

## PUBLIC HOUSES IN HIGH LITTLETON AND HALLATROW

The earliest references to a public house found in High Littleton are in two depositions of July 1682 viz:

John COX says that "sometyme this last winter, he and Jeffery COX and James WHITHEAD, meeting together and being frozen cold, they agreed to goe to one William YOUNG's howse in High Littleton, who sells strong waters, to spend a 1d. or 2d. a peice & to warm themselves & there they met Miles WEEKES."

Geoffrey COX says that "some tyme the last winter, he with John COX and James WHITEHEAD, went to one William YOUNG's howse at High Littleton, who sells Brandy & other sorts of strong water and there they mett with Miles WEEKES and they all sat downe together."

### Star Inn

The High Street in High Littleton once boasted three public houses, the High Littleton Inn, the Star Inn and the Old Market Tavern. The Star, which originated as a beerhouse back in the 1850s, was the last of the three to open but is the only one left today.

The Beerhouse Act of 1830 allowed any householder assessed to the Poor Rate to retail beer and cider from his house on payment of a fee of 2 guineas. The object of the Act was to popularise beer and cider at the expense of spirits, especially gin, which had become the ruination of many poor families. Beer would normally be brewed on the premises and, whilst its sale provided a useful addition to the family income, it would not on its own be sufficient to provide a living for the family and so the man of the house would invariably have a full time occupation as well.

Not wanting to miss an opportunity to increase the rates income, High Littleton Vestry resolved on 3rd December 1830 "that the Poor Rates on the houses licensed to sell beer should be increased in proportion to their value by such licence." On 24 April 1848 the Vestry resolved "that £1 should be given to the Constable of High Littleton as a remuneration for keeping order and quietness at the Public House and Beer Shops on the Sabbath day and also throughout the week."

The 1851 Census finds Henry BRIMBLE, aged 28, coal miner, born High Littleton, his wife, 4 children and a house servant, living in Bath Road, on the site of the Star. When Henry started a beerhouse is uncertain but Harrison, Harrod's Directory of 1859 listed him as a beer retailer. The 1861 Census finds Henry BRIMBLE, aged 39, coal miner, wife, 4 children and a house maid, living at a Beer House in the village. Kelly's Directories of 1861 and 1866 listed Henry BRIMBLE as a beer retailer. The 1871 Census finds Henry BRIMBLE, aged 49, publican, his wife and 2 children living at an unspecified address in High Littleton. Kelly's Directories of 1872 and 1875 listed Henry as a beer retailer. Again in the 1881 Census the address at which Henry BRIMBLE, aged 64, publican, wife Elizabeth 62 and unmarried daughter Caroline 30, inn servant, are living, is not shown. Kelly's Directory of 1883 lists Henry as a beer retailer for the last time.

Henry BRIMBLE died in November 1885 and his wife died the following May, leaving the Star in the hands of their daughter Caroline. Kelly's Directory of 1889 lists Mrs Caroline BRIMBLE as a beer retailer. The 1891 Census finds Caroline BRIMBLE, unmarried, aged 40, inn keeper, born Farmborough, living at the Star Inn with a general servant Emily WEAVER.

Caroline BRIMBLE was not listed in Kelly's Directory of 1894 but John GOAY (*GRAY probably intended*) was, followed in 1897 by John Henry WEAVER, both being described as beer retailers. With the occupiers of the other licensed houses in High Littleton accounted for, it is assumed that these last two individuals were at the Star. The Beerhouse Act was repealed in 1869 and as time progressed many family run beerhouses were sold to larger breweries. Towards the end of the century the name of Welton Breweries Ltd appeared on the front of the Star.

The Star had not seen the last of the BRIMBLES. The High Littleton School Register shows that in October 1899 four children of Thomas BRIMBLE, publican of the Star, entered the school, having come from Swinton (*Swindon seems more likely*). The 1901 Census finds Thomas BRIMBLE, aged 50, Coal hewer below ground (& Inn Keeper), born High Littleton at The Star Inn, together with his wife Margaret and six children. Business could not have been too profitable, since records of Mary JONES' Charity show that Thomas and Margaret BRIMBLE of the Star Inn were given a blanket at Christmas 1903. Kelly's Directories of 1902 and 1906 list Thomas BRIMBLE as a beer retailer as does Wright's Directory of 1905, which also places him at the Star Inn. The Inland Revenue Valuation of 6th April 1910 records Col. Barton Scobell of Kingwell as owner of the house and premises called the Star Inn and Thomas BRIMBLE as the occupier. The Gross Annual Value was £30 and the Rateable Value £24. Thomas BRIMBLE was listed as a beer retailer in Kelly's Directories of 1910 and 1914.

