The Pubs, Inns and Beer Houses of Brentford

Introduction

The general history of the development of public houses has been well documented elsewhere. Although ale had been drunk since the Bronze Age, formal drinking establishments probably originated when tabernae (taverns) were set up at points along the road network built by the Romans from the 1st century.

As well as providing facilities for travellers and pilgrims, inns traditionally acted as community gathering places. In Brentford the heyday of inns such as *The Three Pigeons* and *The Coach and Horses* was during the 18th and early 19th centuries when travel on horseback and in horse-drawn coaches was at its height.

The consumption of gin, introduced from Holland in 1586, eventually gave rose to a new kind of establishment where customers were served at a bar and they drank standing up. Partly to discourage the drinking of gin the Beerhouse Act of 1830 allowed any householder to sell beer and cider on the payment of a two guinea fee to the Excise. The number of beer shops then grew very rapidly in areas such as Brentford and concern about this situation led to the passing of the 1869 Wine and Beerhouse Act which was designed to curtail the number of outlets. All drinking establishments, including beer shops were then brought under the control of local magistrates.

However many houses that did not obtain a full licence managed to continue in business providing that the house conformed to all legislation and was kept orderly. These continued to simply sell beer and cider. Despite the 1869 Act the number of pubs increased during the latter part of the 19th century and this was when many of the ornate and lavishly furnished Victorian pubs were built. In the early years of the 20th century, alcohol consumption grew at a much slower rate and many establishments went out of business. By 1915 the brewers owned 95% of all the pubs.

In more recent years many of Brentford's drinking establishments have disappeared, the victims of changing social habits, alternative sources of cheaper alcohol, and the value of many sites for redevelopment, particularly for flats.

Brentford had long been notorious for its large number of drinking establishments and the deleterious effects on both residents and visitors. In 1776 it was noted that Brentford "is extremely full of inns and public houses". In 1863 the Bishop of London said that "he was riding through Old Brentford the other day; and his son, who was with him, counted forty-two public house on one street". ¹

In 1870 a commentator wrote of Brentford that "an overwhelming wretchedness, unsurpassed even in the east of London, pervades the whole town, mainly attributable, it must be acknowledged, to an almost universal habit of intemperance ... I have it on the authority of the chief manager of the gas factory that the weekly beer bill of not a few, whose average wage is about 35 shillings, amounts to 25 shillings". ^{2 3}

In 1873 another visitor to Brentford wrote that "the number of public-houses seems something astounding. I was told that some hundreds of pounds are left in the town every Saturday night by the topers from this and surrounding parishes ... no modern bench of licensing magistrates would sanction the existing state of things in Brentford, which in respect of the number of drinking-places is a disgrace to the county". ⁴

In 1874 the total combined population of Old Brentford, New Brentford and Brentford End was less than 11,000 and yet there were 96 licensed and unlicensed drinking premises in this area and a small adjoining part of Ealing. "In Old Brentford £20,220 is spent annually on drink and only £1,000 on education, the average per head being £3 on drink and 3 shillings on education". ⁵

Arranged in alphabetical order, the pubs that are still operating today are highlighted in red.

Annex 1 provides maps of the location, where known, of the establishments. **Annex 2** reproduces Alfred Pearce's poem *Fifty Pubs of Brentford*. **Annex 3** contains some miscellaneous notes.

The area of Brentford from Kew Bridge to the east side of Half Acre was known as Old Brentford while New Brentford extended from the west side of Half Acre to Brentford Bridge and Brentford End lay to the west of Brentford Bridge.

The Albany Arms, 17 Albany Road

The Albany Arms probably dates to before 1861 when an old beerhouse was run by Sarah Nunn at 3 Albany Road West. From about 1878 to 1901 the pub was run by members of the Bee family and in November 1901 Dudley Bee, an assistant schoolmaster who had been educated at Oxford, committed suicide in *The Albany Arms* by cutting his throat with a razor. ⁶⁷

The pub was rebuilt in its present form by the Royal Brewery of Brentford in 1900 and the pediment above the entrance still bears the monogram "RBC" (Royal Brewery Company) and the date 1900. There are stained glass windows inside.

The design of the pub may be an early example of Thomas Henry Nowell Parr's work. Nowell Parr was surveyor and architect to Brentford Council from 1894 to 1905 and in private practice he was a specialist in the design of pubs. He was the architect of Brentford Library, the Boatmen's Institute in The Butts, Brentford Baths and the Vestry Hall. As house architect to Fullers brewery he was responsible for the building and redesign of several pubs in Brentford. ⁸

In more recent times *The Albany Arms* has a long history of incidents that have undermined its licence. Police and other authorities have received a catalogue of complaints that have included noise complaints, assaults, fighting, disturbances, residents being threatened, drunkenness, theft and kindred offences, firearms, including the discharge of firearms, offensive weapons, criminal damage, drugs and breaching of the 2003 Licensing Act 2003, youths on the premises, youths being supplied with both alcohol and drugs on the premises, and breaches of the Private Security Act 2001. The pub as a result has been closed and reopened on numerous occasions.

In 2001 Tony Purser died after he was stabbed in the stomach in *The Albany Arms* and his killer who then fled to Crete but he was extradited, found guilty of murder, and sentenced to fourteen years in prison. In 2009 the landlord of *The Albany Arms* was charged with running an illegal strip club in his bar. The *Albany Arms* is currently closed and a planning application was submitted for its conversion to six flats. ⁹ 10

Licensees of *The Albany Arms* have included Frederick Coles (1911-1914) and Thomas Turner (1937).







The Albany Arms



The Alexandra, 307 High Street

The site of this beerhouse was at the south western end of the car park front at Albany Parade. *The Alexandra* was established by 1870 and it was operated by the Pearce family until 1911. In March 1898 the building was sold for £1,525 and at that time the rental of the beerhouse was £30 per annum.

The 1909/10 Valuation returns describe it as owned by Harman and Company ... "a brick built tiled and slated beerhouse. Old ...dilapidated sheds and stables in yard formerly sold in 1898". It had a "passageway on flank" and "first floor extends over same". ¹¹

By about 1913 it had lost its licence and there is no mention of the pub in directories after that date. The building was demolished, perhaps when Albany Parade was built in the late 1950s. Alfred Pearce, whose family had run *The Alexandra*, wrote his poem *Fifty Pubs of Brentford* in 1948 when he was seventy-four years old.

Licensees of *The Alexandra* included members of the Pearce family (1870-1911) and Walter Sturgeon (1912-1913).

The Anchor, Old Brentford

Recorded from 1674, The Anchor was a small alehouse in Old Brentford. 12

The Angel, Old Brentford

This establishment was recorded in Old Brentford in 1436. 13

The Angel Inn / The Park Tavern, 105 London Road

The Angel Inn was an old coaching inn near Syon Park, on what is now London Road and was the main road between London and the West Country. Immediately to the west of *The Angel Inn* was the Brentford tollgate. In the 1830s it seems that *The Angel* was owned by Cole and Company of the Twickenham Brewery and they may have owned it for a long period. The Cole family stayed in brewing until 1892.

In 1970 Colin Keeping (29) died after he was stabbed in *The Angel* during an argument. After being stabbed the landlord, Reginald Sears, arranged for Colin Keeping to be dumped outside the pub in the gutter whilst he was bleeding heavily so that he could clean the blood out of his carpet. His killer was convicted of murder. ¹⁴

The Angel Inn was demolished and rebuilt in 1935. In 1989 it was renamed The Park Tavern and it was again demolished in 2002 to build a block of apartments now called Syon Court. Archaeological

investigations carried out before the development revealed evidence of 1st to 4th century Roman-British occupation on the site. ¹⁵

Licensees of *The Angel Inn* included William Beach (1791-1797), Frederick Howard (1866), George Robinson (1867) and members of the Randall family (1869-1881).





The Angel Inn circa 1840 (by James Pollard) 16







The Park Tavern in 1994

The Barge Aground / The Prince George, 362 High Street

The Barge Aground was the third building west of North Road before Pottery Road and east of Distillery Road, where the Haverfield estate now stands. It was licensed in 1732 and was known in its earlier years as *The Prince George*. It was rebuilt in 1777, acquired by the precursors of Fuller Smith and Turner in 1790, and rebuilt again in 1902. Part of the premises were sold to the gas works in 1924. It was closed in 1960 and demolished soon after. ¹⁷

In 1924 a few verses on pubs were published by an unknown author including this: 18

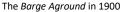
With the "Tippling Philosopher" I 've stayed
While the Severn has ebbed and flowed;
In Oxford Street at the "Hog in the Pound,"
And in Brentford oft at the "Barge Aground"
I have nad my joy; and at "Dhip Ahoy!"
In Gosport I 've shipped my load.
There's the "Who'd a tho't it?" on Nine Mile Ride,
And Lancaster's old "Dry Scot";

During the Second World War the front of *The Barge Aground* was badly damaged by a bomb. The pub was owned by Fuller, Smith and Turner.

Licensees of *The Barge Aground* included John and Isaac Arnott (1776-1783) who also worked bargemen on the Thames, George Marnham (1825), William Perress (1844), William Barker (1853), John Colsell (1862), Henry Sharp (1865-1868), William Marsh (1868-1878), Arthur Groves (1911-

1914), Henry Longhurst (1915-1930), George Pinchin (1933-1937) and Edward John Reeve (1944-1952).







In the 1930s



The *Barge Aground* in the 1950s shortly before it was demolished

The Barley Corn, 98 High Street

Called the *Barley Mow* or *Barley Corn* this was originally a beerhouse on the corner of Catherine Wheel Yard about five buildings west of *The Catherine Wheel*. The pub is first mentioned in 1853 and it was owned by the Sich Brewery (later the Lamb Brewery) of Chiswick. *The Barley Corn was* closed in about 1908 and by 1915 it was a confectioners shop. By the late 1960s the building housed a branch of Sketchley's and the site approximates to that of a shop that now sells domestic electrical spares next door to the National Westminster Bank.

Licensees of *The Barley Corn* included Rosina and John Plastine (who was also a lighterman) and his wife (1861-1894), members of the Small family (1899-1901) and Percy Libby (1907).



The Barley Corn in 1907

The Beehive, 227 High Street

The Beehive is named after the Beehive Brewery founded in the area by the Gomm family in 1840. The origin of the original name is not known although it may refer to the area being a hive of industry. At a later date a depiction of a beehive was incorporated in the crest of Brentford Football Club.

The original pub, with the brewery behind, was on its modern site but it was then the third building to the east on the High Street from its junction with Half Acre. It became the corner building when Half Acre was widened in 1908 for trams going to Hanwell.

The modern building was opened in 1907 and designed by Thomas Henry Nowell Parr and A.E. Kates with a distinctive beehive-shaped turret, art nouveau glass, and blue-green Doulton glazed tiles. An art nouveau grate in the fireplace is the only feature of note inside. Described in *Buildings of England* as a "notable landmark… a small but confident corner pub of much character" *The Beehive* was acquired by Fuller Smith and Turner in 1908 and at that time it was advertised as a suitable place for ladies to lunch. ¹⁹

Licensees of *The Beehive* have included members of the Gomm family (1840-1866), John Corner (1866), Thomas Farrington (1874-1991), Francis Henbrey (1899-1901) and William Shotter (1921).



Advertisement from 1907



Restaurant Entrance





Advertising card for The Beehive circa 1907



Langley's shellfish stall has been situated behind The Beehive for many years and run by Heather for many of those years.





An interesting digital image by Aaron Strutt which merges a current

The Bell

The Bell was recorded in 1384. In a directory of 1791 John Andrews was listed as the victualler. 21 22

The Black Boy and Still, 87 High Street

The Black Boy and Still was located on the south side of the High Street opposite The Beehive. It was in existence in the early 17th century and in 1779 it had its own malthouse. In October 1821 it was offered for sale together with a large coal yard and granary in Catherine Wheel Yard and it appears that the property was bought at about that time by John Fuller's Griffin Brewery. ²³

When *The Black Boy and Still* was valued in December 1914 the property was owned by Fuller, Smith and Turner and occupied by J. S. Matthews. It was a 2-storey and attic building with a brick and tile dormer in the roof, upper part cement faced and lower part wood and glazed. The premises were then old but in fair condition.

In February 1914 *The Black Boy and Still* was described by the licensing authorities as a well-conducted small beerhouse. ²⁴ For many years the pub was the only one in the area that enjoyed the privilege of opening at an early hour in the morning, which was at the discretion of the Commissioners of Police to grant.

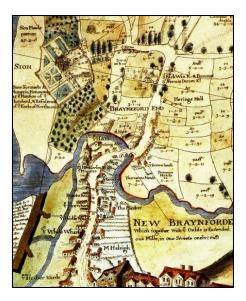
The Black Boy and Still finally closed its doors on 20th May 1922. The site became part of Wilson and Kyle's premises.

Licensees of *The Black Boy and Still* included John Blackman (1825-1842), Henry Smith (1856), John Baldwin, (1858), George John Baldwin and Elizabeth Baldwin (1860-1874), Joseph Van (1881-1884) and members of the Matthews family (1885-1922).

The Boar's Head, south of the High Street, New Brentford

The Boar's Head was recorded in 1614 and it is shown on Glover's map of Isleworth Hundred which was drawn in 1635 In 1719 it was divided into four smaller shops or cottages.. In 1769 John Hideman in Boar's Head Yard was maltster to the churchwardens and overseers of New Brentford. ²⁵ ²⁶

Boar's Head Yard, which runs south from the High Street immediately to the east of *The Magpie and Crown*, may take its name from this old establishment. ²⁷



The Brewery Tap, 42 Catherine Wheel Road

The site had a building of character first mentioned in 1870. Raised above road level to avoid flooding during high tides, it was immediately adjacent to the site of the Grand Junction Brewery which was taken over by William Gomm's Beehive Brewery in 1877.

In 1891 the licensee was Thomas Green who ran the pub while he also worked as a lighterman. The pub was rebuilt in 1928 by Charles Edward Mallows a well-known "arts and crafts" architect. It is built in vernacular style with a mock timber framed interior.

Licensees of *The Brewery Tap* have included Richard Hughes (1870-1871), members of the Green family (1878-1901) and Nathaniel Lincoln (1937).







The Brewery Tap

The Brewery Tap, 22 High Street

Also known as *The Royal Brewery Tap* this was adjacent to the Royal Brewery which was on the site of the Waterman's Arts Centre. James Cuishen, a beer retailer, was recorded here in Mason's trade directory of 1853. In 1858 a disorderly Henry Chamberlain was charged with breaking a window at *The Brewery Tap.* ²⁸ The pub was closed in 1923 for the building of the gas works extension.

Licensees of *The Brewery Tap* included Henry Hale (1859), Albert and Sarah Steele (1871), William Goodwin (1881), Harry Blake (1890-1899) and Thomas Turner (1913-1926).



The Brewery Tap (with the brewery to the right) shortly before its closure

The Bricklayers Arms, 67-69 Ealing Road

The Bricklayers Arms was first recorded in 1853 in Mason's Directory when the proprietor was Richard Collins who also worked as a coal dealer and van proprietor. By 1873 the pub belonged to Sich's brewery of Chiswick.

During the 1960s *The Bricklayers Arms* was a music venue when one of the performers was Mungo Jerry. It was also used for rehearsals by The Temperance Seven. It was closed and then in 2009 it was converted into three dwellings although the pediment with the pub name has been retained.

Originally called *The Flying Swan* in Robert Rankin's The *Brentford Trilogy, The Bricklayers* Arms was the favourite haunt of Rankin's characters, Jim Pooley and John Omally. It was "a place of legend and myth and perfect pints":

"Not one hundred yards due north of Norman's shop, as fair flies the griffin, there stands a public house which is the very hub of the Brentonian universe. Solidly constructed of old London stocks and fondly embellished with all the Victorian twiddly bits, the Flying Swan gallantly withstood the slings and arrows of outrageous brewery management. Its patrons have never known the horrors of fizzy beer or pub grub that comes 'a-la-basket'. The Swan had grown old gracefully. The etched glass windows, tinted with nicotine and the exhalations of a million beery breaths, sustained that quality of light exclusive to elderly pubs. The burnished brass of the beer engines shone like old gold and the bar top glowed with a deep patina. The heady perfumes of Brasso and beeswax blended with those of hops and barley, grape and grain to produce an enchanting fragrance all its own. Only a man born without a soul would not pause a moment upon entering the Swan for the first time, breathe in the air, savour the atmosphere and say, 'This is a pub.'" 29

However *The Bricklayers Arms* changed hands and in Rankin's opinion the beer wasn't as good so he changed *The Flying Swan* to *The Magpie and Crown* which he liked.

