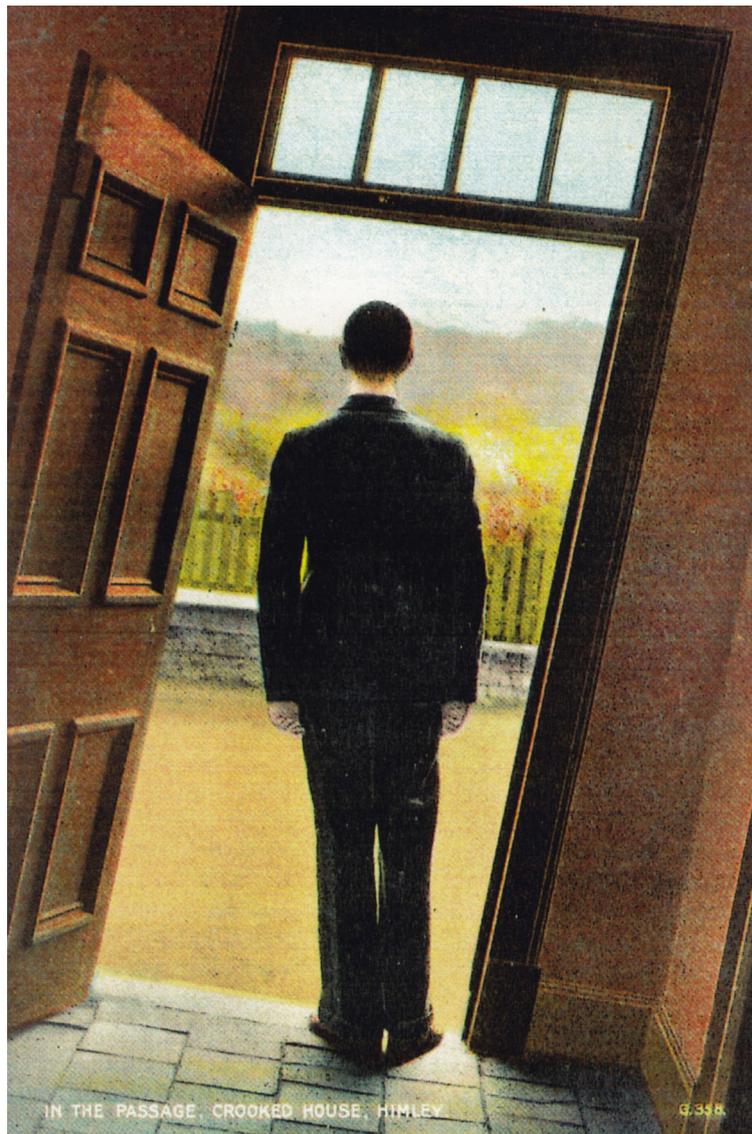


HITCHMOUGH'S BLACK COUNTRY PUBS



Postcard

GLYNNE ARMS (CROOKED HOUSE) HIMLEY, STAFFORDSHIRE

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GLYNNE ARMS

Coppice Mill, Stoney Fields, HIMLEY

OWNERS

Sir Stephen Glynne [1872]
James Walker, Kingswinford [1886]
George Veitch, Holbeache House, Kingswinford [1911]
Mrs. Sarah Ann Glaze (acquired in 1927 for £2,000)
Johnson and Phipps Ltd. (acquired 1940)
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1954 for £3,259)
Marstons plc
Brett Harrison (leased from 2003)
Wayne and Jason Penn (leased from November 2008)

LICENSEES

John Cartwright [1841] – [1849]
George H Wilkinson [1855] – [1857]
Joseph Woodcock [1861] – **1877**;
Joseph Bate **(1877 – 1881)**;
William Henry Evans **(1881 – 1884)**;
Thomas White **(1884 – 1895)**;
Charles Wemm **(1895 – 1899)**;
Mrs. Sarah Ann Glaze **(1899 – 1938)**;
George Glaze [1932]
George Harry Glaze **(1938 – 1939)**;
William Henry Glaze **(1939 – 1941)**;
Herbert Williams **(1941 – [1943]**
Samuel Green [1952] – **1966**);
Arthur John Love **(1966 – 1982)**;
Mrs. Florence May Love **(1982 – 1983)**;
Richard Horrell **(1984)**;
Gary Thomas Ensor **(1984 – 2003)**;
Louise Patten **(2003 – []**
Brett Harrison **(2003 – 2008)**;
Wayne Penn **(2008 – [2012]**
Jason Penn [2014]
Lee Goodchild **(2022 – 2323)**;



c1980s

NOTES

It was built as a farmhouse in 1765.

It was converted to a pub c.1830s.

It suffered from mining subsidence in the mid 1800s, leaving one side of the building 4 feet lower than the other.

It was known locally as The Siden House and The Crooked House.

Sir Stephen Glynne was the brother-in-law of the future prime minister William Gladstone.

It was reputedly haunted by a serving wench named Polly.

Village Voice (November 2021)

“It seems that there is hardly a pub in the Black Country that doesn’t have its own resident ghost.....
The CROOKED HOUSE has not one but two spirits that have shown themselves over the years. One of those was known as ‘Polly,’ a young girl dressed as a parlour maid. She was regularly seen at the upstairs window of the pub holding a candle. The other ghostly apparition was a group of children seemingly in Victorian clothes who were seen playing in the snow in the field behind the pub. When the landlord went out to see what they were doing there was no sign of them – and there were no footprints in the snow!”

1841 Census

Himley – Cartwright House

[1] *John Cartwright* (62), miller, farmer and beershop-keeper, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Sally Cartwright* (56), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Sarah Baylis* (25), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[4] *Hannah Baylis* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[5] *Mary Wilington* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

It was put for sale in April 1849 as part of the properties belonging to the insolvent Oak Farm Company.

London Gazette 16/2/1849

“In the Matter of Alexander Macnaughtane Paterson, John Walker, James Boydell, and Charles Blayney Trevor Roper, late of the Oak Farm Works, in the parish of Kingswinford, in the county of Stafford, Iron Founders, Iron Masters, and Edge Tool Manufacturers, Dealers and Chapmen and Co-partners, against whom a Fiat in Bankruptcy dated the 11th day of February 1848, hath been issued.

To be peremptorily sold, pursuant to an order of the Right Honourable Sir James Lewis Knight Bruce, Knight, one of the Vice Chancellors acting in bankruptcy, dated the 25th day of March 1848, and made on the petition of Sir Stephen Richard Glynne, Baronet, and others.....

Also all that conveniently situated and commodious dwelling-house, now used as a Public-house, with the garden, stabling, outbuildings and appurtenances, and water corn mill, now in the occupation of Mr. *John Cartwright*.

The whole of the above extensive works and premises are held under lease from Sir Stephen Richard Glynne, Baronet, for 31 years, from the 26th day of December 1835, whereof 18 years are now unexpired (together with the benefit of any extension thereof, which there may be an understanding with the landlord to grant, if any such exists), and will be sold, subject to the rents and royalties, by the said lease reserved, and the covenants therein contained, and also subject to a mortgage of the said premises, to George Talbot, Esq, of Green-hill, near Kidderminster, for £30,000.....”

1851 Census

Himley Oak Farm Mill

[1] *Sally Cartwright* (66), widow, farmer of 30 acres, employing 1 man, born Kingswinford;

[2] *Joseph John Cartwright* (26), son, miller, born Himley;

[3] *Fanny Amis* (76), sister, widow, annuitant, born Sedgley;

[4] *Sarah Baylis* (44), house servant, born Sedgley;

[5] *Hannah Baylis* (30), house servant, born Sedgley:

Billing Directory 1855 - Advert

“*George H. Wilkinson*, Importer of Foreign Wines & Spirits, High Street, Dudley; and GLYNNE ARMS, Oak Farm, Himley. Importer of Cigars.”

George H. Wilkinson, wine and spirit merchant, Market Place, and GLYNNE ARMS, Oak Farm, Himley. [1855]

Birmingham Journal 14/2/1857 - Advert

“Important and Unreserved Sale of Public House Fixtures, Capital Large-Sized Casks, Stock of Spirits, Wines, Old Ale, and Other Effects.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, on Monday Next, February 16th.

The whole of the valuable Public House Fixtures, excellent Six-pull Beer Machine, Liquor Fountain, with seven Taps and Piping; together with Liquor Casks, Labelled Bottles, Metal-Top Counter, framed back and other Benches, mahogany, oak, deal, and other Tables, capital 150 gssllon wrought iron Boiler, Grate Door, framed Brickwork, with large sized brass tap, three various sized cast iron Boilers, twenty bushel Mash Tub, pair of excellent Vats, and Piping into Cellar, a quantity of Lead Piping, capital light spring Trap and Harness, nearly new, 50 splendid iron bound Casks, from 1,000 gallons down to 18 gallons, 900 gallons of prime old Ale, Working Tub, twelve round Tubs, various sizes, Stock of splendid Bottled old Port, Sherry, and other Wines, French Brandy, Jamaica Rum, Scotch and Irish Whiskey, six Boxes of prime Cigars, three bales of excellent American and one pocket of Kent Hops; mahogany four-post and tent Bedsteads, and Hangings, feather Beds, Sheets, Blankets, Coverlids, Wash Stands and Wares, Dressing Tables and Glasses, mahogany and other Chairs, and numerous other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Geo. H. Wilkinson*, of the GLYNNE INN, of the Oak Farm, who is giving up the Premises on account of the mining operations.

Sale to commence punctually at Ten o'clock in the morning.

Catalogues may be had on application at the Auctioneer's Offices, top of King Street, Dudley; Mr. *Wilkinson*, Wine and Spirit Vaults, High Street; or at the Refreshment Rooms, upon the South Staffordshire Railway Station.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/9/1859 - Advert

“Found, a Red and White Milch Cow, with short horns, about seven years old. The Owner may have the same by applying to Mr. Joseph Woodcock, Oak Farm, Kingswinford.”

FOUND, a Red and White Milch COW, with short horns, about seven years old. The Owner may have the same by applying to Mr. Joseph Woodcock, Oak Farm, Kingswinford.

1861 Census

Stoney Fields – GLYNN'S ARMS

- [1] Joseph Woodcock (52), innkeeper, born Leach, Cheshire;
- [2] Gwinne Woodcock (58), wife, born Northwick (?), Monmouthshire;
- [3] Mary Woodcock (20), daughter, domestic at home, born Kingswinford;
- [4] Elizabeth Woodcock (20), daughter, domestic at home, born Kingswinford;
- [5] William Southall (20), servant, carter, born Sedgley;
- [6] Elizabeth Woodcock (4), grand-daughter, scholar, born Kingswinford:

Gwen Woodcock died in the 1st quarter of 1871 and was buried on 2nd March at St. Michael and All Angels, Himley.

1871 Census

Himley – GLYNNE ARMS

- [1] Joseph Woodcock (62), widower, innkeeper, born Dodleston, Cheshire;
- [2] Elizabeth Woodcock (14), grand-daughter, domestic servant, born Kingswinford;
- [3] Joseph Barrow (32), son-in-law, pattern maker, born Himley;
- [4] Martha Barrow (30), daughter, born Kingswinford;
- [5] Joseph Barrow (2), son, scholar, born Himley;
- [6] Mary Barrow (1), daughter, born Himley;
- [7] James Dawes (16), visitor, servant, unemployed, born Himley;
- [8] Isaiah Morris (34), boarder, colliery engine driver, born Preston, Warwickshire:

1881 Census

Himley - GLYNN ARMS - uninhabited

Thomas White = Thomas Wight

County Advertiser 30/6/1888

“*Thomas White* (48), the landlord of the GLYNNE ARMS, Himley, was charged on adjournment with having committed an indecent assault on *Mary Ann Brownhills* (15), the daughter of a man living in Dunn Street. Mr. Ward defended.

The girl stated that she was in the Garden Walker on Monday last, at 11.30pm, going from her grandmother’s to her father’s house. The defendant offered her a shilling for an immoral purpose, and she refused. He then threw her down, and when she shouted he put his hand over her mouth. She managed to scream, and the police came up. In the struggle the man indecently assaulted her.

In cross-examination the girl admitted she was not a good character, but she had led a proper life since Christmas. She had been unduly intimate with her sweetheart, who was in Court, but had otherwise behaved herself.

The girl’s certificate of birth, showing that she was under sixteen years of age, the case was adjourned until Wednesday. When the case came up on that day, it appeared that when the girl laid the charge she said her age was 17, and the Bench thought she looked 18. Ultimately defendant was discharged.”

County Express 18/1/1890

“*Thomas Wight*, landlord of the GLYN ARMS INN, Himley, was charged with selling ale on his licensed premises on the 22nd ult. Mr. Waldron defended.

Police-constables Heappy and Carter deposed to visiting defendant’s house about eleven o’clock on the morning of the date named, and to finding two men drinking from a quart jug containing ale.

Mr. Waldron contended his client gave the men the ale for assisting him in trying to get up a cow that was ill on his premises. No money was received for the ale. Defendant and the two men found on the premises gave evidence to this effect. The Bench dismissed the case.”

County Advertiser 5/7/1890

“*Thomas White*, landlord of the GLYNN ARMS INN, Himley, was charged with selling intoxicating liquors during prohibited hours on the 24th ult. Mr. W. Waldron appeared for defendant.

Police-constable Ephi, stationed at Gornal Wood, said that on the date named, in company with Police-constable Harvey, he visited the house kept by the defendant about 10.20pm. They found six men in the kitchen with a quart jug on the table before them, three parts full of ale, and also a pint jug half full. He then asked the landlord, who was in the kitchen, how he accounted for his house being open, and he replied, ‘Oh, it’s only just the time, is it not? We are allowed time to turn out, and the clock is only just ten minutes past ten.’ He looked at the clock and found the statement to be correct. He said to the landlord in reply, ‘Yes, you are allowed a reasonable time, not 23 minutes.’ One of the men was playing a concertina, and they all seemed to be very jolly. Cross-examined, he didn’t know whether defendant was a respectable man or not. He compared his watch, which rarely lost or gained, by the Himley Hall clock, the Church clock, and a clock at Sedgley. He could swear that the defendant’s clock was not five minutes past ten when he went in.

Mr. Waldron said that the prosecution must prove that the time was Greenwich time.

Eventually Mr. Waldron applied for the case to be withdrawn on payment of costs, which was done, the costs amounting to 11s 6d.

Henry Clarke, John Parkes, Henry Marsh, Alfred Southall, John Vickers, and Edward Russell, miners and labourers, were dismissed on payment of costs, which were 2s 5d each, for being illegally on defendant’s licensed premises.”

County Express 4/10/1890

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Brierley Hill and district were held at the Police Court on Monday.....

The license of *Thomas White* of the GLYNNE ARMS, Himley, was also renewed, there being no opposition raised.”