Around the beginning of the war Richard WEBBER became landlord and he is duly listed as a beer retailer in the 1919 Kelly's Directory. The Church Electoral Roll shows that WEBBER left the parish early in 1923. The Electoral Roll also shows that George Albert WILLING kept the Star from 1924 to 1926 and he was followed by Henry PADFIELD, who was listed as a beer retailer in Kelly's Directories of 1927 and 1931.

School records show that children of George Henry GAY in 1929, Stanley BUSH from 1933 to 1935, Clifford EVANS from 1936 to 1940 and Walter HOME in 1950 gave their addresses as the Star. Their status is unclear and most, if not all, are assumed to be lodgers. For some reason Kelly's Directories of 1935 and 1939 do not list anyone at the Star but School records of May 1938 mention Mrs A. HATHWAY of the Star. Albert Edward HATHWAY was landlord from at least that date until about 1950, when he became licensee of the High Littleton Inn. When HATHWAY moved out of the Star, Kenneth MITCHARD, son of a previous landlord of the High Littleton Inn, moved in and he was landlord of the Star until 1956, when he moved to the Wellsway Inn.

### **High Littleton Inn**

The High Littleton Inn probably came into being c.1837/8. The parish survey of 1825 shows no sign of an inn, the site then containing three cottages and gardens. Both these properties were originally part of the Manor of High Littleton and had been let for lives since the latter half of the 18th century.

On 22nd May 1833 George WYATT, brewer of Farmborough, purchased a cottage and garden from Nathaniel YOUNG, blacksmith and James YOUNG, coal miner, both of Clutton, for £120. On 26th Aug 1833 he purchased another cottage and garden from Elijah CHIVERS, coal miner of High Littleton, for £67.10/-. Finally on 20th May 1837 WYATT purchased a house and garden from Thomas WEEKS, labourer of High Littleton, for £80. At the time of the Tithe Survey of 1839 George WYATT was recorded as the owner and occupier of a house, yard and cottages (area 35 perches), which complex made up the High Littleton Inn. How much new building was carried out is not apparent.

George WYATT does not appear in High Littleton records until 1837. In that year he had a child baptized at High Littleton Church and started attending Vestry meetings. He was appointed one of the Surveyors of Highways for High Littleton tithing for 1837/8, Overseer of the Poor for 1839/40 and Collector of Assessed Taxes for 1840/1. As a freeholder George appeared on the annual list of High Littleton men qualified to serve on juries in September 1838, when he was described as a brewer, and in September 1839 as an Inn keeper. George WYATT died on 30th March 1840 at the age of 41, leaving a wife and 7 young children.

The 1841 Census finds Ann WYATT, aged 40, publican, seven children aged from 5 to 15 (all girls except for George aged 8) and a man-servant living in High Littleton but the address was unspecified. The Inn is however mentioned in 1849 when house-to-house visits were arranged by the Vestry following a cholera outbreak in the parish. The 1851 Census finds Ann WYATT, widow, aged 54, inn keeper, born Camerton, living at the High Littleton Inn. Harrison, Harrod's Directory of 1859 lists under Inns - High Littleton - Ann WYATT, whilst Kelly's Directory of 1861 lists Mrs Ann WYATT, High Littleton Inn. The 1861 Census records Ann WYATT, widow aged 54, Inn keeper, at the High Littleton Inn with 4 of her children (including George 17) and 1 grandchild. Ann died on 16th July 1863, aged 69, and was buried at High

Littleton beside her late husband. On Ann's death her son George WYATT took over and he is listed at the High Littleton Inn in Kelly's Directory of 1866. It is interesting to note that, at a time when private pews in the Church were appropriated only to the gentry and occupiers of the more important farms and houses, the Vestry resolved on 14th April 1864 "that Pew No. 7 in the body of the Church, being now unoccupied, be appropriated to High Littleton Inn." This was the only Vestry meeting George WYATT ever attended.

