

The Life and Times of the  
Inns, Taverns and Beerhouses  
Of Stonesfield Oxfordshire

“from the late-seventeenth Century to today”

*Compiled by Douglas Rudlin (2018)*

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## Introduction to Stonesfield

**S**TONESFIELD is a village and parish, 3 miles north-west from Handborough station, and 3 south-east from Charlbury station, both on the Oxford and Worcester section of the Great Western railway, and 4 miles west from Woodstock, in the Mid division of the county, hundred of Wootton, petty sessional division of Wootton South, Woodstock union and county court district, rural deanery of Woodstock and archdeaconry and diocese of Oxford. The river Evenlode flows on the south and forms the boundary.

The Domesday Book of 1086 records Stonesfield as *Stunsfeld*, meaning "fool's field". This was because of the stony soil in the area, so the toponym's mutation is most appropriate. Thomas Hearne used the spelling "Stunsfield" in 1712 when he visited the village in order to make observations regarding the tessellated pavement at the Roman Villa.

Stonesfield presumably began as a clearing in Wychwood Forest, and forest clearances continued to play an important part in its history. Stonesfield formed part of the western portion of the royal forest in the 13th century, and in the 17th century it was claimed that the area had been disforested since the reign of Richard III; attempts to re-impose forest laws were resisted vigorously. As one of the seven demesne townships forming the honour of Woodstock, Stonesfield received privileges but was liable to special taxation and an obligation to provide minor services in Woodstock Park. The continued ownership of the parish by absentee landlords, and its industrial character, which encouraged its people to be outward looking and independent, were also important in its history. Although essentially an agricultural community Stonesfield was also a source of unique roofing slates and a centre of the local gloving industry. The financial independence thus acquired by the villagers sometimes caused misgivings among their social superiors, who hinted at its effect on their moral condition. The presence of industry made contraction in the 19th century less severe than in more agricultural villages. After the Second World War the village increasingly attracted commuters, gaining a reputation beyond its boundaries for welcoming newcomers into village life.

Only 8 people were enumerated at Stonesfield in 1086, but in 1279 tenants and jurors numbered 36, suggesting some expansion but a community smaller than most of its neighbours. In 1377 there were 60 people over 14, suggesting that Stonesfield had suffered less heavily from plague than many Oxfordshire places. There may have been some decline by the mid 16th century when there were only 48 communicants, but the 56 adult males recorded in 1642 indicate a recovery, the 31 householders taxed in 1662, and the 107 adults recorded in 1676. The population grew in the 18th century: there were 257 inhabitants in 1771 and 374 in 1801, rising to a peak of 650 in 1861, emigration largely balanced natural increase. In 1845 15

Stonesfield people were among those drowned in the sinking of a ship taking migrants to Tasmania. Between 1861 and 1871 the population fell by 12 per cent, attributed to migration to manufacturing towns, and in the 1890s there was another sharp fall to only 491; numbers then remained static until the Second World War. In the late 19th century and early 20th many Stonesfield people emigrated to Canada, mostly to British Columbia. Between 1951 and 1971, as the village became a dormitory for people working in Oxford and elsewhere, the population more than doubled to 1,170. In 1979 the population was 1,340. The 2011 Census recorded the parish's population as 1,527.

In 1871, with a population of 537 and seven public houses, there was one pub for every 76 inhabitants whereas in 2011, with the population now at 1527 and only one pub it was getting very crowded in the bar! But then, of course, in 1861 the majority of the village inhabitants not only lived in the village but also worked here and the work was mostly hard manual labour, either agricultural or slate mining, very thirsty work! In the twenty first century most people who live in the village travel to work elsewhere and the work is not so manually intensive.



## Public Houses of Stonesfield

### **Rose & Crown, High Street (1712 – 1955) (Ex Morlands)**

(Demolished for extension to school playground)

Early in March 1622 Robert Keate signed his Last Will and Testament, died shortly afterwards and was duly buried in Stonesfield on 10<sup>th</sup> of that month. His name was found by using a search criteria of 'Victualler Stonesfield' but unfortunately there is no mention of which public house he was the victualler of, either in his Will or the Parish Register. But it may be reasonable to assume that it was the Rose & Crown, because that was probably the oldest known public house in the village, situated on the south side of High Street. It was mentioned by Thomas Hearne (1678-1735) in 1712 when he paid a visit:

'On Sunday Febr. 24<sup>th</sup> 1712 I walk'd over again to Stunsfield. ... I was at Prayers at Stunsfield Church. One Mr Hart read. He is Curate & serves also at Combe. As soon as Prayers were done I went to the Rose and Crown, & endeavoured to be unknown; ...'

There is also no mention in his Will that Thomas Gardiner, (born 1681 and married Mary Harries of Northley on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1706), who died in August 1741 and was buried on the 16<sup>th</sup> of that month in Stonesfield had anything to do with a public house. But looking ahead to 1754 a Thomas Gardener is mentioned in the Victuallers Recognizances as holding a licence for the Rose & Crown. By reading the Wills of the two Gardeners it is apparent that they were father and son and that the son took on the Rose & Crown licence from his father. As the father was the landlord in 1741 there is every possibility that, having married Mary Harries in 1706, he and his wife moved into the pub shortly afterwards and he was the person who served Thomas Hearne his pint in 1712.

Thomas Gardiner senior was succeeded by his son Thomas Gardener (born 1709 and married Margaret Fowler on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1734) who held the licence for the next 38 years until his death in December 1779. Thomas Gardener was buried on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1779 and it was noted that he was a farmer and inn-holder at the Rose and Crown. Thomas sired eight children, five boys and three girls. In his Will Thomas bequeathed 'All my brewing utensils, barrels, stands, and stock of beer, one long table and one form' to his son Richard. This would suggest that the Rose & Crown had its own brew house. There was also mention of the Friendly Society or Club in the Will. Margaret Gardener, widow of late Thomas, Publican was buried 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1783.

Richard Gardner only held the licence until 1783 when it passed to John Fowler. John Fowler had married Martha Gardener (Richard's sister), of Stonesfield, on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1780 and four years later, in October 1784 they had taken on the licence of the Rose & Crown. John Fowler remained at the Rose & Crown until his death in 1802 (his Will is dated 9<sup>th</sup> November 1802) when Martha took on the

licence. Martha held it for three years and after her death in 1805 their son Charles took up the licence. Charles was the holder for only five years before relinquishing it to his brother Robert who stayed for the next twenty-one years. Between them the Gardener/Fowler family had run the Rose & Crown for more than 100 years.

In the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> November 1765 thirteen men met in the Rose & Crown and each paid one-shilling (5p) entry fee to found the “Stonesfield Friendly Society” also known as ‘The Club’. Quarterly subscriptions were 3s. 3d. and sickness benefits were 7s. a week for a year if necessary, then 3s. 6d. for a second year, ‘then quarter pay until he be perfectly recovered or dead’; those receiving benefit were said to be ‘on the box’. Grants to a widow and funeral benefits were also paid. The success of such an early rural friendly society owed much to the industrial character of Stonesfield. It was founded “to raise by subscription a fund for old age, sickness of members and the support of widows”. They were, in fact, the forerunners of the Welfare State. The first one in Oxfordshire started in Woodstock in 1757. In 1858 “The Club” transferred its headquarters to the Black Head and in 1912 the society was incorporated into the Ancient Order of Foresters.

In 1911 Esther Bishop (born in Combe in 1872) was the landlady, supplementing her income by being a haulier for the County Council, and a widow with five children. Ralph, age 9, Albert 8, George 6, Gertrude 5 and Enias 2.

From the Morland Brewery Company Records, Stonesfield: The Rose and Crown Deeds.

- 1771-04-28 Surrender of Thomas Gardner. Property: Messuage in Stonesfield and lands called Picked Piece in Peartree Field, Callow Field, Jennetts Sarts and Church Field Bottom.
- 1779-11-22 Thomas Gardner, Victualler, died and left his property to his son Richard Gardner.
- 1780-06-20 Extract of the will of Thomas Gardner.
- 1784-10-21 Surrender of Richard Gardner. Property: Messuage in Stonesfield and lands called Picked Piece in Peartree Field, Callow Field, Jennetts Sarts and Church Field Bottom.
- 1802-11-09 Probate of the will of John Fowler.
- 1807-10-19 Admittance of Francis Spicer. Property: Messuage in Stonesfield and lands called Picked Piece in Peartree Field, Callow Field, Jennetts Sarts and Church Field Bottom.
- 1809-02-02 Mortgage Surrender. Property: Charles Fowler and William Stuchfield. Property: Messuage in Stonesfield and various lands.
- 1809-02-02 Bond for payment of mortgage money. Property: Charles Fowler and William Stuchfield. Property: Messuage in Stonesfield and various lands.



1911 The Rose & Crown with Bert Bishop (age 8) & Esther Bishop (age 39) the Landlady

From the newspapers:

Oxford Journal – Saturday 15 December 1798

‘To be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mr. CHURCHILL, On Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> Day of December, 1798, between the Hours of Three and Five o’Clock in the Afternoon, at the Sign of the Crown, in Stonesfield, in the County of Oxford, ...’

Oxford Journal – Saturday 31 October 1835

‘Rose and Crown, Stonesfield. A Gentleman having left a double-barrelled GUN at the above house, this is to inform him that unless it is fetched away in the course of a week, and the expenses paid, it will be sold to defray the same. October 31, 1835 Thos. Law.’

Oxford Journal – Saturday 10 March 1860

‘SUICIDE. – On Thursday the 1<sup>st</sup> instant a melancholy occurrence took place in Stonesfield. A young man named Francis Smith, who appears to have been of unsound mind and subject to fits, returned home about nine o’clock, somewhat dejected in spirits; having seated himself near a table, around which others were seated, he leant forward, resting his head upon his arm, when, to the surprise and horror of those present, blood was seen falling upon the floor, and it was immediately discovered that he had cut his throat in a most frightful manner with a razor, which had been left in a drawer in the room, and which he must have succeeded in gaining possession of. Shortly after this sad occurrence he was seized

with a fit, which caused the last spark of life to ebb from his body. An inquest was held at the Crown Inn, Stonesfield, on Saturday last, before Mr. F. Westwell, when a verdict of "Temporary insanity" was returned. This event has cast a gloom over the village in which it took place.' Buried in Stonesfield on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1860.

Oxford Times – Saturday 07 December 1867

'Jane Harper, of Stonesfield, Inn Keeper, was fined 12s 6d for having in her possession unjust measures, viz., one quart and three pint measures.'

Oxford Times – Saturday 26 November 1904

'The annual dinner in connection with the cricket and football clubs was held at the club house (Rose and Crown) on Saturday evening, and a good number assembled....'

