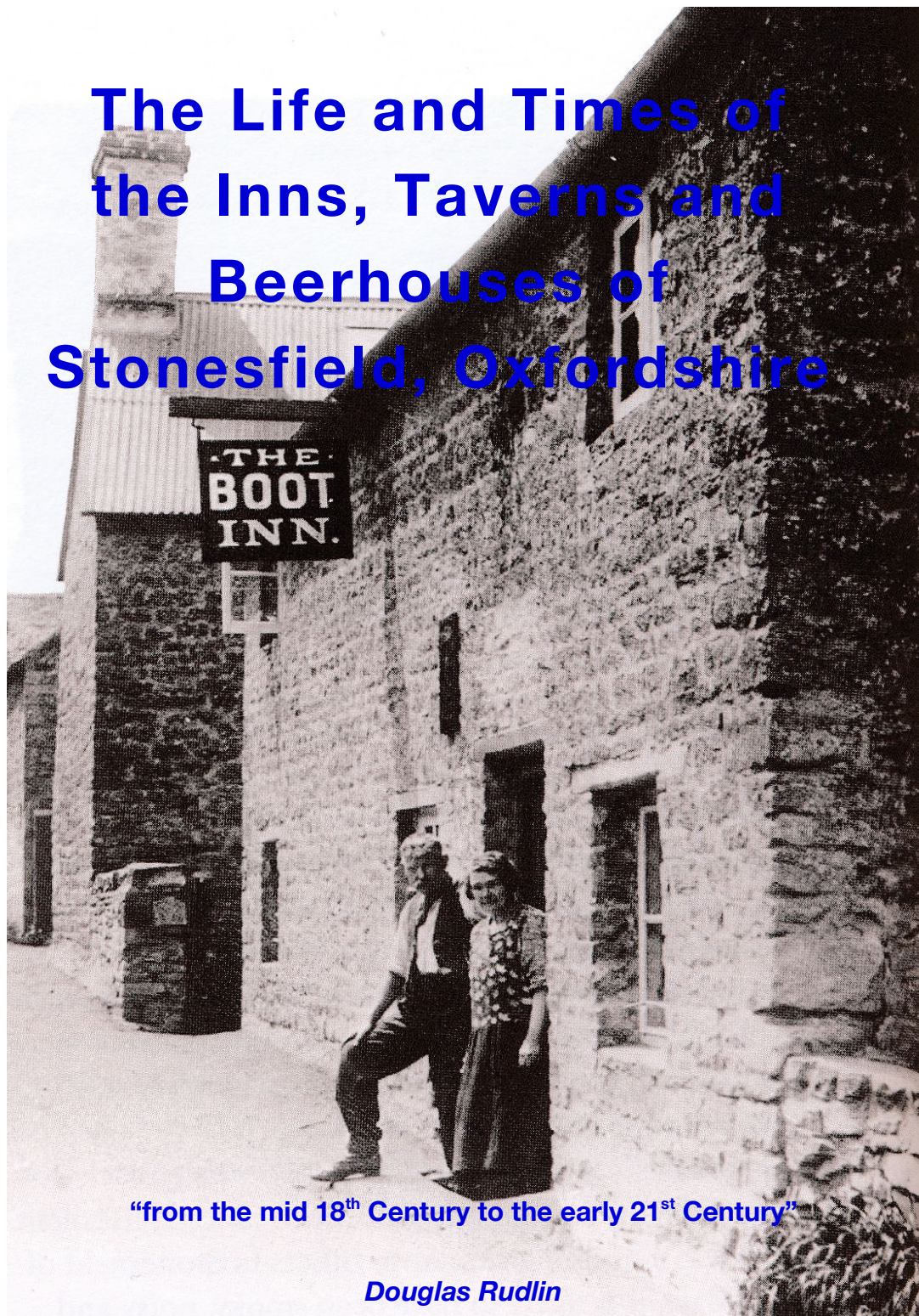


The Life and Times of the Inns, Taverns and Beerhouses of Stonesfield, Oxfordshire



"from the mid 18th Century to the early 21st Century"

Douglas Rudlin

To Brewsters, Malsters, and Others

Important Sale of Copyhold Property.

STONESFIELD, Oxon.,
Four Miles from Wendlesham and Three from Chesham.

