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and Tegan Tilliers born 16 July 2000.

22-Queens



The Queen's Arms

The current owner, Neil Thompson came to the Queen's in 1990. In 1995 he married Tanya Revell, whose father Paul was living at Elbeck Cottage, and they now run the pub together, living there with their two daughters - Paige Lesley born 13th April 1997 and Teegan Jillian born 16th July 2000.

It is documented that there were two Alehouse keepers in Litton in the 1770's. In 1773 Robert Calvert and John Armistead and in 1778 Robert Metcalf and Thomas Patefield. By the 1780s the public house was run by Christopher (Kitty) Mytton, a blacksmith by trade. In these times Litton was known throughout the dales for its cockfighting propensities and Kitty Mytton was very much involved in this.

Mrs Agnes Taylor is reputed to have been the last keeper of the old pub (in the building now known as Parker's Barn) on the Outgang which closed in 1842. Traditionally this was referred to as the Mucky Duck

When the New Bridge was built the focus of the village changed and the Queen's Arms was said to have been converted from a barn which is believed to date back to around 1630.

In 1851 a James Taylor is recorded as Innkeeper of the Queen's Arms, living there with his wife Nanny. He is known to have been the Innkeeper since the mid 1840's when the property was owned by a John Anderton. By 1861 he was a widower, with his son William, aged 30, an agricultural labourer and Mary Peacock, aged 26, bar maid.

By 1871 James Taylor, retired innkeeper, aged 77 was living at Barn Garth and the innkeeper at the Queen's was an unmarried man, Isaac Garnett who had his widowed sister in law Margaret and niece Agnes, aged 36, living with him. By 1881 Margaret, then aged 71 appears to be the innkeeper with her grandson, William aged 14 as general labourer.

In 1891 Richard Wiseman, aged 30 is recorded as innkeeper and farmer, living at the Queen's with his wife Mary, aged 24 and daughters Mary Alice and Jane aged 5 and 1 respectively.

A Mrs Garnett (was she related to the previous landlords?) was the keeper when the first telegraph arrived in 1901. This can still be seen in the pub " Success to the Telegraph. Hartley Skipton Draper". James Hartley was a draper in Otley Street Skipton and he owned the pub and Manor Cottage and the land known as Hartley Meadow and Hartley Barn.

It appears that he was the owner for several landlords. From Harry Battersby's notebook Dick Metcalfe was landlord in 1911, and then in the early 1920s when Arthur Grey was landlord, 1,2, or 3 'charas' would visit on a Saturday and Sunday.

Litton was not happy with their arrival, being affronted by the noise the visitors made, but the visitors would throw out pennies and everyone would scramble for them.

Arthur Grey was a betting man, going to the only telephone in the village at the Post Office to ring Bradford 5251 to place his bets, the call cost 11d. He was the last tenant landlord and he had a horse drawn vehicle, known locally as 'The Chariot' on account of its antiquity, he used this for collecting visitors from Grassington station, until he won an old Ford in a raffle in Bradford and he sold his horse.

It was during this time that there were the spectacular drinking sessions known as 'striking rant' involving a group of three men. They stayed in the bar all day and night and drank all the time, never sober and living on the odd sandwich or so from Mrs Grey. The session could last the whole week. This group, it appears, were the last keepers of the custom.....unless you know otherwise!!!

The pub was bought from the Hartley executors by Thomas Johnson. According to Harry Battersby - 'an oldish single man who wanted to popularise the place. He had an idea to put in electric light, and bought an oil engine from W M Patrick, but although he spent weeks on it he never got it going. I once volunteered to help him get it started in my lunch hour, I'll never forget he said "I'll pour this petrol in the plug hole and you turn the handle and then I'll strike a match over the hole" Needless to say I said a very firm no, but he tried on his own later with drastic results. He worked on the engine as black as coal and if anyone came in for a beer he just rubbed his hands on his trousers and got a pint from a jug from the cellar and poured a glass!' He also attempted to install pumps for the beer which turned bad in the unwashed copper pipes.

The pub was then bought by his daughter and her husband Thomas Hannam, who worked at the quarry. They were there in the 1930's and Harry noted - 'she did well at the Queen's with visitors before the war and when war broke out she had a clientele of quite good class visitors who made repeat visits' They sold the pub and rented Elle Beck.

Richard Jolley was landlord from 1944 until 1961 and Mrs Jolley made school dinners for between 1953 and 1958. They were transported to Arncliffe by Marmaduke Miller.

After the Jolley's was Steven Rogers who was followed by Harry McKeown, his wife Joan was a teacher at Arncliffe between 1964 and 1980.

Then came Steve and Val Appleton, followed in 1983 by Keith and Freda Brooks and Wallace and Edna West. When they retired and moved to Halton Gill, Eric and Kay Davison took over.