

HITCHMOUGH'S BLACK COUNTRY PUBS



GREYHOUND & PUNCHBOWL
HIGH STREET, BILSTON

GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL

51, (26), (27), (25), (47½), High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

John Mason, solicitor, Bilston
Edward Camfield, Bilston
Cheltenham Brewery Co.
Beard Brothers, Gresley Brewery Co. Ltd., Burton on Trent
Richard Andrew Harper, brewer, Bilston [1889]
R. A. Harper Ltd., Hall Park Brewery, Bilston [1921]
Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1935], [1965]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Avebury Taverns Ltd. (acquired in 1999) [2003]
Admiral Taverns [2006]

LICENSEES

John Garbet [1757]
Johnathan Hartshorn [1791] – [1801]
Robert Hartshorn [1815]
Job Hartshorn [1818] – [1822]
Robert Reeve [1828] – [1842]
Joseph Reeves [1838]
Samuel Meacham [1851] – [1854]
Mrs. Sarah Meacham [] – **1854**;
William Hall **(1854 – [1870])**
William Hyde [] – **1871**;
John Smith **(1871 – 1873)**;
Job Jeavons **(1873 – 1874)**;
William Highfield **(1874 – 1875)**;
George Whittle **(1875 – 1877)**;
Alfred Woodhouse **(1877)**;
Mary Bowers **(1877 – 1881)**;
William Harfield **(1881 – 1884)**;
Septimus West [1881] – [1882]
Septimus West **(1884 – 1893)**;
Richard Jones [1886]
Richard Jones **(1893 – 1894)**;
Charles Galiner (?) **(1894)**;
Thomas Jones **(1894)**;
James Dyer **(1894 – [])**
Albert James Richards [1896] – **1899**;
Edward Wilkinson **(1899 – 1900)**;
Richard Jones **(1900 – 1906)**;
Richard Hughes [1901] manager
George Hassell **(1906)**;
William Haynes **(1906 – 1907)**;
Thomas Murray **(1907 – 1913)**;
William Baker **(1913)**;
Joseph Wheeler **(1913 – [1940])**

This is to give Notice,
THAT on Monday the 27th Day of June,
at the House of John Garbet, the Sign of the Greyhound
and Punch-Bowl in Bilston, there will be a MATCH of Cocks
fought betwixt the Gentlemen of Worcestershire and the Gentle-
men of Staffordshire; to weigh 16 Cocks of each Side for Two
Guineas a Battle, and Five Pounds the Main; and two Shaker-
bag Battles for Four Guineas a Battle.

JAMES WILKISSON and ISAIAH SHALE, Feeders.
* * * Also there will be a Foot-Race at the same House the
Morning before Fighting, betwixt Anthony of Rowley, the noted
Runner, and Edward Beards, a noted Runner, who formerly
went by the Name of the Greyhound of Bilston.

1757



Len Fieldhouse **(1974 – [1979]**
 Jim Wells [1985] – **1987)**
 M McDowell [1989]
 Colin Shingler [1991] – [1992]
 Stuart Clarkson [1994] – [1995]
 Dawn Wheate **(1999 – []**
 Sylvia Pitts **(2003 – []**
 Casey-Ann Wills [2005]
 Amarjit Singh Umbi [2008]
 George Kang [2023]



NOTES

25, High Street [1858], [1862]
 27, High Street [1873]
 26, High Street [1861], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1879], [1881], [1891], [1892], [1896], [1900], [1904]
 47½, High Street [1874]
 51, High Street [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940], [1994], [2006]

GREYHOUND [1818], [1822], [1828], [1833], [1841], [1854], [1858], [1860], [1861], [1862], [1863], [1864],
 [1865], [1870], [1873], [1881], [1892], [1896], [1900], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1940]
 PUNCHBOWL [1879]

Grade II* listed

Blackcountryman (Autumn 1984) **‘Bilston’s Ancient Pile’ by Ron Davies**

“.....The former Stowheath Manor, dating from the 15th century, situated in High Street, now goes by the sign of the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL, though formerly known as the GREYHOUND, which title it is believed was adopted from the former Greyhound coach line, who appear to have used the old building as a coach-house, owing to its being situated on the A41 London to Holyhead road. This ran through the main town and Wolverhampton Street until a more direct route was laid down by Thomas Telford c.1821 (now Wellington Road). As many as 30 coaches passed daily through the town in its hey-day; the London coach once each week.

Quite how long the building has been used as an Inn is uncertain, but G. T. Lawley, referring to the interior décor of the building in his History of Bilston, 1893, says, ‘After a century of hard usage from miners and iron workers, the habitues of its drinking rooms, the house is much the worse for wear and is fast losing every semblance of its former substantial importance.’ (Photographs taken at this period justify Mr. Lawley’s comment.)

Some may wonder why the so-called Stowheath Manor lies in Bilston town whilst Stowheath proper lies about a mile to the north. In truth, the former Manor of Stowheath covered quite a large area.....

Lawley noted the building to be a good specimen of the half-timbered, many-gabled structures peculiar to the earlier Tudor period, with low ceilings, queerly shaped rooms, with recesses oddly placed and floors of different levels. It formerly contained some magnificently panelled and carved oak wainscoting and traces of beautiful ceiling in moulding and arabesque are still to be seen. There is, however, one ceiling in fair state of preservation of an unusual character, and that is the liquor vault, where the votaries of Bacchus partake of the usual liberations. This ceiling is moulded in a design of birds, vine leaves and grapes; it was once painted in colours, but is now white-washed and smoke-grimed. The cement is still as hard as stone, and though the surface is broken into compartments by massive oak beams, it is a fine specimen of ceiling decoration of the Queen Anne period.....