George WYATT left the Inn a few years after, married and later lived at Clutton Hill, describing himself as a late innkeeper in the 1881 Census. By 1869 Thomas GUNNING had taken over (assuming that it was his son who was buried at High Littleton in April that year). The 1871 Census finds Thomas GUNNING, aged 48, Inn keeper, born Chippenham living at the High Littleton Inn with his wife, son, father and female servant. Morris & Co.'s Directory of 1872 lists Thomas GUNNING there but he had left by 1874.

Vestry minutes of 1st October 1874 agreed that "High Littleton will join the parish of Farmborough in covering the drain, respecting which they have received notice from the Sanitary Inspector, as far as the end of the stabling of the High Littleton Inn occupied by Mr Frank YORK, by paying a moiety of the expenses incurred." Kelly's Directory of 1875 lists Francis YORK at the High Littleton Inn. The 1881 Census finds Frank YORK, unmarried, aged 35, licensed victualler, born Litton, living at High Littleton with his unmarried sister Rosina, aged 27, who was the housekeeper and his half brother. Kelly's Directory of 1883 lists Francis YORK once again.

Rosina YORK married James SPENCER and they took over the High Littleton Inn from her brother Frank some time before 1888. James and Rosina had their only child (born 1887) baptized at High Littleton on 1st Apr 1888, when James was described as a Farmer and Inn keeper. Kelly's Directory of 1889 lists James SPENCER at the High Littleton Inn. The 1891 Census finds James SPENCER, aged 44, licensed victualler, born Draycott, living at the High Littleton Inn with his wife Rosina, young daughter and a female domestic servant. James SPENCER was recorded as one of the larger subscribers (10/-) towards the new Churchyard, which was consecrated on 19th May 1893. He was also recorded on the register of Occupation Electors for Farmborough Polling District (which included High Littleton) in 1896, in respect of his dwelling house called the High Littleton Inn. Directories of 1894, 1897 and 1902 list James SPENCER at the Inn. The 1901 Census finds James SPENCER, aged 54, hotel keeper, born Draycott, living at the High Littleton Inn with his wife Rosina, daughter Maud, a barman and a female servant.

Rather surprisingly Wright's Bristol Directory of 1905 shows Mrs SPENCER at the Inn. Kelly's Directories of 1906 and 1910 also list Mrs Rosina SPENCER as the landlord. The reason for having the license in Rosina's name for this period has not been discovered. The Inland Revenue Valuation of 6th April 1910 records James SPENCER as owner and occupier of the High Littleton Inn, when it was given a Gross Annual Value of £37 and a Rateable Value of £29.10/-. Kelly's Directories of 1914 and 1919 revert to listing James SPENCER at the Inn. James died on 21st July 1919, aged 72. It is not known whether Rosina ran the Inn after James' death or not but she later went to live opposite the Inn at "Beech Dene", where she died on 8th August 1929, aged 82. Rosina and James were buried at High Littleton.

Kelly's Directory of 1923 lists P. BRENT at the Inn. The High Littleton Church Electoral Roll records the names Percy, Maud and George BRENT of the Inn on 1st January 1924 but the entry was subsequently deleted in pencil, implying that they left the parish before the year was out. The Electoral Roll records Henry JAMES of the Inn from part of 1924 until 1926, after which his name was taken off. Kelly's Directory of 1927 lists Hy. JAMES at High Littleton Inn.

From 1st January 1928 the Electoral Roll records the names of Albert JAMES and Jessie Hannah BATT at High Littleton Inn. George's Brewery seems to have acquired the High Littleton Inn during the 1920s. Brewery records show that Albert James BATT leased High Littleton Inn from 25th June 1930 at £45 p.a. Kelly's Directories of 1931, 1935 and 1939 list Alfred James BATT at the Inn, although Albert had left before 1935. Perhaps BATT could not afford the rent for when Sydney Graddon ROWLANDS leased the Inn from 30th October 1934 the rent was only £36 p.a. From 4th April 1939 Albert Edwin MITCHARD had the Inn at the same rent. MITCHARD was a butcher from Radstock. From 30th July 1947 Henry John Leslie CLEAVES also paid £36 p.a. for the High Littleton Inn. CLEAVES gave up around 1950, when

Albert Edward HATHWAY took over, having previously been the landlord of the Star. Coincidentally HATHWAY was replaced at the Star by MITCHARD 's son Ken.

