

Abbot Cook, London Road, originally named the **Jack of Both Sides**. Joseph Pickett was licensee in 1841 and remained so till around 1865 when Edwin Moss took over. In one directory Moss is described as a fly proprietor, livery stable keeper and victualler. After a brief tenure by John Loveday, Joseph Watts was in charge during the 1880s but by 1891 the licensee was George Talbot, then aged 33. George ran the pub for many years, latterly assisted by his daughter, Mary, as barmaid, and then in or before 1911 his third son, Herbert Lawrence Talbot took over, remaining landlord for the best part of 30 years. A 'German band' used to play here in 1913, 'one outside the pub and two inside'.

The stability provided by the Talbot dynasty was quite in contrast to the post-war period when changes of licensee became much more frequent and the pub gradually acquired a less pleasant reputation in which the supply of illegal substances played a part. It was described in *Reading Between the Lines* (1984-5) as 'usually in a state of being boycotted owing to the type of landlord Courage insist on placing there'. It was taken over in the late 1990s by the It's a Scream brand and renamed Upin Arms; the punning did not stop at the pub sign but included the designation of the toilets. Following a change in the policy of the Mitchell and Butlers pub group it was renamed **Abbot Cook** in 2010 with a new emphasis on real ale and food. This latest appellation is a reference to Hugh Faringdon Cook, the last Abbot of Reading, who was executed for high treason in 1539 by his erstwhile friend, King Henry VIII and who also has a Roman Catholic secondary school to his name in the Southcote district of Reading.

Acorn. This was the last name of the **Goat**, which see.

Admiral. See **Sailor's Home**.

Albert Arms. This was a beerhouse located next door to the Castle Inn at 15-17 Castle St., later renumbered as 24-26 and was presumably named in honour of Queen Victoria's consort. Ellen Thomas was recorded as a retailer of beer at this address in 1852. Licensees during the later 19th century included George Lainsbury (1865 and 1871), George Dere (1879), T Legg (also 1879), Henry Thomas Flippance (1883/4) and William Herbert Hord (1889). In 1915 Walter J. Slater is recorded as a beer retailer at No 26, Castle Street, although No 24 had by this time become a bootmaker's. There also appears to have been a pub called the **Albert** in Friar Street during the 1860s and 70s.

Albion Tavern, 7 Alfred St. The Albion Brewery was also located at 7 Alfred St between 1827 and 1854. Arthur Piercy is listed as the landlord in 1847 and Charles Bickham in 1854. Slater's 1852 directory confusingly shows the Albion at 7 Chatham Street with George Gibbs as licensee. In 1856 the pub was acquired, possibly on leasehold, by Pittman's brewery of Goring, which eventually became Gundry and Co. Appropriately between 1863 and 1877 the landlord was Alfred Boseley, a relation perhaps of Dymore Boseley, who was running the Catherine Wheel during the same period; at this time there was also a W. Boseley, trading as a tobacconist in West Street. John Bowyer was Mine Host in 1887, followed by

George Cox at the time of the 1891 census. George Jay, a native of Brixton, is the first recorded 20th century licensee, followed in 1903 by James South and in 1911 by Frederick George Godwin with the address now changed to 17 & 19 Alfred St. During his tenure the pub was rebuilt by Gundry's in the inter-war period but was sold when the brewery closed in 1940, possibly to Nicholson's of Maidenhead. Godwin continued in charge until around 1950, when presumably following his decease Mrs J. Godwin took over the reins.

Alehouse. See **Cock, London Tavern** and **Hobgoblin**.

Alfred's Head, 148 Chatham St. The Saxon king, Alfred the Great (871-99), was a native of Berkshire but whether this was the reason for this pub naming is unclear. In 1879, Joseph Palmer was listed as licensee and curiously is also listed in 1869 as resident at 69 Chatham Street, although without any apparent connection with beer. By 1884, his wife, Eliza had assumed the licence. By the 1891 census the long connection of the Hooper family with the pub had begun with Francis Hooper, a 30-year old native of Bath and a carpenter by trade, the publican. In 1914, Fraser Henry Hooper is shown as a beer retailer at 148 Chatham St. Fifty years later Mr. W. Morgan is shown at this address. In its later days the Alfred's Head was a Wethered's pub but was converted to a restaurant circa 2006.

Alley Bar, Union St. This was a sadly short-lived new bar that opened in this pedestrian thoroughfare in 1990, selling real ales and with live music events. It was so-called because Union St. is almost universally known to the people of Reading as 'Smelly Alley' in reference to the several fishmongers and butchers trading there.

Alto Lounge. This new café bar style pub in Caversham, opened in 2011, is part of a chain wherein the word 'Lounge' is preceded by a word ending in 'o'. See also **Bosco Lounge**.

Allied Arms. The Allied Arms at 57 St Mary's Butts, is a Grade II Listed building, which was described by architectural historian, Godwin Arnold, as a 'half-timbered building of the 16th century'. Rear outbuildings, dated to the 1920s are said to incorporate remains of a former nunnery including a well; further evidence to support this argument was unearthed during archaeological investigation of the intervening area between the pub and St Mary's Church in 2011. However, the Allied Arms only appears to have become a pub at some time following the passing of the Duke of Wellington's Beerhouse Act of 1830. John Baldwin is recorded as a beer retailer at this address in 1850/ 52. It is said to have acquired its present name during the Crimean War (1853-6) when the bar window was painted with the flags of England, France and Turkey, who were the allies in that conflict – when Turkey ceased to be an ally it was blotted out!

The Allied incorporated a brewery between 1878 and 1890, during most of which time Thomas Jerome (landlord since the 1860s to his death in 1887) was brewer, specializing in Home Brewed Stout. Present owner, Steve Rolls, however, considers it likely that brewing antedated Jerome and that prior to the premises obtaining an on-licence beer was brewed for sale to the off-trade. The pub subsequently came into the hands of Hewett's and later Simonds. Edward Randall was licensee at the turn of the century through to 1916, when succeeded by his wife, Mary. George Warner was another long-reigning landlord from the 1930s through to the 50s. Mr. A. E. Hingley is listed in 1964.

In the 1960s the pub is said to have been frequented by Irishmen working on the construction of the M4. One landlord reportedly caused a riot by deciding to call time two minutes early with the unhappy barman detailed to convey the message being grabbed the neck and suffering near-asphyxiation! In the 1980s Albert Smith was a popular landlord succeeded for a time by his widow, Sandra. After a number of shorter tenancies the pub was taken over by Moya and Steve Rolls in 2003 and has since become a popular 'real ale' outlet in the town, especially noted for its spacious rear garden, and fortnightly quizzes in support of the Thames Valley Air Ambulance Service.

Anchor (1). The Anchor stood at the corner of London St. and Albion St., now part of London Rd, and its address has variously been shown as 30 Albion Street, 69 London Street and 123-5 London Street. Thomas Harbor, whose son enlisted in the 7th Hussars during the Peninsular War, was landlord for nearly 30 years (1800-28). Could the son have been one of those who took the King's shilling during the Hussars' recruitment campaign at the Sun Inn (which see)? William Hope served for almost as long as Thomas Harbor (1842-67) and Daniel Toovey for 20 years, beginning in 1874. In the 1880s the pub's demolition was recommended by William Darter in the interests of road safety: 'The corner of this inn has an acute angle, and about six feet from it, across the pavement, is another angle with a lamp-post.' Since there were at least eight other inns or beer-houses within a radius of 150 yards, Darter did not consider that its loss would greatly inconvenience the drinking community which was indeed deprived of its services around the turn of the 19th century.

Anchor (2) This was evidently the tap bar for the Anchor Brewery, which was located at 30 Broad St up to 1856. See Breweries section.

Ancient Foresters. Blatch's Brewery in Theale seems to have produced the least loved beer in the Reading area but it had a few outlets in the town including the Ancient Foresters at 29 Oxford Rd. The pub name may possibly have been related to meetings of the friendly society with that title. The original house was rebuilt in 1900 to designs of George William Webb. Landlords in the late 19th and early 20th centuries included A. Booth (1863), George Reeve (c. 1870-88), Henry Willis who in the 1890s combined the trades of publican and tilemaker, William Quartermaine, Dick Quartermaine and Charlie Day. Altogether, the two Quartermaines ran the

pub for around 40 years from the beginning of the 20th century. Once cannot help wondering whether they had the swashbuckling character of their near-namesakes in the novels of H. Rider Haggard!

In the 1950s, according to Raymond Quelch, it 'was used by theatre goers, and some of the artists from the Palace Theatre in Cheapside. Inside was a mixed bar, a smokers only bar, a men only bar and a women only bar.' Artists who may have supped here include Max Miller, Tommy Trinder, Tony Hancock, Gert and Daisy (Elsie and Doris Waters) and Billie Cotton and his band (all legends of the present writer's childhood). The pub did not long survive the theatre's demise in 1960; it was eventually demolished for construction of what is now Broad St Mall, formerly the Butts Centre.

Angel. The Angel at 116 Broad Street developed from a 16th century brewhouse to become by 1785 one of Reading's leading coaching inns. This was the date when the new 'flying' coach service from the Angel Inn to the Bolt and Tun, Fleet Street was announced in the Reading Mercury. In 1825 it was the starting point for Royal Forester coaches to London via Wokingham, Bracknell and Staines and it also hosted the Original Dart to Oxford via Abingdon and Pinnock's to Southampton, all of these daily services. A Mr. White was licensee of the **Angel** in the early 19th century and after his death in 1820 it was run by William Parsons up until 1863 when it was acquired by W H Ferguson and Sons. Census returns suggest that Parsons was born around 1769 (the same year as Napoleon and Wellington) and outlived both of them. During the first half of the century a notable personage at the inn was Philip Bayle, whose portrait was painted in 1843 by a local artist named Butler, commemorating his thirty years as 'Boots' at the Angel.

Ferguson commissioned William Brown, best known as the architect of Reading Cemetery, to design additions and alterations in 1863 and 1870. The Angel Brewery operated for some fifty years and was also known, as was the inn, as Fergusons, acquiring a number of other pubs. Henry Adams and various members of the Hancock family are listed as managers during the period 1910-50. In 1914, Morlands of Abingdon took an interest in the company and brewing of Fergusons' 'Anglo-Saxon Beer and Nourishing Stout' ceased. (See Breweries Section).

The Angel itself was demolished in 1964 and the site was subsequently occupied by British Home Stores and Clinton Cards. Latterly the range of beers included Archangel 7X Stout, a beer so potent that it was 'rationed' by the management. The décor comprised representations in Doulton tilework of boating, cricket and rugby scenes, designed by the ceramic artist, William Rowe, who worked for Doultons from 1883 to 1939. Raymond Quelch recalls this and other aspects of the Angel's outfit: 'This was a lovely pub, green glazed tiles on the lower part extending through into the bars. In the bar that I used were three pictures, all in tiles, surrounded by the green glazed tiles. The first was a boating scene of when they used to still wear caps when racing. The second was a cricket scene from long past, when the bats were curved at the bottom and very thick.'

Anglers Arms. This pub was located at the corner of Leopold Road and Albert Road in Newtown and at the time that it was demolished during the 1970s rebuilding of the district the address was 48-50 Albert Road. In 1865, its address is given as Alfred Place with John May as landlord. In the later 19th century landlords included G. B. Parks and John Mayne, while in the early 20th century it was kept by members of the Titchiner family, Frederick William, followed by his son Albert F. 'Bert' Titchiner in the 20s; Bert seems to have been born at the pub in 1898. They dispensed beer from the Simonds (later Courage) brewery in Reading.

Artigiano, 81 Broad Street. Opened in 2014, this is one of a small chain of 'independently owned Espresso and Wine Bars'. The range of products includes craft beers and it may be said that this amenity revives a tradition of hospitality at this end of Broad Street that has been absent since the departure of the Peacock, Rocksands etc.

Back of Beyond, 104-8 Kings Rd. This new pub was J. D. Wetherspoon's second outlet in Reading when it opened in late-1996, following the Monk's Retreat, two years earlier. The spacious premises, reaching down to the Kennet, had previously been a very large off-licence or 'wine warehouse'. Following a conversion costing a reported £800,000, Cliff Wilds and Daniela Slade were the first managers. With the 2016 disposal of the Monks' it is now the senior 'Spoons' in Reading.

Anglers Rest. A former name of the **Thames Tavern**, which see.

Bakers Arms. See **Butler**.

Bali Lounge. See **Warwick Arms**.

Bargeman's Cottage. This house in King's Road flourished in the 1840s and 1850s under John Serney, beer retailer, but seems to have passed into oblivion thereafter. It was located on the south side of the road between Wynford Street and Watlington Lane; this would suggest that the new development replacing the King's Point block will occupy its site.

Barley Mow. The **Barley Mow**, 55 (previously 107) London St, was a pub before the 19th century and was an unofficial headquarters of the Tory party during the 1812 Election when 'a butt of strong beer was drawn on a truck and left opposite the Barley Mow' with a view to eliciting favour from voters in the good old days when 'treating' was not an offence. According to Darter, 'a clumsy fellow in tapping it lost a lot, which escaped into the gutter' and thence into the throats of 'some of the roughs'. The Barley Mow was also a recruiting office for the Royal Horse Guards (known as the Blues) during the Peninsular War and the venue for meetings of The Hand in Hand, a friendly society in the 1820s. At this time it belonged to the Stephens brewery in Mill Lane and thence passed following

takeovers successively into the hands of Messrs Blandy and Hawkins, Simonds and Courage. Despite frequent changes of landlord with 25 during the 19th century, of which Thomas Oldfield (1806-23) stayed the longest, the Barley Mow survived well into the 20th and achieved stability under the proprietorship of James Wyeth (from 1907) followed by Mrs. Mary Wyeth who carried on until the mid-50s. Wyeth survived an attempt to remove his licence during the First World War when he was fined £3 for allowing drinking to take place after 9pm in contravention of the Intoxicating Liquor (Temporary Restriction) Act 1914. At the Reading Borough Police Court in June 1915, the two customers were fined 10s (50p) or seven days behind bars for consuming beer after hours. Happily, when the police objected to the renewal of Wyeth's licence, when next up for renewal, he escaped with a caution.

In the 1920s it was advertised as serving 'SIMONDS' CELEBRATED ALES and STOUTS on draught. BASS and GUINNESS'S. The Popular House of Call for Cyclists and Motorists. Cosy and Comfortable.' Latterly a Courage house, the Barley Mow finally closed its doors in the early 1980s. The buildings were subsequently occupied by a firm of solicitors and Amethyst (non-alcoholic) Wines and later by estate agents. There also appears to have been a Barley Mow in Tilehurst (not then part of Reading) in the 1850s.

Baron Cadogan, 22-24 Prospect St, Caversham. This new Wetherspoons pub, opened in 1997, is named after the baronial family that rebuilt Caversham Park and is known colloquially as the 'Brown Cardigan'. The original Baron was William Cadogan (1675-1726), a general under Marlborough, who was raised to the peerage as Lord Cadogan of Reading in 1716 and later was created an Earl and served as Master-general of the Ordnance in Robert Walpole's first cabinet. The earldom died with him but he was succeeded as Baron by his brother, Charles, who had previously been MP for Reading. It is perhaps remarkable that no pub has ever been named after some of Reading's other famous MPs. One thinks especially of Rufus Isaacs, first Marquess of Reading, former MP, Lord Chief Justice and Viceroy of India!

The **Battle Inn**'s address is 2-4 Bedford Rd but it fronts onto the Oxford Road. The name is remotely connected with 1066 and the Battle of Hastings since this area of Reading once belonged to Battle Abbey, erected by William I in commemoration of his victory at Hastings. In 1887, the landlord was Joseph Smith. The pub formed part of the Simonds (later Courage) estate till 1977 when it went to Allied Breweries in one of the frequent pub swaps of that era, undertaken to reduce local monopolies. Although an Ind Coope pub at least nominally, a strong Irish influence probably meant that most of the beer drink came from Guinness. This writer recalls a visit in the early 1980s when an Irishman stood up and sang a multi-verse rebel song, paused to visit the gents and on return continued where he had left off. This may well have been the author's last visit! In the mid Noughties it became a Polish pub named 'Gospoda', catering for the needs of the influx of Polish immigrants before being renamed the Royal in 2012.

Beadles. Situated near the eastern end of Broad Street, this late 20th century wine-bar type venue later became known as Rocksands, and then a restaurant. It included a cellar-bar with a waterfall effect.

Bear. Among the oldest inns in Reading were those bearing the sign of the **Bear**, with the earliest recorded mention in 1483. Originally these were of the Black and Golden variety (see also **Golden Bear**), the former located in Bridge St close to the Kennet while the latter seems to have stood close to the north-western corner of Castle Street. In some source material it is not always clear which of the two is being referred to.

The **Black Bear** was the one that survived the longer and in time became known as the plain **Bear**. Nevertheless, it enjoyed a dubious reputation with at least one distinguished traveller. John Byng (1743-1813), later 5th Viscount Torrington, in his account of his *Rides Round Britain*, describes a night at the inn in July 1787 during a journey to South Wales: ‘...and were at the Black Bear, Reading, before our ladies arrived. Supper order’d, and quickly served, with a bowl (again) of sour and weak punch: we sat up till eleven o’clock, and were cheerful; but when I went to bed, I fancied the sheets damp and so to my sides there were only blankets.’

A century earlier the **Bear** had played its part in Reading ‘s military history. In 1688 it was scene of the ‘Battle of Reading’ – more of a skirmish perhaps, though one which saw the only blood drawn during the ‘Glorious Bloodless Revolution’. As Defoe described the scene in his *Tour through the Whole Island of Great Britain*, ‘the first party of Dutch found a company of foot soldiers drawn up in the church-yard over against the Bear Inn, and a troop of dragoons in the Bear Inn yard’.

Over a century later, the poet, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, escaping from creditors in Cambridge, enlisted in the 15th Light Dragoons under the unlikely name of Silas Tomkins Comberpatch and was billeted at the Bear Inn in December 1793. He is alleged to have written a quotation from his Roman predecessor, Boethius, on the stable wall to express his misery: *Eheu quam infortunii miserrimum est fuisse felicem* (Alas, how it is the most wretched of misfortune to have been happy). This flourish of learning is said to have alerted his superior officer to a suspicion that he was not quite what he purported to be. One John Spratley was innkeeper at this time.

A more infamous visitor was Governor Joseph Wall who was held at the inn in 1784 after his arrest for the murder by flogging of one of his troops in the African island colony of Goree, now part of Senegal. Wall escaped through a window of the Bear and subsequently evaded justice for 18 years before suffering the due punishment of the law in 1802.

The **Bear** must be one of the few pubs in Reading or anywhere to have its ‘natural history’ discussed in literature. On 2nd September 1774 Gilbert White wrote to

Thomas Pennant in a letter that later formed part of his classic, *The Natural History of Selborne*: 'In the garden of the Black-bear inn in the town of Reading is a stream or canal running under the stables and out into the fields on the other side of the road; in this water are many carps, which lie rolling about in sight, being fed by travellers, who amuse themselves by tossing them bread: but as soon as the weather grows at all severe these fishes are no longer seen, because they retire under the stables, where they remain till the return of spring. Do they lie in a torpid state? if they do not, how are they supported?'

In the first half of the 19th century the **Bear** was run by the Tagg family, some of whose tombstones can still be seen in St Giles' Churchyard, immediately adjacent to Southampton Street. James Tagg (died 1817) is to be found there, along with his brother, Henry, who was an upholsterer in London St. James had been cook to the 2nd Viscount Palmerston, father of the future Prime Minister, before taking over the old Bear in 1801. Darter in *Recollections of an Octogenarian* gives 1811 as date of 'completion of the [new] Bear Hotel.' Anna Tagg was licensee in 1823 but by 1827 John James Tagg was the licensee and also operated his own brewery on the site from 1828 to 1856, when succeeded by James Tagg, junior. By 1865, the Taggs had finally departed with William Pike, victualler, listed at the Bear inn in that year.

On 28 May 1814 'the birthday of Mr Pitt was celebrated...by a humorous and respectable meeting of gentlemen of this town and neighbourhood.' In 1826 the Bear was host to a party including the Lord Mayor of London, William Venables, on the return leg of a trip to Oxford in the State Barge and four years later a grand dinner was held to mark the retirement of Dr Richard Valpy as Head of Reading School. In 1834, the inn was the scene of a meeting of local landowners, gathered to protest against the proposed Great Western Railway. This no doubt involved a measure of self-interest on the part of John James Tagg as the railways threatened to kill his trade, so that by 1842 we find him advertising the fact that 'omnibuses, flys, phaetons and gigs await the arrival of every train'.

Despite the best efforts of the Taggs and their successors, who included the nearby Justins-Brinn Truro Brewery, the **Bear** declined in importance with the passing of the stage coach era and, after being taken over by Simonds Brewery in 1897, it was partly demolished in 1910. Landlords in the later 19th and early 20th centuries included John Edward Wallace, William Anderson, Frederick George and Sophia Burgess (c. 1903-24) and Albert Harry (Bert) Rex who was in charge from the early 1920s until the Bear finally closed its doors in 1938 to make way for road improvements. The licence and the name then passed to a new pub in Tilehurst.

However, the outset of war delayed the road improvements and the Bear was instead absorbed into Simonds' brewery, housing office space including sales accounts and storage. Ultimately, the closure of the brewery finally sealed the inn's fate and in spite of being listed the Bear disappeared from the landscape in 1983.

Its memory has been preserved in a new housing development on the River Kennet named 'Bear Wharf'.

Bear (2). Located at 160 Park Lane, Tilehurst, the new **Bear** quickly became well-known as the terminus of the equally new trolleybus route A, now known as the No 17, which opened in May 1939, linking Tilehurst with Earley (the Three Tuns). Otherwise its 75-year career has been fairly unremarkable. In the mid-noughties, an attempt to rebrand it as an English Pub with Thai Restaurant under the name '**Bear and Dragon**' failed and the pub closed in 2008. More recently, however, it has reopened as the **Water Tower** and Reading Buses timetables now incorporate the new name.

Bedford Arms, 26 & 28 Bedford Rd (previously No. 14). This pub flourished in the later 19th and early 20th centuries and like the street in which it was situated seems to have commemorated the Dukes of Bedford, probably, as Adam Sowan puts it, 'just a borrowing from Burke's Peerage, with no local connexion'. In 1865, when it was numbered 14, the landlord was James House, possibly in partnership with Thomas Wernham, both being listed as 'beer sellers' in Macaulay's Directory of that year. House's reign seems to have stretched from c. 1854 to 1877. Later licensees included George Cox (c. 1881-90), George Soane (c.1891-1911), Thomas Sharpe in (c.1914-20) and Ernest George Spong, whose tenure covered most of the inter-war years. Post war landlords included Frank Clayson and Edward Rex.

Beehive (1). **Beehive Commercial Hotel** was formerly at 169 Friar St but by 1900 the address had changed to 11, Broad St (north side). Charles Martin also operated a brewery at the Beehive in the mid-19th century (See Breweries section). By 1875 he had been succeeded by Thomas Shephard, a Yorkshireman, who styled himself as both a licensed victualler and 'eating house keeper'. Henry Tidy was listed at the Broad Street address in 1915 but it would appear to have closed during the 1920s.

Beehive (2). The town's other **Beehive** was situated at 13 St John's Road, on the corner of St John's Street. Samuel Spyer seems to have been the earliest recorded publican in 1875, and he was followed from the late 80s to the turn of the century by Joshua (not Jethro!) Tull, who had previously kept the Thames Restaurant. 20th century licensees included George Batten, Charles Hopping, who also taught swimming at the Baths, George Frederick Mason, Charles and Emily Walters and Harry Deadman. In 1911, a police officer roused George Batten from his slumbers when a check-up after midnight showed that the pub was not secure. When he got downstairs Batten stepped into a pool of water, lost his temper and used bad language. Had up on New Year's Eve he pleaded guilty to the offence and was fined 10s (50p) or 5 days. This resulted in the loss of his licence in 1912.

The house was owned successively by the Maidenhead brewers, Fullers (no connection with the more famous brewers of Chiswick) and Nicholsons and thus passed into Courage's hands along with the brewery in 1959. It was acquired by

Morlands in 1992 but was shortly afterwards sold off and converted to private dwellings (known as Beehive Cottages) – kind thanks this for the enthusiasm with which the locals, despite consisting almost entirely of Irish Guinness-drinkers, signed up to a petition brought in by the author to save the brewery from a hostile takeover by Messrs. Greene King!

Bel and the Dragon. The **Bel and the Dragon** at Blakes Lock is a 2004 conversion of parts of an old pumping station that had previously housed a folk museum into a high class pub/ restaurant. The name refers to an incident in the Greek (Septuagint) version of the *Book of Daniel*, which is not found in the Hebrew original. In the view of this writer the choice of name unfortunately duplicates that of the once unique appellation of the ancient inn in Cookham village, which was rather unsympathetically modernised and subsequently cloned several times over by its new owner, starting in the mid-1990s. Because of its industrial heritage the building is listed Grade II.

Bell (1). The Bell, also known as the Guildhall Inn, vies with the George for the honour of being Reading's oldest recorded hostelry. It was situated in High Street and owned by the Gild or Guild, the predecessor body to the Town Council. In 1429/30 the Gild received 12d (5p) in rent from John Hende, together with a further 4d (1.5p) for 'rent of a new stable there'. Three years later the Gild was obliged to hire a carpenter for a day for the purpose of repairing the 'Guildhall inn' at a cost of 6d (2.5p). Later tenants in the mediaeval period were William Baron and Richard Wrattesley, squire. In 1626, a runaway apprentice from London, Robert Woodd ran up a bill of 40s (£2.0) over four days at the Bell. He even had the bare-faced cheek to tip the servants 4s!

In 1636 the Bell featured in a case brought before the Corporation in which Johann Dambrell accused 'John Stevens of Dunsdew, in Oxford-shiere' of getting her with child. Johann despite her protestations seems to have been a somewhat flighty young lady: 'In that tyme she was in companye with one Goodman Browne, neighbor to John Stevens, whiche made love to her, as she thought, at the Bell, in Readinge, and from thence Browne and she went to the house of one Nathaniell Blacknall in the night tyme and there stayed until the morning...., and then the said John Stevens went with her to bringe her to her Master's house.... And the said John Stevens and she went both into the Vasternes, and there he begot her with childe, and that noe man had knowledge of her bodye but he.'

It would seem likely that the Bell disappeared during the extensive alterations to the town centre that took place in the 18th century.

Bell (2). Reading's second hostelry called the **Bell** was in Church Lane, later known as Church Street, off London Street. At various times during the 19th century it was numbered 11, 13 and 18-20. Publicans during this period and later included John Turner (born 1781) in between 1823 and 1844, Joseph Keates ca. 1850, William Barnes between 1851 and 1864 and John Josey, 'timber-merchant and

innkeeper' in 1865 and 1871. By 1881, the pub was back in the hands of a Barnes, this time John but as he was a native of Corfe Castle, Dorset and the aforesaid William hailed from Shinfield, this may be purely coincidental. One of their lodgers was a biscuit factory worker. The second tribe of Barnes did not stay long with Charles Sumner following in 1883. He seems to have been briefly succeeded in 1887 by Henry Eades who is listed as beer retailer at 21 Church St although the landlord of the Bell is still given as Charles Sumner. However, by 1888 James S Packer was landlord, combining these duties with those of a whitesmith. Packer saw in the new century and was followed by William George Turner, Harry Ernest Walker and Alfred Blake, who seems to have been the last landlord during the 1920s.

Bell (3). Bell, 928 Oxford Rd. This was a 20th century creation, perhaps assuming the licence of the former Bell, and was part of the Simonds/ Courage empire until 1977 when it passed to Ind Coope in the pub swaps of that year, as coincidentally did Maidenhead's Bell. It was renamed the **Restoration** in 1989 and for a short period boasted a bar billiards team but at time of writing it has been closed for several years.

Ben Nevis. In 1842 Williams Annetts senior and in 1865 Cornelius Griffin are listed respectively as 'beer shop' and beer seller at 71 Silver Street; Annetts carried on the additional trade of gardener. At a later date when the upper part of Silver Street became known as Mount Pleasant this establishment was named appropriately perhaps as Ben Nevis with a Mrs. Healey in charge. Arthur Henry Hodges was a later licensee of the pub, which did not survive long into the 20th century.

Ben's Bar – see Borough Arms.

Berkshire Hog. This establishment, situated at 3 West St., was advertised for sale in 1852: 'Freehold Dwelling and Beer Shop known as the 'Berkshire Hog' in the occupation of Mr Abraham Clarkson at £28 per annum....containing Bar, Tap-room, Parlour, 4 Beds, Etc. Also at the rear a yard, Carpenter's shop and loft over, cow shed, piggery etc.' In 1854 one Peter Freebody is listed as beer retailer at the premises and curiously there is another hog of the Berkshire persuasion at 27 Minster Street, operated by Charles Franklin. Both of these enterprises appear to have been very short-lived. In 1865 William Sarjent is listed at 3 West Street, as steel tip maker and ironmonger, possibly utilizing the workshop described in the 1852 advertisement. The Freebodys were a notable family, involved in ferrying and boatbuilding as well as the licensed trade. A Peter Freebody appears in the 1861 census as a waterman dwelling in castle Street.

Berkshire Inn. With an address given variously as 214 and 252 Kings Rd, this was the tap associated with the Berkshire Brewery that occupied 216 Kings Rd from 1865 to 1887. In the latter year the landlord was Frederick Wallis and earlier publicans included James Walters (1854), George Coleing, who gave place to George Telf in July 1870, John Goddard (1875) and Joseph Crisp (1881), the last-

named a native of Wakefield, Yorkshire. Thereafter for a period of around 60 years the pub was kept by various members of the Higgs family: Eliza Higgs, widow, in 1891, succeeded by her sons Albert Thomas Higgs (1895) and Samuel Harry G. Higgs (c. 1900-40); finally in 1949 Roger Higgs appears in Kelly's Directory of that year. The Higgs family also ran the Lion Brewery in Castle Street (See Breweries Section). The pub was replaced by the Cap and Gown (later King's Tavern, which see.) operated by Wethered's, a member of the Whitbread group, which had acquired Higgs' business in 1953.