Licensees of *The Bricklayers Arms* included William Reeves (1873), William Rice (1894-1899) and members of the Brooks family (1914-1937).





The Bricklayers Arms in 1994

The remaining pediment

The Britannia, High Street, Old Brentford

This beerhouse may have been located between *The One Tun* and *The Duke of Cambridge*. It was listed in Mason's directory for 1853 when it was licensed to a member of the Gomm family. *The Britannia* was probably closed by 1872 at the latest.

The Britannia, an adjoining house, and a cottage to the rear were sold in May 1859. 30

By Messrs. M'Lazen & Son.

Copyhold, The Britannia Beer Shop and House adjoining, High-street, Brentford, also a cottage in the rear.—Sold for £500.

The Bull, 350 High Street

The Bull was on the west corner of Pottery Road and the High Street on the area of open space now at the west corner of Pottery Road and the High Street opposite the western end of Watermans Park. Until the latter part of the 19th century Pottery Road was known as Bull Lane, presumably named after the pub, and it ran north from the High Street.

The Bull was established before 1614 and closed in 1961. It seems that it was occasionally referred to as The Black Bull.

A wealthy brickmaker, James Barratt Senior, owned the "pothouse" which lay behind his pub, *The Bull*, when he died in 1750. From the 1760s the Bull Lane pottery was leased by the Turner family and a pottery continued here until at least the 1890s; it is remembered today in the name of Pottery Road. ³¹

In 1816 John Newton of Old Brentford, a brewer, leased *The Bull* to Douglas and Henry Thompson of Chiswick, brewers. In 1851 the pub was leased to Fuller, Smith and Turner and it was listed in Mason's 1853 directory when William Taylor was the licensee. ³²

In 1881 it was visited by a writer from the *Licensed Victuallers Gazette* who commented on the frescoes which adorned the walls:

All round the room are depicted nearly every animal in creation. Over the fireplace is a bodyless trotting horse with a most remarkable sulky (a small wheeled carriage) behind it, and an equally remarkable looking driver ... the tail of this horse seems to have got entangled in the moustachios of the driver and, as far as we could judge, the artist when he painted it must either have been on the verge of delirium tremens or he was handing down to posterity his recollection of a nightmare. ³³

The frescoes were in a style similar to those that had been drawn in *The Prince of Wales* by an F. Stuart who was a scenery painter for Sangster's circus. The artist of the frescoes at *The Bull* may have been the same man.

In 1882 it was noted that the pub had its own stables attached with accommodation for eight horses. The stables were still used in the 1930s to keep the horses of a greengrocer and two coalmen. By 1909 *The Bull* was owned by Fuller, Smith and Turner. In the 1930s there was a gymnasium in *The Bull where* local boxers trained.

Licensees of *The Bull* included James Starbuck (1836), members of the Taylor family (1841-1863), William Kates (1863-1888), Frederick Tully (1898-1901), William Piper (1911) and E. W. Gyngell (1913).



The Bull circa 1886



The Bull (circa1910) is the building at the back with the large sign on its side elevation



The Bull in August 1958

The Bunch of Grapes / The Ferry Hotel, Ferry Lane

For many years there was a pub at Brentford Ferry and the site was near to the southern end of the new group of flats at Ferry Quays.

In 1791 a Mrs. Keen was listed as the victualler at "The Ferry House". At various times it was also known as The Grapes and the Bunch of Grapes. It was rebuilt in about 1880 and then came to be

known as *The Ferry Hotel* although the name *Bunch of Grapes* continued to be used until it finally closed in 1922.

In 1884 a porpoise, caught locally and measuring 7 feet and 6 inches, was stuffed and displayed in the pub. In April 1889 Sydney John Bridgeman, who was both the landlord and the ferryman, attempted to save two men whose boat had capsized in the river. One of them was saved but another man who had gone to their rescue was drowned. In March 1898 Henry Maynard, who was both the landlord and a boat builder, attempted to save a man by diving into the Thames when the ferry capsized but the man drowned after Maynard had made a valiant attempt to rescue him.

The licence for *The Bunch of Grapes* was refused in June 1917 and compensation of £950 was awarded by the Middlesex Licencing Committee. The reason for the refusal of the licence appears to have been that the landlord had installed automatic gaming machines which were illegal in pubs at that time. It seems that *The Bunch of Grapes* finally closed in 1922 and the building was then used for the offices of Clement Tough, a lighterage company, until it was demolished in 1983. The ferry from Brentford to Kew ceased operations in 1939. Between Christmas and New Year 1983 the building was demolished, to the great fury of local residents.

Other licensees of *The Bunch of Grapes* included Mary and Henry Thomas (1871), Walter Woodruff (1901), Arthur East (1903-1907), Harry Gomm of the Beehive Brewery family (until 1915) and Frederick Arthur Tickner (from 1915).





The Ferry Hotel/Bunch of Grapes





The Ferry Hotel before its demolition in 1983

The Cannon Inn, 267 High Street

The Cannon Inn was established by 1792 and it was situated on the High Street at the eastern corner of what was Cannon Alley. The site of the inn was at point south of the west corner of what is now Berkeley House, Albany Road.

The Dale family ran *The Cannon Inn* during the mid-19th century. The Dales also operated barges at a time when several watermen ran beer houses and inns as a sideline, to help out with their finances when trade was bad. In 1886, the Dales had 22 barges, one of the largest fleets in Brentford. *The Cannon* was closed at some time between 1881 and 1888.

In 1870 an inquest was held at *The Cannon Inn* into the accidental death of Police Constable Charles Cox who drowned in the Thames at a point opposite The Hollows. ³⁴

Licensees of *The Cannon* included Abraham Beck (1792), members of the Dale family (1826-1855), John Strahan (1864-1974) and Arthur Cox (1881).

The Carpenters Arms, 74 New Road

This beerhouse was open from before 1871 to after 1881. In 1871 James Kane, a carpenter and beer seller was the proprietor and in 1881 Henry Edwin Oldland, who was both a beer house keeper and a gardener, was the proprietor.

The Castle Inn / Castle Hotel, 208 High Street

The Castle was a large coaching inn located approximately on the current site of Quilliam's Estate Agents. Originally known as *The Harrow*, it was associated with a coffee house in 1717. It occupied a large patch of ground with the stableyard to the rear stretching as far as The Butts. During the chaos which took place during the Middlesex elections of 1769 *The Castle* was attacked by rioters who made "considerable havock in it".

In 1799 *The Castle* was a meeting place for freemasons and in the 1860s it was a meeting place for the Brentford branch of the Isleworth Philanthropic Society. In 1817 magistrates removed the licence from James Harding, the landlord, on the grounds that it was a disorderly house. A petition in support of Harding was signed by 268 Brentford people and presented to Parliament. ³⁵

The building was rebuilt in 1823 following a fire and by 1839 it was named the "Castle Inn and Posting House". It was rebuilt again in about 1877. There was a theatre at *The Castle* where from 1898 to 1907 the proprietor was an actor-manager, Fred W. Bird. He put on variety shows, pantomimes, farces and melodramas chosen to "give the maximum sensation for the minimum of cost", and generous free shows for children.

In 1907 a 2½ hour play, written by Fred Bird in the space of a day, was staged at *The Castle*. Bird played the main character of Harry Kendall Thaw, a notorious American murderer at that time, but the play ran for only two performances and it did not receive good reviews. ³⁶

In the 1909/1910 Valuation Returns *The Castle* was described as "a licensed house, concert room, yard, stabling, garden, office and premises, extent ½ acre, owned by Captain Charles P. B. Wood DSO, Culmington, Bromfield, Salop".

In the early 1930s it was a pub with a dance hall above it and premises for the offices of a solicitor. It closed in 1936 and the building was demolished, leaving the site undeveloped until Brentford Post Office was built in 1960. In 2002 the site included Jenny's Restaurant (a hamburger chain), an estate agents, and a dry cleaners, with flats above.

Licensees of *The Castle Inn* included William Morton (1791), Joseph Harding (1817), Henry Forbes (1825), Caroline Coombs (1860), Harriet King (1878-1881), John Bull (1894), Frederick Bird (1901-1907) and Frank Vivanti (1933).



The rear of The Castle Hotel in the early 19th century



The Castle Hotel circa 1910



Advertisement from 1907



The Castle Hotel in 1897



The Castle (on left) circa 1940s?



View from *The Castle Inn* (just visible on the right) looking westwards circa 1920s



The Castle in the 1950s

The Catherine Wheel, 94 High Street

The Catherine Wheel was located approximately on the site now occupied by a derelict office building opposite the eastern corner of Goddards' store. It was established by 1679. A Mrs. Dean was the landlady in 1791. In January 1841 William Spruce, a lad of seventeen, was killed on a barge in Catherine Wheel Yard when the barge was smashed to pieces during the inundation of Brentford. William's body was taken to *The Catherine Wheel* to await a coroner's inquest.

In 1847 an attempt was made at *The Catherine Wheel* by Barney Fitzpatrick, a former soldier, to murder Mr. Millard, the landlord. Fitzpatrick was ordered to be detained at Hanwell Lunatic Asylum.

From 1860 to about 1905 the publican was George Charles Collier and the landlady was his wife Mary Ann Collier. In 1890 George Collier was also described as a "lighterman, barge and tug owner". George Collier was no stranger to the courts and on two separate occasions in the 1860s he was charged with using foul and abusive language and with serving drink outside prescribed hours. It appears that in his later years he became a changed man when he became a member of the Brentford Local Board and the Board of Guardians. *The Catherine Wheel* was closed by 1909 and this may have followed the death of George Collier in 1905. His obituary in *The Middlesex Independent* noted he had been the oldest publican in Brentford, having held a licence for 43 years.

In May 1915 the building was described as "an office and house (late *The Catherine Wheel*) ... old brick and tiled (as numbers 95 and 96). Office, passage, sitting room, kitchen and scullery. Old brick and tile store at back (below scullery) part of Catherine Wheel Yard (i.e. ground floor). 2 rooms and attic over scullery (used as WC). 2 attics, Moderate repair. Glazed brick facing ground floor front. Frontage 13' 9"." ³⁷

Other licensees of *The Catherine Wheel* included William Mantle (1838), Henry Girard (1852) and Henry Baker (1853).

The Coach and Horses, 183 London Road

A Grade II listed building probably built in 17th century, and certainly by 1759, *The Coach and Horses* is the only coaching inn to remain in Brentford and Chiswick. The bay window at the front allowed travellers waiting for coaches to watch for their approach from either direction. From 1839 until 1871 the landlord and omnibus proprietor was William Blackwell, an ex-coachman. The inn also acted as a post office. In 1831 Young and Company leased *The Coach and Horses* from the Percy family (the Dukes of Northumberland). It appears that the property was bought by Fuller, Smith and Turner in 1872 before the freehold was bought by Young's brewery in 1897.

In August 1837 Queen Victoria, who had been crowned in June of that year, travelled through Brentford on her way to her first public visit to Windsor and the horses in the procession were changed at *The Coach and Horses*. It is mentioned in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, as the place where the cart put down Bill Sykes and Oliver on their way to commit a burglary in Chertsey:

As they passed the different milestones, Oliver wondered more and more, where his companion meant to take him. Kensington, Chelsea, Hammersmith, Chiswick,

Kew Bridge, Brentford, were all passed and yet they went on as steadily as if they had only just begun their journey. At length they came to a public house called the Coach and Horses: a little way beyond which another road appeared to turn off. And here, the cart stopped. (This was probably at Busch Corner)

The Coach and Horses reopened in March 2011 after refurbishment.

Licensees of The Coach and Horses included George Payne (1808), James Croft (1834), Thomas Wyatt (1871-1874), William Hopwell (1881), Thomas and Mary Neal (1882-1890) and Vera Clarke (1933-1937).



The Coach and Horses in the 1860s/1870s³⁸



The Coach and Horses circa 1907





An illustration showing Bill Sykes and Oliver outside The Coach and Horses



The Crown

This establishment was recorded in Brentford in 1436. 39

The Crown and Anchor, 224 High Street

The Crown and Anchor was a beerhouse and lodging house on the west side of the junction of Half Acre and High Street, about the location of the eastern side of Goddard's furniture store but standing closer to the High Street.

It was a beerhouse from about 1855 to 1890 before it was demolished about 1890 when the next door bank was extended. 40

Licensees of *The Crown and Anchor* included Thomas Davis (1852), William Minchin (1853), Richard Lunn (1855-1861), members of the Reed family (1871-1874), Robert Pidgeon (1875-1877), John Taylor (1878-1881) and members of the Neal family (1882-1890).

The Crown and Thistle, New Brentford

This establishment is mentioned in 1769 in an account of the Middlesex elections. 41

The Crystal Fountain, 175 High Street

This beerhouse may have started its life as *The Ram* and it may have been renamed after the Crystal Fountain which was a central exhibit at the Great Exhibition of 1851. It seems that the beerhouse had a short life, possibly from about 1859 to 1871.

Licensees of *The Crystal Fountain* included William Parsons (1859-1866), Thomas Parsons (1867-1870, and Thomas Basing 1870 -1871). 42 43

The Drum Inn, 319 High Street

Licensed by 1722 and possible dating for the 17th century, *The Drum Inn* was a coaching inn and it stood at the east corner of the High Street and Drum Lane (later Ealing Road). The location was a few yards west of where *The Red Lion* was rebuilt in the mid-1960s and where McDonald's now stands.

In November 1842 "a large and numerous meeting" was held at *The Drum Inn* to support the campaign for the repeal of the Corn Laws and it remained as the weekly meeting place for the local repeal movement until at least 1844. In Mason's Directory of 1853 it is listed as *The Original Drum*. ⁴⁴

Census entries from 1841 to 1901 show that it was a lodging-house, with up to 30 lodgers listed, as well as the publican and his family. In 1845 the freehold of *The Drum* belonged to Adolphus Trimmer. In a directory of 1853 the inn is called *The Original Drum* and from about 1873 until 1907 the landlords were three members of the Gomm family. ⁴⁵

In South Ealing Cemetery there is a headstone at the grave of John William Gomm (1839-1893) which includes the inscription "of The Drum Inn, Brentford".

The Drum Inn was closed by 1907 and in 1921 it was demolished for the widening of Ealing Road. 46

Licensees of *The Drum Inn* included William Louch (1791-1797), Lydia Harris (1825), James Greenway (1844), Thomas Hadley (1853), John William Gomm (1874-1893) and his son Stephen Gomm (1893-1907).







The Drum Inn in 1900

The Duke of Cambridge, 247 High Street

The Duke of Cambridge was located part way along Morrison's supermarket car park opposite the footpath down the side of the Heidelberg building.

This pub was present by 1861 and had closed by 1914. In 1909 the Valuation return lists the owner as Fuller Smith and Turner and describes it as a house and shop at east corner of Spring Gardens. Spring Gardens was a narrow alley between numbers 253 and 254 High Street.

Top floor: 2 attics;

1st floor: 2 rooms; ground floor: shop, parlour, private entrance in New Spring Gardens, kitchen. Outside: washhouse, WC, old stable for 2 horses. Cellar in basement. This is an old property & dilapidated. Flooring in places is broken away. Front elevation wants painting. These premises were a beerhouse at 30th April 1909. ⁴⁹

The pub closed in about 1912/13.

MESSES. KING AND SON will sell by Auction, at the "Castle" Ins. Brentford, a Substantially Built COPYHOLD BEER HOUSE, known as the "Duke of Cambridge," with Yard at the Rear, situate at the corner of Spring Gardena, Righ Street, Brentford; let to Mr. Gomm, Brewer, at the Low Rent of £22 per Annum. May be viewed, and Particulars and Conditions of Sale had at the Place of Sale; the office of Messra. Clark and Ruston, Solicitors, Brentford; the Principal Inns in the arjaceant Market Towns; and at the office of Messra. King and Son, Auctioneers, Estale Agents, Valuers. &c., &c. Breutford, W.

West London Observer 13th August 1864



The waste ground to the right was the site of The Duke of Cambridge

The Duke of York, corner of York Road and Brook Road North

The Duke of York, which belonged to the Royal Brewery of Brentford, was built in York Road by 1898 in Victorian gothic style with a turret. An extension was added later facing the Great West Road in

Neo-Georgian or "Road House" style. By 1937 the address had become Great West Road rather than York Road.

