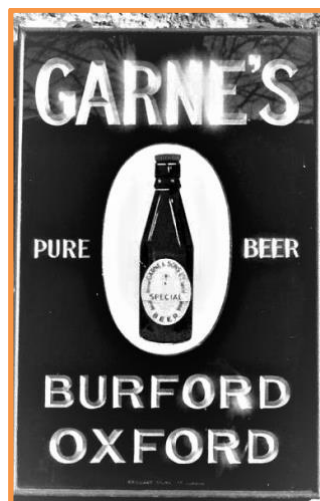


# The Prince of Wales Public House, Shrivenham

The history so far - By Neil B. Maw



In 1913, Ernest Jeffs representing Messrs Garne & Sons, Brewers of Burford, informed a Licensing Committee that the Prince of Wales Inn at Shrivenham had been held by the same brewery for a hundred years. This is good information but doesn't confirm when the pub first came into existence. Garne & Son were founded in 1798, so they acquired the pub early in their history. (More of this licensing meeting later). The evidence would suggest that throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century there were only two pubs in Shrivenham, the Barrington Arms (formerly the White Hart see SHS catalogue N806) and the Kings Arms. These are the only two mentioned by name during the collections of the rates by the Overseers of the Poor.



The first published reference that we have of the Prince of Wales by name is from an advertisement in the *Devizes & Wilts Gazette*, dated 26<sup>th</sup> October 1843. The property was to be sold by auction and is described as a, '*dwelling house and premises, the Prince of Wales Public House.*' The way it is further described by the suggestion that, '*the whole having recently put into good repair,*' but then goes on to state that, '*a very small sum tastefully expended, would render it one of the prettiest retired villas in the neighbourhood.*' It also stated that it had a Brew-house and Brewing Plant which could be sold to the purchaser if required. This would suggest that previous to this date the property was for the most part a domestic residence, with a Beer House attached, and furthermore, that it was expected that it would be sold to be used as a domestic dwelling.

There is more information from an article in the *Salisbury & Winchester Journal* dated 11<sup>th</sup> March 1843. It reported on the court case of *Read v Street*, whereby a sum of money was owed from the proceeds of a sale of goods from the premises of the Kings Arms located just around the corner from the Prince of Wales. Shrevenham Heritage Society has established that it was located in Church Walk (*see listing SHS N1025*). Involved in the somewhat murky dealings of the case was Henry Hazell, an associate of Henry Street. The newspaper article provided the information that Henry Street kept the Kings Head (*Arms*) in August 1840. The auction advertisement for the Prince of Wales provided the information that it was, '*late in the occupation of Henry Street*' (*sic*). It is also stated that Henry Hazell kept a beer house near.

We have no definitive beginning for the Prince of Wales. However, it is quite likely that the beer house referred to above was just a house that started selling beer around 1813, but in order to turn it into a Public House, it was renovated and named after Albert Edward the eldest son of Queen Victoria who was born in 1841 and titled the Prince of Wales until he succeeded his mother in 1901. A reasonable assumption but yet to be confirmed.

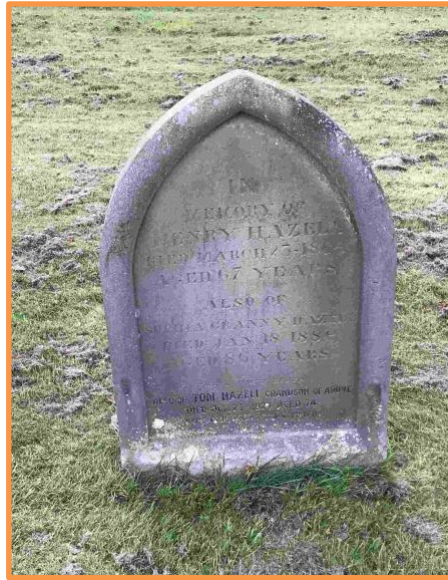
At the auction it seems that the premises were kept within the family as the great Tithe survey of 1844 shows that Thomas Streat was the owner of it, but Henry Hazell was the occupier. The census of 1851 showed that it was then a public house rather than a domestic

property with a small Beer House attached, and listed the Hazell family, Henry, aged 40, his wife Sophia 35 and son George 15. Henry seemed to be doing well as the following year in September 1852 he hosted a dinner of the Ancient Order of Foresters. The newspaper, Wilts & Glos Standard dated 18<sup>th</sup> September, recorded that about 45 people sat down to dinner at the Court held by the Brothers of the Vale of White Horse AOF No 2161. Even the Highworth Brass Band attended and gave musical accompaniment throughout the event. Many toasts were given including, 'Prince Albert and the Royal Family' (The Prince of Wales). It was a very successful event.