Bird-in-Hand (1), 38 Thorn St. This pub was kept by: John Wise in 1842; James Parker (1865), James Foster (1875), by George Forester (1879) and in 1887 by Thomas Kemp. It would seem to have disappeared shortly after the turn of the century, following the tenure of John Hopkins who appears in the 1901 census.

Bird-in-Hand (2), Leopold Rd, Newtown. A pub of this name was recalled by the late Charlie Wheeler but I have not been able to substantiate this information.

Bird-in-Hand (3), 14, Lower Armour Rd, Tilehurst. Early landlords included Richard Shingleton (1847) and George Ferris who in 1851 described himself as an innkeeper, master carpenter and wheelwright. Richard Armstrong, listed between 1877 and 1914, was a long-serving landlord of this pub. He was followed in the 1920s and into the 30s by Ernest J Bradley, who advertised a 'Veranda open to the Gardens, and Aviary containing over 50 Canary songsters.' A Simonds pub for many years it was rebuilt between the wars and towards the end of its history was one of the leading bar billiards pubs in the locality. However, in 2012, it was sold for residential use.

Biscuit Tin, Station Hill. Following the demolition of the existing buildings in Station Hill, this prefabricated 'op up' pub appeared in 2016. Providing a roof terrace and a welcome additional outlet for the beers of the West Berks brewery it is sad to consider that its lifespan may not be long, once the long-mooted redevelopment of the site gets under way.

Black Bear. See Bear.

Black Boy, 111 Broad St. This was one of the earlier losses of public houses to the retail trade, for it disappeared ca. 1875 in order to provide Heelas, the drapers (now John Lewis) with a Broad Street frontage for the first time. Charles Nicholas is listed as the licensee in 1796, George Cooper in 1823, Samuel Fisher in 1827, John Croker between 1842 and 1854 and towards the end of its career Ramsay Stewart (1854-65) and Jane Newland (1865-71). This is possibly the same Jane Newland who was previously employed at the Boar's Head in 1851 as a servant and housekeeper.

Black Bull. With the **Bulls**, as with the Bears, we face the problem of different shades and sites. A Black Bull is mentioned in the 1740s and is possibly to be

identified with the inn in Church Street near St Giles' where in April 1810 'The Worthy Knights of the Order of Malt & Hops held at Sir James Faulkner's, the 'Bull'... are respectfully informed, that the Quarterly Dinner will be held on Mon. 9th of April 1810. Dinner on the table at 7 o'clock precisely.' This was one of the friendly societies that flourished for charitable and convivial purposes at this time.

Black Horse (1). The **Black Horse** stood on the corner of London St and Queens Rd and is first mentioned in 1711. It is described by Smart as 'of red and silver grey brick construction' with 'two tile-hung dormers.' In 1809, during the May fair, the inn 'was robbed of notes to the value of upwards of £15 – the town was infested by mendicants and thieves and we are sorry to say that they succeeded in committing a number of deprivations.' In 1814 it was the scene of a banquet when 20 men with a combined age of 1,433 years gathered, following a bequest made for an annual dinner for '20 poor aged men.'

During the first half of the 19th century it was run successively by the Maslin and Wilkins families. Edward Wilkins was landlord in 1827, succeeded by Sarah, then 55, in 1841. After a briefer tenure by Edmund Peaple, it was run by John Taylor or Tayler from 1856-88. He advertised it to be let in 1888 as 'an old established Inn with large stable accommodation, situated in a good position in Reading.' His successor, however, one James South, only lasted five years. Frederick Goodwin held the licence at the turn of the century and another Frederick, surnamed Blackwell, from c. 1911-28. The building was listed in 1954 when one room included 18th century panelling but this did not prevent it being demolished to make way for Reading's Inner Distribution Road (IDR) in 1971. Latterly it had been put to somewhat ignominious use as the lost property office for Reading Corporation Transport.

The **Black Horse (2)** now occupies 16 Kidmore End Rd, Emmer Green but was originally located next to the Caversham Hill Chapel (which thereby earned the nickname of Black Horse Chapel) on Peppard Rd. In 1844 and 1854 Thomas Fewster is listed as landlord. At one time the pub was used by the Fire Brigade to park their cart.

The pub had moved to its present site by the 1870s. Later landlords have included Jesse Kirkpatrick in 1876 and 1879, William Heather in 1907, George Fletcher in 1914 and 1920, Percy Fisher (1924), William Charles Hawkins (1928) and Andrew Fisher (1964). In the 1980s an annual crawl in fancy dress taking in 10 Caversham pubs started from the Black Horse collecting for the Cleft Lip and Palate Association. In December 1987 they raised the impressive total of £224.

Black Lion, 74 Broad St. This establishment was venue for meetings of The Union Benefit, a friendly society in the 1820s. Licensees included Thomas Berris in 1827, James Giles (1830) and William Holmes from 1840 to 1854. According to Ernest Dormer the Liberal Club may have later occupied the site. However, by 1854, No

74 Broad Street is shown as the **Vine** (which see) and the latter appears to occupy the same position as the former **Black Lion**.

Black Swan. Reading's Swans are as complicated as its Bulls and Bears. The oldest seems to have been the one in Broad Street, which was possibly the **Black Swan**. In August 1635 Richard Hawkes was 'forbidden' for disorder at this hostelry: 'At this daye all the Victuallers within the Boroughe were warned to appear [before the Mayor and Corporation] and soe many of them as appeared and no accusations of disorder by the Constables laid against them, and sheweinge their licences, were dismissed and willed to keepe good order in their howses.'

The Black Swan survived this crisis for some two centuries. It was taken over in 1808 by a butcher, Mr. George Keep, who transferred his butchering business to the pub: 'Hopes by killing the very best meat to merit a continuance of past favours'. As for the inn: 'the public will meet with good beds, commodious stables and every other accommodation'. In March 1819 Mr J Humphreys took over but the inn seems to have ceased operations thereafter – there is no listing in Pigot's directory of 1827. See also **White Swan**.

Blaggrave Arms, 35 Blaggrave St. This pub dates from the later 19th century with Ann Luffman the earliest recorded licensee in 1879. Thereafter the house seems to have changed hands with some frequency, five different names appearing over the next 12 years including one Albert Woodhouse (1887). Some stability was reached with A. F. W. Blakiston (1893-1900) but then there are more comings and goings including, intriguingly perhaps to cricket fans, a Frederick Trueman in 1907. Again there was a return to stability with James Calder and Charles E. Forrest holding the licence successively from c. 1915 to 1940. Under the latter the premises were advertised as 'BLAGRAVE ARMS HOTEL. Commercial Hotel. Fully Licensed. 'Phone 1797. One minute from Stations.'

This Simonds (later Courage) house was restored in 1982 as an Edwardian pub complete with gas lamps with the comedian Roy Hudd, well-known for his championship of the Olde Time Music Hall, performing the reopening ceremony. Sadly the gas lamps were later been replaced by electric lighting and the pub's latest (2013) makeover has perhaps given it more of a wine bar than a pubby ambience. The names of the pub and its road clearly commemorate the 17th century Reading family which included a mathematician, an astrologer, a regicide and a flautist among its members.

Blue Anchor. A pub of this name has been identified in an 1854 directory, located on Upper Hosier Street, and kept by one Joseph Inggs. The Post Office Directory of the same date lists Charles Inggs, bricklayer and beer retailer, at 59-60 Upper Hosier Street. Other contemporary directories list a large number of otherwise anonymous beer shops in this district and perhaps this was a similar establishment, one of many that came into being in the wake of the 1830 Beer Act.

Blue Lion. One of the most notorious public houses in Old Coley was the **Blue Lion**, 1 Wolseley St, whose address was earlier given as Union Terrace, 19 Coley St. Early Landlords included Joseph Page in 1842 and James Crew in 1854. According to legend a bobby who optimistically tried to break up a domestic fracas outside the pub was thrown into the Holybrook. In 1903 this Simonds pub was rebuilt in somewhat grander style to designs by Ravenscroft Son and Morris.

Despite its reputation, the pub experienced a notable stability as regards management: the brothers, John and William Howard, ran it successively for some 30 years from 1865 and Thomas, Martha and William Doddington from the turn of the century into the 1920s. John Howard combined the office of beerseller with that of milkman and in census returns at the close of the century his brother is also described as a Dairyman. The Blue Lion closed on 1 January 1969 to make way for the Inner Distribution Road (IDR) and the luckless last landlord, Mr. P. A. Hodder, moved to the Little Crown which also closed later in the year.

Blue Post, 139 Friar St. This seems to have been one of the less successful pubs in the town, getting through seven landlords in 25 years from 1864. These included in 1864 R. Holloway, in 1870, T. G. Hendy, in 1879, J. Watts and in 1887/8 Thomas Cleverly. In Macaulays Directory of 1865 the premises are described as an 'eating and coffee house' under the proprietorship of Charles Collins. In 1900 this address is a confectioners.

The **Boar's Head (1)**. The original **Board's Head** at 26 Friar Street is mentioned in 1760, although the building was somewhat older. The first recorded owner is Thomas Florey, who had served as Mayor in 1749 and died in 1780. In 1785 it was acquired along with its own brewery by William Garrard, who also owned the Turks Head, Greyhound and Griffin and who gives his name to Garrard Street. Garrard declined to become mayor on the grounds that it would cost him too much! His sons were less canny and the brewery and pubs were sold to Hewett's. During a later sale in 1871 the inn was advertised as having six bedrooms, seven stables, four coach-houses, a malthouse and an abundant supply of excellent water.

In 1827 the pub was listed in Horniman's Directory as the **Golden Boar's Head**, possibly to distinguish it from the establishment in Broad St. The inquest on the railway worker, Henry West, 'blown to his death in a whirlwind' on 24th March 1840 took place at the **Boar's Head**. In Victorian times it was also popular with horse dealers using Benjamin Tompkin's Royal Horse and Carriage Repository (see also **Woolpack**) which was located on the site later occupied by the ABC Cinema. In 1956 Coopers opened a wine shop between the pub and the cinema, which was known as the Boar's Head Wine Shop.

19th and early 20th century proprietors included Richard Frewin, James Giles, Charles Chandler, William Annetts ('innkeeper and fly proprietor'), Charles Edward Rhoades, George Lovelock and successive members of the Walker family,

Richard, Percy and Frank (c. 1901-55). During Percy's tenure in the 1920s horses were still part of the scene, along with the new-fangled motor-car, as this advertisement illustrates:

YE BOAR'S HEAD
(P. & F. WALKER)

The Central House of the Town, next door to the Central Picture House. Three minutes from Stations, Theatre, Palace and Vaudeville. Bed and Breakfast (only) 5/6 each Person. Good Stabling and Garage for Cars under cover.

WINES and SPIRITS of the Best Quality.

FRIAR STREET, READING

No doubt the prefix 'Ye' helped to bolster up the claim to eminence suggested in the advert. Despite the dubious spoonerism of the Whore's Bed being applied to it, the Boars Head survived as a pub until recent years including threat of demolition in 1985, closure after fire in 1992 and reopening as a 'Magic Pub' in 1995. It closed finally in 2000 and was demolished in 2004 along with the adjacent Art Deco ABC (formerly Central) Cinema to be replaced by a somewhat mediocre hotel development. The boar's head itself is preserved in Reading Museum and is said in common parlance to weigh a ton.

Boar's Head (2), Broad Street. This was the earlier name of the **Cheddar Cheese**, which see.

Boat Builders Arms, 2-4 Watlington St. This pub flourished from around 1860 to the time of the Great War and was kept for many years by William Huggins, followed by Samuel Williams, Edward Randell and Henry Rivers. Williams combined bricklaying with his duties as publican.

Borough Arms (1). The **Borough Arms** at 138 (later 170) Kings Rd was altered in 1886 to designs by Samuel Wheeler. George Pusey was landlord in 1876 and George Rayment for most of the last two decades of the 19th century, followed by Charles George Kent. It was then part of the estate of Henry Bird's Weldale Brewery, passing into the hands of Wethered's of Marlow when they took over Bird's in 1913. David Willis was briefly landlord in 1914 and then successively Alfred Meecham, Harry Smith and Richard Samuel Leney ruled the roost. On his first visit to the Borough Arms in 1973 the author played table football; on later visits a pub pianist was found to be performing. Unhappily, a century after Wheeler's alterations this Wethered pub was demolished for redevelopment with the licence transferred to a bar incorporated in the new building. This traded initially as the Wine Press and later as Ben's Bar, a Thai restaurant with a separate bar area, selling Fuller's beer. However, it ceased trading during the first decade of the 21st century and the premises remain empty.

Borough Arms (2). This pub was in Willow Street in Old Coley, part of Morland's tied estate, closed and demolished in 1969 to facilitate the construction of the IDR.

Henry Guard was listed as a beerseller at this address in 1865 and William Stamford was the landlord in 1887.

Bosco Lounge, 55 Crockhamwell Road, Woodley. Following the successful launch of the Alto Lounge in Caversham yet another new café bar style pub has appeared in Woodley, opened 2013. There has been speculation as to whether the Bosco in question is St John Bosco, dedicatee of the Roman Catholic church in Woodley. Bosco (1815-88) was an Italian priest, noted for his work providing education and care for poor children.

Bradfield Brewery. 44 Castle St. The Bradfield Brewery (which see) operated from 1876 to 1888 and seems to have had a beerhouse associated with it as a brewery tap. The licensees were successively Edward, Ellen and Elizabeth Moody.

Brewers' Arms, 8, later 18 Bridge St. The name no doubt reflects its proximity to Simonds or one of the other breweries in the locality. It seems to have begun trading around the mid-19th century with landlords including John Barkshire in 1854 James Whipp in 1865 and 1879, Abraham Wiggins in 1887, John Withers (c. 1888-95) and during the 20th century William Butler, Charles Burden and James Simmonds – was the latter perhaps the son of the James Simmonds who had kept the Bugle at the end of the 19th century? It had passed into the estate of Simonds by the 1920s, when the brewery advertised its charms as follows: 'Call here for BEST QUALITY REFRESHMENTS. Convenient and Comfortable for Visitors. Every attention given to Callers. SIMONDS' ALES and STOUTS on draught in good condition.' The site later appears to have been absorbed into that of the expanding brewery.

The **Brewery Tap (1)** at 47 Broad St was the tap for Dowsetts brewery (which see), next door at No 46. The brewery had been established by William Munt at these premises (previously it would appear used for the rather different purposes of cabinet and straw bonnet making) in 1850 and was subsequently operated by Ada Munt from 1855-6. In April of that year it was bought by Russell and Martin, Family Brewers who occupied the premises until 1866 when it was acquired by Dowsett Brothers, likewise Family Brewers. The business was auctioned in 1906, after which brewing ceased. It would appear that Russell continued to have an interest in the business after Dowsetts took over and indeed Henry Russell is listed as licensee of the Brewery Tap between 1879 and 1900. In the 1881 census his age is shown as 52 and his occupation, Manager, retailed beer stores.

The **Brewery Tap (2)** was located at 106 Castle St, next door to Vachell's Almshouses. Sometimes prefixed 'Castle', this was the tap house for Dymore Brown's first brewery, which he acquired from Charles Moody by 1831. During the 1852 election campaign it as referred to as Nutley's Brewery in reference to the brewer to whom it was then sub-let. It was later renamed the Kennet Brewery and continued to operate as such after Dymore Brown's move to the new site in Queen's Road in 1864, with John Edwards, innkeeper, listed in Macaulay's 1865 Directory. By 1868, he had given way to James Knowles. The late John Sharman told the author that it was later renamed the **Talbot** and was adjacent to Morris's Garages. See also Breweries section.

Brewery Tap (3), 45-47 Hosier St. This establishment seems to have commenced as an unnamed beer shop listed in 1842 and run by one John Huggins, possibly

related to James Huggins, who had a bakery business nearby. Huggins is still listed in 1865 when he also followed the trade of carpenter from these premises but by 1875 had given way to H. Beckett, followed by James Fussell (1884), Gaetano Bona (1888), William Price Jones (1893), John Hallett (1899) and W. Burroughs (1903). Gaetano Bona was doubtless related to Antonio Bona who ran the White Hart (later Caversham Bridge Hotel). Towards the end of the century this Brewery Tap seems to have been also known as the Full Moon, possibly in riposte to the Half Moon - another one of the proliferation of hostelries of which Hosier Street could boast at this period. There are also references in 1879 to a Brewery Tap at No 55 Hosier Street, with both S Philips and John Pritchard listed in that year.

Brewery Tap (4), 83 Broad St. This was kept by Mr [George?] Lawrence after he left the Retreat. [??? See EW – T Lawrence and site by Hop Leaf Gazette 1927 claimed to be that of HGS original brewery]It would seem likely that it had been the brewery tap for Henry Portsmouth's brewery (see brewery section). In 1865, this is listed at Nos 80-82 Broad Street with James Parker, brewer and next door (no 84) are Sarah and Jane Brown, coopers and beersellers. In 1887, William Culver, was licensee.

Latterly this Brewery Tap became known as the **Peacock**, thus reviving the name of the old coaching inn, also in Broad St on the opposite (north) side. The late Charlie Wheeler described the pub as it was in 1940. 'It had a yard which led to a beer garden and in a little bar, there was a piano, in which you used to put an old penny and it then automatically played a song. You never knew what it was going to play, though. My mum and dad used to take me there when I was a kid.' This pub seems to have later acquired the name of the late-lamented Peacock opposite and to have closed in October 1978. Towards the end of its career it was said to have been popular with young black people. In subsequent years the site was used as retail premises (Vision Express).

Brewery Tap (5), 14 East St. Joseph Chandler is listed as beer retailer at 14 East St in 1887, Charles Denny in 1891 and Mary Judge in 1901. It was associated with the Allnutt's brewery in London Street and following John Allnutt's death in 1879 passed into the hands of Simonds. .

Brewery Tap (6), 27 Castle St. This listed building was formerly the Courage Brewery Social Club and continued as such after the brewery moved from Bridge Street to Worton Grange. It opened as a pub in 1994. For a regrettably short period in 1999-2000 it operated as a brew pub – see **Tudor Brewing Co.** in Breweries section for details. The premises has been closed for several years and planning permission granted for change of use.

Brewery Tavern. The **Brewery Tavern**, 19 Caversham Rd, was originally the tap bar of The Weldale Brewery of Henry Bird, which flourished from 1852 to 1913, and was originally called the Weldale Tavern. It became a Wethereds pub, when the Marlow firm acquired the brewery in the latter year. Early licencees included William Allaway (1850-71), James, Emily and George Chandler (c. 1884-1903), Robert and Eliza Shilling (c. 1907-13) and Sidney Croxford (1915-34). In 1907 the architectural firm of Hoare and Wheeler designed a urinal for the pub. In 1990 it was described as a 1950s time warp in 1990 but the landlord had just died and the

following year it was transformed into Reading's first mega pub, latterly known as **Thorn Walk Tavern**. However, it was on the wrong side of the IDR and lost its initial popularity when the new town centre 'circuit pubs' began to open up, being eventually demolished to make way for flats early in the 21st century.

Bricklayer's Arms (1) 63-64 (later 25) Coley Place. Early landlords include George Read, c. 1854-70, followed by his widow, Mary Ann Read, 1870-84, Albert William Riddick, c. 1887. His tenure was brief for in 1888 it was advertised as to be let by the brewers, R Hewett and Son, 'fully licensed and free for spirits'. A Mr J Titcombe seems to have been enticed by this offer and later incumbents included Arthur Hughes (c. 1899-1907), William James Morgan (c. 1911-14) and the long serving Thomas Allen (1915- c. 1937).

Bricklayer's Arms (2), 119 Great Knollys St. This pub flourished between 1875 and 1930. Publicans included Henry Chandler (c. 1875-83), Thomas Draper (c. 1884-1903) and William Wyatt (c. 1913-20). It is believed to have been one of the Weldale Brewery pubs taken over by Wetehred's in 1913.

Brickmakers Arms This Old Coley pub was located at Brickfield Terrace, 66 Coley St. and both the name and the address remind us that this area was a centre of Reading's brickmaking industry in the mid-19th century; 'Wheeler's pottery kiln and brick and socket pipe manufactory' was probably the nearest to the pub. Brickfield Terrace later became Wolseley Street, commemorating (along with Garnet Street) the eponymous Victorian general; the Brickmakers was thereafter at No 22. T Parsons is named as landlord c. 1875-84, followed by George Parsons, c. 1887-8 and William Charles Knott, 'beerhouse keeper', c. 1895-1916. Census returns suggest that the Parsons and Knott families were related by marriage. A later landlord was Edward Rex who ran the pub from 1949. It was his first pub although his family ran many pubs in the town during the 20th century and had been involved in the licensed trade before that in Exeter since the mid-18th century. The Brickmakers was part of Berkshire Brewery's estate during its early life. It closed its doors for the last time in 1959. [check]

Bristol. This Beerhouse located at 95 Castle St seems to have been a short-lived enterprise between c. 1870-95. During this period it got through a succession of at least nine landlords: E. J. Cheyney, John Coles, J Harbor, Thomas Cresswell, William Fennell, F. Frankis, John Fryer, Joseph Clark and Arthur Jacobs. Berkshire Brewery house until 1883.

Britannia, Gun St. John Street was licensee in 1823, when in April a sale of his effects was advertised on leaving the premises. The pub may have been replaced by a later Britannia located in Friar Street (No. 28) around the turn of the century with Thomas and Elizabeth Benger as licensees. William Fry was a boot and shoe maker and beer seller at this address in 1865 two doors away from the Boar's Head.

Britannia Hotel. See below. 1888 John North

Britannia Tap. Britannia Tap at 50-52 Caversham Rd and the **Britannia Hotel** on the opposite side of the Stanshawe Road turning were both demolished in the 1980s for office development. The Tap was originally the tap bar of the Britannia Brewery, also in Caversham Road, which flourished from 1850 to 1896 with Walter Julian Pain as the brewer for the last 20 years. It was then bought out by Ind

Coope. 1888 Eli Margetts At various times the pub also appears to have been called the Railway Arms and the Old Britannia. John Gosling, William Woolford, Daniel Knight Dacre and Ernest Orsler are among the early licensees. Just before World War 2 Fred Doddington, who had been who had been Traffic Superintendent for Thackray's, the pioneering coach company, became landlord. [needs a sober brain!]

British Workman, Abbey Square. This was not a real pub but a temperance establishment or 'coffee-house' intended for the improvement of the working classes. The British Workman movement had begun in the 1860s and spread across the nation. Alterations were carried out in 1882 to design of Brown and Albury. In 1886 William Morris addressed a Socialist meeting held here on the theme of 'The Coming Epoch: 'Let us be fellows working in the harmony of association for the common good... This ideal and hope of a new society founded on industrial peace and forethought, bearing with it its own ethics, aiming at a newer and higher life for all men, has received the general name of Socialism, and it is my firm belief that it is destined to supersede the old order of things... and to be the next step in the progress of humanity.' An 1888 directory indicates that the British Workmen (sic) Refreshment Rooms were then run by one F.W. Sherval.

Broad Face. The Broad Face in the High Street is said to have been one of only two inns to bear the Broad Face sign, that in Abingdon being the sole survivor. This rarity gives it a fleeting appearance in Samuel Pepys' diary account of his only recorded visit to Reading in the summer of 1668 on the way back to London from Bath: '16th June (Tuesday). In the evening betimes come to Reading... and then I to walk about the town, which is a very great one, I think bigger than Salsbury: a river runs through it, in seven branches, and unite in one, in one part of the town, and runs into the Thames half-a-mile off one odd sign of the Broad Face... Then to my inn, and so to bed.' The inn where he stayed was most unsatisfactory and its identity has been the object of speculation.

William Vaughan is listed at the pub in 1796 and in 1808 James Meadows took over from Thomas Vaughan, who was 'leaving the Public Business' and subsequently subjected it to 'a thorough repair'. In October the following advertisement appeared: 'If the person who took a saddle and bridle by mistake from the Broad Face Inn, Reading on Fair-day last will be so good as to return the same to Mr. Meadows, as above, he will receive his own in exchange.' The fair mentioned was in all likelihood that at Michaelmas (29 September) when the town was given over to the buying and selling of cheese. Meadows died in 1810 and later landlords included Matthew Boulter (c.1827-30), Henry Alfred and Ann Wilkins (c.1847-59), James Bennett (1863-71), John Winslet (1887-1903) and Arthur John Deaves (1907-24). H. P. Tate was another of the later proprietors at which time the Broad Face proclaimed itself a Commercial and Financial Hotel.

Back in 1825 it had been Reading terminus of several coaches including Williams' to London on what was to become the GWR route via Twyford, Maidenhead and Slough; this was daily. Another service via Bracknell and Sunninghill ran daily in summer and three times weekly in winter following what would become the South-west Railway route. In addition the inn was a centre of the wagon trade with

services to London (twice weekly) and Southampton (weekly). Also in the 1820s the Broad Face was the venue for meetings of The Society, a friendly society. In 1847 polling took place at the inn for the General Election at which Judge Talfourd was elected one of the MPs for Reading. It is said that he drank too much punch and had to lie down! Alterations were carried out in 1875 to designs by Brown and Albury. Despite this make-over the Broad Face subsequently declined in importance and was demolished in 1926. During demolition a wooden balcony was disclosed that had been covered up by match-boarding. Lloyd's Bank (itself closed in 2016) later occupied the site.

Broadgates. This was one of the ancient inns of Reading, the site of which appears to be unknown. Broadgates Hall was the original name of Pembroke College, Oxford. The name also suggests a possible link with Broad Street.

Brown Jug. Colin Ager has identified this establishment at 18 Spring Gardens in 1851 with William Howard, brickmaker and beer seller the proprietor.

Brunswick Arms, 49-53 Brunswick St. This is a Grade II listed building on account of its historic connection with an early centre of the weaving industry. This relate to a wealthy business family from Brunswick who came to Reading in 1670 to start is said to a silk weaving factory. In Macaulay's 1865 Directory, the pub is shown at 4-5 Brunswick Place with James Cambourn as 'Innkeeper'. Next door at No 3 are John Blenham, silk weaver and Mary Ann Blenham, laundress. In the 1842 Post Office Directory this has the more German spelling of 'Blenheim'; the premises adjoining were then occupied by a nurseryman and a gardener. Cambourn disappears from the scene around 1875 and later publicans include: Alfred Palmer (1877), Edward Varian Jones(c. 1881-95), Thomas Gardener, Frederick Wilkes and a long-serving member of the ubiquitous Rex family, William George of that ilk. He succeeded George Warner c. 1930 and was still in harness some 25 years later. In 1991 the Brunswick was one of the Courage pubs that were offloaded to Morlands of Abingdon and being very close to their existing possession, the Foresters, it was then sold off as a private dwelling, a fate that later befell another nearby acquisition, the Swiss Cottage. (See also Beehive.)

Bugle. At 144 Friar St the **Bugle** is the last remaining traditional pub in Friar St. It seems to have had its origins in a beer shop operated at this address in 1842 by Daniel David as proprietor with William Woodeson succeeding by 1865. Other early landlords include Morris Wright (Excavator and Publican, c. 1881-4), James and Ellen Simmonds (1887-95) and Elizabeth Davis, who saw in the new century. The Hop Leaf Gazette in 1932 recorded a trip to Southend organized by landlady, Mrs William Moore, requiring five charabancs to convey the large party. A Simonds pub for many years, it is now one of the very few pubs in Reading that still sell Courage brand beers. The pub sign shows a bugler of the 66th (Berkshire) Regiment at the famous battle of Maiwand (1880).

Builders Arms, 35-7 Vachel Rd. Landlords here included T Willis (1870) and Robert Walker Godwin (c. 1883-93), George Barrett (c. 1901-3) and (c. 1911-16). Intriguingly, in 1887 Godwin is listed as beer retailer and cowkeeper – though evidently from events at the Catherine Wheel cows were quite at home in pubs during this era. In other records he is more conventionally described as 'dairyman'.

Bull. The **Bull Hotel** at 23 Broad St is first mentioned in the 1820s when kept by William Picket. Thereafter Joseph Pecover had a long reign, appearing in various records between 1837 and 1870; in 1852 he doubled up his licensed victualling activities with his duties as engineer to the Phoenix Fire Office. Later landlords included Charles Stone, Frederick Williams, John Foster (c. 1907-28) and William Henry Bennett.

In the 1950s Raymond Quelch had his first pint of Bass in the pub at a time when it was kept by one Bill, an 'ex-naval officer' who 'was behind the bar, with brilliant white shirt, black tie, blazer and grey trousers with razor sharp creases in keeping with naval traditions.' The author first visited it in 1973, when there was also decent Bass and 'a drunken Irishman sang a song in its entirety.' Sad to relate the Bull closed in 1975 because according to Bass 'it stood on a prime high street site' – a site that was taken up by Savoy Tailors (now Moss Bros) but the bull can still be seen in the upper reaches of the building.

Bull and Chequers, Woodley Green. According to Frances Lloyd it was owned by the local landowner, John Y. Willats in 1843, along with the nearby Chequers. She characterises it along with the other two pubs reckoned to predate the Beer Act as the meeting place of the local farmers.' This pub was kept by the Aldridge family for many years with Samuel making his appearance in the 1847 Post Office Directory and George succeeding in 1877, pursuing the trade of baker as well as that of licensed victualler. William Burt was in place by 1887 and saw the pub through much of the period up to WW1. Later incumbents include Florence and Sydney Evans, George Dance and Stanley Hutton.

Bull and Ox, 12 (later 19) Great Knollys St. This was close to the cattle market and its name suggests that its primary purpose was for the refreshment of those who visited it for trade in livestock. In 1852 an application by then proprietor, William Evans, for a spirit licence, was opposed by neighbouring houses, Radleys Hotel and the Lion; it seems to have been located next door to the latter. By 1865 Richard Evans had taken over and later 19th century landlords included: James Moore (c. 1875-7), Frederick Mercer (1881) and George William Parsons who saw in the new century and seems to have been the last incumbent.

Butchers Arms (1). **Ye Butcher's Arms** stood at the Butts end of Hosier St and was ultimately redeveloped as part of Butts Centre. This was a Wethered house, for which J H Deacon of Marlow designed stabling and stores in 1898. Wethered's would have been an unusual drinking option at that time, most of their pubs in the town coming about as a result of the take-over of Henry Bird and Higgs breweries in the following century.