A very **VALUABLE OLD-ESTABLISHED**
Well-Licensed Free

PUBLIC-HOUSE

Known as the "Malster and Shovel,"
Lays Brewhouse and Coope, Balthams, Balloons, and six General Kitchens, including
Cider Press, and other useful Buildings, with a large Garden, and a few Acres of
Water Works, all lying between the Rivers, the River Purtyke being between the River
Coln, and the River Great Ouse, and the River Great Ouse, and the River Great Ouse,
This Property is well situated with a Back, has an extensive Privilege in the Street and Back Road.
Also Six Closes or Parcels of excellent Arable, Pasture, and
ACCOMMODATION LAND

Containing Six A. in. 3p. near the Public-house, and adjoining the road to Northgate.

PAXTON & HOLIDAY

Have received Instructions from the Executors of the late John Ainslie, on the Premises
of **W. D. MALSTER and GEORGE W. CO.**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8th, with the 1896.

The Public-house and its Accommodation Brewhouse, and will be offered with the Cider Press,
and other useful Buildings, and a large Garden, and a few Acres of Water Works, all lying
between the Rivers, the River Purtyke being between the River Coln, and the River Great Ouse,
and the River Great Ouse, and the River Great Ouse, and the River Great Ouse, and the River Great Ouse,
Particulars with Plans and Conditions may be obtained from the Auctioneer, Solicitor, Public-
house, and the Auctioneer, Solicitor, Public-house, and the Auctioneer, Solicitor, Public-house,
MR. A. E. NACE, Auctioneer, Clipping Station,
the Auctioneer, Solicitor, and the Auctioneer, Solicitor, and the Auctioneer, Solicitor, and the Auctioneer, Solicitor,
W. C. BAYNE, DEPUTY AUCTIONEER, CLIPPING STATION,

First published 2020

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Other books in the series

“The Life and Times of the Inns, Taverns and Beerhouses of”

Witney, Oxfordshire

Charlbury, Oxfordshire

Front Cover: 1940s Frederick & Ellen Griffin outside the Boot Inn

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Introduction

It all started when I wanted to know more about the old pubs that used to be in the village where I live, Stonesfield. I couldn't find any information, so I had to start looking for myself. But it was not my intention to give a history of the pubs themselves, nor to give an architectural appraisal of the buildings. Others have already done that. I was more interested in the life that there was in a pub, more to show how much the pub really was the centre of the community. I have spent many hours and days trawling through the newspapers to find the stories that depict life in the pub in days gone by, and many more hours finding out who the people were that ran the pubs, the licensees. Interestingly, some pubs never get a mention in the newspapers, whereas others are referred to frequently. As such this is a collection of articles from the newspapers going back to the earliest in 1753 and a listing of the licence holders, those who were responsible for running the pubs. My aim was to give as varied a cross section of life in the pubs as possible, from licence changes to murder inquests, births, marriages and deaths. Consequently, the dates that are quoted for the life of a pub are not necessarily the date when it first became a pub or when it ceased being a pub, but more when it was first mentioned in the records that I have been researching and the last.

There are two areas where research is quite difficult. Firstly all the old newspapers have been digitised, which is good, but the programme that reads them cannot always translate them correctly. I have inserted my search criteria in several formats and found a lot of interesting information but I know I have missed some. Nevertheless I am sure there is enough here to interest each reader. Secondly is the problem of identifying licence holders between 1940 and 2005. I have been informed that the records have been archived (does this mean that they are inaccessible?). The only means is to use the Electoral Register, but this is not always very accurate. This is why there are a lot of missing names in the list of Licensees.

The dates given after the pub name and address are not necessarily the opening and closing year, but the year of the first and last mention that I have come across.

I hope the reader finds the life and times of the Inns, Taverns and Beerhouses of Stonesfield as fascinating as I have.

A brief look at Stonesfield in earlier days

STONESFIELD 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.

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

Currently 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.



1920s 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 23rd 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.

Witney Gazette and West Oxfordshire Advertiser – Saturday 30 September 1905

'SUICIDE. On Thursday, September 21st, and inquest was held by deputy coroner, R. F. Cuthbert, Esq., at the "Black Head," Stonesfield, touching the death of Thomas Dore, aged 33 years, who committed suicide by hanging, on Wednesday, September 20th. ...