The old Bilston humourist John Freeman gave some account of the GREYHOUND in his Black Country Stories and Sketches (1930), mainly concerning a certain *Joseph Reeves* who was landlord c.1840. He was among the last in the town to wear the quaint 18th century dress of breeches, silk or worsted stockings and swallow-tailed coat, long after the introduction of trousers. Besides being mine host, he was also choirmaster at the Ettingshall Wesleyan Church. Most of the old taverns in the town at that period were rendezvous for members of the various churches. The ACORN, Pinfold Street, was used by the choir of St. Luke’s, devotees from St. Leonard’s met at the WHITE ROSE, and those from St. Mary’s at the ANGEL. The GREYHOUND was no exception; here the Primitive

Methodists made free use of its hospitality, and ministers and officials often met there to discuss church affairs. However, landlord *Reeves* (a dapper little man) was known to turn off his taps at the slightest suggestion of improper behaviour from his customers, saying, 'No more filled for an hour,' and then turn all out into the streets, saints and sinners alike."

Black Country Bugle (1978)

'The GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL'

"The Bilston residence of the Mollesleys was the old, half-timbered house, known at present as the GREYHOUND INN, High Street. There was a tradition current among some of the older inhabitants that it was formerly the Manor House of Stowheath and it was occasionally called by that name. This may have been from the fact that the Mollesleys, for several generations, were Stewards to Lord of the Manor. In one of the bedrooms about the year 1820 the following inscription was found cut in one of the beams: 'John Mollesley 1438.' In his family [John Green, the next owner] it remained until the latter end of the 18th century when it was made into a beerhouse called the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL. This is the oldest building in the town.....

About the year 1790 it became a Public House used mainly by miners and ironworkers and became the worst for wear."

Black Country Bugle 13/1/2021

'What was brewing in Bilston? Recalling lost pubs and brewers.' by Steve James

"By far the oldest pub in the town is the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL. Originally built as Stowheath Manor in 1438 by John de Mollesley, it became a public house in 1820. In 1936 Wolverhampton brewers W. Butler and Co. employed architect James Swan to renovate this fine timber-framed building, retaining much of the original woodwork, along with the 17th century plaster ceiling and Jacobean fireplaces. Although it's been refurbished several times, some of the original panelling and seating survives, along with its ghost! It's one of the most historic buildings in the area, nationally recognised and listed (Grade II*)."'

Reputedly haunted by the "punchbowl ghost" who walks from the smoke room to the bar, clutching a glass of whisky.

Black Country Bugle 17/8/2022

'Supping with the spirits at haunted hostelries' by Steve James

"In Bilston, the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL is an ancient inn which was originally Stow Heath Manor House, associated with the Mollesley family. It's home to the 'Punch Bowl ghost,' reputed to walk out of the smoke room with a glass of whisky. A tall man in a black cloak and large black hat has also been seen around the kitchen. Other ghosts have been seen walking the corridors, along with the sound of a baby crying for its mother, who was murdered by a cruel landlord. She still wanders around the pub wearing a white gown, seeking her revenge."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/6/1757 - Advert

"This is to give Notice, that on Monday the 27th Day of June, at the House of *John Garbet*, the Sign of the GREYHOUND AND PUNCH BOWL, in Bilston, there will be a Match of Cocks fought betwixt the Gentlemen of Worcestershire and the Gentlemen of Staffordshire; to weigh 16 Cocks of each Side for Two Guineas a Battle, and Five Pounds the Main; and two Shakebag Battles for Four Guineas a Battle.

James Wilkinson and Isaiah Shale, Feeders.

Also there will be a Foot-Race at the same House the Morning before the Fighting, betwixt Anthony of Rowley, the noted Runner, and Edward Beards, a noted Runner, who formerly went by the Name of the Greyhound of Bilston."

Johnathan Hartshorn, victualler, GREYHOUND AND PUNCH BOWL, Bilston. [1791]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/4/1791 - Advert

"Houses and Land, situate adjoining the High Street in Bilston.

To be Sold to the best Bidder, on Friday the 15th inst.....

The GREYHOUND INN, with the Buildings thereunto belonging, and a Parcel of Land called the Batch Croft and Yard, containing about 10 Acres, now in the Occupation of Mr. *Hartshorn*, or his Under-tenants."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/9/1801 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, on Tuesday the 6th of October, 1801, between the Hours of Four and Six in the Afternoon, at *Jonathan Hartshorn's*, the Sign of the GREYHOUND, in Bilston.

Lot I. About one Hundred and twenty Thousand of Bricks, made this Summer, and now stacked on Lot 2.

Lot II. All that Piece of Land situate near to Bilston, called Cooper's Croft, containing by Estimation two Acres, or thereabouts (be the same more or less) together with the Heathen Coal and white Ironstone, and such Part of the thick Coal and Brick Clay as remains ungot therein; and also the Heathen Coal and white Ironstone, and such Part of the thick Coal as remains ungot in certain Parcels of Land lately taken out of the said Croft, amounting in the whole to Half an Acre, or thereabouts.

Lot III. The Remainder of a Lease for three Lives (renewable for a small Fine) of a Cottage in Bridge Street, Bilston, adjoining the said Croft, and now in the Holding of Rudge, at the yearly Rent of £3 18s.

The Land is Copyhold of Inheritance, within the Manor of Stowheath.

There is a Lease of the Land, with Power to get the thick Ironstone, which expires at Midsummer next. It is an exceeding eligible Spot for building upon, and there is a Brick-kiln upon the Premises, which has been and may be worked to great Advantage.

For Particulars apply to Mr. Thomas Price, Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/10/1815 - Advert

"Blast Furnace, Coal and Ironstone Mine.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. Payton, on Tuesday the 7th Day of November, 1815, at the House of Mr. *Robert Hartshorn*, the GREYHOUND AND PUNCH BOWL, in Bilston....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/2/1816 - Died

"On Friday, aged 59, Mr. *Robert Hartshorn*, coal-master, of the GREYHOUND, Bilston."

