

the * Red Lion *

This inn known by the name and sign of the Red Lion was built in the 35th year of Elizabeth I, in 1593. Though the original structure of the building has undergone alteration down through the years, particularly during the reign of George III, when the structure was refaced and that of Victoria when other alterations were carried out.

When first built the property consisted of a main dwelling house or tenement with stables, outbuildings and a large tract of land. It was owned at this early date by Francis Bryce, yeoman of Patricbourne. By 1632 he had disposed of the house by sale and in that year one Jacob Jarvis, victualler of Canterbury was granted a licence to sell ales from it. He called the house and registered it under the title of the "Red Lion". By 1640, it had become a registered inn offering lodging and stabling facilities and because of its situation on the London to Dover High Road, it became an inn of some prominence.

Jacob Jarvis' family had for many years been vintners of Canterbury and were among the first to be called so outside the City of London. He kept the "Red Lion" until his death in 1661, whereafter it and all it contained passed with another dwelling in Bridge to his widow Arabella. She kept the house until 1672, when in that year she sold it and its wine licence, to Martyn Bradstowe, a victualler of Canterbury, who for many years had kept an inn there called the "Black Griffin" in St. Peters Street, (the present one was built in 1887). Bradstowe's wife, Sarah was a harness maker by trade and it would appear that she conducted this trade from the "Red Lion" during the time she was here.

Most of the trade in the parish of Bridge at this date, because of its situation, seemed to be centred around travel. There were three wheelwrights in the village, two blacksmiths and two saddlers. This was apart from the trades conducted from the "Red Lion" which by 1700 could boast commodious livery and bait, stables and a harness maker. In 1708, the Bradstowes sold the inn to Richard Knight, victualler, who kept it until his death in 1741 whereafter it passed to his daughter Jane, a milliner of Bridge and together they kept the house until 1768, selling in that year to Thomas Fagge. The Fagge's were a prominent family of Bridge. There was at this date a baker called Fagge, a miller, blacksmith and carpenter.

The improvement of the London to Dover highway in the 1760's meant faster and more regular coaches. The "Red Lion" was never a main stage, but a resting place between stages. Private coaches would wait here for the through coaches to pick up passengers transferring to local transport. It was during this period that the stables were extended to accommodate more horses and a coach-house was built. By 1800 Naomi Fagge, widow of Thomas was keeping the "Red Lion". She sold it in 1804, to Joseph Moss, victualler and equine dealer, who by the year 1810, was licenced to let horses from the inn, a tradition that remained for many years to follow.

Moss sold the "Red Lion" in 1818 to Thomas Hawkins, who like his predecessor obtained a licence to let horses. By the time he sold the inn in 1832, wagonettes and carriages could also be hired here. In that year one Joseph Eyre purchased the house. By 1850, he was advertising the "Red Lion" as a fine lodging inn, with carriage and stabling facilities. By 1860 he had become a fly proprietor of the "Red Lion and livery stables". A fly was a small one horse carriage, first introduced at Brighton in 1816. It was originally pushed or pulled by two men, but later the term was given to any one horse carriage of the hansom type.

Joseph Eyre kept the "Red Lion" until his death in 1871, whereafter it passed to his son Robert. In 1886, he sold the house to the Frederick Flint Brewery of St. Dunstan's Canterbury. They installed one Thomas Fisher Hinds into the house as a tenant. He kept it until 1898, being succeeded in that year by Samuel Dommett and he in 1902 by Frederick Anderson. It was whilst in his hands that the Flint Brewery sold out to the Beer and Rigden Brewery of Canterbury. In 1904, Anderson was succeeded by Frank Clayson, he in 1911 by John Friend, who was here for the duration of World War I, and on until 1921, when he was succeeded by Joshua Golder, he in 1926 by John Thomas Watson, he in 1928 by Richard S. Ansell and he in 1933 by George Burton, who was here for many years to follow. In the 1940's the Beer and Rigden Brewery sold out to the Whitbread Brewery and they eventually sold the "Red Lion" to the Bass Charington Brewery.