1891 Census

Himley Wood – GLYNN ARMS

[1] *Thomas White* (43), licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] *Mary Ann White* (53), wife, born Cradley;

[3] *Elizabeth White* (20), daughter, born Dudley;

[4] *Thomas White* (16), son, cow boy, born Dudley;

[5] *Ellen White* (14), daughter, scholar, born Dudley:

County Advertiser 2/6/1894

“Thomas Southall, junior, of Pensnett, was charged with stealing a bottle of sherry, the property of *Thomas White*, landlord of the GLYNNE ARMS, Himley, on the 20th inst. The evidence for the prosecution was to the effect that the defendant went into the house on this particular Sunday evening, and sat down by another named Wilkes. Shortly afterwards, defendant crawled towards a shelf on which there was placed a bottle of sherry, and, taking this away, put in behind Wilkes. The bottle was afterwards missed by Elizabeth White, the landlord’s daughter, who told her father of the occurrence. The landlord came and accused Southall, who denied having it. The bottle was then found behind Wilkes. The landlord or his daughter did not receive any payment for the bottle. Defendant admitted taking the bottle, but said he had no intention of stealing it. Defendant was fined 40s, or one month’s imprisonment.”

1901 Census

Himley Wood – GLYNN ARMS

[1] *Sarah Ann Glaze* (47), widow, licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] *George Harry Glaze* (25), son, butcher, born Kingswinford;

[3] *Mary Ann Guest* (69), widow, laundry woman, born Dudley:

County Advertiser 10/9/1904

“A few weeks ago we gave some interesting particulars of the ‘Crooked House,’ or ‘Siden House,’ as it is variously known in this district. It is a popular place of resort by pleasure parties, especially from Wolverhampton and the neighbourhood. How the pleasure of one of these parties was interrupted by a brawl which ended fatally was told on Friday last, when Mr. A. B. Smith (deputy county coroner) held an inquest at the BRITANNIA INN, Bradley, touching the death of Sarah Jane Bradley (27), wife of Thomas G. Bradley, a bricklayer’s labourer, of Allens Row, Bradley.

The husband of the deceased said his wife on August 24th went for a trip around the Crooked House and neighbourhood, and returned about 9.30pm. Next morning she showed him a large bruise on her body, and also told him that there had been a disturbance in the brake in which she had travelled. The passengers were all women with the exception of driver and guard. Deceased added that she got over the side of the brake on to the wheel, but she forgot what occurred afterwards. When she came to herself she journeyed home by tram. She alleged that some of the women were drunk, and that one woman struck her.

Mary Turner stated that the deceased was her niece, and she went with her on an excursion to the Crooked House. There was a large jar of beer in the brake. Near the Wolverhampton Orphanage Mary Ann Hadley, who was sitting opposite to witness, got up and struck witness on the left jaw. Deceased got up to protect her, and was struck by Hadley. She got over the side of the brake, and afterwards went home.

Mr. John Wells, surgeon, said he was called to deceased about 6pm on the 30th ult. She was then semi-unconscious. Witness then heard of the brake incident, and examined her body. There was a large bruise on her left hip, but the skin was not broken. There were also slight bruises on the left arm. He thought it possible that the deceased might be suffering from a fracture of the skull.

Sarah Ann Cooper, wife of an ironworker, said she was one of the party. When near the Wolverhampton Orphanage Mary Ann Hadley woke up and said, ‘I have got it in for you, for your son and son-in-law,’ and struck Mrs. Turner on the left jaw. Deceased got up and put her arm round Mrs. Turner’s neck, and Hadley struck the deceased. Hadley was not struck in return. They had a whip-round before they started, and they had another whip at the Crooked House. Deceased had some port wine with her in a bottle and witness had some of it.

Dr. Wells, who had made, during an adjournment, a post mortem examination, said he found an abscess on the woman’s brain and a fissured fracture of the skull, but there was no external mark of violence. He attributed death to the abscess and fracture, which might have been caused by an accident. Had deceased fallen upon her shoulder that might have caused the fracture.

The Coroner recommended the jury to return an open verdict. The evidence, he said, had been very conflicting, and there would be considerable difficulty in fixing culpability on anyone, supposing there was any. The jury agreed with the coroner. Mrs. Hadley was told by the Coroner that, in his opinion, she was morally the cause of the woman’s death, and he disallowed her expenses.”

John Price & Sons' Picture Post Card No.58 Crooked House, Himley

“The GLYNNE ARMS, Kingswinford, is situated in the parish of Himley, Staffordshire, about three miles from Dudley. It is named after Sir Stephen Glynne, the brother-in-law of the late Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, to whom the estate on which it is situated at one time belonged. Its peculiar position at the extreme edge of this estate, where it is joined by land belonging to the Earl of Dudley, causes it to be sometimes described in error as being on the estate of his lordship. This, however, is not the case, but it explains why the coal has only been mined from under one end of the house. Thus, while one end of the house is at its original level, the southern portion (or lower end) has sunk several feet; yet, owing to the house being unusually well built, not a crack is to be noticed, and in this respect it is almost unique. It has stood in this peculiar position for more than half a century, and has long been known as The Crooked or Siden House.

The appearance of the interior is even more striking and interesting. Everything seems out of plumb, and the general law of gravity set at defiance. Here, walking through the slanting rooms and passages, you have all the sensations peculiar to a visit to the famous Tower of Pisa, in Italy, or pacing the deck of a ship in a heavy sea. W.H.F.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/2/1905

“Mr. George E. Lee, of Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton, has published some artistic local picture postcards in colours. Amongst them are views of the Crooked House, Himley.”

Postcard published by Geo. E. Lee, Wolverhampton

“Extract from T.P.'s Weekly, June 17, 1904.

On the estate of Earl Dudley, at Himley, there is a very curious habitation known as The Crooked House. It is a red brick building with a wide passage right through, leading to back premises. It is altogether out of the perpendicular, and slanted towards the south end, which is heavily shored up with thick red brick buttresses. Some part of the outer wall is buried several feet in the ground.

These peculiarities are the result of mining operations, the under-stratum of the earth in these parts being completely ‘honeycombed.’ It is as difficult to walk steadily through the doorway as to pace the deck of a vessel in a rolling sea. As you walk along the warped floor your head and shoulders lean very palpably across the passage, and to maintain the equilibrium is a matter of the greatest difficulty. The rooms of the house are equally out of joint, and present some remarkable optical illusions.

The clocks on the walls, although absolutely perpendicular, as their pendulums testify, appear to be hanging side ways at a very pronounced angle. A short glass shelf, one end of which appears to be a foot higher than the other, proves to be absolutely level; while in the tap room, is a table which is apparently slanting, but on which if round marbles are placed at the seemingly lower end they roll to all appearance uphill to the top of the table, and fall over with a bump. These do not exhaust the remarkable features of this curious tenement, but those quoted fully justify its title to the name of The Crooked House.”

County Advertiser 6/5/1905

“John Perry, no fixed abode, was charged with stealing on the 7th April, 1903, two fowls, at Brierley Hill, the property of William Parkes, value 5s.

Police-constable Tetlow stated that at 8.30 on Saturday the 7th April 1903, he saw the prisoner trying to sell two fowls to Mr. Smith, fishmonger, and on the way to the station, prisoner bolted. He was brought up on another charge on the 28th ult.

Mrs. Parkes also gave evidence.

Prisoner was further charged with stealing a duck value 3s 9d at Himley on the 28th ult, the property of *George Henry Glaze*.

Complainant said he lived at the GLYNNE ARMS, Himley, and on the 28th, having lost the duck, he went with Police-constable Lewis and found prisoner at the Himley Colliery.

Committed for three months for each offence.”

County Advertiser 21/7/1906

“The peculiarities of the Crooked House at Himley have now been published in the form of a song, and the words and music of which are the work of local men.”

Walsall Observer 18/8/1906 - Advert

“W. Page’s Popular Char-a-Banc Country Drives on Sundays, Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

W. Page’s Char-a-Banc, ‘The Favourite,’ will leave The Bridge.....

Tomorrow (Sunday), at 2.30, Crooked House, Himley. Fare 2/0.

Monday Next, at 2.0 (from MARKET TAVERN, Freer Street), Crooked House, Himley. Fare 2/0.....

Char-a-Bancs, Brakes, Wagonettes, and Traps on Hire for Private Parties, School Treats, &c.”

The Sketch 8/5/1907

“They All Lived Together in a Little Crooked House.....

A Home of Optical Illusions: the Crooked House, Kingswinford.

The GLYNNE ARMS, Kingswinford, known as the Crooked House, adjoins Lord Dudley’s estate at Himley. From beneath one end of it coal has been mined, with the result that that end has sunk several feet, although the building itself does not show a crack. It has stood as it is now for over half a century. It is a veritable home of optical illusions. Everything in the interior seems out of plumb, and the laws of gravity appear to be set at defiance.”

Morning Post 13/3/1908

“Motoring Fixtures.....

Saturday, 14th. Birmingham Motor-Cycling Club. Run to Himley, via Hagley. Meet at the Fountain, 2pm. Tea at Crooked House, 4.30pm.”

Wellington Journal 4/9/1909

“Lawley Bank Institute CC further augmented its season’s programme on Saturday last by visiting the Crooked House, Himley, near Dudley. The outward journey was taken via Sutton and Pattingham, and the beautiful country scenery, the perfect weather, the enjoyable time spent at the Siden House, and the return journey via Wolverhampton in ideal moonlight, all went to make one of the most successful fixtures of the season.”

County Express 10/12/1910

“The Crooked House, at Gornal Wood, which is well-known as a curious example of what vicissitudes from mining and subsidences a dwelling place can survive, suffered considerably from floods last weekend. In the low-lying ground near it there gathered a lake of water to the extent of several acres. The depth of the water was estimated to be about 30 feet in places. The house was only accessible from the north side. A correspondent visited the scene on Sunday, and had a conversation with the landlord (Mr. *G. Glaze*), who took him into the house. In the passage which runs from the front to back of the house were placed boxes and tubs on which to step, and in the refreshment rooms on the south side the furniture was swimming on the water. The cellars, of course, were filled with water, and generally a scene of disorder prevailed. The landlord said it was impossible to state the damage, but he estimated that in the cellars he had about £200 worth of ales and spirits all under water. Damage to furniture and premises he estimated at another £200. The refreshment room, which was built to accommodate parties for teas etc, was almost wholly submerged, whilst barrels and other outside effects were floating about. Mr. G. Glaze and his family moved on Sunday with what furniture they could get together to an adjoining house. The Crooked House was not considered safe under such conditions.”

1911 Census

Coppice Mill – GLYNNE ARMS INN

[1] *Sarah Ann Glaze* (57), widow, publican, born Netherton;

[2] *George Harry Glaze* (35), son, brewer, born Kingswinford;

[3] *Florence Grove Glaze* (31), daughter-in-law, married 8 years, domestic helper, born Birmingham;

[4] *Dorothy Glaze* (7), child, born Kingswinford;

[5] *William Henry Glaze* (2), child, born Himley;

[6] *Thomas Hickman* (36), boarder, labourer, brewer’s helper, born Gornal:

Dudley Chronicle 21/10/1911

“For disorderly behaviour at Himley on Sunday, the 8th inst, Richard Edwards and James Edwards, both of Union Street, Wednesbury, were fined 20s or seven days each; and Alfred Russell, Union Street, Wednesbury, and Joseph Curtis, Wednesbury, 10s or seven days each.

PCs Massey and Gripton stated that the defendants went to the GLYNNE ARMS, Himley (the Siden House), in a drunken condition, and when the landlord refused to serve them they challenged him to fight. When the officers went to them they took their jackets off and wanted to fight them also. Superintendent Johnson said that the defendant’s conduct was intolerable.”

Sports Argus 6/4/1912

“Tipton Harriers closing run was a go-as-you-please sort of an arrangement from headquarters to the Siden House at Himley, and some walked it, others ran it, while a few ‘footballed’ it after calling for refreshments. A soccer match between teams chosen by Jack Partridge and Sam Walker was won by the former side, Samuel’s men retiring with six goals up against them. After the game the company trotted to the ‘Crooked Inn,’ and after a good tea had been disposed of the prizes won during the season were presented by the chairman, Mr. W. E. Griffiths. A. E. Greenway was declared to be the Norton Griffiths Cup winner and club champion, having scored 51 points out of a possible 72 in six races, two of which were handicaps. Of course, there was music before and after the presentation, S. B. Chilton presiding at the piano, the harmony being contributed to by many well-known runners.”

Florence Grove Glaze died in September 1912.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/10/1912

“On Wednesday afternoon the funeral of the late Mrs. *George Glaze*, of the Crooked House, Himley, took place at Himley Church. The service was conducted by the Rev. Harold Smith (rector). There were many beautiful floral tributes.”

Birmingham Mail 29/4/1913

“A singular tale was told at Dudley Police Court yesterday afternoon in a case in which two Birmingham men were charged that, while posing as bona-fide travellers at a Dudley public house, they refused to give their proper names and addresses.

It was alleged that one of the defendants, a tall, respectably-dressed man, who said he was a solicitor’s clerk, after giving several names to the policeman, admitted that he was Thomas Birch, of 20, Bromyard Road, Sparkbrook. His companion, after saying his name was Heeley, then Johnson, finally admitted that he was James Patrick Meakin, and that he lived at 30, Freeth Street, Birmingham.

The two men set out on Sunday to visit the well-known Crooked House at Himley. At about three o’clock in the afternoon Police-constable Phillips observed them enter the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Stourbridge Road, and when they refused to give their names he told them they must not go into any other public house unless they could prove their bona-fides. They declared that they would go where they liked, and a few minutes afterwards the officer saw them drinking at the JUNCTION INN. At each public house they told the landlord that they were bona-fide travellers, and eventually they had to be taken to the police station.

In reply to the Bench Birch told a long story of how he got a ticket for an outing to the Crooked House, but on the way missed his party, and he and his companion, when intending to return to Birmingham, walked a long way along the railway lines, only to find that they had been misdirected and were going in an opposite direction to the city. The day was very wretched, and after they had been in the rain half an hour they began to feel hungry and went into the public house to get something to eat. Then a policeman came up, and as he was joking about their umbrella they thought he didn’t mean anything serious when he asked their names.

Meakin, who caused considerable laughter by the emphatic way in which he addressed the Bench, gave an extraordinary explanation as to why he had given the names Heeley and Johnson. His mother’s name, he said, was Heeley before she was married to his father, and that she had since married a man named Johnson. He ruefully declared that he had been paying 3d per week for ‘an outing like that,’ and that he was hoping to get a good dinner at the Crooked House. That was the first time, he added, that he had ever been to Dudley, and would take good care never again to go within twenty miles of such a place, where folks could direct him wrongly, and where a jocular policeman could finally land him at the police station.

The magistrates said the men had a perfect right to obtain refreshments if they had come from Birmingham, and Meakin then produced the ticket on which his anticipations of a pleasant Sunday outing and a good dinner had been based.