Jane Dore deposed that deceased was her husband, Thomas Dore, aged 33 years. He was a gardener, in the employment of Mr. Collier. She last saw him alive just before 7 on Wednesday morning. He seemed very much depressed. He had had notice from Mr. Collier to leave, who would not tell him the reason. He received notice to leave a week ago last Saturday. He had seemed depressed ever since then. She had never heard him threaten to take his own life. He had said he could never face Mr. Collier again, and said he should take his life. She begged him not to for the sake of the children, and he promised he would not. The last time he talked about it was on Tuesday night. He did not talk about anything else.

Joseph Dore deposed that he was a mason, residing at Leafield. The deceased was his son. He had a fall about 11 years ago, but whether that had affected his brain he could not say. He was very ill for some time.

Verdict: "Hanged himself at Stonesfield on the 20th September, 1905, being of unsound mind."

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/0 | Status: Initial Notice Accepted

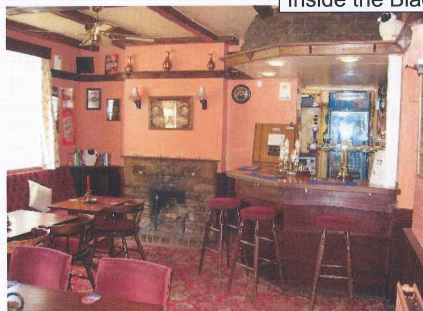
Licenses:

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



Boot Inn, Boot Street (1753 – 1979)

Currently 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.

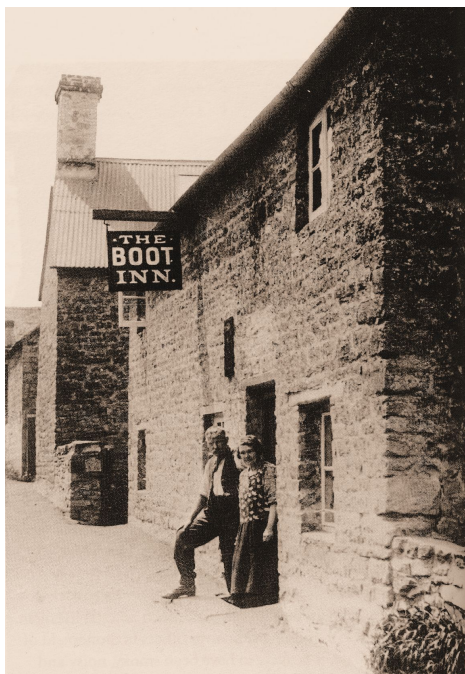
The Last Years of the Boot Inn

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 liar-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.



1940s Frederick & Ellen Griffin outside the Boot Inn

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 Dytchley, labourer, was convicted of assaulting Robert Oliver, at the Boot Inn, Stonesfield, on the 29th 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 2nd July 1973

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

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

Licenses:

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)

Chequers, Laughton Hill (1753 – 1847)

Currently 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.

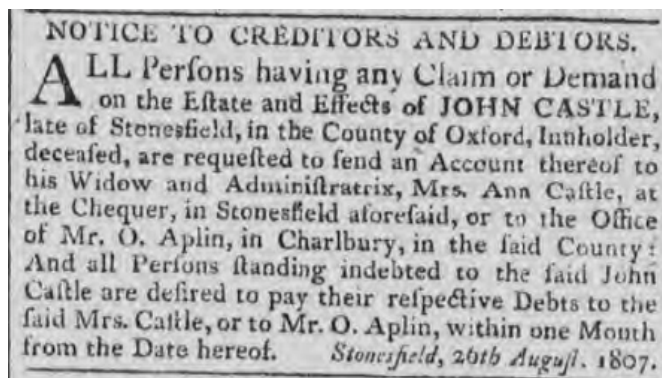
6th December 1772 Thomas Cambden, son of John (Publican) and Margaret was buried.

3rd 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



Oxford Journal
26 August 1807

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

Maltster & Shovel, High Street (1831 – 1939)

Currently 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 20th January 1788 Amey Fowler, wife of James, Maltster, was buried and that James Fowler was buried on 26th 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 3rd 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 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 27th 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.