Butcher's Arms (2), 9 Lower Armour Rd, Tilehurst. This was originally a Wethered pub, so may have replaced the Hosier St pub. In 'More of the Tilehurst We remember' (1999) Gwen Brereton recalled her childhood in the 1920s: 'The Butcher's Arms was a tiny old-fashioned place run by a brother and two or three sisters. Their name was Hunt. I used to go there with my friend to get her dad's beer in a jug and you had to go round the side. I remember the men used to sit on seats in a little porch thing outside in the summer and they'd let her have the beer because they knew her father.'

Butler. Reading is somewhat lacking in 'Heritage Pubs' but one that could surely claim a right to this title is surely the Butler. Not that its history is that of a normal pub since for much of its existence it was better known for the sale of wine and spirits than humble beer! The premises in Chatham Street began life Chatham St began life as a humble beerhouse called the **Baker's Arms** but in the 1830s it came into the hands of Charles Butler, who had formerly been a farmer in Blewbury. The Butler family ran their wine merchants' business from the site for nearly 150 years and the business became known as Butler's Wine Vaults or just plain Butler's. Charles Butler senior gifted the firm to his son of the same name (1827-1911) on the latter's 21st birthday. Charles junior spawned a large family and three of his sons, Charles George, William Edward and Harry, were at various times partners in the company, while a fourth son, Benjamin Herridge Butler, plied his trade as a dispensing chemist.

It was William Edward (1854-1924) who emerged at the head of the company in the early 20th century. He had previously been a grocer, had some training in brewing and was also an avid collector of butterflies and moths. William Edward junior (1872-1942) was a school teacher in his earlier years, teaching at St Laurence's School and later at the British School, but joined the family firm in 1919. His sons, Bernard and Felix, were the last members of the Butler family to run Butler's but like their father and grandfather pursued other means of earning a living during their younger days: Bernard William (1897-1981) was a clerk on the GWR but joined the family firm in a similar position in 1923 before becoming a partner in 1935; his younger brother, Felix John (1905-97) was a school teacher in London before serving in the Second World War, joining Butler's following his demobilization in 1946.

Butler's was very much a hands-on business with Bernard travelling one or two days per week to pick up orders in surrounding villages, first using a motor bike and later a Morris 8 registered RD7666. Initially deliveries were made by hand-carts and horse-drawn vehicles but motor vans were used from 1916 onwards. Wine was imported through London and Bristol and wine, spirits and beer were all bottled on the premises.

By 1976, the brothers were showing their age and they decided to sell up. The premises were acquired by Fuller's and opened as the Butler in 1977 with Bernard Butler pulling the first pint and beer sold at 1952 prices in this Jubilee Year. Initially the Butler flourished under Fuller's and under the first tenants, the Gillases, achieved Good Beer guide entries from 1979 to 1983 but after their departure there were numerous changes of management, particularly in recent years. This led to Fullers' selling the pub last year to a consortium, including the experienced Ted Allnutt of Nag's Head fame. Following the arrival of new leaseholders, Graham Emmerson and Sue Harrison, planning permission has been granted to extend the pub into the former wine shop area that has been largely unused over the last 38 years and to underline the Butler's unique heritage. Mine's a Pint will drink to that!

Considerable refurbishment has already been completed including a brand new Kitchen which is serving good wholesome food and full roasts on a Sunday.

The **Butler**, 43 Chatham St began life as the **Baker's Arms** but by 1839 it had come into the hands of the Butler family and thereafter became known as Butler's Wine Vaults or just plain Butler's, famous (or some would say infamous) for its wines and other concoctions produced in its bottling plant. The author has been informed that Butler's Mountain Wine (otherwise known as rocket fuel) was considered as an acceptable alternative to a Watney's Part Seven to take to a party you were gatecrashing. The premises were acquired by Fuller's and opened as the Butler in 1977 with Bernard Butler pulling the first pint and beer sold at 1952 prices in this Jubilee Year. Prior to this it had a ladies bar.

Caledonian, 29 Broad Street. This house closed during the early 20th century with William James Neal the last identified landlord. Despite the name, census records indicate that all the publicans came from well to the south of the Tweed!

The **Cambridge Arms** at 109 Southampton St is listed as the Cambridge Inn in 1879 with Thomas Barton as landlord, who was also a coal merchant. It holds a special place in the author's heart as his local for 18 years. Originally owned by Berkshire Brewery, it became a Fergusons house following the former brewery's demise in 1887 and subsequently passed into Morlands' hands and was rebuilt in the classic Brewers Tudor style. George Stevens' tenure straddled the turn of the 19th century and then John Henry Emery was licensee for many years during the second and third decades of the 20th century. During and after the second world war it was run by a Mrs White. The author has been informed that in the period of rationing the pub was the scene of illicit meat sales and when a raid by Ministry of Food officials was threatened the meat was hidden in the coal hole between layers of the black stuff. From the mid 1960s till 1989 by Cecil 'Bart' and Lorna Bartlett, who came from Maidenhead and made a wise investment of a win on the pools. They were followed for five years by a Scottish couple, Peter and Carol Shove. During this period, the Cambridge built up a fearsome reputation as a sporting pub. Its Quiz team was twice overall winner of the coveted Morland Original Bitter League and at one time there were as many as four bar billiards teams playing from the pub. Unfortunately a succession of brief tenancies followed with the result that trade declined and the pub was sold for conversion to private residences in 1998. This was carried out without planning permission which was, however, granted retrospectively. The developer renamed the site Tudor Lodge but in the process perversely whitewashed out the Brewers Tudor design!

Cannon (1), King's Road. Landlord in 1871, Richard Penny. This was also presumably the site of the Cannon Brewery. William Cox was in charge of this brewery, located in Kings Rd, in 1840. Aldmn Farrer refers to brewery and tap being replaced by part of the biscuit factory.

Cannon (2), 52-4 Silver St. Jesse Richardson, 1879 & 87. Extant in 1905.

Cap and Gown. See Kings Tavern.

Captain's Cabin. See Sailor's Home

Cardinal's Hat. **Cardinal's Hat**, located on the north side of Minster Street, dated from pre-Reformation times and was the scene in 1556 of the arrest of Julius Palmer, Reading's only Protestant martyr under Bloody Mary: 'the officers and their

retinue came rushing in with lanterns and bills, requiring hym in the King and Queenes names, to make ready himselfe and quietly to depart with them'. In 1559 Humphrey Dewell became proprietor through marriage and it remained in his family for a century, John Dewell being Mayor in 1635-6. In 1631 when the authorities seem to have been having a crackdown on swearing one Joseph Jones was accused of swearing '40 oathes most grievously and fearfully'. Four years later, John Clifford was the landlord (perhaps standing in for the Mayor) when his servant, Welthian Lewes, 'complayneth that she is begotten with childe' by the ostler.. John Loveday met his uncle, William, from the stage here in 1727, referring to it as 'The Cardinal's Cap' but by 1753, cap or hat, the inn had been demolished. **Carousel**, former pub on the Whitley Estate, built by Morlands, which was served under top pressure dispense. Like most Whitley pubs it had a reputation for rough behaviour and was demolished in the 1990s. At least one landlord – in 1992 - did a moonlight flit from the pub. The name is preserved in a housing development called Carousel Court.

Carpenters Arms (1) was located at 59-61 Crown St. on the corner of Southampton Street, opposite the Red Cow and near to Venner's famous bacon emporium. In 1879, William Haines Fry was landlord and in 1887 William Smith. Address given as Southampton Street in 1905 pub listing.

Carpenters Arms (2). The **Carpenters Arms**, 93 Orts Road, Newtown, located at corner of Orts Road and Arthur Road, was another Wethered (formerly Bird's) pub demolished during the 1970s redevelopments. 1914, prop. W J Hastings.

Carpenters Arms (3), Mount St. Edward Cook, beer retailer, 1887. Extant in 1905.

Castle Brewery Tap, 106 Castle St. Was James Dymore Brown's original outlet when he took over the brewing premises in Castle St of Charles Moody in 1831. See also Brewery Tap.

Castle Inn. In 1831 the **Castle Inn** in Castle St was claimed to be 'the principal inn where the Bath and Bristol coaches stop at Reading'. Long distance services using the inn at this time included: the Chronometer London to Bath, Bristol, Exeter and Plymouth; the Royal Magnet, London to Bath; and the Emerald, also London to Bath. As one writer puts it: 'Before the railway had irrevocably doomed the myriads of coaches which traversed the country from end to end, Castle-street was daily, we might say hourly, the scene of an activity which it knows not in these latter days.' The listed building at 17 Castle Street, which is currently used by a firm of solicitors, has been claimed as the Castle Inn but this view seems to have been formed by a misunderstanding over the renumbering of Castle Street. It seems more likely that the inn was on the opposite side of the road and that the current No 17 was the residence of the brewer at the Castle Brewery site. It is certainly true that in the 19th century **Castle Inn** was originally located at No 17, subsequently numbered 28. Innkeepers included Mr. W Williams, Joseph Gamble, Richard Claridge, Richard Monk, William Sims, Walter Dolman, James Charles Ellen, Charles Kyte, Charles Kearl, James Robertson and Richard James Hallett. In 1888 Kearl summonsed Henry Allan for being 'drunk and disorderly and refusing to quit' and Allan was fined 10/- (50p) with 10/- costs with the alternative of 14 days' hard labour.

Castle Tap. See **Horse and Jockey.**

Cathedral. The **Cathedral** at 67 London St was located on the corner with South Street and although it ceased to be a pub in the early 20th century the building was familiar as a cycle shop before its demolition a few years ago. It originated as a brewery or possibly a beer shop brewing its own beer from 1827 to 1875 mainly under John Claydon (to 1840) and William Justins (from 1844). It was first listed as a pub in 1871 with the name Cathedral first appearing in 1890. It is listed as belonging to Justins or Justins & Brinn in 1884-5, so that it is likely that its beer was supplied from the Justins-Brinn Brewery at the Truro in Castle St after brewing ceased on site. The rather unusual pub name may perhaps have referred to Truro Cathedral; Truro had been constituted as a diocese of the Church of England in 1877 and the new Cathedral, consecrated in 1887, was still under construction. Perhaps entirely by coincidence one of the residents in 1901 as a boarder was a retired evangelist.

Catherine Wheel. The **Catherine Wheel** stood at the east end of Friar Street, opposite St Laurence church. The inn's name referred to the legendary saint Catherine of Alexandria who was allegedly tortured on a spiked wheel before being beheaded. In 1633 Augustine Chapman, a horse-dealer, stayed at the 'Katrene Wheele' with Cicelye Addams 'as man and wief' and was 'committed to be carted'. Two years later the Corporation ruled that an annual sum of 4d should be paid for the 'standing of the signe-poste at the Katherine Wheele.' 19th century publicans included Joseph Hawkins, Joseph Dolman, Christopher and Mary Ann Complin and Dymore Boseley, who was also active in the brickmaking business. One Saturday in May 1852, when Mrs Complin was in charge, 'an inquisitive cow entered the Wheel Inn in Friar St and contemplated a seat at the bar, but was politely informed she was lacking those distinguishing qualities by which judicial honours are secured, and on the door being closed coolly and complacently walked away.' In the same year the pub is listed in Slater's Directory as the Wheel and Reigate Railway with Mary Ann Complin as Mine Hostess. This unusual combination seems to refer to the Reading, Guildford and Reigate Railway which flourished from 1846-1852 when it was absorbed into the South-eastern Railway. The inn closed in 1882, shortly after a Welshman named Ernest Stephens had succeeded Boseley.

Caversham Bridge Hotel The **Caversham Bridge Hotel** originated with a pub called the **White Hart** which was owned in 1827 by Ann Freebody of the boat building family. In 1874 it became a hotel under James D Brown and was acquired in 1878 by Antonio Giovanni Bona, who also later ran a fleet of pleasure boats with names like *Bonavista*. He agreed to rebuild it in order to facilitate the replacement of old Caversham Bridge but the rebuilding did not take place till 1901 and the bridge itself was not replaced until 1924. The new hotel, designed by George William Webb was built further back from the river than its predecessor. From 1939 it was operated by Ferguson's and then by Morlands. When the latter's lease ran out, the hotel closed in 1986 with the last Manager, Maurice Wallace, providing free beer for the last hour. Shortly afterwards it was gutted by fire and eventually replaced by a modern hotel. **White Hart**, Caversham. Listed in Pigot's Berkshire Directory of 1823, so was this Caversham Rd rather than Caversham which was

then a village in Oxfordshire? SH. [Shadrac??] Frewin was then licensee. 1871, Charles Bidlatt with address Caversham Rd, which rather reinforces above theory. Triumph further corroborated by Dickens Directory of the Thames, 1892 which lists it as being on the Berkshire side of Caversham Bridge. However he seems to have been wrong – see Caversham Bridge Hotel. Horniman 1827 lists Ann Freebody as licensee again see CBH.

Central Hotel, 145 Friar St. This seems at one time to have been a temperance hotel, although by 1900 Joseph Mott styles himself a beer retailer.

Cheddar Cheese. The **Cheddar Cheese** at 124 Broad St was called the Boar's Head in the 19th century and possibly acquired its new name in the early 20th century when Simonds acquired the property to distinguish it from the Boar's Head in Friar St. Early landlords included John C Truss, William Perch Joseph Digweed, James Purnell, Edmund Dicker and George Povey. In the 1920s George W Smith used some execrable doggerel to promote the pub:

Here's a place where you can sit at ease,
While 'Mine Host' does his utmost to please...
SIMONDS' Bitter, Stout and their famous S.B.'S:
To really enjoy all these,
COME TO THE CHEDDAR CHEESE.

Latterly it was known for its upstairs bar 'with lots of mirrors, chrome and maple wood veneers.' Eva Pickford and her sister Joan played the piano in the pub.

Chequers, Crockhamwell Rd, Woodley. Kept by Thomas George in 1847. Described by Frances Lloyd as a meeting place of the local farmers.

Cherry's, Station Hill. Wine-bar type establishment, became restaurant in the 1980s, firstly as Caesar's American Restaurant and latterly as Gulshan, a popular Indian establishment. It has now been demolished, pending redevelopment of this area.

Claddagh Ring. See Kennet Arms.

Clarence, 11 Broad St. 1887, James William Brasher. Reference in Jan 1889. Sketch shows this as located in Broad St to the west of what is now Sainsbury's. Berkshire Brewery house until 1883.

Clifton Arms The **Clifton Arms** in Gosbrook Rd, Caversham, has been a Brakspears pub since 1864 when the Henley brewers acquired it for £500. The origin of the name is by no means clear. There is in the same area of Caversham though not immediately adjacent a Clifton Park Road. The historian of Reading street names, Adam Sowan, mentions a possible connection with a clergyman named Canon Robert Cox Clifton who died in 1861. However, his association with Caversham, if any, seems to be tenuous at best, as Sowan himself concludes and his surmise that 'the street-name is probably just an echo of the fashionable Georgian suburb of Bristol' seems more likely. By the time of William Brakspear's death in 1882 the Clifton Arms had become one his most valuable pubs. Landlords listed in trade directories include: 1876 and 1879, Frederick Jenkyns; 1895, Arthur Johnson; 1907 Charles Rendell; and 1914 and 1931, Walter William Bodle. Following the closure of the brewery the pub continued to operate under the banner of the Brakspear Pub Company with beers supplied by the Marstons group including those brewed in Witney, using the original Henley Brewery equipment.

Clifton, 18 Caversham Road. Berkshire Brewery to 1883.

Coach and Horses, 1 Silver St [115 in 1827]. W. Crutch was licensee in 1823, Jer. Humphreys in 1827, William Dike (?) in 1852, Phoebe Green, 1879, James Rose, 1897, Albert John Freeman 1914. In 1818 it was the scene of treats and dinners during the election of that year, which saw Charles Shaw-Lefevre and Charles Fyshe-Palmer returned as Whig MPs for the borough. In Sept 1852 the landlord, Dike, 'who keeps the Coach and Horses, where many disgraceful occurrences have transpired, had his license suspended for a week, and received a severe lecture.' Extant in 1905.

Coachmakers Arms 6 Coley St. 1879, prop. John Arnold Closed after 1905 and before 1927.

Cock a Snook, Queens Walk. A regrettably unsuccessful venture by Peter Taylor, formerly licensee of the Horse and Jockey that existed from 2000-02, serving real ales on gravity feed. The premises had previously been an electrical shop and later served as an Asian restaurant.

Cock Inn. The Cock Inn, Fisher-row, now Broad Street, reputedly dates from around 1565 but is believed to have been renamed the London Tavern c. 1845 and the Hobgoblin in 1994. It is still shown as the Cock Inn in the Post Office Directory of 1852 with John White as landlord. Other 19th and early 20th century licensees included William Lovegrove, William Faulkner, John Hutchinson, Daniel Friend, Henry Selwood Ballard, Charles Casburn, Ernest Wilkinson and Henry Smart. In 1901 it was refaced after the original frontage collapsed. See also

London Tavern.

College Arms, 128 Wokingham Rd. Boisterous pub popular with students etc. Was for a while a Truman's pub until that brand was discontinued. It seems to have originated about 1880 with early landlords including Charles Burford and William Quigley, whose long reign spanned the turn of the century. According to Sowan, the pub 'loyally displays the scallops rampant of Reading University on its sign' but 'a helpful plaque explains that the land hereabouts was given to Queen's College, Oxford by Sir William Fettiplace in 1526.' Acquired by Trumans from Courage in 1971 with a £40,000 facelift following. Mr & Mrs Ronald Morse licensees at this time. It has recently been renamed the ???

Coopers. Although the **Coopers** at 29-31 Market Place is a Grade II listed building,. In 1887 listed as Lewis Cooper, Wine and Spirit Retailer). With Parker's estate agents next door (interestingly also an estate agents in 1900) constitutes the oldest secular buildings in the market area with an interesting Jacobean fireplace. It only became a pub in the 1960s, having previously been Lewis Cooper (later Arthur Cooper)'s wine shop It was for a while part of the Rat and Parrot chain but subsequently returned to its previous name. The Jacobean furnishings which added character to the lounge area were not allegedly *in situ* and were sold off and there are redevelopment plans that will affect the pub but are expected to retain some license premises. One wit in past days is said to have claimed that there was a right of way to drive livestock to market through the corridor that then separated two bars and proved it (in a manner of speaking) by walking along it with a piglet tied to a lead. It is currently derelict after providing a temporary home for the Jelly Legged Chicken Art Gallery.

Corn Stores, Forbury Rd, also sometimes referred to as the Corn Exchange, was a new pub opened by Fuller's in 1994 at a reported cost of £350,000, using the former premises of Walter Parsons' corn stores. It is interesting to note that Walter Parsons and Sons were advertisers in the Guide to Berkshire and Adjacent Counties published by brewers Simonds in the 1920s. They are described as "Corn, Cake, Hay and Straw Merchants" with "The Supply of Oats and Hay for Hunters & Race-Horses a Speciality". It is currently closed, apparently awaiting new management. One could be forgiven for supposing that Fuller's, having acquired the nearby Three Guineas and committed large resources to it, have lost interest in its smaller neighbour.

County Arms. The **County Arms** at 88 Watlington St, was initially associated with the County Brewery, which flourished at this address during the 1870s (See **Charles Martin** in the brewery section.) Proprietors in the latter part of the 19th century included John Rumble and Mrs S Searing. In 1936 it was rebuilt by Morland's in the Brewer's Tudor style popular during this era. Bob Saunders was a long-serving landlord in the 1980s and 1990s but successors rapidly came and went following his departure and the pub was eventually sold for conversion into 'nine stunning apartments'. The scheme appears to involve retaining some of the façade, the remnants of which are currently supported by scaffolding, awaiting the completion of the development. Towards the end of its innings, the County Arms formed the inspiration for a pub located near the Royal Berkshire Hospital that featured in a 'chick-lit' novel published in 2008 by local author, Julie Cohen, entitled *One Night Stand*. The heroine, Eleanor Connor is a barmaid in the pub, although Ms Cohen was at pains to point out that the real pub was 'not as dingy or seedy' as the one portrayed in the novel, which masqueraded as the Mouse and Duck.

Crane, Crane Wharf. Thomas Parker was licensee in 1879. Closed early 20th century.

Crispin, 24 St Mary's Butts. Charles Parker was licensee in 1823.

Cross Keys. On the corner of Gun St and Bridge St, the **Cross Keys** was rebuilt in the later 19th century, partly to the designs of Brown and Albury. Licensees before and after this and into the early 29th century included John Mason, Henry Mason, William Trayhorn, Thomas Earley, G F Shadbolt who commissioned the work by Brown and Albury, Charles Shadbolt, George Adams and George A Griffin Subsequently acquired by Morlands, it was one of six Reading pubs in CAMRA's first Good Beer Guide of 1974, described as a 'street corner pub with strong Irish influence'. An Irishman, Frank Mc-----, ran it for many years, followed briefly by Vic Green. Vic's successor owned an olive green Rolls Bentley and encouraged the custom of market traders who indulged in extravagant and possibly illegal gambling sessions. Frank once told a customer he was going down to South Wales for a long weekend. The customer happened to be driving down the A4 a couple of days later and stopped at one of the roadhouses where he was surprised to find Frank playing darts – having got no further on his journey. On another occasion a passer-by is said to have been nearly hit by a chair rear was projected through a window – he grabbed it and through it back through another window! **Cross Keys**. Sadly, just as town centre pubs were coming back into fashion, the **Cross Keys** was sold off by the brewery in 1989 and it has since served a largely 20-something

clientele successively as Bukowski's, JW's and Sahara's. Its exterior playing on the cross keys theme can still be admired but the fine interior, which earned it the description in one CAMRA guide as the 'best example of an unspoilt Victorian pub in Reading'. Recently it has been renamed yet again as Be at One, presumably intended as a witty pun based on its position as No 1, Gun St.

Crown (1). The **Crown** stood at the corner of London St and Crown St and is first mentioned in St Giles Accounts in 1518. In 1630 Edward Evans, a Welsh tailor, came to the town with 'a woman travelling in the highway' and 'lodged that night with that woman in the Inn called the Crowne.' Later that year a man of Kent staying at the inn was accused of spending 3 or 4 days in the town 'from alehouse to alehouse without any business' but claimed in defence that 'the cause of his staye was to cure his horse.' More respectable later visitors included John Wesley, a frequent caller on his preaching journeys, William Pitt, the Princess Amelia and in 1816 the Duke and Duchess of Orleans. **Crown.** John Wesley's moral influence seems to have lingered around the **Crown**, for it was here in 1808 that nearly 100 people joined in forming a society 'for promoting the due observance of the Sabbath and the suppression of Vice and Immorality'. In the 1820s Thomas Huntley began baking biscuits in nearby London St and their popularity with coach passengers waiting for their horses to be changed at the Crown helped to build the reputation on which the biscuit empire of Huntley and Palmers was founded. The services using the Crown at this time ca. 1825 were: Botham & Co's Slow Bath Coach; Frankland & Co's Day Bristol and Bath Coach to London; and Lucas and Reiley's service from London to Bath. **Crown.** The **Crown's** primacy among Reading's inns in the early 19th century is illustrated in 1814 when 'public dinners' in celebration of the short-lived peace with France were held 'at the Crown Inn at 10s. 6d per head; at the Bear Inn at 5s 6d; at the Lower Ship at 2s 6d; and at many other places'. An evidently less prestigious dinner took place in April 1814 to celebrate the expiry of the property tax at 5s per head. In 1827 the successful Whig MP, C F Palmer, dined here with 150 electors after a triumphal procession through the town, while in 1832 the local Whigs held a dinner to celebrate the passing of the Reform Act. Thomas Frankland, who was the proprietor from 1809-35, advertised himself as solicitous of the continuation of 'the favours of those noblemen, gentlemen and others' who patronized it but after this period the Crown declined in importance as the coaching era came to an end. After ceasing to be an inn, part of the premises was used as 'coffee rooms' and the building was finally demolished in the 1960s. In 1736 the Binfield farmer, Robert Lee, dined with a Mr Hayes at the Crown with expenses of 7s.

Crown (2), 41 Coley Place. Richard Gibbard, prop 1879 & 1887 but address given as Coley St. Closed after 1905 and before 1927

Crown (3). The **Crown**, Caversham Bridge, was rebuilt when the new bridge was built in 1926. Prior to that its proprietors included George Barefoot, Albert Edward Hulbert and various members of the. Andress family. **Crown**, Caversham Bridge. 1854, George Barefoot. 1876 and 1879, Albert Edward Hulbert. Mrs I M Andress, Proprietress, 192-, presumably succeeding as widow, William Thomas W. Andress who had the pub in 1914 (listed as Thomas Woodward Andress in 1907). Simonds in 1920s. Mentioned in Dickens, Dic Thames. A photo of 1908 reproduced in REP

shows original pub by the old bridge. It is stated that the Inn was rebuilt when the new bridge was built in 1926.

Crown (4), 31 Weldale St. William Crook, prop 1879 & 1887. Extant in 1905. Was formerly a Hewett's house and later Simonds.

Crown (5), 35 King's Road. William Henry Boyde, prop 1879, Thomas Ballard, 1887. Berkshire Brewery house until 1883.

Crown (6), Crown St. Not to be confused with the Crown Inn, this was on the south side of Crown Street (No 23), closed in 2000, demolished in 2001. Crown Tap, Crown St, was advertised for sale in 1840. This may refer to the late pub, since what may have been adjoining land in Silver St was also for sale. Howard Tindall was landlord for 27 years, succeeded in 1985 by Joe Forrest, later Ivan the Terrible. 1887, George Finey, 1914, George S Taylor.

Crown of England, 40 East St (later? 74), landlady in 1879 Mrs Beldham. In 1888 Mr Gough was tenant paying rent of £69. 13s per annum when it was advertised for sale by the brewers, Blatch.

Cumberland Arms, 12 Rupert Street, Newtown. George Dix, beer retailer, in 1887

Cyprus Arms In West Reading, the former **Cyprus Arms** at 1 Derby St. is still trading as the Elephant Off-Licence. Prop, 1879, J Lovegrove, 1887, Walter Couling.

Dagmar. See Sailor's Home

Dartmouth Arms, 65 Hosier St. J Bowler, prop 1879, John Whalley, 1887.

Derby Arms, Derby Road, a West Reading pub that was a rare local outlet for the Goring Brewery. Advertised to be let in 1888.

Diamond Reign, Mount Pleasant. Listed in REP list, 1905 – named or renamed after 1897 Jubilee?

Dolphin, 15 Gun St. Also known as **Old Dolphin** and later the **Shades**, which see.

Dove Like other Brakspears pubs in Reading, the **Dove** at 119 Orts Rd was originally a Greys Brewery pub. In this photograph antedating the takeover by a year or two the signage shows the names Holmes and Steward who were proprietors of the Greys Brewery prior to its acquisition by Brakspears in 1896. Early landlords included John Giles (1888) Thomas Goodey, George Munday and Charlie Beeson. In 1983 the present writer walked in with his cousin around noon on a Saturday to behold the not especially pretty sight of the large bottom of a lady kneeling down to wash the floor. Although affectionately described 1984-5 as living 'for ever in the hearts of East Reading drinkers, the hangout of Anarchists, Lefties and a fair proportion of the Red Rag collective', the Dove has suffered from numerous changes of management, only achieving brief stability during the 1990s when run by George and Rose Scott (1992-98). Thereafter, Norman Jefferies ran it with some success, particularly with bar billiards. An attempt to rebadge it as a gay pub in the new century evidently failed and in 2006 the bulldozers moved in.

Dreadnought. The **Dreadnought** was located near Kennet mouth and described as being in the heart of the countryside. The building was owned from 1733 on a 99-year lease by Peter Breach, a fisherman, and seems to have become a pub after the lease expired, originally named the Broken Brow. John Holmes, Mrs Spong and Mr Slade were among the licensees. Latterly it formed part of the

Simonds estate. Popular on regatta days, it was often flooded out in inclement weather and ceased to be a pub in 1954.

Drum, 15 Mill Lane, J Wells, prop 1879, Henry Hiscock, 1887. Closed after 1905 but before 1927

Duke of Edinburgh. The **Duke of Edinburgh** at 59 Caversham Rd (earlier no 65) was originally the Railway Tavern, early landlords between 1840 and 1852 including Thomas Coxhead, Jos. Wilson, John William George and John Waugh. It has been suggested that the building was originally used as accommodation for senior staff of the railway but if so this usage must have been short-lived. It was subsequently renamed after Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh (1844-1900), one of Queen Victoria's progeny but for a brief period up to 1953 it sported an inn sign showing the present Duke in his naval uniform, which was removed on the Queen's accession as she evidently disapproved of pubs being named after living members of the Royal Family – a proscription that seemed to go by the board during the lifetime of the late Princess of Wales. At that point it reverted to celebrating Prince Alfred, after whom it was doubtless originally named, as painted by a Mrs Philips of Salisbury in 1867, the year after his elevation to the dukedom.

The pub's most celebrated episode in history occurred during its period as the Railway tavern, for it was there in 1849 that the death occurred death aged 57 of the Italian priest, Father Dominic Barberi. Born in 1792 near Viterbo in the Papal States north of Rome, Barberi had been sent to England in 1841 as a member of the Passionist Order to propagate the Roman Catholic faith. He is best remembered for receiving John Henry Newman, the former leader of the Oxford-based Tractarian Movement, into the Roman Church in 1845. He suffered a heart attack four years later on a railway journey from London to Worcester but after they had left the train at Pangbourne his companion found that there was 'no room at the inn', as the two hotels in the village apparently suspected him of having contracted cholera in the 'big city'. So he was taken back to Reading where he died at the more compassionate Railway Tavern in Caversham Road.

Otherwise, the pub has had a chequered history, one landlord, possibly a Mr Alfred Belcher, committing suicide at Southcote Junction in 1887. In the 1890s, the pub was run by William Day, who was followed by his widow, Jemima. Early in the 20th century it was run by Charles Oscar Fox, followed by Harriet Fox who together totaled around 30 years in charge. Later landlords included E J Maynard and Leonard Baker. A 1984 guide described the Duke as 'not noted for its sophisticated ambience', possibly an oblique reference to occasional performances by exotic dancers. The Duke closed in 1996, was gutted by arson in July 2001 and subsequently demolished and replaced by flats. A blue plaque on the successor building commemorates the death of Father Dominic.