Job Hartshorn was also a field bailiff. [1818]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/10/1818 - Advert

"To Coal and Iron-Masters.

To be Sold by Auction by T. Walters, on Thursday, October 29, 1818, at Mr. *Job Hartshorne's*, GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL INN, Bilston, at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon; three high Cabin Boats, excellent Swimmers, and in good working Condition....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/12/1838

"On Wednesday, a meeting was held at the house of Mr. *Joseph Reeves*, GREYHOUND INN, High Street, Bilston, for the purpose of forming a Mechanics Institution in that town. Mr. Hodgkins was unanimously called to the chair. The meeting, which was numerous and respectable, was addressed by Mr. Dimmack, Mr. Evans, Mr. Wright, Mr. Edwards, and others, on the necessity and advantages of such an institution; and a series of resolutions was submitted to the meeting and passed. The institution is to be called 'The Bilston Society for the Promotion of useful and scientific Knowledge.' Thanks were voted to the chairman, and the meeting separated."

1841 Census

High Street

[1] *Robert Reeve* (65), publican;

[2] *Hannah Reeve* (65), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Eleanor Pardo* (15), f.s.;

[4] *Thomas Southern* (25), painter, born Staffordshire;

[5] *Ebenezar Fowler* (25):

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/9/1842 - Died

"On the 4th instant, after a long and painful illness, borne with patience and resignation, *Hannah Reeve*, the beloved wife of Mr. *Robert Reeve*, innkeeper, of Bilston, in the 71st year of her age."

Robert Reeve died on 20th October 1849.

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/2/1851

"*Samuel Meacham*, landlord of the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, Bilston, was charged by inspector Thompson with allowing drunkenness in his house. The house being generally badly conducted, he was fined 5s and costs. A second charge was preferred against him for allowing dominoe playing, and for this offence he was fined 1s and costs."

1851 Census

High Street

[1] *Samuel Meachem* (36), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Sarah Meachem* (31), wife, born Sedgley:

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/5/1853

"Mr. Heathcote, the Supervisor in Wolverhampton of the excise department of the Inland Revenue Board, summoned, on Wednesday last, Mr. *Samuel Meacham*, landlord of the GREYHOUND INN, Bilston, for having grains of paradise in his possession. Mr. Taylor, an officer of the board, detected the spurious ingredients under decoction in a furnace. Mr. Bolton, appeared for the defendant, and admitted the possession of the article referred to, yet pleaded that it had been obtained by defendant's wife against his wish. Mr. *Meacham* was fined in the mitigated penalty of £50, which the magistrates recommended should be further reduced by the Inland Revenue Board to £30."

Samuel Meachem died in the 2nd quarter of 1853.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/9/1854 - Advert

"To be Peremptorily Sold, pursuant to an Order of the High Court of Chancery, bearing date the 10th day of July, 1852, made in certain causes of Shale and others v Hodson and others, Shale and others v Thompson and others, and Shale and others v Hartshorn and others, with the approbation of William Henry Tinney, Esquire, one of the Masters of the said Court, by John Mason, on Monday, the 18th day of September, 1854.....

Lot 5. All that Old Licensed and well-accustomed Public House, Messuage, or Tenement, called or known by the name or sign of GREYHOUND AND PUNCH BOWL, situate in, and fronting to, High Street, in Bilston aforesaid, and within the manor of Stowheath, together with the brewhouse, two stables, outbuildings, garden, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, formerly in the occupation of Mr. *Robert Reeve*, deceased, and now of Mrs. *Sarah Meachem*, and others.

And also all that other Messuage or Dwelling House, situate in, and fronting to, High Street, in Bilston aforesaid, and adjoining on one side to the last described messuage, formerly in the occupation of Mr. Job Hartshorn, deceased, and now of Mrs. Summers.

And also all that Barn or Building, situate in, and fronting to, High Street, in Bilston aforesaid, and adjoining on one side to the last described messuage or dwelling house, and now in the occupation of Thomas Holt.

The land comprised in this lot including the site of the said messuages and buildings contains 1,391 square yards or thereabouts, and the premises produce altogether the annual rental of £44."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/6/1858

"On Monday last, an inquest was held at the GREYHOUND INN, Bilston, on the body of a female child, named Margaret Thurstans Adie, aged five months, daughter of Mr. Adie, grocer, of Bilston. It appeared that on Saturday night the child was in perfect health, and retired to rest with the nurse and a servant girl. In the morning the nurse, when she awoke, was horrified at discovering that the child was dead. The Jury returned a verdict of Found Dead, but from what cause death took place, there was no evidence to show."

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/8/1858

"John Kirk, jun, manager for his father, who is a butty collier at the Priestfield Colliery, Bilston, appeared on an information charging him with paying 6d to one of his workmen, named William Griffiths, contrary to the terms of the Truck Act. Mr. Waterhouse supported the complaint, and Mr. W. Ward appeared for the defendant.

The statement of Griffiths was that he worked for the defendant as a collier, and that on the 1st of May he received the wages then due to him, less 6d, which was to be spent in ale at the GREYHOUND public house, at Bilston, kept by *William Hall*, a brother-in-law of the defendant. He went to *Hall's* house, and was there given a token, in exchange for which he afterwards received a quart of ale. Mr. *Hall* was called for the defence, and deposed that he was paid for the ale, not by the defendant, but by the doggy of the pit, who, he understood, received the money from

the men. It was also contended for the defence that Griffiths had been paid in full. No direct evidence of this was, however, produced, and Mr. Leigh fined Kirk £5 and costs, in default three months' imprisonment. A second penalty of the same amount was imposed upon Kirk, for a similar offence in regard to a collier named Wilden."

