

# BASINGSTOKE INNS, BREWERIES AND PUBLIC HOUSES 1600 - 2015

## Basingstoke Inns 1600 – 1850

Basingstoke was an important trading centre and staging post from medieval times until the 19th century. Its position on the junction of the Great Western Road between London and the West Country and the roads from Portsmouth and Southampton to the North, meant that it needed several great inns to cater for the travellers, traders and customers who came to the town. The inns of Basingstoke provided overnight accommodation for those who were journeying over long distances, hospitality for those who came from afar to trade in cloth, and refreshment for the farmers and others who visited the weekly markets. There were many more ale houses which were smaller and probably served a more local clientele

In 1622 a record of the amount of malt that was brewed in Basingstoke listed five inns - the Angel, the Bell, the Chequers, the George and the Maidenhead - and 15 alehouses that were brewing beer.<sup>1</sup> In 1636, the Bell, Maidenhead and George were recorded in a London publication.<sup>2</sup> The landlord of the Bell was John Crosse who died in 1625 in which year the Bell had seven main bedrooms, along with four other rooms which had beds in them, including the servants' chamber. His goods included 43 oz of silver plate as well as pewter weighing 234 lb.<sup>3</sup> In 1631, Thomas Miles, tapster of the Bell, paid a shilling to sit in the Tapster's Seat in the Gallery of St Michael's Church.<sup>4</sup> The Bell was where the marquis of Winchester was kept after his defeat at the siege of Basing House before being moved to the Tower of London. The Fleur de Lys, which stood opposite the Bell in London Street, was where Oliver Cromwell stayed and wrote his famous letter to the House of Commons describing his victory.<sup>5</sup> Robert Barton, vintner, in 1638 left wine in his cellar at the George, which with the casket, bottles, glasses, pewter pots and other lumber, was valued at £130 7s. 2d. He also left wine valued at £80 in his brother's cellar at the Bell.<sup>6</sup>

Although William Manfield described himself as a 'clothworker' in his will in 1640, it is likely that he was also the landlord of the Prince's Arms, later the Feathers, which was formerly kept by his mother.<sup>7</sup> His inventory listed at least eight bedrooms, a brewhouse and nine hogsheads of beer and two empty hogsheads in the cellar. His goods were valued at £217 4s.<sup>8</sup>



*The Bell on the north side of London Street c. 1900*



*The Fleur De Lys, which stood opposite the Bell, c.1870*

The number of inns increased steadily in the 16th and 17th centuries, so that by 1716 there were 28 licenced inns and alehouses in the town and three distillers. The distinction between the inn, whose primary purpose was to serve travellers, and the alehouse, which was a drinking place that sold ale, was gradually being eroded.

A List of Inkeepers Alehousekeepers and Distillers of the  
Towne (1716)

Mr John Bishop at the Red lion  
Mr Edward Mourne at the Kingshead  
John Eastman at the Chequer  
Richard Brown at the Bell  
Wm Adams at the Flower de Luce  
John Spier at the Butcher's Arms  
Mr Wm Nevell at the George  
Mr Smart Box at the 3 Tuns  
Mr Rich Hack at the Angell and Crown  
Mr John Kinchin at the Great Crowne  
Mr Tho Biffin at the Maidenhead  
Richard Hedges at the 6 Bells  
Wm Eales at the Cross Keys  
Andrew Wright at the Little Crowne

Ralph Lavy at the Little Cross Keyes  
 Chr Watts at the Plow  
 John Turner at the Starre  
 Gyles Watts at the Swan  
 Tho Hack at the White Hart  
 John Ingram at the Ship  
 Rich Woods at the Rose and Crowne  
 Mary Watts at the Labour in Vain  
 Tho Ingram at the Princes Armes  
 Daniell Wigg at the King's Armes  
 Richard Cropp at Skypperds Inne  
 Will Knight at halfe way house  
 Richard Binsted at the Ship in the feild  
 Edw Baker at the Packhorse

Sampson Tompson )  
 John Goodier ) Distillers<sup>9</sup>  
 Dan Clements )

The Kings Head was situated on the north side of London Street. In 1759 John Windover borrowed £318 from Nicholas Windover of Stockbridge using the Kings Head as collateral.<sup>10</sup> Unable to repay, in 1764 the Kings Head and all its contents went to Nicholas except John and his family's wearing apparel.<sup>11</sup> Not all these inns were permanent, so that by 1797 the Kings Head had been converted into two tenements in the occupation of Hugh Jones, carpenter and John Hacker, gardener and seedsman.<sup>12</sup>

**B**ASINGSTOKE Stage-Coach, In One Day, is re-  
 mov'd from the Talbot-Inn in the Strand, to the Bolt and Tun  
 Inn in Fleetstreet, London; from whence it sets out every Tuesday  
 and Friday; and from the George-Inn in Basingstoke every Monday  
 and Thursday, at Four a Clock in the Morning; each Passenger pay-  
 ing, from Michaelmas to Lady-day, 9 s. and from Lady day to Mi-  
 chaelmas, 8 s. Perform'd with Six able Horses, and a good Coach, by  
**WILLIAM NEVILL.**  
*Note, At the George-Inn in Basingstoke, aforesaid, Gentlemen and  
 Ladies may be furnish'd with a handsome Chariot for any By-Road,  
 at reasonable Rates.*

*Advertisement in the Post Boy, 17 March 1713*

As well as being the proprietor of the George and the Basingstoke Stage Coach, the enterprising Mr Nevill was also importing 'very good French Claret', probably from Southampton, and forwarding it to London for 2s. 9d. a bottle.<sup>13</sup>

