



THE CROWN

THE CROWN

THE RAILWAY
GRAY & SONS

THE RAILWAY
GRAY & SONS

THE RAILWAY
Enclosed Courtyard
Guest Ales ON TAP
S.E. Essex CAMRA's
Town Pub of the
Year 2018

PUBLIC HOUSES, TAVERNS AND INNS OF BASILDON BOROUGH

James Nason

BASILDON

The Bulls Eye was opened on 11 August 1964 on Southernhay and the name was decided from competition entries. It was renamed in 1999 to **The Beehive**.¹

The pub had an upstairs ballroom and a balcony area. The larger part of the building is now occupied by the Colors nightclub.



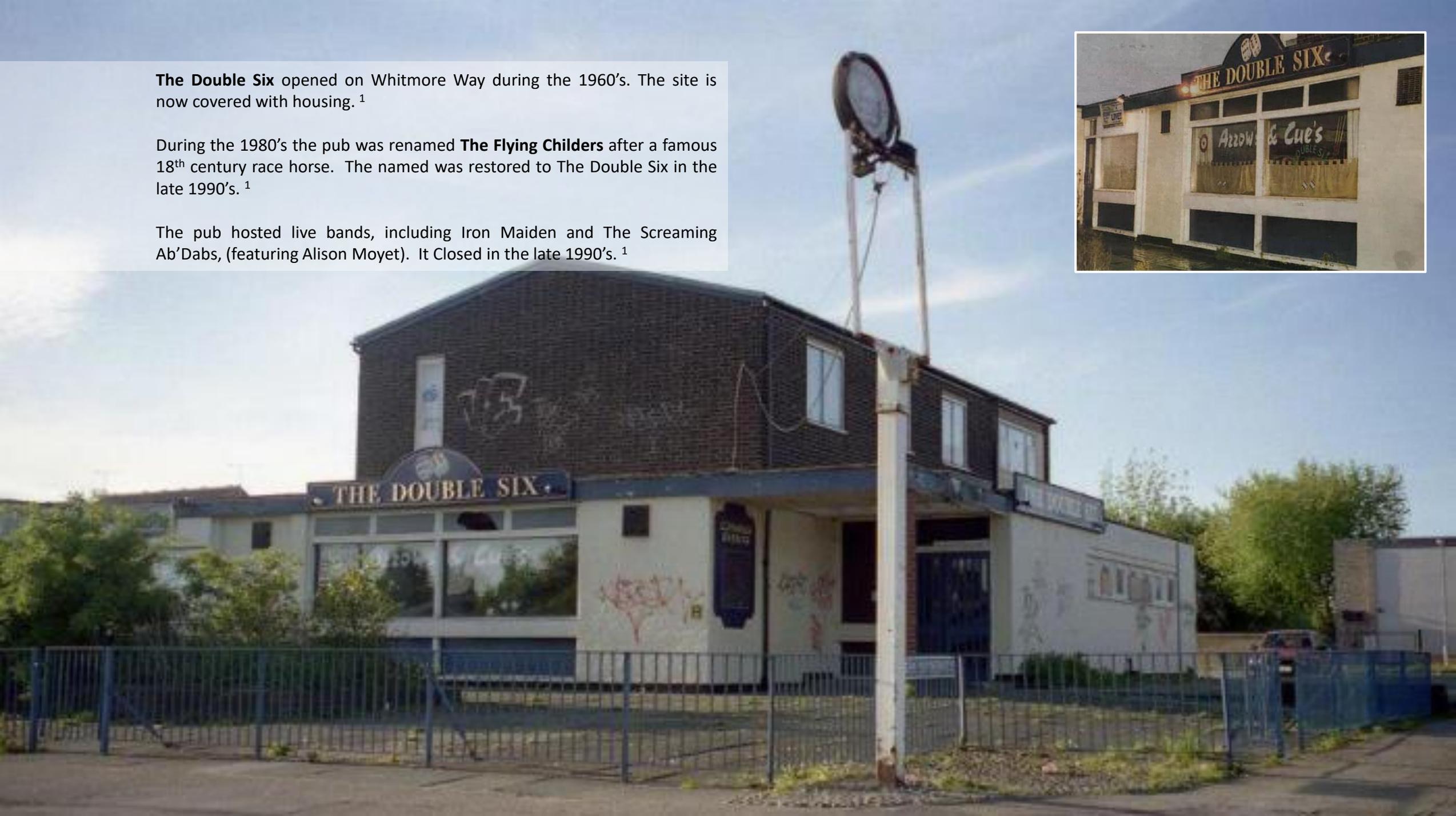
The first new pub in the New Town was **The Crane**, opening on 13th April 1954.¹ It still serves the people of the Fryerns area.



The Double Six opened on Whitmore Way during the 1960's. The site is now covered with housing. ¹

During the 1980's the pub was renamed **The Flying Childers** after a famous 18th century race horse. The named was restored to The Double Six in the late 1990's. ¹

The pub hosted live bands, including Iron Maiden and The Screaming Ab'Dabs, (featuring Alison Moyet). It Closed in the late 1990's. ¹





At the top of the escalators in the town centre was **The Heighway**. In 1983 it changed names to **The New Yorker**, later becoming **The Roof Garden**.

In 2010 it was refurbished and converted in to a bar and club called **The Edge**.

The Honey Pot, modern pub/restaurant, owned by The Harvester chain, is on the Festival Leisure Park.



Honey Pot Lane used to carry on from its current route and went along the road now called Waterfront Walk. The pub stands near part of the road that no longer exists.

One of the first New Town pubs, **The Jolly Friar** opened its doors in 1955.

The building originally featured an off-licence.¹





The Long Riding opened in 1960, but was converted in to a Christian Centre in 2013.¹





Opened on 11 January 1996¹, Wetherspoons took over the site of four former shops and named it '**The Moon on The Square**', influenced by the name of George Orwell's fictional 'ideal pub'.³

The pub is next to the old market and opposite The (short-lived) Towngate Pub.



Later called **The Oasis**, before becoming an American Burger restaurant, **The Painted Wagon** opened in 1971, changing its name to **The Jolly Waggoner** in the 1980's and then **The Oasis** in the 1990's.¹

The building was shut and has been boarded up since 2017.



The Quays opened in 1999 on roughly the same site of the old Treble Chance. It stands on Waterfront Walk, which used to be part of Pipp's Hill Road.¹

The **Towngate** was a short-lived pub opposite The Moon of The Square. It has been boarded up and empty for far longer than it was open for.



Standing near Aquatels, and roughly on the same site as The Quays, was **The Treble Chance**, which opened in 1973 as part of Pipp's Hill Country Club. It stood on Pipp's Hill Road, which is now called Waterfront Walk. It closed down in the 1990's. ¹



BILLERICAY

The Anchor operated from the 1610's until the 1740's before it was turned in to a glazier and a blacksmith. The building was demolished and replaced. By the 1960's the site was occupied by Bartons and S&D Supermarket. It stood opposite the site where the church now stands. ⁴



There have been two pubs in Billericay High Street called **The Blue Boar**. The current pub/restaurant stands very close to the site occupied by its predecessor.³



The original Blue Boar had a blue painted pig in a front window. It may have been called The White Boar, a celebration of Richard III, until his defeat during 1485, when any pub with this name painted the boar blue.⁴



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14 **BELLEFONTAINES' JEWELLERS** 14

The Bull Inn used to occupy the current site of 12 High Street for over 300 years. This is only part of a house that was built in the 1500's or 1600's and is Grade II listed. It is now a carpet shop.

It opened in the very late 1500's and closed down in the very early 1900's. It was sometimes known as The Old Black Bull. ⁴

The Chequers has been an inn since 1765 having been built as a house in the 1500's. It is a Grade II listed building, having been added to the list with 1 Chapel Street. ⁶



An inn call **The Croune** was running during the 1560's. Around 1615 it moved to a site behind the one now occupied by The Coach and Horses.