1861 Census

26, High Street – GREY HOUND

[1] *William Hall* (40), innkeeper, born Bilston;

[2] *Sarah Hall* (40), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Betsey Meachem* (19), niece, born Bilston;

[4] *Sarah A. Meachem* (17), niece, born Bilston;

[5] *Joe Meachem* (15), nephew, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/7/1861 - Advert

"To be Let, a Front Shop and good Bakehouse, situate adjoining the OLD GREYHOUND Public House, High Street, Bilston.

For further particulars, apply to Miss Hughes, on the premises."

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/5/1863

"*W. Hall*, of the GREYHOUND INN, Bilston, was fined 10s and costs, for selling ale on Sunday morning, the 24th inst."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/6/1864 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Public House and Premises, Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Private Contract, all that old-licensed and well-established Public House, Messuage or Tenement, called or know by the name or sign of the GREYHOUND AND PUNCH BOWL, situate in and fronting to High Street, in Bilston aforesaid, with the brewhouse, two stables, piggeries, outbuildings, and spacious yard at the back thereof; formerly in ten occupation of Mr. *Robert Reeve*, and now of Mr. *William Hall*.

And also all that other Messuage or Dwelling House and Shop (now used as a baker's shop), with the barn or building thereto, situate in and fronting to High Street, in Bilston aforesaid, and adjoining on one side to the above described Public House, lately in the occupation of Mrs. Summers, and now of Mr. Frederick Chaplin.

The above property is desirably situated either for occupation or investment. It is freehold of inheritance, and has a frontage to High Street of twenty-six yards, and contains, with the sites of the buildings, 1,391 superficial square yards of land, and at the present low rentals produces £46 a year.

A portion of the purchase money may, if required, remain on security of the premises.

The respective tenants will show the property, and to treat for purchase, apply to Mr. Samuel Baker, Auctioneer; or at the Offices of Messrs. Mason and Holmes, Solicitors, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/2/1865 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Public House and Premises, Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Private Contract, all that Old-Licensed and well-established Public House, Messuage, or Tenement, called or known by the name or sign of the GREYHOUND AND PUNCH BOWL, situate in and fronting to High Street, in Bilston aforesaid, with the Brewhouse, two Stables, Coachhouse, Piggeries, Outbuildings, and spacious Yard at the back thereof; in the occupation of Mr. *William Hall*, whose tenancy expires at midsummer next, when the purchaser may be let into possession of the whole of the premises.

And, also, all that other Messuage or Dwelling House and Shop (now used as a Barber's Shop), with the Barn or Building thereto, situate in and fronting to High Street, in Bilston aforesaid, and adjoining on one side to the above described Public House, in the occupation of Frederick Chaplin.

The above property is desirably situated either for occupation or investment. It is freehold of inheritance and has a frontage to High Street of 26 yards, and contains with the sites of the buildings 1,391 superficial square yards of Land, with the Mines and Minerals underneath, and at the present low rental produces £46 a year.

A portion of the purchase money may, if required, remain on security of the premises.

The respective tenants will show the property, and to treat for purchase, apply to Messrs. Timmis and Woodcock, Land Surveyors, Wolverhampton, and at the offices of Messrs. Mason and Holmes, Solicitors, Bilston."

Birmingham Journal 16/2/1867 - Died

"On the 12th inst, in her 49th year, Sarah, wife of Mr. *William Hall*, of the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, Bilston; much respected."

Birmingham Daily Post 7/1/1874

"From last night's *London Gazette* Liquidations by Arrangement.....

Job Jevons, formerly of the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, Bilston, licensed victualler and iron dealer, but now of High Street, Dudley, out of business. First meeting, at the offices of Mr. Edwin Jaques, 40, Cherry Street, Birmingham, January 15, at 12."

1881 Census

26, High Street

[1] *William Harfield* (30), widower, licensed victualler, born Birmingham;

[2] *Eliza Shannon* (35), housekeeper, born Weston, Cheshire:

Evening Express 12/8/1881

"*Septimus West*, landlord of the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his premises on the 2nd inst.

Inspector Gasson said he went in company with Police-constable Wilson into a marquee on the defendant's premises, and found a prostitute, named Martha Cooper, and a man named Severn, both of whom were in a state of intoxication. The landlord and his waiter were sworn, and stated that none of the persons named appeared to be drunk, but the defendant, believing they had had enough, refused to fill them any more.

The Bench did not consider the case a very serious one, and ordered the defendant to pay a fine of 5s and costs.

The defendant said he was a stranger to the town, and he should have expected that the police would have cautioned him as to the kind of characters that frequented the house."

Evening Express 18/11/1881

"*Septimus West*, landlord of the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, Bilston, was charged with permitting drunkenness on the morning of the 8th inst. Mr. R. A. Willcock defended.

From the evidence for the prosecution it appeared that two men named Richards and Clarke went into the house on the morning in question, and at half past nine Police-constable Brian found the two men drunk on the premises.

For the defence it was contended that the landlord, when he observed the men were under the influence of liquor, twice left the house to get the assistance of an officer to eject them. He could not find a policeman, and he then tried every means in his power to put them out of the house.

The Bench considered the charge proved, and the defendant having been previously convicted of a similar offence, was ordered to pay a fine of £5 and costs."

Darlaston Weekly Times 23/9/1882 - Advert

"Join the Christmas Goose and Spirit Club, just commencing, at the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, Bilston.

Full Particulars of Mr. *Septimus West*, at the Bar."

Darlaston Weekly Times 5/5/1883

"The monthly meeting of the Bilston Night Watch Committee was held at the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, on Wednesday evening. Mr. F. Nokes presided.

