



LINGFIELD HOTEL

The Lingfield Hotel no longer exists; it stood in Godstone Road on the site of Jenny Lane. The large field at the rear was occasionally used for visiting fairs and bonfires. In 1861 William Kesterton was a master builder in Lingfield employing 20 men and 3 boys. He was apparently quite successful and by 1871 he had built an inn in Godstone Road called the Builders Arms. At this time he is recorded as a builder, farmer and innkeeper. William Kesterton died in 1878 and the inn was purchased by Nalder & Collyer, brewers of Croydon. It was renamed the Lingfield Hotel with Charles Gifford as licensee.

In the rating valuation survey of 1910 it was described as:

Extent: 1ac 2r 12p

Gross value of land: £55, rateable value £47.

Occupier: C Feaviour

Owner: Nalder & Collyers brewery Ltd

Tenancy: quarterly from June 1902, rent £55

Brick built, cemented and tiled, portico entrance

Private bar, public bar, tap room, sitting room (garden entrance), bagatelle room (sitting room garden entrance), kitchen, scullery, larder, coals, beer cellar under, private bar, good landing, large club room (27ft long), 8 bedrooms (one used as a bathroom), WC.

Outside: brick built 2 stall stable, coach house, 3 stall stable, 2 stall stable and harness room, skittle alley, store, brick sty with store over, manure pit.

Gross value £2700.

The Breweries

The pub was owned by Nalder & Collyer of Croydon from 1878. They merged with the City of London Brewery in 1919. All the pubs were sold to Ind Coope of Romford in 1938. It later became a Friary Meux pub, eventually becoming part of the Allied Breweries empire.

The Licensees

William Kesterton

William was born in Lingfield in 1825 and started his working life as a bricklayer but by 1861 had prospered to become a master builder employing 20 men and 3 boys. He used some of his accumulated wealth to build a substantial public house in Godstone Road which he called the Builders Arms. He also had farming interests. He unfortunately died in 1878 at the early age of 53.

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Sarah Ann Kesterton

William's widow is recorded as licensee from 29th April 1878 until 24th June 1878, when she probably sold the premises to Nalder and Collyer of Croydon. She then lived in Rose Villa, Lingfield.

Nalder and Collyer then apparently appointed a succession of licensees.

Ernest Han	24 th June 1878 to 30 th September 1878
James Barker	30 th September 1878 to 23 rd June 1879
John Boyer	23 rd June 1879 to 8 th March 1880
James Hines	8 th March 1880 to 20 th December 1880

Charles Gifford

Charles was born in Godmanchester, Huntingdonshire in 1828 but had lived in east London for some time. He became licensee on 20th December 1880 and stayed until around 1890. He lived at Primrose Cottage, Lingfield on his retirement.

Edward Osborn

Edward was born in Southwark in 1865, son of George Osborn, police sergeant and his welsh-born wife Amsey. George later became licensee of the Black Horse, Addiscombe Road, Croydon where Edward doubtless learned the trade. George Osborn died on 3rd July 1877 of rheumatic gout and cerebral effusion. His widow continued to run the pub in Croydon for some time.

Edward moved to Lingfield to run the Lingfield Hotel bringing his mother with him. She died on 11th June 1890 of cirrhosis of the liver. Edward's sister Annie also came and in 1891 is described as housekeeper. She met Henry William Istead, a local bricklayer, married him in 1900 and the couple ran the Hare and Hounds, Lingfield Common from 1905.

Edward later returned to Croydon, where in 1901 he was licensee of a pub in St James' Road (possibly the Windmill, which still exists).

Frederick Gorham

He was born in Maidstone in 1852. He was originally a plasterer but became a licensed victualler later in his life. He was at the Lingfield Hotel in 1901 but handed over to Robert Bentell on 9th June 1902.

Robert Bentell

He was licensee for only 4 weeks.

Charles Feaviour

Charles took over the premises on 7th July 1902 and was still there at the time of the rating valuation survey of 1910.

George Walter Spray

He had taken over the hotel by April 1911 and remained there until around 1937. George was born in Mountfield, Sussex and was initially a farm stockman, working at Hurstpierpoint in 1901. He married Henrietta from Hurstpierpoint around 1898 and they had 4 children. Their daughter Lilian Mabel married Stanley Stanford of Lingfield on 5th September 1928. Their daughter Pat Dobson lived in the village until her death in 2019.

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Henrietta Spray

George's widow Henrietta became licensee in 1937 and remained until her eldest son took over.

Eric Ralph Spray

Born in Hurstpierpoint, he was the eldest son of George and Henrietta and became licensee on 2nd December 1946. He was originally a cook. He got trench foot in WWI and afterwards couldn't work in the steam of the kitchen. He went to work as a butler in a big house in Carlton Road, South Godstone before becoming licensee of the Lingfield Hotel.

Minnie Spray

Eric's wife Minnie became licensee on 20th June 1949 and remained for just over a year.

Richard George Spray

Another son of George and Henrietta, Richard George Spray took over on 14th August 1950.

Leonard Bryan

He was licensee for about 10 years from 8th November 1965.

Kenneth Dean

He was licensee in the mid 1970s. Known locally as 'Dixie Dean'. He used to blow a trumpet to signify last orders.

Ian Ottaway

The last landlord so far identified is Ian Ottaway who was in residence until around June 1988, when the pub closed.

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