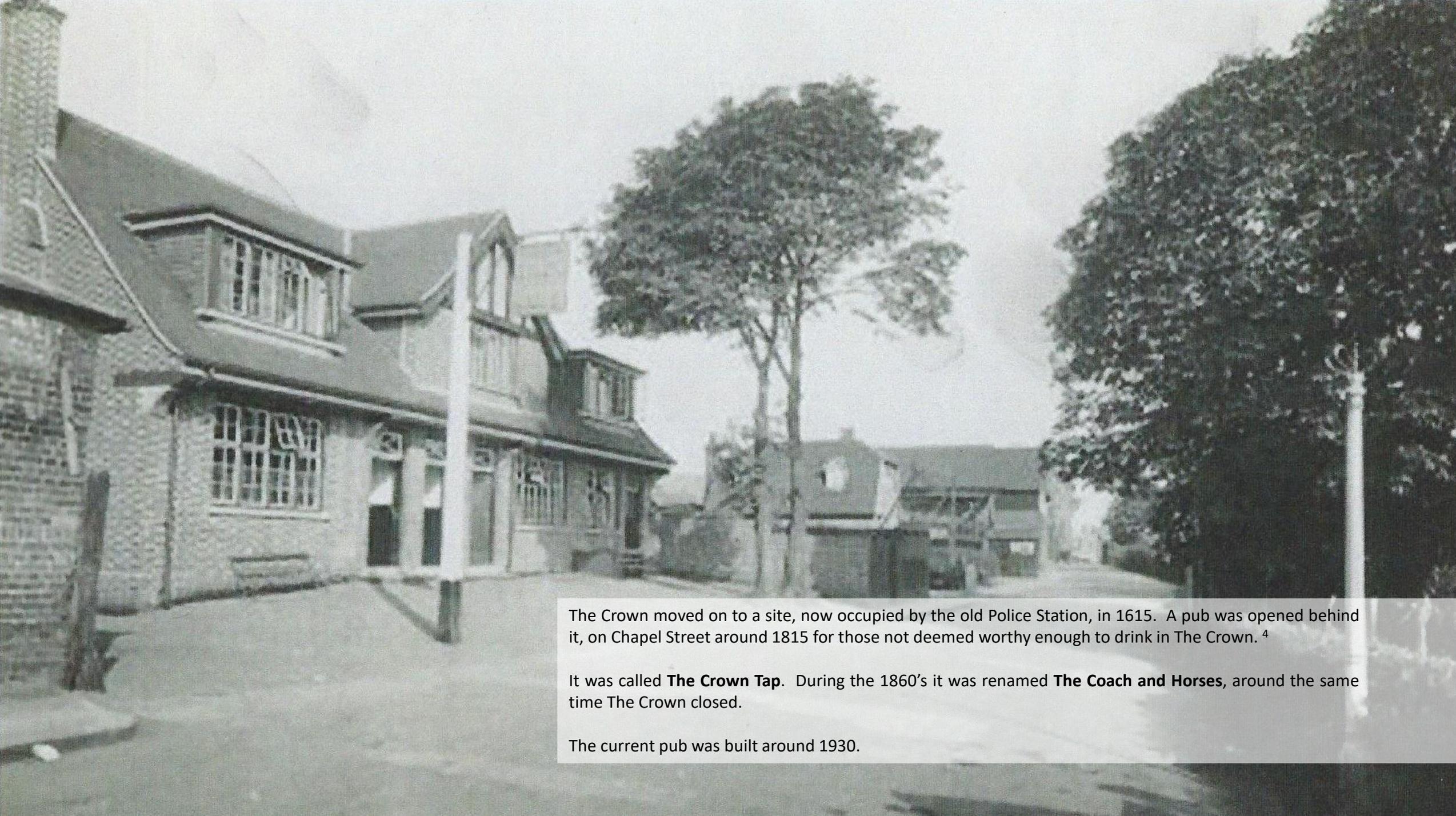
Coach services were recorded as leaving the Crown 6 days a week in the 1820's and 1830's, going in to London and Southend.

The inn acted as the Post Office for Billericay in the first half of the 1800's. It also grew watercress on a field on Chapel Street.

The 'lower orders', and employees of **The Crown** had their own pub to drink in at the end of the yard, called 'The Crown Tap', which is now The Coach and Horses.

With the decline of coach services, caused by the railway coming to the town, The Crown eventually closed around 1860. Another pub with the name opened but the current Crown opened in the 1800's.

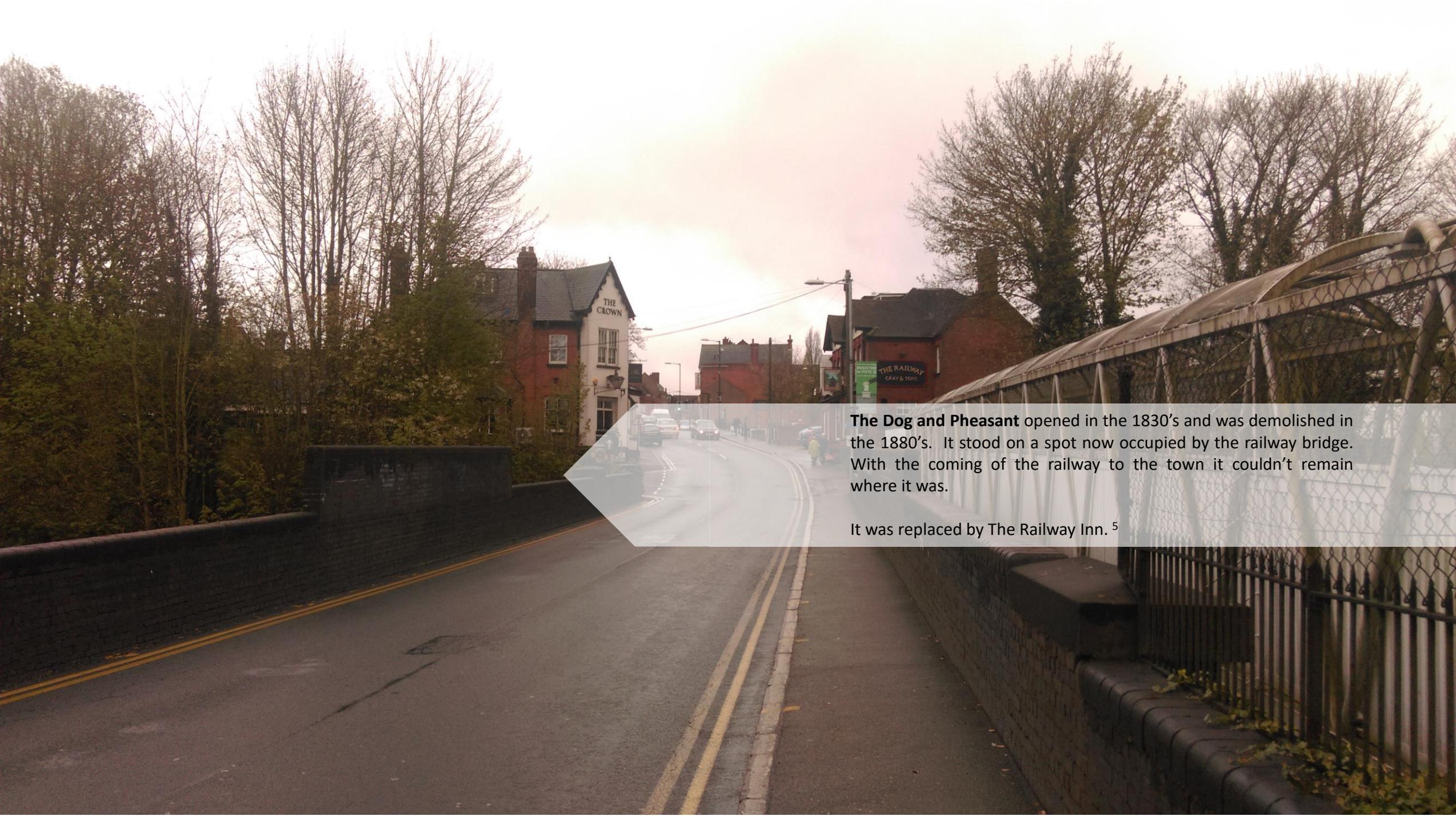




The Crown moved on to a site, now occupied by the old Police Station, in 1615. A pub was opened behind it, on Chapel Street around 1815 for those not deemed worthy enough to drink in The Crown. ⁴

It was called **The Crown Tap**. During the 1860's it was renamed **The Coach and Horses**, around the same time The Crown closed.