The inns performed a variety of administrative and social roles. Tithingmen from all the parishes in the Basingstoke Division had to make their annual appearance before the justices

in the 1670s at the Maidenhead.<sup>14</sup> During the Jacobite scare in 1723, Oaths of Allegiance were administered at the Maidenhead.<sup>15</sup> In the 1780s and 1790s, the Maidenhead and the Crown took it in turns to be the venue for the local magistrates' court. The Company of the Proprietors of the Basingstoke Canal Navigation held their meetings in the Crown.<sup>16</sup> In the 1780s the Crown and the Maidenhead were the venues for public meetings held by the Enclosure Commissioners.<sup>17</sup> In October 1819 a commission of enquiry was held at the Crown to determine whether George Vidler of Mapledurwell was a lunatic.<sup>18</sup>

In the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century, Basingstoke was an important fixture in the racing calendar. The inns and pubs benefitted from the hordes of visitors attending the Basingstoke races. From at least the 1730s until about 1770, horses had to be shown and entered for the races at the Maidenhead.<sup>19</sup> Thereafter, for the next 20 years, the Maidenhead and the Crown took it in turn to organise the races.<sup>20</sup> In the 19th century the horses had to be shown and entered at the Angel, where the innkeeper, Richard Curtis, collected the stakes and acted as clerk of the course.<sup>21</sup> Despite the Angel having 'a Noble Assembly Room', 41ft by 31ft,<sup>22</sup> the Race Balls were held at the Town Hall.<sup>23</sup>

Inns were the meeting places of various groups. The Basingstoke Annuity Society held its quarterly meetings and annual feasts at the Feathers from the 1760s until the Society was dissolved in 1787.<sup>24</sup> The White Hart hosted the Annual Florists' Feast.<sup>25</sup> The Hants Club used to meet 12 or 13 times a year on the nearest Thursdays to the full moon at either the Maidenhead or the Crown. The Club met at the Maidenhead from 1795 to 1797, and at the Crown from 1798 to 1804.<sup>26</sup> Most of the more prominent members of North Hampshire society were members of the Hants Club. In 1803 the list of members included Lord Bolton of Hackwood Park, William and Thomas Chute of the Vine, the earl of Portsmouth, Lovelace and Harris Bigg Wither of Manydown.<sup>27</sup>

At the end of the 18th century, the Maidenhead and the Crown were referred to as the best inns in Basingstoke.<sup>28</sup> They were the only Basingstoke inns listed in the 1799 edition of *Paterson's Roads*. The Crown was described as having,

“a frontage to Winchester Street of 54 feet and a depth of 120 feet, containing 23 rooms with offices, Coach house and stabling for the Horses, excellent vaulted cellars, etc. ... having formed the principal Inn in the Town of Basingstoke for the last Two Centuries.”<sup>29</sup>

The balls that Jane Austen attended at the Town Hall were organised by the innkeepers of these two inns: by Mrs Martin of the Maidenhead until she relinquished innkeeping in February 1798; and thereafter by William Willson of the Crown. They dealt with the tickets and refreshments, hired the bands and placed advertisements in the *Reading Mercury*.<sup>30</sup>

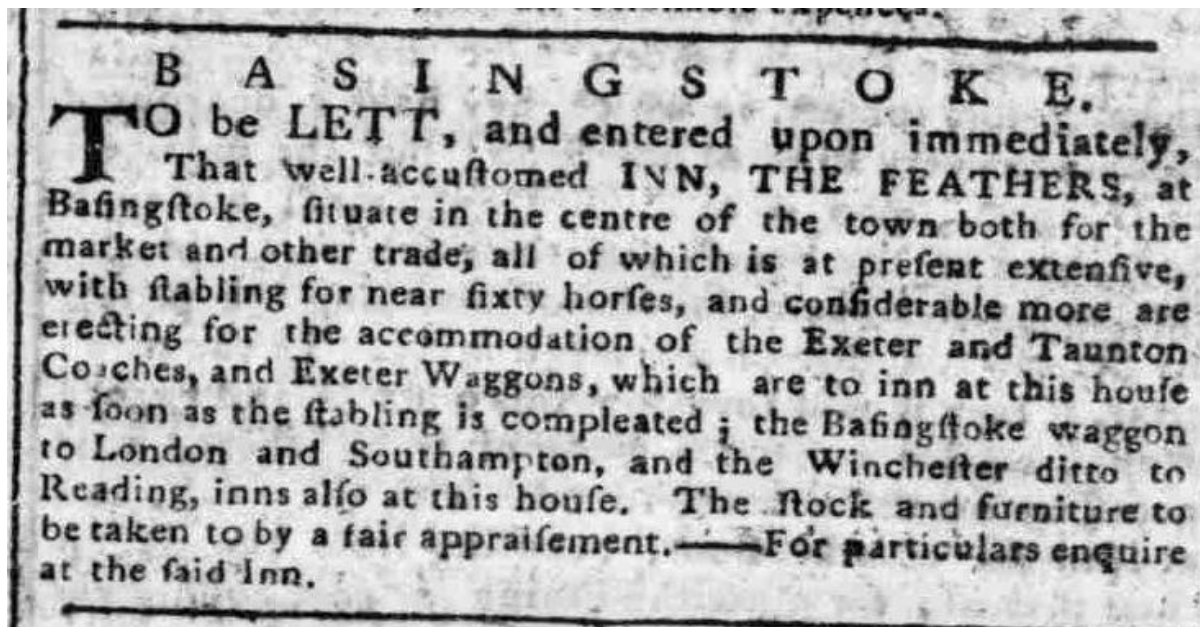
The Maidenhead changed its name to the Bolton Arms in 1802 and shortly afterwards the landlord faced problems over his post horses.<sup>31</sup> The innkeeper, John Smith, advertised that he was running post horses at 15 pence per mile, and charging only 17 miles to Andover, instead of 18.<sup>32</sup> In 1810 he placed a notice that some ‘Evil Disposed Person or Persons have maliciously propagated a Report’ that his post horses were glandered and his stables were infected. He said that this report was false and propagated by his enemies.<sup>33</sup> In 1814 he advertised that ‘in consequence of his continued resistance to the combination of keeping up the price of Posting at 1s. 6d. per mile, they, (the opposite line) have purchased the lease of the [Bolton Arms] intending to monopolise the whole of the Posting,’ thus forcing him to move to a building ‘adjacent to the Red Lion’ where he intended carrying on the posting business.<sup>34</sup> John Adams, a hop merchant from Reading, told a parliamentary committee that a brewer from Andover had a monopoly of inns along the line of posting road between Andover and Basingstoke, and was buying up leases and making his tenants enter into an agreement not to keep post horses except those who undertook to buy certain amount of wine and spirits from him.<sup>35</sup> It does not appear that the Bolton Arms ever re-opened as an inn.