Defendants were each fined 5s. Birch said he thought he could pay it, and Meakin was allowed a week in which to do so."

County Express 31/10/1914

"A number of Belgian refugees from Dudley were taken to see the famous Crooked House, near Himley. One of the party was an old lady who would not venture further than the door. She said she thought the building was about to topple over, and nothing would induce her to go inside."

1921 Census

Himley – GLYNNE ARMS

[1] *Sarah Ann Glaze* (65), widow, innkeeper, born Netherton;

[2] *George H. Glaze* (46), son, widower, brewer, born Pensnett;

[3] *W. H. Glaze* (12), grand-son, school, born Himley;

[4] *Mary Nock* (19), domestic duties, born The Oak, Staffordshire:

County Express 13/8/1921

"Joseph Carter Foster (31), a railway labourer, Brick-Kiln Croft, Wolverhampton, was charged with stealing three spoons, the property of *Sarah Ann Glaze*, licensee of the GLYNNE ARMS, Himley, on Bank Holiday Monday.

Mr. J. T. Higgs prosecuted on behalf of the Licensed Victuallers' Association, and said the GLYNNE ARMS was more popularly known as the Crooked House. On the day in question defendant, with two other men and three ladies called at the house and ordered tea. Having had the meal, the party got clear of the premises without paying for what they had had, and it was afterwards discovered that three spoons were missing.

PC Tompkinson was quickly informed, and it was not long before the officer found the party. They were some 300 yards from the house, and all commenced to walk back. After 100 yards, the officer saw defendant throw away six spoons (three of which belonged to Mrs. *Glaze*), and said to him, 'I shall have to charge you with stealing them.'

Mr. Higgs urged that licensees should have the protection of the Court.

George Harry Glaze (son of licensee), Dorothy Glaze (his daughter), and PC Tompkinson gave evidence.

Defendant said he was sorry it happened, and promised it would not occur again. He had been in the Army eleven years, and had never been in trouble.

Re-called, Mr. *Glaze* said that numerous articles had been stolen recently, including ornaments from the shelf and the brass handles from the clock. At Whitsuntide three score glasses were taken.

Defendant fined 40s."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/4/1923

"The famous Crooked House at Himley, near Dudley, which at one time started to straighten itself, is dropping back again, the slant having been increased by about two feet this last year or two. The Crooked House, or the GLYNNE ARMS, as picnic parties and the like know it, is one of the architectural mysteries of the age. Coal mining under one end of it has resulted in that particular end sinking several feet below the original level, and yet the house stands today without a single crack or sign of collapse, and has stood so for half a century. Inside, the effect is even more striking than outside. Tables and chairs and everything else defy the laws of gravity. But 'mine host,' Mr. *G. Glaze*, is quite content to go on living amidst all this phenomena. In fact, you cannot convince him that his 140-year-old residence, with all its deformity, is not safer than some of our modern day built houses. Of course there is not, but if there was any record of a man entering its walls after partaking of that one extra drink which sets the 'world going round,' his impression in this place of slanting tables and slanting doors would be worth recording. Way back in 1910 the house was flooded by the collapse of an adjacent railway bank, but this had no effect on its waywardness nor its stability. It came up with a more perky slant than ever, to stand a thing of joy and interest to every traveller."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/9/1924

“The mystery of the discovery of a trap with broken shafts in a field on the Wolverhampton Road, Prestwood, with a blood-stained cap near, was cleared up by the police yesterday. It transpires that a collision occurred on the road near there at 8.20pm on Monday between a motor-cycle and a horse and trap. The motor cyclist was Horace Bailey, of Chesterville, Chester Road, Kidderminster, and the driver of the trap was *George Glaze*, of the Crooked House, Himley, who was accompanied by Austen Wakelam, of 17, Straits Road, Gornal Wood. The collision broke both the shafts of the trap, and the motor-cycle was badly damaged. Bailey managed to get to Kinver, where he was seen by Dr. Dallow, who found he was suffering from slight concussion, and after treating him took him home in his motor car. *Glaze* and Wakelam proceeded on their journey, taking the horse, but not the trap. Both were slightly injured, but were about yesterday, the latter suffering from some few abrasions on the face.”

Birmingham Mail 25/7/1925 - Advert

“Tovey’s Topping Trips.....

Wednesday, No.2 Trip at 2.30. Kinver, Enville and Crooked House at Himley. 4/6.

Trips start advertised times from Erdington, and call for Birmingham passengers by appointment.

Please Book Seats in Advance. Tele: Erdington 50.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 5/9/1925

“It is somewhat unusual for an outing to take place to the Black Country, but this was the case on Wednesday, when a party of some 150 ladies of the Tamworth Co-operative Guild paid a visit to Darlaston. They first of all made a tour of Himley and the Crooked House [GLYNN ARMS] and then went to the DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston, where tea was served by the hostess (Mrs. Nicholls). The party then made a tour of the town, and afterwards were entertained by Mr. Jack Pratt, of Cheslyn Hay, and his jazz band, and Mons. Purchase and his ventriloquial dolls. Songs were also rendered, and during the evening the Guild presented the secretary (Mrs. Patrick) with a handsome handbag, for which she suitably thanked the gathering.”

Sarah Ann Glaze boasted of fine home brewed ales.

Birmingham Daily Post 5/5/1927 - Advert

“Sale by Public Auction as a Going Concern (Unless previously Sold by Private Treaty) of the Old-Established Business of Fire Brick Manufacturers, known as John Walker (Kingswinford) Ltd, Kingswinford, Staffs, and Other Properties Comprised in the Oak Farm Estate.

Tuesday, May 31, 1927, at the DUDLEY ARMS HOTEL, Dudley, at 3.0pm punctually.....

Lot 6. The Fully-Licensed Freehold Brick-Built Public House known at the GLYNNE ARMS or the Crooked House, comprising Bar, Taproom, Smokeroom, two Kitchens, and Cellars, four Bedrooms; Outbuildings, Brewhouse, two-stall Stable with Loft, two Pigsties, Lavatories, &c, together with Garden Land and Sling Meadows, occupying a total area of 2a 2r 0p or thereabouts, on lease to Mrs. *S. A. Glaze*, on a tenancy expiring September 29, 1927, at an annual rental of £39 15s 7d. Mines and Minerals included.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/6/1927

“The GLYNNE ARMS, better known as the Crooked House, situated between Lower Gornal and Himley, and forming part of the estate of the late Mr. G. T. Veitch, mining engineer, who died a short time ago, was sold yesterday to the present licensee, Mrs. *S. A. Glaze*. Mrs. *Glaze* has managed the house for the last 28 years.

The inn once belonged to Sir Stephen Glynne, a bother-in-law of Mr. Gladstone. It was also known as the Siden House, because, owing to mining operations, the laws of gravity appeared to have been defeated. It has been a source of wonderment that the house remained standing, its slanting floors making it difficult for one to keep one’s feet. The house was an attraction to thousands of visitors every year.

Mrs. *Glaze* bought the inn for £2,000, and, together, the total properties sold realised £11, 215, a brickyard being disposed of for £8,400.”

Leicester Daily Mercury 16/10/1933

“When a party of Gypsy Lane W.M.C. members recently visited the GLYNNE ARMS, Kingswinford, Himley, Staffs, they had an unusual experience. On entering, the callers found themselves completely at sea. The bar mantelpiece leant forward, the shelves were askew, the pictures sloped, and when one placed a marble on a table it slipped upwards to the higher end – the house is the Crooked Inn. Fifty years ago, owing to coalmining, one end subsided. No cracks developed, and the place is still used, although all levels in it are topsy turvy. Even the sober imagine themselves intoxicated when they find difficulty in crossing from one side of the room to the other.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/11/1935

“Tribute to the honesty and thrift of a debtor was paid by Judge Roope-Reeve at Stourbridge yesterday when granting the discharge from bankruptcy of *George Harry Glaze*, aged 60, of the GLYNNE ARMS (better known as the Crooked House), Himley, where he had been employed by his brother [sic], the licensee, for 30 years.

The Official Receiver (Mr. K. Hooper) said Glaze was adjudicated bankrupt on his own petition in November, 1925. His liabilities were £264, which was the amount of a judgement given against him at Birmingham Assizes in March of that year as a party to an accident in which he was involved. His assets were estimated to produce £50, but they had actually realised £100 15s, and he had paid a dividend of 5s 3d in the £.

The judge, remarking that had the judgement creditor been content to take the debtor’s all in the first place he would have paid 7s 6d in the pound instead of 5s 3d, said Glaze seemed to have been a careful man who had not a debt in the world until the judgement was delivered against him. He had been a thrifty man and saved £50. That went. He had valued such property as he possessed on a conservative footing that it actually realised double the amount. The creditor under the judgement had had every penny this man possessed. The man himself had been guilty of no offence whatever except a statutory offence that his assets were not of a value equal to 10s in the £.

The bankruptcy adjudication was made 10 years ago and he (the Judge) saw no object in keeping it open. He therefore granted the discharge, subject to seven days’ suspension.”

Daily Mirror 18/11/1935

“The GLYNNE ARMS at Himley, Staffs, known in the neighbourhood as the Crooked House.....

Mrs. *Glaze*, the owner, says that the house has been crooked for ninety years.”

Lichfield Mercury 10/7/1936

“Rugeley Red Triangle Cycling Club held its first time-trial on Sunday morning, the 15-mile course being to Weston and back.....

In the afternoon the members had a spin to the Crooked House at Himley. Thirteen members joined the run in good weather, and after tea at Himley returned to Rugeley, which was reached at 8.45pm.”

Walsall Observer 17/4/1937

“The crooked house at Himley is being visited today (Saturday) by the Walsall Ramblers under the leadership of Miss G. Keeling. They will leave by the 2-17 train, return fare 1s 1½d. Trek 9 miles. Food may be carried or can be obtained en route.”

Lichfield Mercury 4/6/1937 - Advert

“The Silent Knight Motor Services and Coach Tours. 1937 Motor Coaching.

New Luxury Streamline Coaches. All Radio Equipped by Philco.

The Smartest Coaches on the Road,

Sunday June 6th. Evening Tour to Wall Heath, calling at the Crooked House, Himley. Leave Lichfield Friary School, 5.30pm, Burntwood, 5.40pm, Brownhills 5.40pm, Chasetown 5.50pm. Fare, 2/6.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/12/1937

“Himley’s eerie Crooked House, so famous that it draws mystified sightseers from all over the country and was mentioned in the House of Commons this week, has lost its mistress, 84 year-old Mrs. *Sarah Anne Glaze*, who died last night. Mrs. *Glaze* spent the last 39 of her 40 years in the licensed trade at the Crooked House. and claimed to be one of the oldest landladies in the Midlands. She was a landlady of the old English innkeeper style, and was hostess to thousands of people from distant parts and abroad attracted by tales of phenomena that seemed contradictions of nature, and earned for the GLYNNE ARMS its picturesque nick-name.

'All mazed' they have watched marbles roll apparently uphill on the table-top, water poured on a bar table flow likewise, and clocks that will work only when tilted at about 30deg. out of the illusionary vertical. The secret of the Crooked House is no fairy story pixie-spell, but the magic of mining subsidence which has distorted inside appearances by jumbled angles and tilted walls. Its magic was described this week in the House of Commons by Mr. Geoffrey Mander, MP for East Wolverhampton, during an effort to introduce into the Coal Bill a clause to ensure compensation for the owners of property disturbed by mining subsidence. Like the visitors who gape among the locals, hon. members were 'all mazed' too.

The woman who lived in the Crooked House never tired of its mysteries. Her home became one of the show-places of the Midlands. Talking to visitors, she would proudly announce that it was formerly owned by Gladstone's father-in-law. Built 160 years ago by ancestors of Mrs. Gladstone, it was named the GLYNNE ARMS, after her family name, Glynne."

1938 Probate

"Sarah Ann Glaze of the GLYNNE ARMS, Himley, Staffordshire, widow, died 16 December 1937. Probate Birmingham 28 February to *George Harry Glaze*, licensed victualler, *William Henry Glaze*, manufacturers clerk, and Francis Evans, schoolmaster. Effects £1,688 12s 5d."

Walsall Observer 15/4/1939 - Advert

"Pearson's Motorway's Ltd.

Programme Sunday Evening, April 16th. See the countryside at its best.....

Kinver and the Crooked House, Fare 2/6.

Tours leave Pleck 5-45pm, Station Street 6pm, Bloxwich 6-10pm."

1939 Register

Himley – GLYNNE ARMS

[1] *George H. Glaze*, date of birth 3/12/1908, public house licensee, single, ARP warden;

[2] Comfort Cook, dob 19/8/1899, domestic service, single:

1939 Probate

"*George Harry Glaze* of the GLYNNE ARMS, Himley, Staffordshire, died 4 July 1939. Probate Birmingham 4 August to *William Henry Glaze*, licensed victualler, and Joseph Howard Higgs, solicitor. Effects £1,937 11s 11d."

Walsall Observer 27/7/1940

"Organised by Mr. I. Morgan, secretary of the Veterans Club associated with Cannock Community Centre, an enjoyable outing was held on Monday, when thirty-four members went by motor coach through Walsall, Wednesbury and Dudley to the Crooked House at Himley. There they stayed for a hour, keenly interested in the peculiarities of the crooked house. The return journey was via Penn and Wolverhampton."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/11/1940

"A family record of more than a hundred years ownership was broken yesterday when the licensed premises, the GLYNNE ARMS, Himley, widely known as the Crooked House, was purchased from Mr. J. Glaze by Johnson and Phipps Limited, Wolverhampton....."

Birmingham Mail 2/12/1940

"The famous Crooked House Inn at Himley, Worcestershire, has changed hands after being in the possession of the one family for more than 100 years. The GLYNNE ARMS, to give it its proper name, was originally built true to plumb-line; but one side dropped several feet owing to the subsidence caused by mining. The house was so well built that it withstood collapse.

From the inside, however, strange effects are produced, and the law of gravity seems no longer to apply. A marble placed on a table appears to roll uphill and a grandfather clock ticks on, although the case looks to be inches out of the vertical.

Thousands of holiday-makers have visited the inn, which is probably the most photographed licensed house in the country."

Evening Despatch 9/9/1946

“Thirty-six men had a narrow escape when a Midland Red single decker bus, in which they were travelling, overturned after striking a four-foot embankment in a narrow lane leading off Himley Road, near Himley, yesterday. Six of the men suffered cuts and bruises for which they received treatment in Dudley Guest Hospital. The whole party later continued their journey to the Crooked House, Himley, in another vehicle.”

Staffordshire Newsletter 29/5/1948 - Advert

“Happy Days.

Please Note. The undermentioned Tours may be altered from time to time by additions, but this will enable you to make advanced arrangements.....

Sunday, June 20th. Evening Tour. Himley Crooked House.