John Fidler 1804 – 1885

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 15th 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 29th 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. 26th. 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 Abigail, age 30 (1841 Census)

Age 46 Maltster & Brewer, born in Collingbourne, Wilts. Wife Abigail, 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 Executrixes. 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 (closed)
Born 02-06-1876 Small Holder. Wife Edith (nee Gatland) born 17-09-1894 Housekeeping & Assisting on Holding. (1939 Register)

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 or 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, Bloester and Banbury, or of

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

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

Marlborough Arms, Woodstock Road (1838 – 1875)

Incorporated into Prospect Villa 1877. Currently 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 21st 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 22nd 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 29th 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)

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 10th 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. 24th 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 15th September 1706), who died in August 1741 and was buried on the 16th 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 28th December 1734) who held the licence for the next 38 years until his death in December 1779. Thomas Gardener was buried on 29th 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 3rd 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 6th 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 9th 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 5th 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 28th 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 1st 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 4th 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 15th March 1958.

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

Swan, The Tewer (1865 – 1877)

Currently a private residence

Probably the little pub up the Tewer (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 & Famer of 11 acres, born in Whitchurch, Bucks. Wife

Harriet, age 60. (1871 Census)

1877 John Carpenter

White Horse (White Lion), The Ridings (1847 – 2020)

Currently closed. Free House

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 28th 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 13 March 1852

‘At the Harcourt Arms, Northleigh, on Saturday last, John Lardner, of Stonesfield. beer-house keeper, was fully committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions at Oxford (by Leonard Pickering, Esq.), charged with receiving a pair of blankets from John Wingfield (now under sentence of transportation), knowing them to have been stolen; they belonged to Mr. R. Early, of Witney. Lardner was afterwards admitted to bail, himself in 50*l.*, and two sureties in 25*l.* each.’

Oxford Chronicle and Reading Gazette – Saturday 10 April 1852

‘John Lardner, aged 54, described as a publican, of Stonesfield, was indicted for receiving two blankets, the property of Richard Early, of Witney. ...

Mr. Pigott, who defended, asked the Chairman whether there was any case to go before the jury, and the court deciding that there was not evidence sufficient, the case was stopped, and the court directed the jury to find a verdict of acquittal.’

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 31st 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 28 October 1876

‘TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, ... Lot 2. - A Stone-built and Slated FREE PUBLIC HOUSE, called or known by the name of "The White Horse," situate in the village of Stonesfield, and containing 2 front rooms, tap room, pantry, scullery, cellar 3 bed rooms, and 1 attic; together with the 2 Cottages adjoining (but unoccupied). Detached are a Brew-house, large Shop with extensive cellarage underneath, Stable, Barn, Wagon Hovel, Cow Shed, Poultry Pen, Piggery, and Cattle Yard; together with capital Garden Ground at the back and in the front of the house. The Outgoings are Quit Rents amounting to 1s. yearly.’

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 18th. 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 23rd 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/o | 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 Kryzstofiak
1985 - 1997	Nigel Bishop
1998 - 2000	Richard O'Connor
2001 - 2005	(closed)
2006 - 2008	Richard Starowski
2009 - 2016	John Lloyd
2017 - 2020	Marina Hughes
2020	Marina Hughes surrenders the licence in March due in part to the closure of all pubs because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Appendix 1

Other Public Houses

Churchill Arms, (Location unknown)

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...

Oxford Journal – Saturday 09 December 1826

'To be sold by auction, at the Churchill Arms, in Stonesfield, on Thursday next the 14th 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 23rd June, at the Churchill Arms, in Stonesfield at Two o'clock in the afternoon. Etc. etc.'

The Pick and Hammer, (Location unknown)

(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 21st 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.



The Sports & Social Club, Field Close

The Club finally opened on Sunday 23rd 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.