By 1830 there were 16 daily coach services and one three times a week to London, five daily services to Devonport, five to Southampton, two to Exeter, two to Salisbury and one each to Reading, Taunton and Weymouth, plus one three times a week to Bridgewater.<sup>36</sup> Basingstoke was an important staging and refreshment point for coaches. The Red Lion in London Street, the George and the Angel in the Market Place, and the Crown and the Wheatsheaf in Winchester Street, competed for contracts to provide this service.<sup>37</sup>

Owing to Basingstoke’s position on a major route, its inns had to provide changes of horses and stabling. In 1782 the Feathers in Wote Street had stabling for ‘near 60 horses’.<sup>38</sup> The Maidenhead Inn had ‘convenient yards, coach house and stabling for near one hundred horses.’ It also supplied “neat post chaises, with able horses and careful drivers’.<sup>39</sup> When the Crown was put up for Auction in 1840, the items to be sold included 21 post horses, four mules, two cows in calf, 15 pigs, post chaises, flys, mourning coaches, 170 dozen bottles of port and sherry wines, 300 ounces of plate, brewing plant, 2,000 gallons of beer, the furniture



of 30 rooms, 27 bedsteads, 27 feather beds, mattresses and bedding, mahogany furniture, linen, carpets, china and glass.<sup>40</sup> The George had a dining room on the first floor, eight bedrooms, and stabling for eleven horses. In 1833 it announced that the Southampton and Exeter coaches changed there.<sup>41</sup>



**B A S I N G S T O K E.**  
**T**O be LETT, and entered upon immediately,  
That well-accustomed INN, THE FEATHERS, at  
Basingstoke, situate in the centre of the town both for the  
market and other trade, all of which is at present extensive,  
with stabling for near sixty horses, and considerable more are  
erecting for the accommodation of the Exeter and Taunton  
Coaches, and Exeter Waggon, which are to inn at this house  
as soon as the stabling is compleated; the Basingstoke waggon  
to London and Southampton, and the Winchester ditto to  
Reading, inns also at this house. The stock and furniture to  
be taken to by a fair appraisement. — For particulars enquire  
at the said Inn.

*Advertisement in Hampshire Chronicle, 9 September 1782*

Basingstoke had become an innkeeping town. Its inns made a significant contribution to the local economy. They gave employment to a large number of supporting workers (innkeepers, tapsters, domestic staff, ostlers, grooms, porters and postboys, and employed the local services of wheelwrights, farriers, saddlers, harness makers, etc.) plus the agriculture to support the horses for the stage coach changes, as well as the carriers' horses. It needed beds and stabling. Its prominence was shown in a military survey drawn up in 1686 when it was assessed as having 104 beds and stabling for 357. It possessed the fifth largest number of beds in Hampshire, but only Winchester and Andover exceeded its amount of stabling.<sup>42</sup>

In 1830 innkeepers and horse keepers rented 13 per cent of the land in the parish.<sup>43</sup> Richard Curtis, landlord of the Angel, was said to have been worth upwards of £45,000 in 1830, and at one time kept some 500 horses for his coaching business.<sup>44</sup> After he was made bankrupt in 1850, his property was auctioned, which included the Angel; the Black Boy in Church Street; the Pheasant in Bunnian Place; the Crown and Anchor in Chapel Street; the Jolly Farmer at Cliddesden; the New Inn at Monk Sherborne; the New Inn at Tadley; the premises

that was formerly occupied by the Crown in Winchester Street; the Lickpit Estate in Basing, comprising 231 a.; Old Castle Field near the centre of Basingstoke comprising 15 a.; and houses and land in Basingstoke and surrounding villages as far afield as Bagshot in Surrey.<sup>45</sup>