The Duke of York became part of the Beefeater chain and it was renamed The New England in 2001. An advertisement from that time claimed that

"What sets the New England apart from many other venues is the theme we employ. From the subtle decor through to the exciting food, customers can enjoy a classic taste of The Big Country without the hype and razzmatazz usually associated with themed restaurants and bars. Taking our inspiration from the adventurous spirit of the Pilgrim Fathers who founded the very first colonies of the New World in 1620, we aim to recreate the simple and basic values to bring you a social and dining experience you won't forget."

The pub closed in 2005 and remained derelict until 2016. In 2010 two men who entered the building via a hole in the roof were searching for scrap metal when they discovered the decomposing body of a man hanging behind the bar. Where the man was found there were many empty beer cans and it was suspected he may have been living in the derelict pub. There was a fire in the building in 2009 and neighbours were concerned that a fire could spiral out of control due to the amount of rubbish inside the grounds.

The site is currently being cleared to make way for a proposed development of 20 homes for the Shepherd's Bush Housing Association.





The Duke of York



The Duke of York in 1938



The Duke of York



The New England





A Banksy which once existed on the wall of the derelict pub









The final blow to the Duke of York/New England (March 2016)

The Express Tavern, 56 Kew Bridge Road

The current building is thought to date from the 1860s and the name is probably derived from the opening of the London and South Western Railway in the 1840s. However an information sheet currently posted on the wall of *The Express* suggests that the building dates to 1794/97. ⁵⁰

On 2nd January 1868 the premises were sold at public auction for £390 to J. Peak of Kew. The purchase was partly financed by Phillips and Wigan, the owners of a brewery at Mortlake, who in 1878 bought the Bishops Stortford brewers, Hawkes and Company, to supply their ales to a few London pubs, including *The Express*.

In May 1882 Robert George Aldington became the tenant and the premises, originally a beerhouse, was then renamed *The Express Hotel* with a licence to sell wine and spirits as well as beer. In 1898 Hawkes brewery was bought by Benskin and Company, brewers from Watford. Bass, Radcliffe and Gratton beer was offered as a second choice to Benskins.

The garden at the back of the pub was home to the Kew Bowling Club from the date of its formation in 1884 to 1914. A market stall set up in 1888 on the forecourt of *The Express* developed into Brentford's much larger wholesale fruit and vegetable market.

Robert G. Aldington died in May 1921 and the license passed to his widow, Frances Aldington, who purchased the freehold in 1922. In 1949 a joint licence was granted to her son, Robert S. Aldington., and in 1959 Benskins Brewery was bought by Allied Brewers. Beers from Young's Brewery were first offered in 1975.

The pub was just across the road from the *Q Theatre* which functioned between 1924 and 1956. Actors including Dirk Bogarde and Kenneth More would often drop into *The Express* after performances and Charles Hawtrey was sometimes persuaded to play the piano in the bar.

The Campaign for Real Ale began their London presence at *The Express* in 1973 and in 1979 it won the London Pub of the Year award from the Society for the Preservation of Beer from the Wood. Following the death of Robert S. Aldington in 1988 the licence was passed to his widow, Hilda M. Aldington and then jointly held with Tim Aldington-Smyth from March 1989.

In 1994 *The Express* was temporarily closed for complete refurbishment, alteration and addition. *The Express* remains in the ownership of the Aldington family although it is now tenanted and it reopened in September 2014 after a refurbishment. A plaque commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Trafalgar Despatch was unveiled on the wall of *The Express* in August 2009.

Other licensees of *The Express Tavern* have included John Peek (1868-1878) and a Mr. Kerlish (1878-1882).



The Express Hotel circa 1903



The Express Tavern

The Feathers, 232 High Street

The Feathers was located on the west side of St Paul's Road, opposite 80 High Street, at the corner with the north side of the High Street before St Paul's Road was closed off by the supermarket.

There is a record from the Old Bailey which shows that John Stiles was the landlord of *The Feathers* in 1786. And then in 1838 John Miller, who was then the landlord, gave evidence in a trial at the Old Bailey. ⁵¹

In the mid-19th century *The Feathers* was occasionally used for the holding of inquests by the Middlesex Coroner. ⁵²

The 1909/10 Valuation Returns described it as a public house, stables, and premises with a frontage 36 feet ... brick built and slated public house on three floors with return frontage to St Paul's Road.

Top floor: 3 bedrooms

1st floor: club room, bedroom, sitting room, room with bath, WC

Ground floor: 3 bars & saloon bar, sitting room, kitchen, scullery, WC, pothouse etc. Urinal, small

brick built stable with loft over 53

The window glass was decorated with ostrich feathers, the heraldic badge of the Prince of Wales.

The Feathers was closed during the 1970s and demolished in the early 1980s for the building of the International Stores supermarket in 1983. Archaeological excavations in 1974/75 in the garden of *The Feathers* uncovered four different phases of the Roman road which ran from London to Staines.

The Feathers was the headquarters of the West London Field Group especially when the archaeological dig was taking place on the supermarket site.

Licensees of *The Feathers* included John Stiles (1786), Richard Aldrid (1791-1797), Robert Hague (1825), John Miller (1836-1841), George Kates (1870-1899), Charles Pennefather (1901-1913) and George Shepherd (1953-1952).





The Feathers (on the right at the corner of St. Paul's Road)



The Feathers circa 1960s



The Feathers in April 1962

(woman standing in front)







The Feathers in the 1970s after it had closed as a pub

The Fox and Hounds/The Queens Head, 384 High Street

The Fox and Hounds was on the current site of Holland Gardens opposite Watermans Park.

The Fox and Hounds was established by 1778 and it was known at one time as *The Queen's Head*. From 1823 to 1846 it was appointed by the Royal Humane Society as a "receiving house" for the bodies of those who were found drowned and dead in the Thames. At that time it appears that *The Fox and Hounds* was owned by Cole and Company of the Twickenham Brewery and they may have owned it for a long period. The Cole family stayed in brewing until 1892.

At the time of the 1861 Census there were 11 lodgers at *The Fox and Hounds* and in 1891 there were 18 lodgers there. It was listed in directories until 1918, when it was owned Brandons Putney Brewery Ltd., before it was closed in about 1919 and the building was then used as the Gas Light and Coke Company's Social Club.

Licensees of *The Fox and Hounds* included William Clerk (1791-1797), William Knight (1825), John Sexton (1836), James Gascoigne (1838), Sarah and William Monk (1856-1865) and Thomas and Harriett Rogers (1868-1882).





The Fox and Hounds circa 1900

The Gardener's Arms, Back Lane (now Albany Road)

This beerhouse was mentioned in May 1873 when *The Brewers Guardian* reported that an appeal was heard at The Middlesex Sessions into the refusal by Brentford justices to grant a licence to William Gardner. ⁵⁴

The George and Dragon, 29 London Road

The Pubs, Inns and Beer Houses of Brentford

Established by 1841 at the junction between London Road and what is now Brent Lea. A trade directory of 1898 lists "The Green Dragon" at 29 London Road but this must have been a misprint because the same landlord, Robert Baxter, is listed in 1899 at The George and Dragon.

The George and Dragon may have been on the same site as an inn called *The George* which Henry Redman bequeathed in 1528 to pay the local curate's salary. Redman was a man of some importance and he worked for Henry VIII as master mason at Westminster and Hampton Court. He appears to have resided in the parish of Brentford and to have been especially concerned for the welfare of its priest and poor inhabitants. A set of three brass plaques from Redman's funerary monument at St. Lawrence's Church are on loan to the Museum of London.

In 1841 an inquest was held at *The George and Dragon* into the death of William Fowler, a lighterman who died when three of his barges were sunk during the inundation when the banks and locks on the Grand Junction Canal were overflowed. In March 1865 John Leigh, the licensee of *The George and Dragon* and a former seaman, sold all his possessions at the pub and threw the proceeds to a crowd from the balcony. He then wrecked the pub building, smashing more than 100 panes of glass and trashing the interior before fleeing with his wife and child. The furious landlord reported Leigh to the police and he was sentenced to three months' hard labour. ^{55 56}

In 1867 *The George and Dragon* was completely destroyed by a fire but by the following year it had been rebuilt. By this time it was the property of Fuller, Smith and Turner. In 1871 Hugh Calher died after a fight with Michael Ryan in the street outside *The George and Dragon* after they had been drinking there. ⁵⁷

The George and Dragon closed in 2009 and then reopened for a brief period before it was demolished in 2012 and redeveloped for flats. Prior to the redevelopment an archaeological evaluation of the site was carried out. Two residual sherds of Roman pottery found in pits were the only items found to be of archaeological note. ⁵⁸

Licensees of *The George and Dragon* included John Leigh (1865), William Lewis (1868), George Francis Lye (1868-1870), Henry Dovey (1881-1882), Robert Baxter (1899) and Charles Eden (1907-1926).





The George and Dragon

The George III

An establishment called *The George III* is listed in 1791 in the Universal British Directory but no address is provided. George III reigned from 1760 to 1820 and it is possible that *The George III* was renamed *The George IV* during his reign from 1820 to 1830.

The victualler at *The George III* in 1791 was William Male.

In 1802 George III commissioned the building of a gothic "castellated palace" on the Thames in Kew Gardens at a point opposite Brentford Ait. This building attracted little praise, being considered too silly for a patron of his standing and in 1828 Parliament, having studied the accounts, ordered the shell to be demolished, and such fixtures and fittings as had been installed to be used elsewhere in royal residences. The staircase was later used at Buckingham Palace.



George III's palace with Brentford Ait in the foreground.

The George IV, 50 High Street

The George IV was first mentioned in 1826 and it was located on the east corner of Goat Wharf and High Street. The site was about where the bus stop now stands on the south side of the High Street opposite Albany Parade.

William Makepeace Thackeray may have been referring to this pub when he wrote his satirical ballad *The King of Brentford's Testament* (1840) which referred to George IV, who had died ten years earlier:

The faithful men of Brentford do still the King deplore, His portrait yet is swinging, beside an alehouse door. In 1914 *The George IV* belonged to the Royal Brewery of Brentford. It closed during the 1930s and the building became a cycle shop before the area was redeveloped.

Licensees of *The George IV* included John Stacey (1826-1839), William Edwards (1853-1855), William Cooper (1870-1894) and members of the Mumford family (1899-1914).



The George IV circa 1950 after it had closed as a pub

The Globe, 104 Windmill Road

The Globe received a licence in 1869 when John Twynham made a successful application to the licensing committee. The committee looked favourably on the application because of the new houses that were being built in the area and the relative paucity of other pubs in the immediate area. The same meeting turned down an application for a licence at *The Lord* Nelson. ⁵⁹

Fuller Smith and Turner acquired *The Globe* in 1908. There is a large globe on the roof above the corner door. In 1928 alterations to *The Globe* were made by Nowell Parr but it is not known what he did.

Licensees of *The Globe* have included George Shepherd (1869), William Ansell (1870), James Creamer (1881-1894) and Henry Smith (1901-1926).



The Globe circa 1910



The Globe circa 1995

The Goat Inn, Ferry Lane

The Goat Inn was recorded in Ferry Lane in 1636. In 1706 the Society of Friends (Quakers) established "a permanent meeting place for worship ... in a barn near the Goat Inn, Ferry Lane, and it

is possible that William Penn, who for a time lived nearby, might have been an early worshipper". 60

The Goat is also mentioned in 1769 in an account of the Middlesex elections and in 1791 the Universal British Directory tells us that Hilliard Benjamin was the victualler at *The Goat*. 62

It seems probable that the name of *The Goat Inn* and that of Goat Wharf are connected but it is not known which name came first.

The Grand Junction Arms, 12 High Street

The Grand Junction Arms was a beerhouse on the south side of the High Street and in 1881 it was immediately adjacent to the eastern side of the gas works. This location now corresponds with the eastern end of Watermans' Park.

The Grand Junction Arms operated from about 1851 until about 1890 at the latest. John Farrington ran the establishment from about 1878 to 1882. In the 1881 Census he is described as living with his family at *The Grand Junction Arms* but he was also a lighterman and therefore it seems that he was another of those who combined beer selling with working on the water. ⁶³

The building was demolished in about 1913 for the expansion of the gas works.

The Grand Junction Arms, 166 High Street

This *Grand Junction Arms* was situated In Bridge Terrace on the north side of the High Street facing the entrance to The Ham and immediately east of Brentford Bridge, directly opposite *The Lord Nelson*.

The Grand Junction Arms was a beerhouse from about 1851 to 1913 before it closed in about 1915. In 1859 the licensee was fined 40 shillings for selling beer outside opening hours. The Grand Junction Arms was listed in the 1910 Valuation Roll when it was owned by Charrington and Co. Ltd. ⁶⁴

Licensees included William Heath (in 1859), George Jennings (1879-1907) who also worked as a bargeman, and James Sharratt (1911-1914).





The Grand Junction Arms (with the lozenge-shaped sign) was in the middle of Bridge Terrace (Photographs circa 1904)

The Green Dragon, Green Dragon Lane

The site of this establishment is unknown. In her book called *Ealing Walkabout: Journeys into the History of a London Borough* (1983) Kate McEwan wrote that:

Green Dragon Lane takes its name from a 17th century inn and used to extend northwards along the line taken by Lionel Road until its course was altered by the building of the London and South Western Railway in the 1840s.

No other reference to *The Green Dragon* has yet been found bit it could have been anywhere along the length of the old Green Dragon Lane, perhaps at its northern end in Ealing.

The Griffin, 57 Brook Road South

Established by 1890, at one time it doubled as a changing room for Brentford Football Club.

Brook Road is on the line of a stream which flows from Castlebar Hill in Ealing and the landlord of *The Griffin* used to say that the stream occasionally appeared in the cellars.

Licensees of *The Griffin* have included Frederick Allen (1890-1899), members of the Compton family (1901-1926) and Frederick James Hebborn (1937).





Advertisements circa 191165





The Half Moon and Crown, 55 London Road

The Half Moon and Crown was located on a site in front of the flats at Brent Lea opposite the Royal Mail office. It was often simply known as *The Half Moon*. In 1860 there were still stables to the rear of the premises.

The pub was established by 1841 when an inquest was held there into the death of a child who had died in suspicious circumstances. It was an established meeting place of the Oddfellows philanthropic society from 1854 until at least 1876. ⁶⁶

It would seem that *The Half Moon and Crown* was closed by 1913 at the latest. It still existed in a virtually derelict condition in the early 1960s and it was demolished about 1970. The name survives in that of Half Moon Close which runs south from London Road to Brent Lea Recreation Ground.

Licensees of *The Half Moon and Crown* included John Wetherby (1855-1860), Charles Richardson (1874-1882), and James Hockaday (1890-1899)

The Half Moon and Seven Stars, 25 High Street

The Half Moon and Seven Stars occupied a position towards the west of the site of the Waterman's Arts Centre. It lay between *The Royal Hotel* and *The Brewery Tap* adjacent to the Royal Brewery. This pub may also have been called *The Glittering Star*.

The pub was certainly established by 1807 when it was mentioned in a trial at the Old Bailey. In 1839-41 the owner was Douglas Thompson of the Royal Brewery who owned four other Brentford High Street public houses: *The Feathers, The One Tun, The Red Lion* and *The Marquis of Granby*. Douglas Thompson was one of the early owners of the Griffin brewery in Chiswick and ownership passed to Fuller, Smith and Turner in 1845. ⁶⁷

In January 1900 the landlord, Samuel Ferris, appeared before the magistrates accused of discharging a gun at a man in his pub. The customer suffered minor facial injuries and brought a private prosecution of the landlord before the Brentford bench. The magistrates settled the case by ordering the landlord to pay his victim two pounds in compensation and three shillings and sixpence for the Police Doctor's fee. By 1902 Brentford Urban District Council owned the property and the pub was closed in about 1903 and redeveloped as part of the extension of the gas works. ⁶⁸

Licensees of *The Half Moon and Seven Stars* included Richard Cockson (1807), John Rogers (1825), Robert Pearce (1839-1855), Thomas Woolmore (1863), James Leese and Richard Edwards (1864), Benjamin Edwards (1869), Robert Henwood (1870), Charles Gibbins (1871), J. Fairchild (1873), Annie Moffatt (1881) and Samuel Ferris (1901).

ON the Banks of the Thames, overlooking Kew Gardens, and near the Ferry, the Old-established and well known House, the HALF MOON AND SEVEN STARS, High-atreet, Brentford, with immediate possession, on account of the death of the proprietor—good club-room,&c.—coming-in very moderate—seven minutes from S. W. Railway and North London Station.