In the 1885 Electoral Register Harry Oldacre is cited as living in a dwelling house known as the Rose & Crown.

The Rose & Crown was demolished in 1958 to make way for a new schoolyard. In 1992 five low cost houses were erected on the site.

Planning applications (WODC):

1958 - Use of land as an extension of the site of the adj Stonesfield County Primary Schools ref. C57/0227 granted 15<sup>th</sup> March 1958.

1992 - Erection of five low cost houses ref. W92/0136 granted 05<sup>th</sup> March 1992.

Licensees:	1712	Pub first mentioned when visited by Thomas Hearne
	1753 - 1779	Thomas Gardner
	1779	Thomas Gardner was buried 29 December farmer & Inn-holder at the Rose-and-Crown
	1780 - 1783	Richard Gardner
	1784 - 1802	John Fowler
	1802	John Fowler was buried 30 November
	1803 - 1805	Martha Fowler
	1805	Martha Fowler was buried 16 October, wife of John
	1806 - 1810	Charles Fowler
	1811 - 1931	Robert Fowler
	1834 - 1841	Thomas Law
		Age 50 Inn Keeper. Wife Charlotte, age 40 (1941 Census)
	1841 - 1865	Edmund Harper
		Age 25 Inn Keeper, wife Ann age 55 (1841 Census)
		Age 35 Victualler, born in Stonesfield, Oxon. Wife Jane, age 31. (1851 Census)

1866	Edmund Harper was buried 23 January Age 50
1866 - 1877	Jane Harper (Mrs) Age 52 Publican & Seamstress, born in Stonesfield, Oxon. Widow. (1871 Census)
1881	Annie Oldacre Age 22 Publican's wife, born in Stonesfield, Oxon (1881 Census)
1882 - 1890	Harry Oldacre
1891	George Giles Age 34 Inn Keeper, born in Wytham, Berks. Wife Annie, age 25. (1891 Census)
1893 - 1894	James Hunt, jnr.
1895 - 1897	Fred Hunt                      Lath renderer
1898	Charles Hunt
1899 - 1902	William Scroggs Age 42 Publican & Farm Labourer, born in Cassington, Oxon. Wife Fanny, age 41. (1901 Census)
1903 - 1907	George Bishop
1909	George Bishop snr dies age 85
1908 - 1910	George Bishop, jnr.
1911 - 1920	Esther Bishop (Mrs) Age 39 Inn Keeper & haulier for County Council, born in Combe, Oxon. Widow. (1911 Census)
1921 - 1955	William Griffin Born 18-01-1870 Smallholder, widowed (1939 Register)
1958	The Rose & Crown was demolished in 1958 to make way for a new schoolyard.





c1914 A young Gertie Bishop (age 8) poses outside the Rose & Crown



A sketch of the village shop and the Rose & Crown, early 1930s, by Mrs M Warren



## Chequers, Laughton Hill (1753 – 1847)

(A private residence)

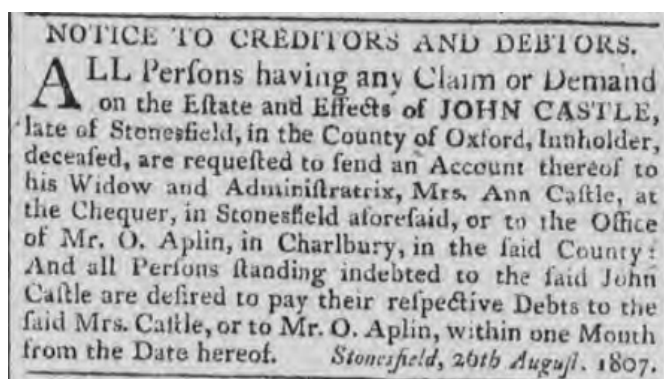
This public house was situated on the south side of Laughton's Hill. It was licensed from the mid 18th century when William Cudd was shown to be the licensee in 1753. The pub was apparently a favourite resort of entertainers travelling through Stonesfield.

6<sup>th</sup> December 1772 Thomas Cambden, son of John (Publican) and Margaret was buried.

3<sup>rd</sup> July 1783 Margaret Cambden, wife of John was buried.

The 1801 Census shows John Castle as being the Publican. He died in 1807 and his wife, Ann Castle, took on the licence until 1822.

Licensees:	1753 - 1763	William Cudd
	1764 - 1782	John Camden
	1783 - 1785	Joseph Williams
	1786 - 1807	John Castle
	1807	John Castle, farmer, was buried 7 July
	1807 - 1823	Ann Castle
	1824	Charles Roberts (ref. QS RI/1824 Ep71)



Oxford Journal  
26 August 1807

It had ceased trading by 1847 and is now owned by Blenheim Estates.



Early 20<sup>th</sup> century view looking up Laughton Hill with the Chequer in the centre



1897 High Street with the Maltster & Shovel on the left



1900s Boot Street with the Boot Inn on the Left



1900s Looking across the Green to the White Horse





1940s Looking along The Riding with the White Horse on the left



ca. 1905 The Black Head

## **Boot Inn, Boot Street (1753 – 1979)**

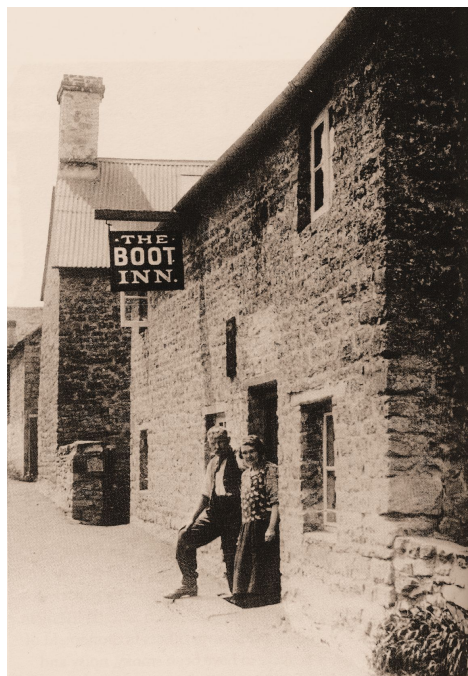
(A private residence)

Situated on the west side of Boot Street, this public house was licensed from the mid 18th century when John Howes was registered as the licence holder in 1753 and it continued to trade until 1972 when it closed. It was restored and reopened in 1974, but closed again in 1979. Since then this once thriving village pub has been converted into a private residence.

In the latter years of Frederick Griffin's tenancy he would take a jug down to the cellar and fill it straight from the cask ready for opening time. If a customer visited the pub in the early evening he was assured of a fresh pint of beer, but if custom was slow and one visited late in the evening he would get a pint from the same jug of not so fresh beer.

John Haynes is shown as living in Dwelling Houses (successive) known as The Tower and The Boot in the Electoral Register of 1885.

### **The Last Years of the Boot Inn**



1940s Frederick & Ellen Griffin outside the Boot Inn

In 1973 Ind Coope decided to close down and sell the old Boot Inn and the pub's garden across the street by auction 'with benefit of licence'. John Leaves and Tony Crofts bought it, with the aim of reopening it as a pub. The garden was bulldozed to form a car park; and they spent a year working on the building, forming a bridge to link the main pub and the clubroom/toilet building. The new Boot Inn finally opened triumphantly in February 1974 and, mercifully, the fire in the big inglenook actually stopped smoking on the opening night. The only pub in the village with a proper cellar, it rapidly went 'free', introducing first Scottish and Newcastle and later Charrington's beers, together with a regular policy of live music. Rock bands, soloists and an eccentric group based around a Northumbrian pipe player all appeared regularly.

Although in those days everyone went round to keep all three village pubs going, the Boot attracted real village characters. Reg Mills, Ray Brown and others formed a very lively lair-dice circle, which produced amazing insights into the psychology of individual players. Sunday lunch times, when families were welcomed to the sunny yard, were particularly happy.

There are memories of the night when no one wanted to go home at 11 pm and someone picked up one of Baker Barrett's geese and threw it into the bar, clearing it in record time. And the geese sometimes got involuntarily 'fed' during high-speed lager-drinking contests.

In the end, after four years in which the pub had become famous across four counties, it closed because, without a restaurant pulling customers in from outside the village, a one-bar pub without a restaurant could not generate enough income to service a mortgage and a brewery loan. Boot Barn became Boot Barn Pottery and the car park became Friend's Close.

#### Halls Oxford Brewery

- 1829-10-14 Assignment and Conveyance of a Five-Tenths Share ... Also the following Copyhold Estates: (1) Finstock: The Plough. (2) Stonesfield: Tenement once called a cottage and garden, with the street of Stonesfield to the north. (Henry Hall, of Halls Oxford Brewery and now of age, came into ownership.)
- 1891-08-29 Statutory Declaration by William Henry Walsh and William Scragg, concerning the following properties and pubs in Oxford and Oxfordshire owned or leased by Halls Brewery: 44) Stonesfield: The Boot.

From the newspapers:

Oxford Journal – Saturday 17 March 1855

'A licence was granted to Wm. Stroud, of the Boot public house, at Stonesfield, lately occupied by H. Austin, deceased.'

Oxford Journal – Saturday 15 March 1856

'Transfer of Licences - from William Stroud, of the Boot Inn, Stonesfield, to Arthur Phipps.

Oxford Journal – Saturday 07 October 1865

'PETTY SESSIONS, Oct. 3.

The licence of the White Horse Inn, Stonesfield, lately kept by Mr. John Lardner, deceased, was transferred to his son, Mr Henry Lardner. The licence of the Boot Inn, at Stonesfield, was transferred from Arthur Phipps to Thomas Laughton.'

Oxford Journal – Saturday 15 May 1869

'The licence of the Boot Inn, at Stonesfield was transferred from Thomas Laughton, jun., to Alfred Griffin.'

Oxford Journal – Saturday 01 July 1871

‘John Woodward, of Dytechley, labourer, was convicted of assaulting Robert Oliver, at the Boot Inn, Stonesfield, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May last; fine and costs 16s, or seven days hard labour; paid. Woodward was also bound in his own recognizance to keep the peace for six months.’

Oxford Journal – Saturday 03 May 1873

‘TO LET, - an old licenced PUBLIC-HOUSE, at Stonesfield near Woodstock, Oxon. - For particulars apply at the Swan Brewery, Oxford.’

(Ed. - I am assuming that this entry refers to the Boot Inn because in 1795 William Hall, of Halls Oxford Brewery, purchased the ‘Swan’s Nest Brewery’ (later the Swan Brewery) from Sir John Treacher.)

Oxford Journal – Saturday 31 January 1885

‘The following alehouse licences in the division were transferred: the Boot, Stonesfield, from Leonard Hanks to John Haynes.’