The coming of the railway in 1839 had a devastating effect on the coaching trade and the long distance carriers. The railway meant that goods and livestock could be transported much faster and cheaper than before. One observer noted in 1841 that, because the coaches had ceased to run through Basingstoke, 'not only is the appearance of the town much less cheerful ... but many local interests are suffering from the transition'.<sup>46</sup> By 1844, the Reading coach was the only coach serving Basingstoke<sup>47</sup>, and that ceased after 1848 when the GWR line opened. In 1839 a Basingstoke coach master was made bankrupt.<sup>48</sup> In 1840, an innkeeper was imprisoned for debt,<sup>49</sup> the landlady of the Crown was made bankrupt<sup>50</sup>, and one of her ostlers committed suicide for fear of being sent to the workhouse, leaving his widow and 'nine young children in a state of destitution'.<sup>51</sup> The Crown ceased to be an inn.<sup>52</sup> Part of the building was later used as an ordinary public house, which retained the name of the Crown, initially the Crown Tap, and the yard was used as a coach-maker's workshop.<sup>53</sup> The George with its seven bedrooms and other equipment was put up for auction in 1843, 'the Business of the Inn being relinquished'.<sup>54</sup> The owner of the Angel was unable to pay his debts and in 1850 his assigns put his property up for auction.<sup>55</sup> The Angel ceased to be an inn in 1866.<sup>56</sup>

There was little effect on those inns that served the local carriers, such as the Feathers and the Harrow in Church Street. Carriers left the Basingstoke inns to travel to Alton, Kingsclere, Newbury, Odiham, Overton, Reading, Whitchurch and many of the surrounding villages.<sup>57</sup> But this was some small beer compared with the overall loss of business in the town.

Between 1841 and 1851 the population of Basingstoke grew by only 197 – a 4.8 percentage increase, compared with the 12.7 per cent increase during the same period for England and Wales as a whole. This indicates that, allowing for births, there was an exodus of people leaving the town in search of work. It was not until the late 1850s when Basingstoke reinvented itself as a manufacturing centre that the town began to make up for the loss caused by the collapse of the coaching trade and started to reap the benefits of being at the centre of a railway hub.

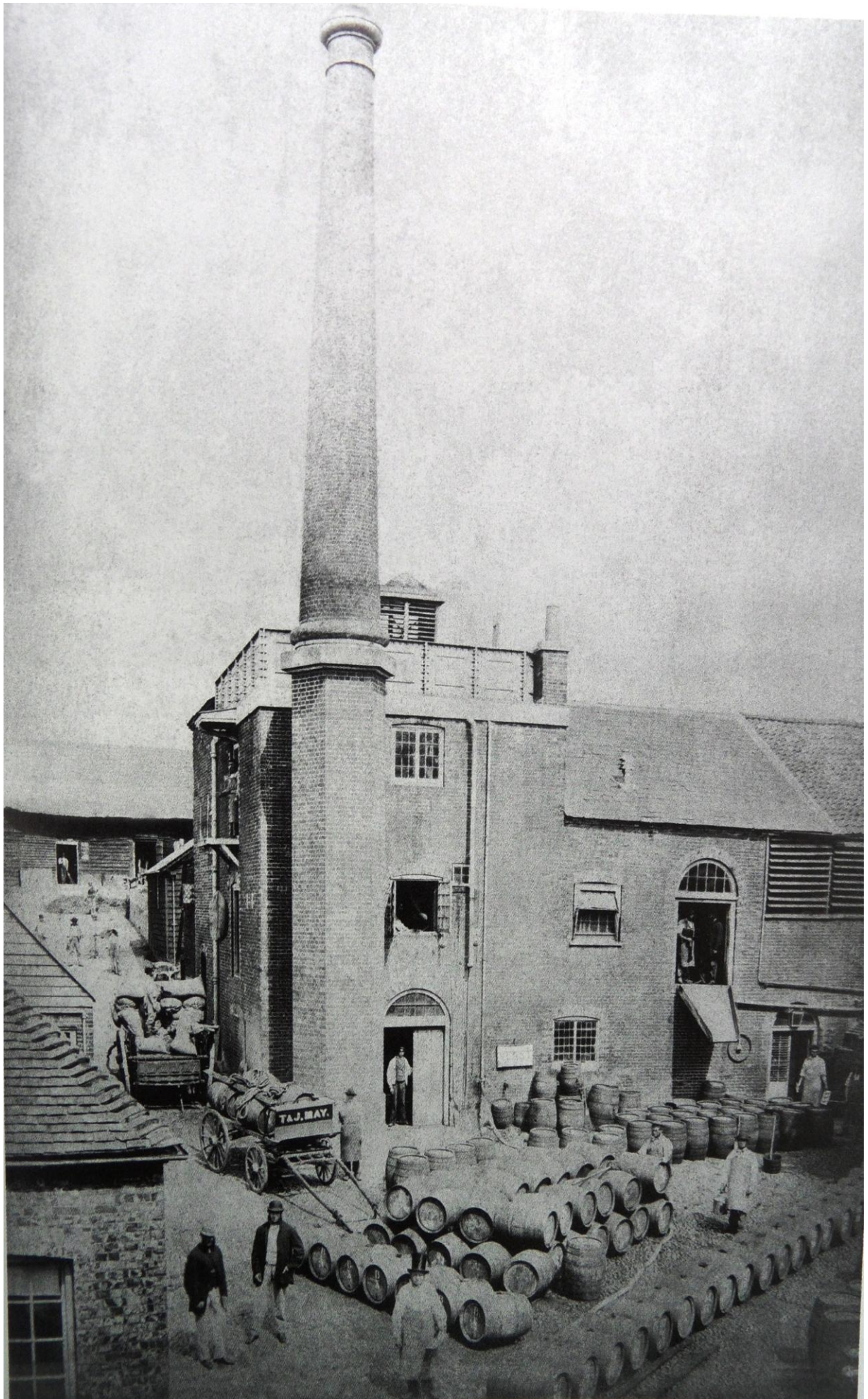
**Basingstoke Breweries 1750 – 2015**



In the meantime the *Berkshire Chronicle* described Basingstoke as, ‘possessed of no great manufactory, but a purely agricultural town’. Brewing, however, was an important local industry by the 18th century which continued until 1950. The *Berkshire Chronicle* acknowledged that the Basingstoke Brewery in Brook Street, known as May’s Brewery, was the ‘most prominent local feature in [Basingstoke’s] mercantile establishment’.<sup>58</sup> May’s brewery was founded in 1750 or 1756, accounts vary.<sup>59</sup> It was part of a development that took place in the 18th century towards brewing on an industrial scale and the introduction of the tied house system. By 1794 it had an estate of at least 18 pubs,<sup>60</sup> including the Angel at Odiham, which it bought in 1777,<sup>61</sup> and the Bell and the White Hart in Basingstoke.<sup>62</sup>