Foresters outside the Prince of Wales in 1914. Photo SHS

The census for 1861 lists that Henry Hazell and his wife Sophia were still there, but three years later Henry died and was buried in St Andrew's churchyard. The Barrington Estate Survey of 1866 provided the information that Thomas Streat still owned the property but Henry's widow Sophia was the Landlady. Interestingly, the Estate Map shows two tiny cottages to the rear of the pub occupied by Thomas New and Henry Webb. The census for 1871 shows that Sophia was still the Landlady age 67. Within her household she had two grandsons staying with her, Thomas 20 and Alfred 18. She also had a young daughter Ann 11.



Memorial stone of Henry Hazell in St Andrew's churchyard,  
Shrivenham

In 1876, Sophia decided to retire; maybe she was unwell, as her grandson Alfred applied for a temporary licence. The Reading Mercury dated 7<sup>th</sup> October that year listed his application which was granted. Alfred ran the pub for four years and then in April 1880, the licence was transferred to William Messenger, and he appeared on the census of 1881, age 40 with his wife Ellen 42, son William 17 and daughter Ellen 15. This brought the Hazell occupation of around 35 years to an end. Sophia lived to be 84 years of age and died in Faringdon in 1889. William Messenger, however, did not enjoy such longevity and at the age of 45 he died on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1886 and was buried in St Andrews churchyard five days later.

The Faringdon Advertiser dated Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 1887, reported the marriage of widow Ellen Messenger to Frederick Webb of Watchfield, which took place on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The same newspaper reported in April that year that the, *'holdover of the licence of the Prince of Wales Inn, Shrivenham, was granted from Mrs Messenger to her husband Frederick Webb.'* In May the following year, Landlord Webb appeared in the newspaper after a Court appearance. It was reported that Arthur Jones, a Gamekeeper from Shrivenham, was seen to be drunk in the Prince of Wales. Frederick Webb also appeared for allowing such a thing to happen. Webb pleaded guilty but explained that Jones was a lodger. Apparently, Webb had been warned

about this by the police only a short time previously. He was fined £2 with costs of 8s 6d and warned that the conviction would be recorded on his licence.

Frederick Webb didn't stay as landlord for long after this and his licence was transferred in September 1888 to Edward Busby. He appeared on the census of 1891 as aged 42, with wife Hannah 40, and daughter Lucy 9. He came from the Burford area. At a court case described by the Faringdon Advertiser on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1892, it was stated by Mr G.J. Haines who appeared for the prosecutor, that he was, *'glad to be able to say that the Prince of Wales Inn, since the present landlord held the licence, had been most properly conducted.'* The case was brought about by an employee of the Beckett Estate causing damage to a fence and wall at the back of the pub. After being rebuked by Edward Busby, the man, named William Carter, entered the pub and challenged the landlord to a fight. Edward Busby was described as a big man and had no difficulty to, *'put him out of doors.'* William Carter was found guilty of violent and disorderly conduct and fined £1. The Reading Mercury reported on another Court case concerning Edward Busby when on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 1894, he was assaulted by the Postman, Leonard Knapp. In his defence Leonard Knapp stated that Edward Busby had been in the habit when he met him of putting his finger to his nose in an offensive way, and on the occasion in question, Busby repeated the gesture. Knapp put him down twice with his fist in the heat of the moment, but, *'he much regretted having done so.'* He was fined £1 with 15s 6d costs. In August 1898, Edward Busby left Shrivenham and went to the Plough Inn at Stratton Audely. The new Licensee of the Prince of Wales was Henry Self.



The Prince of Wales circa 1920s. Photo courtesy of Paul Williams

The Shrivenham census for 1901 lists that the Innkeeper was Rees Self the son of Henry, along with his wife Emily 37, and daughters Lilian 9 and Nellie who was newly born. But what of father, Henry? Having taken over the licence in August 1898, he unfortunately died in November of the same year. The parish records show that he was interred at St Andrews churchyard on 14<sup>th</sup> November. At the Court Petty Session of January 1899, the licence was transferred from Henry Self to his son Rees. The Faringdon Advertiser newspaper dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 1913, provided the information that Rees Self left the pub trade to become a Coach-Painter and moved to Watchfield in 1908. The Electoral Register for 1911 provided the information that Henry Elderfield took over the licence from Rees Self. He was aged 54 and had a family, his wife Hannah 53, daughter Marjorie 16, and son Alfred 12. But his tenure was short and the Electoral Register for 1914 listed that Samuel Thomas Bennett was granted the licence. However, the Faringdon Advertiser for 5<sup>th</sup> October 1912 reported that on granting the licence, it came with a warning from the Chairman of the bench, that it had been recommended to the Licensing Committee that the Prince of Wales public house was not required in Shrivenham!