Depart am Gnosall 5-45. Depart am Newport 6-00. Fare 3/6.

If it is Luxury Coaches you require consult Happy Days for all types of Parties, Works and Club Outings, etc. We specialise in Luxury Travel.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/8/1952

“Plans to prevent the Crooked House at Himley, near Dudley, from becoming more crooked have been drawn up by a Wolverhampton architect. The house, otherwise the GLYNN ARMS, is on the tilt – and it is feared the tilt is getting worse. The landlord, 52-year-old Mr. *Samuel Green*, tests the tilt by letting a bottle roll ‘up’ a table in the bar. He is convinced that over the past nine years the bottle has steadily increased its speed.

Forty years ago land subsidence made the house lean nearly four feet out of upright. To prevent it leaning further, architect Mr. Albert Hartwell has planned a new ‘umbrella’ roof which will be supported on concealed stanchions to take the weight off the walls. ‘The house is quite sound – there is not a crack anywhere in the walls,’ he told the *Birmingham Gazette* last night. ‘The new cantilever roof of cedar shingles will weigh less than the old tiled roof. The improvements will not alter the appearance of the house and the stanchions will be inside and not noticeable. One wonders how the house manages to stand up, for it is contrary to all architectural laws. In all my experience I have never seen another like it. It slid with strata movement hundreds of yards below the surface. Our concern is to prevent it becoming in any way unsafe.’

Despite the angle of the house, the landlord’s main worry is initial-carving visitors who deface tables and walls. So much damage has been done to a large old-fashioned table in the smoke room that it has been planed down ready for re-polishing. ‘It has come to the stage when I have to keep the smoke-room door locked and I only open it to people I can trust,’ said Mr. *Green*. ‘This initial-carving is only done when I am serving in the bar. I think it is a shame the way people treat the place. A short time ago someone interfered with an oil lamp – we have no electricity or gas – and nearly set the place alight.’

Mr. *Green* has also to contend with rumour-mongers. One party from Rochdale he said, arrived to see ‘the ruins.’ ‘They said,’ Mr. *Green* protested, ‘that they had been told at Wolverhampton that the place had crumbled away and no longer existed as a public house.’

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/10/1953

“For 10 years Mr. *Samuel Green*, landlord of the GLYNNE ARMS, Himley – the Crooked House – has drunk water from an outside surface well and used it for washing glasses. Now, however, Seisdon Rural Council, afraid that the well might become fouled, is to take ‘vigorous action’ to stop Mr. *Green* using the water. The clerk to the council, Mr. L. E. Tarples, last night refused to disclose what steps were proposed, saying, ‘If I made any statement it might upset the action we are taking.’ But regulars will be pleased to know that the council has no power to close the public house. Coun. Leonard Multon said, ‘The council could not close the house, but I should say that if it was satisfied there was a danger to public health and the situation was not remedied, the matter would be brought to the attention of the Licensing Justices.’

The Crooked House attracts visitors from all over the Midlands because land subsidence has caused it to lean 4ft out of vertical. Part of the free amusement for patrons is seeing bottles roll ‘up’ an inclined table, an illusion caused by the buildings tilt.”

Letter 28/1/1954

From Johnson & Phipps Limited, Brewers, Wine & Spirit Merchants, to D. Simpkins Esq, Dennis Brewery, Brierley Hill.

“Dear Sir. Further to our conversation this morning, we are prepared to sell the GLYNNE ARMS for the sum of £3,250.

This offer remains open until February 26th 1954.”

[The letter is annotated by hand ‘sold W&D.’]

Evening Despatch 1/3/1954

“The GLYNNE ARMS HOTEL, Himley, better known as the Crooked House has been sold to Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewery Co. Ltd., who are endeavouring to keep this famous house. The new owners have only 14 days in which to save this old inn, where bottles and glasses roll up hill and customers walk with a permanent lean – all due to mining subsidence. At Brierley Hill Brewster Sessions a few weeks ago the magistrates adjourned until today the renewal of the license of the crooked house, then owned by Johnson and Phipps Ltd., Wolverhampton brewers, because of structural deficiencies.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/3/1954

“The queerest of all English inns, the GLYNNE ARMS, at Himley, better known as the Crooked House, is in danger of losing its license. An application for the renewal of the license was adjourned for a second time at Brierley Hill yesterday because of structural defects. The inn, said Mr. A. L. S. Todd, presiding, would have to be brought up to a required standard before the Justices would be sympathetic towards the application.

Mr. J. M. C. Higgs said the inn had recently been bought by Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Limited, who proposed to make a number of structural improvements. Adjourning the application for a further 14 days so that the company’s architect could meet a surveyor on the site, Mr. Todd said the Justices could give no guarantee that the company would not be wasting its money and time. Afterwards, Mr. Martin Barnsley, the brewery’s housing manager, explained that at present the inn was without electricity or a modern water supply. ‘But we plan to instal these services,’ he said, ‘and rebuild the gable-end on the north side. We are doing everything we can to save the license.’”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/3/1954

“The fate of the GLYNNE ARMS, near here – it is known as England’s queerest inn – will be decided by the licensing justices today at Brierley Hill. More than 40 years ago land subsidence gave the house a four ft lean. Customers delight in rolling bottles ‘up’ a tilted table. The inn is described as the Crooked House. Twice within the past month the justices have refused to renew the license, which expires in April, on the ground that the premises are unsafe. vThe owners, the Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewery Company, have made plans for structural improvements in efforts to save the inn. Electricity will be installed and there will be an improved water supply. The council are satisfied with the plans.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/3/1954

“An application for renewal of the license of the GLYNNE ARMS – the Crooked House at Himley where walls and floors lean at odd angles – was granted yesterday by the Brierley Hill Licensing Bench, which has twice adjourned the matter because of structural and sanitary defects. Mr. J. M. C. Higgs, for the new owners, the Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewery Company, explained how the house would be made safe against the subsidence which gives it its non de plume. The new plans would preserve the crooked appearance of the house.”

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 14/11/1954

“Britain’s queerest inn, the Crooked House, at Himley, in Staffordshire, is getting a new look. Its proper name is the GLYNNE ARNS. To make it safe, a brick buttress has been added to the sunken end. A steel frame support will be added inside, and a new lightweight roof will be a further improvement. Water has been laid on – until recently this was drawn from a nearby well. Electric light is replacing the swinging oil lamps, which are trimmed by Eileen Green, daughter of the licensee. A roofed terrace will be added at the back for summer visitors.

Mrs. Ellen Green, wife of the licensee, told me, ‘Very few alterations will be carried out to the interior. But the bar counter will be made bigger and a new door will lead to the smoke room. These alterations will enable us to keep a better watch on initial-carvers. Thousands of names have been scribbled on walls and carved on furniture. Parts of a valuable old grand-father clock have been carried away as souvenirs.’”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/3/1956

“What is reputed to be the queerest inn in England has been saved from losing its license by undergoing extensive repairs to keep the building crooked. It has cost Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewery Company about £10,000 to preserve the GLYNNE ARMS at Himley, near Dudley, better known as the Crooked House.

At the area licensing sessions more than a year ago, the brewery was told that the inn might lose its license. The house, which became distorted years ago by mining subsidence, lacked at that time proper lighting, sanitation and water services. Part of the building, the gable end, was considered unsafe. So, to save the license, the brewery management decided to give a building firm its strangest job – re-roofing, repairing and altering a crooked house to keep it crooked. Workmen found it a most unusual task. Their scaffolding appeared to be on the lean when in fact it was upright, and their plumb lines read correct against walls that looked as though they were on the slope. The work has now been completed and the men have left the inn to the curiosity of visitors.”

Staffordshire Newsletter 7/6/1958 - Advert

“Greatrex Motor Coaches Ltd. Newport Road, Stafford. Tel. 196.

Please Note. All coaches will depart from the Garage, Newport Road, Stafford, unless otherwise stated, on the following dates and times.....

Sunday 8th, 6-30pm (Mkt. Sq.) Circular Tour via the Crooked House at Himley, 3/6.”

Sports Argus 3/11/1962

“Motor-Cycling.....

Tomorrow’s Event Kinver Auto Trial, starting GLYNE ARMS (Crooked House), Himley. First man away 10.30am.”

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 16/10/1966

Into the Black Country by Vivian Bird.

“.....The GLYNNE ARMS, alias the Crooked House, owes its fame to mining subsidence. You reach it past Baggeridge Pool, along a narrow winding lane densely hedge-fringed, with the burble of Bob’s Brook in your ears. At the lane’s end, against a field with grazing cattle, stands – or better, leans – the Crooked House, heavily buttressed. The front porch came up to hit me like the deck of a ship in a storm. At the Crooked House, however you come out, you stagger in drunkenly.

Mrs. *Florence Love* got up from playing cribbage with some lunchtime regulars to show me the wonders of her pub – a golf ball running ‘uphill’ along a ledge, a bottle rolling ‘up’ a table and a grandfather clock apparently many degrees out of the vertical. She also offered me 5s to stand upright with heels against a wall, which simple feat proved impossible as the angle of the wall pushed me away.....

Beauty, the pet goose of Mrs. *Love*, and well-known to customers at the GLYNNE ARMS, has a game wing which gives her a list as she walks, to match the list of the pub.”

Birmingham Mail 25/1/1974

“The Wolverley M.C.C. have a trial on Sunday from the Crooked House, Himley (off the Kidderminster-Hagley Road), 10.30am.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 19/3/1983

“A Dudley licensee may be sacked by her brewery bosses after running one of the Black Country’s most famous pubs for the past 18 years. Mrs. *Florence Love*, aged 60, of the Crooked House, Lower Gornal, says Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries have told her she must leave the pub by the end of the year. The move follows the death of Mrs. *Love*’s 59-year-old husband *Arthur* in December last year. The brewery say they are not prepared to allow Mrs. *Love* to keep the pub as a tenant and say she should quit because she is past retirement age.

Mrs. *Love*, whose parents and grand-parents ran pubs at Gornal, says she is determined to keep the licensing trade in the family. She claims she can run the pub with the help of her sons Ralph, aged 35, and Ian, aged 32, and her daughter Heather, aged 24, who live there. Mrs. *Love* said, ‘I have lived in a Banks’s house for 54 years now and I don’t intend to give up the Crooked House at the drop of a hat. The pub is my home and I don’t see why I should be forced to leave when I can run it perfectly well with my children’s help.’ ‘The brewery say they are determined to bring in a manager for the Crooked House at the end of the year so my future is still very uncertain,’ Mrs. *Love* added.

A spokesman for Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries was unavailable for comment.”

1984 Probate

“*Arthur John Love* of the GLYNNE ARMS, Coppice Mill, Himley Road, Dudley, died 24 December 1982. Administration Birmingham 3 February. Effects £55,000.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 3/3/1984

“Mr. *Arthur John Love*, of the GLYNNE ARMS, Coppice Mill, Himley Road, Dudley, who died on December 24, 1982, intestate, left estate value at £55,000 gross (£53, 980 net).”

Sandwell Evening Mail 2/6/1984 - Advert

“Weekend Bar Staff required at the GLYNNE ARMS (Crooked House), Himley.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 31/8/1984

“The unusual sight of a ball bearing which can roll uphill has been entertaining customers at the GLYNNE ARMS, Himley, for years.. Now new licensee *Gary Ensor* put the strange phenomenon at the pub to good use by raising hundreds of pounds for charity. Every time customers have a go at rolling a ball up the back of a sloping bar bench he asks them for a donation for the blind. The pub has already filled one gallon whisky bottle with cash and has now handed over two more to Wolverhampton, Dudley and District Institute for the Blind. The latest presentation of £220 was made to Institute Appeals organiser Albert Butler, by *Gary* and his wife Dawn, and Banks’s Brewery senior area manager *Richard Horrell*. Mr. Butler said, ‘*Gary* and Dawn have only been in the pub since March and have already raised £376. It is a tremendous effort.’”

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/11/1984

“A special series of Black Country breaks which could bring the borough a £12,000-plus bonanza has been unveiled by Dudley leisure chiefs. Two real ale weekends, a crystal glass tour and a fossils and geology weekend are just a sample of the variety of attractions on offer in Dudley next year.

Mr. Dave Radmore, Dudley’s tourist officer, said the borough was planning its biggest ever programme of special event weekends to boost tourism. The weekends, all priced around £55 a head to include all meals at the town’s STATION HOTEL, kick off on March 22 with a real ale break involving trips to the Hanson’s, Simpkins and Holden’s breweries, and the Crooked House pub and the Black Country Museum.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/12/1984

“Heartless thieves have made off with more than £250 from a spate of thefts involving charity bottles of cash intended for the blind. Officials from Wolverhampton, Dudley and District Institute for the Blind have described the thefts as ‘despicable.’

The thieves struck first when a gallon bottle of coins donated by customers was stolen from the Crooked House pub in Lower Gornal. Blind Institute appeals organiser Mr. Albert Butler said about £70 had been collected towards Christmas treats for blind and partially sighted people throughout the Black Country.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/10/1985

“Flooding brought havoc to homes, businesses and hospitals as storms swept across the West Midlands. The region’s fire service was called to 30 cases of flooding last night, as half an inch of rain fell between 6pm and 8pm.....

Staff at one of the Black Country’s most famous pubs, the GLYNNE ARMS at Himley Road, Lower Gornal, were mopping up this morning after rainwater severely flooded the cellar. Firemen pumped hundreds of gallons of water from the pub, known as the Crooked House. Landlord Mr. *Gary Ensor* and his wife Dawn were trapped inside the GLYNNE ARMS as water rose to almost six feet in the cellar. Mr. *Ensor*, who had to close the pub, said, ‘It was like Niagara Falls. Before the flooding got too bad I was able to get outdoor benches into the pub before they were washed away in the deluge.’”

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/4/1986

“One of the Black Country’s best known pubs had part of the roof destroyed and thousands of pounds damage caused in a fire. The blaze wrecked half the roof at the GLYNNE ARMS, Himley’s 200-year-old Crooked House, which has remained closed to customers since incident on Saturday afternoon. Police said the blaze damaged two bedrooms and destroyed furniture and belongings. It may have been caused by an accumulation of soot in an open chimney in the bar.

Licensee Mr. *Gary Ensor* said, ‘I was in the kitchen when someone knocked the window and said there was a fire. We thought it was a practical joke but when we went outside we saw the smoke and flames and phoned the fire brigade straight away. Had someone not knocked the window God knows what could have happened. The whole place might have gone up.’

Mr. Horace Jones, director of managed houses for Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries said, ‘We are still assessing the damage but it will cost many thousands of pounds to put it right. Fortunately all the architectural features that make the building famous are unaffected.’

Firemen from Dudley, Wombourne and Sedgley fought the outbreak at the historic building. It gets its nickname as a result of natural subsidence over the past century due to coal mining excavations and the nature of the underground clay base.