May’s became the biggest brewery in Basingstoke and the surrounding district. By 1857 it was brewing some 10,600 barrels a year, of which upwards of 4,200 barrels was strong ale. The brewery was fitted up with a 28-quarter plant, which meant that it could brew around 2,000 gallons at a time. It owned or leased 63 pubs, 23 of which were in Basingstoke. The remainder were in an area that stretched from Thatcham in the north to Winchester in the south, and from Sutton Scotney in the west to Blackwater in the east. It also supplied a further 29 free houses, the trade of which was secured by leases or agreements. It owned a small steam vessel which was used to transport beer along the Basingstoke Canal to outlets connected with the new military camp at Aldershot, including the Royal Hotel and the Alliance at Aldershot. An auctioneer valued the estate at £41,625.<sup>63</sup>

May’s brewery continued to grow until the 1940s. In 1920 it bought the Kingsclere brewery and its two pubs in Kingsclere – the Falcon Inn and the Swan Hotel – and the Pineapple beer house in Whitchurch.<sup>64</sup> When the Hartley Row Brewery was put up for auction in 1921, Mays bought six of their pubs, including the Dorchester Arms in Hook.<sup>65</sup>



### *May's Brewery c. 1860*

However, brewing ceased to be a major industry in Basingstoke soon after January 1947, when H. & G. Simonds of Reading acquired the whole of the ordinary share capital (147,000 £1 Ordinary Shares) of John May & Co, and agreed that brewing operations would continue for a minimum of three years at Basingstoke.<sup>66</sup> By that time John May & Co owned or leased 94 licensed premises. The addition of those properties brought the total of licensed properties controlled by Simonds to 1,295.<sup>67</sup> May's Brewery closed on 31 March 1950.<sup>68</sup>

In the 18th century there were also a few small brewers in Basingstoke. William Downes (d.1770) possessed brewing equipment including a horse mill for grinding malt, an apple mill and a cider press. He had 305 barrels of strong beer valued at £457 10s. and 47 pounds of hops. He had interests in the Fleur de Lys, the Royal Oak, the Rose, the Shepherd and Shepherdess, the Blue Anchor, the Goat at Eastrop and the Wheatsheaf at Tunworth.<sup>69</sup> Lawrence Talmage was a brewer in Basingstoke for some 30 years before 1800 when the premises he occupied were advertised to be let. They included a spacious dwelling house, brew house, three cellars and two large store houses capable of holding several hundred hogsheads of beer.<sup>70</sup> The Pink family were brewers in Basingstoke in the 18th century. William Pink was described as a common brewer in 1758 and had interests in the Fox and Hounds in the Market Place and the Wheatsheaf in Winchester Street.<sup>71</sup> John Pink and William Paice were listed as brewers in Basingstoke in 1784, along with Messrs May.<sup>72</sup> John Pink left £30 a year to his wife, £300 to his granddaughter, £20 to a friend, and the rest of his estate to his son.<sup>73</sup>

By the second half of the 19th century Basingstoke had four breweries: May's Brewery; the Pear Tree Brewery in Flaxfield Road; the Wote Street Brewery; and Adams' Victoria Brewery in Victoria Street. The Pear Tree Brewery was owned by the Barrett family of Farnham. They also owned or leased the Travellers' Rest, the Swan, the Lamb, the Victory and the Royal Exchange, and also the Bolton Arms in Old Basing.<sup>74</sup> The Wote Street Brewery, which incorporated the Grapes public house, was sold to the Barretts in 1878 along with the Royal Oak beer house in Bunnian Place, the Old House at Home, Newnham, and the Swan at North Warnborough. The Auction notice stated that the total trade of the brewery was about 1,700 barrels annually.<sup>75</sup> In 1880 Barratts advertised beer from 8*d.* a gallon sold in casks of all sizes from the Wote Street Brewery, and beer at 9*d.* a gallon brewed especially for the Hay and Harvest Season.<sup>76</sup> The Barretts closed the Pear Tree Brewery and moved

their operations to Wote Street. In 1889 the Barretts amalgamated with another brewery to form the Farnham United Breweries.<sup>77</sup> The Victoria Brewery was run by Sarah Ann Adams, the widow of the founder, and her sons, Edward, Charles and Valentine. When Sarah Ann died in 1898, the brewery was sold along with the Victoria Inn (otherwise known as the Shades), the Crown, The Old House at Home beerhouse and the Fox at Ellisfield to Crowley's of Alton in 1896.<sup>78</sup>

In the 21st century there have been two small scale brewing enterprises in Basingstoke. Beckett's Brewery in Enterprise Court, Daneshill, lasted only from 1997-2003.<sup>79</sup> In 2016 real ale producer, Longdog Brewery, in West Ham Lane (established 2011) was flourishing.<sup>80</sup> Four miles away was the Andwell Brewery, which brewed its first pint in October 2008.<sup>81</sup>