Gloucestershire Chronicle – Saturday 20 March 1915

‘CITY PETTY SESSIONS. ALLEGED WIFE DESERTION IN GLOUCESTER. At the Gloucester Petty Sessions Monday,—Albert Bishop, of Stonesfield, near Oxford, was summoned by his wife, Fanny Bishop, 7, Oxford Terrace, Gloucester, who alleged desertion.— Mr. Frank Grey (Oxford) represented defendant. Mrs. Bishop deposed that early in February she and her husband had to leave the Boot Inn at Stonesfield. She came to Gloucester, and he came to her two days later. He stayed a day or two, and then left her, taking her money. Witness went to her mother's for a week-end, but had been in Gloucester all the time with that exception.—Cross-examined: She did not try to take out a summons elsewhere against her husband without success. She admitted that Mr. Grey had appeared in Police Court proceedings against her five times. At the time her money was stolen a letter (produced) was not taken at the same time. She denied giving a certain soldier a bottle of whisky, a bag of biscuits, or a box of chocolates, and denied familiarity with him. This soldier was not in Gloucester with her in February, nor had he to her knowledge, tried to get discharged from the Army for a certain reason.

Edwin Huckins, 7, Oxford Terrace, photographer, gave evidence as to the alleged desertion. He was certain that the soldier referred to had not seen complainant since then.

Defendant, giving evidence, said he held the license of the Boot Inn at Stonesfield, until February, when he was served with notice to leave in consequence of his wife being convicted of selling game without a license. He deposed to finding a certain letter in his wife's dress basket, which contained admissions of misconduct. The Bench found that desertion was proved, and that adultery was not, and granted

complainant a separation order, defendant to pay 6s. a week. Complainant was allowed the custody of the youngest child.'

#### Planning applications (WODC):

1973 - New kitchen to replace existing galley to give access between pub and clubroom ref. C73/0349 granted 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1973

1975 - Extension to Public bar ref. W75/0141 granted 8<sup>th</sup> April 1975

1979 - Change of use from public house to private residence ref. W79/1079 granted 9<sup>th</sup> August 1979

1979 - Change of use from public house to residential use, provision of car parking accommodation on land opposite. Ref. No: W79/1214 | Status: Approve

Licensees:	1753 - 1758	John Howse
	1759 - 1767	Mary Howse
	1768 - 1773	John Howse
	1774 - 1789	Richard West
	1791 - 1807	James Berry
	1812 - 1822	Edmund Harper
	1838 - 1848	James Austin
	1851 - 1854	Herbert Austin
		Age 43 Victualler & Mason, born in Stonesfield, Oxon. Wife Ann, age 44. (1851 Census)
	1855 - 1856	William Stroud
	1856 - 1865	Arthur Phipps      Beer Retailer
	1866 - 1869	Thomas Laughton Jnr
	1869	Alfred Griffin
	1871	Arthur Phipps
		Age 49 Publican & Tailer, born in Stonesfield, Oxon. Wife Harriet, age 48. (1871 Census)
	1874	Thomas Laughton
	1876 - 1883	John Bartlett
		Age 37 Publican & Carrier, born in Westcott, Glos. Wife Sarah, age 39. (1881 Census)
	1884	Leonard Hanks
	1885 - 1890	John Haynes
	1891	Statutory Declaration by William Henry Walsh Esq & Mr William Scraggs dated 29th August 1891 states that the property is copyhold (leased) from Hall & Co of the Swan Brewery
	1891 - 1900	Thomas Griffin



	Age 31 Publican & Farm Labourer, born in Stonesfield, Oxon. Wife Emma, age 32. (1891 Census)
1901	Henry Pugh Age 23 Publican, born in Norton, Radnorshire. Wife Annie, age 26. (1901 Census)
1903 - 1904	Robert Daniels
1905 - 1906	George Dover
1907 - 1911	James Maycock Age 43 Waggoner on Farm, born in Stonesfield, Oxon. Wife Louisa, age 43. (1911 Census)
1914 - 1915	Albert Bishop
1916 - 1953	Frederick Griffin Born 07-02-1879 Licensed Victualler & Jobbing Gardner. Wife Ellen born 06-12-1882 House-work unpaid (1939 Register)
1954 - 1962	Vivian & Emily Miles
1963 - 1972	Jesse & Barbara Barrett
1973	(closed)
1974 - 1976	James & Marion Leaves
1977	Roy Croft
1978	Keith & Rosalind Mason
1979	Tony Crofts (closed)



1970's The bar in the Boot



June 1977 Vivian & Emily Miles retire from the White Horse



2002 The Black Head (above)

2011 The Black Head (below)





A stone from the Maltster & Shovel (above)

1970s The Boot Inn (below)



## More Public Houses of Stonesfield

By the early 1840s there were six licenced houses, the new comers being the Black Boy, Maltster & Shovel, and the Marlborough Arms. In the 19th century the annual court leet dinner was held at the Maltster & Shovel.

### **Black Head (Black Boy), Church Street (1840 – 2010)**

(A private residence)

The Black Boy burnt down c. 1850 when it was in the care of Thomas Stewart and was rebuilt as the Black Head, the name it retained until closure in 2012. The Black Head in the twenty-first century had an unlikely owner, the Nomura Bank of Japan, which owned the Wellington Pub Company. The pub was a free house, offering, amongst other things, four real ales. Bob Hamerton, the licensee, kept the ales in such good condition that the pub gained an entry in the Good Beer Guide in 1999 and 2001. The entry read: ‘Two-bar pub: the front bar is the larger, with pool table and darts, while the back bar is quieter and more cosy. A busy, friendly pub, it offers guest beers not usually available locally, and is a rare outlet for beers from the nearby Wychwood Brewery.’

Courage Simonds Ltd.

#### 39. Stonesfield: “Black Head”

- 1813-05-25 Surrender and Admission to Copyhold Property, Parties: William Adams and Mary, his wife (late Mary Long, spinster) and James Berry of Fawler. Property: Cottage, barn, yard and close of pasture in Stonesfield (in manor of Woodstock)
- 1813-05-25 Conditional Surrender, Parties: James Berry and Thomas Hounslow of Stonesfield, slate digger. Property: as above. Consideration: £150 and interest.
- 1858-02-09 Admission, Parties: Thomas Goddard of St. Fagans, Glamorgan, youngest son of Elizabeth. Property: as above.
- 1858-02-09 Surrender and Admission, Parties: Thomas Goddard and Philip Goddard of Stonesfield, farmer. Property: Three cottages in Stonesfield.
- 1867-02-16 Counterpart Lease for 14 years between Thomas Goddard of St. Fagans, Glamorgan, land agent, and John William Clinch and Charles Clinch. Property: Messuage called the Blacks Head public house and two cottages in Stonesfield.



- 1867-10-30 Admission, Parties: Thomas Goddard (on death of William Goddard). Property: Three cottages with gardens in Stonesfield.
- 1878-08-12 Affidavit by William John Goddard of Cardiff, gent.
- 1878-08-12 Deed of Covenant to Surrender, Parties: Mary Goddard of Llandaff, widow, and William John Goddard of Cardiff, gent., William John Goddard, and William Clinch of Witney, banker and brewer. Property: as above.
- 1878-08-12 Admission out of court, Parties: William John Goddard of Cardiff, gent. (on death of Phillip Goddard). Property: The Blacks Head Inn with cottage adjoining and close of pasture in Stonesfield.
- 1878-08-23 Surrender out of court, Parties: William John Goddard and William Clinch. Property: as above.



1920 – 1930 The Black Head

From the newspapers:

Oxford Journal – Saturday 16 October 1852

‘The licence of the Black’s Head, Stonesfield, was transferred from Ann Stewart to Edmund Davis.’

Oxford Times – Saturday 11 November 1865

‘STONESFIELD FRIENDLY SOCIETY.— On Monday last, being the occasion of celebrating the centenary of the above society, established in 1765. This usually

quiet village presented a scene of unusual bustle and merriment. The bells from the old gray tower sent forth a merry peal, bands of music paraded the streets, and the old flag, though reduced to shreds yet still bearing distinctly the Arms of England and of Stonesfield, and the appropriate mottoes "Let Brotherly Love Continue," and "Fear God and Honour the King," floated in the breeze. At five o'clock p.m. the members and their friends sat down to an excellent repast at the Black Head Inn, provided by the landlady, Mrs. Davis, her usual style, which was highly complimented. After the cloth was removed the evening was spent in pleasant and harmonious manner. The chair was taken by the father of the club, and the oldest member was first called upon to address the meeting, and in a brief but neat speech referred to the many changes which had occurred during the sixty-six years he had been a member of the society. Several toasts were cordially and enthusiastically proposed and duly honoured. The services of the Stonesfield drum and fife band were also given on the occasion and gave great satisfaction. Several excellent songs were sung, and the meeting, which we hope will long be remembered, was quietly brought to a close about eleven p.m. We are pleased to learn that the funds are prosperous and promise to be better in the future than in the past. The number of members is 130.'

Oxford Journal – Saturday 01 August 1868

'A Licence to keep the Black Head, at Stonesfield, lately kept by Sarah Davis, was granted to Mr John Hunt.'

Oxford Times – Saturday 05 January 1878

'BURGLARY AT STONESFIELD. *William Hunt*, labourer, (n), *Frederick Rowles*, labourer, (imp), and *John Rowles*, labourer (n), were indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling house of Ann Laughton, and stealing one watch, ten shillings worth of postage stamps, three bottles of gin, one bottle of sherry, and a quantity of provisions at Stonesfield, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Prisoners pleaded not guilty. ... Wilson Rowles, stated that George Rowles, himself, and John Rowles were drinking together at the Black Head at Stonesfield, from six till seven o'clock in the evening. They all three went home together, and met William Hunt on the way. ...

The Vice-Chairman summed up the case and the jury retired to consider their verdict.

Upon reassembling they returned a verdict of guilty against all the prisoners.

The Vice-Chairman sentenced them each to 12 months' imprisonment with hard labour.'

Oxford Journal – Saturday 30 March 1878

'STONESFIELD, near WOODSTOCK, A well-accustomed INN, called "The Black's Head," with COTTAGE adjoining: a COTTAGE on Chipping Bank: and

COTTAGE, with large Garden, near the Church, Will be sold by Auction, by Messrs. J. & W. Scroggs, Shortly – Full particulars in due course.’

Oxford Journal – Saturday 04 May 1878

‘STONESFIELD, near WOODSTOCK, Very desirable FREEHOLD and COPYHOLD PROPERTY, comprising “Black’s Head Inn”, with cottage adjoining; ... Which will be sold by auction, by Messrs. J. and W. SCROGGS, on Tuesday, May 14, 1878, at Three o’clock, at the Marlborough Arms Inn, Woodstock, by direction of the Executors of the late Mr P. Goddard.’

