

The Lambert Arms Hotel

ASTON ROWANT - OXON.
Tel. Kingston Blount 207.



Public Houses

In 1542 there was a brewer in Kingston, this is the earliest record found. By the late 1600s there is regular mention of a maltster and in 1697 it was John Dobson. He would have had a malt house where he prepared the malt for brewing the locally made beer. In 1797 a new malt house was built on The Green at Aston. The Rixon family owned the house, now called Bay Tree House and the malt house was probably in an outbuilding on the same site. Stephen Day, the son of the vicar in the early part of the 18th century, was a distiller and he used spring water from Kingston Stert. The earliest victuallers to be found are Thomas Worley in 1702 in Kingston Blount and Anthony Shakespeare of Aston Rowant, who on the 14th April that year was fined at the Oxford Quarter Sessions for uttering one curse. These men would probably have been selling the locally produced beer. In 1826 there was still a malt house in Kingston as William Dorrell sold it to John Brown together with thirty five acres of land, two stables and two orchards. Around the same period William Harding, the wine and spirit merchant had started in the malting business.

In the Victuallers Recognisances (lists of people granted licences to sell alcoholic drinks) of 1753, William Johnson, Richard Bailey and William Croxford were recorded for Aston Rowant and Ruth Blackall, Thomas White, Richard Hailey and Robert Stephens were recorded for Kingston Blount. By 1799 Richard Appleby and John Lindars were licensed for Aston and Thomas Kirby and John Britnell were recorded for Kingston.

The Drum and Plough, Aston: The original hostelry was on the left hand side of the old road by Warren Farm, going from the present A40 towards the back of The Grove Farmhouse. It was in existence in the 18th century as it was marked on the Davis Map of 1797. From 1784 until 1799 John Lindars was recorded as licensee. Ann Lindars was granted a licence from 1801 until 1822. In 1819 it was recorded as having a woodhouse, stables, granary, yard and garden. There was also an orchard and bowling green, which included a well house, situated nearly opposite to the public house. When the road was diverted in 1824 the present Beacon Cottage was erected on the new turnpike at the junction with the Icknield Way. It opened as the new Drum and Plough and remained open for ten years. In 1939 it was a guest house run by Mrs D. Cunningham.

The Lambert Arms, Aston: This old coaching inn was first opened in 1834 at the junction of the Watlington Road with the main London to Oxford Road and the junction



Beacon Cottage on Aston Hill, 1988



Early photograph of the Lambert Arms

was referred to as 'Aston Cross'. The building is an early example of neo-Tudor architecture. At that time it served Marlow beer and was an important stopping place for travellers to and from London. In the 1841 census an ostler, who was fifteen years old was recorded as living there, this reflects the need for stabling of horses. Horses could be changed there or rested before the steep climb up Aston Hill.

This inn has been used for many functions over the years. On 26th May 1857 there was an annual 'Club Feast' held there. Dinner was taken at one o'clock with entertainment by the band of The Royal Bucks Militia. Around the same period the local gentry held their annual ball there in the assembly room. At that time coroners inquests were often held in the local inn and on 13th July 1858 an inquest for Sarah Quartermaine, aged sixty eight, was held at The Lambert. Her grandson reported "she ate three mouthfuls and fell back in her chair". Mr Boynton, surgeon, reported death was due to serious apoplexy. William Webb was the licensee at that time and he was there until at least 1864. John Shimmell was there from the early 1870s until the late 1880s and was also recorded as a farmer. By the 1890s it was being run as a Temperance Hotel.

Dances were sometimes held there in the last century, which would be a great treat for local people. Mrs Nancy Pullen remembered attending many enjoyable dances there. In the 1930s Clarence Hailey from Aston Park Stud often dined there, he said the landlord, Ian Purdie, was a great character. The public house became a good centre for those in the racing world and was a focal point for the local hunt.

The building has been much extended over the years including a bedroom block built at the rear. The original entrance was on the front and a porch was added to protect people whilst waiting for the bus. However, someone was knocked down and that, combined with the great increase of traffic, led to this entrance being blocked in and the side entrance used instead.

The Chequers Inn, Aston Rowant: The public house was the first on the left down Church Lane opposite the church, on what was originally the London Road. It had been trading from at least the late 1700s. The building is made of brick and tile. There was a thatched woodhouse and also a washhouse, cellar and stable. In 1819 it was recorded as having a brew house, a blacksmith's shop and a garden. Richard Appleby, his wife and four children, took on the licence in 1791 and continued until 1823. Richard acted as witness at several weddings in Aston Church. Richard's son William married Augusta Beamsley in 1809 and had three daughters. He was a shoemaker at that time, but in 1826 he took over the licence of The Chequers, remaining there until at least 1869. He was a parish clerk and he also acted as witness to many weddings. In 1847 there is a record of the Court Leet being held at the inn and the cost for twenty eight dinners at 1s 6d each was £2 2s 0d, the beer cost 5s 0d, horse and liquor and postage cost 1s 5d making a

total of £2 8s 5d. The inn had closed by 1876.