### Basingstoke Public Houses 1850 – 2015

Some of the larger inns and public houses had their own brew houses, for example, the Maidenhead, the Crown, the Angel and the Black Boy. However, the economies of scale enjoyed by the breweries meant that breweries could produce beer much cheaper. This was especially so following the Beer Act in 1830, which meant that anyone could open a beer house without the need for annual magistrates' licences by buying a two guinea licence from the Excise Office. The Beer Act resulted in almost a doubling in licenced premises. By 1852 the 24 pubs and inns in Basingstoke which had full licences (known as alehouse or public house licences) from the magistrates to sell beer, wine and spirits had been joined by 20 beer houses.<sup>82</sup> After responsibility for licensing beer houses transferred to the magistrates, many beer houses applied for full licenses, but some remained as beer houses until the 1950s. The Engineers Arms did not get its full licence until February 1952.<sup>83</sup>





*The Engineers Arms c. 1910. This Public House stood where Churchill Way in 2016 feeds into Eastrop roundabout.*

Many publicans had to have other jobs in order to survive. William Sayer, the landlord of the Cattle Market Tavern to 1880, was also the local gunsmith.<sup>84</sup> His successor, James Strong, doubled as a boot repairer.<sup>85</sup> James Heath, who took over the licence in 1882, also worked as a painter and glazier.<sup>86</sup> William Klitz, landlord of the Black Boy in the 1850s, was also a Professor of Music, a musical instrument seller and repairer, and the organist at St Michael's Church.<sup>87</sup>

Publicans also suffered financial losses when soldiers were billeted on them. In 1872 the publicans of Basingstoke petitioned Parliament that the statutory power of billeting troops on licensed victuallers and beerhouse keepers 'exercised a heavy tax [and] a serious inconvenience' on persons of their calling. They said the government allowance of 10*d.* for each man was insufficient to cover the cost of bed, board and stabling, which cost 1*s.* 11*d.* a head. The proximity of Basingstoke to the military camp at Aldershot meant that billeting was frequently used. During the previous autumn manoeuvres some 1,400 mounted troops had been billeted in the town for eight days, which meant that all the hotel stabling in the town was taken up by the troops' horses disrupting the regular trade of the town.<sup>88</sup>

Basingstoke entered the 20th century with 54 pubs. That was the high point. In 1902 as part of a nationwide campaign, influenced by the temperance movement, the Hampshire quarter sessions resolved that steps should be taken to reduce the number of licences where they were excessive in relation to the population. They drew attention to the powers of magistrates to refuse to renew licences and urged them to consider whether the number of licences were in excess of the requirements of the inhabitants.<sup>89</sup> Basingstoke was particularly vulnerable as, by dividing its population by the number of pubs, the number of persons to each pub was 181, of which the number of adult males per pub was 49, and some of those did not drink. An influential group comprising mainly nonconformists, including Thomas Burberry, argued that a reduction in the number of pubs would lessen the temptation afforded by facilities for obtaining drink, and intemperance would materially decrease.<sup>90</sup> A Dr Andrews told the licensing bench that if all the licences were suppressed, life would be ten times longer. He later changed that to one-tenth longer.<sup>91</sup> As a result of those pressures, the town lost 11 pubs between 1903 and 1912. This represented a drop of just under 21 per cent, compared with the 10 per cent of licences that were extinguished nationwide during the same period.<sup>92</sup>

At the annual licencing meeting in 1903, the borough magistrates adjourned the applications for the renewal of the licences for the Bell, the Ship, the Harrow, the Swan, the Lamb, the Pear Tree, the Crown and the Anchor.<sup>93</sup> At the adjourned meeting, the magistrates renewed the licence for the Anchor as it was useful for billeting troops, having nine bedrooms and stabling for 14 horses. Officers generally stayed at the Red Lion Hotel and it was convenient to have their servants next door at the Anchor. Farnham United Brewery agreed to surrender the licences for the Golden Pheasant in Flaxfield Road and the Royal Oak in Bunnian Place on the understanding that the licences for the Pear Tree and the Lamb would be renewed. May's Brewery agreed to surrender the licences for the Ship and the Harrow, both in Church Street, on the condition that the Bell would be saved. The magistrates refused to renew the licences for the Swan in Wote Street and the Crown.<sup>94</sup> The Crown's licence was renewed on appeal. The magistrates were told that the Crown catered for drovers, carters, market gardeners and others who frequented the market on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The publican said he supplied 30 to 50 meals a week consisting of bread and cheese or bread and meat and members of the theatrical profession lodged at his pub.<sup>95</sup>





*The Ship at the top of Church street c. 1900. One of the first pubs to close in the Edwardian cull.*

In 1904 the magistrates refused to renew the licences for the Bell. Police Superintendent Hale told the magistrates that the publican had to be summoned for encouraging gambling for drink.<sup>96</sup> In 1906 the magistrates refused to renew the licences for two Reading Road pubs: the Waggon and Horses and The Old House at Home.<sup>97</sup>

Although the Tuns had been built less than ten years earlier at a cost of £1,808 following the demolition of the original Tuns in 1898 to allow for the widening of Victoria Street, the magistrates refused to renew its licence in 1908.<sup>98</sup> In 1908 the magistrates also refused to renew the licence for the Crown. Superintendent Hale said that twice in the past year he had summoned the landlord for permitting drunkenness on licensed premises. He added,

During the year this house has been the resort of poachers, bad characters and loose women ... improper conduct has taken place in the passage and the back premises.<sup>99</sup>





*The Crown c. 1900, reputedly the resort of poachers, bad characters and loose women.*