Oxford Times – Saturday 06 June 1903

‘BENEFIT SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER. - SPEECHES BY THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH AND MR. G. H. MORRELL, M.P. - Member, of the Stonesfield Benefit Society, which, having been established in the year 1765, is probably the oldest in the county, held their annual festival on Friday last, when they were honoured by the presence of his Grace the Duke of Marlborough, K.G., and Mr. George Herbert Morrell, M.P. for the Division. The members met at the club house, the "Black Head," at nine o’clock, ...

The DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH, in reply, said they had indeed given him a kind reception that afternoon, but he thought he might say that whenever he came to Stonesfield, whether in connection with that friendly society, or anything else, he was sure to meet with the same kind reception from those who wished him and his family well. ... They came every year to the “Black Head” – he did not quite know why it was called the “Black Head,” for he could not see anything in the hilarity of the party or the behaviour of the gentlemen present to entitle it to be called by such a very dark and gloomy name – (laughter). They had received his name very kindly, and he was very grateful to them. ...’The Electoral Register of 1885 shows John Bartlett in a Dwelling House called The Black Head.

Planning applications (WODC):

1980 - Illumination of front elevation and illuminated lettering on side elevation. Ref. No: AW80/0033 | Status: Approve

1980 - Illumination of front elevation and illuminated lettering on side elevation. Ref. No: W80/1122 | Status: Approve

1981 - New garage to be erected adjoining existing one. Ref. No: W81/1257 | Status: NODEC

1990-09-20 - Connection of new drainage to main sewer-existing septic in use Ref. No: N/FP/0181/90 | Status: Building Work Complete

2008-10-15 - Installed a Gas Boiler Ref. No: 08/1256/B/CORGI/0 | Status: PCO

2012-07-16 - Change of use from public house to dwelling, erection of single storey rear extension and detached garage. Ref. No: 12/1126/P/FP | Status: APPCON

2014-08-07 - Change of use from public house to dwelling, erection of two storey rear extension and pitch roof over existing flat roof areas. Ref. No: 14/1173/P/FP | Status: APPCON

2014-09-18 - Extension & alterations to form bed & breakfast Ref. No: 14/0838/B/IN/o | Status: Initial Notice Accepted

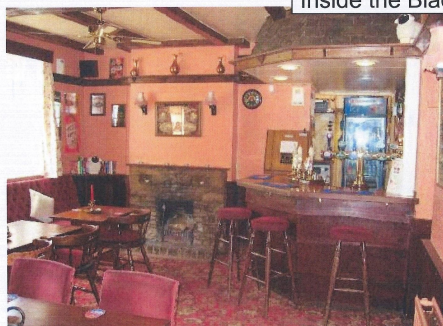
Licensees:	1840 - 1850	Thomas Stewart
		Age 55. Wife Ann, age 55 (1841 Census)
	1850	The Black Boy was burnt down and rebuilt as the Black Head
	1851	Thomas Stewart was buried 3 March Age 68
	1851 - 1852	Ann Stewart (Mrs)
		Age 68 Victualler, born in Finstock, Oxon. Widow. (1851 Census)
	1853 - 1863	Edmund Davis
	1863	Edmund Davis dies aged 53
	1864 - 1868	Sarah Davis (Mrs)
	1868 - 1881	John Hunt
		Age 41 Publican & Farmer of 15 acres, born in Stonesfield, Oxon. Wife Annie Maria, age 35. (1871 Census)
		Age 53 Publican & Farmer of 56 acres employing 2 men & 1 boy, born in Stonesfield, Oxon. Widower. (1881 Census)
	1883	Henry Hunt
	1885 - 1906	John Bartlett
		Age 47 Publican & Farmer, born in Westcote, Glos. Wife Sarah, age 49. (1891 Census)
		Age 57 Publican, born in Westcote, Glos. Wife Sarah, age 59. (1901 Census)
	1907 - 1909	John Law
	1911 - 1913	John Maycock
		Age 46 Waggoner on Farm, born in Stonesfield, Oxon. Wife Clara, age 43. (1911 Census)
	1915	William Biggars
	1918 - 1927	John Rowles
	1928 - 1929	Albert Francis Staines
	1930 - 1952	Alfred Victor Barnes
		Born 08-11-1897 Motor Trade. Wife Phyllis L born 13-10-1906 Unpaid Domestic Duties (1939 Register)



1953 - 1965	Edmund Richardson
1966 - 1968	Roland Brown
1969 - 1985	Fred & Joan Edgeler
1986 - 1987	Michael Haley
1988 - 1989	John Walker
1990 - 1992	David & Yvonne Benfield
1993 - 1997	Dominic Hamerton
1998 - 1999	Bob & Ann Hamerton
2000 - 2003	Simon Lane
2004 - 2006	Roger Goddard-Crawley
2007	Simon Lane
2008 - 2010	Chris & Karen Bannister (closed)



Inside the Black Head 2004



## **Maltster & Shovel, High Street (1831 – 1939)**

(A private residence)

The first mention of this property was in 1771 with an example of a 99-year lease, which is worth quoting in full:

‘Let to Philip Howes, carpenter and wheelwright, for the sum of £50 the dwelling-house, malthouse, barn, yard, two walled gardens, wooden pump, and stone sink, now in the occupation of William Panting, from the Feast of Annunciation of the Virgin Mary next at a yearly rent of 5/- for 99 years then to be fully completed if Philip Howes (Aged 37) his wife Susanna (Aged 38) and son James (Aged 12) or any of them shall so long live.

The said Philip Howes shall keep the Messuage or Tenement, Malthouse, Outhouses and Buildings, and all Walls, Gates, Stiles, Rails, Pales, Hedges, Ditches, Mounds and Bounds in good sufficient and Tenantable repair.’

(This is beyond doubt the premises afterwards known as The Maltster & Shovel and it is interesting to compare this with the Sale Catalogue of the same property in 1896, shown on page 33.)

The Stonesfield Parish Register notes that on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1788 Amey Fowler, wife of James, Maltster, was buried and that James Fowler was buried on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1806. In the 1801 Census James Fowler was noted as being a Maltster. In the 1831 Census James Berry is noted as a Cooper and John Fidler as a Maltster. By 1842 John Fidler was noted as the licence holder of the premises.

John Fidler was born in Collingbourne, Wilts on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1804. He married a girl named Abigail Ebba Humphries, born 1811 in Marcham, Berks, in 1830, and they moved to Stonesfield. They set up home in a cottage in the High Street and by 1831, when he was just 27, John was recorded as a maltster. They had six daughters and a son. Annette Elizabeth 1832-1916; Georgiana 1835-1854; Sarah Abigail 1838-1917; Mary Ann 1839-1930; Edward George 1841-1889; Martha Jane 1847-1935 and Harriet Maria Augusta 1849-1850.

In 1841 John Fidler was a 36-year-old maltster and carpenter but was not mentioned as a victualler until 1854. The 1851 Census states his occupation as



John Fidler 1804 – 1885

Maltster and Brewer and in 1853 the premises were known as the Malt Shovel. In 1857 he put the premises of the Maltster & Shovel Inn to be sold by auction. Apparently, nobody bought it, because he is shown as still there in the 1863 Directory of Oxon & Berks Dutton Allen & Co. By 1881 his occupation was stated as a Licenced Victualler & Farmer (42 acres, employing 4 men). John Fidler continued to run the Maltster & Shovel until his death on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1885, when his son Edward took over. This must make John Fidler the longest serving publican in the village, completing 54 years as a farmer, maltster and brewer. The Maltster and Shovel was a true brewpub, where the publican grew his barley, malted and kilned it and brewed the beer which was sold at the bar.



Maltster & Shovel, Stonesfield 1897

In the Electoral Registers of 1852, 1856, 1860 and 1862 John Fidler is stated as being the occupier of land at Brook Lane Farm. In the Register of 1885 he is stated as being on Copyhold Land on The Green. In this Register his son Edward is in a Copyhold House known as the 'Maltster and Shovel' Inn.

From the National Probate Calendar 15<sup>th</sup> May 1885: 'The Will of John Fidler late of Stonesfield in the county of Oxford brewer and

innkeeper who died 27 January 1885 at Stonesfield was proved at Oxford by Edward George Fidler brewer and innkeeper the son and Sarah Abigail Fidler spinster the daughter both of Stonesfield and Martha Jane Hughes (wife of Thomas Hughes) of Coombe in the county of Oxford the daughter of the executors.'

John Fidler left a personal estate of £938 4s 3d.

Sadly, Edward died in 1889 at the age of 48 and the pub was taken over by his sister, Sarah, who continued to run it until 1896 when she put the premises to be sold by auction. The fully licenced public house known as the Maltster and Shovel was bought by Hitchman & Co of Chipping Norton for £1200 and it closed in 1939. The Fidler family had run the Maltster & Shovel for 66 years!

From the newspapers:

Oxford Journal – Saturday 09 December 1820

'To be LET, with immediate possession, - A neat DWELLING HOUSE, with a MALT-HOUSE, capable of making 7 quarters of Barley at a wetting, in good repair, situated at Stonesfield; also Three Acres of ARABLE LAND adjoining,

with a yard, barn, stable, pigsties, and garden. To view the premises apply to Mr. H. S. Wells, in Stonesfield aforesaid, and also for terms of letting.'

Oxford Journal – Saturday, 26 September, 1857

To Brewers, Innkeepers, Maltsters, and Bakers. FREE PUBLIC HOUSE, AT STONESFIELD, OXFORDSHIRE. TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, By T. SOTHAM, On Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of September, at Four o'clock in the afternoon, upon the premises, the Maltster and Shovel Inn, Stonesfield, - The under-mentioned PROPERTY, being Copyhold of the Manor of Woodstock, but fully equal in value to Freehold, viz.:-

Lot 1.-All those Stone-built and Slated PREMISES, forming "The Maltster and Shovel Inn," in the occupation of Mr. John Fidler, a most respectable yearly tenant; comprising a Dwelling House, in which are a cellar, tap room, parlour, pantries, three bed rooms, closets and attic, dairy, brew-house, &c.; a five-quarter malt-house, in full trade and good working condition, with all needful appliances; a back yard, with barn, hovels, and piggery; two kitchen gardens, and a small flower garden; a front yard, with hovels and stable, three draw-wells, about Five Acres of Arable Land, in the highest possible state of good tillage; and a Cottage, with bake-house, adjoining the road.- Out-goings: Quit Rent, 1s. 7d.; Land Tax, 2s.