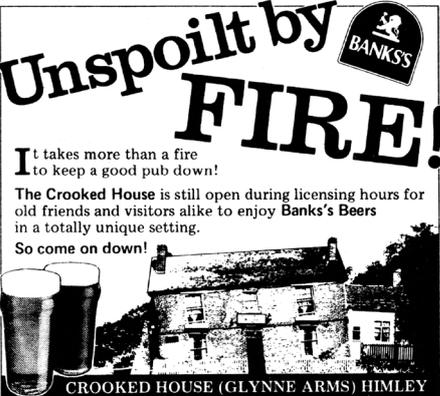
Inspector Don Bartlett of Wombourne police said, ‘The living quarters were badly damaged and the fire brigade had to work in the bar. Brewery officials decided to close it until the beginning of the week. There are no suspicious circumstances. It is believed the fire was caused by an accumulation of soot in the chimney.’”

Birmingham Mail 1/5/1986 - Advert

“Unspoilt by Fire! It takes more than a fire to keep a good pub down!

The Crooked House is still open during licensing hours for old friends and visitors alike to enjoy Banks’s Beers in a totally unique setting. So come on down!

Crooked House (GLYNNE ARMS) Himley.”



Unspoilt by 
FIRE!

It takes more than a fire to keep a good pub down!

The Crooked House is still open during licensing hours for old friends and visitors alike to enjoy Banks's Beers in a totally unique setting.

So come on down!

CROOKED HOUSE (GLYNNE ARMS) HIMLEY

Sandwell Evening Mail 31/7/1986

“One of the Black Country’s best known pubs, which was involved in a major fire three months ago, is in line for a £200,000 facelift to cope with increasing demand from summer drinkers. The GLYNNE ARMS, Himley’s 200-year-old Crooked House is due to have new lounge and patio garden conservatory if plans are passed by South Staffordshire District Council.

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries regional manager Mr. Derek Andrew said, ‘The Crooked House is certainly one of our most popular pubs and it tends to get rather chaotic at this time of year, because of its unique character. We are trying to upgrade facilities by building a high quality lounge at the rear, a glazed garden conservatory, new toilets and improved car parking.’

The historic building’s roof was wrecked by fire in April and builders are now repairing it.

The extension plan was due to be discussed by Dudley planning committee at a meeting today after councillors were told of the scheme in a consultation brief.”

A new lounge and indoor toilets were built as part of a £300,000 renovation, and were opened on 6th August 1987.

Sandwell Evening Mail 28/8/1987

“Around the Black Country. Crooked House pub at Himley.

.....Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewery has just spent £300,000 on a new 1,000 sq ft lounge extension at the rear and refurbishing the old part of the pub. The refit also includes new fencing, kitchen and toilets and a bigger car park to accommodate the increasing custom. Manager *Gary Ensor*, aged 36, and his wife Dawn, aged 27, say business has trebled since the renovation started in January, and they need another ten staff to cope fully.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 12/8/1987

“Motorists leaving two Black Country pubs had a nasty surprise when they got to their cars – thieves had stolen their windscreens. The thefts from Ford Escorts happened at the GLYNNE ARMS, better known as the Crooked House, and the DUDLEY ARMS, both at Himley, near Dudley.

Superintendent Cyril Hurmson, of Wombourne police, said today, ‘It is a completely new one on me. The attackers stole stereo players and other contents from inside the two cars, both of which were four or five years old. But for some reason they skilfully removed the windscreens without breaking the glass and took them. There is little doubt the raids are connected and I can only surmise that the raiders may have a market for Ford Escort windscreens. Both raids happened during opening hours last night. We feel some other customers must have seen something and urge them to contact us.’”

In 1989 ‘Nice Work,’ a three part drama serial starring Warren Clarke and Haydn Gwynne, was partly filmed here. A number of local residents were used as extras in the production.

Sandwell Evening Mail 12/4/1991

“Planners in Dudley have pledged to help secure the future of one of the Black Country’s most famous pubs – despite a scheme to open-cast mine on land nearby. The GLYNNE ARMS at Himley, popularly known as the Crooked House because it stands at an angle, should not be allowed to deteriorate while mining goes ahead, the borough’s planning and architecture committee was told last night. Councillors gave permission to Baggeridge Brick of Sedgley to mine clay on land to the south of the pub. Coun. Bill Webb said, ‘We must monitor this mining work because if we don’t this unique pub will die. We should make sure that the approach to the Crooked House and the local wildlife are protected. This mining will be going on for years and we don’t want it to affect a pub which is known throughout the world.’”

Sandwell Evening Mail 20/6/1991

“A famous Black Country pub was evacuated last night after an automatic gas detector discovered a build-up of methane in the premises. About 25 customers left the Crooked House at Himley for a short time while fire crews checked the pub, which has the alarm because of the proximity of old coal measures.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 6/7/1992

“Midland Pub of the Year. These are the pubs that you’ve entered for our top title.....
GLYNNE ARMS, Himley, Dudley.”

It was renamed CROOKED HOUSE. [1993]

Leaflet c.1990s

“The world famous gravity-defying CROOKED HOUSE is a treat for all the family.

Great Food. Children’s play area and free parking. Traditional Black Country Ales. Extensive Menu. Just 3 miles from the Black Country Museum.

Located in Himley, near Dudley, West Midlands, lies a pub that’s really crooked. Built originally as a farmhouse back in 1765 the CROOKED HOUSE now stands 4ft lower on one side than the other, after it took a bit of a tumble! Known originally as the GLYNNE ARMS (and also the Siden House) the pub was named after Sir Stephen Glynne on whose estate the pub originally stood and who was a brother-in-law to former Prime Minister, the Right Honourable W. Gladstone.

The subsidence happened because during the mid 1800s mine shafts were dug underneath which subsequently collapsed. Only with the help of some supporting girders and reinforced buttresses does the CROOKED HOUSE manage to maintain its upright position! Condemned in the 1940s Banks’s then bought the pub and restored it into the popular tourist attraction it is today, welcoming visitors from around the world.

The pub is also haunted, firstly in the lounge by a serving wench called Polly, and by a small girl in close proximity to the ladies toilets.....

The CROOKED HOUSE, Coppice Mill, Himley, Dudley.”

Birmingham Mail 7/11/1994

“Clairvoyant and Psychic Events.....

Monday 7th November CROOKED HOUSE, Himley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/8/1995

“Midland drinkers had time on their hands yesterday when last orders at the bar on a Sunday lunchtime became a thing of the past. Many people took to the change in the law, which allows all-day drinking on the Sabbath for the first time in almost a century, like ducks to water.....

In Himley, south Staffordshire, couples and families enjoyed an afternoon out in the sunshine in the garden of the CROOKED HOUSE pub.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/11/1995

“An 11-week-old baby was barred from one of the Midlands most famous pubs – because he has no teeth. Liam Jones was taken to the CROOKED HOUSE, at Himley, near Dudley, by his parents and grandparents. But the family were told they could not stay for Sunday lunch because of the licensing laws. Liam’s parents, Mr. Darren Jones and Tracy, had travelled from their home in Runcorn, Cheshire, with his aunt Mrs. Hayley Jones to visit the baby’s grandparents Mike and Judy Jones, who live in Stourbridge. Mrs. Judy Jones said, ‘We went to the CROOKED HOUSE because it is such an interesting place. But we were told children could only go into the pub if they were having a meal. We were dumbfounded. We pointed out Liam is too young to eat any solids and doesn’t even have any teeth. But it did not do any good. We went to another pub, which served us,’ she said.

Pub manager Mr. *Gary Ensor* said, ‘I know nothing of this party being turned away and I am sorry if they were upset. But my understanding of my children’s license is that children can only go into the specially-designated family area, accompanied by adults for the purpose of having a meal. It goes without saying that if a baby is too young to eat solid foods, he could not conform to those terms.’”

Solihull News 24/1/1997 - Advert

“Johnsons Coach Travel. Day Excursions.....

CROOKED HOUSE, Himley – where bottled roll up hill!!! Thursday 6 February, £8 50.”

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 20/7/1997

“Our guide to the best in Sunday lunches. By Alan Durrant.

The CROOKED HOUSE, Coppice Hill [sic], Himley, Dudley.

Chef: Chris Halford.

Price Range: A modest Gornal Smokey (a big, spicy sausage flavoured with cheese and with chips, French bread and salad) will fill you up for £3.25. Top of the range is £4.95 for an 8oz rump steak. A Sunday roast costs £4.25.

Vegetarian Options: Generally two each day (broccoli and cauliflower bake, for example, and tagliatelle).

Children’s Menu: sausage, fish fingers or a beefburger in a bun. All come with chips and baked beans for £2.45.....

It was popularly known as the CROOKED HOUSE when for years it was officially the GLYNNE ARMS, so the brewery sensibly changed the name.

There is a splendid conservatory, all on an even keel, where you can enjoy lunch. You order at the bar and are served at your table.

My roast turkey was tender and the sage and onion stuffing had not come out of a packet. My wife was pleased with her steak and kidney pie – home-made to a secret recipe, the menu said – and we just had room left for spotted dick (£1.85) and bread and butter pudding (£1.90).

Total Cost: £11.90. Very good value.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/11/1999

“A dog which is helping to rouse a man out of a coma has been reunited with its owner after disappearing from a pub car park. Nurse Julia Williams was devastated after two-year-old boxer Layla was snatched by thieves who broke into her Transit van parked at the CROOKED HOUSE, Himley near Dudley. She distributed posters displaying a picture of the dog and now Layla is back with her after the appeal paid off. She travelled up from her Middlesex home to recover the dog after being contacted by a couple who cared for the pet after they found it wandering the streets in Tipton. ‘Layla is fine and I am delighted to have her back,’ Julia said. Her brother Robert, aged 44, has been in a coma in a London hospital for six weeks after a motorcycle accident. Layla has been helping to rouse him from the coma by licking his hand.”

Brett Harrison was born c.1972.

He was married to Amanda.

They and their family emigrated to Australia in 2008.

Express & Star 31/7/2009

“A cockerel on death row has been given an 11th hour reprieve and a turnaround in his fortunes after finding a new home at a landmark Black Country pub. Eggy had only days to find a new home after his owners were forced to give him up when his crowing ruffled neighbours feathers. But he is now set to live out the rest of his days in luxury at the CROOKED HOUSE pub, in Gornal Wood. Bosses heard of the young rooster’s plight and had planned to set up a farmyard area to the rear of the pub for some time. So they decided to make Eggy the first member of their planned menagerie. A makeshift home has been set up for the cockerel in the short-term, but a large coop is already on order which will be his new home. The pub will also be purchasing some feathered friends for Eggy in the near future. The cockerel had been taken in by owners of Upper Gornal’s Corn Shop, while the hunt started to find him a new home. A customer from Sedgley asked them to find him a new home, as they could no longer keep him because the noise he made upset the neighbours.”

Express & Star 31/10/2009

“Taking over something of historical importance and daring to change it is always going to be a rather big gamble. I’d wager then, that brothers *Wayne* and *Jason Penn* might be the betting types, writes *The Insider*. The pair took rather a big chance when, 12 months ago, as the traditional British pub suffered its most depressing era with dozens shutting every day, they decided to go into the business with their life savings and family’s financial backing. And they didn’t happen to choose just any old pub to run either. Black Country born and bred, the *Penns* set their sights on the CROOKED HOUSE, one of the region’s most unusual buildings with a history stretching back 250 years. It was a decision that could have been disastrous. Many a once decent boozier has fallen victim to new owners who come along to ‘freshen it up’ or ‘give it a new feel’ transforming popular spots beyond recognition and completely losing sight of their appeal in the process. Thankfully, the passion and foresight of the *Penns* seems to have paid off. The pair, who were brought up a few miles away in Upper Gornal, have decided to stick to traditional values, making their new venture pay homage to all things Black Country, without being at all contrived.....”

Dudley News 9/11/2012

“To mark the first anniversary of holding a civil wedding ceremony licence, the CROOKED HOUSE has a £4,500 wedding package up for grabs and all couples have to do is tuck into a main course in the pub during November, to be entered into the competition.

The prize for the winners is a ceremony and reception at the quirky 18th century pub, located off Himley Road, which will include arrival drinks, three course wedding breakfast and drinks package for 50 guests, a £250 bar tab and a hog roast for 100 people in the evening. The winner will be announced on January 17 and the prize can be booked anytime during 2013, apart from Saturdays in August.

Wayne Penn, who runs the pub with his brother *Jason*, said, ‘We wanted to show our customers some appreciation for their support with the wedding service and look forward to presenting the prize in the New Year.’”

Dudley News 8/6/2021

“MPs have teamed up to try to take action against fly-tipping near to landmark Himley pub the CROOKED HOUSE. South Staffordshire MP *Gavin Williamson* met with Dudley North MP *Marco Longhi* on Friday June 4 to discuss an action plan to solve the ongoing issue with fly-tipping, which affects both constituencies. Mr. *Williamson* says he has made clear to South Staffordshire District Council the urgent need to stamp out the illegal dumping of waste near the long established and popular pub.....”

Express & Star 27/1/2023

“A wonky pub and tourist attraction has been given a new lease of life after being given a much-needed makeover. The CROOKED HOUSE in Himley has been a focal point in the community since the 1830s due to its unique look, with one side of the building standing at four feet (1.2 metres) lower than the other due to 19th century mining subsidence. The pub has been a popular stop for tourists keen to get an image of the slanted pub, but it had been left looking dated towards the end of 2022 due to thinning and discoloured roof tiles. *Matt Cliff*, of *Vintage Leadwork & Roofing*, lead the work on fixing the roof and said the job was a dream one for him, as his parents and uncles had all been to the pub in the past.....

Lee Goodchild, who is tenant and co-manager of the pub, said an inspection by health inspectors in September had found that work had needed to be done to fix the roof. He said, ‘We first looked at it in September and realised that work needed to be done, so we had the inspection and found there was asbestos in the roof, plus a lot of work that needed doing around the electrics and waterworks. We spoke to *Marston’s* about getting contractors in to do the

work on the roof and that led to Vintage Leadwork & Roofing as they had used them before and they said they were the one of the best for the job.’

The work by Vintage Leadwork & Roofing saw the old tiles completely removed alongside asbestos, then new tiles added to the roof matching the previous tiles as closely as possible. Mr. *Goodchild* said the work started in December and was completed over a six-week period, and spoke warmly of the work done by the team from Vintage Leadwork & Roofing.

He said, ‘The only thing that it really affected in that time, as we didn’t lose any trade, was that people couldn’t really take photos of the pub, as they didn’t want to take pics of scaffolding. The majority of the work was done in January as that’s the quieter time for us and I have to say I’m very impressed with the work they’ve done. They’ve just done a great and job and I said to the guys who were working here that they did a great job and really kept the character of what is an iconic building which is known worldwide’ “

Express & Star 9/3/2023

“The unique CROOKED HOUSE at Himley Road between Dudley and Himley is one of 61 pubs being sold off by the Marston’s group. The tourist attraction has only just been given a new lease of life after being given a much-needed makeover. The building has been a focal point in the community since the 1830s, when it was the GLYNNE ARMS. One side of the building stands at 4ft lower than the other due to 19th Century mining subsidence.