In 1909 the Warden of St Thomas's Home for Friendless and Fallen Women said that four houses north of the railway were too many. The magistrates heard that the Great Western Hotel had six bedrooms available for visitors and catered for railwaymen, tradesmen and commercial visitors, and that the Soldiers Return was a country wayside house whose customers were mainly labourers coming to and from the town. The magistrates spared the Great Western, the Soldiers Return and the Rising Sun, but refused to renew the licence for the Half Moon beer house in Chapel Street.<sup>100</sup>

### Basingstoke Pubs 1868 - 1912

Year	Public Houses	Beer Houses	Total	Population at last census	Population per pub
1868	35	19	54	4,654	86.1
1871	35	21	56	5,574	99.5
1876	36	18	54	5,574	103.2
1881	36	18	54	6,681	123.7
1888	37	17	54	6,681	123.7
1892			53	7,960	150.2
1902	38	16	54	9,793	181.3
1912	32	11	43	11,540	268.4

1902 and 1912 figures include Eastrop.<sup>101</sup>  
 Of the 43 pubs in 1912, 24 were owned by, or leased to, May's Brewery.  
 11 were owned by, or leased to, Farnham United Breweries.

In 1960 Basingstoke still had 41 pubs.<sup>102</sup> However, the town's redevelopment in the 1960s and early 1970s saw the destruction of 19 town centre pubs, which were offset by only two replacement pubs – the Bass House and the Goat and Barge - both of which have since gone. The Bass House became part of a Tesco Metro and the Goat and Barge, which was re-named the Nightjar, was demolished when Festival Place was built.<sup>103</sup> In 1974 Basingstoke had 30 pubs: the 22 pubs that existed before 1960; the two town centre replacements; and six new public houses that were built to serve the new estates, such as the Buckskin and the Winkle.<sup>104</sup>

Since 1974 there have been further closures in line with national trends. The Anchor closed in 1983.<sup>105</sup> The George closed in 2004 and was converted into an Italian restaurant.<sup>106</sup> The Buckskin closed in 2010<sup>107</sup> and was converted into a Chinese restaurant.<sup>108</sup> These and other losses were partially offset by two Wetherspoon's public houses, which opened in 2002: the Maidenhead in the town centre, and Lloyd's Bar (since re-named the Angel) in Festival Place.<sup>109</sup>

<sup>1</sup> HRO, 44M69/G3/166.

<sup>2</sup> J. Taylor (1636) *A catalogue of taverns in tenne shires about London* p.23.

<sup>3</sup> HRO, 1625AD/34.

<sup>4</sup> Baigent and Millard (1889) *History of Basingstoke* p.515.

<sup>5</sup> Baigent and Millard (1889) p.565.

<sup>6</sup> HRO, 1638A/11.

<sup>7</sup> HRO, 148M71/1/5/4/1.

<sup>8</sup> HRO, 1640A/112.

<sup>9</sup> HRO, 148M71/1/5/4/3.

<sup>10</sup> HRO, 23M58/215.

<sup>11</sup> HRO, 23M58/216.

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- <sup>12</sup> HRO, 42M66/75.
- <sup>13</sup> *Post Man*, 12 November 1715.
- <sup>14</sup> HRO, 44M69/G4/1/133.
- <sup>15</sup> HRO, Q25/1/5
- <sup>16</sup> *Hampshire Chronicle*, 2 November 1778, 12 May 1783, 25 May 1789 and 15 April 1793.
- <sup>17</sup> *Hampshire Chronicle*, 9 April 1787 and 15 September 1788.
- <sup>18</sup> HRO, 10M57/Z18.
- <sup>19</sup> *General Evening Post*, 21 August 1735; *London Evening-Post*, 28 August 1746; *Whitehall Evening Post*, 25 September 1756.
- <sup>20</sup> *London Evening-Post*, 17 March 1770; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 17 May 1773; *Hampshire Chronicle*, 19 May 1788.
- <sup>21</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 16 September 1811; *Bell's Life in London*, 28 January 1837; *Hampshire Advertiser*, 11 September 1847.
- <sup>22</sup> HRO, 10M57/SP70.
- <sup>23</sup> *Hampshire Advertiser*, 11 September 1847.
- <sup>24</sup> *Reading Mercury*, 1 July 1765, 13 December 1773 and 11 June 1787.
- <sup>25</sup> *Hampshire Chronicle*, 7 August 1780.
- <sup>26</sup> HRO, 44M69/K2/2.
- <sup>27</sup> HRO, 44M69/K2/2/9.
- <sup>28</sup> *Universal British Directory*, 1798, p. 316.
- <sup>29</sup> HRO, 10M57/SP36.
- <sup>30</sup> *Reading Mercury*, 22 January 1798 and 16 February 1798.
- <sup>31</sup> *Hampshire Chronicle*, 10 May and 6 December 1802.
- <sup>32</sup> *Hampshire Chronicle*, June 24, 1811.
- <sup>33</sup> *Hampshire Chronicle*, May 21, 1810.
- <sup>34</sup> *Hampshire Chronicle*, July 18, 1814.
- <sup>35</sup> Parl. Paper, 1817(233) pps 121-2.
- <sup>36</sup> Pigot's *Directory*, 1830.
- <sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>38</sup> *Hampshire Chronicle*, September 9, 1782.
- <sup>39</sup> *Reading Mercury*, April 6, 1801.
- <sup>40</sup> *Reading Mercury*, May 16, June 13, and September 19, 1840.
- <sup>41</sup> HRO, 10M57/C21.
- <sup>42</sup> A. Rosen, 'Winchester in transition, 1580-1700' in P. Clark (ed), *Country towns in pre-industrial England* (Leicester 1981) p,172-3.
- <sup>43</sup> D.Spruce (1977), *Basingstoke 1780-1860 Aspects of the Development of a North Hampshire Market Town*. MSc. Dissertation, Univ. London. p.37.
- <sup>44</sup> *Hampshire Chronicle*, March 10, 1855
- <sup>45</sup> HRO, 10M57/SP70.
- <sup>46</sup> C.Knight (1841) *The Journey Book of England – Hampshire*.
- <sup>47</sup> Pigot's *Directory*, 1844, p.12.
- <sup>48</sup> *London Gaz.* June 14, 1839.
- <sup>49</sup> *London Gaz.* March 20, 1840.
- <sup>50</sup> *London Gaz.* May 22, 1840.
- <sup>51</sup> *Hampshire Advertiser*, May 16, 1840; *Reading Mercury*, June 13, 1840.
- <sup>52</sup> 1841 census and Pigot's *Directory*, 1844.
- <sup>53</sup> 1851 census.
- <sup>54</sup> *Reading Mercury*, March 4, 1843.
- <sup>55</sup> *Reading Mercury*, January 19, and June 8, 1850.
- <sup>56</sup> *Reading Mercury*, February 17, 1866.
- <sup>57</sup> Pigot's *Directory*, 1844, p.12.
- <sup>58</sup> *Berkshire Chronicle*, 29 August 1857.
- <sup>59</sup> K.Osborne (1996) *Hampshire Hogsheads* Vol.1 p.36.
- <sup>60</sup> HRO, 10M57/SP95.
- <sup>61</sup> K.Osborne (1996) p.62.
- <sup>62</sup> HRO, 10M57/SP95.
- <sup>63</sup> HRO, 10M57/SP95.
- <sup>64</sup> K.Osborne (1996) p.59.