The balance sheet showed a balance in favour of the society of £9 2s 8d. The watchmen reported that during the month they discovered 16 business premises left insecure or unfastened, and this was taken as showing the watchmen exercised the necessary vigilance on behalf of the subscribers.

On the motion of Mr. John Bishop it was resolved to present a pair of boots to each of the watchmen, the cost thereof to be defrayed by the society."

Dewsbury Chronicle 12/7/1884

"Adjudications in Bankruptcy.....

Septimus West, licensed victualler, of the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, Bilston, Staffordshire."

Darlaston Weekly Times 16/1/1886

“*Richard Jones*, landlord of the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, Bilston, was summoned for harbouring Police-constables Jackson and Ogden at a time when they were on duty. Defendant pleaded guilty and was fined 1s and costs. PS Hayward proved the case.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/11/1889 - Advert

“Important to Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, and Capitalists.

Valuable Full-Licensed Freehold Public House, High Street, Bilston.

Messrs. Payton & Hill will Offer for Sale by Public Auction, This Day (Tuesday), at Three o’clock, at the Property and Estate Rooms, Newhall Street, Birmingham, subject to conditions then to be produced and read.

All that Valuable Full-Licensed Public House, known as the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL INN, situate as above, containing Bar Parlour, Smoke Room, Kitchen, spacious Liquor vaults, 29ft by 16ft, on ground floor; Club Room, and three Bed Rooms over; Brewhouse; large Garden at the back; Stabling, with Room over, and other Appurtenances. The above Premises are let to Mr. R. A. Harper as yearly tenant, and possession can be obtained at an early date, if desired.

Also, the Dwelling House and Shop adjoining the above, now void.

To view the Premises apply to Sub-tenant, and further particulars at the Offices of Messrs. Ticehurst and Sons, Solicitors, Essex Place, Cheltenham; or the Auctioneers, Bilston.”

1891 Census

26, High Street – GREYHOUND

[1] *Richard Jones* (53), licensed victualler’s manager, born Bilston;

[2] *Mary E. Jones* (47), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Harriet Inskip* (18), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1901 Census

51, High Street

[1] *Samuel Hughes* (52), widower, manager of licensed house, born Bilston;

[2] *Joseph Hughes* (20), son, bedstead maker, born Bilston:

Sporting Life 27/4/1901

“Pedestrianism. New Town Grounds, Bilston.

Mr. Sam Hughes’ 120 Yards Pedestrian Handicap will take place at these grounds on Saturdays, May 11 and 18. Entries to Mr. *Hughes*, GREYHOUND INN, Bilston.”

Samuel Hughes – see also RED COW.

1911 Census

51, High Street

[1] *Thomas Murray* (44), publican, born Bilston;

[2] *Selina Murray* (38), wife, married 18 years, assisting in the business, born Bilston;

[3] *Richard Murray* (14), son, born Stalybridge, Cheshire;

[4] *Ellen Nora Murray* (9), daughter, born Dukinfield, Cheshire;

[5] *Ivy Murray* (6), daughter, born Dukinfield, Cheshire;

[6] *Ada Mary Murray* (3), daughter, born Stalybridge, Cheshire:

1921 Census

51, High Street

[1] *Joseph Wheeler* (45), public manager, born Bilston;

[2] *Alice Wheeler* (45), wife, home duties, born Bilston;

[3] *Fred Wheeler* (19), son, corn dealer, born Bilston;

[4] *Alice Wheeler* (18), daughter, home duties, born Bilston;

[5] *Howard Wheeler* (15), son, toolmaker, born Bilston;

[6] *Evelyn Wheeler* (13), daughter, school, born Bilston;

[7] *Norman Wheeler* (10), son, school, born Bilston:

A music license was granted on 3rd February 1928.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/1/1935

“What is believed to be Bilston’s oldest building, now used as a licensed house, is to be restored, as near as possible, to its original appearance. The building is the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, and yesterday the licensing justices approved plans for alterations to be carried out.

Erected in 1458, the building was formerly the Manor House of Stowheath. It once had handsome fireplaces adorned with Dutch tiles, fine panelling and oaken floors and staircases. Rather more than a century ago it was converted into a public house, the GREYHOUND AND PUNCH BOWL, its courtyard being used some years later as a weekly pig market. Though many of the original features have disappeared, one that still remains is a fine Arabesque ceiling in what is now the public bar. It is moulded into a design of birds, fruit, and vine leaves. The only other ceiling of its kind within knowledge is at Blickling, Norfolk.

Appealing for the Justices consent, Mr. F. L. Steward said the house was really a delightful piece of antiquity, and his clients desired to restore it as far as possible to its original appearance. Part of the house which was added 40 or 50 years ago would be demolished, so as to reveal once again the beauty of the half-timbered structure. Granting the application, the Justices said it would be a welcome improvement.”

Evening Despatch 13/9/1935

“Alleging she was twice attacked Mary Hall, of back of 74, High Street Bilston, at Bilston, today summoned Alice Wheeler, wife of the licensee of the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, for assault. Mrs. Hall said that on the morning of 5 September Mrs. Wheeler came to her in the High Street and struck her twice in the face. When she went into the public house to tell Mr. Wheeler, Mrs. Wheeler knocked her down. Mrs. Wheeler contended that Mrs. Hall, who had assisted her in the house for over a year, had been causing mischief between her and her husband. When she met Mrs. Hall in the street she only smacked her lightly on the head. When she found her in her house afterwards she ordered her out. The case was dismissed.”

It was restored by the brewery in 1935-1936.

It was reopened on 7th October 1936.

Evening Despatch 7/10/1936

“The Mayor of Bilston (Ald. T. R. Wood) today opened the GREYHOUND AND PUNCH BOWL INN, at Bilston, once the Manor House of the town. While hundreds of people lined the streets, the Mayor alighted from his car in the place where knights and cavaliers used to dismount. The house still retains all its old glory of timbered façade and decorated rooms in the fashion of five centuries ago. It was built by the family of John de Mollesley Bylston in 1458.