The Morning Advertiser 29th December 1869





The Half Moon and Seven Stars is the building in the centre of the left-hand picture with The Royal Hotel to the left and the Royal Brewery to the right. In the picture on the right the long railing and gateway to the right of The Half Moon and Seven Stars belonged to land between the pub and The Royal Hotel, which slopes down to the river and is shown as garden on an 1865 map. Beyond can be seen trees on Brentford Ait. 69 70

The Half Way House, Old Brentford

In 1665 two soldiers were thought to have brought the Great Plague from London to an inn called *The Half Way House* in Old Brentford whence it spread to the neighbouring parishes so that there was scarcely a family that was not affected. Plague pits gave the name of Dead Men's Graves to the fields beyond Green Dragon Lane. ⁷¹

The Hand and Flower / Wilkes's Head, 378 High Street

The Hand and Flower was located about 20 yards east of the entrance to the gas works and Holland Gardens now covers the site. Formerly known as *The Wilkes's Head*, it is listed under that name in Wilkes' Directory of 1791 when Aaron Wyatt was the victualler there. The old name derives from John Wilkes, a radical politician, who was elected as a Member of Parliament for Middlesex in 1769 and was later Lord Mayor of London.

By 1816 the pub was called *The Hand and Flower* when a lease was drawn up between John Newton, brewer of Old Brentford and Douglas and Henry Thompson of Chiswick, brewers, for the "messuage or tenement and public house known as Hand and Flower (formerly Wilkes's Head) in Old Brentford, with yard, garden etc." It appears that *The Hand and Flower* was bought by Fuller, Smith and Turner in 1872.

In 1863 the landlord of *The Hand and Flower*, William Taylor, was fined 20 shillings for allowing card playing in his house and his license was suspended until a petition from numerous "highly respectable citizens" persuaded the authorities to reinstate his licence. The licence for the *Hand and Flower* lapsed in 1901/2 and by 1913 the site was probably occupied by the showrooms of the Brentford Gas Company.

Licensees of *The Hand and Flower* included members of the Taylor family (1828-1901) and Alexander Hoar (1914-1937).





The Hand and Flower in the early 1900s

The Harp Inn, 79 Albany Road

It would seem that *The Harp Inn* was at the western end of Albany Road in the area that now lies between the supermarket car park and St. Paul's School. 72

The Buss family ran the beerhouse from 1878 to 1901 and in 1900 Mary Ann Buss was resident there.

The Hope and Anchor, Layton Road (Brookshot Road)

Brookshot Road was renamed Layton Road in 1888.

This beerhouse is mentioned in the proceedings of the Old Bailey. In 1851 Elizabeth Allen was keeping *The Hope and Anchor* when Frederick Marshall was found guilty of manslaughter after John Kenton died as the result of a fight outside the beerhouse.

The Horseshoe

This establishment was recorded in Brentford in 1436. 73

The Jolly Gardener, 13 Ealing Road (Drum Lane)

The Jolly Gardener was listed in the 1851 Post Office Directory and in another directory of 1853 when the licensee was William Lee. In the 1901 Census John Padbury is noted at the same address as a beer retailer. ⁷⁴

The Jolly Gardeners, Windmill Road (Windmill Lane)

The Jolly Gardeners was listed in the 1851 Post Office Directory and Mason's Directory of 1853 when the licensee was Thomas Dale. ⁷⁵

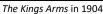
The Kings Arms, 19 Boston Manor Road

The Kings Arms was on this site by 1840 and it was possibly called *The Little Kings Arms* in 1792. In Mason's directory of 1853 it was called *The Railway Arms*, with Robert Barret as the licensee, and its address was given as Orchard Road.

The Kings Arms was altered and extended in the 1930s.

Licensees of *The Kings Arms* included the Powell family (1866-1881), the Collier family (1890-1901) and Frederick Brawn (1914-1926).







The Kings Arms

The Kings Arms, 273 High Street

The Kings Arms was on the north side of the High Street opposite Town Meadow, just east of an alley sometimes known as Kings Arms Alley which ran alongside the modern Berkeley House.

In 1651 Lodewijck Huygens wrote that "Brentford is rather a nice village with a great number of inns, some with signs such as "Here was ye King's Head" or "Here was ye King's Arms". ⁷⁶

The King's Arms was possibly the *Great Kings Arms* mentioned in 1792 and recorded as *The Kings Head* in 1845. The pub closed in 1903/4.

In the 1909/10 Valuation returns the Royal Brewery owned the property and it is described as a "semi-detached house and shop at the corner of Kings Arms Alley". There is a note added "premises now empty: 273 and 273A were originally a public house". By 1913 the properties were used as a clothiers and greengrocers and then by a laundry in 1928. In the early 1980s the building housed the offices of the Brentford Housing Association. ⁷⁷

Licensees of *The Kings Arms* included James Drewe (in 1826), members of the Hoare family (1839-1878) and John Turner (1894-1901).







The leftmost building was the site of *The Kings Arms*with the Berkeley House flats behind
(photographs circa 1975 - 1980)

The Lamb, 409 High Street

The Lamb beerhouse was located at the west corner of Lamb Passage (or Pomona Court) and High Street. Lamb Passage runs down the side of the shop opposite O'Riordan's Tavern which sells uniforms and office equipment.

A lease for the Lamb for 21 years from 1874 describes it as a "messuage (formerly two messuages) with yard and appurtenances situate in the High Street, Old Brentford, now used as retail beerhouse called The Lamb".⁷⁸

The Lamb must have been closed by 1909/10 and it seems that it was then used as a private house.



The Lamb was close to this building

The Lord Nelson, 154 High Street

From at least 1841 *The Lord Nelson* was a beerhouse next door but one to the *Magnet*. An application for the renewal of *The Lord Nelson's* licence was turned down in 1905 and the building became used as a confectioners between 1905 and 1907. ⁷⁹

Licensees of *The Lord Nelson* included William Webb (1853), John Ackrill (1870-1881), Thomas Griffiths (1890-1891) and Emanuel Smith (1901). Emanuel Smith was another Brentford publican who combined his job of selling beer with being a lighterman.



Lord Nelson (pub sign on right) circa 1904

The Lord Nelson, 9-11 Enfield Road

Originally a beerhouse that belonged to Fuller Smith and Turner. In March 1869 the local licensing committee turned down an application by Henry Spicer for a licence for *The Lord Nelson* and it is unlikely that a licence was granted before about 1880. In 1883 Henry Spicer, the builder of the new houses in Brook Road South, was staying at *The Lord Nelson*. The pub was reconstructed in 1927.

Licensees of *The Lord Nelson* have included Philip Hexamer (in 1890), Lucy Boxall (1894-1914) and John Suckling (1937).



The Lord Nelson and Enfield Road circa 1920s



The Lord Nelson



The Magnet, 152 High Street

The Magnet beerhouse was situated on the west corner of The Ham and the High Street opposite The Six Bells which was on the east corner. The site is now occupied by the block of new buildings called The Waterside.

The Magnet was a butchers' shop before it became a beerhouse which was owned by the Royal Brewery of Brentford. It closed in about 1955 and the building became a repair shop called Ballantynes before it was demolished in the 1980s.

Licensees of *The Magnet* included John Abraham Payne (1878), Thomas Stevens (1881-1894), George Neal (1899-1914) and Arthur William Balsom (1937).







The Magnet in (left to right) the early 1900s, circa 1918 and the early 1950s

The Magpie and Crown, 128 High Street

The "Pye" may have been built in 1614 and by 1722 it was called *The Magpie and Crown*. It was rebuilt in about 1923, perhaps to a design of Nowell Parr, when for some reason it was set back from the building line. It formerly belonged to the Lamb Brewery of Chiswick but by the 1930s it sold beers from the Isleworth Brewery and it is now a free house. The pub was closed briefly in 2009.

In the early 1860s, before Thomas Diplock became coroner for West Middlesex, inquests were occasionally held at *The Magpie and Crown*.

The Bricklayers Arms was originally the site of "The Flying Swan" in Ian Rankin's novels but when that pub changed hands he thought that the quality of the beer declined and The Flying Swan then became modelled on The Magpie and Crown which Rankin liked.

Licensees of *The Magpie and Crown* have included John Brunden (1825), George Boxall (1853), George Atkins (1860-1881), Alfred Lawrence (1891), William Sherwin (1911), Sidney Herbert Brook Furmaston (1915) and Richard Holt (1926-1928).

The freehold of *The Magpie and Crown* is now owned by the Wellington Pub Company and it is let to Tamar Zoe Burns until 2030.



The Magpie and Crown circa 1905



The Magpie and Crown circa 1930

The Magpie and Stump, 124 High Street

The Magpie and Stump was located immediately to the east of *The Magpie and Crown*. This building was *The Magpie and Stump* by 1826 and until at least 1904. It closed in about 1904/07 and from about 1913 to 1940 it was a tailors and outfitters shop. The building was demolished in the 1950s to make way for County Parade.

In 1818 *The Magpie and Stump* was owned by a Mr. Parnell, a brewer. In 1875 it was a designated meeting place of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners. ⁸⁰ 81

When recorded for the 1909/10 Valuation Returns in January 1914, 124 High Street was described as a "stock brick built shop with smart shop front an tiled entrance; front two storeys with parapet wall and stone coping, back house part cement faced an tiled". It had a frontage of 18' 6". 82

Licensees of *The Magpie and Stump* included Thomas Pearson (1826), James Palmer (1836), William Rolfe Palmer (1853), William Hollis (1854), William Franklin (1855), James Grover (1860-1874), William Simmons (1881), Edward Fielder (1891) and Charles Hutchinson (1901).



The building with the white wall on the first floor
Is probably the site of what was *The Magpie and Stump*(photograph circa 1940s) before it was demolished for County Parade.

The Marquis of Granby, 369 High Street

The Marquis of Granby was located next to St. Georges Church on the east side. This church later became the original Musical Museum. A pub was present on this site by 1777 and it closed in 1903. It appears that *The Marquis of Granby* was bought by Fuller, Smith and Turner in 1872. The building was demolished after the site had been taken over by the Gas Light and Coke Company. ⁸³

The 1909/10 Valuation Roll described the building as a "very old and dilapidated brick built house of three storeys, double-fronted, tiled roof ... could not inspect premises derelict".

Licensees of *The Marquis of Granby* included William Butlin (1825), members of the Smith family (1836-1870), Thomas Silver (1874-1881) and Samuel Ferris (1890-1901).



The Mermaid, Old Brentford

Recorded from 1651, The Mermaid was a small alehouse in Brentford. 84

The Moon Raker

There is only one known reference to this establishment in Brentford in *The Universal British Directory* of 1793, when William Smith was the victualler.

The New Inn, 1 New Road

The New Inn is thought to have been in existence by at least 1853, but the original pub may have been older. In 1857 the licence was transferred from Alfred Meacock to Charles Blandford. By 1914, and probably much earlier, *The New Inn* was owned by the Royal Brewery of Brentford.

In 1927, when Jock Watson was the landlord, thieves went into the pub through a window that had been left open and stole the substantial sum of over £200. Jock Watson (1883-1946), from Lanarkshire, had been a first-class football player and he played for Clyde, Leeds City, Newcastle United and Brentford. He joined Brentford in 1903, making 168 appearances in a five-year spell with the club. He took over as landlord of *The New Inn* in 1914 after retiring from a final period of playing with Clyde. ⁸⁵

Other licensees of *The New inn* included Robert Gainsford (1853), William Woodford (1866-1871), Sarah Weedon (1874-1878), and Arthur Blick and his family (1891-1901).



The New Inn

The North Star was located at 82 and 84 North Road, at the corner with Netley Road.

Established before 1853, *The North Star* belonged to the Royal Brewery Company. The pub closed and was used as a private club during the 1990s before it was demolished in 2002.

The North Star is mentioned in Robert Rankin's The Brentford Trilogy.

Licensees of *The North Star* included John and Sarah Stannett (1855-1867), Isaac Rule (1867), George Taylor (1871-1873), Alexander McNae (1890-1901) and Arthur Bacon (1926-1937).





The North Star in 1965/1966



The North Star in 1994

The Northumberland Arms, 11 London Road

Located just west of Brentford Bridge and established before 1853, it was at one time called *The Duke of Northumberland*. On the western side of the building there is evidence of where it was attached to the old railway bridge which crossed London Road. It was renamed *Mary O'Riordan's* and then *O'Briens* for some time until it was refurbished in 2015 and given back its original name of *The Northumberland Arms*.

Licensees of *The Northumberland Arms* have included James and Hannah Hoare (1851 -1852), Thomas Davis (1853-1858), Uriah Bishop (1861), James Culverwell (1862), Edward Goodman (1867-1881) and John and Ann Pryor (1894-1914).



The Northumberland Arms in 1975



Mary O'Riordans in 1994



The Northumberland Arms today

The Old Fire Station, 55 High Street

Brentford Fire Station was designed by Nowell Parr and built by James Barnes, a local builder, in 1897. It opened on 22nd February 1898. The fire station closed in 1965 and the building was then used by the ambulance service for the next twenty years before being used for offices. The building was listed in 1990. It was converted to a bar and restaurant in 2003.

The bar on the ground floor specialises in cocktails and the first floor houses a Persian restaurant.



The Old Fire Station

One Over the Ait, 8 Kew Bridge Road

This is a new Fullers pub that opened in 2014. It is located within a few yards of what was *The Oxford and Cambridge*.



The One Tun, 254 High Street

The One Tun was located on the corner of One Tun Yard and the High Street. The site now lies on the eastern part of Morrison's car park to the west of Brentford County Court. At various times it was also called *The Two Sawyers*, *The Jolly Sawyers* and *The Chopping Knife and Tun*. It was known as *The One Tun* by 1791.

In the 19th century *The One Tun* was frequently used for auctions and for the conduct of coroners' inquests. In July 1819 Mary Francis was found dead at the back of *The One Tun* and her husband, who had behaved violently towards her in the past, was charged with her murder and sent to Newgate Prison. At his trial at the Old Bailey Thomas Francis was found not guilty and he was released. ⁸⁶ 87

In 1816 *The One Tun* was leased to Douglas and Henry Thompson, brewers from Chiswick and the earlier incarnation of Fuller, Smith and Turner. It appears that *The One Tun* was owned by John Fuller's Griffin Brewery by 1838. ⁸⁸

In 1856 John Thick had received a licence to play music at *The One Tun*. In October 1865 he applied for the renewal of the music licence but the magistrates heard evidence that a great nuisance was caused by prostitutes assembling in front of the pub. The license was refused despite John Thick's impeccable record as a publican. ⁸⁹

During the period 1819-1885 *The One Tun* was regularly used by the coroner of West Middlesex to hold inquests.

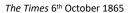
The pub closed in 1904 and was demolished soon after together with 255 High Street and One Tun Yard, causing One Tun Yard and Spring Gardens to merge. The whole area was demolished in the mid-1960s for the construction of Alexandra Road and the County Court ⁹⁰

Licensees of *The One Tun* included Samuel White (1791), Samuel Hughes (1816), Sarah Seaton (1825), and various members of the Thick family (1838-1901).

THE ONE TWO, OLD BRESSYROED.

In this case Mit, John Thick applied for a recewal of his licens for maide.

It was stated by one of the magistrates that, being in a low neighbourhood, the music attracted disorderly character. The considered of the Television and the leading of the most all fice outlit to discourage the assemblage of tille persons, all fine outlit to discourage the assemblage of tille persons, all fine outlit to discourage the assemblage of tille persons, all fine outlit to make a sea of the transport of the tran





The One Tun circa 1900-1904

The Oxford and Cambridge / The Poplar Inn, 18 Kew Bridge Road

The pub opened in 1839 as *The Poplar Inn* (or *The Poplars*) and the name was changed to *The Oxford and Cambridge* in 1867. It was located at the west corner of Kew Bridge almost exactly where the new pub *One Over the Ait* is situated.

In 1914, and probably much earlier, *The Oxford and Cambridge* was owned by the Royal Brewery of Brentford. The pub had a boat house on the riverside and it was popular with rowing clubs. The Wise family were oarsmen, who ran *The Oxford and Cambridge* from about 1874 to 1901, and by 1900 they had a fleet of over 70 boats for hire. In the latter part of the 19th century there was a malthouse, known as Jupp's malthouse, immediately to the north of the pub.

On 10th October 1889 a meeting of Brentford Rowing Club held at the pavilion of the *Oxford and Cambridge* decided to create Brentford Football Club. Six days later, on 16th October, a formal decision to play association football rather than rugby was taken. The first match, against Kew, was played on 23rd November and featured Bill Dodge, who went on to be a director during the Club's

heyday in the 1930s. In 1889 Bill Dodge had supported the playing of rugby rather than association football.