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- <sup>65</sup> HRO, 50M63/B47/12; Conveyance between J.May & Co. and H.& G.Simonds dated 24 February 1950.
- <sup>66</sup> *The Times*, 31 January 1947.
- <sup>67</sup> *Hop Leaf Gazette*, the house journal of H & G Simonds, May 1947.
- <sup>68</sup> *Hants and Berks Gaz.* 31 March 1950.
- <sup>69</sup> TNA, PROB 31/571/242.
- <sup>70</sup> *Reading Mercury*, 6 January 1800.
- <sup>71</sup> HRO, 42M99/71-72; 67M83/19.
- <sup>72</sup> J.Sadler, *Hampshire Directory*, 1784.
- <sup>73</sup> HRO, 1784A/64.
- <sup>74</sup> K.Osborne (1996) pps 33-4.
- <sup>75</sup> HRO, 10M57/SP153.
- <sup>76</sup> *Hants and Berks Gaz.* 15 May 1880.
- <sup>77</sup> K.Osborne (1996) p.33-4.
- <sup>78</sup> HRO, 10M57/SP235.
- <sup>79</sup> (Ref: [www.beermad.org.uk](http://www.beermad.org.uk); [www.beeradvocate.com](http://www.beeradvocate.com) accessed 4 February 2016.
- <sup>80</sup> [www.perfectpint.co.uk](http://www.perfectpint.co.uk).
- <sup>81</sup> [www.andwells.com](http://www.andwells.com).
- <sup>82</sup> Slater's *Dir. Hants*, 1852-3, p.13.
- <sup>83</sup> HRO, 77M82/XP47.
- <sup>84</sup> Kelly's *Dir. Hants* (1880) p.38.
- <sup>85</sup> Census, 1881.
- <sup>86</sup> Kelly's *Dir. Hants* (1890) p.46.
- <sup>87</sup> Post Office *Dir. Hants* (1855) p.16 and *Reading Mercury*, 26 July 1856.
- <sup>88</sup> HRO, 10M57/O2/4.
- <sup>89</sup> *Portsmouth Evening News*, April 8, 1902.
- <sup>90</sup> HRO, 10M57/O2/5-8.
- <sup>91</sup> *Hants and Berks Gaz.* 28 February 1903.
- <sup>92</sup> P. Jennings (2011) *The Local: A History of the English Pub*, p.173
- <sup>93</sup> HRO, 10M57/O2/5-8.
- <sup>94</sup> *Hants and Berks Gaz.* 28 February 1903.
- <sup>95</sup> *Hants and Berks Gaz.* 11 April 1903.
- <sup>96</sup> *Hants and Berks Gaz.* 6 February 1904.
- <sup>97</sup> *Hants and Berks Gaz.* 26 May 1906.
- <sup>98</sup> *Hants and Berks Gaz.* 7 March 1908.
- <sup>99</sup> *Hants and Berks Gaz.* 8 February 1908.
- <sup>100</sup> *Hants and Berks Gaz.* 29 May 1909.
- <sup>101</sup> Various Parliamentary Papers and HRO, 29M98/2/1 and 29M98/2/2.
- <sup>102</sup> Kelly's *Dir. Basingstoke* 1960.
- <sup>103</sup> Personal recollection.
- <sup>104</sup> Kelly's *Dir. Basingstoke* 1974.
- <sup>105</sup> *Basingstoke Gaz.* 3 June 2008.
- <sup>106</sup> *Basingstoke Gaz.* 20 May 2004.
- <sup>107</sup> *Basingstoke Gaz.* 6 January 2011.
- <sup>108</sup> *Basingstoke Gaz.* 24 October 2012.
- <sup>109</sup> *Basingstoke Observer*, 10 October 2002.