The house has been restored to all its former dignity and antiquity. The front of the building is now a complete example of timer framing and over-hanging gables while the inner posts, once the trunks of trees which were growing on the site, have been restored. In the old days the house was important because it was situated on the old Watling Street, from London to Holyhead, where warriors were wont to meet as they journeyed to the Wars of the Roses. The work of restoration has been carried out by Messrs. W. Butler and Co. Ltd., brewers, of Wolverhampton, under the direction of Mr. A. J. Swan.

The mayor was presented by Mr. W. R. Wilson with a silver tankard, inscribed with the coat of arms of the town, as a memento of the occasion, and out of which he said the future mayors of the borough could drink a toast. The Mayor added that the tankard would be something towards the Mayor’s Parlour, which to them was still a dream, but which might some day become a reality. After the ceremony a reception was held in the old rooms of the house, and members of the borough corporation warmed themselves at the large open fireplaces.”

Blackcountryman (Autumn 1984)

‘Bilston’s Ancient Pile’ by Ron Davies

“.....By the 1930s the building became such a decaying eyesore that it could easily have been demolished, so wretched and unimportant was its outlook. The property, however, was purchased by Messrs. W. Butler & Co. Ltd., brewers of Wolverhampton (now Mitchells & Butlers Ltd.), and thanks to the managing director at the time it was given a second look and, with the help of architect Mr. J. A. Swan, it once again became alive. A new gable was added taking up most of the old bibble [pebble] fold, but giving the property its original features, so that it now looks exactly as it did all those 500 years ago, and is now truly a great credit to the town.”

1939 Register

51, High Street

[1] Joseph Wheeler, date of birth 2/4/1876, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Alice Wheeler, dob 8/5/1876, unpaid domestic duties, married:

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

Birmingham Daily Post 21/8/1952

"A timely reminder that Bilston, for all its industrial aspect, has important links with the past is given by the announcement that eleven buildings in the town are scheduled for preservation for their special historical or architectural interest.

Heading the list is the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL, the oldest building in the town. Believed to have been built during the Wars of the Roses by John Mollesley, it was formerly the Manor House of Stow Heath and a Court Leet. Restoration of the inn in 1936 revealed several features hitherto unknown, including an overhanging gable that had been hidden for 120 years."

Birmingham Daily Post 1/8/1953

"Inns in Midland counties which have been scheduled during the past twelve months by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government as being of outstanding historical and architectural interest.....

GREYHOUND INN, High Street, Bilston, Staffordshire."

Sandwell Evening Mail 10/11/1978

"If you ask where to go for a pint in Bilston people will usually say 'The GREYHOUND.' Not only is it the oldest pub in town, but also the oldest building. Licensee *Len Fieldhouse* has become an expert on the pub's history since he took over with his wife, Dot, four years ago. 'When we had the chance to take the GREYHOUND, we couldn't believe it,' said Dot. She was born 'just down the road' from the pub, and *Len* proposed to her in the oldest part of the pub, in the first smoke room. She accepted, and little knew they would both one day run the pub.

The pub was originally a manor house built for the aristocratic De Mollesley family when Bilston was one of the largest villages in the Midlands. In the first and second smoke room you can see the original oak beams which were cut from the once surrounding woodland of Stow Heath. The pub was on the Roman Watling Street and eventually became a coaching inn called the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL. It was restored as faithfully as possible to its origins by W. Butler and Co. Ltd. in 1936.

Pensioner Charlie Burns has been a regular drinker at the GREYHOUND for nearly 60 years, and can make history come alive over a pint of mild. The pub is reputed to be haunted by a 'good' ghost (one who buys spirits all round each time it appears). Charlie, an ex-chauffeur and mechanic for an undertaker, swears he saw a white lady descend the stairs one night and disappear into the ladies parlour – without buying a drink.

Of course not everybody drinks at the pub because of its architecture, though Michael Granton said he liked to take a drink and 'study the pretty patterns on the ceiling,' a Jacobean plaster ceiling with thin leaf scrolls. 'There is a good, quiet atmosphere here, the landlord makes you feel welcome, and you can get a good pint,' said Darrell Richards, ex-lead singer for Wolverhampton's Blithe Spirit pop group. 'A group of us use this pub as a watering hole after French lessons at the local college, because it's quiet, and we can practice our French,' said West Bromwich commercial director, John Blower. And college lecturer, Sharon Morton, said, 'I don't know much about the pub's history, but the interior décor certainly gives the pub a cosy atmosphere.'"

Sandwell Evening Mail 27/3/1979

"Detectives were today hunting two raiders who struggled with a Bilston publican before escaping with £1,100 in cash from the pub. Mr. *Len Fieldhouse*, landlord of the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL in the High Street, disturbed the two intruders. They had climbed through a kitchen window after spotting part of the weekend takings on a table. Mr. *Fieldhouse*, aged 58, tried to stop the men, but after a brief struggle they ran off with the money.

Detective Chief Inspector Ken Snell warned publicans all over the Black Country to be on the lookout for 'opportunistic' thefts of this sort. One of the thieves was described as 18 years old, about 5ft 7in tall, well built, with long black straggly hair. Police have appealed for anyone who may have seen the men behaving suspiciously near the pub around 8pm on Sunday night to contact them."

Jim Wells was married to Shirley.

Birmingham Mail 19/5/1998

“Buildings and monuments in the Midlands considered to be at risk by English Heritage.....
GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL INN (formerly Stoke Heath Manor House), High Street, Bilston.”

Black Country Bugle 22/4/1999 - Advert

“GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL, High Street, Bilston.

Now Under New Management.