The last landlord of the High Littleton Inn was Fred POWER, who with his wife Ann took over in February 1969. In October 1969 Courage's Brewery, the successors to George's, closed the Inn and it was delicensed. It was subsequently sold to Arthur HAYNES.

During its lifetime the High Littleton Inn was the natural location for local auction sales. For many years High Littleton Football Club had its changing rooms at the Inn.

### **The Old Market Tavern**

The Old Market Tavern is assumed to have come into existence as a result of the 1830 Beerhouse Act, although not necessarily under that name. From before 1793, when a Survey of High Littleton was carried out, George TUCKER of Rosewell Farm, was leasing from the Lord of the Manor of High Littleton (at that time Lady Elizabeth JONES) six cottages at the Batch for lives. These included the property later to be known as The Old Market Tavern. A new lease was entered into on 23rd September 1811 with William Jones BURDETT (then Lord of the Manor) for the lives of George TUCKER, his son Henry and Henry's son James. On George's death in 1816 his property passed to his son Henry TUCKER, a cordwainer. Henry subsequently acquired the freeholds of the various properties from Burdett and in his will dated 8th December 1833 left individual properties to his children. The house where Henry himself lived was left to Joseph TUCKER together with a shop, stable, brewhouse and lodging. Whether Henry or Joseph brewed beer for resale is unclear.

Henry TUCKER left another of the cottages at the Batch to his married daughter Hannah HARRISON, where she lived and had a shop. Her husband, John HARRISON, was born at Westbury on Severn in 1768. He came to High Littleton, married Hannah in 1799 and settled at the Batch, where he was first a cordwainer and then a shopkeeper. The 1825 Survey of High Littleton records that John HARRISON occupied a tenement, shop and bit of garden at the Batch owned by Henry TUCKER. John described himself as a beer seller in his will dated 22nd October 1844 and it seems fair to assume that he had been selling beer for several years prior to then, possibly as early as 1830, when Vestry minutes of 3rd December resolved to increase the poor rates on houses licensed to sell beer. The Tithe Survey of 1839 records John HARRISON as owner and occupier of a house and garden at the Batch on the site of the Old Market Tavern. When John died in October 1847 he left 3 houses and a shop to his children.

The beerhouse was apparently leased out after John HARRISON 's death to Richard Derrick ELMS. Vestry minutes of 26th March 1845 indicate that Richard ELMS was living in Hallatrow at that time. His move to High Littleton seems to have been specifically to take over HARRISON's beerhouse on the corner of the Batch. Following a cholera outbreak in the parish, the Vestry resolved on 9th Oct. 1849 that the parish be divided into districts for house-to-house visits. "The houses on the Turnpike Road as far as ELMES' Beer House" was one of the districts. The 1851 Census finds Richard ELMS, aged 38, blacksmith, born Hallatrow, wife, niece and 2 lodgers, living on the site of the Old Market Tavern. There was no reference to a beerhouse or Richard selling beer. One assumes that the beerhouse profits were insufficient to support Richard and his wife and that it was necessary to have another full time occupation. On 6th Dec. 1853 Magistrates ordered Richard ELMS to contribute 2/- p.w. towards the maintenance of his pauper father Samuel. Richard attended a Vestry meeting on 2nd Aug. 1855, when the Vestry agreed to support an application to the Justices to reduce his contribution to 1/-, which was successful. However this was later used against Richard, when the parish was presented with two half-year bills totalling £2.18. 9 from the Inspector of Lodging Houses. On 24th March 1856 the Vestry resolved that, as the only lodging house in High Littleton was the beer house occupied by ELMS, Magistrates would be asked to restore Richard's contribution of 2/- p.w. towards the support of his father, unless he gave up his lodging house. Harrison, Harrod & Co.'s Directory of 1859 lists Richard ELMES under Beer Retailers and Shopkeepers but he seems to have left the village shortly afterwards.