The Red Lion, Kingston: The earliest licence, issued to Thomas Stevens, which can be attributed to The Red Lion was in 1822. The building itself is certainly older, as the Hester family were lodging there in 1807. It stands at the junction of Kingston Hill and The High Street. Thomas continued trading until at least 1824. In 1830 John Brown purchased the



The old Chequers Inn, Aston Rowant, 1991



The Cherry Tree 1940s

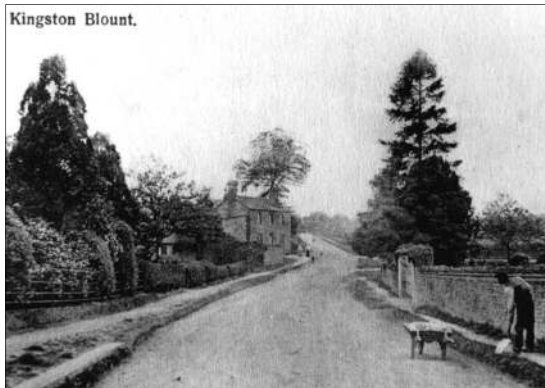


Outside The Red Lion before the First World War

property from Richard Blackall. At that time churchwarden's meetings were held there. In 1852 Sophia Britnell held the licence and together with her daughter Ann also ran a farm. It was quite common in the 19th century for licensees to have a second trade. Richard Wakelin took over from Sophia in 1864 and he was also a wheelwright. By 1883 William Wakelin had taken over, he was recorded also as a carpenter. The owners of the property, the Clerke-Browns, did not allow the licence to be renewed, so in 1887 it was being run as The Red Lion Coffee House, by William Weston. The coffee house remained open for at least another thirty years. The Parish Council held their meetings there from March 1927 until March 1945. The Meeks family lived there from the 1920s and ran a small holding from there.

The Cherry Tree, Kingston: This is the only hostelry in Kingston now still open and it dates back to at least 1794. This late 18th century house of chequer brick and slate roof

stands on the High Street at the junction of Park Lane. Henry Hill was listed as an innkeeper from around 1827 and is recorded in the directories of 1852 as victualler at the



The Red Lion c.1910



The Royal Oak early 1950s

Cherry Tree Inn. He was there until around 1869 and was also listed as a farmer. By 1877 Charles Newitt held the licence and continued there until about 1907. On 1st June 1880 it was used as an auction room for the sale of properties in Chinnor and Oakley. In 1911 Samuel Waters was resident, staying until the mid 1920s. In 1928 James Lambourne was licensee but only for a short time as Alex Aird had taken over by 1931 with Leonard Blake there from 1939 until 1957 when it was owned by Wethereds. In recent years James Triptree bought the property from Whitbread and ran it as a Free House until Brakspears Brewery bought it.

The Royal Oak, Kingston: This public house, which opened in the second half of the 1800s, was at the top end of Pleck Lane opposite to the Old Village Hall. John Newell, who was running it in the 1870s was also recorded as a blacksmith and in the 1881 census Jack Barnett the landlord was entered as a master smith and farrier. He lived there with his wife Mary Ann and their children Sarah, Ellen and John Henry. This beer house was sold at auction in Reading on 29 June 1892 when it was described as being a compact and substantial freehold property. It included a good yard, stabling, coach house, cow stall and long enclosed shed formerly used as a skittle alley and was in the occupancy of Mr. Herbert Broadway. The building itself contained a taproom, front and back parlours, four bedrooms, kitchen (used as a beer store) and a good cool cellar. Morlands Brewery bought it and from 1915 until about 1930 the beer house was run by William Taylor. The brewery closed the pub about 1956.

The Shoulder of Mutton, Kingston: This beer house stood in the centre of the village at the junction of the footpaths which cross the village. In 1852 James Hill is entered as a beer retailer in the directories, he continued there for many years and also traded as a butcher until at least 1877. By the 1881 census Stephen Smith is listed as innkeeper. He was married to Betsy who was listed as a lace maker, they were both born in Lewknor. In 1880 Mr. Elizah Howlett, the Relieving Officer, summoned Stephen to show why he should not pay towards the support of his mother, who was poor and chargeable to the common fund of Thame Union. He was ordered to pay 1s per week for her and 11 costs. About the same time he was also fined 10s with 12s 6d costs for allowing gaming to be carried out in his beer house. Stephen continued as landlord until his death when his wife took over. Brakspear & Sons of Henley had bought the property by 1896 when it was valued at £700.

Herbert and Mary Munday took over the licence in 1910, with their children Herbert and Elizabeth Mary. Mary continued to run the pub when Herbert died and then Bert and Cis took over after their mother died. They ran the public house together until Bert died in

1975. Cis continued on her own with lots of help from the locals. The first May Day Festival was held there in 1979. Cis played for The Shoulder ladies darts team. There were no pumps in the bar so the beer had to be drawn straight from the barrels in the cellar.



Outside The Shoulder of Mutton 1910



Shoulder of Mutton after extensions



'Conversion' of The Shoulder to houses

After Cis retired in 1982 many alterations were made inside, including installing power pumps on the ground floor. Brakspear's Brewery closed the public house in 1997 when they purchased the Cherry Tree. The building was almost totally demolished, leaving very little of the original, to be extended into three houses.

The Barley Mow, Kingston Stert: This property lay adjacent to the road at Kingston Stert, but as it was so small, the living accommodation was in the house next door. This beer house was in existence by 1851 when it was kept by Thomas Hailey. From the 1860s Thomas and Cornelia Delafield ran it. In the 1881 census Cornelia is listed as head of house, with her three sons James, Fred and Henry living with her. She continued to run the public house until 1890 when it probably closed. Cornelia was also



Celebration of Cis Munday's 70th year in The Shoulder, 1980

listed in the census as a farmer of 48 acres, continuing until the early 1900s.

Two other names found in the records are the Bricklayers Arms in Kingston and the White Hart, but the location of these has never been found.



The two houses on the right were once The Barley Mow. Modern picture.