The current pub was built around 1930.



The Dog and Pheasant opened in the 1830's and was demolished in the 1880's. It stood on a spot now occupied by the railway bridge. With the coming of the railway to the town it couldn't remain where it was.

It was replaced by The Railway Inn. ⁵

The New Mayflower closed in 2013 and was turned into a restaurant. It was originally called **The Dovecote**.





The Forge serves the Queens Park area of Billericay.

The Royal Oak opened around 1850, taken over the former meeting house for the local Quakers. It closed in 1903 and occupied the site where Elizabeth Cottage now stands, at the end of The High Street, near Norsey Road.⁴

There appears to have been three inns called **The Fox**, or Old Fox, in Billericay in the past.

The earliest appears in records during 1647 when a sum of £6 a year was paid to the owner for its operation. It may have stood where Stock Road meets Norsey Road.

The second Fox Inn opened in 1765 but had closed by the mid-1780's. A beerhouse called The Fox was in operation until the early 1900's.⁴

First recorded in the 1560's **The George** had closed in the mid 1750's.

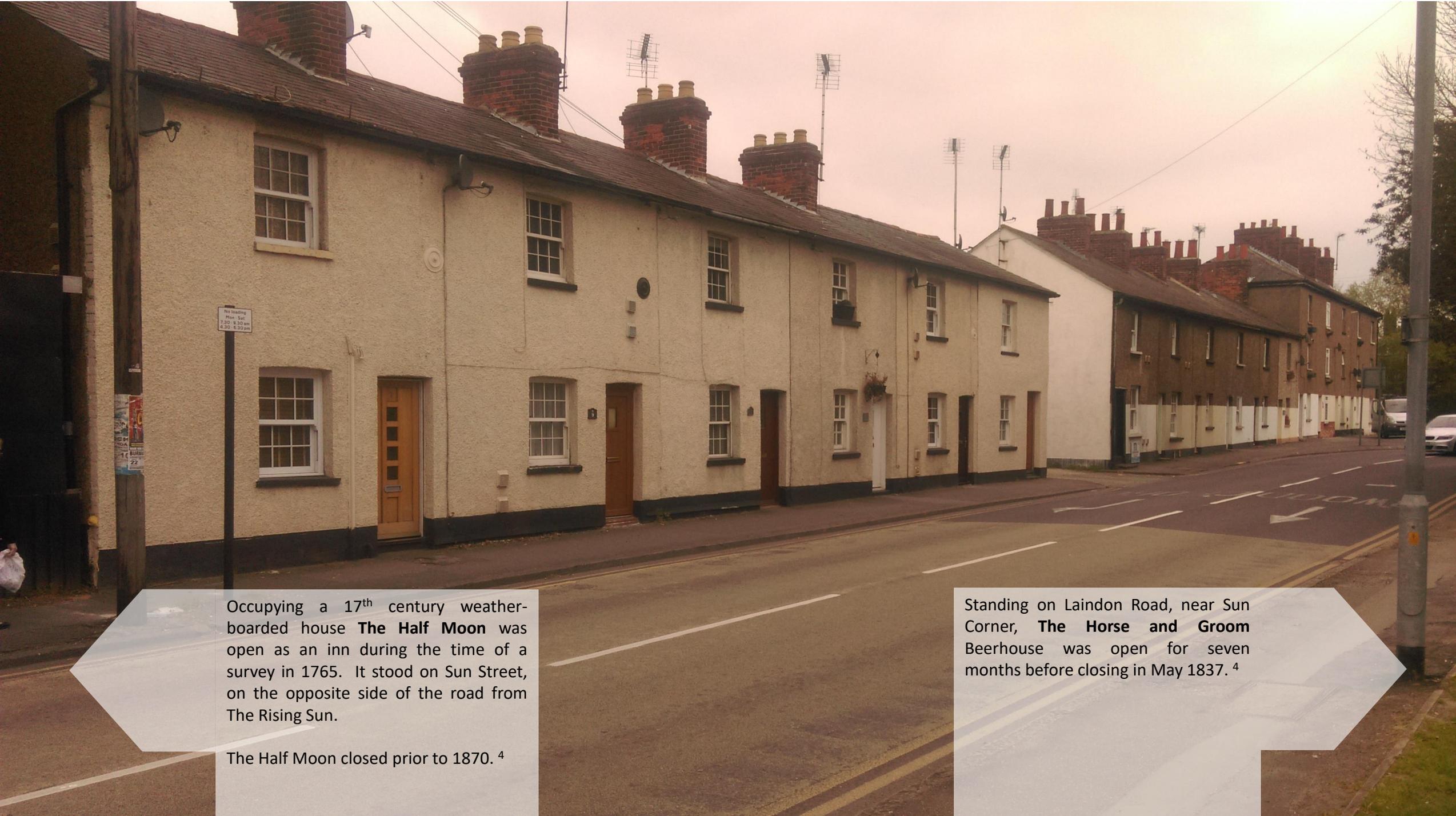
It stood roughly opposite the site now occupied by Barclays Bank. ⁴





INN
ON THE
GREEN

The Pilgrim changed its name to **The Inn of The Green** in 2007, having originally been called **The Gooseberry**.



No loading
Mon-Sat
7.30-8.30 am
8.30-8.30 pm

Occupying a 17th century weather-boarded house **The Half Moon** was open as an inn during the time of a survey in 1765. It stood on Sun Street, on the opposite side of the road from The Rising Sun.

The Half Moon closed prior to 1870. ⁴

Standing on Laindon Road, near Sun Corner, **The Horse and Groom** Beerhouse was open for seven months before closing in May 1837. ⁴

Opening around 1615, **The Kings Arms** took over the site that was the first home of The Crown. It had closed by 1770.⁴