Duke of Wellington. See Goat.

Duke's Head. The **Duke's Head**, 41/ 42 Broad St, was demolished in 1933 with a Joe Lyons restaurant initially occupying part of the site till 1969 since when clothing and shoe shops have prevailed. Frederick Dakin, followed by Mrs Dakin, presumably his widow, were long-serving licensees at the turn of the 19th century. Wilfred A. Constable, landlord in the 1920a (last?) offered "Carriers from All Parts"

an enticing selection of "Simonds Ales and Stout on Draught or in Bottles". George Bailey landlord 1865-80. Simonds house.

Dun Cow, Friar St. It was reported in 1852 that a licence for the pub was refused to one Daniel Orchard.

Dunstall Arms, 44 Leopold Rd, Newtown. Frederick Eighteen, 1879. Listed in 1905 (REP) as Kings Rd. Thomas Hurst no 46, 1888.

Eagle (1). See Oasis.

Eagle (2). See Falcon.

Eagle Tavern, 43 (orig 114) London St. According to Smart a photo in the Lib shows this building which is still standing in 1845 with prop W Oliver, Licensed Brewer. However, Oliver was later landlord of the Barley Mow in 1848-9. Curiously other records show No 114 occupied by a currier and leather cutter in 1845.

Eastgate. Originally a private villa, owned by Mr William Ridley, timber merchant, and later an off-licence run by Tom Fisher, the **Eastgate** in Cholmeley Rd did not become a pub until the 1960s, serving the needs of a part of Newtown owned by Huntley and Palmers, who were not noted for encouraging the consumption of alcohol by the working classes. Allegedly a local Labour Councillor, Brian Thomas, floored a prominent member of the National Front in the pub car park in the 1960s. By the 1980s it had acquired a distinctively Irish ethos. Despite a spirited campaign by locals, it was sadly demolished c. 2000.

Edwards, 12 Station Rd. This new pub opened in 1997 as part of the Bass empire's Edwards chain and has had several changes of name since. It is currently operating as **Revolution** more as a night club than a public house.

Eldon Arms. The **Eldon Arms**, 19 Eldon Terrace. Early landlords included H Cain, George Nutt, Thomas Eggleton and William Lyle Jenner. Nutt and Jenner both carried on a trade as a blacksmith, as well as beer retailing. It had a fairly unremarkable history for the first 100 years or so of its existence but that changed in the 1970s when Wadworths of Devizes bought it from Allied Breweries as their first pub in the Reading area. It was extended into a neighbouring cottage in 1985. Licensees Brian and Anne Mackie ran the Eldon from 1974 to 2013, winning a number of Good Beer Guide entries and other awards during that time; sadly Brian died shortly after his retirement. Their successors left after nine months following disagreements with the brewers who then subjected the pub to a complete refurbishment including structural changes prior to reopening under the current licensee, Russell x. These saw the end of the two-bar configuration but a wider choice of beer as a bonus. The pub and the several roads bearing the Eldon name commemorate John Scott, 1st Earl of Eldon (1751-1838), a hardline Lord Chancellor for 26 years, renowned for the repressive series of 'Six Acts' of 1819, which have delighted generations of prurient schoolboys.

Elephant. The **Elephant** at 18/19 Market Place, dated back to at least the 17th century when it took the older form of **Olivant**. During his spending spree, based at the Bell, Robert Woodd spent 30 shillings here. In Jan 1809 'John Wicks, a bargeman and an old offender, was convicted of stealing a great coat from the "Elephant" ... and was sentenced to be transported for 7 years'. It was used by carriers in the 19th century and was also the Reading terminus of an early omnibus service. The **Elephant** was rebuilt in the Victorian age in an 'exuberant chequered

brick'. Photographs from this period show it with the Royal Standard next door dwarfed by later buildings including Sutton's Seeds. 19th and early 20th century landlords included William and Thomas Attwell or Attwells, Joseph Avery, George Hawkins, Alfred Webb and T. Ennion. Early in the 1900s it was patronised by a travelling dentist who pulled teeth out painlessly for a shilling. The last landlord before the pub closed in 1968 was an Italian, Luciano 'Lucky' Noventa, whose wife is reputed to have been a god-daughter of the operatic composer, Umberto Giordano. The Elephant was then replaced by offices, which now house the town's main Post Office. Happily 40 years later the Reading area now has another Elephant with the Copper Inn in Pangbourne recently reverting (with décor to match) to the name it had also possessed until 1967.

Elephant and Castle, 24 Cross St. Prop, 1879, Henry Herring. Closed pre-1927.
Engineers Arms, 23-5 Katesgrove Lane. Prop 1879 & 1887, George Lovegrove. Closed pre-WW2 and demolished in 1963. 5. License presumably transferred to Whitley pub.

Engineers Arms former pub on the Whitley Estate. **Engineers Arms**, Whitley Wood. Originally a Courage pub this was acquired by Morrells of Oxford as their first and only pub in Reading during the 1990s and passed with their successor pubco to Greene King, who on sold it in March 2003 to a small pubco, New Wood Inns. In August 2004 it was closed after a long history of disorder. However plans to demolish it and build residential accommodation in its place have reportedly been turned down (late 2005). Did this pub acquire the licence of the Engineers Arms, near the Katesgrove tannery when it closed. (See Waterloo Sunrise, p. 37?) See above. Was going to be called the Fishermen when acquired by new owners in 1995 but local pressure caused the old name to be retained. In 2005 it was the scene of dramatic events when campaigners from 'fathers4justice' climbed onto the roof clad in batman gear. It was subsequently demolished and redeveloped for housing.

Europa, Oxford Rd. New hotel opened in 1990.

Exchange, Hosier St.

Falcon, 30 Minster St. Robert Arter was licensee in 1823, Hannah Arter in 1827. Later known as the Eagle (e.g. 1887 when Joseph Baker was licensee), swallowed up by Heelas's c. 1900, after which Oliver's/ Reindeer assumed no. 30 (ironically also later subsumed into Heelas).

Feathers and Exchange. Feathers and Exchange stood on the west side of the Market Place by the Corn Exchange and the present day arcade. As plain Feathers it was the venue for meetings of The Youth's Good Intent, a friendly society in the 1820s. Landlords included William Hamblin, Charles Franklin, Walter Sharp, Frederick Augustus Beaumont, Francis Attenbrow and Gordon Stanhope Rix.

Fisherman's Cottage, Kennet Side, is a Grade II listed Gothick folly believed to date from around 1790. Sarah Edwards, 1865. In the late 19th and early 20th century it was kept successively by James Boulton and Mrs Eleanor Boulton. An American serviceman is said to have walked out of the pub during WW2 and straight into the river. A Courage pub till the 1970s, it was then operated as a genuine free house for several years by 'Dr' Paul Hexter who later sold it to Fullers

c. 1982, moving to the Royal Oak in Wantage, where he remains a living legend. Subsequently it was extended at a reported cost of £150,000 and given a canal theme, at the same time losing something of its character. I have been informed that during Dr Hexter's term of office Courage Imperial Russian Stout drinking contests were not unknown. They were terminated when it became known that the possibility of a fatality occurring might render the management culpable of manslaughter. Mike Hewitt was the first landlord of the enlarged pub, which included an ice-cream refrigeration unit on the site of the former outside gents loos. **Five Alls**, 81 Thorn St. Prop 1879, John Martin. Closed after 1905 but before 1927. In May 1889 'John W Hillier was charged with stealing a silver watch, the property of Arthur Harris, from the Five Alls public house, Thorn street, on the 8th of July, 1888. He was sent to prison for 3 months.' Once a popular pub name, the Five Alls were: the King – 'I rule all'; the priest – 'I pray for all'; the soldier – 'I fight for all'; the lawyer – 'I plead for all'; and the farmer (or John Bull) – 'I pay for all'.

Fives Bar, Queens Walk. Café style bar at the rear of what was then the Butts Centre, later New Yorker, now a restaurant.

Flyer and Firkin. See Oakford Social Club and Breweries section.

Forbury Vaults, 21 Abbey St. A modern pub that originally took the name of its predecessor, the White Lion (qv) and was a Morlands house, changing its name in the 1980s (?) Latterly it served as the Boiler Room for a charismatic Christian group (see also Lower Ship). Demolished in 2004 for redevelopment.

Foresters Arms (1), 99 (formerly 87) London Street. Prop 1879, William Watts. The latter advertised it to be let in 1888 as 'a Beer House with Coal and General Business'. Extant in 1905. According to Smart first became a pub in the mid 19c when Emmanuel Cottle appears as publican 1849-51 and was then known as Wiltshire House. Later proprietors are:

- Philip May, 1852
- Abraham Steward, 1853-6 (died that year) – also butcher
- Samuel Stevens 1865-77
- William Watts 1877-89 – also greengrocer (but see also above)
- George Brown, 1890
- Thomas Smith 1890-92 – also general dealer
- Edward James Greaves 1892-7 – ditto
- George Bayliss 1899

Smart first traces the name Foresters to 1878.

Foresters Arms (2), in Brunswick Street was formerly a Justins-Brinn pub proclaiming the virtues of their 'Ales' and 'Celebrated Stout' and later owned successively by Dymore Brown and Morlands. With its fine tiled frontage it continues to trade as a free house and is a rare example of a corridor pub. 79 Brunswick Street. Prop 1879, Daniel Simmonds. Was a Dymore Brown pub before Morlands took them over and previous to that Justin-Brinns proclaiming the virtues of their 'Ales' and 'Celebrated Stout'. Refronted. Robert Edward Bone, beer retailer, 1914.

Foresters Arms (3), 98 Rupert Street. Richard Hunt, prop. 1879, Samuel Morton, 1887. Extant in 1905.

Fountain (1). The **Fountain Inn**, in London St. was kept by the Berrice or Berris family in the early 1800s and then in the late 1820s by Thomas Merrywether, formerly of the nearby and troublesome Duke of Wellington. According to Darter 'The 7th Hussars was a very favourite regiment, and Berris, the son of the landlord, enlisted in' it. The Fountain was said to be their rendezvous at the time of the Peninsular War, although earlier the Sun was apparently favoured. It was briefly renamed the Wheatsheaf in 1839 before reverting to the Fountain in 1841. From 1840-67 it was kept by John Shackel who also carried on the business of harness making. It closed as a pub in the early 20th century and the building itself was demolished and replaced c. 1971.

Fountain (2), Great Knollys St. Extant in 1905.

Four Horseshoes, 177 Basingstoke Rd, was known as Long Barn, Whitley early in the 19th century. Licensees have included Thomas Humphris, 1827, William Fabry, 1871, Charles Ransome, 1879 and Mrs Ellen Ransom, 1914. Original pub demolished 1931 and replaced by present building. In latter years it encountered trouble with the wild men of Whitley and became an oriental restaurant.

Fox. The **Fox**, 24 West St was a Simonds house, a new building being designed for them by Brown and Albury in 1881. This was short-lived as it lost its licence and was closed in 1914, being replaced by the Maypole Dairy till 1939 and later by a succession of shoe shops. The old pub was mentioned in an assault case in 1852. 19th century hosts included Sarah White, John Prior, George Jarvis, Thomas Parr and Charles Rendell.

Fox and Hounds (1).The great claim to fame of the **Fox and Hounds** at 51 Gosbrook Rd is that in 1960 it was run Mike and Bett Robbins, Bett being a cousin of the young Paul McCartney. The future Sir Paul visited the pub with John Lennon and as payment for working behind the bar the two proto-Beatles were allowed to perform in the pub for two nights on 23 and 24 April! The present owners, who also operated the Two Bridges Brewery, have restored the pool room as a shrine to the Fab Four and also vastly improved the range of beer. In 2016 their efforts earned them the award of Pub of the Year from the Reading Branch of CAMRA. (41 Gosbrook St in 1914). 1914, prop. Charles Hawkins. The pub was next to the works of Elliotts whose employees were among their keenest customers.

Fox and Hounds (2), 116 City Rd, Tilehurst. Predates the modern growth of Tilehurst and now stands as an isolated relic surrounded by modern housing.

Frog, Spey Rd, Tilehurst. Modern estate pub, Later renamed the **Oak Tree**. Originally opened in December 1972 with a classic children's stories theme – Beatrix Potter and Kenneth Grahame. Ceased to operate as a pub in the early 21st century, it has since been demolished with Oak Tree House, described as a sheltered housing scheme for the over 55s, now occupying the site. There is perhaps a sense of irony here in view of the earlier connection with childhood entertainment!

Full Moon, a Hosier St pub which closed early in the 20th century and seems to have been a renaming of the Brewery Tap (which see).

Gardeners Arms (1), 116 Kings Rd, James Barfield, 1879. Also A Goodall same year, same directory, 1887, Thomas Chapman. Extant in 1905. Possibly an ex-Bird's house.

Gardeners Arms (2), 48 Surley Row, Emmer Green. This Greene King pub was acquired with the takeover of Morlands Brewery. Until 1926 the pub was a small white cottage next door to the present inn, the last landlord before the move being George Cox 1913-24 (died that year). The new pub was built in the orchard of the old. George Grimshaw-Brown, an ex-policeman moved to the pub with his wife, Grace in 1962 and in 1968 an extension was built which enabled meals to be served including such 60s favourites as chicken-in-the-basket and fried scampi and chips. The new extension incorporated oak panelling from the Prince of Wales, Chatham St which had been demolished to accommodate the IDR. The paneling remains, although regrettably on the author's most recent visit it has been painted over.

Gateway. See Railway Tavern

General Garibaldi, Friars Place. Demolished before 1927

George (1). Although it bears the date 1506, the **George** in King Street is first mentioned in the will of Robert Bedewynde, Mayor 1385-8, who left 'the reversion of the tenement called the 'Georgesyn' in Reading to 'the Mayor of the vill of Reding for the time being.' The Guild accounts state that in 1512/3 payment of 5d (2p) was made at the George for 'bere and ale to my lord chamberleyns serjannts'. A more somber transaction is recorded in St Laurence's Church Churchwardens' Accounts for 1523/4. A 'straunger' had 'dyed' at the George and the church received 12d (5p) for the ringing the 'knyll' on the Great bell. A further sum of 7s 4d (36.5p) was received for 'manes grave that dyed at the george for Coverying of the same'. In the late 1540s it passed into the hands of William Gray, a friend of the Lord Protector Somerset under Edward VI and writer of the ballad, 'The Kynges Hunt is Upp'. **George**. In 1639 the '**George** backside' was the scene of a riot, apparently caused by a fight over a dog. In 1747 it was advertised to let as 'a well accustomed house, lately ornamented and repaired' three years before. During the Regency period an Amateur Musical Society run by a Mr Venua, rehearsed in a large room at the hotel. In 1814 a complaint was made against the overseers of St Lawrence's Workhouse that they 'had paid £19 for a dinner at the George Inn, out of the money collected for the poor.' However, because of a flaw in the indictment, they got off scot-free. Coach services, using the George during this period included the Telegraph to London via Maidenhead, daily; the Rocket to Southampton, three times weekly; and the Star to Bath and Bristol. Later Dickens was a visitor, using the George as a stopping off point on journeys to the south-west during his reading tours. **George**. Nathaniel Hone was licensee of the **George** in the early 19th century, successors including Thomas Edwards, John Giles, Mrs Jane Mason, George Pontin and Henry Neville. It was known as the Liberal Party HQ at election times in the Victorian era and was also renowned for a concoction known as 'Reading Milk' comprising a tumbler of fresh milk, lump of sugar, four table spoons of rum and a little grated nutmeg. The George was credited with a ghost recent viewings of which have been rare and also boasted a Parliament Clock of 1797. **George**. In 1914 following the death of Henry Neville the **George** was auctioned 'in good decorative repair with modern improvements' and went for £10,400. From 1923 to 1967 it was in the hands of the Webb family, successively Richard and Eric, and was then acquired by the Chef and Brewer

division of Grand Metropolitan Hotels, whose successors sold out to Zoffany Hotels in 2002. The latter paid £2.5 million for it and pledged to spend a similar sum on refurbishment. A coachman's carriage used to stand in the courtyard but was sold off in 1985 because Grand Met could not afford to restore it! Three people were killed in a serious fire in 1981. In the 2008 novel by Julie Cohen, *One Night Stand*, the male lead obtains a position as a pastry chef in a town centre hotel called the Harris – possibly a pseudonym for the George, suggested by the characters in *Three Men in a Boat?*

George (2), 470 Wokingham Rd, Earley. Technically in Wokingham district. Old and much extended. 1847, William Wheelwright, 1914, William F Trigg. Described by Frances Lloyd as a meeting place of the local farmers.

George and Dragon (1), 41 King's Rd. Richard Hall was licensee in 1871, Mrs Melvina Warren in 1914. The building was later used as the headquarters of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers.

George and Dragon (2), 162 Bath Rd, Southcote. Greene King roadhouse, acquired with the takeover of Morlands Brewery, was for a while recently renamed the De Montfort before reverting to original name with 'Hungry Horse' branding.

Globe, 28 Bridge St (1914 5 Bridge St. Henry Mason, 1842, William Lock was licensee in 1871, William C Pemberton in 1914. Closed before 1927

Goat. Frequent changes of name and landlord in our day usually spell 'problem pub' and perhaps it was thus with the **Goat** on the west side of London Street at No 45 (later 86), which William Darter characterized as 'one of our notoriously bad houses'. It began the 19th century as the Goat but became the Lamb in 1805, the Duke of Wellington in 1815, the Post Boy ca. 1830, Grapes ca. 1865 and finally in 1875 the Acorn. During 75 years there were 20 changes of landlord, with John Josey's tenure from 1847 to 1862 the only one to reach double figures. At various times he also carried on the trades of cabman and timber merchant. 'During the Peninsular War it was the headquarters of the 'Buffs' recruiting party' but in 1814 it was 'indicted as an house of ill-fame'. Subsequently, 'Sergt. Philips of the Blues, having obtained his discharge, took this house and gave it the name of' the Duke, the anniversary of whose victory at Waterloo was celebrated on the premises in 1816. However, Philips' dose of military discipline seems to have been unsuccessful as he only lasted a couple of years. Josey returned in the 1870s but to no avail. After 1877 it was demolished and replaced by premises used for light engineering and cycle manufacture.

The **Golden Bear (1)** was well known for its cockpit, with matches fought every morning on Reading Races days. In the mid 17th century it was kept by a Mr. Phipps, whose son Sir Constantine (1656-1723) was a distinguished barrister and Lord Chancellor of Ireland, while its 18th century landlords included one Sacheverell Barnham. In 1726 it was the chosen venue for the Mayor and Corporation to entertain the Bishop of Salisbury, whose diocese in those days included Berkshire. In May 1738 Robert Lee of Binfield dined at the Golden Bear, apparently accompanied Messrs Manlove and Seddon. However, it had ceased trading and become a private house by 1802.

As noted in reference to the [Black] Bear, it is not always clear which of the two pubs is being referred to in official records. In 1635 one of the Bears featured in a

cause celebre when 'it was complained on that a silver bole worth 40 or 50s about Whitsontide last past, parte of the goodes of Mr. Payne Cuntrell, was lost or stollen from out of the house called the Beare in Readinge.' The principal suspects were two visitors from Edington in Wiltshire, 'John Robbyns and Amye his wife' but Robbyns 'denyeth the steallinge, taking or carryeing awaye of the silver bole in question.' The case seems then to have been referred to the Assizes.

Golden Bear (2), Richfield Ave. A new family style pub opened in 1990s. [Now Toby Carvery?]

Golden Cross, Waylen St. Demolished before 1927.

Golden Eagle, ?.

Golden Key, 24-6 Kings Rd. This pub was opposite the Huntley and Palmers biscuit works and was demolished in 1935 to provide gardens for the factory workers to use during their breaks with the licence transferred to a new pub in Caversham (see below). The Bodle family ran the pub at the end of the 19th century with Edgar Bodle combining the occupation of fishmonger with that of publican. Edgar is listed as a fishmonger and poulterer in Kelly's 1875 Directory but had acquired a presence in the licensed victualling trade by the time of the 1881 census. His son, William, had been a railway clerk but seems to have taken over the pub side of the business from 1884. Edgar's grandson, Walter, later kept the Clifton Arms, Caversham.

Golden Key, Queens Road, Caversham. Brakspears house, demolished in 2007 to make way for a new flats development, having closed in 2002 following a disastrous fire. The new pub, taking over from the former Golden Key in Kings Road, opened in April 1935 under the proprietorship of Mr Arthur Glass. In its early years the pub was well known for its seaside outings. Writing in the Reading Post, Mrs Gladys Wiggins recalled that 'there used to be three coaches and at the back of each coach were crates of beer for the men and lemonade and crisps for children and mothers'. In its later years an unusual feature was its Western-style saloon doors.

Golden Lion (1). Little seems to have been recorded of the **Golden Lion**, 54 Watlington St. but to this day the Simonds hop leaf betrays its status as a former pub. At the end of the 19th century (1887, 1900) John Jason Spyer was grocer and licensee. From 1920 to the 1950s it was kept by various members of the Amos family and seems to have become a private house thereafter.

Golden Lion (2). The **Golden Lion** was adjacent to the County Gaol in Castle St. and was sold to the County Justices by the Corporation in 1763. It had a detached playhouse associated with it where a comedy, entitled 'The Drummer or the Haunted House' by Joseph Addison was performed in 1749.

Gospoda. See Battle Inn.

Grand Hotel, 41-3 Blagrove St. Redeveloped with railway offices occupying site.

Grapes (1), 43 London St. John Simmonds was licensee in 1871. A later name for the **Goat**, which see..

Grapes (2), 79 Hosier St. Thomas Gardner was licensee in 1879. Closed early in the 20th century.

Great Expectations, 33 London St. began life as the Mechanics' Institution ca 1840 designed by William Brown (1809-65) who also designed Reading's first cemetery. It became a pub in 1998, having served in the meantime as a Primitive Methodist Chapel, a theatre and a small business centre. Dickens was President of the Institution and gave several of his readings here – hence the new name. According to Ald E O Farrer may have been built on the site of the Wheatrick Hotel, where (Masonic) Lodge of Union met in 1833. This does not appear to be borne out by the latest researches by Smart et al but they do show that one of the buildings it replaced was used for cooperage and bottle-making.

Great Western. The **Great Western Hotel**, Station Rd, founded in 1842, is said to have been designed by Brunel himself, although Sidney Gold considers it more likely that either T H Bertram, Assistant Engineer, J E Gandell or Sir Matthew Digby Wyatt were responsible. Originally known as the Railway Hotel and Tap before the present name was adopted, early proprietors included Richard Monk, G Bailey, George Partridge, and then in succession William James and George Flanagan. In 1860 the Grand Duke Michael of Russia, brother to the Tsar, breakfasted at the hotel with a large entourage while en route by train to Torquay, where the Duchess Olga was sick. The Russian connection continued when in 1945 Churchill and Eden stopped for tea on their way back from the Yalta Conference, while in later years it was favoured by the Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, whose son was being educated at Woodcote. **Great Western.** In 1954 the **Great Western** was acquired by Trust Houses Forte who closed it in 1972 to be replaced by the new Post House – at this epoch a hotel near the motorway seemed to be a better business prospect than one near the railway. The closure aroused concern in the council chamber that Reading would suffer from a scarcity of hotel and banqueting facilities but councillors were reassured that the new Post House hotel would more than bridge the gap. Happily Grade II listing prevented the intended demolition of this fine building and in 2007 after use as post office accommodation, headquarters of the Berkshire Health Authority and solicitors' offices it has been reopened as a hotel by the Malmaison group.. Subsequently became post office accommodation and then in 1977 HQ of the Berkshire Health Authority. In 2001 proposals were mooted for turning it into a hotel again with multi-storey additions to the rear but these seem to have bitten the dust. Proprietors: 1842, Richard Monk, 1844, G Bailey, 1856 George Partridge, 1860, William Flanagan, succeeded by James and George of that ilk. 1910, D W Paterson, Manager, 1914, Nat. J. Vaughan. John Strange was the last Manager before closure. Ballroom could hold 200 people.

Green Dragon, Southampton St. Closed before 1927

Green Man, 30 Whitley St. See Wellington Arms.

Grenadier Also in Basingstoke Rd, the **Grenadier** was located close to where the Post House Hotel (now Holiday Inn) was built. In 1913, when Mrs Edith Emily Emery was hostess, the original pub was the meeting place of the South Berks Hunt. It was rebuilt in 1937 100 yards to the north of the old pub in roadhouse style with J M Jones of Maidenhead as contractors but demolished in 1972. The Post House contained a Grenadier Room presumably in honour of the former pub. Edward Petty, 1854

Grey Friar. See Malthouse.

Greyhound, Mount Pleasant (originally 41 or 48 Silver St) succumbed to a combination of greedy developers, English Heritage obscurantism and local council's pusillanimity which led to it being demolished in 2000 for new housing development, which predictably took a further 5 years to realise! In spite of its undoubted antiquity listing was refused on the basis that it had been too much altered. Licensees included William Garrard (1785), Thomas Berkshire (1823 and 1827), the Scearce family (125 years, also owned adjoining blacksmith's forge, John Scearce, 1887, 1897 & 1914). It was run by the Scearce family, who also owned the adjoining blacksmith's forge, for 125 years, while in the late 19th century William Scearce also had the nearby Oxford Arms and Red Cow . In more recent years the most memorable landlord was Bill Mowbray, who sadly died from leukemia in 1990 after 14 years at the helm. Bill ran a sports injuries clinic at the pub but took mild exception when a Good Beer Guide entry penned by the author described him as a sports fitness fanatic. His sense of humour is illustrated by an exchange that occurred when he was on his last legs: Customer. What I like about you, Bill, is that you've got character. Bill: What was that you said – I've got cancer?

Griffin. There has been an Inn on the site of the **Griffin** in Church Rd, Caversham, since the early 17th century, the sign of the griffin being part of the coat of arms of Lord Craven, who was then Lord of the Manor. The story is told of Jonathan Blagrove, a wealthy farmer, who bragged rather too freely of his successful visit to market and was bludgeoned to death some three hundred yards from the inn on his way home at 3 a.m. in 1723.

The old inn was demolished and rebuilt in 1911. Joseph Taylor was the landlord before and after the rebuilding, predecessors including Charlotte Hall and Charles Best. A make-over in 1997 as a Chef and Brewer house led to a greater emphasis on food but despite this the pub has achieved an entry in the Good Beer Guide.

Griffin, 10/12 Church Rd, Caversham. Inn on site since early 17c but demolished and rebuilt in 1911. The sign of the griffin was part of the coat of arms of Lord Craven, who was Lord of the Manor of C., in the 17c and allegedly the first owner of the inn. Long relates story of Jonathan Blagrove, a wealthy farmer, who bragged rather too freely of his successful visit to market and was bludgeoned to death some three hundred yards from the inn on his way home at 3 am (good old 24 hour drinking!!) in 1723. Southerton has photo of the original inn p 152. Kept in 1854 by Mrs Charlotte Hall. Charles Best , landlord, 1876 and 1879, Joseph Taylor, 1907 & 1914. Renovation in 1997 led to a greater emphasis on food but despite this the pub has achieved GBG status. John Upton and Carol Aitken were licensees following the refurbishment.

Grosvenor House, 109 Kidmore Rd, Caversham. Reopened in 1965 after major alterations by Courage's hotel division, Anchor Hotels and Taverns, manager, R M Scarbrow. Was up for sale in September 1984 with a housing development on the site proposed but survived the threat. In the news in 2005 when local people opposed extension of hours under new Licensing Act. Currently part of the Ember Inns pub group. At the outset of 2017 it was rumoured that a major refurbishment would take place with the pub reopening in April as the **Caversham Rose**.

Ha! Ha!, Kings Rd. 'Bar and canteen' opened late 1990s as part of a spin-off from the Yates's Wine Bars. It seemed to be a popular venue for a slightly more

sophisticated class of younger drinker. The name presumably derives from the 18th century equivalent of the cattle grid. In 2007 it was renamed the **Abbey** with real ale as part of the product mix but shortly after became a restaurant.

Half Moon. 'Danyell Pearce, vyntnier' pulled pints here in 1612. There was also a pub of this name in Hosier St in 1886, landlord George Isaac Walker; this may well have replaced the original Half Moon, the site of which is unknown.

Hand. An inn of this name is listed by Ernest Dormer in a 1955 article as site unknown.

Hand and Flower, 59 Southampton St. Landlord, 1879, S Ayres.

Happy Prospect, Coronation Square, Southcote. This Courage-operated 60s Estate pub acquired a reputation for boisterous behavior and was demolished in 2011. Flats were built on the site.

Harvester, Holymead, Fords Farm. New food-oriented pub in shopping precinct in one of the newer fringe of Reading estates. Defunct.

Hat and Feather. This inn is mentioned in the probate inventory of Elizabeth Burd who died in 1748.

Hexagon Bar, Queens Walk. Bar serving the theatre complex adjacent to Reading's civic centre, opened in 1977.

Hind Head in London Street, kept in 1600 by Richard Tench, a native of Shropshire who came to Reading to work in the cloth industry.

Hobgoblin (1). Name by which the former Cock (-1845) and London Tavern (1845-1994) was known until 2013, when it was given the rather bland name of **The Alehouse**. . After being shut for a period it reopened in 1993 under the Wychwood Brewery, Witney, selling a mix of their beers and beers from other smaller, independent breweries. Duncan Ward was the first landlord under Wychwood, continuing until 1997, others including Paul Campbell and Rob Wain.

Hobgoblin (2). See New Inn (2).

Hook and Tackle, Katesgrove Lane (originally Orchard St), was called the Tanners Arms until 1984, with reference to the nearby Filberts Tannery. The earliest recorded licensee, George Gunnell, experience a number of legal obstacles. In January 1845 he was fined 5s [25p] for opening too early on a Sunday and six months later capped this with a 10s [50p] fine for staying open too late! In 1854 'Mary Gray, a widow keeping the Tanners Arms beerhouse' is reported in the Reading Mercury as having 'failed to open up after 11 pm to billet two soldiers and was fined 40s [£2].' Frederick Beasley is listed as beer retailer at 7 Orchard St from 1875 to 1889 and it was during the early part of his tenure that the pub came into the Simonds estate. Intriguingly from 1909-12 the pub had a landlady called Florence Lloyd who became Florence Thatcher and next but one in line was John Major (1914)! Major was succeeded later that year by one Dieudonné Zachary who held the tenancy until his death in 1944.