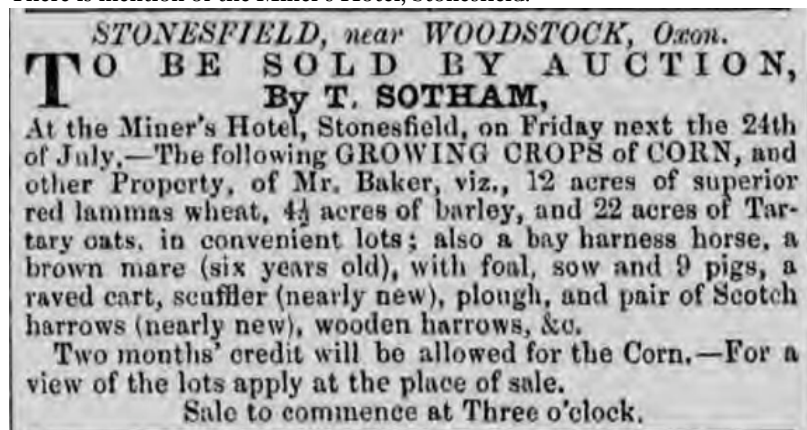
Appendix 2

Additional points of interest:

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

Oxford Journal - 18th July 1857

There is mention of the Miner's Hotel, Stonesfield:



Oxford Journal - 5th 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.)

Oxford Times - 15th 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 15th March 1856) and was still there in 1867. In the 1871 Census (aged 49) his occupation is stated as Tailer (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):

01st 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.

05th 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)

Appendix 3

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.

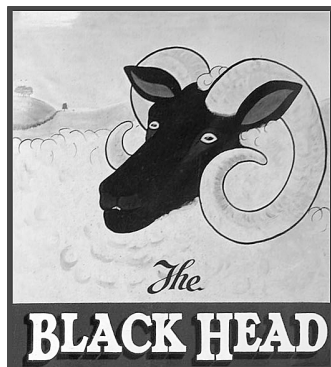
Round the corner at the Rose and Crown Mrs. Jane Harper was the landlady, age 52 born in 1819. Her occupation stated as seamstress and publican. She had four children to look after, all noted as scholars. There was John age 12, Ann age 10, Ellen age 8 and Sarah age 6. Also in the household was Jane Hanks,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

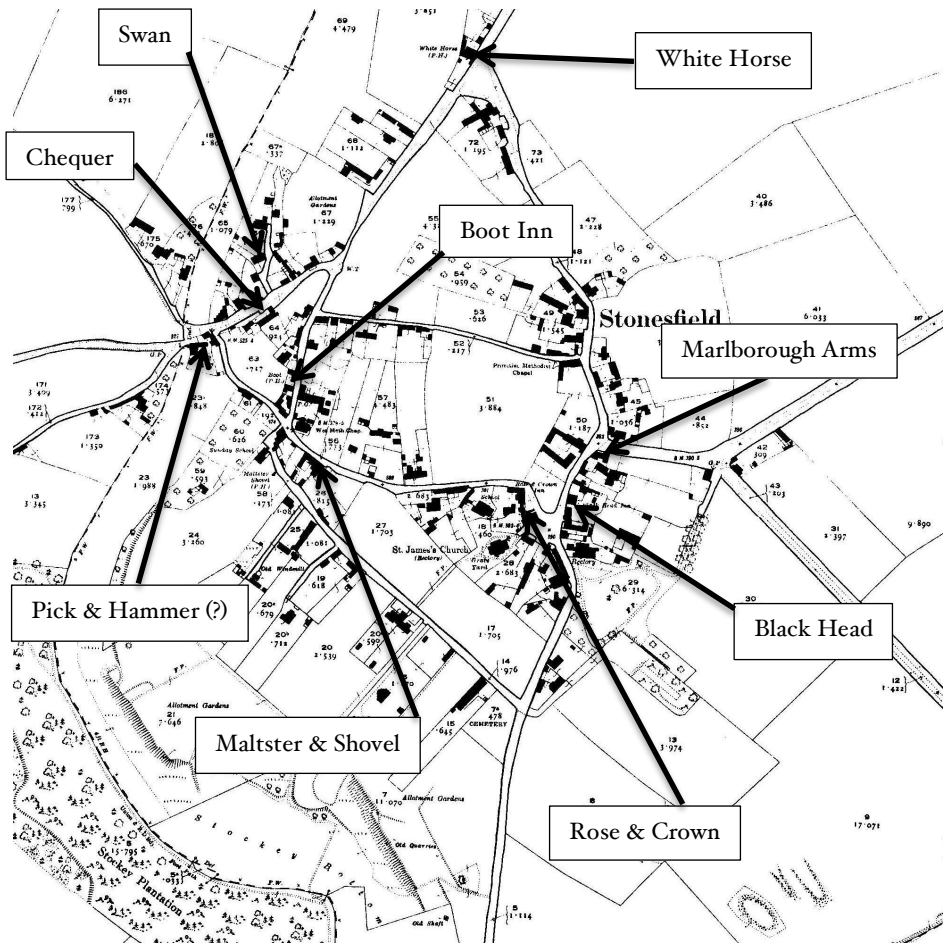
Lardner, age 1. Staying in the house is Jane Hickman, age 18, who states her occupation as domestic servant.