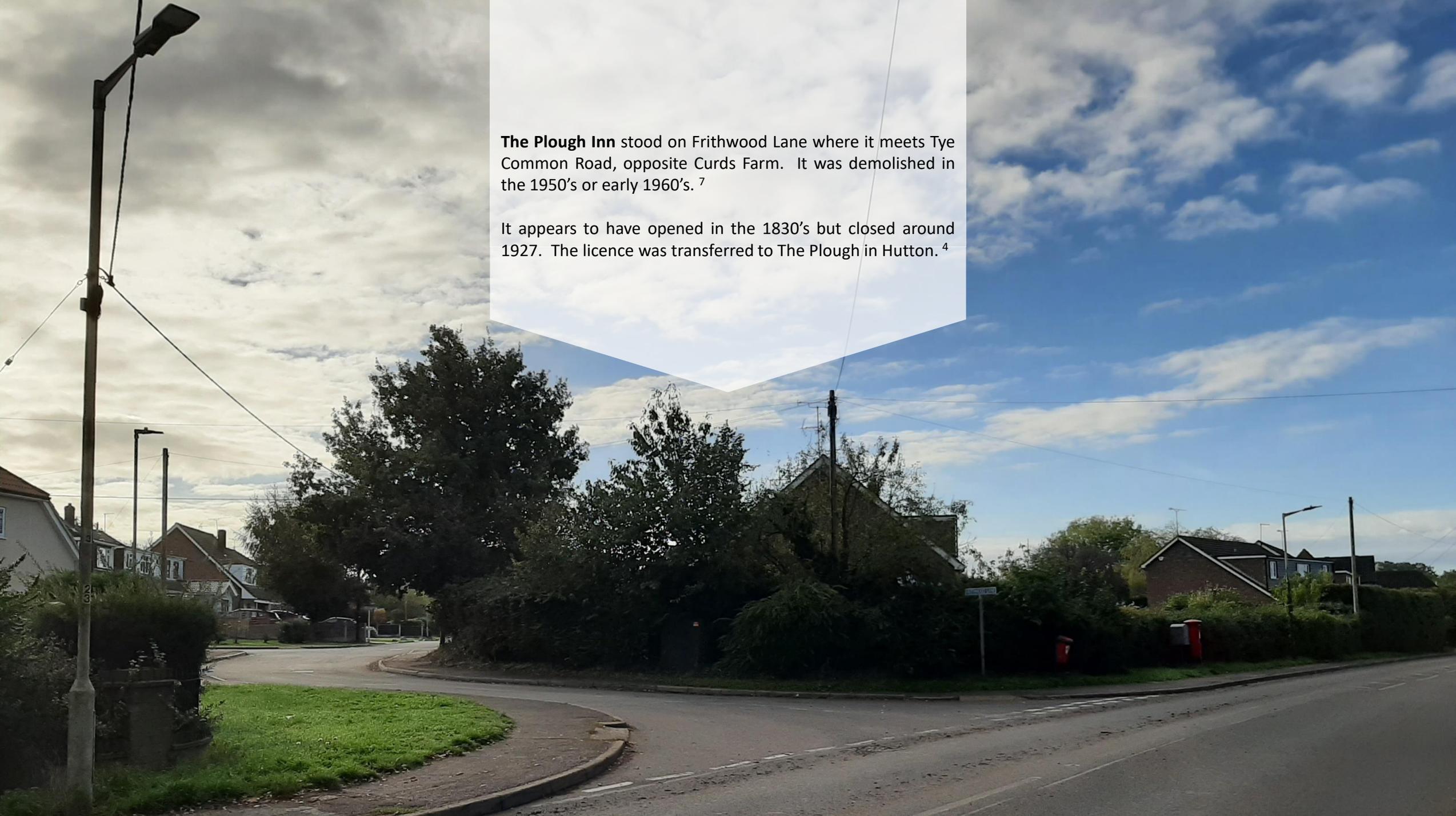
Harry's Bar, and the Artisan Bakery, it shares a building with, was built in the 1570's and was formerly the **Magpie and Horseshoe Inn**.⁶

The inn was open during the late 1760's but appears to have closed by the 1770's.⁴



98 High Street is better known as Regis House and was built in the Georgian style around 1750. An inn is recorded here in 1765.

Regis House was **The Maidens Head Inn** until the early 1800's. During the Second World War it was the headquarters of Billericay's Home Guard. Foxcroft was a children's home.⁶



The Plough Inn stood on Frithwood Lane where it meets Tye Common Road, opposite Curds Farm. It was demolished in the 1950's or early 1960's. ⁷

It appears to have opened in the 1830's but closed around 1927. The licence was transferred to The Plough in Hutton. ⁴

The Railway sits opposite The Crown, and unsurprisingly, near Billericay train station. It opened in 1885, three years before the station opened to goods traffic.⁵



The Red Lion Public House has features from the 1400's. This Grade II listed coaching inn was altered greatly in the 1700's and 1800's but now has modern refurbishment inside.⁶

It had been a private residence called 'The Merchants' but a survey of 1593 shows The Red Lion Inn had opened.



An advertisement in the Chelmsford Chronicle in March 1787 told readers that the 'Billericay Coach' would leave the Red Lion every morning, on its journey to Whitechapel.

In 1814 one part of the building, now occupied by a chemists, was sold off. This would have contained rooms and stables, which were no longer needed as the coach business was mainly run by The Crown and The Rising Sun.⁴

A former coaching inn, **The Rising Sun** was Grade II listed until it was converted into flats.

It first opened at 1810 and was ideally situated to make the most of passing trade from the coaches heading to and from London.

Coach services are recorded as leaving The Sun in the 1820's going to London as well as Rayleigh, Rochford and Southend.⁴



The Swan, a Tudor building, was mentioned as an inn on a rental agreement of 1563, it closed during the 1760's and was kept as a private residence until the mid-20th century. ⁴





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Three Horseshoes House is a Grade II listed former coaching inn. Built in the 1700's, with 137 High Street built in the late 1700's/early 1800's next door. Both buildings are listed. ⁵
It closed as a pub during World War One. ⁴



The Star was a short-lived inn, which closed around 1725. It stood on the site now occupied by The White Hart/Pasha's. ⁴

The first **White Hart** was opened in the early 1700's on the site now occupied by Barclays Bank. The pub was moved to its present site around 1770. ⁴

The current White Hart Inn was built in the early 1800's and sits next door to the post office. The building was converted in to a Turkish Restaurant in 2016 but retained its Grade II listing. ⁵

The pubs owner in 1681, Mr Joseph Fishpoole, owned a hop garden on Western Road. This was grown to produce beer. ⁴



The White Lion Inn once occupied the site of 75-79 High Street. This Grade II listed building, with cart entrance, was built in the early 1500's and was used as an inn for around 125 years. ⁴



Open from the early 1800's until around 1840 this inn was later taken over by a wool shop, also called 'Woolpack', on Chapel Street, behind the church.⁴

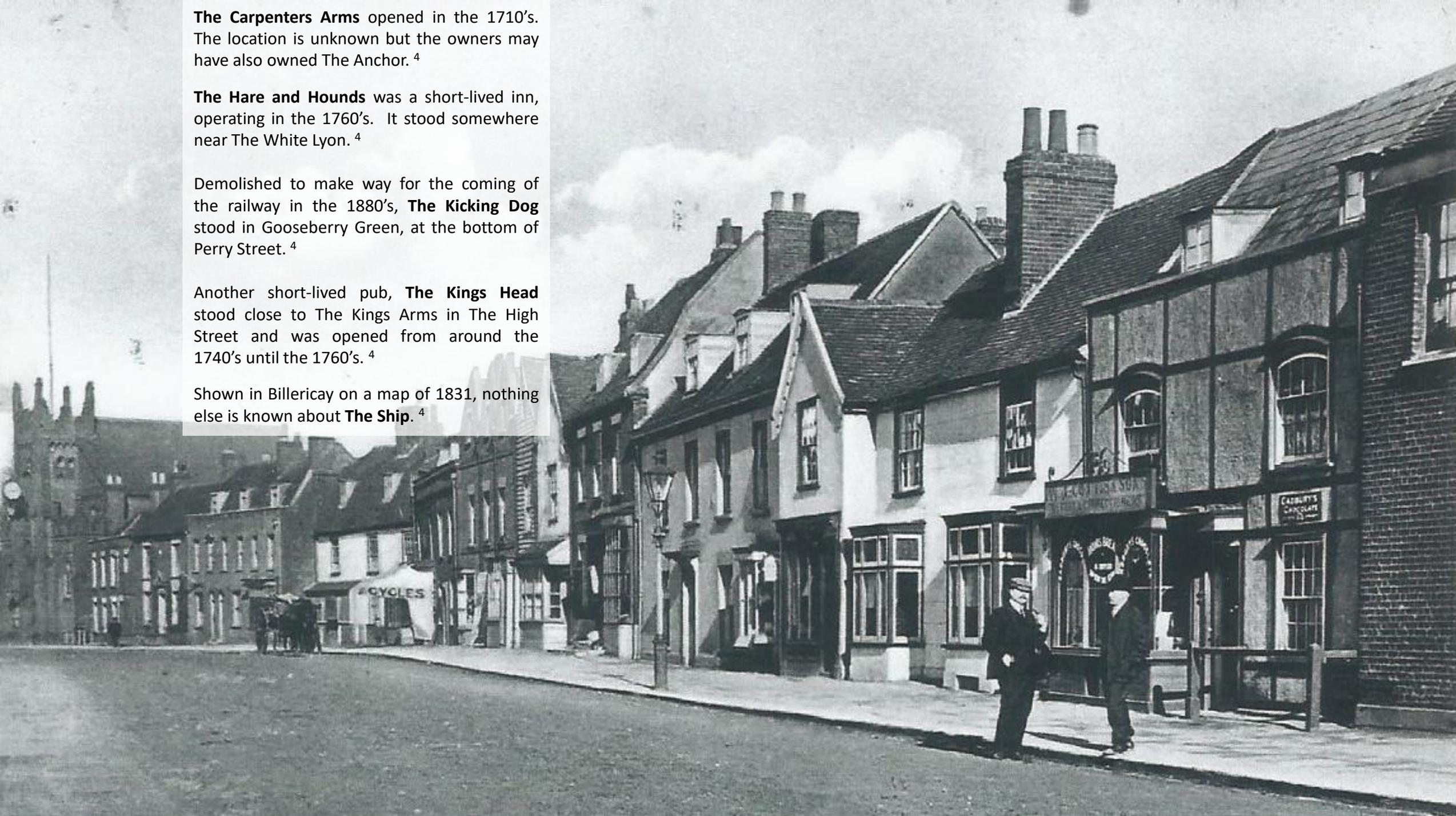
The Carpenters Arms opened in the 1710's. The location is unknown but the owners may have also owned The Anchor. ⁴

