

The lost (and existing) pubs of the Parish of Little Downham

The following list is taken from Ely Petty Sessional Division records of 1901

Spade and Beckett

Location: Corner of Little Street.

Owner: A&B Hall, Ely

Licensee: Lucy Emma Taylor

Facts and stories: Charles and Hannah Watson lived at the pub between 1921 and 1937. A picture of a charabanc outing from the pub hangs in the Plough.

Brickmaker's Arms

Location: California.

Owner: F L Harlock, Ely

Licensee: Abraham Butcher

Comments: Stabling for two horses and two vehicles.

Railway Tavern

Location: Black Bank, just before the level crossing.

Owner: William Cutlack, Littleport

Licensee: William Jordan

Comments: Stabling for three horses and three vehicles.

Dog and Gun

Location: Second Drove.

Owner: William Cutlack, Littleport

Licensee: Robert Jordan

Comments: Stabling for five horses and three vehicles.

Facts and stories: In later years this pub was run by Bert Turner who then took over the Cross Keys in Coveney. The front step of the Cross Keys was said to be the same height above sea level as the top of Ely Cathedral.

Knife and Steel

Location: Pymoor Corner

Owner: Abraham Stevens, Upwell

Licensee: Charles Wiseman

Comments: Stabling for four horses and three vehicles.

Facts and stories: Built in 1834 at a cost of £43 10 shillings. In the 1940s this pub was run by William Jordan. There was often an accordion player performing in the pub and they did money a savings scheme called a Christmas Share. Closed in 1965 and bought in April 1967 by Graham Lark for £2,500 and turned into a farm house.

Five Alls

Location: Pymoor, next to the pumping station.

Owner: Margaret Gill, Ely

Licensee: John Leaford

Comments: Stabling for four horses.

Comments: Stabling for five horses.

Facts and stories: This was a popular pub with the local farmers and Darts pub. There was always a long waiting list to get on the dartsboard.

Windmill

Location: Main Street.

Owner: Morgan's Brewery, Norwich Licensee: Richard Gilson

Comments: Stabling for three horses and six vehicles.

Club

Location: Left Corner of Main Street and Eagles Lane.

Owner: William Cutlack, Littleport Licensee: Ann Saberton

Comments: Stabling for three horses.

Facts and stories: The pub burnt down in the 1970s and is now replaced by modern houses. There was a blacksmith's next door and the blacksmith's sister ran the pub.

Fox and Hounds

Location: Right Corner of Main Street and Eagles Lane.

Owner: F L Harlock, Ely Licensee: Frederick S Woodward

Comments: Stabling for two horses and two vehicles.

Facts and stories: This pub also caught fire at some point but the building still exists as a private house. In the fire a Mrs Youngs was in the building and died of smoke inhalation.

Railway Tavern

Location: Uncertain

Owner: P L Hudson, Pampisford Licensee: Robert Hall

Comments: Stabling for one horse and one vehicle. New urinal required.

Live and Let Live

Location: Main Street

Owner: Jas. C Palmer Licensee: Lucy Frederick Taylor, Oxloode

Comments: Stabling for three horses and four vehicles.

Facts and stories: you can still see tiles in the porch of this, now private house, bearing the name of the pub. In July 1925 the owners were James Chapman Palmer and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England. license was not renewed. No beer had been drawn in the house since July 1924.

Anchor

Location: Main Street

Owner: : F L Harlock, Ely Licensee: William Crane

Comments: Stabling for two horses and six vehicles .

Facts and stories: The Anchor is still going strong. At one time the back room at the Anchor (now demolished) was the village mortuary and inquests were held in the pub.

Other Pubs:

Red Lion

The location of this pub is unknown but In 1834 the Red Lion, occupied by Charles Green, was up for sale.

The Globe

This pub is listed in the 1881 census in Little Street, occupant: William Taylor

Wheat Sheaf

This pub is listed in the 1881 census at Pymoor Hill, occupant: William Leekins
With contributions from: John Clarke, Maurice Jordan, Gerald Yardy.

Robin Pearl