Originally a beerhouse only the Tanners obtained a wine licence in 1954 when Leonard Cox was Mein Host. Its proximity to the Kennet (albeit separated by the IDR) no doubt suggested the new name which was adopted when it was acquired from Courage as a free house by Mr. Stephen Ellyatt, who was also landlord of the London Tavern (later Hobgoblin/ Alehouse). It was extended then at a cost of £40,000 and has been further extended since. After Ellyatt retired to Jersey, it was

sold to Regent Inns and later belonged to the Barrcuda pub chain. In recent years it has experienced a degree of decay and was for a while closed with rather inelegant black plastic sheeting covering the interior of the windows rather than the customary iron cladding without. The pub reopened following a thorough refurbishment towards the end of 2014 but has found difficulty establishing a consistent style.

Hop Leaf. The **Hop Leaf**, 163-5 Southampton St is a Listed building, Grade II. George Benwell was beer retailer at this address in 1879.. In 1907 the architectural firm of Millar and Cox was responsible for its 'rebuilding'. [EW says Hewett's until 1895 c. Originally a Simonds pub, it was reopened in 1995 as a tied house of the Hopback Brewery, with initially a small brew plant operated by Eddie Robinson, who claimed to be the only brewer in the country of Maori descent. Regrettably this was later removed to facilitate an unsuccessful attempt to provide hot meals, although the fascia still proclaims the Hop leaf to be a Hopback brewpub. The present managers, David and Claire Richards are also the longest-serving under Hopback, having run the pub since 2007. The Simonds connection remains evident not only in the name but also the ubiquity of hop leaves for instance in the railings to the front garden. The hop leaf motif is said to have been designed for Simonds by Sir John Soane, who also designed the Bridge Street brewery.

Hope Tap, 99-101 Friar St. A new Wetherspoons pub opened in 1997, but taking its name from the Hope Brewery which flourished at 102-6 Friar St c 1830-50 and seems to have been subsumed into Dymore Brown's business. The Post Office Directory of 1842 shows that the brewery occupied no 103, with a tap bar next door at 104 operated by John Goodchild; Colin Ager's researches show that he was later followed by James Alex McMorran. The present Hope Tap was the 2006 winner of the 'the most attractive pub or restaurant' award in the Reading in Bloom Competition.

The **Horn** stands at the corner of Castle St. and St Mary's Butts and is believed to date from the 17th century, although its earliest mention as a hostelry is in 1823 when John Pecover was landlord. His 19th century successors included James Haines, Thomas Ellen, James Froude, James Cambourn, William Morrell, John Corbett, James Ware, William and Eliza Darch and in 1903 Harry Wild. Although until recently associated by its sign with the horn of plenty (cornucopia), it is listed in an 1852 directory as the French Horn. The most recent makeover has decorated the inn-sign with a set of coaching horns.

In 1879 when Morrell was the landlord, the architect Charles Smith (1832-1912) designed stables for the Horn on behalf of H & G Simonds. During the 20th century, Charles Walter Absolom followed George Ware and from 1915 until the late 40s his widow, Mrs Florence Martha Absolom, later Mrs F M Butcher, ruled the roost. In 1917 and 1918 the Horn raised 8/0 ½ [40p] and £1/10/6 [£1.52] respectively for the Royal Berkshire Hospital in response to its Comforts for Wounded Soldiers appeal. Florence Absolom's successors included Ernest George Warner, Ralph A Blick and Frank Haslam who with his wife, Patsy ran the pub during much of the 1960s and 70s. Frank was noted for the very strict dress code that he imposed in the evenings in particular. Those who did not conform were advised, 'You'll be happier drinking elsewhere.' Bad language was also frowned upon and even a

group of local solicitors were barred when their deliberations descended to swearing! It was perhaps characteristic of the Haslams' era that an annual black tie charity dinner and dance was held for the customers. Frank Haslam later moved on to the Swan at Arborfield and merited a fulsome obituary in the Reading Chronicle when he died in 2013, aged 89.

The Horn was one of six Reading pubs to appear in CAMRA's first Good Beer Guide in 1974, when it was characterized as a 'popular friendly pub within sight of the brewery.' Dolly Mitchell (1896-2000), at the time of her death Reading's oldest resident, 'used to enjoy a couple of glasses of lunchtime Guinness in the Horn pub – and a bottle of draught-Mild to take home (in an empty whisky bottle)'.

Horncastle, 208 Bath Rd, Calcot. Associated with the story of the 'Berkshire Lady', Miss Kendrick who married her husband after ambushing him disguised as a man (see also Mansion House). 1887, Thomas Gover, 1914, George James Lewis. Rebuilt in roadhouse style between the wars. Closed 2014 and converted to a pet shop.

Horse and Groom. See **Sailor's Home**.

Horse and Jockey. The **Horse and Jockey**, 120 Castle Street is first mentioned in 1699 but was rebuilt in 1823, when it was reported that the landlord, John Davis, 'has taken a commodious house opposite while his Inn is being rebuilt' A Carnation Feast, costing 3s. 6d. (17½p), was held in July 1786 with the first prize a piece of plate worth a guinea. In 1812 the Company of Gentlemen Florists held their annual Pink Feast at the Horse and Jockey and it was later the venue for meetings of 'The Friendly Society'. It was a house of call for wagons and coaches, being listed in 1825 as a stopping place for Baker and Gilder's London to Newbury coaches and in 1837 as the loading point for Basing's wagon from Frome to London.

John Davis was succeeded in 1827 by Mary Davis and later 19th century incumbents of the **Horse and Jockey** included W Middleton, G. A. Wharton, John Springthorpe, Thomas Kemp, Mrs Jane Carey and in 1914, William Vass. In 1840 Wharton, 'having taken and entered into the above house', placed an advertisement, begging 'most gratefully to acknowledge the kindness and support he has received from his numerous friends for the last years while living at the Woolpack', and 'to those Gentlemen who have been patrons of the Horse and Jockey he most respectfully appeals for a continuance of the same.' In 1900 the inn's strategic position at the foot of Castle Hill was recognized when it was a "staging-post" during a series of time trials intended by the Automobile Club (later given the prefix Royal) to prove the reliability of the motor car.

For about 7 years up to 1999 Peter Taylor was a very popular landlord with real ale aficionados, winning the Reading Pub of the Year award from CAMRA twice, but when Greene King purchased the **Horse and Jockey** from Courage's successors in 1998, he found he was unable to make a living selling their beer and eventually accepted a pay-out from them. Greene King then discovered that nobody else was capable of running the pub successfully and eventually sold it on in 2002 to Outside Inns, who renamed it 120 Castle Street. It had an equally chequered history under Outside Inns but later resumed trading under its traditional name. In 2015 a consortium including Katrina Fletcher (late of the

Alehouse or Hobgoblin) took over the pub and following a refit reopened it as the **Castle Tap**.

Notes by Nigel Sutcliffe:

On the social side an advertisement in 1787 for the Reading Race Assemblies stated that "great inconvenience arises from payment being made at the door of the Town Hall as it occasions much delay and adds to the difficulty of collecting a proper account of the names of Ladies who chose to dance Minuets." In future, entrance was to be by ticket only, obtainable at the Post and Printing Offices and at the Horse and Jockey, Castle Street, Gentlemen's Tickets 1787-1792. 6s; Ladies 3s 6d.

For the 1792 races the appropriately named Horse and Jockey, now the Castle Tap, still standing in Castle Street, was the pub where entries for races were accepted races between 4pm and 7pm on the Monday the week before the meeting. The fees were "three guineas to the plates and five shillings to the clerk of the course or five guineas at the post and ten shillings and sixpence to the clerk or whom he shall appoint."

Horseshoes. 97 Friar St. William Shaylor was licensee in 1823/7. Was called the Wellington Arms in 1887 with Charles Hammond as licensee.

Ice Bar, Friar St. Another new pub, of the species for which the term 'vertical drinking establishment' has been aptly coined, on the Friar St circuit – opened in 1998 as The Square. It is currently known as QClub.

Imperial, Watlington St. Extant in 1905.

Jack of Both Sides. See **Abbot Cook**.

Inkerman Arms, Chain St. Prop 1879, Mr Nunn. This was named after one of the more successful battles for the "Allies" against Russia in the Crimean War.

Jack of Newbury, Seven-Bridges. Jack of Newbury was a semi-legendary character in the history of the clothmaking industry, and the subject one of two early novels by the Elizabethan writer, Thomas Deloney. Anslow Eyres was licensee in 1823, Thomas Cole, 1827, Thomas Patey, 1842, Richard Smith was licensee in 1871, when address was 16 Bridge St. 1887, Charles Goodall. Closed after 1905 and before 1927.

Jolly Anglers, 314 Kennetside. At the present time the **Jolly Anglers**, Kennet Side, is with the Fisherman's Cottage one of the last two remaining Newtown pubs. Mr G Hall is recorded as landlord in 1875 and 1879. His successor, George Sims combined the occupations of publican and boat builder. Arthur Mustoe was landlord during the early years of the 20th century. The attractive pub sign is one of a number painted for the Courage group by Mr G. E. McKinney. An attempt by investor owners to convert the pub into residential accommodation in the late Noughties inspired a successful locally-inspired 'Jollidarity' campaign to secure the pub's future with former manager, Mr John Westendorp, returning as mine host.

Jolly Brewer(s), 12 Tilehurst Rd (formerly 10-11 Prospect Hill, 1914, later 26 Tilehurst Rd). Early landlords from 1841 included George Bond and William Whitefield. A Mr Hutt was licensee in 1865 and 1871, William Wright from 1879 to the turn of the century, with James Hunt, R C Bryant and George Bishop

occupying the seat of custom during most of the the first half of the 20th century. The pub was rebuilt in estate style in 1969, replacing what was then described as a 70-year old pub on nearby site. In 1989 it received an £80,000 facelift from brewers, Courage , with Mr Fred Benham, a retired brewer pulling the first pint after the reopening. More recently it was renamed Westside by new owners, Greene King but has since been converted into a shop. More or less opposite the pub site is the Robert Hewett recreation ground, named after the brewer, whose house, St Mary's Hill, occupied the corner of Prospect Hill and Tilehurst Road.

Jolly Drover. **Jolly Drover**, 31 Great Knollys St., flourished towards the end of the 19th century under landlords, William Chase and Edwin Frederick Tubb but closed early in the 20th. It later became the headquarters of Thimbleby and Shorland, estate agents and auctioneers, and was then known as Market House but was demolished during the early years of the 21st century.

Jolly Porter, Station Hill. The pub was originally located at 37 Station Road, adjacent to Vincent's celebrated car showrooms, but this building was demolished and the pub relocated to a position 50 yards away nearer the station in 1972. The modern rather faceless replacement was latterly used as a shop and finally demolished in 2015 when the long-planned redevelopment of Station Hill commenced. It was originally integrated with an underground dive bar, which later operated as an independent entity but has also been reduced to rubble. Licence applications indicate that perhaps two bars will form part of the new development.

John Bull Old Coley pub in Coley Place.

Kennet Arms, Pell St., perhaps surprisingly a Grade II listed building. It briefly reverted to its old name after being called the Claddagh Ring from 1995. The pub is said to have had the coolest beer in Reading because of the proximity of its cellar to the river. Early landlords included Frederick Nobes, Elijah Daubeny and C. Hine. In 1899, alterations and additions were undertaken to designs of James Hugh Goodman. C. Hine, landlord in the 1920s, provided this jingle to attract custom: "When you come this way, Just step in and say, S.B. [i.e. Simonds Bitter]" In 1932 a Sunflower and Marrow Club was formed at the Kennet, resulting in a highly successful flower show in September of that year. In latter years it was a favourite with the Irish community but after being closed for a number of years it reopened as a convenience store in 2014.

Kennet Arms. The Kennet Arms, Castle St was known as 'The Kennet Brewery' in 1871 when John Edwards was innkeeper. In 1888 Charles Norman was fined £5 for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, with 21 days imprisonment 'in default of distress'. It closed on 1 January 1969 to make way for the IDR, beneath which its site is interred. [so the site must have moved from next to the almshouses????]

Kennet House. Kennet House, 2 London St., stood to the south of the High Bridge. Originally used by a coach-building and harness-making outfit, it became a pub in 1836 with its own brewhouse up to around 1850. Later Henry Coggs was many years landlord (1853-71), followed by Mrs Coggs and towards the end of the 19th century Albert and Esther Wheeler. The building now houses the well-known London Street Brasserie.

King's Arms (1). Undoubtedly the most imposing of Reading's former inns, the **King's Arms**, 154-60 Castle Hill, is now called Jersey House. It only became an inn in the mid-18th century, although there is some evidence of 17th century fabric when it formed a group of houses called the Forlorn Hope after Civil War fortifications. 'A secret hiding place traditionally exists in' the right-hand front room 'in a thick wall near the staircase.' According to Mary Russell Mitford, it was the scene of a weekly whist drive. In 'Hester', the longest of the sketches in her 'Belford Regis' a character called Nat Kinlay is described as 'amongst the most prominent of the Belfordians who figured at the Wednesday night's club at the King's Arms.' In his love of gambling, speculation and extravagance Nat would seem to owe something to Mary's father, Dr Mitford, who may well have frequented the same Wednesday club.

In 1796, the **King's Arms** was requisitioned by the government as a hostel for French clergy from Normandy fleeing from the French revolution. More than 340 priests were billeted in Reading, 40 of whom died during their years of exile; of the 340, 231 were housed at the inn. The assembly room was used as a chapel and services are said to have attracted some 400 worshippers. After the accession of Napoleon, it suited the Emperor-to-be to ingratiate himself with the Pope and most of the priests returned to France in 1802. Thereafter, the **King's Arms** may have briefly resumed its status but by the 1820s the name had passed to a humbler edifice next to the almshouses on the south side of Castle Street.

King's Arms (2), 84 Castle St (44 before renumbering) This was a beerhouse which as noted above appears to have acquired the licence of the former King's Arms - or as a writer in the Reading Mercury in 1953 eloquently puts it 'the name of the greater inn was transferred to a more humble hostelry'. James Williams, listed in 1823, seems to have been the first governor of the new King's Arms. Later licensees included Charles White (c. 1841), Jacob Crisp (c. 1865-87), George Edward Burgess (c. 1889-95) and Pat Adey at the time of the outbreak of the Great War. Crisp is also recorded as a manufacturer of soda water and ginger beer.

King's Head, Whitley Row. Ann Hitchman was licensee in 1823 and 1827. In 1808 when Mr Hitchman was landlord there was a Carnation Feast in July 'when several pieces of plate will be given'. In January 1814 during the great freeze 'a post-chaise attempting to go to Basingstoke, got stuck in the snow by the King's Head, was dugged out, and returned home again.'

King's Tavern, 252 King's Road. New pub built for Wethered's Brewery, mid 1970s in office block, originally called Cap and Gown, partly it is believed on the site of the Berkshire Inn. Changed to present name in 1988. Despite unprepossessing exterior it was a highly regarded outlet for real ale prior to the name change with several Good Beer Guide entries: 'Comfortable, modern pub on two levels' (1980). The name change coincided with the disappearance of Wethered's brewery and their succulent ales and in its latter years the pub served only brewery-processed beers. After some years of being closed it was converted to a grocery shop in 2013.

Lamb (1). See Goat.

Lamb (2), Wheelers Green, Woodley. Alexander New was publican in 1847. Ceased business after repeal of Wellington's Beer Act in 1869 and turned into two dwellings, Wellside and Well/ Cottage.

Lands End, Giddy Bridge, Woodley. Pub run by William George in 1847. Rebuilt in 1930. Brakspears from?

Leopold Arms, 52 Leopold Rd, Newtown, closed as a pub and became a plant hire shop, then demolished during 1970s redevelopments. 1879, George Amor. This is presumably the same chap who got into a spot of bother at the Three Tuns in 1888. Simonds house. Named after Queen Victoria's youngest son, Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany (1853-1884). 1888, Charles Field

Lifeboat. There is little at 39 St John's Road to suggest it was once **The Lifeboat**. On the North West corner of the junction with St John's Hill, this modest beerhouse had Edwin Butcher, J. Ebborn, William George Saint and James Pike among its licensees in the late Victorian period. Closed early 20th century. Berkshire Brewery house until 1883. Signage now visible in St John's Hill indicates that it sold Ind Coope beers.

Lion (1). The **Lion Brewery and Tap** was at 20 Castle St. and was originally operated by James Moore, listed in 1871 as 'ale and porter brewer'. However, the business was sold in 1877 by George Moore to Samuel Higgs and subsequently traded as S. H. Higgs Ltd. Wethereds, by then a subsidiary of Strongs of Romsey, took over the company in 1953, along with its eight tied houses. The Lion pub continued in operation with Cyril George Allen as licensee in 1954 but eventually succumbed to the redevelopment of Castle Street north as the civic centre and magistrates courts in the 1970s.

Lion (2). Reading's other **Lion** was located in Great Knollys Street, close to the cattle market. A Mr Allnutt was owner in 1852 with John Seal licensee, so that it may have been connected with Allnutt's brewery in Castle Street. Later hosts included Charles Waterman, Frederick Prowting and Charles Winslet. It had all-day licence on cattle market days before the end of the 'close period'. Its lunches were popular with the farming community and earned the pub a place in the Good Food Guide. In the 1970s and 80s it was prominent in bar billiards circles and hosted ladies practice nights. It was briefly renamed the Zoo in 1992 but closed in 2001 and was subsequently redeveloped. It is said that the closure of the slaughterhouse in 1996 sealed its fate.

Litten Tree The former Congregational Chapel, Castle St, built in the late 1830s, closed for worship in 1956 and served as a furniture store and night club before becoming a pub at the turn of the century. Originally a **Litten Tree** until 2005, it was subsequently known as **Dogma**. In a later manifestation as **Evissa**, understood to be Spanish for Ibiza, it largely reverted to night club mode, no doubt catering for the 18-30s (and more 18 than 30), like its eponymous island. More recently, a further change of management in 2014 resulted in the unusual name, **Rynd**, with an emphasis on dining but latest (2016) reports suggest it will become a licensed gaming room with the equally off-beat name of **Public Reading**.

Little Crown. One of the oldest inns in what is now Katesgrove, the **Little Crown** at 13 Southampton St. (originally 60 Horn St) was prominent as a loading point and house of call for wagons and is sometimes described as an 'Old Coaching

House'. Ingalls 1837 directory lists it as the loading point for Machin's wagon from Tetbury to London (New Inn, Old Bailey). When the Beating of the Bounds party called there in 1816 they 'regaled 11 boys (who accompanied them) with bread and cheese and beer, at the Little Crown, and gave them a shilling each,' while the adults in the party refreshed themselves at the Crown. Mary Faulkner was licensee in the 1820 when it was the meeting-place of a friendly society called The Union. Later incumbents in the mid-19th century were Edward Emans, Thomas and Elizabeth Brown, Williams Sales and William Mabbett. In 1886 it was reported that Mary Ann Simmonds, wife of John Simmonds, had died at the Little Crown aged 66. He is listed as landlord for around 20 years from 1870, followed by William Amos who saw out the 19th century. Mrs Emily Lock is listed from 1911-20 and it is interesting that in 1914 next door at no 13 was Edward W Lock, Licensed Horse Slaughterer. Were they related and did the regulars enjoy a strong whiff of glue as they supped their beer? As Edward Lock is also listed as licensee in 1916, the answer to the first part would appear to be yes! There was then a very long reign from the early 1920s to the early 1950s for Henry Thomas Britten, followed by Mrs. E Britten. Before its demise in 1969 it hosted meetings of the local Model Racing Car Club. At one time part of the Blandy Hawkins estate, it was latterly a Simonds (later Courage) house.

Little Plough. The Little Plough was situated on The Triangle, Tilehurst. This was a very small pub, essentially the front room of a cottage. Closed c.1950. Dennis Gill: 'There used to be a parrot in there and it had a horrible whistle and made odd remarks to people, some of which were not very polite!'

London, 46 Minster St. Prop 1879, C Goodall. This must have given cause for some confusion with nearby London tavern in Broad St.

London Tavern, formerly the Cock and later the Hobgoblin, which see. William Lovegrove was licensee of the Cock, Fisher-row, in 1823. William Faulkner in 1827, when Broad St address given. London Tavern: Henry Selwood Ballard, 1887, Charles Casburn, 1900, Ernest Wilkinson, 1914, Henry Smart, 1921-. Raymond Quelch recalls some interesting tales of the **London Tavern** in the 1950s, when it was run by Bill and Gwen Fulton. Bill's admirable concept of the local pub was: 'This is my house and you are a guest in my front room. Treat this room like you would treat a friend's front room and you will be OK.' However, the Lemonade Man blotted his copybook. He was so called because he drank eight pints of lemonade each session, making funny noises as he did so. One night the assembled company was watching the film of JACK THE RIPPER on the TV. 'All of us had glasses in our hands and the lights were low...It was a foggy night and a woman came to the bridge and Jack the Ripper struck. At that very moment the Lemonade Man went 'AAHHAA,' and everyone with a glass in their hand spilled beer. You have never seen so much beer spilt in your life...We never saw the Lemonade Man again.' **London Tavern.** In the 1970s the **London Tavern** was well-known for its businessmen's lunches and in the 1980s it was run by Steve Ellyatt who later bought the Tanners Arms. After some years of decline it reopened as a Wychwood Brewery pub in 1993 and from 1994 was a favourite with real ale

aficionados as the **Hobgoblin**. In 2012 it was renamed the **Alehouse**, although many still refer to it as 'The Hob'.

Lord Clyde, 8 Southampton St. Prop 1879, E Lovegrove, 1887, Edward Embury. Extant in 1905. Probably at corner of Katesgrove Lane. In 1900 a card advertised: 'Well-aired beds, 4d single, 7d double, extra 2d.'

Lower Plough, Church Rd, Tilehurst. 1914, Charles Henry Allen.

Lower Ship. To the north of the High Bridge at 22 Duke Street, the **Lower Ship** was also known as Horse and Barge, although the print by Timms of 1823 shows its name then as Lower Ship. John Butler was then the licensee but in the late 18th century the artist's father, William Timms, kept the pub, announcing in 1789 that he had 'lately entered the wine and spirit trade which he sells wholesale and retail'. In 1889 it was rebuilt by Nicholson and Son, the Maidenhead brewers, to designs by Frederick W Albury (1845-1912). However, it closed in early 1980s and has been boarded up ever since. In 1988 was reported to have been acquired by Samuel Smith's of Yorkshire as a tied house but about this time Smith's decided to cease their expansion southwards and did not proceed with their plans for the building. There were rumours around 2009 that Samuel Smith's were about to realise their investment by reopening the pub but the drinking community still waits with parched tongue.

Lyndhurst Arms. The **Lyndhurst Arms** is located at the corner of Queen's Rd and Watlington St., which was for a short while called Lyndhurst Street after the man who succeeded Lord Eldon as Lord Chancellor in 1827. G Ayres and Frederick Davey were early 20th century landlords and in 1917 the pub raised 2/10 ½d (14p) for the Royal Berkshire Hospital. In 1988, The Lyndhurst won what seems to have been the first Reading in Bloom Competition for pubs, with the Allied Arms second and Prince of Wales, Tilehurst third.

MacDevitts, South St. A sadly short-lived new bar opened in 1989 as part of the South Street Arts Centre, named after a Reading Borough Councillor who had recently died prematurely. The former premises are still used for musical activities etc and include a bar of sorts from which bottled beer can be purchased.

Maiden Over, Silverdale Rd, Earley. A more attractive than usual estate pub on Maiden Erleigh estate with strong cricketing theme which at one time included a tribute to local cricketing hero, Ken Barrington. Name is obviously a pun on the cricketing theme and the name of the estate. In 2014, the pub was acquired by Tesco with a view to converting it to a mini-supermarket but these plans have yet to be realized.

Malthouse. **Malthouse**, 53 Greyfriars Rd, was a noted 'gay pub' as the Tudor Arms but after surviving demolitions threats in 1986 it was reopened by Whitbread as a real ale house in 1988 under its new name. Although the name continues, in the 2000s recently resumed its connections with the gay community. The Malthouse was originally a Bird's house, supplied by the nearby Weldale Brewery but owes its current exterior appearance to alterations undertaken at the behest of Wethered's of Marlow in 1937 designed by Gerald Berkeley Wills (1883-1979) that were intended to improve what had been 'a fair example of the poorer type of public-house of about fifty years ago.' Wills designed at least five other pubs in the borough, along with Reading Crematorium, scene of the last rites of many a

Reading licensee. The gay reconnection was of short duration and the pub closed with planning permission granted for part-conversion to residential accommodation. Happily an area of retail space was retained and this reopened as the Grey Friar in 2014.

Mansion House, Prospect Park, Liebenrood Rd. Externally an early 19th century (Pevsner) mansion that was restored as a Brewer's Fayre pub/ restaurant. According to Hylton, correct name is Prospect Hill House and was built 1759 on site of earlier building by Benjamin Childs who married Frances Kendrick, the Berkshire Lady (See also Horncastle). This forms the central part of the present building which was built round after the house was acquired by John Ernest Liebenrood in 1800. The building passed into the ownership of the Council in 1901 and was for a while used as tea rooms but fell into disrepair from the 1950s. Listed Grade II.

Market House, Market Place [Spirit?] licence refused to Joseph Page Marks, 1852.

Marquess of Lorne. The former **Marquess of Lorne** at 125 Friar St derived its name from 9th Duke of Argyll who prior to his succession to the dukedom had held the courtesy title of Marquess at the time of his marriage to Princess Louise in 1871. In August 1894, the landlord of the Marquess, John Partridge, raised the alarm when the Royal County Theatre next door was destroyed by fire. He was apparently alerted by his children while eating his breakfast. Some years after the Marquess's death in 1914 the pub was redesigned by George Reginald Morris, architect and surveyor to H & G Simonds, in the Tudor style, well described by David Cliffe as 'fake Tudor décor, with the air of a film set about it'. As a result it became known as the **Tudor Restaurant/ Tavern**. A well-known Jazz pub in the 1980s it rapidly declined thereafter, ending up as a lap-dancing venue prior to being converted to other retail use.

Marquis of Granby The **Marquis of Granby**, 120 London Road, was a rural pub well into the 19th century when the Wokingham Road was known as Windsor Forest Road. Originally named the Gallows Tavern it was renamed after the ubiquitous British general in 1763, although in a map of 1790 it is marked as New Inn. At one time it had a signboard bearing this date showing the 'noble and gallant Marquis standing beside a highly prancing charger'. In 1786 a Mrs White, who had previously operated a theatre in Maidenhead, opened a 'warm and commodious' theatre at the inn and put on performances of Shakespeare and Sheridan, which became quite an attraction with the well-to-do but came to an end after only a month when local felons burgled the inn and made off with the theatrical costumes and props. An advertised reward for recovery of the items evoked no response. In the late 19th to early 20th centuries landlords included, prop. William Lee (1871), F. Baylis (1876) Albert Oram (1887) and Tom Harvey (1914). In the 1950s it might be said to have renewed its theatrical connections through a visit by Errol Flynn during a 'drinking spree'. Renamed Hattons for a while in the 1980s it reverted to something like its original name in 1989 as the Granby Tavern and until recently survived as a pub, latterly serving the gay community. However, in 2013 it was due to be converted to retail use.

May Duke, 81 Great Knollys St. Prop 1879, Thomas Love, 1914, Harry Sherwood.

Merry Maidens, 234 Shinfield Rd. This pub was situated in a part of Shinfield that was incorporated into Reading in 1887, at which time Michael Dunn was the landlord and the address was Four Merry Maidens, Whitley. It has also been described as Reading's largest pub. The maidens who existed in statuary form outside the pub are said to derive from an old ballad collected by the Revd. Sabine Baring-Gould who is perhaps best known as the author of *Onward Christian Soldiers*. Entitled *The Three Drunken Maidens*' this ditty began as follows:

There were three drunken maidens came from the Isle of White (sic),
They drank from Monday morning right through to Saturday night,
When Saturday night came round my boys, they would not then go out,
These three drunken maidens they pushed the jug about.

Perhaps inevitably the saga ended in tears:

And where are your maidenheads you maidens rich and gay,
We left them in the alehouse we drank them clean away.

Towards the end of the pub's existence the Maidens ceased to be merry and perhaps this lack of merriment hastened the pub's closure, following which it was converted into a Sainsbury's supermarket. EP of 28-1-70 shows 34 cyclists outside the pub. RC of 4-5-78 shows new and old pubs.

Landlord in 1887, 1914, Henry Egby, whose son, Harry, subsequently kept the Mitre. 1915, John Woodhead (?). H. Hazell, proprietor in the 1920s was also a member of the Reading Board of Guardians.

Milestone Centre, Milestone Way, Caversham Park Village. This is not quite a pub but a social club which in the absence of any pubs fulfils this function for those inhabitants of Caversham Park that require it. The name refers to a milepost on what was once the Reading and Hatfield Turnpike Road.

Military Arms. The **Military Arms**, Queens Road was kept by Mrs Clara Tirrell or Tyrrell in 1879, Edwin Deering in 1900 and Frederick Henry Beavis, 1914. It possibly derived its name from the Cannon Brewery that flourished on the site in the mid-19th century. By 1971 it had become a grocers' and it remains as a corner shop to this day, handy for patrons of the nearby Retreat.

Millers Arms, 1 Paddock Rd, Caversham. Riverside pub owned by Morlands where the pigeon-fanciers club used to meet. Characteristic Morlands wood-panelling. Demolished for housing development. Landlord in 1914, Tom J Waldron.