The Hare and Hounds was a short-lived inn, operating in the 1760's. It stood somewhere near The White Lyon. ⁴

Demolished to make way for the coming of the railway in the 1880's, **The Kicking Dog** stood in Gooseberry Green, at the bottom of Perry Street. ⁴

Another short-lived pub, **The Kings Head** stood close to The Kings Arms in The High Street and was opened from around the 1740's until the 1760's. ⁴

Shown in Billericay on a map of 1831, nothing else is known about **The Ship**. ⁴





BOWERS GIFFORD

The Gun stands on London Road, opposite Ilfracombe Avenue. The first recorded landlord was William Butler.⁸

The pub was rebuilt before World War Two.⁸ It has changed names a few times in recent years, known as **Aunt Fanny's Cabin** and **The Cornhusker**, but is now known as The Gun, once again.



FOBBING

The **Five Bells** public house sits alongside Bells Hill Road, at the bottom of the hill behind Basildon Hospital.

The 1888 OS Map shows the Bell Hill Road going straight in to Fobbing. The pub was on the junction with the High Road, Vange. ⁵

The Five Bells Restaurant is Grade II listed, and has been since 1950. The listing suggests the Five Bells was built in the early 1700's and that the old forge is now part of the pub itself. This appears to be the single storey area to the left of the front entrance.

'Basildon: A Pictorial History' shows the pub in the 1930's with the forge next to it. The book also mentions that there are deeds for an inn there from 1690 but the pub is first named on an 'Alehouse list' in 1769. ⁸





GREAT BURSTEAD

Bullstead Farm, in South Green, once stood on what is now Hickstars Lane and later became **The Bulls Head Pub**.

It is believed to have dated from the 17th Century. During 1945 it was damaged by a V1 flying bomb, and was then demolished in 1947.



An alehouse first stood on this site on Southend Road, South Green since 1823 when two houses were converted in to a public house. ⁵

A local militia was raised as the threat of an invasion during the Napoleonic War loomed over the country. These men were reviewed by **The Duke of York** and it is likely that the pub was named in his honour. ⁴

It was refurbished and re-opened in 2012. ⁵

The Plough used to stand on Southend Road, South Green. The building was damaged by a bomb during World War Two and the pub moved in to temporary accommodation until 1962 when new, permanent, premises were built.⁵

The original pub is now a doctor's surgery.





The Three Horseshoes opened in the 1760s, but changed its name to **The Five Bells** to avoid confusion with **The Three Horseshoes** already open in Billericay.

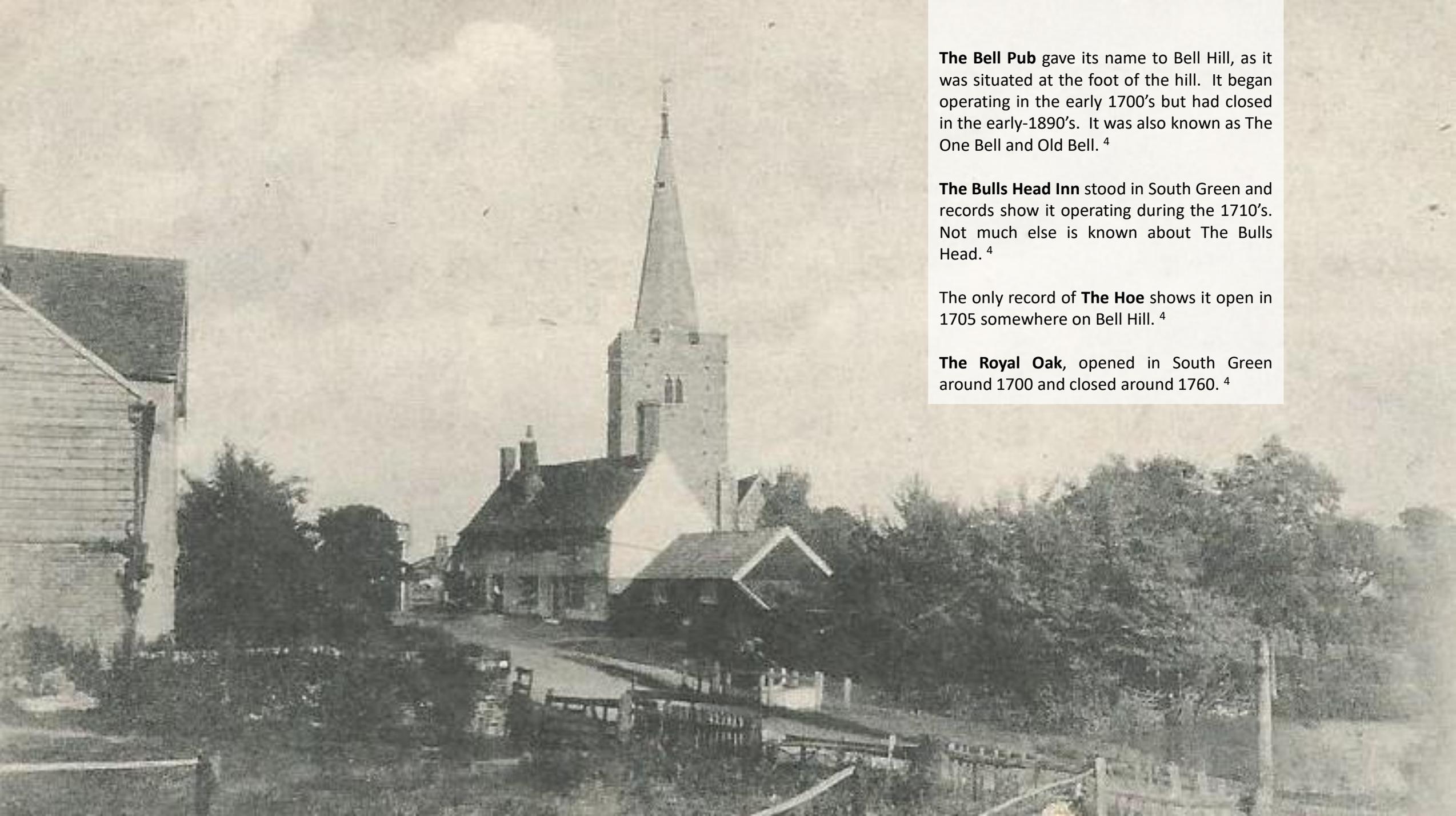
The pub closed for a year before re-opening in 1802 as **The Kings Arms**. It closed during the 1910s and was, for many years, the village store. The building, now a private house, stands next door to St Mary Magdalene's Church.⁴



The White Horse Inn opened around 1750, but the name had changed to **The King's Head** by 1760.