Kelly's Directory of 1861 lists Isaac STONE as a beer retailer. The 1861 Census finds Isaac STONE, aged 38, carpenter, born Chilcompton, living at the Beer House with his wife and 6 children. STONE did not stay very long and Kelly's Directory of 1866 lists Samuel BANFIELD as a beer retailer in his place. The 1871 Census finds Samuel BANFIELD, aged 52, Coal miner, born High Littleton, living on the site of the Tavern with his wife and 2 children. Ten years previously Samuel had been living next to the Hallatrow Inn, which was kept by George BANFIELD, who was probably related. Morris' Directory of 1872 and Kelly's Directory of 1875 list Samuel BANFIELD as a beer retailer. The 1881 Census records the Old Market Tavern by name and finds Samuel BANFIELD, aged 62, publican and coal miner living there with his wife, son and a grand daughter. Samuel BANFIELD is again listed in Kelly's Directories for 1883 and 1889 as a beer retailer but without naming the establishment. The 1891 Census finds Samuel BANFIELD 73, beer seller and coal miner, born Clutton, still living at the Old Market Tavern with his wife (who died in 1893) and son. Samuel is listed as a beer retailer in Kelly's Directories of 1894 and 1897 and he was still at the Tavern when he was given a blanket from Mary JONES' Charity on 21st December 1898. Samuel died the following August at the age of 80.

When Samuel BANFIELD 's daughter married in 1888 one of the witnesses was George BRIMBLE. In the 1891 Census George BRIMBLE, aged 43, coal miner, born High Littleton, his wife (who died in 1893) and 4 children were living as a separate household in, the Old Market Tavern. The situation is clarified in the 1896 list of High Littleton electors in the Farmborough Polling District. Samuel BANFIELD is listed as an Occupation Elector by virtue of a dwelling house in the Village, whilst George BRIMBLE is on the Lodgers' list, occupying a first floor bedroom and ground floor sitting room (furnished) at the Batch, which was rented from Samuel BANFIELD. George received a blanket from Mary JONES' Charity on 30th January 1895, when his address was given as Market Tavern. George received similar charity on 16th December 1899 and 23rd December 1903.

The 1901 Census finds George BRIMBLE, widower, aged 52, Coal Hewer below ground (& Beer Retailer), born Paulton at The Old Market Tavern, together with two sons. Kelly's Directories of 1902, 1906 and 1910 and Wright's Directory of 1905 list George BRIMBLE as a beer retailer. The Inland Revenue Valuation of 6th April 1910 records George BRIMBLE as the occupier of a house and garden called the Old Market Tavern and Charles CARTER of Cloud Hill Mill, Clutton as the owner. The Gross Annual Value was £18 and Rateable Value £14.10/-. Charles CARTER's second wife was a grand daughter of John HARRISON and it appears that ownership of the Tavern had remained in the family for over 70 years. Kelly's Directories of 1914, 1919 and 1923 list George BRIMBLE as a beer retailer.

George BRIMBLE died in May 1926, aged 79, but not before handing over to Christopher William WOODHOUSE. WOODHOUSE first appears on the Church Electoral Roll in 1st January 1924, address Old Market Tavern. He died aged 72 and was buried at High Littleton in August 1925, when Mrs Julia WOODHOUSE took over as licensee. Kelly's Directory of 1927 lists Mrs Julia WOODHOUSE as a beer retailer but her name was taken off the Electoral Roll in 1927, implying that she left the parish in that year. The names of Richard Gladstone HARRIS and his wife Pauline of the Old Market Tavern appear on the Electoral Roll from 1st January 1928, suggesting that he took over as landlord in 1927. Kelly's Directory of 1931 lists Rd. Gladstone HARRIS as a beer retailer but he had left by 1935, when Kelly's lists Jas. PARKES, beer retailer, Old Market Tavern. This entry was repeated in 1939.

At some stage George's Brewery, later taken over by Courage, acquired the Old Market Tavern. It was closed as a pub in the early 1960s, delicensed and sold as a private house, happily with the name retained. The shop next door also became a private house.