Lot 2.-About One Acre of productive ARABLE LAND, adjoining Farley Lane, near Stonesfield, but in the parish of Wootten, also in the occupation of Mr. John Fidler.- Out going: Land Tax, 6d.

The above described Property is to be sold by direction of the representative of M. Henry Stuchbury Wells, de-ceased, with the concurrence of the Mortgagee. It is for the most part in decent repair, and a large end remunerative trade is carried on both in the Inn and Malt-house. The slate-yielding oolitic rock is believed to underlie the land. For further particulars apply to Mr. R. B. B. Hawkins, solicitor, Woodstock; or to William Wing, land agent, Steeple Aston.'

Oxford Journal – Saturday, 28 September, 1889

'Sept 14, at Stonesfield, Edward George Fidler, only son of the late John Fidler, of Stonesfield, aged 48.' (*Death Notices*)

Oxford Journal – Saturday, 03 February, 1894

'Accident, - Miss Fidler, landlady of the Maltster and Shovel public house, met with an accident about four p.m. on Friday, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>. It appears that a stranger called for a glass of beer, and as she was going down the cellar steps to fetch it she fell to the bottom, where she laid for a few minutes. She shouted to the customer to procure assistance, and on going into the street he met John Clarke (a workman employed by her) and told him of the accident. He immediately went to the house, and found Miss Fidler lying at the bottom of the cellar steps; he carried her up, and on examination it was found that a leg and arm was injured.'

Oxford Times – Saturday 19 October 1901

‘COURT LEET. – This annual event in connection with the Manor of Stonesfield, was held at the Maltster and Shovel Inn on Thursday se’nnight, and was largely attended by copyholders and others. Mr. Higgs, steward of the Manor, was present. ...After the business, dinner was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Kirby, to which upwards of twenty sat down. ...and an enjoyable evening finished up with the singing of “God Save The King.”

Licensees: 1831 - 1884

John Fidler

Age 35 Maltster. Wife Abigal, age 30 (1841 Census)

Age 46 Maltster & Brewer, born in Collingbourne, Wilts. Wife Abigal, age 40. (1851 Census)

Age 66 Maltster & Brewer, born in Collingbourne, Wilts. Wife Abigail, age 60. (1871 Census)

Age 75, Licensed Victualler & Farmer of 42 acres employing 4 men, born in Colborn (sic.), Wilts. Widower, (1881 Census)

1885

15 May. The Will of John Fidler late of Stonesfield in the County of Oxford Brewer and Innkeeper who died 27 January 1885 at Stonesfield was proved at Oxford by Edward George Fidler Brewer and Innkeeper Son and Sarah Abigail Fidler Spinster the Daughter both in Stonesfield and Martha Jane Hughes (Wife of Thomas Hughes) of Coombe in the County of Oxford the Daughter the Executors. Personal Estate £938 4s 3d

1885 - 1889

Edward George Fidler

Brewer

1889

27 February. The Will of Edward George Fidler late of Stonesfield in the County of Oxford Brewer and Innkeeper who died 14 September 1889 at the “Maltster and Shovel” Inn Stonesfield was proved at Oxford by Sarah Abigail Fidler of Stonesfield Spinster and Martha Jane Hughes (Wife of Thomas Hughes) of Combe in the said County the Sisters the Executrices. Personal Estate £611 18s 2d

1890 - 1896

Sarah Fidler (Miss)

	Age 54 Publican & Farmer, born in Stonesfield, Oxon (1891 Census)
1896	Hitchman & Co buy the pub for £1,200
1897 - 1910	Henry Willoughby Kirby Age 45 Inn-keeper & Carpenter, born in Caldecott, Rutland. Wife Sarah Ann, age 47. (1901 Census)
1911	Francis Timms Age 45 Publican, born in Bucknell, Oxon. Wife Florence Mary, age 34. (1911 Census)
1912	Thomas Darby Dore
1914 - 1925	Alfred Blake
1926 - 1939	Jas. Chas. Pauling Born 02-06-1876 Small Holder. Wife Edith (nee Gatland) born 17-09-1894 Housekeeping & Assisting on Holding (1939 Register) (closed)



1897 Maltster & Shovel with Alice & Phil Loughton sitting in the trap and Mrs Pauling standing in the doorway



To Brewers, Maltsters, and Others.

*Important Sale of Copyhold Property.*

# STONESFIELD, Oxon,

Four Miles from Woodstock and Three from Charlbury.

A very VALUABLE OLD-ESTABLISHED and  
**Fully-Licensed Free**

# PUBLIC-HOUSE

**Known as the "Maltster and Shovel,"**

Large Brewhouse with Copper, five-quarter Malthouse, Kiln, two Granaries, large Yards, Stabling, Cow-sheds, Hovels, Piggeries, w.c., Wood and Coal Hovels, two large walled-in Kitchen Gardens, Concrete Water Tanks. The House contains Bar Parlour, Tap Room, Pantry, large Sitting Room, two good Cellars; on the first floor Landing, Store Room, three good Bedrooms; large Attic on second floor.

Also a Stone-built and Slated COTTAGE.

This Property is well-supplied with Water. Has an extensive Frontage to the Street and Back Road.

Also Six Closes or Parcels of excellent Arable, Pasture, and

# ACCOMMODATION LAND

Containing 31a. 3r. 1p., near the Public-house, and adjoining the road to Northleigh.

# PAXTON & HOLIDAY

Have received instructions to offer the above Property for Sale by Public Auction, on the Premises of the "MALTSTER AND SHOVEL" Inn, on

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8th, 1896,**

At FIVE for SIX o'clock in the Evening.

The Public-house has an Old-established Business, and will be offered with the Cottage, Yard, Gardens and Buildings in One Lot. The Land will be offered in Six Lots, or such Lots as may be agreed upon at the time of Sale, and is most desirable for investment or occupation.

Particulars, with Plan and Conditions of Sale, may be obtained at the MALTSTER and SHOVEL Public-house,

**Mr. A. E. MACE,** Solicitor, Chipping Norton.

the AUCTIONEERS, Bicester and Banbury, or of

Geo. F. MACE, Auctioneer and Estate Agent, Chipping Norton.

W. C. HAYES, PRINTER, MARKET PLACE, CHIPPING NORTON.

1896 - The Maltster & Shovel was a Free house, noted for brewing its own beer and its sales catalogue stated

## **Marlborough Arms, Woodstock Road (1838 – 1875)**

(Incorporated into Prospect Villa 1877, a private residence)

This public house may be the name of the licenced premises that at one time occupied the older part of what is now Prospect Villa (1877), on the corner of Woodstock Road and Church Street. It's first recorded licence holder was Miss. Glover in 1838.

From the newspapers:

Oxford Journal – Saturday 25 October 1851

'Accidental and Fatal Accident – An inquest was held at the Marlborough Arms Inn, Stonesfield, on Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> inst., by James Westell, Esq., coroner, on view of the body of William Lovegrove, of Old Basing Hants, labourer, aged 17 years, who died from injuries received on the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway, at Northleigh. By the evidence it appeared that the deceased was employed on the above railway, and was on a certain waggon, which started and jerked him off between the wheels and the rocks, driving him for about 16 yards under the wheels, and was afterwards rolled out. His left arm and one of his legs was broken, and his head and body severely injured. He was immediately taken to Stonesfield and Mr. Abel Davis, of that place, started with him in a cart to the Oxford infirmary, but deceased died after getting two miles on his journey. Verdict – accidental death.' Buried in Stonesfield on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1851.

Oxford Journal – Saturday, 01 September 1855

'A complaint was made against James Hunt, of the Marlborough Arms, Stonesfield, and the licence stands over until the next meeting.'

Oxford Journal – Saturday 03 January 1857

'An inquest was held at the Marlborough Arms public house, on Monday last, on the body of Caleb Oliver, a slate maker, who was found frozen to death early in the morning on the previous Saturday. – From the evidence it appeared that deceased was upwards of 70 years of age, and was a man of intemperate habits, and had only the day before left the Woodstock Union, where he had been an inmate for the last two months; it seemed that during the day he had visited two or three public houses, where he partook of beer, and was last seen alive about eleven o'clock on Friday night at the Marlborough Arms, where he had a pint of ale, and left with another man, who parted with him outside the door. There seemed no doubt that deceased, after leaving the house alluded to, fell down after walking a few yards, and, being unable to rise or call for assistance, fell prey to the inclement weather. – After hearing the above facts, the Jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased was frozen to death, being at the time under the influence of liquor.' Buried in Stonesfield on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1856.



Oxford Journal – Saturday 16 November 1867

‘Alehouse Licences – An application by Thomas Oliver for a licence to keep the Marlborough Arms at Stonesfield lately occupied by George Lay, was not granted.’

Oxford Journal – Saturday 11 December 1869

‘Transfer of Licence – The licence of the Marlborough Arms Inn at Stonesfield, was transferred from William Baker to William Hanks.’

In 1871 William Hanks, who lived in Boot Street, was a Hurdle Maker & Publican. By 1881 he was a Hurdle Maker only and it is known that he made hurdles in the barn that was situated on the same plot as the Marlborough Arms. The pub was also known as the Gamblers’ Pub due to the slate miners who gathered there and gambled. Many years later, when the floorboards were being replaced, many coins were found that had dropped out of sight between the boards. (Story recounted by Frank Hall, Stonesfield resident.)

It is not known exactly when this public house ceased trading but it may have been in the early 1870s.

Licensees:	1838	Miss Glover
	1841	Thomas Andrews
	1847 - 1854	Abel Davis
		Age 37 Victualler, born in Stonesfield, Oxon.
		Wife Frances, age 27. (1851 Census)
	1855	James Hunt
	1864 - 1868	Charles Griffin
	1869	William Baker
	1870 - 1871	William Hanks
		Age 53 Publican & Hurdle Maker, born in
		Stonesfield, Oxon. Wife Lucy, age 47. (1871
		Census)

By 1850 there were still six public houses, but the Chequer had closed in 1847 and was replaced by the White Lion, with John Lardner being recorded in 1847 as a Beer Retailer.

### **White Horse (White Lion), The Ridings (1847 – present)**

(Currently trading)

In 1847-1852 John Lardner was listed as a beer retailer in the village and between 1853-1868 was shown as the licence holder at the White Lion. The name was probably changed to White Horse a few years before it was up for sale by auction on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1876, when the detached brew-house was mentioned. The outcome of the auction is unclear. Henry Lardner was the proprietor, possibly the same individual later shown at the Moreton-in-Marsh Brewery.

In the Electoral Register of 1852, 1856, 1860 and 1862 John Lardner was in a Freehold Cottage belonging to Richard Collier. John Lardner was also noted as being a beer retailer during these years. The Freehold cottage must have been one of the two or three cottages that eventually comprised the White Lion.