It once stood next to the Sly Street Turnpike, which is probably why the inn was opened on this site. ⁴



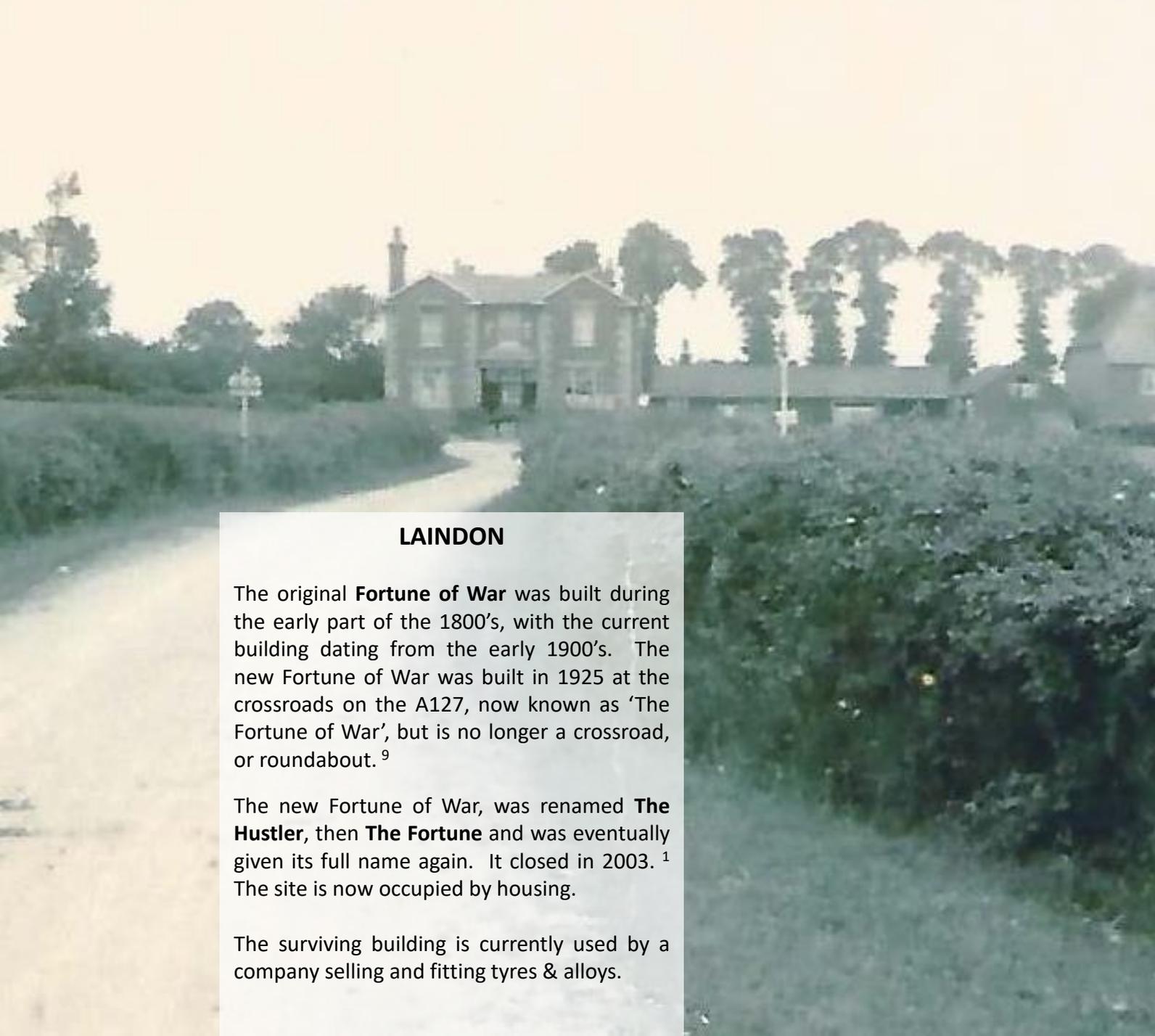


The Bell Pub gave its name to Bell Hill, as it was situated at the foot of the hill. It began operating in the early 1700's but had closed in the early-1890's. It was also known as The One Bell and Old Bell. ⁴

The Bulls Head Inn stood in South Green and records show it operating during the 1710's. Not much else is known about The Bulls Head. ⁴

The only record of **The Hoe** shows it open in 1705 somewhere on Bell Hill. ⁴

The Royal Oak, opened in South Green around 1700 and closed around 1760. ⁴



LAINDON

The original **Fortune of War** was built during the early part of the 1800's, with the current building dating from the early 1900's. The new Fortune of War was built in 1925 at the crossroads on the A127, now known as 'The Fortune of War', but is no longer a crossroad, or roundabout. ⁹

The new Fortune of War, was renamed **The Hustler**, then **The Fortune** and was eventually given its full name again. It closed in 2003. ¹ The site is now occupied by housing.

The surviving building is currently used by a company selling and fitting tyres & alloys.





The Joker opened in Laindon shopping centre during 1970. The pub was closed down in 2011 with many of the units in the shopping centre sitting empty as plans were submitted to the council to regenerate the area. ¹



The Landon Hotel was built on High Road, Landon in 1896 as part of the facilities for Landon Race Track.

The pub was closed in the late 1980's and was demolished in 1991. ⁹

THE LONDON HOTEL.



The Prince of Wales Pub was built in the 1930's on a site of a 1700's house on Wash Road. In recent years the name was changed to The Noak Bridge.⁹

Prince of Wales, Laindon.





Springfields opened in 1988, on Victoria Road, Laindon. During the 1990's it became **The Four Seasons**.¹



LANGDON HILLS

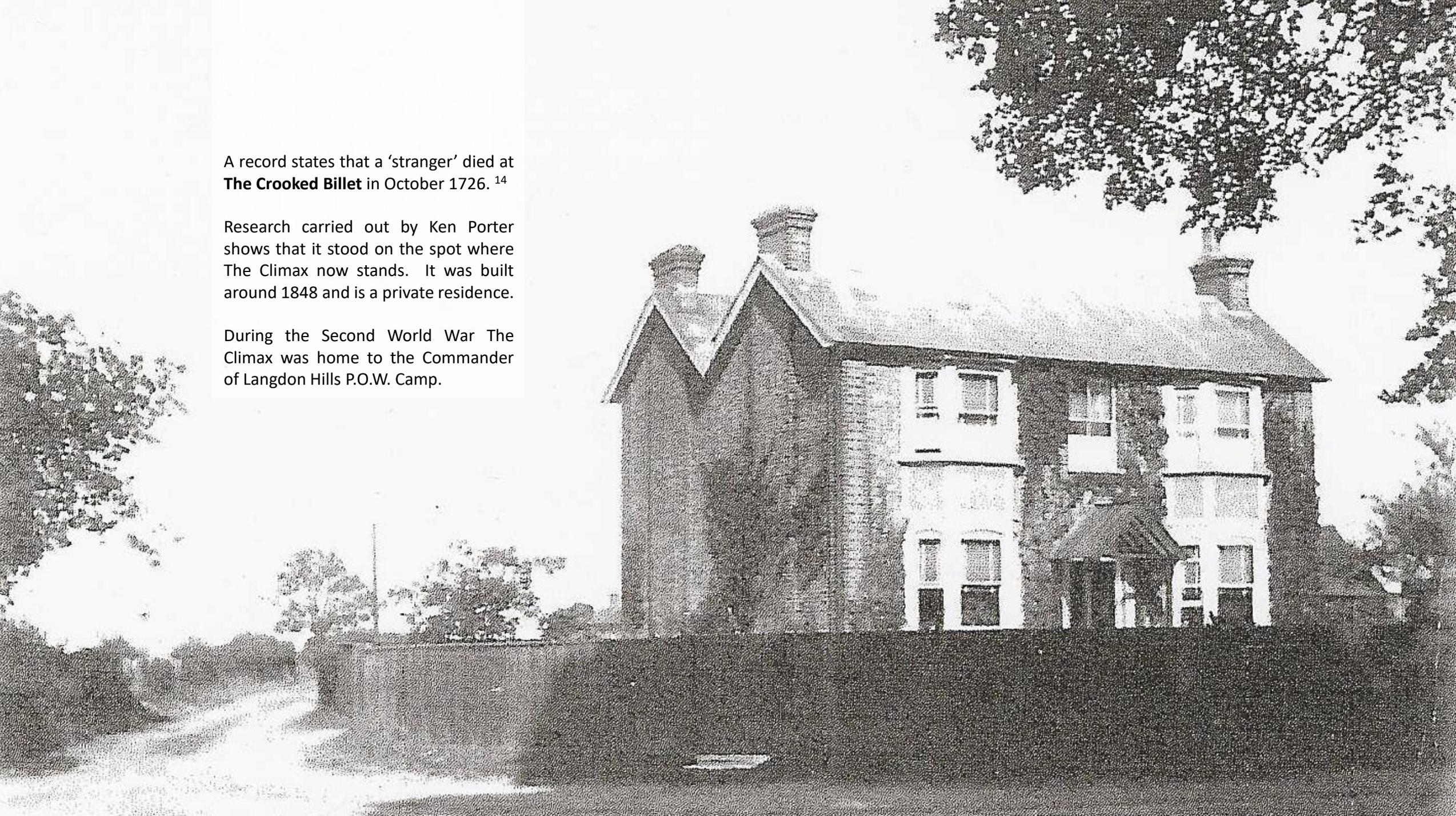
The Crown was built on land owned by the crown and dates from the 1850's.