Marston’s is selling off the pubs after a review of its UK estate. The Wolverhampton-based group has instructed business property adviser and pub specialist Christie & Co to market the selection of freehold pubs in England and Wales. It is known as Project Aramis. The sales would take the national pub company’s estate below 1,400 properties. The pubs are said to be part of Marston’s non-core properties and are available to purchase individually, in small groups or as a group package. It is thought the package will attract interest from the likes of Red Oak Taverns, the national pub operator founded by Aaron Brown and Mark Grunnell in 2011, and Valiant Pub Company. Both companies have already acquired pubs from Marston’s over the past 12 months.”

The Times 10/3/2023

Wonkiest pub slips onto the market

“It is so wonky it has been nicknamed the Black Country’s answer to the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Now there are fears that the CROOKED HOUSE, an 18th-century pub where pint glasses slide off seemingly level surfaces, could be calling last orders amid the cost of living crisis. Marston’s Brewery has announced that the pub in Himley, near Dudley in the West Midlands, is being sold as part of a plan to reduce the number of venues it owns, despite recently being renovated.....

The left side of the pub is about 4ft lower than the right and, according to *Discover Britain* magazine, ‘the sash windows are all 16 degrees off-centre, more than double the lean of the Tower of Pisa.’ A sign outside the pub explains that its crooked walls create ‘optical illusions including glasses slowly sliding across ‘level’ tables and marbles appearing to roll up hill.’

The farmhouse was turned into a pub in 1830 before being condemned in the 1940s and scheduled for demolition. However, it was bought by Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries, which changed its name to Marston’s in 2007, and made safe using buttresses and girders.”

Express & Star 28/3/2023

“The unique CROOKED HOUSE pub, which it was revealed was to be sold earlier this month, has been given a guide price of £675,000 A spokesperson for Christie & Co said, ‘The pub has three trading areas including a separate restaurant. Externally there is car parking to the front with 20 spaces, a kids play area, beer garden and allotments to the rear.’”

Express & Star 9/7/2023

“The landmark CROOKED HOUSE public house has shut its doors after a burglary in which tens of thousands of pounds worth of damage was caused. The landlord of the iconic leaning watering hole between Dudley and Himley, *Lee Goodchild*, took to social media this weekend to explain that due to a break-in at the site on June 25, and with the building being on the market, the doors were now closed. He said that someone had broken into the pub and caused ‘tens of thousands of pounds’ worth of damage to windows, doors, furniture, bathrooms, the kitchen and spirit bottles. Police officers from the South Staffordshire policing unit are investigating the break-in.

The Facebook post stated, ‘To all customers and guests. Unfortunately due to the damage done after the break-in and now Marston’s sale of the site, I have been told I can no longer trade or operate at this site. This is happening

so quick and is as much of a shock to myself than it is to everyone else. I would like to thank those that have supported us since September last year. But again as most would know this was and is totally out of my control and far from something I wanted to happen. Again many thanks. The CROOKED HOUSE – LSG Bars Ltd.’

Another previous post stated, ‘Unfortunately the pub was broken into late Sunday evening and severely damaged internally and externally. The person has now been arrested. The repairs may take up to two weeks to get sorted so we will remain closed for food until at least then. We may open sooner for refreshing drinks. We will keep all our customers updated with further notices.’”

Express & Star 28/7/2023

“Landmark Black Country pub the CROOKED HOUSE has been sold for alternative use and is unlikely to open its doors to drinkers again.....

In recent years the CROOKED HOUSE has struggled to attract the amount of custom it once did and in recent years its location has become a target for fly-tippers; repairs also need doing to the access road approaching it, and it is believed Marstons were reluctant to keep it open for those reasons. In July it was forced to close its doors when tens of thousands of pounds of damage was caused in a break-in.”

Daily Telegraph 6/8/2023

“Police are investigating a ‘suspicious’ blaze that destroyed ‘Britain’s wonkiest pub’ just weeks after it was sold to developers. The CROOKED HOUSE pub in Himley in the Black Country became an unlikely tourist attraction thanks to its uneven walls, floors and surfaces. For decades, customers flocked to the 18th-century hostelry, fascinated by the illusion that allowed them to roll a coin uphill along the bar. In recent years it also became a popular wedding venue for people wanting to tie the knot at a location with a quirky backdrop. But there are fears the historic building will now have to be demolished after fire tore through it on Saturday night, leaving it a smouldering shell.

The blaze comes just days after the brewery confirmed that the CROOKED HOUSE had been sold to developers and would never operate as a pub again.

Fire crews were alerted to reports of a blaze at the isolated property just after 10pm on Saturday night. Witnesses said six appliances attended the scene and firefighters battled for more than an hour to bring the flames under control. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service said no one was believed to be inside the building at the time and no injuries had been reported. But Staffordshire Police confirmed that an investigation had been launched in a bid to determine the cause of the fire, amid local reports that it had been started deliberately.....”

Express & Star 7/8/2023

“News of the remains of the CROOKED HOUSE appearing to have been reduced to a pile of rubble has provoked angry comments from people about the swift nature of the demolition and the loss of an historical building. The fire on Saturday night left the Himley pub a hollow shell, with only the exterior of the building still standing, but with people hoping that it could still be preserved and kept in its current form. However, in photos published on a Facebook page, the building appears to have been completely demolished, with rubble lying everywhere, and only the gazebo from the pub still visible. The person responsible for posting the photos said her husband had taken them at around 5.30pm on Monday, but said she felt the building had been knocked down earlier in the day. The entrance to the site was also blocked off, with a large mound of dirt and sod along the road and security guards visible in the area. The blaze which destroyed the historic pub has been described as a ‘tragedy,’ as police and fire investigators continue to work out what caused the fire.....”

Express & Star 8/8/2023

“The destruction of the CROOKED HOUSE has been deemed a wrongful demolition. South Staffordshire Council has said the total destruction of iconic pub, after it was gutted by fire over the weekend, was not lawful and that investigations into the cause of the blaze will continue. The comment comes amid public outcry, with videos of the pub off Himley Road, between Himley and Dudley, being knocked down, and photos of the resulting rubble being shared widely on social media. The fire at the building, dating back to 1765, was reported at around 10pm on Saturday, just weeks after pub group Marstons sold the CROOKED HOUSE to a new owner and set it for ‘alternative’ use. Council leader, Roger Lees, said, ‘Our officers carried out a visit to the site yesterday, prior to the demolition of the building. Officers agreed on a programme of works with the landowner’s representative to ensure the safety of the building and the wider site. The agreed course of action included the removal of three elements of the first-floor front elevation only. This was only to avoid the weak parts of the structure from falling. At no point did the

council agree on the demolition of the whole structure nor was this deemed necessary.’ Video posted on social media shows contractors demolishing the building using an excavator. Councillor Lees continued, ‘This council finds the manner in which the situation was managed following the fire completely unacceptable and contrary to instructions provided by our officers. As such, we are currently investigating potential breaches of both the Town and Country Planning Act and the Buildings Act. The steps required by the legislation were not carried out in this case. We have referred these matters to our legal team with a view to taking enforcement action.’

The councillor went on to call the demolition of the building ‘unauthorised’ going on to say that an investigation into the incident will soon start. ‘As soon as we were made aware of the breaches during the demolition, we notified the Health and Safety Executive. We are also liaising with many other relevant statutory bodies, including Historic England, the police and fire services, amongst others. These bodies will take the lead in investigating the issues surrounding the fire, safety of the unauthorised demolition and securing the ongoing safety of the site. Our own investigation is in its early stages and whilst it continues at pace, we ask for time to consider the facts thoroughly to ensure any future actions are meaningful and proportionate.’

The councillor expressed sadness over the loss of the historic building, going on to say that the pub was a ‘heritage asset and important landmark’ in the Black Country. The Councillor ended, ‘The council is incredibly saddened by the loss of the building which, whilst not listed, was a heritage asset and important landmark to the local area and community. Over recent months, the council had been in conversation with the relevant national bodies regarding how best to protect and preserve this important heritage asset.’”

Express & Star 10/8/2023

“Staffordshire Police is now treating the fire that destroyed the famous pub the CROOKED HOUSE as arson. Officers said after a thorough investigation with colleagues at Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service they believe the blaze, which began last Saturday night, was started deliberately. Fire investigation officers visited the site on Himley Road today with a specialist accelerant detection dog to investigate the grounds around the pub.....”

Metro 10/8/2023

“.....Last night it emerged that the pub’s new owner is jet-setting former hairdresser Carly Taylor, 34, whose husband Adam has shares in a landfill firm nearby.”

Times 10/8/2023

“Police are treating the fire that destroyed Britain’s wonkiest pub as arson as it emerged that its new owners had bought and allegedly gutted another traditional pub, near their home in Warwickshire. Police say they ‘continue to engage’ with Carly Taylor, 34, and her husband Adam, 44, after the CROOKED HOUSE, in Himley, near Dudley, burnt down. It was then demolished without permission, weeks after the couple had bought the landmark in Staffordshire.....”

Daily Telegraph 11/8/2023

“The new owners of the CROOKED HOUSE pub hired a digger days before it burnt down and it was used to demolish the building. AT Contracting, owned by Carly Taylor, the woman who bought the historic pub in July, rented the excavator from a plant hire firm a week before the fire, which is being treated as arson. It also emerged that the fire brigade’s attempts to put out the blaze were hampered by a mound of earth that was blocking access to the site when they arrived on Saturday.”

Express & Star 12/8/2023

“Artwork bearing a resemblance to the work of street artist Banksy has been spotted at the site of the CROOKED HOUSE pub. The artwork can be seen on the door of an electricity substation cabin in the car park near the remains of the pub, which was gutted by fire on Saturday August 5 and demolished on Monday to the anger of many. Looking closer at the image, it looks like one of Banksy’s works and is of Keith Flint, the late singer for the Prodigy, best known for the hit Firestarter, and shows a smiling Flint holding up a match. The artwork on the substation cabin is the latest of a number of pieces to go up and around the remains of the 18th century pub, including a number of signs offering commentary about the pub. These signs have comments such as ‘Was bostin, now bosted’ and ‘This is not what I meant when I said down it.’”

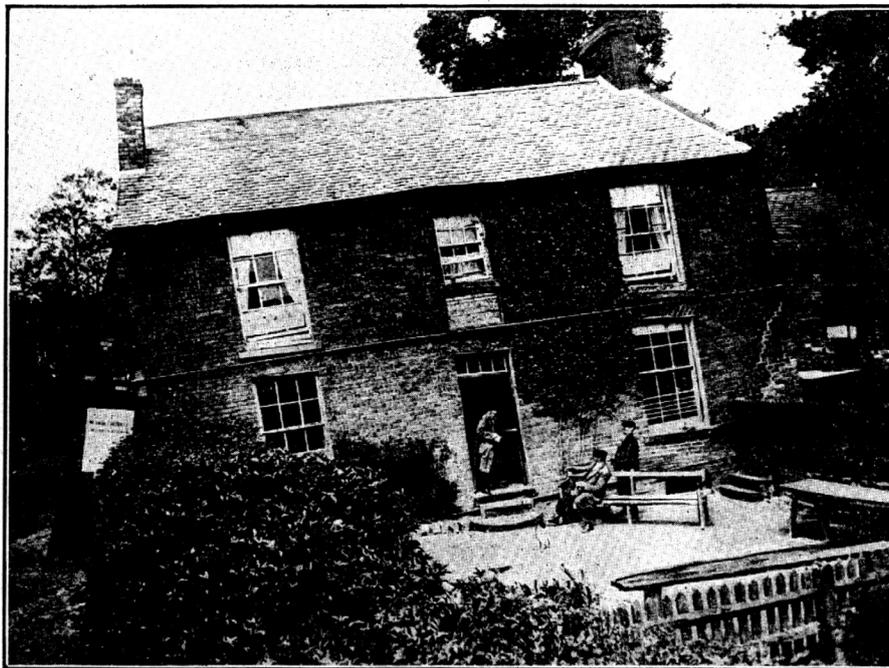
Express & Star 14/8/2023

“The mystery has been solved after people visiting the site of the arson-hit and demolished Crooked House pub wondered if street artist Banksy had paid a visit. The artwork can be seen on the door of an electricity substation cabin in the car park near the remains of the pub, which was gutted by fire on Saturday, August 5, and demolished on Monday to the anger of many. It portrays Keith Flint, the late singer of The Prodigy, best known for the hit Firestarter, and shows a smiling Flint holding up a match. It isn't by the mysterious Banksy though and instead was created by Birmingham-based artist Disney.B32.....”

Daily Telegraph 15/8/2023

“The ‘wonkiest pub in Britain’ may be reconstructed after Historic England said it was considering all possible avenues to revive the building.....”

THE “CROOKED HOUSE” TO BE SOLD.





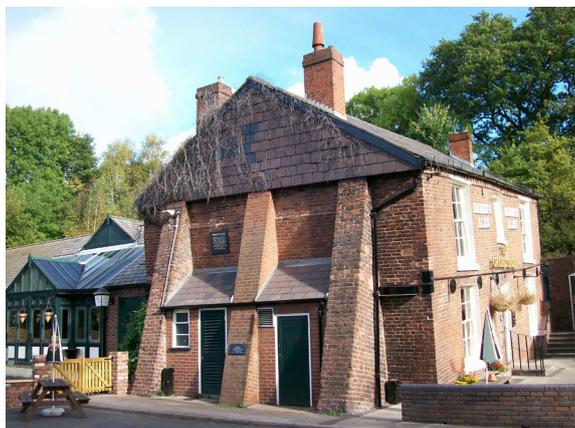
1901



1994



2015



2009



GEORGE H. WILKINSON,
 IMPORTER OF
FOREIGN WINES & SPIRITS,
 HIGH STREET, DUDLEY;
 AND
GLYNNE ARMS, OAK FARM,
 HIMMLEY.
 IMPORTER OF CIGARS.
 1855

**IMPORTANT AND UNRESERVED SALE OF
 PUBLIC HOUSE FIXTURES, CAPITAL LARGE-
 SIZED CASKS,
 STOCK OF SPIRITS, WINES, OLD ALE,
 AND OTHER EFFECTS.**

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

**BY JESSE WRIGHT, on MONDAY NEXT,
 February 16th—the whole of the valuable PUBLIC HOUSE
 FIXTURES, excellent Six-pull BEER MACHINE, LIQUOR
 FOUNTAIN, with seven Taps and Piping; together with LIQUOR
 CASKS, LABELLED BOTTLES, METAL-TOP COUNTER, framed
 back and other Benches, mahogany, oak, deal, and other Tables, capital
 150 gallon wrought iron Boiler, Grate Door, framed Brickwork, with
 large sized brass tap, three various sized cast iron Boilers, twenty
 bushel Mash Tub, pair of excellent Vats, and Piping into Cellar, a
 quantity of Lead Piping, capital light spring Trap and Harness, nearly
 new, 50 splendid iron bound Casks, from 1,000 gallons down to 18 gallons,
 900 gallons of prime old Ale, Working Tub, twelve round Tubs, various
 sizes, Stock of splendid Bottled old Port, Sherry, and other Wines, French
 Brandy, Jamaica Rum, Scotch and Irish Whiskey, six Boxes of prime
 Cigars, three bales of excellent American and one pocket of Kent
 Hops; mahogany four-post and tent Bedsteads, and Hangings, feather
 Beds, Sheets, Blankets, Coverlets, Wash Stands and Wares, Dressing
 Tables and Glasses, mahogany and other Chairs, and numerous other
 Effects, belonging to Mr. Geo. H. Wilkinson, of the Glynne Inn, of
 the Oak Farm, who is giving up the Premises on account of the mining
 operations.**

Sale to commence punctually at Ten o'clock in the morning.