From the newspapers:

Oxford Journal – Saturday 28 August 1852

‘Wootton South Division. – Woodstock, Monday.

Licences were granted for the sale of spirits to John Lardner, of Stonesfield.’

Oxford Journal – Saturday 07 October 1865

‘PETTY SESSIONS, Oct. 3.

The licence of the White Horse Inn, Stonesfield, lately kept by Mr John Lardner, deceased, was transferred to his son, Mr Henry Lardner. The licence of the Boot Inn, at Stonesfield, was transferred from Arthur Phipps to Thomas Laughton.’

Oxford Journal – Saturday 28 October 1865

‘STONESFIELD, near WOODSTOCK, Several large & small Sweet BEER CASKS, large Cooler and BREWING UTENSILS, GIG, Wheels and Iron Axles, Malt-Mill, quantity of Old Iron, and other Effects; also a DRAPER’S STOCK-IN-TRADE of Ready-made CLOTHES, etc., late of the property of Mr John Lardner, deceased, TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, By Mr LONG On Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup> of October, at Eleven o’clock, on the premises at Stonesfield, sometime known as the White Lion, now the residence of Mr Henry Lardner. Catalogues may be had on the premises, and of the auctioneer, Witney.’

Oxford Journal – Saturday 18 November 1865

‘SOUTH WOOTTON PETTY SESSION, Nov. 14.

Publicans’ Licences. – The following licences were transferred: The White Horse, at Stonesfield, from Henry Lardner to John Baker; ...’

Oxford Journal – Saturday 12 December 1868

‘SOUTH WOOTTON PETTY SESSION, Dec. 5

The licence of the White Horse Inn, Stonesfield, was transferred from John Baker to Henry Lardner; ...’

Oxford Journal – Saturday 31 July 1875

‘PUBLIC HOUSE To be LET, - “THE WHITE HORSE,” at Stonesfield: good stabling, garden, yard, etc. – Apply to MR. H. Lardner, Stonesfield, Woodstock.’

Oxford Journal – Saturday 30 July 1881

‘WOOTTON SOUTH DIVISION PETTY SESSIONS, Woodstock, Tuesday, July 26. Applications for the transfer of the licences of the following public-houses were granted: ... The White Horse, Stonesfield, from Samuel Neville to Thomas Clarke; ...’

Oxford Journal – Saturday 09 June 1900

‘WOOTTON SOUTH DIVISION.-Tuesday

Emanuel Scarrott, Stonesfield, innkeeper, was summoned for permitting drunkenness to take place on his licensed premises at Stonesfield on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The defendant was further charged with keeping open his licensed house during prohibited hours at Stonesfield on May 18th, viz., at 10.12 p.m. - P.C. Bradbury gave evidence in support of the charges. – After hearing the evidence the Bench dismissed the first charge, but for the second offence the defendant was fined 20s. inclusive.’

Witney Gazette – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1977:

‘A connection with the licenced trade in Stonesfield, which stretches back 60 years, has ended with the retirement of Mr Vivian Miles and his wife, Emily. Mr Miles has been the landlord of the White Horse Inn for the past ten years (*should be 15 years. Ed*) and before that ran the Boot Inn, just along the road, for 15 years (*should be 10 years. Ed*).

The couple took over the Boot Inn from Mr Miles’s parents, Mr and Mrs Fred Griffin, who had been there since 1917.

“I’ve never lived anywhere else, other than in a pub. I’m quite looking forward to our retirement,” said Mrs Miles. She and her husband are going to live at Yarnton. Mr Miles, who was born in Woodstock, and was a glove cutter by trade before becoming a publican, said that in the last six months there had been a big fall in trade.

But the changing times did not deter a large number of people from visiting the White Horse Inn for a farewell party for Mr and Mrs Miles.’

Planning applications (WODC):

1979 - Conversion of barn into bar and skittle alley Ref. No: W79/0104 | Status: Approve

1980 - Erection of 3 loose boxes Ref. No: W80/0827 | Status: Approve

1980 - Extension and alterations. Ref. No: W80/0274 | Status: Approve

1990-12-13 - Kitchen Store Extension Ref. No: N/FP/0247/90 | Status: Building Work Complete

1997-05-27 - Extension to link public house with skittles alley covered way to south west elevation re-roof skittles alley/barn with artificial stone slates and insert conservation roof lights on north west roof slope. Ref. No: W97/0074 | Status: Approve

1997-05-27 - Demolition of existing link between public house and skittles alley/barn. Ref. No: W97/0075 | Status: Approve

1998-09-17 - Demolition of existing timber storage shed and first floor storage room, re-roof existing rooms and new roofing over part of yard areas to create replacement storage rooms. Ref. No: W98/1357 | Status: Approve

1999-03-12 - Alterations REVOKED 10.6.02 Ref. No: N/FP/0014/99 | Status: Building Work Started

2000-04-10 - Residential development. Ref. No: W2000/0604 | Status: Refused

2005-05-17 - Alterations & Extension Ref. No: 05/0895/B/SOL/0 | Status: PCO

2013-06-24 - Demolition of barn and erection of two detached dwellings with new access and associated works. Ref. No: 13/0881/P/FP | Status: Refused

2014-05-01 - Conversion of out building to dwelling with associated parking. Ref. No: 14/0633/P/FP | Status: APPCON

2014-10-06 - Conversion of Outbuilding to dwelling Ref. No: 14/0863/B/FP/0 | Status: Conditional approval

Licensees:	1847 - 1865	John Lardner	Shopkeeper
	1865		15 September. The Will Of John Lardner late of Stonesfield in the County of Oxford Publican Pump Maker and Farmer deceased who died 19 July 1865 at Stonesfield aforesaid was proved at Oxford by the oath of Henry Lardner of Stonesfield aforesaid Publican Pump Maker and Farmer the Son the sole Executor. Effects under £200.
	1865	Henry Lardner	
	1866 - 1868	John Baker	
	1869 - 1876	Henry Lardner	Age 41 Publican & Farmer of 6 acres, born in Stonesfield, Oxon. Wife Ann, age 32. (1871 Census)
	1876		The White Horse is for sale with detached brewhouse
	1881	Samuel Neville	Age 47 Licensed Victualler, born in Cogs, Oxon. Wife Elizabeth, age 48. (1881 Census)
	1881 - 1887	Thomas Clarke	
	1890 - 1898	William Scroggs	Age 33 Publican & Agricultural Labourer, born in Cassington, Oxon. Wife Fanny, age 31. (1891 Census)
	1899 - 1900	Emmanuel Scarrott	
	1901	Thomas Smith	Age 29 Publican & General Labourer, born in Cuddesdon, Oxon. Wife Lily, age 25. (1901 Census)
	1903	John Maycock	

1904 - 1906	Robert Daniels
1907 - 1920	Edward Oliver
	Age 44 General Farm Labourer, born in Stonesfield, Oxon. Wife Ellen, age 42. (1911 Census)
1921	William Oliver
1922	Edward Oliver
1923	William Oliver
1924	Edward Oliver
1925 - 1927	William Oliver
1928	Edward Oliver
1929 - 1944	William Oliver
	Born 22-02-1893 General Labourer. Wife Millicent born 22-06-1892 Household Duties Unpaid (1939 Register)
1948	William Oliver of The White Horse Inn Stonesfield Oxfordshire died 4 April 1948. Administration Oxford to Millicent Oliver widow. Effects £704 4s
1945 - 1962	Millicent Oliver
1963 - 1977	Vivian & Emily Miles
1978 - 1981	Nigel & Wendy Bishop
1982 - 1983	Roger & Susan Bishop
1984	Michael Krysztofiak
1985 - 1997	Nigel Bishop
1998 - 2000	Richard O'Connor
2001 - 2005	(closed)
2006 - 2008	Richard Starowski
2009 - 2016	John Lloyd
2017	Marina Hughes



2015 The bar at the White Horse



2015 The restaurant at the White Horse



9<sup>th</sup> March 1980 The White Horse





4<sup>th</sup> March 2015 The White Horse

## Other Public Houses of Stonesfield

Other licenced houses of whose whereabouts we can only make a vague surmise are:

**The Pick and Hammer** (the slater's sign) is said to have been in the block of cottages at the bottom of Well Lane, where the outline of a built-up doorway may still be seen (the doorway has since been replaced by a window). No records of this pub in the archives, only hearsay. But if this was the Pick and Hammer the cottage gained notoriety in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century when the police looking for the body of a murdered woman searched it. Millionaire architect Michael Morton was jailed for seven years after being convicted of killing his wife. Gracia Morton, 40, disappeared without trace in 1997 after going to her estranged husband's house. His cottage at Stonesfield was searched in an attempt to find a body.



## **Swan, The Tewel (1865 – 1877)**

(A private residence)

Probably the little pub up the Tewel (the right hand house of the first pair on the left). No records of the premises have been found to date but there are landlords listed in the 1860s.

From the newspapers:

Oxford Times – 02 September 1865

‘Licence granted to Joseph Kirby for the Swan Inn, Stonesfield.’

Licensees:	1865 – 1871	Joseph Kirby
		Age 55 Publican & Farmer of 11 acres, born in Whitchurch, Bucks. Wife Harriet, age 60. (1871 Census)
	1877	John Carpenter

## **Churchill Arms (Location unknown)**

The only reference found regarding this establishment:

Oxford Journal – Saturday 09 December 1826

‘To be sold by auction, at the Churchill Arms, in Stonesfield, on Thursday next the 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1826, at Three o’clock in the afternoon. Etc. etc.’

Oxford Journal – Saturday 21 June 1828

‘Estate at Stonesfield, Oxon. To be sold by auction, by Mr. LONG. On Monday next the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, at the Churchill Arms, in Stonesfield at Two o’clock in the afternoon. Etc. etc.’

Could this public house be the forerunner of the Marlborough Arms? The dates of the newspaper articles predate the Marlborough arms by about 15 years and the Duke of Marlborough’s family name is Churchill...

And the latest addition to the imbibing houses of Stonesfield:

The Sports & Social Club finally opened on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1995, ten years after the original idea of an extension to the Village Hall was first raised! The total cost was £65,000. By its constitution it is a non-profit making organisation dedicated to supporting sports and social activities within the village.



Additional points of interest:

From the Stonesfield Parish Register on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1783 William Horn, farmer & publican was buried.

From Jackson's Oxford Journal dated 18<sup>th</sup> July 1857 there is mention of the Miner's Hotel, Stonesfield.