The site has been occupied by a Public House for centuries.

A record states that a 'stranger' died at **The Crooked Billet** in October 1726. ¹⁴

Research carried out by Ken Porter shows that it stood on the spot where The Climax now stands. It was built around 1848 and is a private residence.

During the Second World War The Climax was home to the Commander of Langdon Hills P.O.W. Camp.





The Red Cow was built along Dry Street in 1843.¹ For many years it was home to the local Post Office and a general store until it was closed in the mid-1970's.⁹

It is now a private residence.



Red Cow Dry Street, Lanodon Hills.

LEE CHAPEL

Castle Mayne Farm is shown on a 1955 map, in an area next to Gaynesford in Lee Chapel, and at the end of Sporhams. A pond on the site still exists.⁶

The Castlemayne Pub, which opened in 1963, is named after the farm. It is on The Knares, not far from the site of the farmhouse.⁹





**PLOUGH
AND
TRACTOR**

**PLOUGH
TRACTOR**

sky SPORTS LIVE
HERE

**PLOUGH
AND
TRACTOR**

LIVE FOOTBALL HERE
sky SPORTS

**PLOUGH
AND
TRACTOR**

**PLOUGH
AND
TRACTOR**

Sitting next to Ballards Walk shops is the **Plough and Tractor** pub, which opened in April 1964. ¹

During the late 1980's it became **The Stores**, but the name was changed back due to popular demand in the 1990's. ¹



LITTLE BURSTEAD

The earliest record of **The Dukes Head** dates from 1826 when the pub, which appears to have been built a few years earlier, appeared in a catalogue for sale.

The inn had a skittle room, the forerunner of ten pin bowling. ⁴



The **Wheatsheaf** once stood on Laindon Common Road and has since been converted in to a cottage. This was built during the 18th Century. ¹²

NEVENDON

The Jolly Cricketers Pub stood on Old Nevendon Road. It was built 1927 to next to the A127 to cater for passing traffic, but the flyover meant it was then next to the slip road. It was closed, gutted by fire and demolished in 2003.¹

It had replaced a previous pub with the same name, which stood roughly where the Cranes Farm Road/Burnt Mill Road roundabout now is.⁷

A pub call **The Bell** once stood within the village of Nevendon.





The Van Gogh opened in November 1962 and was on the first floor above several shops on Paycocke Road. In the early 1970's Thin Lizzy played there and it once hosted The Vandals, featuring Alison Moyet, in 1978. Norman and The Worms, featuring Vince Clarke, also appeared here. ¹

It later became **The Factory** and then **Hats Night Club**. During the 1990's it was called **Monroe's** and then **Yum Yum's** when closed in the early 2000's. ¹



NORTH BENFLEET

The building once known as **The Harrows**, and now known as **The Dick Turpin**, appears to date from 1927, just after the A127 was built.

There was a pub on the site prior to this. ¹⁰



The Harrows Inn used to stand on Harrows Road until it burned down in 1914. It was rebuilt in 1915 and is now two houses.¹⁰

The Andre and Chapman map of Essex, 1777, shows **The Blue Anchor** in roughly the same place as The Harrows Inn.



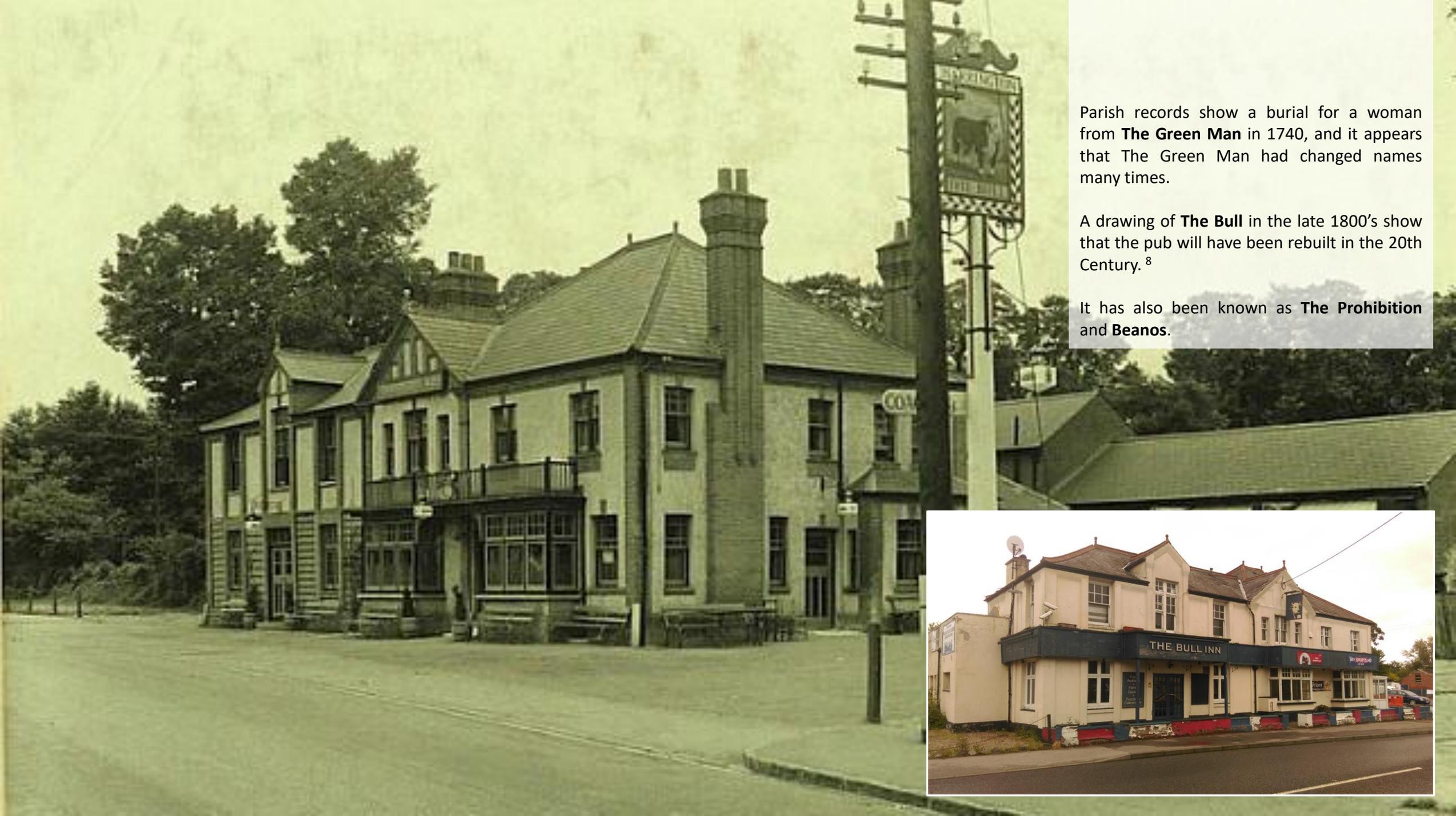
PITSEA

Great Chalvedon Hall is on Tyefields in Pitsea, near where the road meets Rectory Road.