### **Station Hotel, Hallatrow**

The newest of all the pubs in the parish of High Littleton is the Station Hotel, which was built in 1910. This was in a period of great activity at Hallatrow Station. Between 1909 and 1911 the Station was redeveloped, a second line and platform was built, a new signal box, water tower and footbridge erected, more sidings laid, and the Cam Valley line completed through to Limpley Stoke. It was a natural move to build a licensed hotel to cater for the needs of travellers, railway staff and the local community.

The Inland Revenue Valuation of 6th April 1910 records that THATCHER Ltd, Welton Brewery Co., Midsomer Norton owned 1¼ acre of land in Hallatrow, which was occupied by Ernest SPEED of Hallatrow. A note makes it clear that this was the site of the Station Hotel, although the Gross Annual Value of £2. 5/- suggests that there was no building there at the time. Incidentally, SPEED was a farmer, whose wife Georgina kept the Hallatrow Inn. Kelly's Directory of 1914 lists Gilbert CARTER at the Station Hotel. Kelly's Directory of 1919 lists Elias KYTE at the Station and he was followed in the 1923 Directory by Charles CLITSOME.

Charles Henry BALL seems to have come to Hallatrow in 1924 and his name first appears on the Church Electoral Roll at the beginning of 1925. Kelly's Directories of 1927, 1931, 1935 and 1939 continued to list Ball as proprietor of the Station Hotel. Charles BALL of the Railway Hotel (sic), Hallatrow, died, aged 67, and was buried at Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol on 2nd January 1942.

Welton Brewery was taken over by George's Brewery, which in turn was taken over by Courage Brewery, who eventually sold the hotel. Since going into private ownership the Old Station Inn, as it is now called, has proved extremely popular.

### **Hallatrow Inn**

For whatever reason, the pub in Hart's lane was universally known as The Plough, although it was never officially called anything other than the Hallatrow Inn. The Hallatrow Inn seems to have come into being after the Beerhouse Act of 1830. As with other beerhouses the selling of beer did not provide sufficient income for the early proprietors to make it anything more than a secondary occupation. For this reason it is never easy to pinpoint precisely when a beerhouse started.

The Tithe Survey of 1839 records that James TIDCOMBE owned a house and garden, where the pub later stood, which was occupied by Mark MARCHANT. MARCHANT moved from Clutton to Hallatrow c.1836. The 1841 Census finds Mark MARCHANT, aged 33, carpenter, his wife, 4 children and a servant, living in Hallatrow. MARCHANT seems to have started selling beer some time in the 1840s. The 1851 Census finds Mark MARCHANT, aged 44, carpenter and beer house keeper, born High Littleton, his wife and 8 children living at a Beer House in Hallatrow.

Some time before 1857 Marchant moved to Timsbury. Like MARCHANT, beer selling was a secondary occupation for BANFIELD. Harrison, Harrod's Directory of 1859 and Kelly's Directory of 1861 list George BANFIELD as a beer retailer, Hallatrow. The 1861 Census finds George BANFIELD, unmarried, aged 47, farmer and beer seller, born Clutton, his mother and nephew, living at a Beer House near Hallatrow Batch. Next door lived Samuel BANFIELD, a coal miner, also born in Clutton, who later kept the Old Market Tavern at High Littleton Batch. Kelly's Directory of 1866 also lists George as a beer retailer. The 1871 Census finds George BANFIELD, aged 57, beerhouse keeper, his wife, 2 grandchildren and a visitor, living in Hallatrow. George was listed in Morris' Directory of 1872 and Kelly's Directory of 1875 as a beer retailer, Hallatrow. The 1881 Census finds George BANFIELD, aged 65, inn keeper, his wife and grand daughter, living at the Hallatrow Inn. Kelly's Directory of 1883 also lists George BANFIELD at the Hallatrow Inn.

George BANFIELD died in January 1891, aged 76, but not before he had handed over to Henry John HALLETT described himself as a publican of Hallatrow at the baptism of a daughter in May 1886. Kelly's Directory of 1889 lists Henry HALLETT at the Hallatrow Inn. The 1891 Census finds Henry J. H

