



The Greyhound, Lingfield

The pub building dates from 1584 but it is not known how long it has been an inn. There is said to be a tunnel linking it to the church and like most old pubs it is reputed haunted.

It was certainly an inn in the early 19th century when it was the pick-up point for the mail coach and goods transport to London and also East Grinstead. Kelly's Directory for 1855 says that a coach from East Grinstead to Godstone calls at the Greyhound at 08.00 every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and returns at 19.30 the same day. A picture of Lingfield painted in 1822 shows an inn sign, presumably the Greyhound, beyond the Cage.

In 1846 the owner was Mr Neale and the occupier John Cockerell.

A national rating valuation survey (sometimes called Lloyd George's Domesday) was carried out around 1911. This gives interesting information in all properties in the country but often in rather cryptic form

Section 26 of the Act provided for a valuation by the Inland Revenue Commissioners of all land in the UK, showing separately the total value (gross value less the amount by which the gross value would be diminished if sold subject to public rights of way, rights of use, common or any easements) and the site value.

The entry for the Greyhound is:

IR58/69643/128 Greyhound Inn
 Occupier: B Boorer Owner: Mellersh & Neale
 Gross value £3800

Detached, old, cement brick, tile and weather tile.

Ground floor: smoking rooms, 2 public bars, 4 pull engine tap room, very good shelving and fittings, kitchen used as living room, scullery cellar used. Stabling in cement brick and tile, 2 single stalls. Double loft over, coach house for 2 in drive. Lean-to timber built shed. Larder. Company's water. Good sitting room, very good cellarage under. 3 compartments above store room, attic, 4 bedrooms, lobby and staircase to scullery, fair repair. Brick urinal, timber built tea room, summer house, cycle shed, workshed, greenhouse, bottle house, 2 outside WCs, company's water, tool shed, office, several rough timber sheds, garden or paddock field, about 30 fruit trees.

THE GREYHOUND, LINGFIELD

Some of the outhouses eventually found other uses. A hall was used for dances, concerts and films. Lingfield band practised there. It was used as a servicemen's canteen in WW2.

Breweries

At least from the early 19th century the brewery was owned by Mellersh and Neale, a long established brewery in Reigate. They were taken over by Meux of London in 1938, who later became Friary Meux of Guildford. This company was taken over by Ind Coope which later became Allied Breweries. The Greyhound has recently been bought by Wells and Youngs of Bedford.

Licensees

John Bonwicke

Licensee from 1811 to 1822.

Elizabeth Bonwicke

Licensee from 1823 until at least 1826

John Cockerell

John Cockerell, is recorded as the occupier in the tithe assessment of 1846.

Thomas Sherlock

He was licensee in 1851 and later moved to Dorking to take over the Punch Bowl, Reigate Road.

Richard Glover

Various members of the Glover family were poulterers in the Lingfield area, the family home being Holly Cottage. Richard Glover, born in Edenbridge in 1820 was the brother of Ambrose Glover, landlord of the Plough, Dormansland. His sister, Eliza married John Paget, poulterer of Reigate, son of George Paget, innkeeper. They then took over the Blue Anchor, Godstone (Blindley Heath).

Richard was licensee of the Greyhound in 1855 and was still there in 1861 but had returned to full time occupation as a poulterer by 1867. Richard's brother John is recorded as an assistant in 1861.

John Young

John was born in Lingfield in 1822 and initially trained as a wheelwright before becoming a farmer. He was licensee of the Greyhound by 1867 where he remained until 1876. He then moved to take over the Shipley Bridge at Burstow but by 1891 had gone back to farming at Kenwards Farm, Worth. His son Frederick became landlord of the Ship Hotel, East Grinstead.

John Glover

He was a brother of Richard (above) and was born in Lingfield in 1834 and was landlord of the Greyhound for a short time around 1881.

George Stone

He was born in Flitwick, Bedfordshire in 1835 and lived with his grandparents for some time. His name was apparently originally George Mucklestone. He presumably was not keen on this name and in 1871, he is recorded as George Stone, licensee of the

THE GREYHOUND, LINGFIELD

George Inn, Oxted where he remained until 1882, when he moved to the Greyhound. He remained until around 1887.

Benjamin Boorer

Benjamin was born in Lingfield 16th April 1851, son of William and Martha née Chapman. He lived for a while in Brixton and married Margaret Pullen at Sevenoaks in 1881.

He was licensee of the Greyhound from about 1890 until his retirement in 1918. He died in 1927, aged 76.

Henry Boorer

He was the son of Benjamin and was landlord of the Old House at Home, Dormansland from 1911 to 1918 when he took over the Greyhound and stayed until 1931. Henry's brothers Bill and Fred were ironmongers in Lingfield.

Arthur Dalton

He was licensee from 2nd November 1931 until 8th July 1933.

Thomas Caspar

Thomas was licensee from 8th July 1933 until 1938.

Thomas Hayes Cooper

He was licensee from 1938 until 14th August 1950.

Albert Bradish

Albert became licensee on 14th February 1958.

M S Verrall
15.12.15