So, what was going on that looked like the end of the Prince of Wales? In another newspaper article it was stated that the Chairman of the Licensing Committee had received a letter from Shrivenham Parish Council, stating that in their opinion there were too many licenced houses in the parish (Faringdon Advertiser on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1913). On investigation, the committee concluded that three public houses within a space of about 50 yards was too many and agreed with the council. A decision was deferred for two weeks whilst the matter was looked into further and the following information was aired. A meeting of the Shrivenham Parish Council produced a resolution to the effect that there were too many public houses in Shrivenham, but it made no mention of which one should close. When looked at more closely, there were only four members present at the council meeting and two of those were ardent teetotallers. The resolution was put on the agenda by one of them and seconded by the other. No attempt was made to obtain the views of the local people, and no pub was named in particular. There are some interesting points that emerged at the meeting and it was puzzling why the committee had chosen the Prince of Wales for closure. One person suggested that if one of the pubs had to be closed then the wrong one had been chosen (presumably suggesting the Crown). The conclusion of the lengthy meeting was that the

licence should be renewed, with close attention paid to the conditions mentioned by the police.

However, more pressing matters were just around the corner, being one year away from the outbreak of World War I. We have no information at the moment on how the pub fared during the war years, but we know that Samuel Thomas Bennett was still the landlord in 1921 when he managed to get himself charged with receiving stolen goods. The Faringdon Advertiser dated 26<sup>th</sup> February covered the court case that was heard at Faringdon, whereby George Kent was accused of stealing Cotton Cake, used for feeding sheep, from his employer. Kent used to work at the Prince of Wales and placed some of the Cotton Cake in the hay loft at the pub, which Samuel Bennett said he knew nothing about. The Magistrates concluded that the case had not been proved against the landlord and dismissed the charge.

Two years after leaving the pub Samuel Bennett found himself at loggerheads with a local character of some repute, Harold 'Rimble' Knapp. (*See SHS Catalogue No: N492 for more information on him*). Samuel had seen Rimble's dog come on to his land and kill one of his Leghorn chickens. Samuel said that two shillings would be a fair compensation, but Rimble would not pay. Samuel's solicitor said that it was sheer obstinacy on the defendant's part. Anyone who knew Rimble would understand that statement in an instant. Rimble was ordered to pay three shillings damages and 5s 6d costs. (*Info North Wilts Herald Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 1930*)

The Electoral Register for Shrivenham in 1931 confirmed that the licence had been taken over by Thomas Peare and his wife Bessie (Elizabeth). An article contained in the North Wilts Herald dated Fri 30<sup>th</sup> October 1936, was an obituary for Thomas Peare. He had passed away earlier in that month aged 83. Apparently, he had a national reputation as a horse and cattle doctor; and was an owner and trainer of trotting ponies. Some of his ponies were of world renown for their speed. He was also a horse dealer and held a Royal Charter for a free stand in any of the cattle markets in the country. Previous to the Prince of Wales he was the landlord of the King's Head at Cricklade. The licence was taken over by his wife Elizabeth, who ran the pub until 1941 when she died and was buried in St Andrew's Churchyard on 11<sup>th</sup> March aged 60.



The Electoral Register of 1945 provided the information that Stanley Child was the next person to take on the licence with his wife Jeanne. But they didn't stay long and the Electoral Register for 1947 listed the licensee as Harold H. Fletcher and his wife Winifred M. The register also listed occupiers of the small cottages that were located in the yard of the Prince of Wales, with occupier names such as Stella Brown and Brenley Williams. The Fetchers also did not stay long and the Electoral Register of 1951 listed the licensee as Charles C.V. Tibbetts and his wife was Mary. Just two years later in 1953 the Register recorded Alfred de Milt Severne and his wife Joane Margaret. In the cottages were Brenley Williams, Winifred Ockwell and Martin James Christie. But in the year 1954 some stability returned to the pub in the hands of Leonard Frederick Burrows with the well-known Nina Marian Burrows. It isn't certain what happened to Leonard but by 1965 Nina was running the pub on her own with her good friend Mrs Calver. Nina Burrows was the licensee for a considerable time, as far as the 1980s, but then the names become obscure.

From the Shrivenham Parish Magazine we can add the information that Mike and Jane Binyon were running the pub in 2002 and were still there in 2005. Then from approximately 2015 to the present (2022) the landlord has been Edward Campbell

If any reader has further information on proprietors names and dates, or any stories that concern the pub, please get in touch with us on [info@shrivenhamheritagesociety.co.uk](mailto:info@shrivenhamheritagesociety.co.uk)





The Prince of Wales circa 1950s. Photo courtesy of Paul Williams

The Prince of Wales is a Grade II listed building. The DofE description: *17th century with an 18th century addition of rubble stone and brick with a steeply pitched gabled slate roof and four ridge stacks, two to the east of brick and two others of brick on moulded stone bases. One storey and attic, four window, two door range. The 17th century range has three light leaded casements under wooden lintels and a 20th century polygonal glazed bow on the ground floor and three two light casement dormers set through the eaves line. The 18th century brick range has a 20th century sash window under a cambered arch to the ground floor and a hipped eaves former with a similar sash. Gabled brick porch with a 20th century plank door. The door in the 17th century section is also a 20th century plank door. Several 20th century additions to the rear. The interior has been modernized.*