The census also lists Arthur Phipps, age 49 born in Stonesfield, as a Tailer & 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.



Appendix 4

A Map of Stonesfield in 1922



Appendix 5

Old Pub Games

Gleek: is an English card game for three persons. It is played with a 44-card pack and was popular from the 16th century through the 18th century.

Lodam: Losing Lodam. This British game was played in the 16th and 17th centuries, and is now obsolete. The aim, as in modern reverse games such as Hearts, was to avoid taking scoring cards in tricks. In this case the scoring cards were all aces (11), kings (3), queens (2), jacks (1) and tens (10).

Maw: Spoil-Five (also Spoilt Five and Five and Ten) is the traditional book version of the Irish national card game called Twenty-Five, which underlies the Canadian game of Forty-Five. Charles Cotton describes it in 1674 as "Five Fingers", a nickname applied to the Five of Trumps extracted from the fact that the Irish word *cúig* means both 'five' and 'trick'. It is supposed to be of great antiquity, and widely believed to have originated in Ireland. It may be identified with the game of Maw, of which James I of England was very fond.

Noddy: (also Noddie or Nodde) is a 16th century English card game ancestor of Cribbage. It is the oldest identifiable card game with this gaming structure and a relative to the more complicated 18th century game Costly Colours.

Ringing the Bull: Ring a bull is a pub game. It involves swinging a bull's nose-ring, which is attached to a string, in an arc so as to hook it onto a bull's nose and hook. It must stay on the hook to count as a successful throw. There is a vibrant and thriving tradition of playing this game at what is reputedly the oldest pub in England, *Ye Olde Trip To Jerusalem* in Nottingham, and in several other traditional public houses.

Shove Ha'penny: (or shove halfpenny), also known in ancestral form as shoffe-grote ('shove-groat' in Modern English), slype groat ('slip groat'), and slide-thrift, is a pub game in the shuffleboard family, played predominantly in the United Kingdom. Two players or teams compete against one another using coins or discs on a tabletop board.

Table Skittles: (also known as Devil among the tailors). The game involves nine small skittles arranged in a 3 × 3 square, usually within a shallow open-topped wooden box sitting on a table-top. The wooden ball (about the size of a golf ball) hangs from a string or chain attached to the top of a vertical wooden post rising from one corner of the box. The aim of the game is to knock down the skittles by swinging the ball in an arc round the post (rather than aiming directly at the skittles).

Appendix 6

Glossary

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.

‘Messuage’: 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.

A brief history of licensing: Although the Public House, or alehouse as it was commonly known, has been part of English life since Roman times, its development cannot be fully traced until the mid-sixteenth century when a national system of licensing was first introduced.

In 1552 the crown sought to regulate all alehouses as a measure against perceived increases in levels of drunkenness and social disorder. In many areas instances of regulation certainly predated the 1550’s. Evidence from manorial records, for example, suggests that local controls were being implemented throughout the medieval period. However, the Alehouse Act 1552 was the first attempt to co-ordinate these existing controls and embody them in statute.

Under this act no-one was allowed to sell beer or ale without the consent of the local Justices of the Peace which could be granted either before the full sessions of the peace or before two justices. Each person licensed by the justices had to enter into a recognizance, or bond, to ensure that good behaviour was maintained in each alehouse and the licensee pledged to abide by the court’s terms or risk payment of a fine or even the loss of the licence. Such recognizances had to be certified at Quarter Sessions and were kept on record.

