five shillings and threepence to sell tobacco and snuff, this licence lasted for the next 12 months. On 29th October 1942 Joseph's wife Beatrice Annie Mills, took over the licence. Mrs. Mills was such a work horse and she was involved with many organisations. She was a very keen member of the Bradwell Women's Institute and raising money at Whist Drives held at the Bowling Green. Mrs. Mills came up with the idea of a nursery room on railway platforms and of a nursery coach on trains after spending a hot tiring day in Chesterfield in July 1945, with her daughter Joyce and baby



Mrs Beatrice Mills

granddaughter Zoë. It was when Zoë got hungry and ready for a feed that they realised it was impossible to find somewhere to go in private to see to the baby's needs. Mrs. Mills being a woman of great determination did not forget about it and as president of the Bradwell Women's Institute felt sure something could be done about it, so her next step was to consult her friend Mrs. Hilda Morton, also a member of the Women's Institute, they made a sketch of the coach they wanted and all the fittings they thought necessary and a Sheffield draughtsman copied the plan to scale. The 72 members of the Bradwell Women's Institute and also Bamford Women's Institute endorsed the plans and they came up on the agenda of the annual meeting of the Federation of Women's Institutes for Derbyshire and again it was passed. However it did take some time before something was done about it, but Mrs. Mills won in the end! Another great effort that Mrs. Mills was involved with was the war charities, and the charity known as the Bradwell Benevolent Fund was registered as a recognised charity by the Derbyshire County Council. This was to provide funds to help their next of kin to visit sick and wounded soldiers in hospital and to help the service men when they returned home. The administrative centre for this charity was at the Bowling Green Inn. On the lighter side, Mrs. Mills invited the then famous radio entertainer Wilfred Pickles to come to the Bowling Green, but he wrote back to say unfortunately his week in Sheffield was so fully booked that he was unable to take advantage of her kind offer. He hoped to have the pleasure of seeing her next time he came to Sheffield. It was during and after the war that beer was delivered

by chain driven Sentinel Steam Lorries to the Bowling Green. Beatrice was also involved with reviving the village well-dressing, the first being at the Bowling Green during Carnival Week in the summer of 1949. Beatrice Mills continued to run the pub until the summer of 1956 when John Howard became the new landlord. It would appear then to have been sold by the Hope & Anchor Brewery to Donald George Southwell on 1st June 1966. Thereafter there have been various owners. In 1999 John Booth, who was the owner at the time, converted the barns at the side of the pub into 6 Bed & Breakfast units. The current owner is Angela Ryan bought the Bowling Green in July 2004 and continued to run it as very successful eating place alongside the Bed & Breakfasts until her recent departure f(2007) or the Queen Anne at Great Hucklow.



The Bowling Green Inn

The Newburgh Club

Mr. Isaac Middleton owned the Newburgh Engineering Works on the Netherside where he converted the farm buildings, at the side of the old Newburgh Arms, into offices downstairs and a Dance

Hall upstairs, although at that time there was no license to serve alcohol in the Dance Hall. However as time progressed new offices were built and Mr. Middleton applied to the Licensing Authority for permission to convert the old offices into a Social Club for the workers at the Newburgh. A license was granted in 1961 and the Newburgh Club opened where locals could pay a small fee yearly and become members of the Club, which many did. The first Club Steward was Jack Coldwell, who was also a shop foreman on the works. Mr. Middleton had a lot of respect for Jack and knew it would be a success in his capable hands, which it was and it grew in popularity, with dances still continuing to be held upstairs and the bar downstairs. Eventually Jack retired from the job as Steward and he was followed by a number of Stewards over the years, with George Saxon being probably one of the longest serving Stewards, and it still continued to grow in popularity with Bingo being played on Tuesday and Friday nights and gradually the new Stewards introduced Saturday night Cabaret Shows with comedians, live groups etc. Many 'occasions' were celebrated in the upstairs room with great success. It could be said that in its heyday it was like the hub of the village, everybody seemed to meet up in 'the Club'. Sadly however, things changed, as they often do over the years, and it was eventually decided by the owners that it would have to close. It is believed quite a few people came up with ideas of how it could be kept open (that's how important it was to the village at the time) but unfortunately all ideas failed and the doors were finally closed on the 10th August 1997. You will still here the villagers saying 'do you remember the good old days we had in the Club' and how they miss going there for a pint!