Mitre. The **Mitre** was originally near St Laurence's Church and Blandy's solicitors and is mentioned during the reign of Henry VIII as the scene of the arrest of John Frith, the Protestant reformer. Two centuries later, in 1725 it was the meeting place of the earliest recorded Masonic Lodge in Reading and was also a favourite haunt of Reading's literary set at this time including John Loveday and Richard Simeon, father of Charles and Edward Simeon. At a more mundane level, the Turnpike Trustees for the Reading-Puntfield stretch of the Bath Road met at the Mitre on 1 June 1728. **Mitre**. By the mid-19th century, we find the **Mitre** moved to West Street, where George Partridge was landlord in 1852. In the latter part of the century it had its own brewery with William Newell as resident brewer but by 1903 it had passed into the hands of the Wallingford Brewery, which was acquired by Ushers in 1928. It was close to the former Palace Theatre and Gracie Fields and Max

Miller are mentioned as patrons. When Ushers became part of Grand Met it succumbed to the Chef and Brewer treatment and was later renamed Gatsbys, Shakespeare and Son and Quests. For a while it belonged to a pub group called 'Hooden in the Hat' and is now the Thai Corner restaurant. Landlord in 1916 was Harry Egby, son of a long-serving landlord of the Merry Maidens.

Moderation. The **Moderation**, 231 Caversham Rd, was built in the 1860s. Early landlords included Edmund Philips, Percy Wesley Tobitt, Richard J Webb and Robert Webb, both members of the same family that ran the George. It was a Simonds/ Courage pub until 1977 when it was acquired by Bass during the pub-swapping craze. Built in 1860s. Prop 1879 & 87, Edmund Philips, 1914 Percy Wesley Tobitt, later Richard J Webb and then to 1928 Robert Webb, of the same family that ran the George. Was a Simonds/ Courage pub until 1977 when it was acquired by Bass during the pub-swapping craze. The following rhyme was displayed in the pub:

Let moderation be your guide
Nor ever from its precepts slide.
Take the good things in life and use 'em
With thankful heart, and not abuse 'em.
Some men to vile excesses stray:
They sign a pledge to mend their way.
Be thou to sleeping more inclined
Which humbly sought the noblest find.
Then water for your cleansing take,
But liquor for your stomach's sake
And recommend to all the nation
Your temperance and moderation.

Monk's Retreat The **Monk's Retreat**, 163 Friar St. opened as J D Wetherspoon's first Reading outlet in 1994. using what had been a TV shop. Not far from the site of Reading's abbey and originally featured a life-size monk swinging from the ceiling on a bellrope but this piece of kitsch disappeared in a subsequent refurb. Three other Wetherspoons later graced the town. In 2016, However, Wetherspoons sold The Monk's Retreat to Stonegate Inns, who have retained the original name.

Monroe's American Bar and Restaurant, 61 St Mary's Butts. One of the earlier (c. 1990) and oft-renamed additions to Reading's town centre venues, originally a Muswells, and later names including Harvey Floorbangers, Chumleys and Sports Bar.

Mount, Southampton St. Extant in 1905.

Mouse and Duck. Fictional pub in Julie Cohen's *One Night Stand*, said to be based on the County Arnsme, which see.

Nags Head. The **Nags Head**, 5 Russell St. was formerly a Morlands pub with a very strong Irish influence and interior décor that rather overplayed the horse's head theme. Externally it is a fine example of the Brewers' Tudor style which was a frequent feature of the Morlands estate. This no doubt dates from a rebuilding in the early 20th century. Prop 1854 & 1871, Thomas Nash, 1887, George Sopp, 1914, Gordon Charles. When in 1995 Lisa Stewart became landlady at the

age of 18 she was reported to be the country's youngest licensee. After disposal by Greene King, it reopened as a free house in Feb 2007 with a strong commitment to cask ales from small breweries and has since become popular both with local drinkers and the wider real ale clientele winning a number of CAMRA Pub of the Year awards.

New Inn (1). This is believed to have been the original name of the Marquis of Granby (which see). Marked on Thomas Pride's Reading map of 1790 as being at the corner of London Road and Forest Road (now Wokingham Rd) – possibly identified with the Marquis of Granby which was then fairly new. It was run in 1747 by a Mr Askey who offered 'ordinaries' for those attending the races at Bulmershe Heath. This was a lunchtime meal prepared at a fixed rate for all comers on race days, usually at 2 pm, two hours before the commencement of the racing.

New Inn (2) New Inn, 344A Oxford Rd. Very handy for visitors to the Battle Hospital, the New Inn had a strong Irish following and was not the ideal choice as Reading's second Hobgoblin, reverting to its original name and ambience after about five years; more recently in pursuit of a new image it has become known as the **White Eagle**. Prop 1871, Thomas Jannaway, 1887, Frederick William Miller, William S Bodle, 1914. In 1888 G W Webb designed alterations for H B Blandy.

Newt and Cucumber. See Wild Lime.

Northumberland Arms, Northumberland Avenue, sat uneasily between the middle class villas of northern end of Northumberland Ave and the council house ethos of the southern end. A recent incident in which the landlord switching off the TV led to a riot suggests that the south may be winning. Originally Whitbread and for a while themed as a Tut'n'Shive, it was later sold to Ushers and was the last pub on the Whitley Estate, when it finally closed to become a shop.

Oak Tree. See Frog.

Oakford Social Club, 53 Blagrove St, later renamed the Forum. A brewpub opened as the **Flyer and Firkin** after the Firkin chain became part of Allied Domecq (1996) but ceased brewing in 1999 after this was sold off to Punch Taverns. During the Firkin phase the brand's 'laddish' culture was illustrated when the management signed up to 'Lust in Space, a hi-tech video dating agency... linked to pubs across the south.' Was previously licensed premises as the ICL Club in a building which also incorporated the Athenaeum and before that the Berkshire Club. As such it was the work of the Reading architect, Frederick W. Albury (1845-1912). Rebadged 2006 as 'Oakford Social Club' but still a pub, the new name perhaps intended to recall the building's former career as part of Reading's clubland.

Oasis, 19-21 Baker Street, formerly the Eagle. Greene King pub, acquired with the takeover of Morlands Brewery. In 1879, George Monger is listed as prop Eagle Tavern but with no address, 1887, Thomas Smith, 1914, Mrs Sarah Dixon. After some years under the management of Tim Campbell, the pub was sold to the next door Carey Baptist Church who announced plans to convert it into a community pub, although having no intoxicating beverages on sale.

Oatsheaf. The building that housed the **Oatsheaf** at 46 Broad St. is now occupied by a building society. This was a 1932 rebuilding to the order of Simonds but the site is much older, since it is believed to be that of the house of Archbishop William

Laud, born in Reading in 1573. It was also from 1850 to 1906 the location of Dowsett's brewery. It has been argued by David Cliffe that the design of the 1932 pub with just the suggestion of a Dutch style gable and unusual window layout was based on Laud's house. The late Charlie Wheeler recalled that the pub used to be next door to the old Vaudeville Cinema and that leading from the Broad St entrance, straight through to Friar Street, there was a yard where he and his fellows 'as kids, often played football.'

Oddfellows Lodge, 62 Caversham Rd. 1879 & 87, Anna White.

Old Dolphin. See Shades.

Old George, Silver St. On the corner of London Road.

Old House at Home, Kings Rd. R Rooke, prop. 1879

Old Friars – see Ye Olde Friars.

Old White Horse, 92 Silver St. Prop 1871, Frederick Annetts. Was he a relative of William of that ilk who held the Boars Head?

Olivant. See Elephant

Oliver's. The pub in Minster St originally called the **Queens Head** had a complicated history. In 1809 it was run by a Mr Layton whose wife died after a long illness. By 1840 it had become known as the **Pelican** with W Hope as landlord, followed in 1853 by Mrs Harriet Hester. In 1856, however, it was taken over by Charles Francis Oliver and became known thereafter as **Oliver's**, a name that prevailed at least until 1918. George T Tame took over as manager in 1906 and under him the name **Reindeer** was first adopted in 1920, possibly taking over the name from the Reindeer in Hosier St. 1922. The last landlord before the pub closed in 1961, to make room for extensions to Heelas' store, was Alfred Frank Knell, who was renowned for his bread cheese and pickles. When he left he was presented with a wine cabinet by customers.

Osborne Arms. Like the Cross Keys, one of six Reading pubs in CAMRA's first Good Beer Guide, the **Osborne Arms** in Greyfriars Rd did not last long thereafter, being demolished for offices in the 1980s. At that time, it was a Charrington's pub, a rarity for Reading. In 1905 G W Webb, the architect, designed alterations and additions. 1914, landlord Henry Goddard. It was first visited by the author in 1973, when it was recorded that 'a notice on the wall stated that Singing was not allowed by Order, despite which one venerable lady joined in the piped tape.' Perhaps surprisingly the pub had musical connections in the 1960s when the pub was kept by a Mr Graham whose son, David, achieved fame as a member of the Four Pennies, when their single, *Juliet*, reached no 1 in 1964. Mr Graham Senior was a brass band player while Dick Graham, David's uncle, distinguished himself in the world of football, keeping goal for Crystal Palace from 1945-50 and later managed the side, leading them into the old Second Division in 1964.

Outlook, 76-8 Kings Rd. This pub began life as part of the Hogshead chain in 1998 and was renamed in 2004, gaining Good Beer Guide status the following year. It replaced a popular and ramshackle electrical shop known as the Shop on the Bridge because it was adjacent to a bridge over a branch of the Kennet and Avon Canal. The latter has retained its name in its new west Reading location, despite being nowhere near a bridge. The Outlook was for a while re-badged as the Copa

Bar by new owners, Greene King, but in 2013 reverted to the Outlook. They really should have called it the Pub on the Bridge!

Oxford Arms in Silver Street performed a vital function in the days when hanging was a not uncommon fate for miscreants. In the 18th Century it was the custom for the condemned man with his executioner to call into this establishment for his last drink on the way to the Gallows in Lower Earley. Of this practice William Darter wrote: 'My Pater told me that it was no uncommon thing for the culprit and his attendant to stop at the Oxford Arms, Silver Street, then kept by a man of the name of Fletcher, on their way from the gaol to Gallows Tree Common, and there to partake of liquor of some kind.' As the last recorded 'Hangman's Drink' took place in 1793 and James Fletcher was still licensee in 1823 the latter evidently had a very long reign!

As Mary Russell Mitford's writings attest, Silver Street had a dodgy reputation in the early 19th century and this persisted into the 20th as these recollections by George Rose, landlord of the **Oxford Arms** for many years, suggest: 'The rabbit poachers used to call into my pub – they used to bring three or four dozen rabbits about five times a week, about 7.30am in the morning and put them under the bar seat and sell them for 4d and 6d each. One of the poachers' names was Shadow Clark...he used to say he would be hanged for a gallon of beer. So they stood him up on an empty lemonade case in my Taproom at the back, tied a piece of rope round his neck and put the rope through a hook in the beam on the Taproom ceiling...One of them kicked the case away and at the same time there was an accident outside the front door. So they all ran out to see what was wrong and when they came back he was nearly dead...This Shadow Clark was a terror. He did not care for anything or anybody...' George Rose was well known in local boxing circles and a long term member of the Pilgrim Flying Club. The pub was demolished in 1959.

Oxford Arms, 10 Silver St (1914, No 16). The Oxford Arms in Silver Street performed a very important function in the days when hanging was a not uncommon fate for miscreants. In the 18th Century it was the custom for the condemned man with his executioner to call into this establishment for a last drink on the way to the Gallows Tree Common in Lower Earley. The last recorded 'Hangman's Drink' took place in 1793. James Fletcher was licensee in 1823 and is mentioned by Darter – see below, George Lock in 1827, Abraham Lock in 1871, William Searce, 1887 (see Greyhound) George Rose 1915.

Darter: 'My Pater told me that it was no uncommon thing for the culprit and his attendant to stop at the Oxford Arms, Silver Street, then kept by a man of the name of Fletcher, on their way from the gaol to Gallows Tree Common, and there to partake of liquor of some kind.'

This would suggest that Fletcher had a very long reign!

In more recent times¹ the Oxford Arms acquired a reputation as rather a rough pub, in keeping with the area where police would normally patrol in pairs. Perhaps even earlier the pubs in the area had a less savoury reputation. Mitford refers to two pubs in the Silver St area which appear to be mythical 'a certain beer-house,

lately established in the neighbourhood of Mount Pleasant, and bearing the insidious sign of the Jolly Gardener' and 'that most riotous and disorderly house, the Eight bells' which is frequented by the young shoemaker, William, who lodges with his aunt in Silver St. The landlord for many years, George Rose, recorded some recollections before his death aged 74 in 1960. These have been given to me by George's daughter, Mavis, who still lives in Reading.

'Women used to bring their children in the bar with them and peel their potatoes and shuck the peas on the bar table, and the children used to have their drop of beer out of their mothers' pint cup....

'The rabbit poachers used to call into my pub – they used to bring three or four dozen rabbits about five times a week, about 7.30am in the morning and put them under the bar seat and sell them for 4d and 6d each. One of the poachers' names was Shadow Clark. He has a drink or two as he liked a pint of beer – he used to say he would be hanged for a gallon of beer. So they stood him up on an empty lemonade case in my Taproom at the back, tied a piece of rope round his neck and put the rope through a hook in the beam on the Taproom ceiling... One of them kicked the case away and at the same time there was an accident outside the front door. So they all ran out to see what was wrong and when they came back he was nearly dead...

'This Shadow Clark was a terror. He did not care for anything or anybody...'
George Rose was well known in local boxing circles and a long term member of the Pilgrim Flying Club.

Oxford Street Brewery, Oxford St. [Spirit?] licence refused to James Neate, 1852. Was this the brewery tap for Bonny and King's brewery?

Pavlov's Dog, St Mary's Butts. New pub in the 'It's a Scream' chain, opened 1999. See Swan.

Peacock. The **Peacock** in Broad Street was perhaps the last inn built to serve the coaching trade, for it was described as 'nearly new' in 1831, when it had 11 bedrooms, stabling for 32 horses and a skittle ground. Its proprietors included James Davis, Charles Cooper, Henry and Susan Hall, George Chesterman, James Nelson Wernham and in 1914 Robert Mortis. . It was the venue for meetings of The Mechanics Society, a friendly society in the 1820s, and later for the Reading Philanthropic Society, which met in the spacious 1st Floor club room. On 27 May 1839 the Philanthropic Institution (presumably the same body) dined at the Peacock at 2/6 per head on the occasion of the opening of the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The Peacock was demolished in 1922 to make way for a Woolworth's store, which later moved to another site in Broad St. **Peacock.** James Wernham of the **Peacock** was a pioneer of public transport in Reading, setting up several horse-bus routes in the second half of the 19th century, linking with other hostelrys such as the Prince of Wales, Caversham and the Queens Head, Christchurch Green. His slogan was 'Forward without fear'. His example may have inspired the formation of the Reading Tramways Company Ltd in 1877 in an attempt to provide

better transport. Wenham was still in charge in 1900. Horses were also supplied from the Peacock's stables for the Fire Brigade and Ambulance service.

Peacock (2). See Brewery Tap (4).

Pelican. See Oliver's

Penta Hotel, Oxford Rd. New hotel which was opened in 1983 as the Ramada and has later done a stint as a **Renaissance Hotel**. Originally the bar open to non-residents was called Beauclerc after king Henry 1 whose heart is buried in the Forbury, selling very pricey Brakspear's beer. Perhaps the choice related to the fact that Nicholas Brakspear aka Adrian IV, the only English pope, was born during the reign of Henry I – or perhaps not. It was later renamed Froggies with no cask beer. The hotel was built on the site of a shop run by Henry Johnson, 'The Rabbit King', which sold rabbits at 10d (4p) each including skinning and portioning.

Pheasant, 229 Southampton St. Perhaps surprisingly a listed building, Grade II James Malham, 1879. In 1888, Mr Spraggs (sic?), presumably landlord, mentioned (died?) – yes he is listed as Charles Spraggs, beer retailer in 1887. Spraggs also carried on the more humble trade of bricklayer's labourer. Successively Henry Holt, his widow, Liza Holt and son, Reginald J Holt ran the pub for 65 years from 1894 until Reginald's retirement in 1959. He had then lived at the pub since the age of two!

Pickled Newt. See **White Horse (4)**.

Pig Market, 111 Friar St. William Green was licensee in 1823, Robert Hale, 1827, John Fuller in 1871.

Piper's Island, Bridge St, Caversham. Pub and restaurant on artificial island accessed by footbridge from Caversham Bridge. Recently reconstructed.

Pitcher and Piano, Friar St. Conversion of a former bank, it opened in as 1998 'Bar Excellence' for Eldridge Pope. When the latter began downsizing it was acquired by Marston's for their Pitcher and Piano chain.

Plasterers Arms (1), Bridge Street. Prop 1879, Mrs Parker. Extant in 1905.

Plasterers Arms (2). The **Plasterers Arms**, Rupert Walk (originally Rupert Street), survived the redevelopment of Newtown but was demolished around the turn of the millennium after becoming a 'problem pub', with the loss of its very fine 'Brewers' Tudor' frontage dated 1928, when the pub was built for Fergusons to the design of Eric Steward Smith. Landlords in its heyday included Ted Eighteen and Bill Berry. On one Boxing Day in the 30s, 32 members of the Wiggins family congregated in the pub. Legend has it that back in the 60s 'a shift system' operated whereby at 9 o'clock the patrons of the Plasterers and the Rupert would change places. At that time the licensee was apparently a Mr. Stanley Bragg, father of the writer and broadcaster, Melvyn (Lord) Bragg, who occasionally helped behind the bar.

Plough, 78 School Rd, Tilehurst. Formerly Blatch's and then Allied Breweries. In 1854 James Moore is listed as Beer Retailer & Shoemaker, while in 1877, W. Quelch was a baker and victualler at this address. Then came a long reign by George Dobson from 1879 to the turn of the century. Early in the century, Edmund Chapman was head ploughman, followed by George Ayres, landlord when the First World war broke out. Quoits was played in the rear garden in Chapman's time. George Ayres died at the age of 49 and as there was an outstanding debt his

widow ran the pub for some time to pay these off, helped by her daughter, Mrs Lois Foster. She later said: 'When we had the Plough there were three bars, one of which had a spittoon and another more comfortable bar, where we always had a fire. We had lamps at first, then gas.' The Ayres finally departed around, 1930, succeeded by William Hutchinson.

Plough Inn, 20 Minster St. Aaron Nobes was licensee in 1823, James Pither, 1827, Henry Carpenter, 1871, George Charles Smith, 1887, Charles Fedrick, 1914. Extant in 1905.

Plume of Feathers, Market Place. Anthony Webb was licensee in 1823. This is presumably the same gentleman who ran the (Rising) Sun, castle St 1827-43.

Pond House A spacious former Wethered's pub, the **Pond House**, 738 Rd, was named after a pond that then existed on the opposite side of the Oxford Road.

Pond House, 738 Oxford Rd. Spacious former Wethered's pub, going in 1905. Named after pond on the opp side of road. 1887, landlord James William Gardener, 1914, Albert John Fielding. Currently, 2005, Kevin Thomas.

Porter, Broad St. RQ: 'Moving into Broad Street we come to the PORTER. This closed down for a while and was then turned into a cellar bar called THE PEACOCK. Later the top part was opened as a fish restaurant which lasted a couple of years.' (Now 'Wood U')

Post Boy, Crown Lane. *In 1818 the scene of treats and dinners during the election of that year. John Hamblin was licensee in 1823, J Wooten, 1837. In 1834 belonged to the brewers, Sowden – see Breweries section. The Duke of Wellington qv was also later known as the Post Boy. According to Smart No 122 London St (formerly No 65) served as the Post Boy from 1811-14 when John Robey was resident. [This needs reconciling with the various accounts of the Lamb, Goad, Duke of W etc. something may be amiss.]*

Post House Hotel, Basingstoke Rd. New hotel c. 1972, the 23rd in Trust House Forte's post house chain. – see Great Western and Grenadier.

Post Office Tavern. The **Post Office Tavern** at 96 Broad St, on the corner of Chain St. took its name from Reading's first GPO opposite, now the Officers' Club clothes shop [update]. It was auctioned in 1852 under the will of the late Mrs Hunter and in 1897 was kept by Alfred Bonner, who is listed in 1900 with Thomas Rosier who is believed to have been the last landlord. In that year, possibly as a result of illicit gambling practices, it was closed and transformed into Poynder's Post Office Bookshop and Library in 1900 and then from 1919 was for over 70 years an upmarket men's outfitters, 'changing sexes' within the rag trade in the 1990s.

Premier Inn. Located at the foot of Southampton Street, this modern hotel replaced the former Whitbread IT department, a building of somewhat more distinctive architecture. It includes bar facilities.

Premier Tavern [or Inn], 38 [or 40] Caversham Road. Prop 1871, Giles Barrett, 1887, Henry Bowyer, 1914, Mrs Ellen Jane Chart. In the 1920s it was advertised as under the same proprietor for 20 years.

Prince Albert, Providence Place, Spring Gardens (1887, Tank Rd, 1914, 28 Spring Gardens). Beerhouse which had frequent changes of licensee in its early days. . Prop 1852, George Jarvis [later at the Fox?], 1871, Charles Bartlett. William

Stevens was landlord for c. 15 years from 1890 – also listed 1887.. 1914, Frederick Mason. [Spirit licence?] 1852. Extant in 1905.

Prince of Wales (1). The **Prince of Wales** in Prospect St, formerly Little End, Caversham, was another pub that passed to Brakspears with the Greys Brewery estate in 1896. Previously, alterations were carried out in 1889 to the design of William Wing. The pub was the terminus of an early omnibus service to the Elephant Inn, Market Place via Greyfriars Rd and Caversham Bridge. Was originally a Greys Brewery pub, becoming Brakspears in 1896. Alterations carried out in 1889 to design of William Wing (1845-1931) For G Farmer. Was the terminus of an early omnibus service to the Elephant Inn, Market Place via Greyfriars Rd and Caversham Bridge (Dickens, 1892). Landlord, 1907 John William Relf, 1914, Richard J Webb. 1915, James Beattie Anderson.

Prince of Wales (2). The **Prince of Wales** occupied the corner of Chatham St and Thorn St. At one time a Morlands beerhouse only, it was run by the Brunsdon family from 1933 until its closure in 1968, when it was demolished to make way for the IDR. Performers at the Palace Theatre are said to have stayed at the pub. Oak panelling from the pub was incorporated into an extension to the Gardeners Arms, Surley Row.

Prince of Wales (3), 95 Orts Road (1914, 91). Prop 1879, John Fuce, 1914, Robert Webber, succeeded by Alfred Webber till 1927 Died 1957. Elizabeth Webb, the actress, was a relative of the family. Extant in 1905. Next to Carpenters.

Prince of Wales (4), School Rd, Tilehurst. Formerly Bass Charrington, having been acquired by them during the 3-way swap with Courage, the previous owners, and Allied in 1977. At the time one of the barmaids, a Kronenbourg fan, complained that the Bass offering, Black Label, was 'just like shandy'. In 1916 taken over by Mr Critchell. 'The old pub stood considerably nearer the road than the present one. The only food we served was bread, cheese and pickles. I remember almost half a loaf with cheese and pickles cost 4d. and that was a meal. Usually these were served in the evening for supper.' (George Critchell, son). Rebuilt in the mid-1930s.

Purple Turtle, 9 Gun St. This unique institution started life in 1990 in Duke St in buildings later demolished to provide an eastern approach to the Oracle development. New premises in Gun St were acquired in 1996 and for a short while the two turtles co-existed. Now popularly known as 'The Turtle', it has recently sprouted a collection of handpumps. In 2014 it also received a £1 million refurbishment.

Queen Elizabeth Also a Wethereds pub in times past the **Queen Elizabeth** in George St. has had a chequered history of late with complaints of rowdy behaviour leading to the loss of its licence. Affectionately known as the [Queen] Lizzie. Reopened 2006 but was closed in 2007, following complaints from neighbours about rowdy behavior. Planning permission for conversion to residential accommodation appears at last to have been implemented in 2015. In 1953 the landlord of the day commissioned local artist, Jack West, to paint a picture of the new Queen Elizabeth for display during the Coronation celebrations but if this ever found its way onto the inn sign it was later replaced by the first Elizabeth. . He also painted a similar one for 'permanent display' but this seems to have disappeared.

Queens, Spring Gardens, perhaps intended to complement the nearby Prince Albert. Licensees in 1930s Mr & Mrs Froude. See Barnes-Philips, p 33. There is also listed in Smiths 1879 the **Queen**, 2 Waterloo Rd, prop. George Marks, also 1887. This pub extant in 1905 and may well be the same. Fergusons pub,

Queen's Arms (1). The **Queens Arms**, Great Knollys Street is the only survivor of three pubs in Reading to bear this name, the others being in Friar Street (closed ca. 1910) and Hosier Street (demolished for IDR/ civic centre development). Like the Lion, it enjoyed an all-day licence on cattle market days but is now more of a busman's local following the removal of the bus depot to an adjacent site.

Queen's Arms (2), 43 Upper Hosier St. Demolished as part of town centre redevelopment and IDR. Was associated with the Wiltshire Brewery opposite (fl. 1837-71) which was also known as the Queens Arms Brewery in its earlier days. 1887, James Powers, 1914, landlord James Herbert Vincent.

Queen's Head (1). The ivy-clad **Queens Head** today has an address in Christchurch Rd but over a hundred years ago, it was assigned to Southern Hill. There was also a **Robin Hood** with the same address. It is the nearest pub to Reading University's Whiteknights campus and achieved a dubious reputation in the 1980s when complaints about students making a convenience of nearby gardens appeared in the local press. Early landlords included Samuel Cole in 1887 and Henry Hazell in 1914. It has recently (2013) been converted into a gastropub with rather exotic décor.

Queen's Head (2). See Oliver's.

Queen's Hotel. The **Queens Hotel**, 7-10, Friar St, was one of Reading's leading hotels in the latter part of the Victorian era, when proprietor, Mary Elisabeth George 'held autocratic sway'. It is said to have been Tory HQ during elections and was also home of the Reading Swimming and Rowing Clubs in 1900. Distinguished guests included the Maharajah of Gooch Behar with six wives and staff. We also read that 'Captain Carleton Blyth's coach proved a daily attraction on its start from and return to the hotel'. However, in 1922 it made way for the 'new' Post Office, which is now Yates's Wine Lodge. A B B Baker proprietor in 1914.

Radleys Hotel, Caversham Rd. Prop, 1852, Mr Sharples, 1871, Henry Webb.

Railway Tavern (1). Original name of the **Duke of Edinburgh** (which see).

The Railway Tavern (2) was one of the rare survivors of the piecemeal redevelopment of Greyfriars Rd in the 1980s, but was turned into an Irish theme pub as Scruffy Murphys and later renamed The Gateway. The pub appears to have had its origins around 1870, taking over the name of the previous establishment when it became the Duke of Edinburgh. The founding proprietor seems to have been John Winslet (c. 1870-84), an ancestor of the celebrated film actress, Kate Winslet, who later held the Broad Face for many years and also owned the nearby Lion. He was followed by William Gates Mitchell, Mr R Hawkins who saw in the new century and Ernest Mainman, landlord during WW1. Harry Fellows was the longest serving landlord from around 1920-50, followed by Mr R A Hutchings (1956) and Mrs C Jarvis (1964). In 1978 new licensees, Gordon and Valerie Gowers replaced the previous pub sign, portraying Stephenson's Rocket with a more up-to-date High Speed 125 diesel-electric locomotive. In the 80s the pub acquired a cockney ambience with trays of cockles and whelks on the bar on

Sunday lunchtimes. A pub of this name features in Julie Cohen's *One Night Stand* as the back-cloth to the scene in which the heroine confronts the supposed father of her child – see County Arms.

Rainbow, 28 Chain St. Robert Herring, 1887. Closed after 1914 when William H Earles was gaffer 1901-16 and before 1927. Mentioned in an assault case, 1852 when Henry Penny was landlord.

Raven. An inn that flourished in the 17th century.

Red Cow (1) A listed building with an attractive curved frontage, the **Red Cow** stands on the northern corner of Southampton St (formerly Horn St) and Crown St. In the 19th and early 20th centuries licensees included Walter Dolman, John Easby, Henry Robert Hoskins, William Scearce, Richard Graham, Edward John Davenport and Gladys Smith. Mr Davenport described himself as a Wine and Spirit Merchant and also offered garage facilities with Petrol. In the post-war era 'Jack the Hat' was landlord for many years. A veteran of the Burma campaign, he was rarely if ever seen without his eponymous hat and still wearing his demob suit. His tradition was carried on by his faithful lieutenants, George and Dorothy but following her death and George's retirement the pub closed its doors in 2015.

Red Cow (2), Star Rd, Caversham. Old Simonds sign visible on frontage. Listed building, Grade II. Landlord, 1907 and 1914, Walter Dean. Has suffered from frequent changes of management in recent years.

Red Lion (1). The **Red Lion** at 34 Southampton St was formerly a Wethered's house and sometimes referred to as the Old Red Lion. Landlords from 1823 onwards included John Harbor, Richard Hall, Joseph Povey, Edwin Charles Medhurst, George Whatley and James Athersuch. When the author moved to Reading it was somewhat run down with rather depressing décor and an equally dour Scottish landlord but it served excellent Wethered's beer which earned it a place in the Good Beer Guide. Subsequently, the pub was given a £130,000 refurbishment, completed in 1988, with Gordon Bray as the first licensee.

Red Lion (2). Another Red Lion in Castle Hill Place ref. 1886. The latter was on the site of the present Avco building and close to the Kennet Arms.

Red Lion (3), Cobblers City, Woodley. One of a row of 4 cottages owned by Sarah Luke in 1843, William Watts landlord in 1847. Reverted to private use in c. 1890.

Red Rose ceased to be a pub in the mid 20th century but the name was partly preserved in what is now Rose Cottage at 98-100 Southampton St. This is a Grade II listed building. James Neate and William Jack were beer retailers at the pub.

Reindeer (1), 65-7 Hosier St. Prop. 1879, Edward Slade. . Extant in 1905.

Reindeer (2). See Oliver's

Reindeer (3), 9 Southampton St. was run by William Samuel Monger in 1887 and later by a lady remembered as 'Sid Ballard's granny'. In her day the pub was used to open at 6 a.m. so that workers at Simonds Brewery could have a pint before work. Was formerly a Hewett's house and later Simonds. In 1927 it is recorded that its two savings institutions, the Slate Club and the Thrift Club, raised respectively the sums of £93 9s. 6d and £111 11s. Apart from disbursements to members expenditure included £8 15s in sick pay. It closed in January 1969 and was demolished to make way for the IDR.