HALLETT, aged 34, inn keeper, born Clifton, wife Sarah G. and their two daughters living at the Hallatrow Inn. Henry HALLETT died in May 1892, aged 38, leaving his wife Sarah Georgina to carry on the business. Kelly's Directory of 1894 lists Mrs Georgina HALLETT at the Hallatrow Inn. In August 1895 Georgina HALLETT (nee CLEAVES) married Ernest Samuel SPEED, a farmer from Hinton Blewett, who subsequently rented Manor Farm, Hallatrow for a time. The 1896 list of High Littleton electors in the Farmborough Polling District records Sarah HALLETT of Hallatrow as an Occupation Elector in respect of a dwelling house at the Batch. Kelly's Directories of 1897, 1902, 1906 and 1910 list Mrs Georgina SPEED at the Hallatrow Inn. For some reason the 1901 Census lists Georgina SPEED, married, aged 38, Licenced Victualler, born High Littleton at the Railway Inn (presumably an error) with her daughter Victoria. The Inland Revenue Valuation of 6th April 1910 records THATCHER Ltd, Welton Brewery Co., Midsomer Norton as owner of the Inn, house and garden at Hallatrow and Mrs G. SPEED as the occupier. The Hallatrow Inn had a Gross Annual Value of £20 and Rateable Value of £16. Kelly's Directories of 1914 and 1919 continue to list Mrs Georgina SPEED at the Hallatrow Inn.

Georgina SPEED died in March 1923, aged 60, having given up the license in 1920, in favour of Joseph ORGILL. Kelly's Directories of 1923 and 1927 list Joseph ORGILL at the Hallatrow Inn. Joseph and Florence ORGILL were included on the Church Electoral Roll until 1927, when their names were taken off, implying that they left Hallatrow at that time. Victor BENFIELD was the next landlord. High Littleton School Admission Register shows that BENFIELD's child entered the school in November 1927 and left to go to Clevedon in January 1930. These dates presumably coincide with BENFIELD's time at the Hallatrow Inn. William Frank HANCOCK followed BENFIELD in 1930, his son entering High Littleton School in January that year. Kelly's Directories of 1931, 1935 and 1939 all list Wm. Frank HANCOCK at the Hallatrow Inn but he left in 1935. A Mr AUSTIN was landlord from 1935 to November 1936, when Norman WITHERS took over.

WITHERS was landlord all through the war and gave up in July 1949. The next landlord was Cliff COMER, who remained until 1963. He was followed by Ernie SAUNDERS, who was at the Hallatrow Inn from October 1963 until about 1968, when Jack ROGERS took over and had the distinction of being the last landlord. Ownership of the Hallatrow Inn had passed from THATCHER's to George's Brewery to Courage Brewery in a succession of takeovers. Courage closed the Inn in about 1973. It was delicensed and sold as a private house - being renamed The Old Plough, of course.

### **MATTHEWS' Beer House in Hallatrow**

In the Hallatrow Survey of 1802 George MATTHEWS and others are shown as renting various parts of the Brick House estate from the James family. George MATTHEWS was appointed one of the Overseers of the Poor for 1805/6. Vestry Minutes of 13th April 1807 list Brick House (recently renamed Meadow Lea), owned by Thomas JAMES and occupied by George MATTHEWS, as one of the houses in Hallatrow properly and fairly liable to receive a pauper child as an apprentice. The 1811 Census finds George MATHEWS living in Hallatrow with 2 other males and 2 females, who were presumably his wife and 3 children. George appears to have been employed in agriculture. However it appears that he later had a shop, for Vestry minutes of 16th June 1816 order that George MATHEWS shall be paid 8/- for provisions had by Charlotte SPARKS during her illness. The 1825 Survey of Hallatrow records George MATHEWS as owner and occupier of a tenement of insignificant size, with an annual value of £2.10/-, which was assessed to Poor Rate, for the first time, at 1/0½d. The map shows that the property was surrounded by Brick House land and the road. George MATTHEWS received blankets etc. from Mary JONES' Charity at Christmas 1806, 1808, 1813, 1820, 1824 and 1829. In 1820 he received a pair of sheets, a pair of blankets, a bolster case and a cloak to the value of £3, which was the amount given to 9 others of the first class poor. Latterly he was described as a shopkeeper. George MATHEWS first started paying Land Tax on his cottage in 1830/1.