The pub was closed in 1923 and the site has now been redeveloped with flats. When the site was excavated in 2007 bottle tops and bottles inscribed with the Royal Brewery's markings were found.

Other licensees included Caroline Perry (1865), Alfred Garside (1866) and Benjamin and Sarah Erl (1871).



Advertisement from 1877



The Oxford and Cambridge (just to the right of the monument)

The Plough, 24 Kew Bridge Road

North of *The Oxford and Cambridge* and a few yards east of *The Waggon and Horses, The Plough* was first recorded as a beerhouse in 1853. By 1914, and probably much earlier, *The Plough* was owned by the Royal Brewery of Brentford.

The Plough was damaged on 16th November 1940 by German bombing, extended after the war and finally demolished in 2000 for the construction of shops next to a block of flats.

Licensees of *The Plough* included Thomas Waddell (1881), William Ekins (1901) and Henry Albert Hogg (1940).



The *Plough* in 1992



The Plough pub sign 91

The Plough, south of the High Street, New Brentford

By 1720 an inn in Brentford called *The Plough* had been divided into four small shops or cottages. It was located to the south of the High Street in New Brentford. Plough Yard, off Brent Way, may take its name from this old establishment. ⁹²

The Pottery Arms, 25 Clayponds Lane

A beerhouse called *The Pottery Arms* in Brentford was offered for sale in 1865 and in 1873 *The Brewers' Guardian* noted that the pub had an address in Bull Lane where the licensee was James Evans. The name of the pub referred to the pottery industry which was of great importance in this part of Brentford and the pub itself originally stood opposite a pottery.

The Pottery Arms was rebuilt in 1921/1922 to a Nowell Parr design and it was closed by 2012 and converted to houses.

Licensees of *The Pottery Arms* included James Evans (1867-1873), members of the Rye family (1890-1915) and Daniel Coate (from 1915).

a Free Beer-house, known as the Pottery Arms, and cottages adjoining, situate at the Pottery. Brenzrord held on lease for 50 years, and producing £48 per annum. May be viewed by permission of the respective tenants, and particulars, with conditions, had of C. Tunstall, Esq., Solicitor, 5, Fenchurch-buildings, Fenchurch-street, E.C.; place of sale; and of the Auctioneers, 17, Commercial-road East.

Morning Advertiser 21st June 1865







The Pottery Arms (the photograph on the right is from 1994)

The Princess Royal, 107 Ealing Road

The Princess Royal was built by Fuller Smith and Turner in 1841 and it was rebuilt to the design of Nowell Parr in 1921.

Harry Gomm, from the Beehive Brewery family, was landlord of *The Princess Royal* when he was elected as a councillor for Brentford District Council in 1911. He was advertising that he sold malt liquors, wines, spirits and cigars of the finest quality and there was a first class billiard table. Dinners, teas and private parties were catered for at the pub and Harry Gomm advised that if elected he was opposed to the New Recreation Ground Scheme which would mean higher rates and dearer rents. He was later landlord at *The Bunch of Grapes* which became known as *The Ferry Hotel*.

By 1911 *The Princess* Royal was the registered office and headquarters of Brentford Football Club and it continued in this role until at least 1921. In 2005 the football club tenanted the first floor as the club shop.

Licensees of *The Princess Royal* have included Oliver Byrne (1856), Matthew Maynard (1870-1878) and Henry Risbridger (1901).

The Princess Royal was closed for a period in April 2016 but it was open for business again in May 2016.







The Princess Royal in the 1960s

Brentford FC Official Handbook 1920-1921

The Prince of Wales / The Running Horses, 346 High Street

The fifth building to the west of Pottery Road and set slightly back from the general line of adjacent buildings. There was a stable at the rear for five horses and a private entrance and gateway to Running Horses Yard which extended from the High Street to Walnut Tree Road. The name survives in that of Running Horse Yard on the Haverfield Estate.

Formerly known as *The Sheepskin* alehouse and then by 1769, in an account of the Middlesex elections, it was called *The Running Horses*. It was renamed *The Prince of Wales* by 1848, after Queen Victoria's son, later King Edward VII. The internal walls of *The Prince of Wales* were adorned with frescoes similar to those at *The Bull* and these were by F. Stuart who was a scenery painter for Sangster's circus. ⁹³

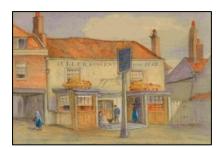
In 1791 William Cluer was arrested at *The Running Horses* and charged with the highway robbery of William Bryant. Sarah Violet, the landlady at the time, gave evidence at Cluer's trial at the Old Bailey. William Cluer was found guilty and he was sentenced to death. It would seem that Cluer was reprieved. In 1868 William Sawell, the landlord of *The Prince of Wales*, was fined 40 shillings for allowing fighting and drunkenness in his premises.

By the time of the 1909/10 Valuation the property was described as "semi-detached double-fronted cottage and shop adjoining Running Horse Yard. By this time it was no longer a public house but it

was still owned by Fuller, Smith and Turner, Brewers, Chiswick. The description suggests the property was divided into two small shops. ⁹⁴

The Prince of Wales closed about 1908 and the building was demolished.

Licensees of *The Prince of Wales* included Sarah Violet (1791), Peter Basley (1825), Sarah Sims (1835), James Starbuck (1841), Thomas Harding (1851-1853), Thomas Waters (1867), William Sawell (1868), Charles Daniel Corney (1870) and members of the Hamblin family (1871-1907).





The Prince of Wales



The Prince of Wales (building on left of photograph) 95

The Queens Arms, 366 High Street

Two doors east of North Road, *The Queens Arms* was established before 1866 and closed between 1881 and 1888.

In the 1871 Census John Bowler is recorded as publican at *The Queens Arms*. In 1881 Isabel Gelleff, beerhouse keeper and a widow, lived here. There is no record of a beerhouse here in 1891 or later. ⁹⁶

The Red Lion, 318 High Street

The Red Lion was originally at the western corner of Ealing Road and High Street and there are references dating to 1669. In the Universal British Directory of 1791 both "The Great Red Lion" and "The Little Red Lion" were listed as separate premises in Brentford. Perhaps the former was the one in the Market Place and the latter was the one at 318 High Street. If this assumption is correct then in 1791 George Page was the victualler at *The Red Lion* at 318 High Street. George Saunders was the licensee in 1825.

In 1870 it was listed as *The Old Red* Lion. The 1909/10 Valuation Returns describe it as a public house and premises (including forge) frontage 50 feet. Owner: Fuller, Smith and Turner ... "a well and substantially built modern brick and tiled Public House with return frontage to Ealing Road on three floors, front and flank elevations part stone".

This building was closed in 1962 and demolished. *The Red Lion* on the east side of Ealing Road was opened in 1965.

The rebuilt *Red Lion* became a famous rock and blues venue. Performers included ZZ Top (in 1986), Bo Diddley, Nick Lowe, Dr. Feelgood, Dave Edmunds, The Chiswick Flyovers, Nashville Teens, Geno Washington, Paul Young, Jimmy Rodgers, Percy Sledge, The Troggs, Screaming Lord Sutch, and John Otway.

The Red Lion was demolished in 1996 to make way for a McDonalds outlet.

Licensees of *The Red Lion* included Charles, Elizabeth and George Loader (1861-1880), James Tarling (1881), Maria South (1901) and Walter Hamblin (1911).



The (old) Red Lion (car park at Albany Parade behind)



The (old) Red Lion in the 1960s (the building with several chimneys)



The Red Lion in 1970





The Red Lion circa 1963 with the new version behind



The Red Lion gig guide for April 1986

The Red Lion, 197 High Street

Also called *The Lion* and *The Old Red Lion*, it was located at the south east of the Market Place approximately on the current site of Barclays Bank.

Originally a coaching inn, it may have been running before 1445. There is a reference to Henry VI holding a Chapter of the Garter at the Lion inn of Brentford in 1445 when "In this hostelrie the King created Sir Thomas Hastings and Sir Alonzo d'Almade, Knight of the Garter". (Knights and Their Days. Dr. Thomas Doran, 1845).

In the 16th century the pub had a lively landlady called Jyl (or Gillian) of Brentford and Robert Copland went there with his friend John Hardlesay *"To the Read Lyone at the Shammels end. We went for to drynke good ale"*. In about 1565 Copland added some more information in his ballad *Jyl of Brentford's Statements*:

At Brentford in the west of London, Nygh to a place that called is Syon There dwelt a widow of homely sort, Honest in substance, and full of sport.

Dally she cowd, with passim and Jestes Among her neyghbours and gestes, She kept an Inne, of right good lodging For all estates that thyder was comyng.

.... With that she groned as panged with pain griping her bely with her hands twain
And lift up her buttok somwhat a wry
and like a handgun, she let a fart fly.

In the 17th century the Brentford Justices sat and dispensed justice in one of Brentford's inns, usually *The Red Lion*, on up to thirty occasions every year. In the late 1680s the landlord of *The Red Lion*, probably William Parish, who acquired the land in 1663 from John Goldsmith of Boston Manor began to build houses at The Butts and these properties survive today. In 1762 church services were held at *The Red Lion* during the rebuilding of St. Lawrence's church. From about 1772 to 1830 Poor Law Examinations, to prove entitlement to poor relief, were held at *The Red Lion*.

In the Universal British Directory of 1791 both "The Great Red Lion" and "The Little Red Lion" were listed as separate premises in Brentford. Perhaps the former was the one in the Market Place and the latter was the one at 318 High Street. If this assumption is correct then in 1791 James Kerr was the victualler at *The Red Lion* in the Market Place.

At the beginning of the 20th century the pub was owned by the Truman Hanbury Buxton brewery

The valuation on 3rd December 1914 describes the property as a 3 storey building, upper part cement faced. Painted lower part with wood front and glazed with double swing doors; green tiled dado to centre. Wood cellar flap in pavement

Ground floor: 2 public saloon and bottle bars; kitchen; scullery & parlour; outside WC

Basement: cellar First floor: 3 rooms

Top floor: 2 rooms, bathroom and WC.

The *Red Lion* closed in 1928 and the London Co-op opened there in the same year, remaining until at least 1940.

Licensees of *The Red Lion* included John Edwards (1725), Isaac Pearce (1825), Thomas Beasley (1866), William Harmer (1901) and Thomas Sangster (1907).





The Red Lion may be the building to the right of the market place.

An illustration on the left was published in 1826. (The Mirror 25th February 1826)





The Red Lion circa 1905 (under the pub sign on the left of the photographs)



The Red Lion circa 1913 (beyond the branch of Boots Chemists on the corner of Market Place)



The Red Lion circa 1940s. (building on right). It seems that Boots Chemists had also closed by this time. ⁹⁷

The Retort / The Eight Bells, 376 High Street

Retort Alley ran northwards from between 376 and 377 High Street.

Edmund Barry was the landlord of *The Retort* beershop in November 1852 when he was prosecuted for refusing provide proper accommodation and food to four soldiers who had been billeted there. The beershop is listed in Mason's directory of 1853 when Joseph Sawyer was the licensee.

The Retort may have changed its name to The Eight Bells which was also one shop away from The Hand and Flower. In October 1870 a beerhouse certificate was granted to Mr. Smith of The Eight Bells. The establishment was last mentioned in The Brewers' Guardian in May 1873 when the premises belonged to The Royal Brewery of Brentford and The Brewers Guardian reported that an appeal was heard at The Middlesex Sessions into the refusal by Brentford justices to grant a licence to Henry Band. 98

The Rising Sun, 68-69 High Street

The Rising Sun was first mentioned in 1763 and it was located on the eastern corner of Pump Alley and High Street. In 1908 The Rising Sun was bought by Fuller Smith and Turner and the premises were demolished and a new building erected. The pub closed in about 1960 when it became an antique shop and it is now the Pin Thai restaurant (formerly Fat Boys).

Licensees of *The Rising Sun* included Philip Absalom (1791), William Westbrook (1841), Charles Finch (1862), Evans Gilbert (1894-1899), Christopher Edwin Stewart (1911), members of the Freeman family (1920-1928) and George and Florence Diggins from the 1930s to about 1945. In 1891 the Gilbert family were noted as makers of ginger beer as well as retailers of beer.



The Rising Sun in the 1900s



The Rising Sun in the 1960s



The Rising Sun in sad times



The house of The Rising Sun in March 2016



Brentford High Street in early 1900s looking west from Town Meadow.

The sign of *The Rising Sun* can be seen on the left.

The Rose and Crown, about 101 High Street

This establishment was mentioned in the 1792 Survey of New Brentford. 99

The Royal Horseguardsman, 23 Ealing Road

The Royal Horseguardsman was built in 1888 and remodelled at a later date. It was sometimes known simply as *The Horseguardsman*. A former Courage pub, a floor mosaic at the entrance denotes its earlier ownership by Ashby's brewery of Staines. Attractive detailing on the exterior of the pub includes the side door and a fine etched window.

The licensee from about 1933 to 1980 was Jack Lane and *The Royal Horseguardsman* was known locally as "Jack Lane's". He played for Brentford Football Club from 1925 to 1931. He became captain of Brentford in 1926 and during his time with the Bees he made 234 appearances and scored 86 goals.

The pub closed on 13th Jan 2008 and re-opened as a free house on 8th December 2010 by the current licensees Emma Rowlett and Noel McNaboe.

Other licensees of The Royal Horseguardsman have included Robert Gomm (1894-1914).







The Royal Horse Guardsman







The Royal Hotel, 26-27 High Street

The Royal Hotel was located almost exactly on the site of the offices immediately west of the Watermans Centre. It was built in 1828 by Felix Booth of the Royal Brewery Company. The building was altered in the early 1900s and closed in 1927 at the same time as *The Brewery Tap* to make was for the extension of the gas work.

Licensees of *The Royal Hotel* included James Stout senior and James Stout junior (1838-1872), Henry Besley (1881), David MacGregor (1901) and Mr. Weber (1914).



The Royal Hotel in 1900

The Royal Oak, Market Place, New Brentford

The Royal Oak had its own malthouse in 1702 and it is mentioned in 1769 in an account of the Middlesex elections. ¹⁰⁰ ¹⁰¹

The Royal Oak, 38/39 New Road

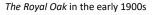
The Royal Oak was founded in 1787 and it was originally a standard corner property, later expanded into properties in New Road. It belonged to the Royal Brewery of Brentford.

Stephen Ramsey (33) was stabbed to death outside *The Royal Oak* in the early hours of 28th November 2010. It is believed that an argument started after he objected to insults being thrown at a woman in the pub. A man was jailed for life with a minimum of 24 years before parole after being convicted of murder while another man was jailed for 9 years for manslaughter. A plaque on the wall of *The Royal Oak* commemorated Stephen Ramsey's death but the plaque has now been removed.

Licensees of *The Royal Oak* have included John Carter (1869), Richard Lewis (1870), Elizabeth Gardner (1894), Boaz Stallwood (1901) and Albert Coles (1914-1937).

The Royal Oak is currently closed.







The Royal Oak

The Royal Tar / O'Riordans, 3 High Street

Established by 1841 on the corner of the High Street and The Hollows it was also called the *Jolly Tar*, *The Yacht*, and *Captain Morgans* (from 2005 to 2008). It is now *O'Riordans Tavern*. In 1909/1910 the owner was Ashby's Staines Brewery while the photograph below suggests that in 1937 it was owned by Simonds Brewery of Reading which amalgamated with Courage and Barclay in 1960.

There are interesting cast iron pillars at the corners of the windows. Similar pillars can be seen on houses in Hamilton and Whitestile Roads.

Licensees of *The Royal Tar* have included Richard Pearce (1870), Isaac Beese (1871), Ann Treadwell (1878), William Atkinson (1901), Bartholomew Simpson (1902-1903) and Arthur Burrows (1937).



The Royal Tar in 1937



The tiled entrance to The Royal Tar in 1973....