*STONESFIELD, near WOODSTOCK, Oxon.*  
**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,**  
**By T. SOTHAM,**  
 At the Miner's Hotel, Stonesfield, on Friday next the 24<sup>th</sup> of July.—The following GROWING CROPS of CORN, and other Property, of Mr. Baker, viz., 12 acres of superior red lammas wheat, 4½ acres of barley, and 22 acres of Tartary oats, in convenient lots; also a bay harness horse, a brown mare (six years old), with foal, sow and 9 pigs, a raved cart, scuffler (nearly new), plough, and pair of Scotch harrows (nearly new), wooden harrows, &c.  
 Two months' credit will be allowed for the Corn.—For a view of the lots apply at the place of sale.  
 Sale to commence at Three o'clock.

From Jackson's Oxford Journal dated 5<sup>th</sup> December 1863 'A PUBLIC HOUSE at Stonesfield to LET. ... Apply 20 Queen Street, Oxford.' (This was the address of Daniel Hanley, a 40 year old wine merchant born in Witney, who founded Hanley & Co, City Brewery in 1852 in Castle Street, Oxford.)

From the Oxford Times dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 1870 'Licence transfer, 'The Miner's Arms' Beer House, at Stonesfield, from John Baker to Arthur Phipps.'

Arthur Phipps took over the licence of the Boot Inn in 1856 (as mentioned in the Oxford Journal dated 15<sup>th</sup> March 1856) and was still there in 1867. In the 1871 Census (aged 49) his occupation is stated as Tailor (sic) and Publican, though which public house he was in is not stated. John Baker has a very brief mention in the White Lion in 1865. So it is unclear as to what or where the Miner's Arms was.

Court cases involving Stonesfield Licensees (from the Oxfordshire Quarter Session Rolls):

01<sup>st</sup> May 1770, Case 10: Thomas Panting, servant £20: John Maycock, yeoman £10 and John Howse, victualler £10 all of Stonesfield to answer for child of Sarah Smith of Sibford Gower.

05<sup>th</sup> October 1772 Case 26: John Howse of Stonesfield, victualler £20 for self and daughter Elizabeth to prosecute William Burborough for theft of 2.5lb of bacon. (verdict – guilty)

### Excerpt from the 1871 Census:

Name	Age	Occupation	Where Born	Inn
Joseph Kirby	55	Farmer of 11 acres & Publican	Whitchurch, Bucks	<i>The Swan</i>
William Hanks	53	Hurdle Maker & Publican	Stonesfield, Oxon	<i>Marlborough Arms</i>
Alfred Griffin	33	Publican & Dealer	Stonesfield, Oxon	<i>Boot Inn</i>
Henry Larner	41	Farmer of 6 acres & Publican	Stonesfield, Oxon	<i>White Horse</i>
Arthur Phipps	49	Tailer & Publican	Stonesfield, Oxon	<i>(?)</i>
John Hunt	41	Farmer of 15 acres & Publican	Stonesfield, Oxon	<i>Black Head</i>
Mrs Jane Harper	52	Seamstress & Publican	Stonesfield, Oxon	<i>Rose &amp; Crown</i>
John Fidler	66	Maltster & Brewer	Collinbourne, Wilts	<i>Maltster &amp; Shovel</i>
Abigail Fidler	60	Brewer's Wife	Marcham, Berks	
Sarah Fidler	33	Brewer's Daughter	Stonesfield, Oxon	
Edward Fidler	28	Maltster	Stonesfield, Oxon	

## A Snapshot in Time – 1871 Census

According to the Census conducted on 3-4 April 1871 the population of Stonesfield was 537. The split between male and female was amazingly 50/50 (271 male and 266 female). Of the male inhabitants 132 were aged 16 or over (48.7%) which was probably drinking age. These hard manual workers had an amazing choice of seven public houses in which to slate (no pun intended) their thirst!

In the Black Head John Hunt was the publican, aged 41 born 1830 in Stonesfield. He was also a farmer of 15 acres. With him was his wife Annie Maria Hunt aged 35 who stated her occupation as Farmer's Wife. They had nine children. Louisa Hunt, 13, John Hunt, 12, Henry Hunt, a scholar at 11, Georgina Hunt, 9 and a scholar, Charles Hunt 8 a scholar, Annie Hunt, 5 a scholar, Fanny Selina Hunt, 4 a scholar, Sarah Hunt, 2 and Victor Edward Hunt aged 1. In the household at this time were also Mary Andrews (Annie Maria Hunt's mother), age 61 mother, widow and a gloveress, Sarah Andrews (Annie Maria's sister), age 19 daughter and gloveress, Henry Andrews (Annie Maria's brother), age 17 son and a painter and Thomas Clark, a nephew aged 27 a dealer. All were born in Stonesfield.

Meanwhile down at the Boot Inn Alfred Griffin was the publican, aged 33 born 1838 in Stonesfield. He was also a dealer, but of what is not known. With him was his wife Sarah age 32, a gloveress born in Westcott, Berks. They had seven children. Eliza, age 13 a gloveress, Henry, age 11 a scholar, Fanny, age 7 a scholar, Philip, age 5 a scholar, Richard, age 3, Emily, age 2 and Alfred aged 1. All the children were born in Stonesfield.

Over at the Maltster & Shovel John Fidler was still in charge. Now aged 66, born in 1805 in Collingbourne, Wiltshire. He states his occupation as maltster and brewer. With him are his wife Abigail, age 60 and born in Marcham, Bucks, whose occupation was brewer's wife, his daughter Sarah Abigail, age 33 a brewer's daughter (unmarried), his son Edward George, age 28 a maltster (unmarried) and a second daughter Martha, age 25 and also unmarried. The three children were born in Stonesfield.

The Marlborough Arms was being run by William Hanks, age 53, born in 1818 in Stonesfield. His occupation was hurdle maker and publican. Lucy Hanks was William's wife, age 47, a dress maker. They had three children, Harry, age 18 a gardener, John, age 14 a farmer's boy and Edward, age 13 a farmer's boy. Staying with the Hanks' family were two step children. Philip Austin, age 18 a baker and Maria Austin, age 16 a dress maker. All were born in the village.

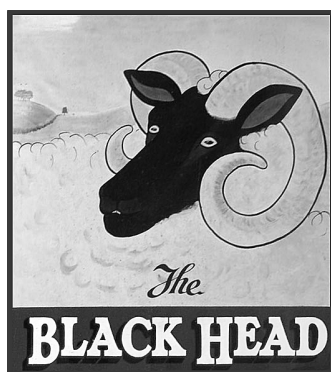
Round the corner at the Rose and Crown Mrs. Jane Harper was the landlady, age 52 born in 1819. Her occupation stated as seamstress and publican. She had four children to look after, all noted as scholars. There was John age 12, Ann age 10, Ellen age 8 and Sarah age 6. Also in the household was Jane Hanks, a niece age 23,

a gloveress. All were born in Stonesfield.

In the Tewer at the Swan Joseph Kirby was behind the bar. His occupation is given as farmer of 11 acres and publican. He is now 55 years old being born in Whitchurch, Bucks. His wife Harriet, age 60 and born in Bicester, Oxon, gives her occupation as farmer's wife. They had a son, Henry, age 15 who states his occupation as farmer's son.

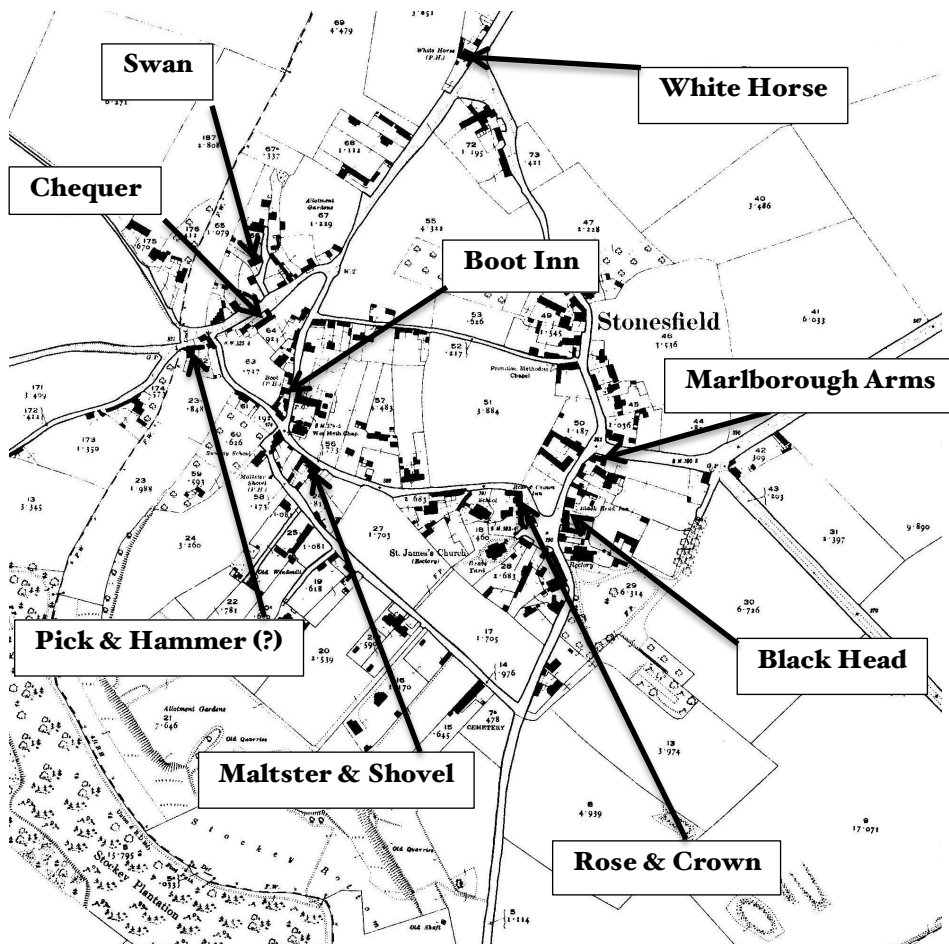
Finally, up at the White Lion (later to be renamed White Horse) Henry Larnar, age 41, gives his occupation as farmer of 6 acres and publican. He was born in Stonesfield. His wife is Ann Lardner, age 32 born in Radford, Oxon and is stated as a farmer's wife. They have two children, Elizabeth Lardner, age 4 born in Stonesfield and is a scholar and Henry John Lardner, age 1. Staying in the house is Jane Hickman, age 18, who states her occupation as domestic servant.

The census also lists Arthur Phipps, age 49 born in Stonesfield, as a Tailor & Publican, but no idea which pub. He had been the landlord at the Boot Inn until 1867. With him was his wife Harriet, age 48 born in Northleigh, a tailoress, his daughters Ellen, age 20 unmarried a gloveress born in Northleigh and Jane, age 12 a nurse. Also three sons Benjamin, age 9 a scholar, John, age 5 a scholar and Jacob, age 3 a scholar. Completing the household was Arthur's granddaughter Susan Phipps, age 5 months.