An act of 1729 gave formal approval to the practice of only granting licences annually at special licensing sessions known as Brewster Sessions. It was also ordered that justices should only grant licences to alehouses within their division, thus formalising the shift of responsibility from county to local level.

The Licensing Act of 1753 did not radically change existing legislation. New licences could only be granted by persons producing certificates of good character usually signed by parish notables.

Most importantly, however, the 1753 act ordered that full registers of victuallers and their recognizances were to be kept by the Clerk of the Peace at Quarter Sessions. Thus began a more thorough recording of the licensing business.

The legislation passed in 1830's largely reversed the main thrust of licensing policy developed in the preceding centuries. While the Licensing Act of 1828 had confirmed that the grant of a full licence by justices was necessary to sell any kind of excisable liquor by retail, the Beer Act of 1830 disbanded many of the controls introduced under previous acts. By this act it was now possible for any householder assessed to the poor rate to sell beer, ale and cider without a licence from the local justices by taking out an excise licence granted by the Excise authorities.

This piece of legislation, together with the fact that the act of 1828 had failed to make provision for the keeping of records by the Clerk of the Peace, means that the history of licensing for the period 1828 – 1872 is not satisfactorily recorded.

The situation initiated by the 1830 act barely lasted four decades. The 1869 Wine and Beerhouse Act re-introduced the stricter controls of the previous century. It was now necessary for retailers selling beer and wine to obtain their licences from justices, and in addition, it was also necessary to obtain similar licences to sell alcohol off the premises.

The Intoxication Liquor (licensing) Act 1872 re-enforced this legislation and importantly obliged the clerks of the licensing divisions to keep a register of all licences granted. In general, the new licensing divisions constituted the areas forms by the Petty Sessional Divisions.

While most of the business was carried out at a local level these licensing divisions, a County Licensing Committee was set up by Quarter Sessions to confirm the granting of all new licences. Two other pieces of legislation, namely The Licensing Act 1902 and the Licensing Act 1904, obliged applicants for new licences to submit plans of the premises to the licensing justices and allowed for the payment of financial compensation to persons who were refused renewal of a licence.

The modern Pub: In the early 21st century it was 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 did 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 were in the minority and tended to be Free Houses, those that were not tied to a big pub chain company or brewery. The majority of pubs needed to diversify in order to increase their income and many did so by offering food. This presented a dilemma; were they a pub serving food or were they a restaurant serving beer? Nevertheless, this diversification in order to stay in business was not a modern trend.

What's in a name? Alehouse, Tavern, Inn or Pub: The existence of what we now call a 'Pub' goes back many hundreds of years. It seems our desire to meet and socialise over a tipple or two is timeless, stretching back across countless generations. Over the years, however, the public house has had many iterations – from alehouse to taverns and inns. Do you know the difference between them?

Alehouse: Alehouses have existed in the British Isles since before the Norman Conquest. However, it wasn't until the 14th century, when the hop arrived in Belgium that alehouses

began to be established. The Black Death also meant that there was a labour shortage, which, in turn, drove up wages and meant that people had more disposable income. By 1577, there were around 24,000 alehouses in existence in the United Kingdom. However, like the name suggests, alehouses were simply houses in which ale or beer was sold and quite dissimilar to our pubs of today.

Tavern: A tavern was different to an alehouse in that it tended to be larger in size and concentrated more on serving wine as opposed to beer. They also tended to attract a better standard of customer. During the seventeenth century, a tavern was regarded as the meeting place for a gentleman, latterly being usurped by the introduction of coffee houses by 1800.