...and now



O'Riordan's Tavern in 1994





Cast iron window pillars at O'Riordan's (left) and in Hamilton Road

The Running Deer, New Brentford

This establishment is mentioned in 1769 in an account of the Middlesex elections. 102

The Salutation Inn, 401 High Street

The Salutation Inn, which may also at one time have been known as *The Salutation Tavern,* was on the site of the petrol filling station immediately east of the new Musical Museum. It was established by 1727 and its presence in 1751 is noted in *The Victoria County History*. In 1865 a lease of the pub was granted to Fuller, Smith and Turner and it appears that they bought the pub in 1872. ¹⁰³

In 1839 an interesting discovery made just to the rear of *The Salutation Inn*:

For the last few days much curiosity has been excited in the neighbourhood of Old Brentford, in consequence of the discovery of a large quantity of human bones, in an extraordinary state of preservation, after baring been interred, it is supposed, upwards of 200 years. The ground where the discovery has been made is in the occupation of Mr. Robinson, a brickmaker, and is situate at the commencement of the town, just in the rear of the Salutation public-house. The earth had been removed some time since to the depth of four foot, without anything particular osing observed; but at the commencement of last week, on the workmen digging about five feet fewer, making nine feet, they came to a layer of human bones, consisting of skulls, area and thigh bones, &c., of such extent as to fill sworral wheelibarrows. I a most of the skulls the teeth were most perfect, and in a high state of preservation, as was also the hair. Many of the inhabitants have possessed themselves of specimens, and on Friday and Saturday large numbers of persons, among whom were most of the surjects of the neighbourhood, had visited the spot, and carried off with them portions of the relics. The spot, it is said by one of the didest of the inhabitants, used formerly to be called "Dead Men's Graves," and there is a tradition extant in the town, that during the great plague in London a celebrated female called "Moll Ransom" used to go with a cart, on which she sat, and hollowing through the street "bring out your dead;" brought down hundreds of bodies, which were interred in heaps in the ground in question. Information of the finding of the bones has been forwarded to Mr. Wakley, the obriner, but it is not capposed he will consider it necessary to hold as inquest.

The Times 19th November 1839

The Times 19th November 1839

On the opposite side of the High Street were the Salutation Almshouses which were designed to house eight elderly ladies. The almshouses were demolished in 1945.

The Salutation Inn was sold on 19th December 1896 with other properties. The description says that it was a public house built on 2 floors (with dormer), stucco fronted, roof part pantiled and tiles in very poor condition. Stabling at rear with cottage adjoining, brick built with pantiled roofs.

2nd floor: 1 attic room (derelict)

1st floor: 4 bedrooms, ceilings all low and in bad repair

Ground floor: bar, parlour, kitchen, tap room, 2 public bars and 1 private

Basement: beer cellar with outlet at street level

2 outside WCs (pump for WC flush); water supply by outside pump; stabling Rear:

for 6 horses with loft over but disused and derelict. Cottage adjoining stable,

1 room on each floor. Urinal at side. Condition generally very poor. 104

By 1909 it was a Fuller's pub but it closed in about 1919, becoming a confectioner's shop. The building remained until at least 1945.

Licensees of The Salutation Inn included Benjamin Manning (1791-1797), Mary Clark (1825), Thomas Redford (1869), Thomas Edward (1870), John Turner (1881), members of the Humphries family (1880-1913), Jane Marchant (1914) and Walter Gove (1915).



The Salutation Inn circa 1880



The site of The Salutation Inn in 1945/46 (the pub closed in 1919)



The Salutation Inn circa 1895



The Salutation Inn (pub sign middle left) circa 1900s ¹⁰⁵

The Seven Stars, 32 Half Acre

The Seven Stars was located immediately opposite the entrance to The Butts on the land now occupied by the open area in front of the flats at The Mall. In 1871 the address was given as 3 Boston Road.

The pub was certainly in existence by 1769, perhaps earlier, and it is mentioned in 1769 in an account of the Middlesex elections. In the early 19th century the pub was occasionally used for the holding of inquests. ¹⁰⁶It was said in 1827 that the pub sign at *The Seven Stars* showed stars in the configuration of the Pleiades, a star cluster also known as the Seven Sisters. In 1849 and again in 1856 *The Seven Stars* was offered for sale by the Richmond Brewery. Soon after 1884 the old premises were replaced by a purpose-built pub, shown in the photograph below. In the latter half of the 19th century *The Seven* Stars sold beer from Young's brewery. In 1905 the pub was closed and was demolished when the road was widened for the tram route to Hanwell.

Licensees of The Seven Stars included John Velladvice (1791), William Rudland (1822-1825), William Rudland (1826), Arthur Winkley (1838-1852), Sarah and John Carnelly (1853-1857), James Lindley Millard (1857-1862), William Boxall (1863-1870) and John Bradbeer (ca 1886-1901).



The Seven Stars before 1884

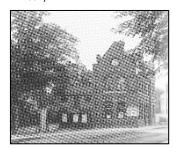




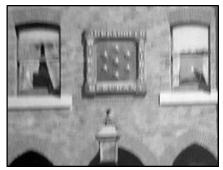
The Seven Stars before and after rebuilding

(Watercolour by J. T. Wilson)





The rebuilt Seven Stars from the south (tall chimney at top of photograph) and from the north



The sign of The Seven Stars (the text reads "J. Bradbeer, Wine and Spirit Merchant)

The Shovel and Hoe, Back Lane (now Albany Road)

In May 1873 George Court was the proprietor of this beerhouse when *The Brewers' Guardian* reported that an appeal was heard into the refusal to grant a licence. At this time *The Shovel and Hoe* was the property of the Royal Brewery, Brentford. ¹⁰⁷

In 1879 Robert Lee was the landlord of *The Shovel and Hoe* when Kate Lee, his step-daughter, was found guilty of stealing £26 in cash from him.

The Six Bells, 149 High Street

The Pubs, Inns and Beer Houses of Brentford

The Six Bells was named after the six bells in the octagonal tower of St. Lawrence's church that were rung for special events and when royalty passed through the town. It was originally located two buildings east from the corner of The Ham. It was established by 1722 and rebuilt, or perhaps just given a new frontage, in 1904.

At one time it was a tradition for the landlord of *The Six Bells* to provide free copies of tide tables to local men working on the canal and on the Thames. In January 1841 the landlord of *The Six Bells* provided shelter to many of those whose properties had been flooded during the inundation of Brentford. In 1841 after the inundation the landlord Thomas Piper was paid £10 compensation. It appears that *The Six Bells* was bought by Fuller, Smith and Turner in 1872. ¹⁰⁸

The Six Bells was another Brentford pub where coroners' inquests were frequently heard during the early 19th century.

At one time Eric Bristow, the "Crafty Cockney", used to play darts in *The Six Bells*.

Licensees of *The Six Bells* have included John Allin (in 1791), three generations of the Piper family (1823-78) and Thomas Dorey (1901).

In 1880 it was noted about Thomas Piper the elder that "In the landlord of the Six Bells, at the far end of the town, we meet the oldest publican in the parish. He has lived for seventy years in this house and his father for almost as many before him. He looks hale and hearty yet, but has evidently been to the doctor lately, as he said his medical man had ordered him to drink nothing but gin…"



The Six Bells circa 1903



The Six Bells in the 1890s 109



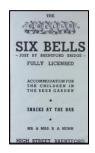
The Six Bells before it was rebuilt in 1904



A Fullers dray making a delivery to *The Six Bells* in about 1900



The Six Bells in about 1908, after it was rebuilt





The Six Bells circa 1966





The Standard Inn, 15 Half Acre

The Standard Inn was established by 1853 and demolished in 1897. Brentford's Vestry Hall was built on the site and this beautiful building was in turn demolished in 1963 to be replaced by the monstrous tower that was the police station.

John Lawrence was the licensee in May 1873 when *The Brewers' Guardian* reported that an appeal was heard into the refusal to grant of a licence to *The Standard Inn*. At this time *The Standard* was the property of the Royal Brewery, Brentford. James Tagg was the licensee of *The Standard Inn* in 1891 when it was next door to the home of Peter Drabble, the vicar of St. Paul's Church. ¹¹⁰



The Standard Inn before its demolition in 1897. It is the white building to the right of the fishmongers.

The Star and Garter, Kew Bridge Road

The Star and Garter was located to the east of Kew Bridge and it was established by 1759. When the second Kew Bridge was opened on 22nd September 1789 a celebration dinner was held at *The Star and Garter*.

It appears that *The Star and Garter* was owned at one time by the Royal Brewery of Brentford but by the mid-19th century it was leased to Fuller, Smith and Turner. The Prince's Hall, immediately adjacent to the hotel on the northern side, was used as a beer garden in the 1880s when it boasted a gymnasium and a swimming pool. The building in the garden became the Prince's Theatre in 1896 but the craze for roller-skating saw it converted into a roller-rink in 1914. The post-war cinema boom led to the building's conversion to Kew Bridge Studios and films were made there from 1919 to 1924. The studio hosted a number of independent film-makers during the silent era, including Walter West and Guy Newall.

The hall was rebuilt as the Q Theatre, which operated from 1924 until February 1956. The theatre had 429 seats in 25 rows with a central aisle. Actors including Dirk Bogarde, Joan Collins, Vivien Leigh, Margaret Lockwood, Barry Morse, and Anthony Quayle started their theatrical careers here. Peter Brook, Tony Richardson and William Gaskell directed plays at the Q Theatre and it staged the first plays of Terence Rattigan and William Douglas-Home. After 1945 budding actors there included Jill Bennett, Joan Collins, Geraldine McEwan, Patricia Routledge, Denholm Elliott and Irene Worth.

From February 1956 the theatre turned to amateur use, finally closing its doors in March 1958. The *Star and Garter* closed in 1984 and only the façade remains, with offices built behind it. The offices are now being converted to flats.

Licensees of *The Star Garter* included Thomas Kent (in 1791), John Porter (1844), George Chapman Banks (1860), George Robinson (1867), John Brill (1881-1888) and William Downe (1901).



The Star and Garter circa 1900



Advertisement from 1899

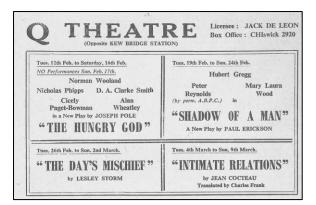


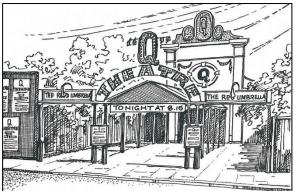






The Q Theatre in the 1950s





The Strawberry House / The Patriot, 33 New Road

The Strawberry House beerhouse was established by 1871 when a member of the Gomm family was noted as a beer seller there. It was probably named after the large area of market gardens that used to exist in the area between Brook Road and Ealing Road. One of the market gardeners, Thomas William Beach, founded a jam factory in Brentford and he won awards for his strawberries at the Great Exhibition in 1851.

It was closed after 1896 when it was known as The Patriot.

Stripes Bar, under the main stand, Brentford Football Club, Braemar Road

Stripes Bar has been the Club's bar since 1965. It has become a popular music venue with a capacity of about 180. Performers have included Laura Marling, Eddie and The Hot Rods and Robert Rankin with his band the Rock Gods.

The Swan, at the corner of Smith Hill and 35 High Street

The Swan was located just beyond the western end of the disused office block adjacent to the Waterman's Arts Centre. Today Smith Hill is a stepped path leading to the Thames Path and the footbridge to Lot's Ait.

It was only recorded as *The Swan* in the 1871 Census. It was then occupied by Sarah Rogers, a lodging house keeper, along with 20 lodgers. Her husband, George Rogers, is listed as a beer retailer between 1867 and 1870, so *The Swan* was a beerhouse and not a pub licensed to sell wine and spirits. It continued as a lodging house until 1891 but it had been demolished by 1901, along with other uninhabitable houses on Smith Hill. The tall chimney behind an adjacent building, in the picture below, may belong to a bacon smokehouse.



The Swan 11

The Tackle Block

Recorded from 1758, The Tackle Block was a small alehouse in Brentford. 112

The Three Pigeons, 195 High Street

At the west corner of the Market Place *The Three Pigeons* was roughly where the London Tile showroom is now located but closer to the High Street. Sometimes called *The Three Doves* or *Ye Doves*, it was on the site from the 16th century. The inn pre-dated the Market Place which was established about 1560 on land that had previously been used for an orchard. *The Three Pigeons* had accommodation running back to the River Brent and it was long regarded as Brentford's premier establishment.

It was famous for its post-horses, of which it was said that in 1787 it could stable up to one hundred. In the late 18th century the commissioners of requests met in *The Three Pigeons* on the first Tuesday in every month to hear and determine cases for the recovery of small debts.

There are several literary references to *The Three Pigeons*.

The Three Pigeons was thought to have been frequented by Shakespeare and Ben Jonson. Shakespeare appears to have known Brentford and it is mentioned in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* ("the fat woman of Brentford") which is thought to have been written before 1597. The actor John Lowin had been in the same acting group as Shakespeare and after the Globe and Blackfriars Theatres closed in 1642, Lowin may have kept *The Three Pigeons* where he died in 1659 at the age of eighty-two. It was said that Lowin's poverty was as great as his age.

George Peele, who collaborated with Shakespeare on the play *Titus Andronicus*, published his *Merrie* conceited Jests of George Peele in 1607 in which he says "my honest George, who is now merry at the Three Pigeons in Brainford, with Sack and Sugar, not any wine wanting, the Musicians playing, my host drinking, my hostis dancing with the worshipful Justice, for so then he was termed".

Thomas Dekker and John Webster probably used *The Three Pigeons* as the setting for Mistress Birdlime's brothel in *Westward Ho* (1604) where someone called Dogbolt is referred to as the keeper of *The Three Pigeons*. The plot of *Westward Ho* centres on three wives who enjoy an escapade with their three admirers but are discovered by their husbands at an inn in Brentford.

Thomas Ravenscroft may have been reflecting the reputation of *The Three Pigeons* when in 1609 he added this piece to his collection of folk songs (*Goe no more to Brainford Unless you love a punk, For that wicked sinful towne hath made me drunk*): ¹¹³

GOE NO MORE TO BRAINFORD.



Thomas Middleton and Thomas Dekker mentioned it in their play *The Roaring Girl* (circa 1611): "Thou'rt admirably suited for the Three Pigeons at Brentford". The Three Pigeons was mentioned in Ben Jonson's *The Alchemist* of 1610 when the pub had a loose reputation: "My fine flitter-mouse, My bird o' the night; we'll tickle it at the Pigeons, When we have all, and may unlock the trunks, And say this's mine, and thine, and thine, and mine. (They kiss)".

It was also noted by the "Water Poet" John Taylor in 1636, as were *The Half Moon, The Lion, The Goat, The George, and The Swan*. In Oliver Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer* (1773) *The Three Pigeons* provides the setting for a scene: "Hastings and Marlow turn up at the Three Pigeons Alehouse. Tony Lumpkin, inheritor to an estate, is there with his goodfellows, drinking away his estate".

It is said to be referred to in Samuel Butler's *Hudibras* (1732) while *The Three Pigeons* was the model for *The Three Magpies* in Charles Dickens' *Our Mutual Friend*: "The abode of Mrs Betty Higden was not easy to find, lying in such complicated back settlements of muddy Brentford that they left their equipage at the sign of the Three Magpies, and went in search of it on foot. After many inquiries and defeats, there was pointed out to them in a lane, a very small cottage residence, with a board across the open doorway".

The Three Pigeons is also mentioned in Creatures of Impulse (1870), a stage play by W. S. Gilbert who later became famous for his work with Arthur Sullivan. One of the main characters in Gilbert's play is Martha, the landlady of The Three Pigeons.

One source asserts that the following rhyme was scratched on a window of *The Three Pigeons*.

"How vain the Hopes of Woman's Love,
While all their Hearts inconstant prove;
Nor M---k, nor will Dolly come;
Nor Sukey with her thumping B--m;
Nor Molly with her staring Eyes;
Nor Nancy with her bouncing Thighs:
If one don't come, my Curse is this,
That they may never shit nor piss".
(The Merry-Thought: or the Glass-Window and Bog-House Miscellany. Part 1, by Samuel Johnson, 1731)

The Three Pigeons was witness to some harsh punishments and in 1723 the justices at the Middlesex Sessions ordered that Ann, alias Mary, Price was to be whipped from *The Red Lion* in Old Brentford to *The Three Pigeons* in New Brentford. ¹¹⁴

In 1845 the local historian Thomas Faulkner described the pub, before it was rebuilt, as "still in its ancient state, having about twenty sitting and sleeping apartments, connected by a projecting gallery at the back, and communicating by several staircases to the attics with numerous dark closets and passages". Brentford Magistrates Court held their sessions in *The Three Pigeons* during the earlier part of the 19th century.