Catalogues may be had on application at the Auctioneer's Offices, top
 of King Street, Dudley; Mr. Wilkinson, Wine and Spirit Vaults, High
 Street; or at the Refreshment Booms, upon the South Staffordshire
 Railway Station.

1857



The Glaze Family

The "Silent Knight"

**MOTOR SERVICES AND COACH
 TOURS.**

1937 MOTOR COACHING.

NEW LUXURY STREAMLINE
 COACHES.

All Radio Equipped by Philco.

THE SMARTEST COACHES ON THE
 ROAD.

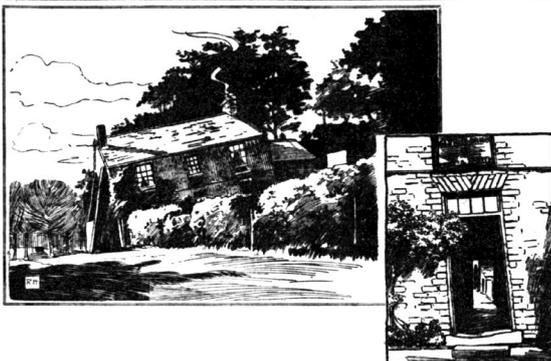
SUNDAY, JUNE 6th.

EVENING TOUR TO WALL HEATH,
 Calling at the Crooked House, Him-
 ley. Leave Lichfield Friary School,
 5.30 p.m., Burntwood 5.40 p.m.,
 Brownhills 5.40 p.m., Chasetown
 5.50 p.m. Fare, 2/6.

1937

RIVAL to the TOWER OF PISA

A Crooked House which is Attracting Crowds
 of Visitors to the Black Country.



1904

LOT 6.

**THE FULLY-LICENSED FREEHOLD BRICK-BUILT
 PUBLIC-HOUSE, Known as**

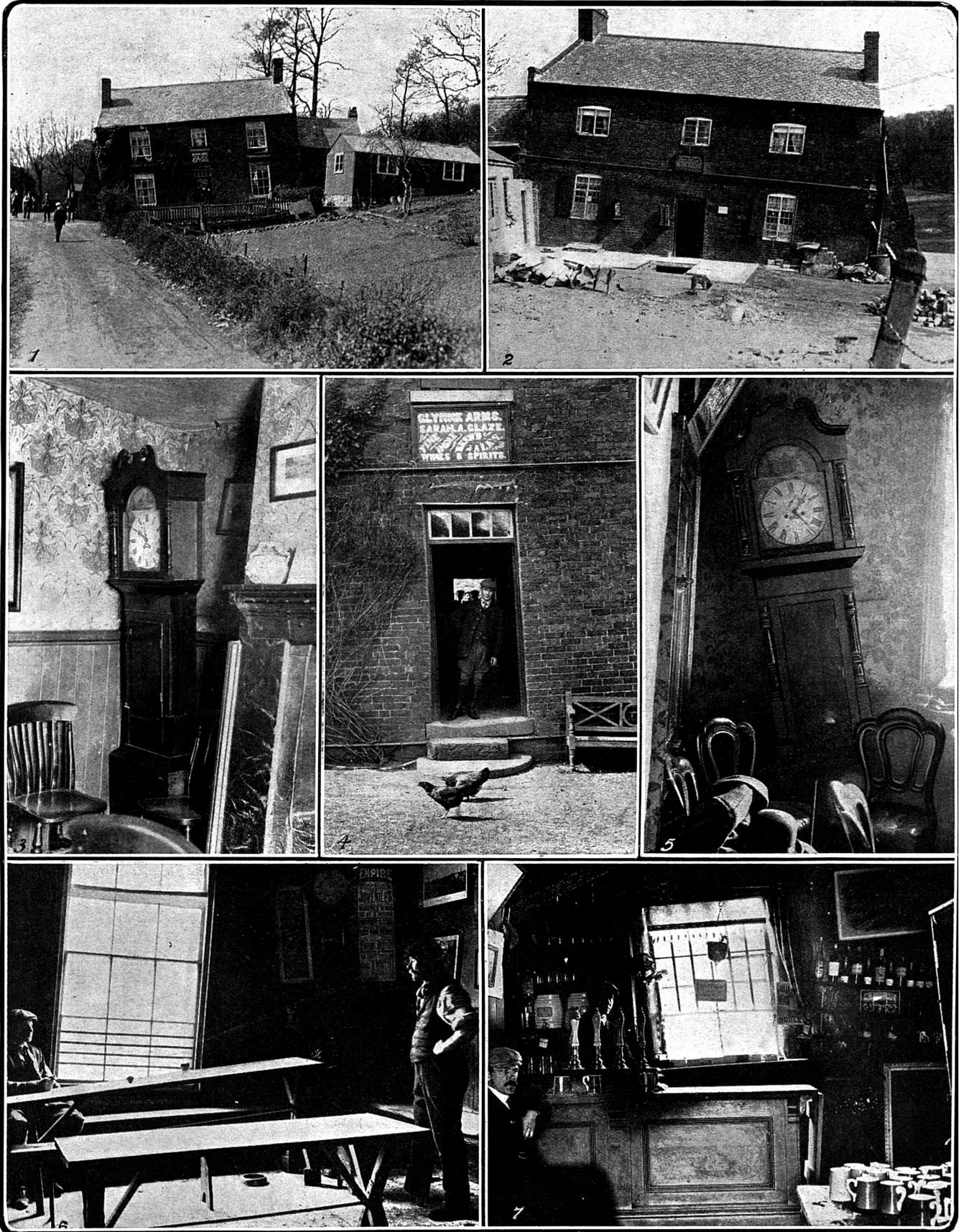
"THE GLYNNE ARMS" or "THE CROOKED HOUSE,"
 comprising Bar, Taproom, Smokeroom, two Kitchens, and
 Cellars, four Bedrooms; Outbuildings, Brewhouse, two-stall
 Stable with Loft, two Pigsties, Lavatories, &c., together with
GARDEN LAND AND SLING MEADOWS,

occupying a total area of 2a. 2r. Op. or thereabouts, on lease
 to Mrs. S. A. Glaze, on a tenancy expiring September 29,
 1927, at an annual rental of £39 15s. 7d. Mines and
 Minerals included.

1927

“THEY ALL LIVED TOGETHER IN A LITTLE CROOKED HOUSE.”

(BEING “OUR WONDERFUL WORLD.”)



1. THE CROOKED HOUSE (BACK VIEW).

3. THE COFFEE-ROOM, WITH THE GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK IN A PERPENDICULAR POSITION.

6. THE MAGIC TABLE, ALONG WHICH A MARBLE SEEMS TO RUN UP HILL.

4. THE DOORWAY.

2. THE CROOKED HOUSE (FRONT VIEW).

5. THE COFFEE-ROOM, PHOTOGRAPHED IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE ROOM IS PERPENDICULAR AND THE CLOCK CROOKED.

7. THE BAR-ROOM, SHOWING THE CROOKED WINDOW AND SHELVES.

A HOME OF OPTICAL ILLUSIONS: THE CROOKED HOUSE, KINGSWINFORD.

The Glyne Arms, Kingswinford, known as the Crooked House, adjoins Lord Dudley's estate at Himley. From beneath one end of it coal has been mined, with the result that that end has sunk several feet, although the building itself does not show a crack. It has stood as it now is for over half a century. It is a veritable home of optical illusions. Everything in the interior seems out of plumb, and the laws of gravity appear to be set at defiance.—[Photographs by the Topical Press.]

TELEPHONE No. 20004

TELEGRAMS :
JOHNSON & PHIPPS, WOLVERHAMPTON

JOHNSON & PHIPPS, LIMITED
Brewers, Wine & Spirit Merchants

Registered Office:

Fryer Street,

Wolverhampton



TRADE MARK

28th January

D. Simpkins Esq.
Dennis Brewery,
Brierley Hill.

Dear Sir,

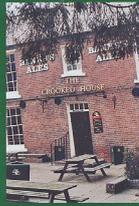
Further to our conversation this morning, we are prepared to sell you the "Glynne Arms" Millery for the sum of £3250.0.0.

This offer remains open until February 26th 1954.

Yours faithfully,
p.p. Johnson & Phipps Ltds,

[Handwritten signature]
Managing Director.

Sold W & P.



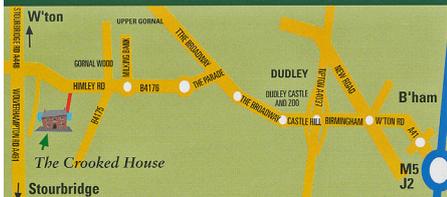
THE CROOKED HOUSE,
Coppice Mill, Himley, Dudley
Tel: 01384 238583

(From Dudley follow
signs to Himley Park)

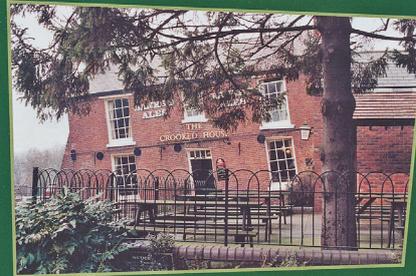
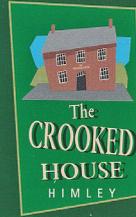
However far you'll be pleased you visited!!

Distance from The Crooked House

Birmingham City Centre	10 miles
Wolverhampton	5 miles
Merry Hill	2 miles
Bridgnorth	8 miles
Birmingham International Airport	17 miles
Paris	324 miles
New York	3390 miles



THE WORLD FAMOUS PUBLIC HOUSE



The world famous gravity-defying
Crooked House is a treat for all the family

- Great Food •
- Children's play area and free parking •
- Traditional Black Country Ales •
- Extensive Menu •
- Just 3 miles from the Black Country Museum •



Located in Himley, near Dudley West Midlands lies a pub that's really crooked. Built originally as a farmhouse back in 1765 The Crooked House now stands 4ft lower on one side than the other, after it took a bit of a tumble!

Known originally as The 'The Glyne Arms' (and also as The Siden House) the pub was named after Sir Stephen Glyne on whose estate the pub originally stood and who was brother-in-law to former Prime Minister, The Right Honourable W Gladstone.

The subsidence happened because during the mid 1800's **mine shafts** were dug underneath which subsequently collapsed – only with the help of some supporting girders and reinforced buttresses does The Crooked House manage to maintain its upright position!

Condemned in the 1940's Banks's then bought the pub and restored it into the popular tourist attraction it is today welcoming visitors from around the world.



THE WORLD FAMOUS PUBLIC HOUSE



The pub is also **haunted** firstly in the lounge by a serving wench called Polly and by a small girl in close proximity to the ladies toilets! The pub also boasts a whole range of optical illusions including bottles and marbles which role uphill, curtains which hang away from the window frames and a grandfather clock that looks like it will fall over at any time.

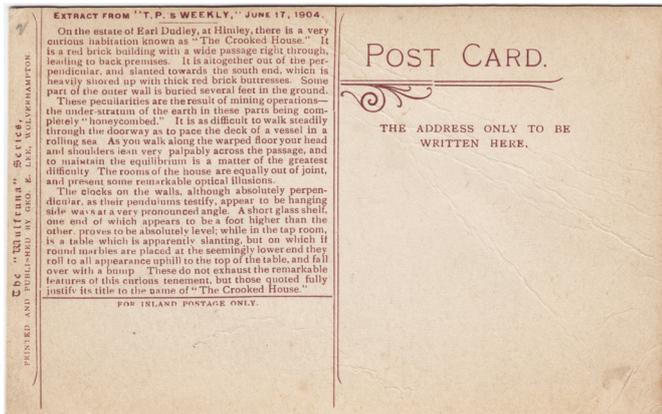
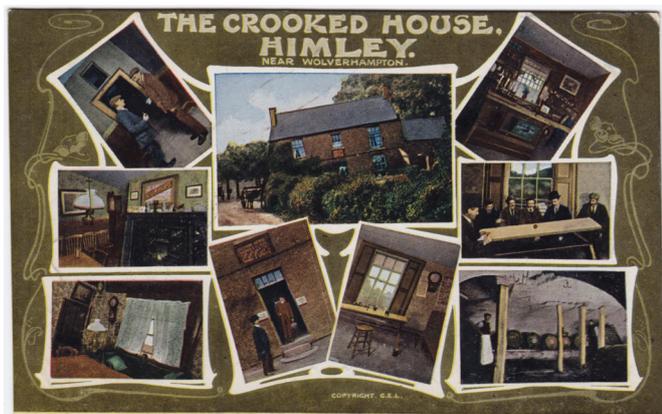
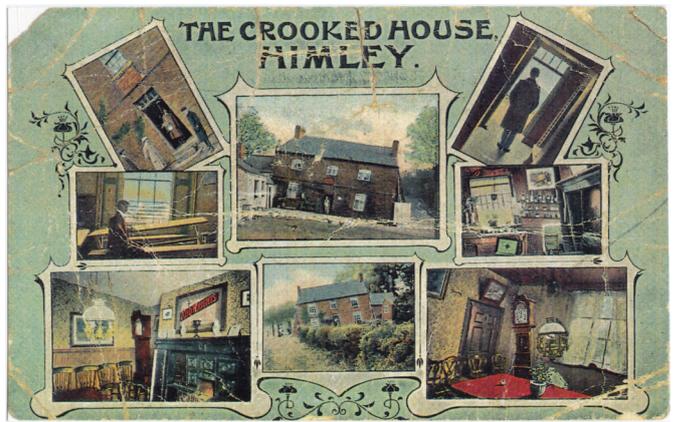
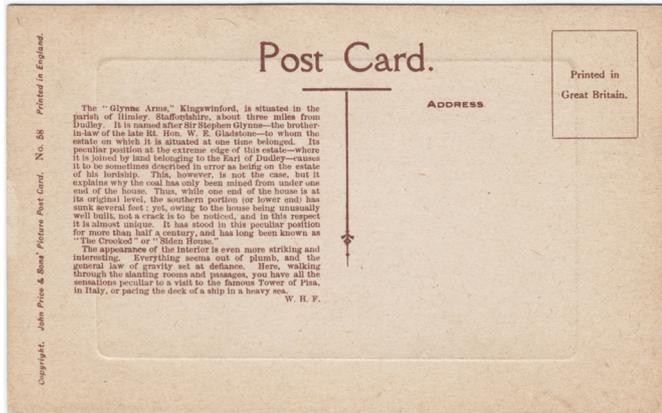
What people are saying