Rod, *Dawn*, family and staff welcome you to the oldest 16th Century building in Bilston where Dick Turpin once stayed.

Home-made hot and cold food served Mon-Sat 12-2.30pm Sunday 12-2pm.

Daily Specials available from only £2 or £3.

Traditional Sunday Lunch only £3.00.

Traditional ales served here.

So come and enjoy a warm friendly relaxing atmosphere.”

Black Country Bugle 23/9/1999 - Advert

“GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL, High Street, Bilston.

Dave, *Dawn*, family and staff welcome you to the oldest 16th Century building in Bilston where Dick Turpin once stayed.

Every Friday Night Disco. Every Sunday 3-7pm Karaoke/Disco.

Large Children’s Enclosed Garden.

Home-made hot and cold food served Mon-Sat 12-2.30pm Sunday 12-2pm.

Daily Specials available from only £2 or £3.

Traditional Sunday Lunch only £3.00.

Sunday 31st October Halloween Fancy Dress Party.

Millennium New Years Eve Party.

Traditional ales served here.

So come and enjoy a warm friendly relaxing atmosphere.”

Dawn Wheate’s partner was David Asprey.

Black Country Bugle 4/11/1999

Pub of the Month. GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL, High Street, Bilston

“.....In its very centre, three feet from the bar, is a slender, twisted pillar, running from floor to ceiling. On closer inspection, this slim support turns out to be a tree trunk, with its roots still apparently clutching at the earth beneath the foundations, and its upper half nosing its way into the attic.”

It reopened in September 2003 after being closed for 12 months for structural repair and refurbishment.

Sylvia Pitts was married to Steve.

Express & Star 12/10/2012

“Bear pits, stately homes, churches and factories are among almost 60 landmarks in the region at risk of being lost, English Heritage has said. The organisation has published its annual At Risk Register of 6,000 buildings and historic sites across the country At risk sites across the region.....

GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL INN, Bilston, Grade II* listed. Poor condition.”

Express & Star 15/5/2023

“A Bilston pub has applied for a licence to sell booze from its new lounge area. The GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL on High Street wants to extend its current licence to take in the new lounge. Should the application be successful, the venue will be able to sell alcohol from 10am to 1am Sunday to Thursday, and 10am to 3am on other days.”

Express & Star 30/9/2023

“Part of Bilston High Street has been closed off to make safe the building of an historic pub after an overnight blaze the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL suffered extensive damage in the fire, which started around 3.40 this morning – the incident is now being treated as arson. Smoke was seen pouring from the Grade Two listed pub, which dates back to the 15th century when it started life as a manor house. West Midlands Fire Service sent crews from Bilston, Willenhall, Tipton and Wolverhampton to tackle the blaze. Police officers were also at the scene to investigate. Fire crews are still on scene along with sniffer dogs as they try to make the structure of the Grade Two listed building safe – traffic disruption is expected for at least the next hour on the high street.”

The Times 2/10/2023

“A grade II* listed inn has been damaged by a suspected arson attack five miles from the CROOKED HOUSE pub, which burnt down in August. The GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL pub in Bilston, Wolverhampton, which has wonky exterior beams, has been on the Heritage at Risk Register for more than a decade following complex structural problems caused by the introduction of a supporting concrete frame during a renovation in the 1930s. Firefighters called to the 16th-century building at about 3.40am on Saturday had put it out by 5.20am but more than a quarter of the first floor suffered fire damage. All three floors were damaged by smoke.....”

Express & Star 3/10/2023

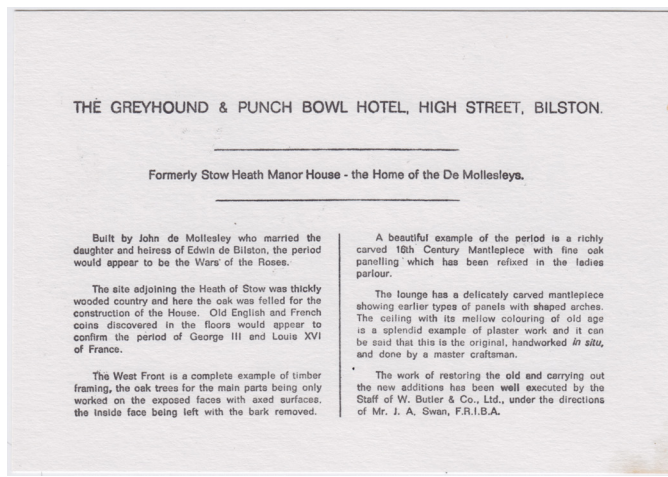
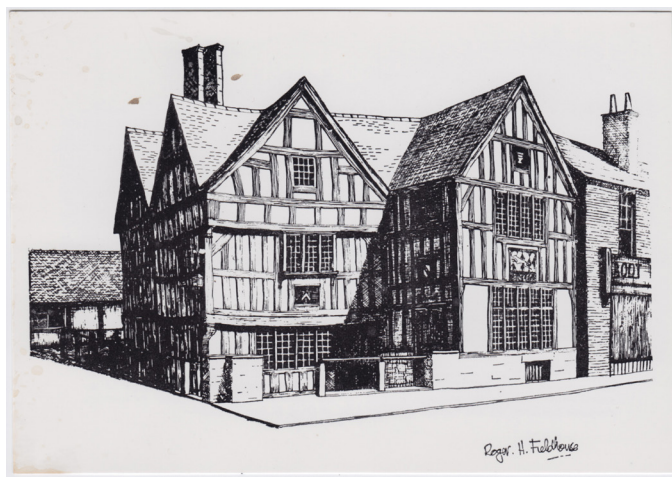
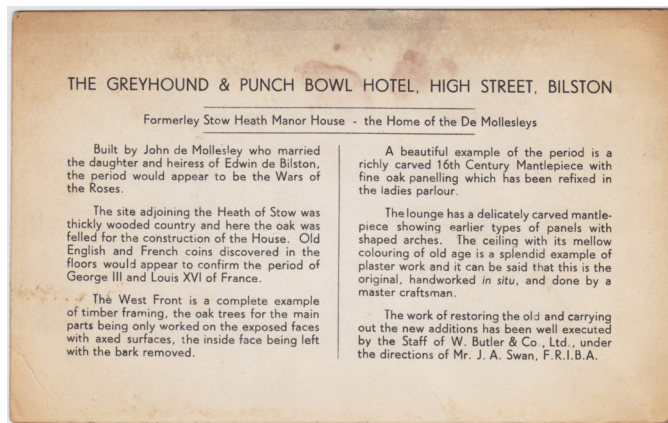
“A fire that caused extensive damage to an historic Black Country pub has been confirmed to be caused deliberately. Fire investigators from West Midlands Fire Service have confirmed that the blaze of the pub, which happened around 3.40am on Saturday was an arson, and they have now concluded their investigation and passed it onto West Midlands Police. A spokesperson from West Midlands Police confirmed that investigations continue into the pub blaze. Firefighters were called to the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL in Bilston High Street at around 3.40am after smoke was seen pouring from the Grade II listed pub.....”