Today, the inn is no longer brewery-owned and is kept by Andrew Paice Hill and Penelope Cavill.

THE
* PLOUGH & HARROW *

This inn known by the name and sign of the Plough and Harrow was built in the 4th year of William and Mary in 1692, though the original structure of the building has been altered and added to down through the years.

When first built the property was made up of two dwelling houses owned at this early date by one Charles Pittock, who appears not to have resided in either, but held leases on them. In 1703, one of the dwellings was occupied by Isaac Whale, a shoemaker of Bridge, whilst the other by Thomas Kettle, a carpenter of the parish. By 1720, both dwellings along with two others in Bridge and a third at Patrixbourne, was in the possession of Elizabeth Maudistely Pittock. Isaac Whale still occupied one dwelling and did so until his death in 1742, whilst the other, was occupied by the widow Kettle, who at this date lived here on what appears to be a peppercorn lease.

By 1750, the Pittock estate was in the hands of Dorothy Pittock, who had inherited it upon the death of her mother. At this date both dwellings were occupied, one by Henry Marshall and the other by Jacob Sherrod, however in 1761 both properties were sold, Henry Marshall, still occupied one, whilst the other appears to have remained empty. They were sold to Richard Hardiman, who in 1768 made them over in his will to Susannah Sherrad, daughter of Jacob Sherrod; and there followed some arguments at law between Sherrod and members of the Hardiman family as to the rightful owner, during the whole of which both dwellings remained unoccupied.

In 1785, Susannah Sherrard (now spelt thus) spinster of Bridge parish disposed of the two dwellings by sale to Thomas Williams a maltster of Bridge, who between the years of 1785 and 1789, carried out works to the dwellings to form them into a malthouse, though in doing so, he probably retained a small living area for himself and his family. His wife bore him eleven children, but as was usual of the times, not all these, survived the perils of infancy and by 1811, only six were recorded alive and living here with their parents.

Thomas Williams lived out the rest of his life here, producing malt for the purpose of brewing. He died in 1830, whereafter the house and business passed to his son William, who by 1831 was brewing ale here for he is recorded so throughout that year and early 1832. In that year he obtained a beer house licence under the terms of the 1830 beer act, which enabled any house holder of good character to obtain a licence to sell beer from a dwelling or tenement of rateable value, by merely paying the small sum of two guineas to the department of excise, thereby avoiding the necessity of applying or being presented to Magistrates, who had no control over these beer houses and frowned upon the act.

And so in April 1832, ale was sold here for the first time. The house bore no title at this date other than that of a beer house at Bridge and that the said Williams a brewer and now beer seller was of that house. He kept it and sold his home brewed beverages from it until 1858, when in that year he sold it to Joseph Burch, an ale and porter brewer. By 1863, the house had come to be commonly called the Plough and Harrow. It is quite possible that it was given this title because there was a blacksmiths nearby run by Thomas Fagg, who forged farming implements and probably displayed them outside his shop.

In 1877, Joseph Burch sold the house to Samuel Shepherd of the Shepherd Neame Brewery. It was sold as the Plough and Harrow beer-house with brewhouse, and outbuildings, the price of the purchase was 410 pounds. The Brewery set about altering the property and upon completion of the works, they leased the house to Edward Russell in 1878. In the same year he was granted a wine and spirit licence for the house, and it became a registered tavern. Edward Russell gave up the house in 1881 to George Whiddett. He, in 1887 was succeeded here by Frederick Miles and he in 1894 by Charles Hopper Bean.

Bean gave up the house in 1898, to Robert Silsey and he in 1901 to William Brice. He was here until the outbreak of World War I when he was conscripted. He never returned. His wife Harriet took over the Plough and Harrow and stayed until 1928, when she was succeeded by George Ford and he in 1937 by Philip Ralph Mullinger, who was here for many years to follow.

To-day the Plough and Harrow is kept by James Henry Crowhurst.