## A Map and some Beer Retailers



**Stonesfield 1922**

In 1830 the Beerhouse Act, passed to encourage the sale of beer, brought into being beer retailers who kept beer shops, or beer houses; they could only sell beer and cider (as against public houses which could also sell wine and spirits). Licence for these could be obtained on demand from the local excise office; beer retailers did not have to acquire a licence at the annual Brewster Sessions.

## Beer Retailers

1831	William Millin, (1831 Census)
	Thomas Laughton, (1831 Census & Farmer)
1837	Thomas Law, Victualler
1847	George Maycock
1848	John Lardner
1852	John Lardner
1867	Arthur Phipps
	Charles Griffin
1876	George Barney
	Aaron Belson
	J. Blackwell
	William Coventry
	Joseph Deane
	Philip Dudley
	William Grimsdale
	Henry Larner
	Joseph Puddifer
	Edwin Rixon
1876	Henry Priest - Innkeeper (?)
1876	William Wall - Red Lion (?)

## A Selection of Advertisements

**HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c.**  
**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,**  
 By Mr. CHURCHILL,  
 THIS DAY, Saturday, the 28th of October, on the premises, (under an Execution,)—All the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, STOCK in CELLARS, and other Effects, of Mr. Edmund Harper, at the sign of the Boot, at Stonesfield, near Woodstock, Oxon; consisting of bedsteads, flock beds and bedding, linen, china, stone ware and glass, tables, chairs, drawers, and kitchen articles; also four barrels of ale, tubs, casks, and brewing utensils.  
 The sale to begin at Twelve o'clock.

Oxford Journal  
 28 October 1820  
 The Boot

**Estate at Stonesfield, Oxon.**  
**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,**  
 By Mr. LONG,  
 On Monday the 23d day of June, 1828, at the Churchill Arms, in Stonesfield, at Two o'clock in the afternoon,—A good Stone-built and Slated DWELLING HOUSE, with convenient Out-buildings and Gardens adjoining; also two excellent Orchards, planted with choice and thriving fruit trees, containing about Three Acres, also adjoining the house, situate at Stonesfield aforesaid, with a very valuable Slate Pit under the Orchards, now in the occupation of Thomas Griffin.  
 The above property is Copyhold of Inheritance, equal in value to Freehold, and immediate possession may be had.  
 For particulars apply to Mr. Edginton, solicitor, or the auctioneer, Witney.

Oxford Journal  
 07 June 1828  
 The Churchill  
 Arms

**COPYHOLD PREMISES,**  
**At STONESFIELD, near WOODSTOCK.**  
**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,**  
 By Mr. WILKINSON,  
 At the sign of the Chequer, at Stonesfield, in the county of Oxford, on Friday the Third of September, 1830, precisely at Three o'clock,—Two substantial Stone-built and Slated MES-  
 SAGES or TENEMENTS, in excellent repair, with a Garden to each, and now in the occupation of John Maycock and James Griffin.—For a view of the premises apply to the tenants, and for further particulars to the auctioneer, Witney.

Oxford Journal  
 28 August 1830  
 The Chequer

**WOODSTOCK.**  
 DIED.—Sept. 30, aged 15, James, third son of the late Edmund Harper, of the Rose and Crown Inn, Stonesfield.  
 A TESTIMONIAL TO THE REV. W.

Oxford Journal 05 October 1867 The Rose & Crown

**130. ACRES OF FINE GROWING CORN,**

*At FAWLER, near Stonesfield and Charlbury.*

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,  
By Mr. LONG.**

At the Maltster and Shovel, in Stonesfield, on Friday the 4th of August, at Two o'clock, in lots (the property of Mr. John Curtis, who is leaving the Fowler farm at Michaelmas).—60 Acres of Red Latanas WHEAT, 40 Acres of BARLEY, 16 Acres of PEAS, 10 Acres of OATS, and 5 Acres of Winter VETCHES, the whole standing (well cropped) on a farm at Fowler, near Stonesfield.—A person will be appointed to show the lots, on application at the place of sale, where catalogues may be had.

The auctioneer begs also respectfully to announce, that the Live Stock and Implements on the above farm will be submitted for public sale early in September.—The flock of Long-woolled Sheep are bred from Mr. Smith's stock (of Charlbury), whose sheep were pre-eminent at the late Agricultural Meeting at Derby.—The Horses are powerful and the Implements good.

Oxford Journal  
29 July 1843  
The Maltster &  
Shovel

**SOUTH WOOTTON PETTY SESSIONS, Nov. 14.**

Before Colonel the Hon. R. C. H. Spencer, and C. E. Thornhill, Esq.

**PUBLICANS' LICENCES.**—The following licences were transferred: The White Horse, at Stonesfield, from Henry Lardner to John Baker; The Britannia, at Kidlington, from William Heath to Charles Parker.

Oxford Times  
18 November 1865  
The White Horse

**PETTY SESSIONS, OCT. 3.**

Present—Viscount Dillon, and C. E. Thornhill, Esq.

**TRANSFER OF LICENCES.**—The licence of the White Horse Inn, Stonesfield, lately kept by Mr. John Lardner, deceased, was transferred to his son, Mr. Henry Lardner. The licence of the Boot Inn, at Stonesfield, was transferred from Arthur Phipps to Thomas Laughton. A temporary authority was granted to Charles Parker, to sell liquors at the Britannia Inn, Kidlington, lately kept by William Heath.

Oxford Times  
07 October 1865  
Boot Inn

**WOOTTON SOUTH DIVISION.—Woodstock, Nov. 12.**

Before Colonel the Hon. R. C. H. Spencer, and C. E. Thornhill, Esq.

**ALSHOUSE LICENSES.**—Henry Tanner, late of Oxford, was licensed to keep the Lamb Inn, at Bladon.—The Black Horse, at Kidlington, was transferred from Robert Bricknell to John Parish.—An application by Thomas Oliver for a license to keep the Marlborough Arms at Stonesfield, lately occupied by Geo. Lay, was not granted.

Oxford Journal  
16 November  
1867 The  
Marlborough  
Arms

## Afterword

Opening and closing dates are subject to verification as some of them are the first or last registered person to be found.

Information for the Licensees from 1945 to 2012 was taken from the Electoral Registers, so may not be the actual licence holder.

‘Message’: A dwelling house with outbuildings and land assigned to its use. Late Middle English: from Anglo-Norman French, based on Latin *manere* ‘dwell’.

‘Hovel’: An open shed or outhouse, used for sheltering cattle or storing grain or tools.

‘Quitrent’: A fixed rent payable to a feudal superior in commutation of services.

Beer Retailer: A person licensed to sell beer and cider.

Victualler: (also licensed victualler) A person licensed to sell beer, cider, wine and spirits.

Originally beer houses and alehouses only sold ale or beer whilst taverns sold additional beverages such as wine and spirits.

In 1830 the Beerhouse Act, passed to encourage the sale of beer, brought into being beer retailers who kept beer shops, or beer houses; they could only sell beer and cider (as against public houses which could also sell wine and spirits). Licence for these could be obtained on demand from the local excise office; beer retailers did not have to acquire a licence at the annual Brewster Sessions.

Public houses, or ‘alehouses’, have been subject to licensing for many centuries, and the first national licensing system was introduced by the Alehouse Act of 1552. Under this act, persons wishing to sell ale had to be licenced by a Justice of the Peace at the Quarter Sessions. This meant entering into a bond, or ‘recognizance,’ in which the victualler pledged to abide by the Act and maintain good behaviour in his alehouse.

This system continued throughout the 16th – 18th centuries, with minor alterations. Under the 1753 Licensing Act, victuallers could be licenced only if they had a certificate confirming their good character, and this had to be signed by a parish notable, but no further amendments to the system were made until the Acts of 1828 and 1830. These alterations meant that the licensing system moved from the jurisdiction of the Quarter Sessions to the Petty Sessions, but no provision was made for the Clerk of the Peace to keep licensing records. The records of licenced victuallers are less comprehensive, therefore, after 1828.

In the early 21<sup>st</sup> century it is becoming ever more difficult for a landlord to earn a reasonable living from selling just beer, wine and spirits and a few bar snacks.

Those that do run such a pub have built their business and reputation by offering a larger than usual range of real ales and real ciders which are kept in top condition and regularly changed. These wet sales only pubs are in the minority and tend to be Free Houses, those that are not tied to a big pub chain company or brewery. The majority of pubs need to diversify in order to increase their income and many do so by offering food. This presents a dilemma; are they a pub serving food or are they a restaurant serving beer? Nevertheless, this diversification in order to stay in business is not a modern trend.

In 1871 John Hunt, who was the landlord of the Black Head, was also a farmer of 15 acres. In 1911 John Maycock, again of the Black Head, was a Waggoner on a farm. In 1851 Herbert Austin, of the Boot Inn, supplemented his income from the pub by also being a mason. By 1881 John Fidler, of the Maltster & Shovel, was not only a Licenced Victualler but also spending a lot of his day farming 42 acres and employing 4 men to assist him! William Hanks was the publican in the Marlborough Arms in 1871 and when not serving beer he was in the barn making hurdles. By 1871 Mrs Jane Harper of the Rose and Crown was spending her quiet moments from serving thirsty workers by being a seamstress. George Bishop had a nice little side business of being a coal merchant and when Mrs Esther Bishop took over the licence of the Rose and Crown from George she was also a haulier for the county council.

This seems a little strange considering that the people who lived in the village worked in the village or for the nearby farms and that they would visit the pub for all the latest news and gossip. Travel was not widespread. Entertainment was what you made it either at home or in the pub. But on the other hand the total population of the village in 1871 was 537 and the number of men would have been very few. Certainly not enough drinkers to support seven pubs. Increasing the income from running a pub by having a second job was as much a necessity in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as it is now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



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Thanks also to: Ray Brown, Bob Lawrence, Frank Hall, Anne Hamerton

As some of the information in this history of the Public Houses of Stonesfield, Oxon has been obtained from sources that, due to the passage of time, cannot be verified, there may be discrepancies or errors. Your assistance in the correction of any such errors, or with the completion of any missing information, would be most gratefully received.

Should anyone have any further information about the pubs of Stonesfield, e.g. stories, anecdotes or history, I should be pleased to hear about it. I can be contacted at [drudlin42@gmail.com](mailto:drudlin42@gmail.com)

### The Rise and Fall of the Inns, Taverns and Beerhouses of Stonesfield, Oxon