Restoration, 928 Oxford Rd, Tilehurst. 'Thirties-style roadhouse.' Formerly called the Bell. £200,000 facelift in 1989 prior to new name – reopened under Peter and Rusty Harris.

Retreat. One of the Reading pubs included in CAMRA's first Good Beer Guide in 1974 with many subsequent re-entries, the **Retreat** in 8 St John's St. continues to merit the description, 'a delightful back-street pub'. It became a pub in the later 19th century, early landlords including Thomas Law and George Uzzle. For many years it was owned by Wethered's who also formerly owned the house next door and there were plans in the 70s, perhaps mercifully unrealized, to extend the pub into this property. Notable 20th century proprietors included P J Dunne, who had a brass 'licence-plate', the Lawrence family and George Scott, who with his late wife, Rose, moved to the Dove in 1992. The **Retreat** subsequently passed into the hands of Enterprise Inns, before being sold on to Admiral Taverns in 2006. Under Graham Mutton, followed by Peter Brooks and Bernie Whitton and Jane Marsdon, it acquired a deserved reputation as a free house selling a good range of micro-brewed beers, as well as cider and foreign beer. Hosts of eccentrics have peopled the Retreat including Moriarty, Military George, renowned fighter pilot and geologist Bobbie Langham, Barry the mouth-organ player and perhaps most memorable in recent years Frank Wicks (pictured in the Hobgoblin), who made a posthumous appearance on a CD by local group, Bidgie Reef and the Gas, set up by former landlord, Brooks, and customer, Roger Winslet.

Rising Sun (1). See **Sun**.

The Rising Sun (2), 18 Forbury Rd was built on the site of the Chapel of the Resurrection, Reading's first Roman Catholic place of worship since the Reformation, after it was replaced by St James' in 1841. It was rebuilt in 1877 to designs by Brown and Albury for Byles and Co, which was renamed the Greys Brewery two years later and became a Brakspears pub in 1896 when they acquired the rival Henley operation. Early landlords included Charles Wilks, Miss Elizabeth Hale, Thomas Atto and Henry L. Mainman, probably a relative of Ernest (see above). Mainman seems to have been involved in a rather bizarre incident during the First World War when a soldier in the Guards, Walter Lush, came home on leave and on his way back to Newtown from the station popped into the Rising Sun for a pint, as one does. He was informed that beer was in short supply and was kept for the locals only. On emerging from pub he encountered a policeman of his acquaintance to whom he told his woes. They re-entered and the copper informed Mr Mainman, if it were indeed he, that not only was Walter a soldier fighting for king and country but a local as well. He was duly served but was so incensed by the treatment he had received that he poured the entire contents of the pint mug over the bar and walked out! Before the war Lush had been on duty during the famous Siege of Sidney Street.

The Rising Sun was included in CAMRA's first Good Beer Guide with the description 'large, sometimes noisy alehouse' but a period under Whitbread as a Clifton Inn and later as a Tut'n'Shiv theme pub did not advance its reputation. , during which era it has become popular with Reading's 'Goths' (having earlier had a glue-sniffing era). See also Sun.

Rising Sun (3), 30 Silver St. This began life as a temperance establishment, was for years traded as Cook's, ironmongery and agricultural supplies and was then revived under its original name as an Arts Centre in the 1990s. A limited range of intoxicating beverages are on sale to those attending performances included bottled beers from independent breweries. The building was designed by Reading's greatest architect, Alfred Waterhouse, who as a Quaker, was no doubt in sympathy with the motivations of its founders.

Robin Hood, Southern Hill (Christchurch Rd). Closed before 1927 [or was it original name of Queen's Head – needs checking]

Roebuck (1), 90 Hosier St. Extant in 1905. Landlord, 1887, George Turner, 1914, Isaac Philip Olney.

Roebuck (2), Tilehurst. Listed building, Grade II – west wing. In 1881 owned by Hawkins when George William Webb (1853-1936 designed additions and alterations, further work being carried out in 1883 when stables, billiard room and laundry were built). Was for a while called Beethovens, when it was well-known for having an Elvis Presley impersonator on Sunday lunchtimes. Described or rather its predecessor by Lord Byng as 'the well-placed public house, the Roe Buck, where all the fishing parties of the neighbourhood dine'. In the following century it was used as a meet for the Berkshire hunt and the future King Edward VII is said to have been among those who met here. Charles Dickens, jr. wrote (1892) 'Here also is the new 'Roebuck Hotel,' which is very well spoken of, but of which the Editor has not had personal experience.' Is said to be haunted by an unnamed admiral who was burnt to death in a fire at the inn in the 18th century – he is said to have gone looking for his faithful hound which escaped out of the window while he himself perished in the inferno. Landlord, 1897, Henry James Noyes, 1914, Charles E Ratcliffe. During the early part of WW1 the field opposite was used as a training ground for horses before they went into battle, this unit being commanded by Captain Cecil Aldin (1870-1935), a friend of the late King, a native of Slough and in another guise a well known artist, portraying hunting scenes and sporting dogs etc. He is commemorated locally in Cecil Aldin Drive, Purley. Has been shut for a number of years.

Roebuck (3), Auckland Rd, Earley. Former Morlands pub, now Greene King, which was rebuilt in the 1930s with the attractive interior wooden panelling that was a feature of Morlands interior design. Seems to have been called Earley Rise Tavern in 1905.

Rose, 69 Weldale St. Zimri Chandler, prop 1879. Extant in 1905. There is also a Rose in Mitford's Belford Regis whose ostler gives Mary's father's servant boy, Ben, a flageolet. However, this is probably a fictionalised name for one of the coaching inns.

Rose and Crown (1), Minster St. J Wellman was licensee in 1823. A retro report in the Chronicle in 6/00 mentions a Rose that was destroyed by a bomb in WW2 – presumably during the famous raid of 10 Feb 1943.

Rose and Crown (2) an Old Coley pub close to the Blue Lion. **Rose and Crown**, 18 Coley St. William Jones was licensee in 1870 & 1887. Closed in 1969 to make way for IDR. Last landlord was Mr C D Cox, from 1927-31 Mrs Rose Green and her husband. At the time of the closure she reminisced that when they moved in

there was no bathroom and they had one installed. Wethereds was the brewer. Unsubstantiated hearsay also refers to a pub called the Rose and Crown housed in a portacabin and situated opposite the House and Jockey in Castle Hill.

Rose and Crown (3), Silver St. Extant in 1905.

Rose and Crown (4), Tilehurst Rd. Extant in 1905.

Rose and Thistle (1), Victoria Road (also referred to as Abbey Wall). Grade II listed. Prop, 1871, John Rapley, 1887 possibly John Weston. Replaced by the current Rose and Thistle in Argyle St? Closed before 1927 and after 1905.

Rose and Thistle (2). The **Rose and Thistle**, Argyle Rd is a listed building. William Parsons was landlord in 1887 and Mrs Esther Mary Cole in 1914. Formerly, a Courage pub it was taken over first by Magic Pubs and then Greene King. The second photo shows a more recent manageress called Hannah Sheahan evidently washing cars for a charity stunt.

Roundabout, Oxford Rd, Tilehurst. Beefeater pub/ restaurant, which was demolished and replaced by nursing home or similar in 200-.

Roundhead, Coley Park. Typical 60s estate pub, opened June 1964 and named after Tanfield Vachel MP for Reading during the Civil War and a strong parliamentarian (d. 1658). Recently run by Paddy Coyne but from 2002 Jim Howard. A notable early landlord was Bill Mowbray from 1972-76 who then moved to the Greyhound. Threat of closure hovered over the pub from 2005 onwards, on account of lack of custom (said to be in turn due to rowdy reputation which was according to landlord unfounded.) Be that as it may at time of writing the Roundhead is closed and boarded up, though it still gives its name to the nearest bus stop on the No 11 route.

The **Row Barge** was located on the north side of London Rd, and to the east of Albion Place, opposite the eventual site of the Royal Berkshire Hospital. William Darter refers to a Mr Patey as landlord in 1811 and John Petty is listed as licensee in trade directories in 1823/7, followed in the 1830s and 40s by William Wells, Charles Ford and Daniel Pitt or Pitts. During the latter's period of tenure the Row Barge is mentioned in Rushers 1845 Guide as a house of call for wagons. William Townsend and Thomas Panter followed in the 1850s, and Mr E. Brading and James South in the following decade. In 1852 during Townsend's tenure the pub was the scene of political activity during the General Election held on Thursday 24th June. Around 1870 the site of the Row Barge seems to have been absorbed into the Royal Berkshire Hotel (which see).

Of Mr Patey, Darter records the following interesting facts: '[He] cultivated the gardens. A son of his was a Dragoon, and fought in every battle in the Peninsula, including Corunna and Waterloo. He died in Reading a few years ago at the age of 90. Another son assisted his father, and as the garden was frequently robbed he placed a man-trap in it, and erected a notice board to warn people of his having done so, but unfortunately, his son inadvertently stepped on the spring, and was shot in the leg and became lame for life.'

Royal. See Battle Inn.

Royal Albion, 642 Oxford Road. Morlands, now Greene King. It was allegedly adapted to a Victorian theme during 1977 but more recent makeover has turned

this former two-bar pub into a single bar. 1914, Edgar Wix, who is one of the few publicans to have a tel no (0830) listed in Kelly's of that year.

Royal Albert Tavern The **Royal Albert Tavern** in Queens Rd was Dymore Brown's first tied house (pre-1842) apart from the Brewery Tap in Castle St. and became the latter when the brewery moved to the new site being listed in a 1914 directory as the Royal Albert Brewery Tap. Somewhat curiously, however, a photograph dated 1910 shows it trading at the Queen's Hotel. See also Dymore Brown in Breweries section.

Royal Berkshire Hotel, 67 London Rd. Listed 1887, with Thomas Cessford as landlord, 1914 with George Banks.

Royal Exchange, 58 Hosier St (71 in 1879). A Higgs pub. Prop, 1879, T Marshall. Redeveloped as part of Butts Centre.

Royal George. Licensee in 1879, Benjamin Jay, 1887/9, David Palmer, then numbered 42 Castle St. Beerhouse

Royal Oak (1). The **Royal Oak** was in Fisher Row, later part of Broad St, on a site now occupied by Marks & Spencers. In 1808, it was one of three inns, along with the Wheatsheaf and Woolpack, where 'Mr Lewis and the inhabitants...entertained the Danish prisoners of war'. John Middleton was landlord in the 1820s, when a friendly society named The United Brethren met here. Later licensees were James Sharpe, James Baker, Henry Ballard, Robert Ayres, Richard Wiltshire Davis and in 1914 Mrs Mary Jane Davies. Latterly, as shown here, it had the Victoria Café as its next door neighbour. The Bull is on the edge of the photograph.

Royal Oak (2), 69 Westwood Glen, Tilehurst. One former landlord was said to be notoriously careful about wood for the fire. In summer the gents smelt like an open drain. Listed building, Grade II.

Royal Sovereign, 98 King's rd, Mrs Sparks, prop 1879. Closed after 1905 but before 1927. In 1889 the death of Sarah Ellen, aged 34, wife of Alfred Lake, at the RS is recorded.

Royal Standard, 21 Market Place, next to the Elephant. Mansfield and Ferguson was licensee in 1823. George Hart, 1887. Demolished in the early 20th century.

Royal Victoria, 56 Spring Gardens (originally 28 Tank Rd). Founded 1874. James May was the first landlord (also listed 1887), succeeded in 1903 by Charles John Clarke.

Royal William, 8-10 Spring Gardens (68-70 in 1879 but 8 Tank Rd in 1887!). George Chapman, prop 1879 & 1887. Mr & Mrs Gaines were in charge in the early 20c. The "Hop Leaf Gazette" for 1932 records the death of Mrs G Gaines, aged 51. It is said that she had lived there all her life and her mother before her for 64 years. It seems likely that she was Gertrude, daughter of the previous landlord and landlady, George Chapman and Mary Chapman, who ran the pub concurrently from around 1880. Gertrude worked as a packer at the biscuit factory before entering the licensed trade herself. See Barnes-Philips pp 32-33.

Royalty, Soho St. Extant in 1905. Thomas Wood is listed as a beer retailer at 34 Soho St in 1887.

Rupert The **Rupert Arms** at 17 Rupert St was one of the pubs demolished in the 1970s redevelopment. The author remembers his sole visit in 1976 when it was clearly marked for extinction, a pervasive smell of decaying lino assaulting the

nostrils as one entered. The little old lady in charge seemed equally subject to wear and tear but served an excellent pint of Wethered's beer. The pub suffered a serious fire in the 1920s. In 1879 John Stevens was licensee. See also Plasterers. **Russell Arms**, 2 Bedford Rd. Isaac Brown, 1848. Mr Brown, prop 1879. It seems likely that this was an earlier name for the Battle Inn (now the Royal).

Sailor's Home. The former **Sailor's Home** in West St. is now a fast food outlet. It was known as the Horse and Groom in the mid-19th century. Early proprietors included John Willis, James Gale, from whom in 1888 Henry Champion was charged with stealing a waistcoat valued at 10s., and at the turn of the century Harry Rex. According to his granddaughter, Jayne Grainger, Harry moved into the pub in 1897 with his wife, Georgina, shortly after their marriage in London. Harry, then 25, hailed from Exeter, where his family had been in the licensed trade for over 100 years. While at the Sailor's Home, he and his wife produced five sons and two daughters, some of whom also entered the pub business. He and Georgina later ran the Queen's Head (q.v) in Christchurch Road for many years. Mrs Grainger lists the following other pubs (q.v) connected to the Rex family: Ancient Foresters, Bear (Reading and Tilehurst), Bedford Arms, Brickmakers, Brunswick, Greyhound and, outside Reading, the Highwayman at Checkendon.

In 1964 the pub reopened as the **Captain's Cabin** having been redesigned by Courage's chief architect, to resemble a captain's cabin in Nelson's day. It moved to Allied Breweries in the 1977 'pub swaps' but continued with its nautical theme, as in a 1984-5 description: 'sports a bizarre nautical interior décor, including a life-size sailor manikin above the bar and staff in sailor suits'. After being vandalised by football louts its name was changed first to the **Admiral** and then in rapid succession, the Dagmar (a short-lived joint venture between the proprietors of Sweeney and Todd and the Hook and Tackle), Zigis and The Office.

Saracen's Head. **Ye Saracen's Head** at 4 High Street was flourishing by 1723 when the Reading Mercury came into being in premises next door. Its stable yard ran back to Hooker's Green. In 1786 in what sounds like a clever scam a 'Learned Pig' performed with cards, money and watches. In spite of being blindfolded the pig was able to tell any card drawn from the pack and for the privilege of viewing the pig in action punters were charged one shilling (5p). French prisoners were held in the stables ca 1813. In 1852 Charles Allen, ostler, was found drowned in the Holybrook. The original pub was demolished in the 1860s along with the White Hart to join up King St and King's Rd. The **Saracen's Head** was rebuilt in King's Road in 1876 to designs of Brown and Albury but was permanently eliminated from the landscape in 1960 when Jackson's Corner, which by now surrounded it, acquired the premises to join up their two halves. It was at that time the only Watney's pub in Reading. Kept by Bert Eggo, Reading football captain, in the early 1930s.

Scruffy Murphy's. See Railway Tavern

Seven Bridges House. Although never a pub as such **Seven Bridges House** in Bridge St. was licensed as a hospitality centre for the Courage Brewery. Previously from 1921 to 1960 it served as the brewery's social club - see also **Brewery Tap (6)**. Contrary to received opinion including that of Professor Pevsner it was not the house designed by Sir John Soane for the Simonds family, although

of early 19th century date, which was demolished ca. 1900. It was restored during the Oracle development as a Business Training Centre.

Shades. Now the Gurkha Square Restaurant, the Grade II Listed building at 15 Gun Street long known as the **Shades**, was originally associated with the Oracle workhouse founded in 1628 under the terms of John Kendrick's will. By the time the latter was demolished in 1850, it was already a pub. William Francis (1823) and William Walker (1827) were early 19th century landlords of the Old Dolphin, followed in the 1830s/40s by Arthur Oliver who seems to have changed the name to the Shades. Until around 1850 it is said to have incorporated a lock-up used by the night-watchman to detain any prisoners he arrested. In 1879 under the heading 'Keeping Open Beyond Hours' it was reported that 'Edward Bennett, landlord of the Shades Inn, Gun Street, was charged with opening his house for the sale of beer at 11.45 pm on the 31st of March.' Having closed as a pub in 1958, it became the English Grill in 1971, later renamings including Dutch House, Cartoons and Oscars and Raj Indian restaurant.

Shepherd's House, Earley – Jabez Hankin, 1876.

Ship. See Upper Ship and Lower Ship.

Shoulder of Mutton, 4 King St, next to Simonds' bank. John Tanner was licensee in 1823, John Fry, 1827, John Box, 1842, George Bailey, 1850. By 1865, the premises seems to have become a milliner's and dressmaker's shop.

Six Bells, Blakes [1827, Boults] Wharf (Thames St, 1871, 2 Kennetside, 1914-). Matthew Netherclift was licensee in 1823/7, Thomas Gardener, 1865, 1871, 1879 and 1887, Walter Summer, 1914, A J Wicks 192-. There was once a small boatyard by the pub run by a Mr Hill, building barges.

Smith's Arms, 60 Southampton St. Charles Paish, 1879. In August 1888 Frederick Pettit, landlord was fined 10s with 11s costs – for what? He must have succeeded John Glover who is listed in the previous year. Extant in 1905.

Southcote, Southcote Lane. Beefeater pub/ restaurant.

South-Eastern Arms, 96 Rupert St. Prop 1879, Henry Nicklin. 1887, James Beckett Extant in 1905.

Sports Bar, 61 St Mary's Butts. One of the earlier (c. 1990) additions to Reading's town centre venues, originally known as Muswells, and then Harvey Floorbangers and Chumleys before its latest manifestation.

Sportsman, Shinfield Rd. Morlands, now Greene King. Back in the 80s a well-known local character nicknamed Bomber walked into the pub on Saturday lunchtime for his usual game of crib and caused consternation among his fellow cards-players, who thought they were seeing a ghost – they'd seen the death of someone also known as Bomber reported in the paper and clubbed together for a wreath! The pub was in business in this name by 1905.

Spread Eagle, (1) 81-3 Queens Rd (1871, Watlington St). Prop, 1871, William Roe. In March 1879 temporary transfer of licence from Charles Edwin Rufus to Matthew Styles, 1887, Abraham White. Richard C Adey was licensee in 1900 and it was still in business 5 years later. 1914, landlord, Charles Lawrence. Subsequently pulled down and replaced by a small garden and later (1981) by insurance offices. Was it a Dymore Brown pub?

Spread Eagle (2) The **Spread Eagle** in Norfolk Rd, formerly Morlands and now Greene King, was for many years the natural resort of football supporters visiting Elm Park and public bar area still contains much football memorabilia. A 2007 poll of Reading FC supporters revealed that it is still their favourite pub ten years after the old ground closed. Kept for many years by Len Croke, who was father of Viv Carter of the Woodley Arms. CAMRA guide refers to attractive Art Nouveau fireplace in lounge.

Standard (1), 11 Broad St. Prop, 1871, Charles Goebel. This was a brew pub from 1837-51 under William Oliver, Thomas Ellson and Charles Rufus successively. In the 1842 Post Office Directory it is characterized as Standard Tavern and Chop House.

Standard (2), 21 Brunswick St. Prop, 1879, George Lailey, followed by Henry Morland during the last years of the 19th century and John Goddard during the first two decades of the 20th.

Stanley Arms, George St. Prop, 1879 & 87, George Luff. The presence of a Stanley Arms not far from Derby Street and the Derby Arms suggests presence of a strong 'fan club' for Edward Stanley, Earl of Derby, senior partner in three Derby-Disraeli administrations in the 1850s and 60s and in his spare time translator of Homer.

Star. The Corporation records refer to an inn called the **Starr** in 1631, when it seems to have been a den of iniquity, a status that seems to have persisted throughout its lifetime. The **Star** in Duke Street has been dated to at least the mid 18th c. A Mr Ryder, aged 70, was the innkeeper in 1810 when 'two desperate villains' entered the house at a quarter to ten o'clock. It was one of five public houses 'taken as headquarters for the recruiting parties [for the Blues], viz., two for the Cavalry and three for the Line.' A Mr Birch, whose 'brother kept the Star Inn, near the Police Station, for some years' enlisted and was killed at Waterloo. The innkeeper was John Burch, who kept the pub from ca 1823-44. Very few others got into double figures. In 1840 a PC Webb was sacked from the Reading police force for drunkenness and 'consorting with common prostitutes' in the Star Public House. **Star**. The **Star** had its own brewery for a brief period (1838-41) but was rebuilt in 1868 for Langton, Burrows and Co of Maidenhead to designs of J T and W Brown. Latterly it was owned by Allied Breweries. Its slightly dodgy reputation continued into the 20th century, although the well-known model, Elizabeth Hurley, is alleged to have been a customer ca. 1980. The celebrated harmonica-player, Larry Adler, is also reported to have frequented the pub. The Star closed in 1984 and was demolished for new development in 1988. According to Adam Sowan: 'for several years after it closed, its walls bore the heartfelt graffito 'PUBS NOT HOMES'. This wish was in part fulfilled as the site was occupied by the Grosvenor Casino which has its own bar. Its name is perpetuated in Star Lane. **Star and Garter**, 133 Friar St. Prop, 1871, Edwin Ricketts, Richard Habgood, 1887 & 1900. W C Marshall, 1914. Closed before 1927. Also in 1905 list as Union St. **Star Inn**, South View Ave, Caversham. Designed in 1935 by Eric Steward Smith. Recently converted to supermarket for the Co-op.

Sun. In 1623 the Corporation resolved that 'Richard Jones shalbe skavinger; viz^t. he shall sweepe, ridd and carry away weekly all the soile arising weekly in and

about the Markett place, viz^t. from the Sun dore till the Streete to the Bucher rewe end'. This seems to be the earliest mention of the **Sun** but when in 1760 a Mr Richards purchased the houses that divided Sun-lane and Back Lane and pulled them down to make King St it seems likely that the old Sun was among the casualties. **Sun**. The present **Sun** was originally known as the Rising Sun and as such was advertised for letting in 1757: 'A Very good accustomed PUBLICK-HOUSE, known by the Name of the RISING SUN, in Castle-street, Reading'. It seems to have been developed into an inn from existing properties around 60 years before by John Westmoreland, a Reading clothier. Around 1807 the Sun was the scene of a recruitment drive by Lord Paget's Hussars, whose recruitment poster commenced as follows: 'The Honors and Comforts attached to the life of a Hussar are innumerable; he has everything that he can possibly wish for found him, without any trouble to himself.' – no mention of risking your life fighting Boney! **Sun**. A notable feature of the **Sun**'s architecture was its underground stables, which were entered from an ancient doorway which may have survived from the friary that was formally a part of Castle Street's geography. The underground hall provided stabling for 50 horses but in the motor age these were used as storage for the cast of circuses and other entertainments. The rampaging of the elephants from Bertram Mills Circus was widely believed to have caused cracking of the posts to which they were tethered with consequent weakening of the ancient supporting beams of the hall. As a result the structure collapsed in 1947, fortunately on the day after the current Mayor and Mayoress of Reading had paid a visit. **Sun**. From 1876 till his death in 1916 the redoubtable Charles Roberts kept the **Sun**. In addition to his activities as a publican, Roberts was also a farmer, leasing Pilgrim's Farm at Burghfield for £30 per annum. He was a keen man of the turf with a race-horse, which is believed to have competed in the Cesarewitch and the Derby. He died as a result of a fall while hunting. In 1888, the Reading-based architect, George William Webb (1853-1936) designed stabling for ten horses at the Sun Inn to the order of the brewers, Blandy and Hawkins. Although it did not feature greatly in the coaching trade, the Sun was a major centre for the carriers who served the outlying villages around Reading, a traffic that continued until just after World War Two.

Sweeney and Todd, 10 Castle St. is an almost unique Reading institution that trebles as a delicatessen, restaurant and bar and is famous for its infinite range of succulent pies. Formerly a butcher's shop, it acquired its present status in the 1970s under Reading butcher, Alan Hayward. The barber shop next door was a later arrival on the scene, formerly a Post Office and one-time Manse of St Mary's Chapel next along. Sweeney and Todd's basement extends to the basement of this building. The name is of course a reference to the fictional demon barber of Fleet Street, who murdered his customers so that they could be turned into the fillings for Mrs Lovett's pies.

Swiss Cottage, Tilehurst Rd. Thomas Child, prop 1879, though another directory gives Mrs Sophia Aberly in the same year. It was built by the brewer, John Allnutt and passed to Simonds on his death. Courage pub acquired by Morland in 1992 and closed later in the decade. Won reprieve in 1995 – but not for long.

Talbot Inn. This inn was situated at the former of London Road and Silver Street and was in a somewhat dilapidated condition when it was acquired on an annual rent of £8 by the charity established to fulfil the terms of Richard Aldworth's will. It thus became the first home of Reading Blue Coat School and remained such until 1723 when it was demolished and new premises built on the site. It has been described by school historian Peter van Went as 'a mean and uncomfortable building' and it is also characterized as a place 'where the rays of the sun never penetrate, and where the atmosphere must have been particularly noxious from want of circulation...'

Talfourd Arms, Talfourd Place, South St. It may be assumed that this pub and its location were named after Judge Thomas Noon Talfourd (1796-1854), MP for Reading in the Whig cause and a literary figure of some note. He was a close friend of Dickens, who is said to have based the character of David Copperfield's friend, Tommy Traddles, on Talfourd. He wrote a number of verse plays, of which *Ion* was the most successful. It is notable that his father was a brewer. As for the pub it had a relatively short lifespan (c. 1865-1916) during which time, J. Carrod, R. Horsman, T Nash, Mrs E Shackelford, John Long, James and Hannah Summers, George Coulson and Louis Day dispensed beer. Of these only the Summers managed over ten years' service.

Tanners Arms - see Hook and Tackle

Target, an underground Courage pub that formed part of the Butts Centre (now Broad Street Mall) till the mid-80s, when it was paved over. It was opened in 1971 by Reading's Conservative MP, Dr Gerard Vaughan, elected the previous year. According to Tony Knott 'loud, eardrum-bursting raucous live music was played until fights and fire regulations closed the claustrophobic joint'. For many years rumour had it that the pub itself was still intact underground, although in 2017 the Mall manager was reported as stating that nothing now remained of it. However, its spirit, so to speak, survives in a vinyl album recorded in the pub and issued in 1981, by a Reading-based progressive rock band called Twelfth Night and entitled *Live at the Target*. It was reissued in CD format in 2012.

Thames Tavern The **Thames Tavern**, previously known as the Thames Restaurant, had two addresses in Albert Road and Kennet Side, for as the first CAMRA Good Beer Guide recorded in 1974 this 'quiet pub' had a 'front door opening on to Kennet towpath and back door in Reading's 19th century New Town.' Although it reappeared in the 1975 edition, it was soon after demolished along with some superb wooden panelling in the interior. It was latterly kept from 1963 by Arthur and Irene 'Rene' Boyd. Some reports suggest that Arthur also answered to the name of Frank and had previously worked for Miles Aircraft. In April 2005 a couple called George and Edith Griffin celebrated their platinum wedding, having had their first date at the Thames Restaurant in 1932. Another Arthur of the clan Wicks was landlord in 1914.

Thatchers Tavern, Fairwater Drive, Woodley. Renamed Waterside in 2016.

Thirsty Bear. New name for Wynford Arms, which see.

Thorn Walk. See Brewery Tavern

Three B's. The **3 B's Bar** was opened in 1989 as part of the restoration of Reading's Old Town Hall, designed by Alfred Waterhouse, and originally

celebrated the town's connection with beer, bulbs and biscuits. In recent years the facility has not generally been open to the public although it can be booked for private functions. **3 B's Bar**, Old Town Hall, Blagrove St. Bar within the old town hall (designed by Waterhouse), which opened in 1989 – the first sign of a turn in the tide in the trend of closing down town centre pubs.

Three Brewers, Seven Bridges. W Evans was licensee in 1823, Harriet Evans 1827. . Was venue for meetings of The Friends Union, a friendly society in the 1820s.

Three Goats Old Coley pub in Coley St. Charles Cutler of this establishment is mentioned in an assault case, 1852.

Three Guineas. The **Three Guineas** was opened in June 1994 following a £500,000 conversion of what had been the Ticket Office and administration area of Reading Station. This dates from 1867 and is Grade 2 listed. It was built under the direction of the GWR Chief Engineer, Michael Lane (1802-68), who may also have been the architect. The name is said to derive from a prize of three golden guineas offered by the Great Western Railway in 1904 for naming a record-breaking locomotive, which attracted 1,286 entries. Originally when Reading Station was open plan there was an entrance from Platform 4 but this is now blocked off. Also when opened there was an island bar but this has now been pushed back against the wall fronting the platform. Early plans for the latest revamp of Reading Station suggested that the pub would disappear but happily this has not proved to be so. However, the pub has recently become a Fullers' tied house.

Three Men in a Boat. See Caversham Bridge Hotel.

Three Pigeons, 66 Friar St. Mary Wilton was licensee in 1823, George Williams, 1827/ 41, followed by Mary Williams., Thomas Goodchild, Charlotte King, 1851 James and Susan Davis and Charles Turton, 1861. It occupied part of the Greyfriars site and as such was owned by the Corporation of Reading. It was bought up by the Revd. William Phelps, who was responsible for the restoration of the church, in April 1862. It doubtless provided refreshment to the staff and eligible inmates of the Bridewell gaol, which occupied the former Greyfriars church prior to its restoration under Phelps.