The hall is Grade II listed and is described as 'an early 16th Century timber-framed and plastered house'.

Maps of 1888 show the hall being surrounded by fields with an entrance from Rectory Road, which then ran through to Burnt Mills. ⁶

Basildon Council purchased the Hall during 1977 and it was converted to a pub in 1979. There is now a large car park beside the hall and a nice pond next to it. Houses along Kenneth Road, leading to Bowers & Pitsea F.C. back on to the land the hall stands on.



Parish records show a burial for a woman from **The Green Man** in 1740, and it appears that The Green Man had changed names many times.

A drawing of **The Bull** in the late 1800's show that the pub will have been rebuilt in the 20th Century.⁸

It has also been known as **The Prohibition** and **Beanos**.



Northlands Pavement follows part of the route once traced out by Northlands Drive. It went past the Railway Pub up to the current site of Basildon Upper Academy to Northlands Farm, where it joined with Northlands Park Drive.

On Northlands Drive was **The Live and Let Live** Beerhouse. After the Railway Tavern was opened it was turned into a cottage.





The first **Railway** pub opened during late 1850's just after Pitsea train station opened. ¹ This inn used to stand on Broadway North, where the shops and bus stops are today.

The second Railway was built in 1927 on land owned by Mr Howard of Howard's Dairies. It was built in the Tudor style to match surrounding buildings. It was closed in 2006. ¹

The Watermill was built during the 1970's as the Felmores Estate was constructed. The hotel side has been expanded in recent years.

It is now a pub/restaurant owned by Beefeater.





RAMSDEN CRAYS

Opened in 1781, **The Shepherd and Dog** still stands on Southend Road, Ramsden Crays.¹³

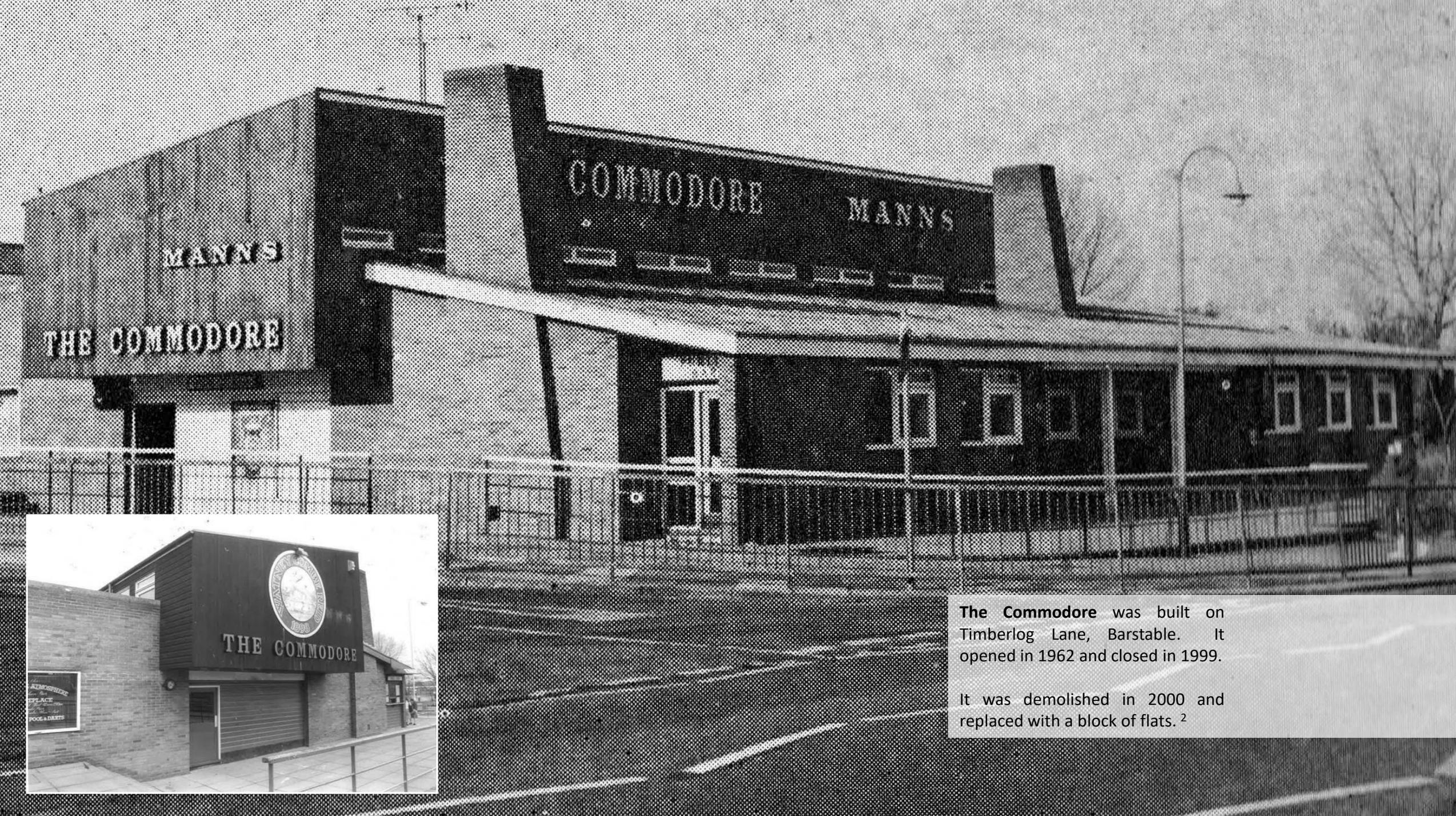
VANGE

The first Vange pub called **The Bull** was built in the 1800's, and demolished around 1961. Today the site is occupied by shops and a car park. It is shown on old maps as the 'Basildon Bull'.⁷

The second Bull opened in 1961 to replace the original Bull. It was renamed '**The Powerhouse**' in the mid-1980's. The pub was closed in 1998 after a murder, and demolished a few years later.

2





The Commodore was built on Timberlog Lane, Barstable. It opened in 1962 and closed in 1999. It was demolished in 2000 and replaced with a block of flats.²



Said to date from 1840's, **The Barge** has been closed since 2015. It had started life called '**The Man with Seven Wives**'. It had been called 'The Old Barge Inn' and 'The Old Barge'.

Since being closed the building has remained unoccupied and boarded up.



It was in 1961 that **The Owl and The Pussycat** opened in Kingswood. It became **The Lear** for a short period during the 1980's, before the name was changed back. The locals and regulars still referred to the pub as 'The Owl'.

Edward Lear was the poet that wrote 'The Owl and The Pussycat'. ¹

The Winged Horse stands on Luncies Road, land that was farmed from Luncies Farm.

The pub opened in 1957, its name chosen by a competition winner. ¹





WICKFORD

It is not known when **The Castle Hotel** opened, but the earliest records mention it in 1828.

When the Broadway Cinema was being refurbished in 1929 an upstairs room in The Castle stood in.

It was closed around 1990 and demolished in 1998, replaced by an Aldi supermarket.¹⁰



Thomas Darby moved to Wickford in 1902 and set-up a business in Russell Gardens to manufacture his patented Land Digger. They later moved to Stileman's on Runwell Road. ¹¹

The Darby Land Digger was sold around the world.

The Darby Digger Pub/Restaurant was opened in August 1993 on Radwinter Avenue. ¹⁰



The Dickens was a former leisure centre, it opened in 1983 stood on London Road, opposite St. Andrews Church.

It was demolished 2011 and was replaced by flats.¹⁰

The Sorcerer's first landlord was former West Ham United player Brian Dear.¹⁴ A former milkman remembers that Mr Dear would have a pint ready for him as the milk was delivered in the morning.

Now called **The Downham Arms**, the pub stands on London Road, where it meets Castledon Road.



The current **White Swan Hotel** dates from 1925, the previous building was a lot smaller. ¹⁰

Warren Patmore was the licensee for many years and a great benefactor of the Cricket Club, next door.



SOURCES

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