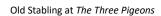
Licensees of *The Three Pigeons* included James Hawley (in 1610), John Sexton (1826), Margaret Renaud (1860-1871), W. Boughton (1873), John Matthews (1881) ad James Clapp (1888). In 1888 James Clapp applied to the Middlesex Sessions for the renewal of a music licence and a certificate of compliance with safety regulations. (LMA)

The Three Pigeons closed in 1916 and was then used as a clothing store and by 1926 the ground floor was occupied by the Lawton Motor and Cycle Company. The building was badly damaged by two fires on 26th February 1920 and 21st December 1933 and it was eventually demolished in 1950. The site was then used for some time by a used car dealer.

TO BREWERS and Others.—To be LET the THREE PIGEONS INN.corner of the High-street and Market-place, Resulford.—The DIRECTORS of the BHENTFORD TOWN HALL and MARKET-HOUSE COMPANY are prepared to receive TENDEHS for a LEASE of the above commodious INN, with coach-houses, stabling, &c. The above is most eligibly situated, and immediately en the spot where the proposed new Town-hall and other extensive buildings and improvements are in commencement by the Company, The Plans, &c., may be seen at the Offices of Mesure. King and Son, or of F. Byass, Eq., Architect, Brentford; and further particulars had of the T. H. EDMONDS, Secretary. The Tenders (endorsed "Tender") to be delivered to the Secretary on or before Monday, the 7th May.



Morning Advertiser 2nd May 1849





The Three Pigeons at the west side of Market Place.



The old building of *The Three Pigeons* shortly before it was demolished in 1950.



The Three Pigeons circa 1907



The Three Pigeons (to the left of the Market Place)

The Three Swans/ The Swan Tavern, Brentford Ait

This establishment dated back to at least 1729 when it was held by Steven West of Kew and by 1780 it was still in the ownership of the West family. Situated on Brentford Ait, this was a well-known house and a rendezvous for river outings. It was noted to be a good eel house. William Hickey, a lawyer, noted in his diary in 1780 that he had "dined upon the island off the town of Brentford where there is a house famous for dressing pitchcooked eels and also for stewing the same fish". 115

The Three Swans went through a number of licensees and it developed a reputation for rowdiness and immorality. It became a continual cause of annoyance to the residents around Kew Green, who were in earshot. Robert Hunter, living in one of the fine houses on Kew Green, regarded the island and The Three Swans with disdain: "Brentford Ait is a great nuisance to this parish and the neighbourhood on both sides of the river, the house of entertainment has long been a harbour of the men and women of the worst description, where riotous and indecent scenes are often exhibited during the summer months and on Sundays." In 1812 he bought both parts of the Ait, on which stood a "tearoom with yards of garden", both the copyhold and an assignment of the lease from the trustees. He also obtained a new lease in his own name. He then closed down The Three Swans altogether, demolishing the house and even filling in an old fish pond.

It is said that this was where the Prince of Wales (later George IV) held secret rendezvous with his mistress, the actress Mary "Perdita" Robinson, and many years after the event she told a friend that they had dined on Brentford Ait in 1780. William Makepeace Thackeray portrayed George IV in his satirical ballad *The King of Brentford's Testament* (1840).

The Swan Steps lead down to the river at the east end of Waterman's Park, at the site of the crossing to the pub.



The Swan on Brentford Ait from The Thames Panorama (1829)

The Three Tuns, south of High Street, New Brentford

By 1720 an inn called *The Three Tuns* had been divided into separate properties. It was located to the south of the High Street in New Brentford. 116

The Tumble-Down Dick

The location of this establishment in Brentford is unknown.

On 23rd April 1718 two women were tried at the Old Bailey for the murder of an unidentified woman at *The Tumble-Down Dick* in Brentford on 27th December 1717. The women were acquitted although the evidence against one of them, Mary Ipsley, was strong but adjudged to be presumptive. ¹¹⁷

The name of this establishment may have been an alternative name for another pub but pubs with the name of *Tumble-Down Dick* are known to have existed in other parts of the country including a famous one in Southwark. The pub sign sometimes showing a man upsetting a table covered with bottles and glasses. Another explanation of the name is that it was set up in derision of Richard Cromwell's fall, or "tumble-down", from power.

The Two Black Boys, 140 High Street

The Two Black Boys was adjacent to the cemetery to the west of St Lawrence's Church. The first record of this house is an entry in the Licensed Victuallers returns for 1726 when a Joseph Scott is listed as licensee of the "Black Boys", New Brentford. It retained its full name until at least 1826. Latterly it was known simply as *The Black Boys*. It closed in about 1884 when it may have been demolished to enlarge the graveyard at St. Lawrence's Church.

The pub was operated by Fuller, Smith and Turner from 1817 although the company offered it for sale in 1844. ¹¹⁸

Licensees of *The Two Black Boys* included Joseph Scott (1726), William Parsons (in 1812), Joseph Barns (1825), James Otterway (1816-1821, Joseph Barnes (1821 – 1828), James Swithin Trimmer (1839), Mary Anne Wiltshire (1853), Sarah and James Brown (1857), Thomas Tunstall Saunders (1858), James Such (1866), Michael Harty (1870-1874), Richard Nash (1874), Charles Hunt (1881) and Malina Richardson (1882-1884).

The Volunteer, 32 Ealing Road

Established as a beerhouse by 1878 and closed after 1901. The address of *The Volunteer* in 1878 was given as 79 Ealing Lane (Ealing Road).

Licensees of The Volunteer included William Smith (in 1881) and Frank Downs (1901).

The Waggon and Horses, 26 Kew Bridge Road

Immediately west of the *Plough* and established before 1759 *The Waggon and Horses* was a major coaching inn when the road was the main route to the west out of London. It is first recorded in 1759 and in 1840 it was rebuilt larger and slightly back from the road. That building was demolished and rebuilt in 1937/38. It was acquired by Fuller, Smith and Turner in 1882.

John Palmer (who was better known as Jack Scroggins) was a noted pugilist in the early part of the 19th century. In May 1803, while he was still a young lad, he won a notable fight near *The Waggon and Horses*. The fight was witnessed by Jem Belcher, another famous prize-fighter:

In May, 1893, when sixteen years old, he was ill-treated by one Bill Walters, at the sign of the Waggon and Horses, at Brentford. Walters was a full grown man, possessing strength and some knowledge of milling, but Jack was not easily to be intimidated, and an immediate turn-up was the result, in a field near the above inn. The battle continued upwards of an hour, when Scroggy was proclaimed the victor. Jem Belcher witnessed the mill, and praised Scroggy for the hardy courage he displayed.

The Sportsman's Magazine of Life in London and the Country
Volume 1 (1845)

In the early 20th century the pub was licenced to open for two hours in the early morning to cater for those working at Brentford Market. The pub stood next to the *Plough* but it lasted a decade longer before it was closed in 2101 and then demolished in 2011 for a development of flats which is now called Kew Bridge.

Licensees of *The Waggon and Horses* included William Hall (in 1776), James Kill (1815), James Pope (1825), William Aldous (1860-1873), Elizabeth Bragg (1894) and John Albert Ottway (1937).



The Waggon and Horses in 1921



The Waggon and Horses



Pub sign 119



Bradley's eel stall outside *The Waggon and Horses* in 1972

The Waterman's Arms / The Alton Arms, 179 High Street

This establishment was located immediately opposite St. Lawrence's Church on the site now occupied by the Thames Restaurant. It was called *The Alton Arms* until about 1871, perhaps because

it sold Alton Ales from Crowley's Brewery in Alton. In January 1841 the pub was badly damaged during the inundation of Brentford.

In 1851 *The Alton Arms* was run by George Dimmock, who was both a beerhouse keeper and a horse dealer.

The Waterman's Arms closed in about 1908.



The Alton Arms (a sketch circa 1850 by Thomas Colman Dibdin and enhanced by Jim Lawes). The Six Bells is first on the right and The Alton Arms may lie under the pub sign in the middle left of the sketch.



The Waterman's Arms circa 1900

The Waterman's Arms, 42 Catherine Wheel Road

In 1881 the address of *The Waterman's Arms* was noted as 5 Catherine Wheel Yard.

Licensees of *The Waterman's Arms* included Edward Tidey (1873-1881) and William and Mary Brown (1901-1907).

The Waterman's Arms, 1 Ferry Lane

The Waterman's Arms has been established since at least the middle of the 18th century. Remnants of an earlier building of about 1790 can still be seen on the exterior flank wall. The pub was rebuilt in the early 20th century. The front is Edwardian and probably designed by Nowell Parr with Doulton glazed tiles and art nouveau glass in the windows on the ground floor.

The pub sign shows the coat of arms of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen. It was noted as *The Shrunken Head* in Robert Rankin's *Brentford Trilogy*.

Licensees of *The Waterman's Arms* have included William Butler (1825-1853), Edward Fisher (1873), William Vassile (1881), Charles Webb (1895) and William Sholler (1901).



The Waterman's Arms in 1962





The Waterman's Arms, 1 Ferry Lane

The White Hart / The Plough, 46 Windmill Road

The precise location of *The White Hart*, previously known as *The Plough*, is uncertain but it seems that it was on the west side of Windmill Road, probably close to the junction of Glenhurst Road and Windmill Road. A licencing committee in March 1869 heard evidence that the distance between *The White Hart* and *The Globe* was 230 yards. The address of *The White Hart* in the 1891 Census is given as 88 Windmill Road.

The Plough may have been established many years earlier but *The White Hart* is mentioned by 1791. John Louch was listed as a vintner at *The White Hart* in Wilkes' Directory of 1793-98. In 1841 an inquest was held at *The White Hart* into the death of Charles Morris, a market gardener from Brook Lane, who was drowned during the inundation when the banks and locks on the Grand Junction Canal were overflowed.

The London Metropolitan Archives holds a draft affidavit from the mid-19th century identifying the White Hart public house in Windmill Lane, Brentford, formerly called the "Plough". ¹²⁰

In 1853 the licensee was Thomas Bagley, followed by George Coles and James Moles and then George Hillyar was there from about 1880 to until at least 1920. ¹²¹

The White Hart, south eastern corner of Market Place

In about 1560 behind two leading inns, *The Three Pigeons* and *The Red Lion*, an orchard was converted into a market place. The market place was surrounded by inns: *The Three Pigeons*, which ultimately stretched to the Brent, was at the south-west corner, *The White Horse* by 1603 at the

north-west, *The White Hart* to the east, and *The Red Lion* at the south-east. Immediately to the east *The Harrow*, later *The Castle*, occupied a site reaching from High Street to the Butts. ¹²²

The London Metropolitan Archives hold an undated reference to a cottage and premises in West End (later the "White Hart"), Old Brentford. 123



The yard of *The White Hart* (painting of circa 1940 by Walter Bayes)

The White Horse / The Weir, 24 Market Place

This is probably the oldest surviving pub in Brentford and it is mentioned in a burial register of 1603. The building appears to date from the 18th century but may have earlier fabric inside such as the roof and cellars. It was at some time adjacent to its own malthouse.

In 1828 the property was leased for 28 years by Fuller, Smith and Turner and in 1856 *The White Horse* was offered for sale by the Richmond Brewery. Some reports suggest that at one time the building was refurbished by Nowell Parr, hence his trademark Doulton tiles outside the building.

In 1868 *The White Horse* became the central committee room for, Dr. Thomas Bramah Diplock, who was the West Middlesex coroner from 1868 to 1892. He investigated many cases of murder, suicide and fatal accidents. Inquest juries were frequently called by Diplock to deliver their verdicts in Brentford pubs, including *The Rising Sun, The Waterman's Arms* (in Ferry Lane) and *The George and Dragon*. On 31st December 1888 Diplock conducted an inquest at Chiswick into the death of Montague John Druitt who had been found drowned at in the Thames. Druitt was later identified as being one of the men who could have been Jack the Ripper.

Originally *The White Horse* was just the corner building (with the Doulton tiles) but it incorporated the Victorian house next door in the 1980s.

An earlier house on the next door site had been the home of William Marshall, a local butcher, who in about 1785 gave a home to his nephew Joseph Mallord William Turner, the artist, for about a year when he was about ten years old. Turner received the elements of instruction at the Brentford Free School, on the other side of the High Street from *The Three Pigeons*, as a day-boarder and it was here that his artistic talent first showed itself. The school that Turner attended was on the modern-day site of 125 High Street which now houses *Sami's Spice* Indian restaurant.

On his way to and from school Turner amused himself by drawing with a piece of chalk on the walls the figures of cocks and hens. Turner received his first artistic commission while in Brentford when a friend of his uncle, John Lees, a foreman at the Brentford Distillery, commissioned him to hand-colour a book of engravings entitled *Picturesque Views of the Antiquities of England and Wales* by Henry Boswell. It seems that an unofficial blue plaque, not erected by English Heritage, which noted Turner's residence in the house adjacent to *The White Horse* has now been removed.

Licensees of *The White Horse* have included Samuel Jonas Vennell (in 1826), E. Barnes (1836), Joseph Barnes (1860), Charles Hildersley (1881), Jessie Peterkin (1899) and Henry Ernest Adams (1937).

Since 2004 it has been called The Weir.



The White Horse in 1911 (the house to the left is on the site where J.M. Turner lived when he was a child)



The White Horse circa 1990

The Windmill, at the corner of Orchard Road and Windmill Road.

The address was given in the 1881 Census as 73 Orchard Road and in 1891 it was listed at 39A Orchard Road. In the 1901 Census *The Windmill* was recorded as being at 1 Mercury Road. (A map of Ealing Parish prepared in 1777 clearly shows a building called "Mercury" and it is not impossible that this was an inn at that time.)

Built by 1853 and demolished in 1999, the site was sold in 2005 before being redeveloped with a block of six flats now known as Nadiya House.

Licensees of *The Windmill* included Harriet Spiers (1881) and Charles Wood (1901). The pub was in the hands of the Wood family for many years including Jimmy and Amy Wood in the 1950s and 1960s.





The Windmill (the photograph on the right is from 1994)



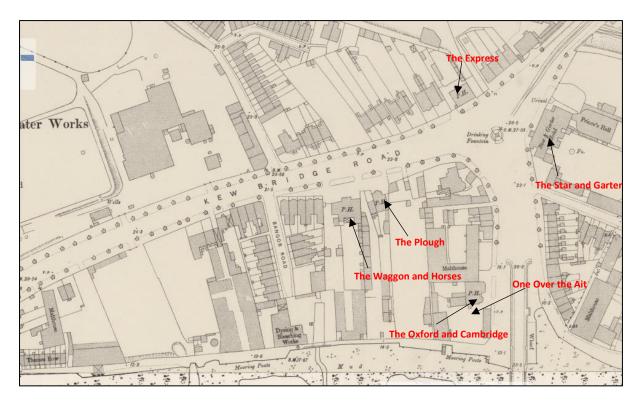
The site of *The Windmill* in March 2016

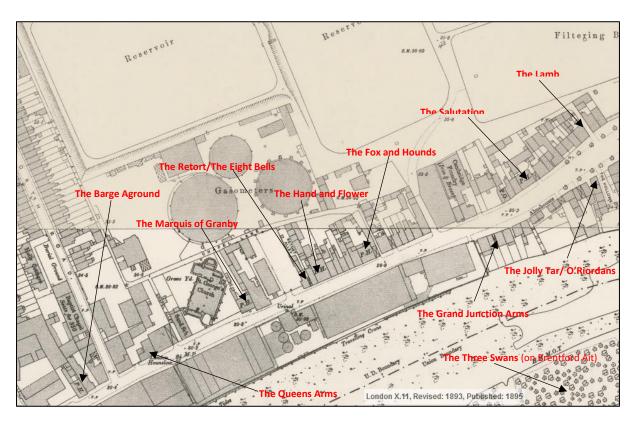
The Wolf Inn

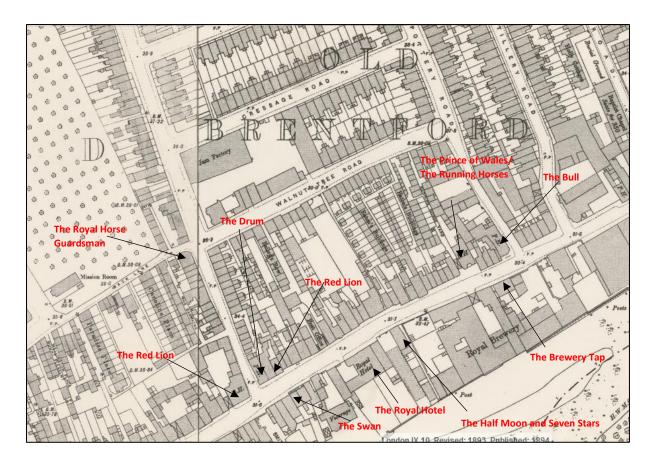
In 1716 a man was stabbed at *The Wolf Inn* at Brentford. 124