Three Tuns (1), 27-8 Horn St (later Southampton St) flourished in 17th c. when it was included in Robert Woodd's spree with 12d spent here. Edward Aubery was licensee in 1823/7, Thomas Nokes, 1871. In Jan 1879 James Pike, an iron-worker, was charged with stealing a pair of boots, the property of James Harris, Three Tuns, Southampton Charles Kearn was licensee in 1887 but by the following year he had moved to the Castle. Magistrates' Office Report of 30 June 1888 records that George Amor of the Three Tuns, Southampton St, was fined £1-11s with £1-7s costs having been 'charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises'. In July 1737, the wealthy farmer, Robert Lee, from Binfield dined with Mr Trumbull and Counsellor Hayes; apparently Trumbull's coachman got drunk. On Monday 4 July 1757 the Turnpike Trust for Reading- Basingstoke Rd met at the Three Tuns. In February 1638 William Winckles, felt-maker, accused John Masye of Thatcham, gunsmith, of striking and wounding him and putting him in danger of death at the 3 Tunnes in Reading 'with force of arms'.

Three Tuns (2), 191 Wokingham Rd. Rebuilt 1928 to design of Frederick George Sainsbury (1889-1972). Large patio with aviary. An advertisement from this period proclaims that the pub is 'Surrounded by lovely walks, adjoining Sol. Joel's playing fields. Well equipped spacious bars and every modern convenience. Lawns open to Visitors. Quick service under personal supervision. Snacks at the bar. Buses to all parts every few minutes. Garage and Cars for Hire.' Almost as if they couldn't wait to get rid of you! New pub, Simonds. Landlord in 1876 William Gregory, 1887, Robert Parker, 1914, Arthur W. A. Webb.

Town Arms, Market Place. T. M. Davis was licensee in 1823.

Traveller's Friend (1). Traveller's Friend, 136-7 Friar St was originally a Ferguson's house, later Morlands. At one time the pub had a ladies' bar but it was knocked into the lounge as allegedly few ladies used it. In 1940 William Frederick Lucas of this pub was fined 10/- (50p) for allowing a light to show from the premises during the black-out. From 1959 until his death in 1987 it was run by the legendary Bob Roper, a South African who had served over 20 years in the British army. For many years it was the custom for fellow licensed victuallers especially those representing the Morlands tied estate to gather in his bar after their appearance at the annual Brewsters' Sessions. Sadly it did not long survive Mr Roper for along with the Cross Keys, it was sold by Morlands in 1989 for commercial use and is now a Building Society. Bob Roper was born 1913 in the Orange Free State and in 1928 followed his father's footsteps into the Beds and Herts Regiment, retiring as Warrant Officer in 1952. He then took the Sebastapol in Dedworth, Windsor, another Morland's pub, before moving to the Travellers in 1959.

Traveller's Friend (2), Calcot. Landlord, 1914, Charles Manning. Reopened in 1985 (then 150 years old) following make-over. Complaints led to loss of licence and closure in 1988. Debbie Wright, manageress. Later restaurant. Murdochs??

Traveller's Rest, Henley Rd, Caversham. This imposing roadhouse was built c. 1939 in Brewers Tudor style, taking over the licence of a pub of the same name in Assenden. It has been aptly described by Francis Sheppard in his history of the brewery as 'Brakspear's principal contribution to mock Tudor'. Its proximity to the Henley Road Cemetery and Crematorium makes it a popular venue for post-funeral 'wakes'. One of Brakspear's 'Tabard Inns'. The pub survived serious fire damage in October 1984 and ten years later was developed as a Brewer's Fayre in a joint venture between Whitbread Chiltern Inns and Brakspear, costing somewhere into 3 figures and allegedly creating 40 full and part time jobs. Mayor John Oliver reopened the facility and Steve Rathbone and Heather Kennedy were the first managers under the new regime. It currently operates under a brand called Sizzling Pubs with an emphasis on reasonably priced food and drinks.

Trooper Potts, Basingstoke Road. This is a new pub opened in 2016 as part of Greene King's Hungry Horse chain of pubs. The name was suggested by Mr John Grout, who won a competition to select a name for the pub and commemorates Fred Potts of Edgehill Street, Reading, who won the VC for his gallantry in August 1915 in saving a severely wounded comrade during the Gallipoli Campaign. The pub opened shortly after the centenary of Potts' exploit which has also been celebrated by a memorial in the Forbury, unveiled in October 2015.

True Patriot Reading has another Churchillian connection, apart from the Great Western Hotel, for the inn-sign of the **True Patriot** latterly displayed the great man giving his V-for-Victory sign. Although the pub disappeared in the 1970s redevelopment of Newtown it is commemorated in Patriot Place on Orts Road. In 1972 a couple that regularly used the pub came in before 12 and found the landlady doing her ironing on the bar-counter. 'Sorry, I didn't expect any customers this soon.' Next door was Ticker Sunderland's watchmakers' shop. Prop 1879, J H Shackleford. **Was a Higgs pub and later Ind Coope.**

Truro Brewery Tap. Truro Brewery Tap at 46, Castle St. was a beerhouse associated with the brewery that was for many years owned by the Justins/ Justins-Brinn family, who acquired it before 1860. Earlier brewers were successively John Adams in 1827 and Nathaniel Hone in 1842 The brewery flourished for when Fergusons Ltd bought it from William James Justins-Brinn in 1900 it brought with it 30 public houses. The Truro pub continued till 1973 but the site is now occupied by the Police Station. One of the later landlords from the mid-30s was Alf Messer, a former Reading Royals player and captain during their promotion year of 1925/6. Alf went on to play for Tottenham Hotspur and later Bournemouth and Boscombe Athletic, retiring in 1935; he died in 1947, aged 47. His predecessor, William 'Billy' Beats (c. 1915-34), was an even more distinguished footballer, having made two appearances for England in 1901-2, although descriptions of him as 'a former England football captain' appear to be exaggerated! He played for Port Vale, Wolves, Bristol Rovers and Reading and died in 1936, in his 65th year.

Tudor Arms. See Malthouse.

Tudor Tavern See Marquess of Lorne

Turk's Head. The **Turk's Head** in London Rd originally comprised two cottages which are mentioned in the Royal Charter granted to Reading by Queen Elizabeth I in 1559. During its early history it was let to a shopkeeper called Malthouse. In the early 19th century its address was 18 Albion Street. The inn is depicted in a famous old print of 1823 by William Henry Timms (1791-1858).

In September 1814, 'a post-chaise, belonging to Mr. Frankland, standing at the **Turk's Head**, the horses took fright and ran away.' One got as far as Beech Hill, the other to Spencer's Wood. In 1816 a new coach service started by 'a party of tradesmen' of the town who had acquired Gibbs and Thorn's coach was launched from the Turk's Head and attracted a crowd of 1,000 who came to see the first departure. In 1840 Mr A Main retired 'after many years' at the **Turk's Head** and was succeeded by William Axam, who hoped 'by strict attention to the comfort and accommodation of persons favouring him with their patronage and support, to merit a continuance of the favours so many years bestowed on his predecessor. Good wine and spirits, well aired beds.' Other 19th century landlords included Ambrose Ham, William Draper, George Pittard, Letitia Roake, John Spencer and Robert Pollard. Later Reginald Fellows kept the inn for many years from the 1930s into the 1950s.

Eddie and Morie Colhane were licensees of the **Turk's** from the late 60s until John Bibby took over in 1983. During Bibby's cure the pub received the first of two extensions but retained much of its character at least until 1996 when it was renamed the Fez and Firkin, following Allied Breweries' acquisition of the Firkin

chain. The name adopted was one of several facetiously suggested to the owners by the present writer. With the demise of the Firkin concept the pub resumed half of its original name in 2002, becoming the Turk's. The premises once sported a mummified cat which was stolen by high-spirited medical students, as well as a portrait of Arthur, an irascible 90-year old who once hit a barman on the nose when he asked for his glass at closing time!

Turners Arms, 32 Coley St. Albert Hathaway, 1879, George Pavey, 1887. Closed early 20th century.

Tylers Rest, 149 Norcot Rd, Tilehurst. Modern pub – was bass Charrington.

Upin Arms. See **Abbot Cook**.

Upper Ship. The **Ship** in Duke Street, sometimes referred to as the **Upper Ship**, receives an early mention in 1648, when the Oxford antiquary, Elias Ashmole, of museum fame, recorded having made merry there with two pheasants on St Valentine's Day. Forty years later the birth of Prince James (the Old Pretender) was celebrated with 39s (£1.95) being paid for wine. In 1739, Robert Lee, the Binfield farmer, recorded two occasions on which he visited the Upper Ship, in May, when he dined in the company of Messrs Biggs and Frencham and in July. On the latter occasion he slept the night of 31 July at the inn, having 'spent...the night at the Miter with Mr Trumbull etc' and on the 1st of August dined at the Ship again with Trumbull. In 1747 under Mrs Braventon's management the Ship offered ordinaries to race-goers on Tuesdays. In 1762 the *Reading Mercury* announced that the Reading, Wokingham, Bracknell and Sunninghill Flying Machine was setting out on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at six o' clock in the morning from the Upper Ship for Fleet St, London.

It was later a popular venue for political meetings with an agrarian flavour, as when 300 farmers were addressed by William Cobbett in 1822 and when ca. 1840 a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Colonel Blagrove to rebut the anti-corn laws agitation. On this occasion they formed the Berkshire Association for the Protection of Agriculture. 19th century proprietors of the **Ship** included Jane Mason, later at the George, Thomas Bunce and Thomas Rose, whose reign spanned the 1850s to 70s. A notice in *Reading Mercury* of 26 December 1840 records the death on Christmas Day of Edward, the infant son, aged 11 months of Mr Thomas Bunce, of the Upper Ship Inn. In 1852 Rose was robbed of two trusses of straw and in 1854 he described his function as 'job and post master, hearse and funeral carriage proprietor, agent for the Great Western parcel delivery', suggesting that he was more successful than some of his competitors in adapting to the Railway Age. The Ship survives as a hotel to this day, having been largely rebuilt in 1912, and currently trades as the Royal County Hotel.

Vastern, see Waggon and Horses.

Victoria, 17 Eldon Terrace. John Salt was beer retailer and grocer at this address from 1887, succeeded early in the 20th century by his wife, Mary Ann. Albert Lay who took over before the outbreak of WW1 seems to have been the last licensee.

Victoria Arms (1), 61 Friar St. Prop 1879 & 1887, George William Sharp, 1900 Oscar Flint. . Renewal of license was referred in 1914.

Victoria Arms (2), London St. Prop 1879, R Herring. There is also a Victoria Arms, London Rd, listed by REP as extant in 1905 – may be an error for this one.

Victoria Arms (3), Orts Road (Back Road). Extant in 1905.

Victory (1) The **Victory**, 85 Bedford Rd belonged to Greys Brewery and was acquired by Brakspears when it acquired the business in 1896. Fred Elliott was an early landlord in 1879. The pub was closed in 1963, with the licence transferred to a new Brakspears pub of the same name.

Victory (2) The new pub was located in the Meadway, Tilehurst and was in turn closed after around 40 years trading. However, the original Victory still stands, having been the premises of Hills Rubber Co, a local enterprise manufacturing and retailing rubber products.

Vine (1). Vine Hotel, situated on the corner of West St and Broad St (1914, also 22 West St), replaced the **Black Lion** in this location around 1854. It was itself replaced in the early 1930s by Burton's tailors in Art Deco style and that handsome building is now a newspaper/ convenience shop. Prior to 1856 Mine hosts included Charles Heath, Joseph McGregor Koppel, Thomas Harding, John North, Charles C Jones and Thomas Baldwin. It formed part of the Berkshire Brewery's estate until that brewery and its pubs were auctioned off in 1883. In 1884 during John North's tenure the ubiquitous Brown and Albury designed a billiard room for the Vine. In 1931 the last landlord seems to have been Mr H. C. Speight.

Although licensee for just three years Thomas Harding was certainly one of the more colourful of Reading's landlords during the 19th century. After serving in the Merchant Navy, rising to the rank of Captain, he emigrated to New Zealand with his wife, Sarah, and baby in 1854, setting himself up as a sheep-farmer. However, the venture was evidently not a great success and government reports referred to his sheep as scabby. In 1865 he sold up and returned to his native land, becoming landlord of the Saracen's Head at Ashford in Kent. In the Berkshire Chronicle for June 25th 1870 Harding begged 'to inform the nobility, clergy, gentry and inhabitants of Reading and surrounding districts that he has purchased the above Hotel, and trusts with energy, attention and supplying a genuine article, he will receive the same amount of patronage bestowed upon his predecessors, Messrs, Heath, Koppel and Walker. Mr Harding can assure the public that nothing will be wanting on his part to uphold the 'Vine' as a first class house.' He further offers high quality wines brought from his previous pub and prime viewing sites for the parade when the Prince of Wales visits. The 1871 census shows that he kept quite a large entourage including apart from Sarah, then aged 44, a housekeeper, barmaid and two female servants; Thomas himself seems to have been away from home at the time. In 1873, the Harding family returned to New Zealand where Thomas shortly afterwards died on November 3rd 1873, drowned after falling into Lyttleton Harbour, Christchurch following a drinking bout. At the inquest one of his sons stated that he had 'been an intemperate man for the last 8 or 9 years' and 'was in difficult circumstances.'

Vine (2) There was also at one time an aptly named pub of the same name in Grape Passage off Hosier St. Extant in 1905. John North is listed at the Vine, 74, North St in 1887, was this either of these two pubs? In 1887 also William Walker is listed as beer retailer, Grape Passage, Hosier St. Edwin Dearing had the pub in 1895 and is presumably identical with the Edwin Dearing who later kept the Military Arms.

Waggon & Horses, Vastern Lane (now Blagrove St). John Waugh was licensee in 1823, William Waterer, 1871. Demolished pre 1927. In 1914, a pub is listed as the 'Vastern' and may have been this one.

Wallingford Arms. The **Wallingford Arms** at 97 Weldale St (later styled 2 Caroline St) was a long-time favourite with CAMRA and scene of a notable meeting in 1979 that led to the establishment a local branches' newsletter called Thames Valley Drinker. In the 1990s the landlord had a loveable rottweiler called Guinness who would often be found sprawled out across the floor. In 1888 the death at the inn is recorded of Albert James, aged 23, son of the proprietors, James and Mary Ann Read. Further tragic events followed its closure when it featured in the abduction and murder of Reading teenager, Mary-Ann Lenaghan in 2005. More than 10 years on the former Morlands pub is still boarded up and facing redevelopment.

Warwick Arms, 77 Kings Rd. Extended in mid-80s at a cost of £300,000, landlords Alan and Sue Parkes, and was for a while operated as 'free house' by Morlands. Now reliveried as Greene King. Prop, 1879, C Hall, Thomas Gardener, 1887, 1914, Frederick William Clark. Clark, Followed by his wife, Rachel Rose, ran the pub from c. 1911 till c. 1940. According to one report the present pub was built 1890 so may have replaced earlier building. Latterly the pub acquired a reputation for its Thai cuisine and now operates as Bali Lounge with more emphasis on food than beverage.

Water Tower. See Bear (3).

Waterside. See Thatchers.

Weldale Arms, North St. Stables mentioned in 1888. Probably the Weldale listed 1905 as Weldale St. 1914, landlord Charles James Chapman, address 68 Weldale Street.

Wellington Arms (1), now at 70 Whitley St. (no.30 until c. 1874), had its origins ca. 1840 with a beer shop run by Thomas Chesterman which became the Green Man. By 1859 Mary Chesterman had taken over the licence and the pub had acquired its new name, celebrating no doubt the recently deceased Iron Duke, who died in 1852. In the later 19th century James Noble was licensee for many years (1865-85), followed by Edward Woodham. Both men doubled up as dairymen. Edward died in his 30s in 1892 and was succeeded by his widow, Emily, who then married a Mr Adams. During her tenure, the present impressive building was built in 1897 to the design of William Ravenscroft(1848-1943) who practised in Reading from 1875-1908. Another long reign was that of George Lyne who was proprietor from 1913 till c. 1940. Long a Simonds house, it later became part of Enterprise Inns' estate but after being closed and boarded up for several years it is currently in process of being converted to other uses.

Wellington Arms (2). The **Wellington Arms**, 21-22 Howard St (17 in 1914) at the corner with Soho St was one of the several pubs kept by the enterprising James N Wernham, proprietor in the 1860s. It was later run for many years by three generations of the Greenaway family, James, grandfather and George James, father and son; in total this dynasty was active for 60 years from 1875.

Wellman's Wine Vaults. **Wellman's Wine Vaults** Despite the rather posh name this Minster Street pub was famous in its latter days for a gas fire that was little

short of lethal and for the depths of nicotine coating its walls – if you touched them an impression of your hand would appear.

Westside. See Jolly Brewers.

Wheatsheaf (1) In 1808 Thomas Vaughan moved round the corner from the Broad Face to the **Wheatsheaf** but not for long. In August 1809 Mrs Mary Vaughan begged 'leave to return thanks to the friends of her late husband and informs them she intends continuing the business and humbly hopes, by diligent attention to merit their future favours. Good beds provided, wine and liquors of the best quality.' Later landlords included Thomas Coxhead, Robert Fleming, John Mundy, John Gosling, William H Mayhead, Paul Peter Capelli and George Roe. Work was carried out in 1874 and 1884 to designs of Brown including a billiard room. The original **Wheatsheaf** was redeveloped ca. 1929 and was for some time known as Henekey's but became used as a building society premises from around 1970. However, it was acquired by Greene King in the mid-90s and reopened as a Pub called the **Old Society**. It has since been renamed as **Bar Four**, catering mainly for the young circuit crowd.

Wheatsheaf (??), Broad Street. Current site of Allied & Leicester B Soc. RQ on 1951-2 era: This was run by a Bob Doughgood. He was also involved in Dog Racing. It was a place where the spivs congregated. Some things were still rationed, even after the war, but you could still buy them in the Wheatsheaf on the black market.'

Has RQ got mixed up with the Oatsheaf?

White Hart (1). The **White Hart** at 1 Oxford Rd. is mentioned in 1810 when Richard Frewin returned to his former pub from the Boar's Head. Later incumbents included William Briant, John Wells, George Harper, Frederick William Miller, A O Coates and F J Lewis. A Blandy Hawkins pub, it was rebuilt in 1902 to a design by G W Webb. The White Hart boasted stables for 40 carrier horses and six mail horses and a milestone in the tap room which indicated that it was 15 miles to Wallingford. A paper boy recalled entering the hotel and finding the '20-stone maid-of-all-work', Rosie, washing her feet in a small bowl. **White Hart (1).** The original **White Hart** was demolished and replaced during road widening in 1932/3. In the late 30s the 'new pub' embodied Reading's 'first American style snack bar' which was for a time the 'In' place for the more affluent younger set. However, according to Raymond Quelch by the early 50s it was where the Irish navvies used to congregate looking for work from the subcontractors. 'Wally and Pat Cook ran the place at this time... Wally seldom smiled but he looked after his staff well. Most of them stayed with him for years.' In 1968 it gave way to the Butts centre with the site until recently being occupied by Virgin Records. The last landlord was a Mr Crisp who moved to the Black Boy at Shinfield.

White Hart (2). A second **White Hart** existed in Duke St where the Independent Lodge of Odd Fellows held their Anniversary Dinners. During one such occasion in 1809 'some daring villains carried off two silver mugs and some medals, worth £20.' Like its namesake it was demolished for road-widening.

White Hart (3). See Caversham Bridge Hotel.

White Horse (1), 74 Caversham Rd. Was closed for many years from 1988 and also fire-damaged. Finally demolished for office development in 1995. 1887, William Taylor, 1914, Arthur Henry Blackall prop.

White Horse (2), Duke St. Francis Grimmett was landlord in 1871..

White Horse (3), 39 Silver St. James Petty was licensee in 1823., Mrs Knapp, 1879. Mrs John Mills listed as resident in 1887 directory.

White Horse (4), Emmer Green, Caversham Said to have been a pub on the site since the 16th century. At one time a blacksmiths smithy was adjacent run in the Victorian era by the Eynott family and later by David Turner. In 1854 Directory, Henry Eynott is listed as beer retailer and George Eynott as blacksmith. In 1907, landlord was Thomas Howard and in the same year a Harry Eynott turns up as a fruiterer in Church St, suggesting a link with the family interest in groceries (see below). Lodging at the inn was rather rudimentary with guests sleeping in an open dormitory and no bathroom until the 1950s. Also at one time sold groceries and baked bread. Name changed to Pickled Newt in 1993 but mercifully reverted to traditional name after a brief period. It was later acquired by Greene King, who undertook a comprehensive refurbishment in 1998.

White House, Tilehurst. For a time was operated as a Chinese restaurant but now appears to be back as a pub under a new name (Victoria?)

White Lion (1), 5-6 Abbey Brook, (1870, 21 Abbey St). In 1842, Benjamin Stream operated a beer shop at No 5. John Knowls., 1865, 1871, William Mills, 1879, John William Mawby, 1887. Presumably this is the forerunner of the Forbury Vaults. Advertised for sale by action in 1888. Had been let to Mr J D Brown – presumably James Dymore Brown? - in 1873 for a term of 80 years at a ground rent of £30 per annum. From 1888 was in the hands of the King family for many years, first William (b.1856), who also carried on the occupation of gardener, and then in 1903, Mrs Emma King, followed by their son, Cyril (b 1886). Cyril previously served an apprenticeship as a carpenter and is shown as a beer retailer at No 21 Abbey St in 1914.

White Lion (2), 39 Chatham St. Also given as Alfred St. formerly a Berkshire Brewery pub. Was in the hands of the Henderson family from 1915 with Charles taking over from his father in 1934 until the pub closed in 1967 for road development. New pub had been built in 1939.

White Swan (1). The **White Swan** was possibly the one located at 23/ 24 St Mary's Butts and seems to have been called plain Swan after the Black Swan closed in mid-19th century. Proprietors of the Swan included Martha Lyford, John Davies, Miss Clara Victoria Harbor and Luigi Carini. The pub was rebuilt 1889 to designs of G W Webb for Hawkins' brewery. After being used for other commercial purposes for many years including Rediffusion and a shop selling rattan furniture, it resumed its career as Pavlov's Dog in the youth-oriented It's a Scream chain, originally part of the Bass group, later Mitchell and Butlers.

White Swan (2), 31 Thorn St. 1879, prop. Robert Cranham, 1887, Mrs. Hannah Rose. Still going in 1905.

Whitley Tavern, 40 Northumberland Avenue. Modern estate pub which closed in 2010. Built by Simonds, it was regarded at the time of its birth as 'the pub of the future' according to Dick Sawdon Smith, writing in the Reading Post. It was one of

the first pubs to sell canned rather than bottled beer and incorporated a tube behind the bar counter into which empty cans were dropped to be crushed into containers. **Wild Lime**, 12-14 Friar St. Listed building. New pub opened in 1997 as **Newt and Cucumber**, part of a chain that was then acquired by Morlands and has been through several changes of name and ownership since, including curiously Mansfield Brewery. Currently owned by Barracuda, acquired its present name in 2013 with a South African theme, after several years as the Cape. Other names include Proverbial, T P Woods, Barracuda Bar and Varsity. Doubtless, Wild Lime will not be the last appellation.

Wishing Well, 280 Oxford Rd. New Irish pub which opened in December 1998 in a former pizza shop. Having on a very warm day been served up pints of vinegar and soup under the guise of beer at the New Inn, when it was masquerading as the Hobgoblin, the author found consolation in a cool pint of Guinness on his solitary visit.

Wooden Walls of Old England This was an Old Coley pub, located at 3, Coley Passage, off Coley St. John Everett, who was landlord in 1881, also worked as a porter for Pickford & Co, Carriers. It closed early in the 20th century with Mr R Halladine the last proprietor recorded in Kelly's. Intriguingly in 1915 George Hamblin is listed at this address as a chimney sweeper. This may have been the George Hamblin who operated the pub in 1891, or possibly his son, Edwin George.

Woodley Arms in Waldeck St. was rebuilt during the redevelopment of the Spring Gardens area in the 1970s., replacing a grander building in the mock Tudor style beloved of Morlands Brewery, situated in nearby Mount Street. This in itself replaced a simple beerhouse, licensed in 1869, originally at 4-5 Mount Street (later renumbered 50-51). In 1871 William Sayer performed the functions of a grocer and beer-seller, occupations famously regarded as incompatible by G. K. Chesterton's innkeeper, Humphrey Pump.

Formerly part of the Berkshire Brewery's estate, it passed to Fergusons in 1883 and subsequently to Morlands. At the time of Ferguson's acquisition of the pub it was run by William Mitchell, who curiously was US-born though of British nationality. Mitchell continued the dual function but later licensees such as Henry Smith, George Hayden and Job Patey were beerhouse-keepers only but whether they 'treated unmoneyed men' is perhaps debatable. The 1903 pub 'census' shows that it then had three bars and a bedroom for travelers.

Latterly a Greene King establishment, the new pub was run for most of its existence by Adie and Viv Carter, who moved from the old pub and were the longest serving publicans in Reading at the time of Viv's death and Adie's retirement in 2011. Adie Carter died in 2013, aged 66. Sadly the pub did not long survive the departure of the Carters and seems likely to be replaced by housing, although plans so far submitted have not met with approval by the planning authority.

The **Woolpack Inn** at 27 Broad St was the venue on 9 April 1808 of a meeting of the 'Farmers' Association for the prosecution of Felons', Such associations were formed up and down the country on a local basis to provide funds on a mutual basis to fight crime in the days before police forces came into being. Some still

exist as social clubs, their original purpose being defunct. Since sheep-stealing was likely to be a major cause of concern in rural communities, the choice of the Woolpack may be considered highly appropriate perhaps! In 1840 its landlord G A Wharton moved to the Horse and Jockey (which see) and was succeeded by Henry Paice, who placed an almost identical ad on 31 October to that placed by Wharton for his new pub. . John Coxhead was licensee in 1823, Thomas Mundy, 1827, Robert Tompkins, 1871, Mr Naughton c 1879. The inn had an adjoining 'horse repository' but did not survive long into the era of the motor car, being demolished in the early 20th century.

World's End, Tilehurst. 1852, John Morris

World Turned Upside Down, 387 Basingstoke Rd, is often known locally as the Upsydown. It is now a food-oriented Harvester with an attached Forte Travelodge but happily the traditional name has recently been re-adopted. It seems to have had its origins ca. 1842 when George Prior, Agricultural Labourer, began dispensing beer. Later 19th c. publicans included Joseph Harrington. Thomas Kitcher, 1854, John Wynn and Joseph Sadler. Albert Turvey was then landlord for a remarkable 40 year-span from 1895 to be followed for several years following his retirement from football by Berto Eggo, who played over 300 games for the Reading Royals and captained the team that won promotion to the old Division 2 in 1926; he died in 1977. In 1960s it was run by Dennis Oxlade, who was Treasurer of Reading & District Bar Billiards Association, and his wife, Anne.

Wynford Arms, 90 (later 110 King's Rd. John Smith, prop 1879. It was at one time a Hewett's pub, passing from them to Simonds (later Courage) and becoming a Truman's house during the pub swap of 1971. Became town's premier gay pub from 1992 under Simon Hallam after Tudor Arms closed to become Malthouse. In May 2015 the pub's closure was announced but in 2016 it was announced that it would reopen as the **Thirsty Bear**. It is not clear whether this has any connection with a pub of the same name in London SE1.

Yates's Wine Lodge, 7 Friar Street. Former main Post Office, itself built on the site of the Queen's Hotel (which see). It has been described by CAMRA as 'a vast two-storey, galleried drinking emporium with bouncers on the door.' Legend has it that on one occasion a disaffected customer chucked a block of stone through the window and the bouncers threw themselves to the floor.

Ye Old Friars. Like the nearby Ancient Foresters **Ye Old Friars** at 63 Friar St. was a Blatch's house. In 1851 a licence was refused to William Styles, while in 1937 Mr and Mrs T A May were behind the bar serving customers when 'a thief apparently walked through from the bar into the living room' and then 'walked out with a quantity of jewellery.' The site was later occupied by Brentford Linens.

York House, 15 Kings Road, redeveloped, site now occupied by Central Library. In 1865 the site seems to have been numbered '9' with John Edward Justins, beerseller in occupation. William Rhoades, prop 1879, later Daniel Goddard. Interestingly Smart indicates that No 19 (formerly 129) London St. was York House Hotel from 1829-37. Charles F Warren was publican at the start of the WW1. Mrs R M Reeves was in charge in 1958 but by 1964, the building was used as an estate agents' premises, Edward Gray & Co who had been succeeded by Dartman by 1972. In his book "Casual Ramblings" Gordon Spring refers to the lavatory of the

York House, which was over the Holy Brook and supported on very rusty metal beams. It seems that when they removed the rust, there was virtually no metal left, and the lavatory had to be closed.

Young Prince, 92 Thames St. William H Whitbread (presumably no relation to the brewing family) seems to have been the first recorded licensee of this Fergusons house in 1875. This leads one to speculate who the young prince might have been – Queen Victoria's youngest son, Prince Leopold, who came of age in 1874, is a possible candidate. Landlords seem to have come and gone in rapid succession with Levi Cook and Richard Polden both recorded in 1879, followed by Mark Smith in 1881. A further four are recorded until some stability was achieved in 1899 with the arrival of Samuel H Young. He and his wife, Jane, ran the pub successively until the 1920s. Photographs show the pub in the background as crowds lined the Factory Bridge to greet another young prince, Edward Prince of Wales on the royal visit of 1926. The pub is believed to have been demolished ca 1936-9.

Zerodegrees. The **Zerodegrees** group of Micro-brewpub/ restaurants opened their Reading outlet in early 2007, brewing and retailing continental style beers which immediately notched up an award at the Reading Beer festival. A new building with an entrance in Bridge Street was added to existing premises in Gun Street. The façade of the latter seems originally to have been retail property built for Pagett and Hewett, tobacco manufacturers (4 Gun St) and Pagett and Pigott, provision merchants (5-6 Gun St) in 1882-4 to design of William Ravenscroft who also designed the former Wellington Arms, Whitley St. 5-6 later became Mays and Mackays, wholesale druggists (1899/ 1915 Directories.) By the 1960s numbers 3 to 6 had become occupied by Lamport, Gilbert & Co., printers and stationers.

Was this 18 Watlington St – landlord in 1887, Frederick Leeds.
Coley Place (unnumbered) beer shop listed in the PO Directory of 1842, kept by
Thomas White who also functioned as a Shoeing Smith.

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