Express & Star 5/10/2023

“A Bilston landlord is defiant even after his Grade II listed pub was hit by fire then two break-ins, and says he is determined to carry on. *George Kang* has spent more than £100,000 renovating the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL on High Street since taking it over. It was badly damaged by fire in the early hours of Saturday and since then has been broken into twice, with burglars taking televisions and alcohol Structural engineers from Wolverhampton Council and officers from Historic England are due on site today to assess the damage and whether it can be reasonably restored. Mr. *Kang* said he was determined to get the pub up and running again, though he couldn't put a timeline on it.....”

[2023]





Postcards



c1980s



1997



2007



2012



2016



Lot 5.

All that old-licensed and well-accustomed PUBLIC-HOUSE, MESSUAGE, or TENEMENT, called or known by the sign of "The Greyhound and Punch Bowl," situate in and fronting to High-street, in Bilston aforesaid, and within the manor of Stow-heath, together with the Brewhouse, two Stables, Outbuildings, Garden, and Appurtenances thereunto belonging, formerly in the occupation of Mr. Robert Reeve, deceased, and now of Mrs. Sarah Menchem and others.

And also, all that other MESSUAGE or DWELLING-HOUSE, situate in and fronting to High-street, in Bilston aforesaid, and adjoining on one side to the last described messuage, formerly in the occupation of Mr. Job Hartshorn, deceased, and now of Mrs. Summers.

And also, all that BARN or BUILDING, situate in and fronting to High-street, in Bilston aforesaid, and adjoining on one side to the last described messuage or dwelling-house, and now in the occupation of Thomas Holt.

The land comprised in this lot, including the site of the said messuages and buildings, contains 1,391 square yards or thereabouts, and the premises produce altogether the annual rental of £44.

1854

VALUABLE FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE AND PREMISES,

BILSTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

TO be SOLD by PRIVATE CONTRACT, all that old-licensed and well-established PUBLIC HOUSE, MESSUAGE, or TENEMENT, called or known by the name or sign of the "Greyhound and Punch Bowl," situate in and fronting to High-street, in Bilston aforesaid, with the brewhouse, two stables, piggeries, outbuildings, and spacious yard at the back thereof; formerly in the occupation of Mr. Robert Reeve, and now of Mr. William Hall.

And also all that other MESSUAGE or DWELLING-HOUSE and SHOP (now used as a baker's shop), with the barn or building thereto, situate in and fronting to High-street, in Bilston aforesaid, and adjoining on one side to the above described Public-house, lately in the occupation of Mrs. Summers, and now of Mr. Frederick Chaplin.

The above property is desirably situated either for occupation or investment. It is freehold of inheritance, and has a frontage to High-street of twenty-six yards, and contains, with the sites of the buildings, 1,391 superficial square yards of land, and at the present low rentals produces £46 a year.

A portion of the purchase money may, if required, remain on security of the premises.

The respective tenants will show the property, and to treat for purchase, apply to Mr. SAMUEL BAKER, Auctioneer; or at the Offices of Messrs. MASON and HOLMES, Solicitors, Bilston.

1864

**JOIN THE
CHRISTMAS GOOSE & SPIRIT CLUB,
Just Commencing, at the
GREYHOUND INN, HIGH STREET,
BILSTON.**

Full Particulars of Mr Septimus West, at the Bar.

1882



**GREYHOUND
&
PUNCHBOWL**

**HIGH STREET, BILSTON
TEL: 01902 493809**

NOW UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT


Rod, Dawn, family and staff welcome you to the oldest 16th Century building in Bilston where Dick Turpin once stayed
Home made hot & cold food served
Mon-Sat 12-2.30pm Sunday 12-2pm

**DAILY SPECIALS AVAILABLE FROM
ONLY £2 OR £3**

Traditional Sunday Lunch Only £3.00

**TRADITIONAL ALES SERVED HERE . So come
and enjoy a warm friendly relaxing
atmosphere**

1999



**Greyhound
& Punchbowl**

NOW RE-OPEN AFTER REFURBISHMENT

Come and soak up the history - visit the oldest building in Bilston - built late 1450's
Fine beers, real ale's and spirits
Cold bar snacks served daily 12-6 pm
We can cater for parties and celebrations
**REAL FIRES, ORIGINAL SURROUNDINGS
A TRADITIONAL PUB AT IT'S BEST**
High Street, Bilston Tel: 01902 495541

2003

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 XXXXX. [2003]"

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

[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.