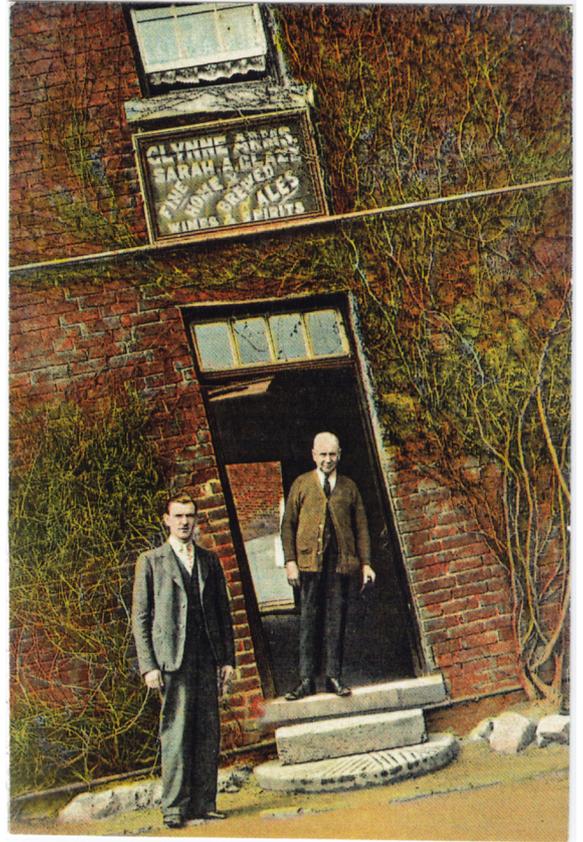
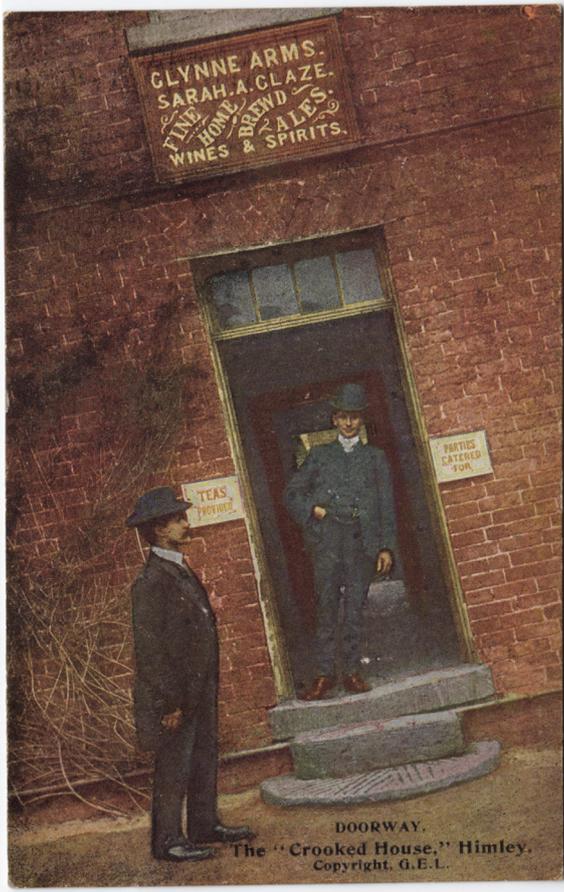
- The most amazing pub I have ever been to.*
- The ball bearing running uphill needs to be seen to be believed!!* **Mr Simon Shaw, Bristol.**
- If we had the money we would like to take it back to the States brick by brick girder by girder, ghost by ghost!!*
- Mrs Caroline Kratz, Seattle**
- We only live in Sedgley and I have never heard of this place.*
- We're going to bring the whole family next weekend!!*
- Mr Harry Masters Sedgley**

Superb food, superb beer and the kids want to come back tomorrow. So do I !!

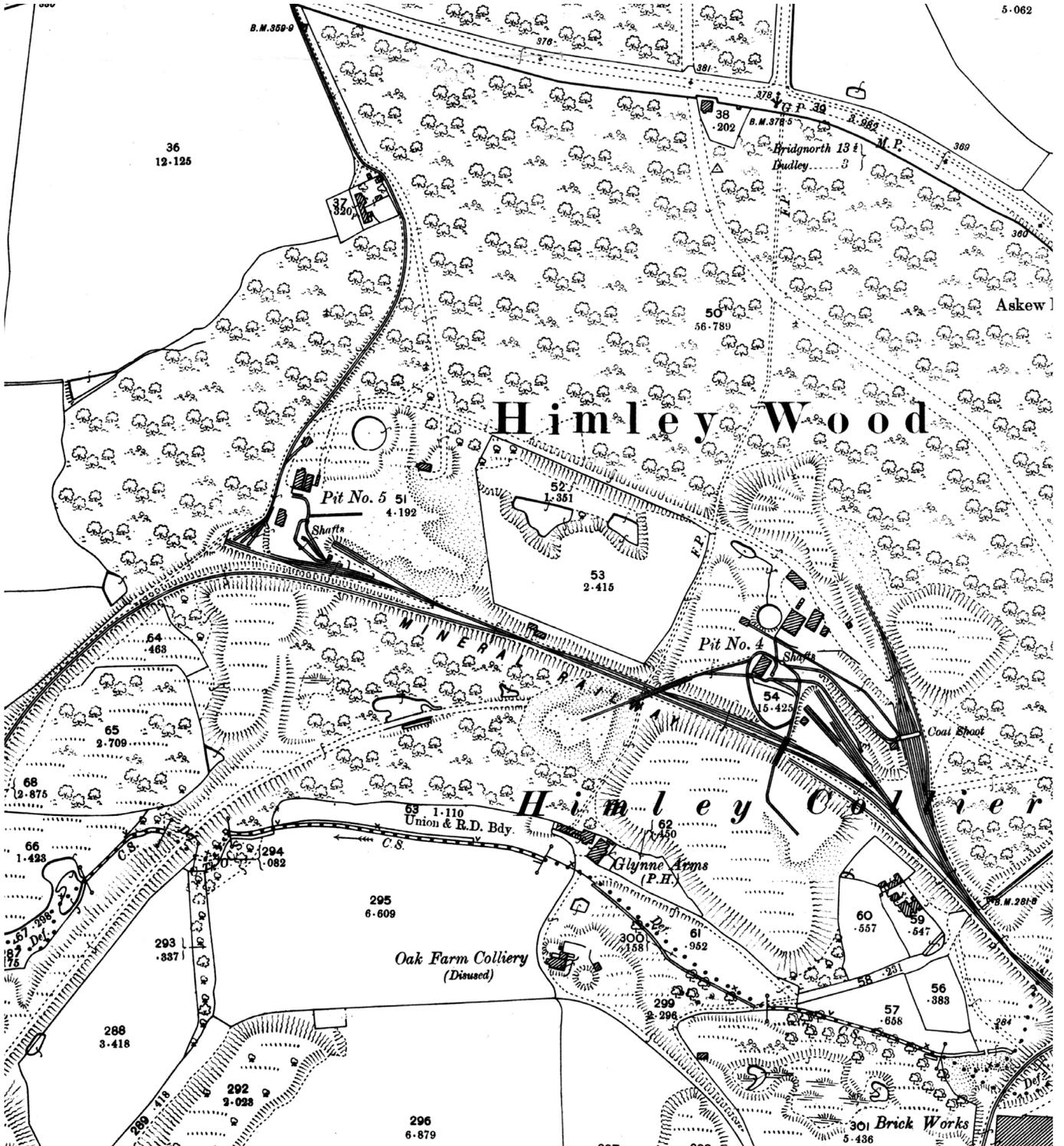
Mr Mike Stephens, Moseley







Postcards



Map 1901

HOW TO USE THE INFORMATION

PUB NAME

This is generally the name by which the pub was officially known. Other names, either changes or nicknames, are to be found in the notes section.

Names marked with + are, at present, not specifically identified as being any of those listed before them, and have not been attributed yet because of the lack of data available.

Pubs are not listed necessarily under their current name.

A number of beerhouses were never given a name, and these appear at the end of the pub lists as Beerhouse – Unnamed. Only those that I am pretty sure had 'on' licences are included.

This is sometimes the case with alehouses too.

Can't find the pub you want?

It's probably had its name changed. Try using the search facility to locate the pub name, or nickname, that you know.

ADDRESS

Eg. 52, (79), Haden Street, (Haden Lane) / Cox Alley, Kates Hill, DUDLEY

Numbers and street names in brackets denote earlier addresses. These are usually detailed in the notes section. Buildings were renumbered with development and demolition, or the renaming of the street etc.

/ = on the corner with.....

Sometimes districts are also included, such as Kates Hill above. These are often historical and are now obsolete, but can be located on early maps.

OWNERS

These are listed where known.

They include companies and individuals, and occasionally the dates acquired and prices paid.

LICENSEES

Often the owner was the licensee, and even when they employed managers their names would appear in directories.

Where known, names are appended with (manager, non-resident, tenant etc.).

Dates

These are differentiated by the use of brackets and/or italics.

[1862] = This was the case in 1862. Where the date appears on its own it refers to the earliest or latest reference found.

This also applies where a pub has its name changed, eg.

[2001] followed by "Its name was changed to XXXX. [2003]"

This means that in 2001 it still had its previous name, but by 2003 its name had been changed to XXXX.

[1862] = Information from a directory dated 1862, so may have been out of date when it was published. As much as five years in some cases!

[c. 1862] = About 1862, but exact date not known.

[1860's] = Some time in this decade.

[] = No date available, but the detail is inserted in roughly the right chronological place.

(1862 – [1863]) = Started in 1862 and was still the case in 1863.

[1862] – **1863) = It was the case in 1862 and ended** in 1863.

(1862 – 1863) = Started in 1862 and **ended** in 1863.

(1862 – 1863); the ; signifies that the licensee was immediately followed by the next person in the list. Sometimes the licence transfer came months after a person's death, but the transfer date is the one used, if date of death is not known.

Sometimes the licensing registers contradict findings from other sources such as directories. Where this occurs the ; is still used, the anomalous name is given a question mark and is placed in a suitable chronological place, and the next person is the one that follows the ;

Eg.

Fred Smith [1916] – **1927);**

Joseph Bloggs [1921] ?

George Jones **(1927 – 1932)**

In the register George Jones follows on from Fred Smith, but Joseph Bloggs was mentioned in another source in 1921. He is left in for completeness.

When using original documents, such as licensing registers, which are sometimes damaged, it is impossible to read some material (including dates). Where this has occurred, and only the decade or century is decipherable, I have used underscoring to replace the missing digits in an effort to keep the licensees in the correct order.

Eg. Fred Smith **(188_ – 18_);**

John Jones **(18_ – 189_):**

If the date is followed with a : this signifies the last person to hold the licence.

NOTES

These start with locations, and are followed by previous names or nicknames of the pub. These are then followed by other details, often where dates are unknown.

Historical details then follow chronologically where possible.

Some pubs listed are the same as others, but so far I have been unable to connect them. This is especially true when directories only list the pub name and licensee, and more than one pub of that name existed at the time. These are often identified by:-
Check OTHER PUB NAME.

Licensees are often associated with more than one pub, and pubs are sometimes rebuilt on different sites to their original one. These are identified by:-
See OTHER PUB NAME

Titles – only Miss and Mrs are used here (when known).
No other titles are used.
ie. Major George Cox was not a major. Major was his first name.

Often names were spelt differently in the sources used. This is identified where possible, and one spelling is used for consistency.

Where I have decided that different spellings are the same person I have identified this
eg. *Smith* = *Smithe* = *Smyth*

Where I am unsure about this I have identified it thus

* possibly the same person

or

* probably the same person

Where sources are quoted these appear in **colour**, followed by the quote in black in a different typeface from the remainder of the information. Sometimes I have paraphrased a quotation, and some have had additions entered by myself.

Information which has been transcribed by me from handwritten sources, such as censuses, parish records, licensing minutes etc., should be correctly spelt, but the reader is advised to check the original for themselves. In cases where I have been unable to transcribe individual names, only those letters that are clear are given. eg, Osbal__on ? The underscore does not indicate the number of missing letters, as this is often as unclear as the name itself.

Where I am not 100% sure that I have deciphered a name correctly this is indicated by a question mark in parentheses ie. (?)

Census records are presented in a different form than the original.

[1] = position in the household.

This is followed by the name and (age).

Relationship to [1] follows, and then occupation (if any is listed).

Finally comes the place of birth. Where these places are local to the Black Country, or are larger towns and cities, no county name is given.

Where birthplaces are given in the Black Country it has to be remembered:-

(a) Harborne once included Smethwick

(b) Kingswinford once covered places such as Brierley Hill, Pensnett, Quarry Bank and Wall Heath

(c) Sedgley once included Coseley and the Gornals

(d) West Bromwich once included Great Bridge (now in the Tipton file), Great Barr and Hamstead (not considered by me as part of the Black Country).

Most local newspapers were weekly and appeared on a Saturday.
This does not apply to the Express & Star, Midland Counties Evening Express, or Evening News / Star.

Newspaper articles sometimes spell the same thing (eg. Surname) differently in a single report. Where the proper spelling is known this is altered by me, but when I am unsure they are left as they appear.

A gazeteer is provided to give approximate locations of place names in relation to larger towns and cities in Britain.

Where a licensee changes her name by marriage, her former surname appears in brackets
ie. Jane (maiden or previous married name) Smith.

Where names of spouses are known, they are listed in the past tense, even though many may be still husband and wife. This is merely a convention used by me for convenience.

[text] Where square brackets occur, with text in a different typeface inside, this signifies comments of my own.

Some entries, in all sections, are followed by a number of question marks (without parentheses). These show the extent of doubt that I have over that entry.

The historical nature of the contents has meant that the old currency of pounds shillings and pence is used frequently. A pound (£) was divided into 20 shillings (s) and a shilling was divided into 12 pence (d). Halfpennies and farthings (1/4d) were also in use.

This is also the case where other measures, length, weight etc., are used. See glossary for details.