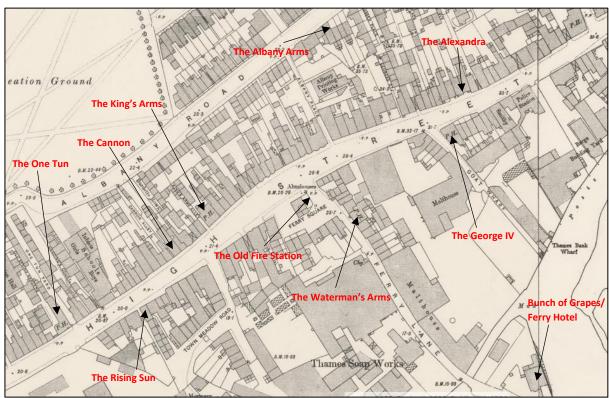
The Pubs, Inns and Beer Houses of Brentford

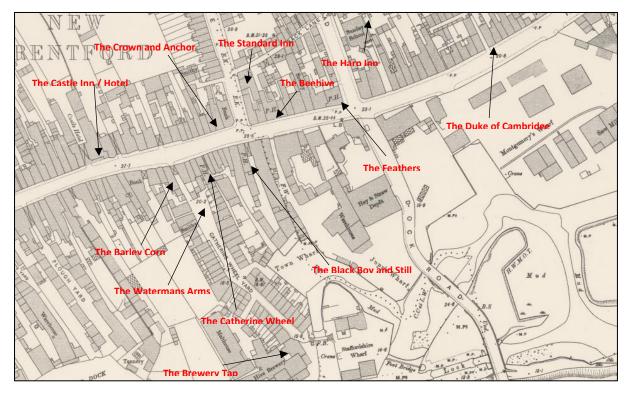
Maps
(all maps are based on the Ordnance Survey revision of 1893
except Brentford End which is from the 1959 revision)

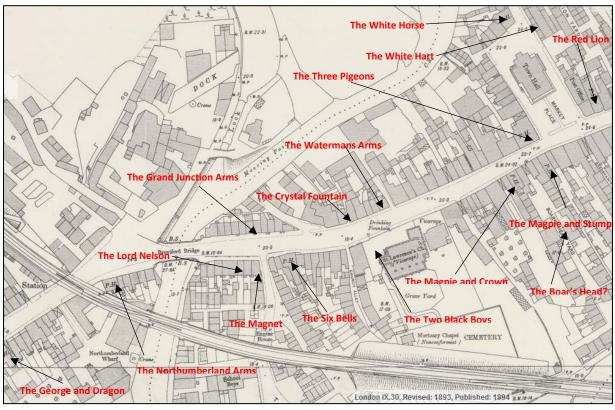


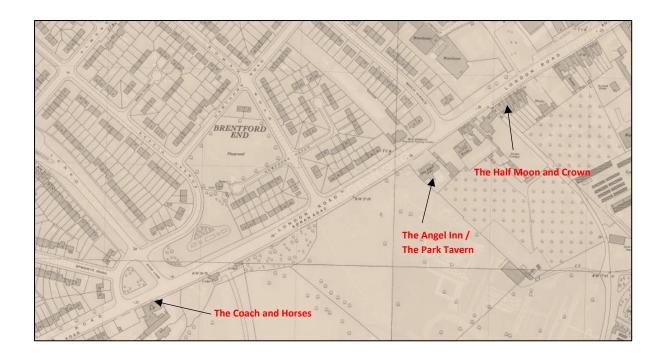


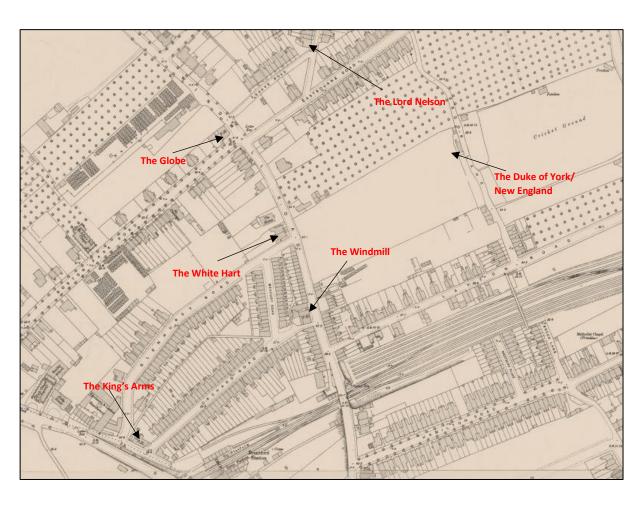


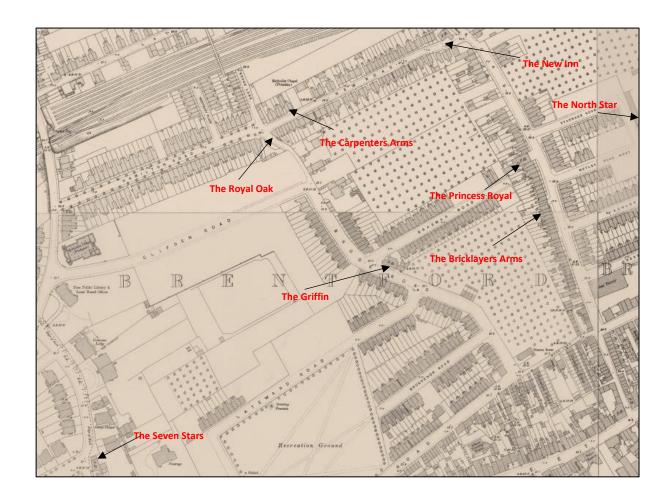












Fifty Pubs of Brentford

Alfred Pearce wrote this in 1948 when he was seventy-four years old (his family ran *The Alexandra* pub in the High Street). He starts at the Star and Garter, Kew Bridge Road and proceeds westwards along Brentford High Street, across Brentford Bridge to London Road.

When I was knighted with a STAR AND GARTER I was pushed into an EXPRESS
On my way to OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE
I smashed into a PLOUGH
And stood aside by the WAGGON AND HORSES
Little beyond a JOLLY TAR
With a LAMB by his side
Receiving a SALUTATION
Presently FOX AND HOUNDS dashed by
A beautiful HAND AND FLOWER
When I met the MARQUIS OF GRANBY

He fell into the QUEEN'S ARMS

Tugging with a BARGE AGROUND

A BULL stared me in the face

As I crossed by the BREWERY TAP and the ROYAL HOTEL

The PRINCE OF WALES stood on the other side

Up above HALF MOON and SEVEN STARS

With a GLITTERING STAR by its side

Cross yonder stood a DRUM

Attacked by a LION

When I reached the ALEXANDRA

I shook hands with GEORGE THE FOURTH

He advised to salute THE WATERMAN'S ARMS

Then I was back into the KING'S ARMS

Up went the roaring CANNON

At the RISING SUN I tried to lift ONE TON

While BRITANNIA stood to one side

And I met the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE

He told me he had lost his FEATHERS

A little beyond a BEEHIVE

And a BLACK BOY AND STILL

Playing with a CATHERINE WHEEL

As I crossed the BARLEY MOW

There was a magnificent CASTLE

Near by stood a LION

THREE PIGEONS overhead

With MAGPIE AND STUMP

Beside it MAGPIE AND CROWN

TWO BLACK BOYS rang SIX BELLS

Stood staunch with THE MAGNET with LORD NELSON

I got in the JUNCTION ARMS

They pushed me into the DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND

Beyond stood GEORGE AND DRAGON

The STANDARD floating high

With the ANGEL of peace

When the COACH AND HORSES passed by.



Alfred Pearce

Miscellaneous Notes

PUBLIC-HOUSES AT BRENTFORD.

In the course of the hearing of an appeal at the Middlesex Sessions on Saturday it was stated that in the High-street, Brentford, which was one and ahalf miles long from Kew to Brentford Bridges, there were 47 licensed houses.

Nottingham Evening Post 28th April 1902

Samuel Pepys' diary entry for 20th August 1665:

"I did presently eat a bit off the spit about 10 o'clock, and so took horse for Stanes, and thence to Brainford (*Brentford*) to Mr. Povy's, the weather being very pleasant to ride in. Mr. Povy not being at home I lost my labour, only eat and drank there with his lady, and told my bad newes, and hear the plague is round about them there. So away to Brainford; and there at the inn that goes down to the water- side, I 'light and paid off my post-horses, and so slipped on my shoes, and laid my things by, the tide not serving, and to church, where a dull sermon, and many Londoners. After church to my inn, and eat and drank, and so about seven o'clock by water, and got between nine and ten to Queenhive (*Southwark*), very dark. And I could not get my waterman to go elsewhere for fear of the plague."

There has been some debate regarding which pub Pepys visited in Brentford. One authority believes the inn mentioned by Pepys would be *The Bunch of Grapes* at the Brentford ferry on Ferry Lane. Another source suggests that *The Three Pigeons, The Boar's Head*, or "*The Magpie*" was the more likely location.

- ¹ The Church of England Temperance Magazine. (March 1863)
- ² A New Display of the Beauties of England. Robert Goadby (1776)
- ³ Journal of the Society of Arts. Volume 18 (1870)
- ⁴ The Leisure Hour. Volume 22. Printed by W. Stevens (1873)
- ⁵ The Temperance Record No. 926 (3rd January 1874)
- ⁶ Brentford and Chiswick Pubs. Gillian Clegg (Tempus Publishing, 2005)
- ⁷ St James's Gazette 30th November 1901
- The History of Brentford: A timeline of Brentford history (http://www.brentfordhistory.com/)
- Black Kalendar. A list of cases for murder, attempted murder, manslaughter etc. (http://www.blackkalendar.nl/content.php?key=3738)
- http://www.brentfordtw8.com/default.asp?section=info&page=crime111.htm
- Brentford High Street Project (http://www.bhsproject.co.uk/section26.shtml#307)
- ¹² A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 7, Acton, Chiswick, Ealing and Brentford, West Twyford, Willesden. Originally published by Victoria County History, London, 1982.
- ¹³ A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 7
- ¹⁴ The Times 13th October 1970
- 29 London Road, Brentford, Hounslow Desk-Based Assessment. Ecus Ltd. tor Frankum Construction (October 2013)
- Old inns and taverns of Brentford and Isleworth. London Borough of Hounslow (http://www.hounslow.info/libraries/local-history-archives/old-inns-and-taverns-of-brentford-and-isleworth/)
- 17 Brentford High Street Project
- ¹⁸ Punch magazine, Volume 167. (1924)
- ¹⁹ The Buildings of England. London 3: North West. Bridget Cherry and Nikolaus Pevsner (Yale University Press, 1991)
- ²⁰ getwestLondon, 2nd October 2014
- ²¹ A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 7, Acton, Chiswick, Ealing and Brentford, West Twyford, Willesden. Originally published by Victoria County History (London, 1982)
- ²² The Universal British Directory of Trade, Commerce, and Manufacture. Peter Barfoot and John Wilkes (1793)
- ²³ London Metropolitan Archive. Refs: ACC/0979-1 (1869) and ACC/0891/01/05/0263 (1821)
- ²⁴ Middlesex Chronicle 21st February 1914

- ²⁵ Moses Glover (1601- circa 1640) was an English cartographer. In 1635 he created a survey map of Isleworth Hundred for Algernon Percy, 10th Earl of Northumberland. It is preserved at the Syon House in London. (Wikimedia Commons).
- London Metropolitan Archives. Ref: ACC/1360/059 (1769)
- ²⁷ A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 7, Acton, Chiswick, Ealing and Brentford, West Twyford, Willesden.
 Originally published by Victoria County History (London, 1982)
- ²⁸ Windsor and Eton Express 4th December 1858
- The Brentford Trilogy is a series of nine novels written by Robert Rankin between 1981 and 2005. They chronicle the lives of a couple of drunken middle-aged layabouts, Jim Pooley and John Omally, who confront the forces of darkness in the environs of West London, usually with the assistance of large quantities of beer from their favourite pub, The Flying Swan. Robert Rankin has recently completed writing his memoires which were published in 2015 under the title I,Robert.
- ³⁰ The Solicitors' Journal and Reporter, Volume 3 (Law Newspaper Company, 1859)
- Gardening in Thames-side parishes 1650-1850. Nurserygardeners.com
- 32 London Metropolitan Archives. Refs: ACC/0891/02/06/2146 (1851) and ACC/0891/02/03/0096 (1816)
- 33 Brentford and Chiswick Pubs. Gillian Clegg (Tempus Publishing, 2005)
- ³⁴ Windsor and Eton Express 29th January 1870
- ³⁵ The Parliamentary Debates from the Year 1803 to the Present Time. Thomas Curson Hansard (1817)
- 36 London Daily News 20th May 1907
- 37 Brentford High Street Project
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- ³⁹ A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 7, Acton, Chiswick, Ealing and Brentford, West Twyford, Willesden. Originally published by Victoria County History (London, 1982)
- 40 Brentford High Street Project
- ⁴¹ Political Register and Impartial Review of New Books. J. Almon (London, 1769)
- 42 Post Office Directory (1860)
- 43 Brentford High Street Project (Vic Rosewarne)
- ⁴⁴ *Dublin Weekly Nation* 19th November 1842
- ⁴⁵ Mason's Court Guide and General Directory for Brentford, Kew, Ealing, etc. Robert Hindry Mason (1853)
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- 47 Brentford and Chiswick Pubs. Gillian Clegg (Tempus Publishing, 2005)
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- ⁴⁹ Brentford High Street Project
- Much of the information presented here comes from an information sheet entitle *A Piece of History* mounted on the wall in *The Express*.
- The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, London's Central Criminal Court, 1674-1913 (http://www.oldbaileyonline.org)
- ⁵² Windsor and Eton Express 12th March 1864
- 53 Brentford High Street Project
- 54 Brewers' Guardian, Volume 3. Northwood Publications, (1873)
- ⁵⁵ Brighton Crime and Vice, 1800-2000. Douglas D'Enno (Casemate Publishers, Brighton, 2007)
- ⁵⁶ Windsor and Eton Express 9th September 1865
- ⁵⁷ London Evening Standard 29th August 1871
- Former George and Dragon, 29 London Road, Brentford: Archaeological Evaluation. Daniel Bray (Thames Valley Archaeological Services, October 2013)
- ⁵⁹ A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 7, Acton, Chiswick, Ealing and Brentford, West Twyford, Willesden. Originally published by Victoria County History (London, 1982)
- 60 Morning Advertiser 3rd March 1869
- ⁶¹ Brentford and Isleworth Quakers
 (http://www.brentfordandisleworthquakers.org.uk/Home/2000.Our%20History/index.html)
- ⁶² Political Register and Impartial Review of New Books. J. Almon (London, 1769)
- 63 Brentford High Street Project
- ⁶⁴ Windsor and Eton Express 9th April 1859
- 65 Brentford Football Club Official Handbook 1911-12
- ⁶⁶ A List of the Lodges composing the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows, Manchester Unity Friendly Society, with a Table of the Lodge Nights for 1856, 57, etc. Henry Ratcliffe, Grand Master and Board of Directors (1856)
- ⁶⁷ Old Bailey Proceedings Online 1st July 1807 (www.oldbaileyonline.org)
- 68 London Metropolitan Archives. Ref: ACC/638/243 (1902)
- ⁶⁹ The Panorama of the Thames Project (http://www.panoramaofthethames.com/)
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- 71 Brentford and Chiswick Local History Society
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 iimstorrar@hotmail.co.uk

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- ⁷⁶ The English Journal: 1651 1652. Lodewijck Huygens (Brill Archive, 1982)
- 77 Brentford High Street Project
- ⁷⁸ London Metropolitan Archives. Ref: ACC/1214/1442 (1874) (A messuage is a dwelling house together with its outbuildings, curtilage, and the adjacent land appropriated to its use).
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- 91 From Jim Lawes' photograph on Flickr
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- 94 Brentford High Street Project
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- 98 Brewers' Guardian, Volume 3. Northwood Publications, (1873)
- 99 Survey of New Brentford (1892)
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- ¹⁰⁴ Brentford High Street Project
- ¹⁰⁵ With the courtesy of Chiswick Library Local Studies Service
- ¹⁰⁶ Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser 5 May 1817
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- ¹¹³ Selections from the works of Thomas Ravenscroft. Thomas Ravenscroft (1822)
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