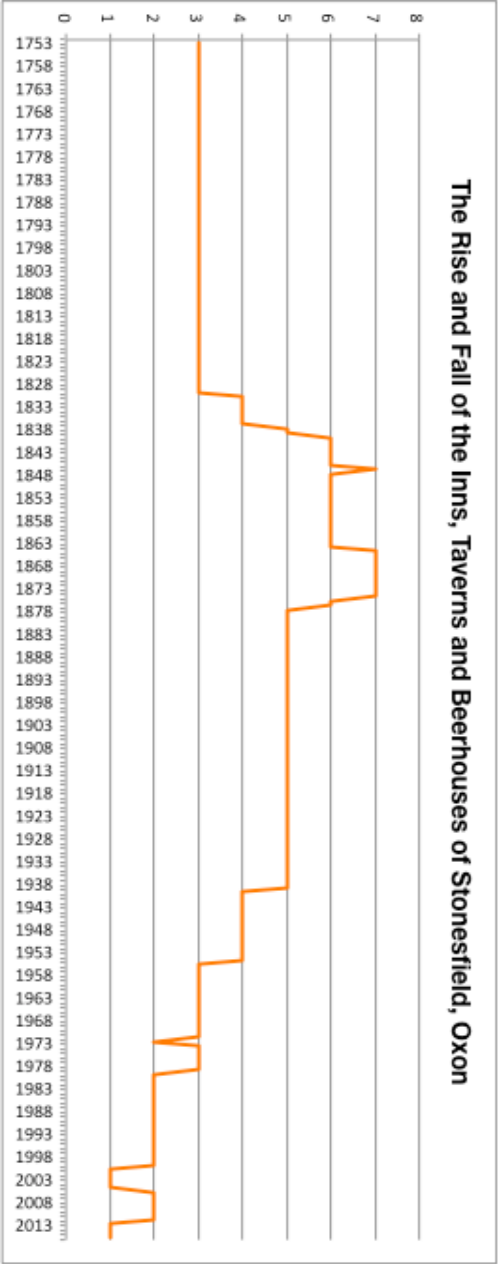
Inn: This was typically a house to accommodate travellers. There were generally two types of Inn – those that faced the road and those that were built around an inner courtyard. By the end of the seventeenth century, thanks to the growing coaching network and new turnpike roads, inns were increasing in number.

Public House: The term public house can be applied as the collective noun for taverns, inns and alehouses, with the first recording of the term appearing in 1669. Despite the fact that many public houses had a bar and a cellar – features that we now recognise in our modern day public houses – these establishments at this time remained quite primitive. By 1880 there was more regulation around licensing and standards. The difficulty in obtaining licenses meant that brewers began to acquire pubs, leading to a ‘golden age’ of pub building with many fine buildings appearing in our towns and cities.

(Focus Magazine)

As some of the information in this history of Public Houses 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.

Appendix 7



Appendix 8

Sources of Information

Courage Simonds Ltd. (B5/39/D, p72)

Directory of Oxfordshire 1891 (microfiche)

Halls Oxford Brewery (B/15/2/L1/, p37 & 44)

Hearne's Collections Vol. 3 (1710 – 1712) edited by C. E. Doble, M.A. (Page 400)

Morland Brewery Company Records, Stonesfield: The Rose and Crown (B21/7/176) (Page 211)

Oxford Journal and Oxford Times

Oxon Brews – The Story of Commercial Brewing in Oxfordshire by Mike Brown 2004
ISBN 1 873966 12 1 (Page 130, 166)

Pub history including Public Houses, Inns & Taverns of Oxfordshire in 1939 (web site)

Public Houses, Hotels and Beer Retailers in Oxfordshire in 1869 (web site)

'Stonesfield through two centuries' by G.H. Powell 1975 (Page 7 & 32)

'Stonesfield – from slates to chips' published by Stonesfield Parish Council 2000 ISBN 0-9539623-0-X (Page 94)

Stonesfield families in 1897 : Joseph Stammers' Doggerel / Bernard Slatter.: [Oxfordshire Family History Society 1995] (Page 125)

The parish of Stonesfield 1801, 1811, 1821 and 1831 census. Published Stoke Mandeville :

Eureka Partnership on behalf of Eileen Bartlett and Angela Hillier 200 (Pages 7, 13, 27)

The Victoria History of the County of Oxford Vol. XI (Page 183)

Various Trade Directories 1793 – 1939

Victuallers Recognizances 1753-1822

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

Gallery



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



Early 20th century view looking up Laughton Hill with the Chequer in the centre



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



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



June 1977 Vivian & Emily Miles
retire from the White Horse



1995 The Black Head lounge (above)



2011 The Black Head (above)



A stone from the Maltster & Shovel (above)



1970s The Boot Inn (above)



9th March 1980 The White Horse



4th March 2015 The White Horse

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-
 SUAGES 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

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 Latamas **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.

ALEHOUSE 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