George MATTHEWS died in June 1834, aged 68, leaving a wife Ann (nee STICKLER). At some time following the passing of the Beerhouse Act in 1830, either George or Ann started selling beer from their cottage. The Tithe Survey of 1839 shows that Ann MATTHEWS owned and occupied a small tenement cottage measuring 3 perches, fronting Wells Road, slightly south of Brick House. The 1841 Census finds

Ann MATHEWS, aged 70, beer seller, living in Hallatrow. She died in June 1845, aged 76. There is no record of anyone taking over the beer selling business.

### **DOWLING and WYATT's Beer House in Hallatrow**

Edward DOWLING was a farmer, who rented from Richard Langford and his successor John Usticke SCOBELL the property later known as Court Farm. He started attending Vestry meetings in 1819 and continued to do so until 9 months before his death. He was a member of the Select Vestry for many years, was appointed Overseer of the Poor, Collector of Assessed Taxes and Surveyor of Highways for Hallatrow on many occasions and was thoroughly involved in local affairs. The 1841 Census finds Edward DOWLING, aged 45, farmer, his wife and 6 children living in Hallatrow. After Edward's wife Mary died in 1844 he married Harriet the widow of Thomas Collier DUDDEN junior.

Edward seems to have given up the farm c.1847 and become a shopkeeper and beer seller. The 1851 Census finds Edward DOWLING, aged 56, grocer and beer house keeper, born Wells, his wife and 2 step daughters (both DUDDENS), living at a Beer House, on the south side of the entrance to Manor Farm, Hallatrow (between Beaumont and Eastleigh). Two months later Edward DOWLING died, aged 57, and was buried at High Littleton in June 1851. The owner of the beer house and adjoining cottages at that time was Richard George REYNOLDS, an ironmonger of Warminster, whose wife Anne had inherited the property from her father Thomas Collier DUDDEN senior of Hallatrow, on his death in July 1841. Richard REYNOLDS died in August 1856 leaving his property in trust for his widow Anne. In the same ownership was a house occupied for many years by George WYATT, a coal haulier, and family on the north side of the entrance to Manor Farm (adjoining Manor Cottages).

It is likely that Edward's widow, Harriet DOWLING, continued to run the shop and beer house until she died in March 1856, aged 58. It appears that George WYATT then moved from one side of Manor Farm to the other in order to take over the Beer House. Harrison, Harrod's Directory of 1859 lists George WYATT as a beer retailer and in Kelly's Directory of 1861 George is listed as a beer retailer, Hallatrow. The 1861 Census finds George WYATT, aged 66, coal haulier, born High Littleton, his wife and 2 sons living at a Beer House in Hallatrow, in the place where DOWLING formerly lived. George WYATT died in September 1865, aged 70 and his widow Ann carried on the Beer House. Kelly's Directory of 1866 lists Mrs Ann WYATT as a beer retailer, Hallatrow. Ann WYATT died in March 1867, aged 69. James WYATT, son of George, and family were living at the same place in 1871 but there is no indication that there was a beer house there and it appears that the beer house closed after Ann's death.

### **MULLETT's Beer House at Woodview, Hallatrow**

Vestry minutes of 28th June 1833 resolved that George MULLETT do from this day pay 3/- poor rate in place of 1/6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d, on account of keeping a Beer House. No further evidence of George MULLETT having a Beer House has been found and it probably did not last long.

George Sage MULLETT was born in 1810 the son of Joseph and Elizabeth MULLETT (nee Sage), who had both been married before. In the 1825 Survey of Hallatrow, when a new rate was made, Joseph MULLETT and John WEEKS are recorded as lessees of four tenements, a joiner's shop and gardens (Woodview Cottages) from Richard LANGFORD. Three of the tenements were sublet and Joseph occupied the end tenement with the joiner's shop. Joseph's property had an Annual Value of £3.13. 6 and was rated at 1/6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d, the only one in the parish at this precise amount. Elizabeth MULLETT came to Woodview with her first husband James WEEKS (died 1797), who leased the tenements from Richard Langford for the lives of Elizabeth and their son John WEEKS.

George MULLETT married Maria WOOKEY at St. James, Bristol in September 1831 and they appear to have lived at Woodview with George's parents afterwards. Joseph MULLETT died in November 1832. The Tithe Survey of 1839 records Elizabeth MULLETT as owner (lessee) and occupier of Woodview Cottages. The 1841 Census finds Betty MULLETT, aged 70, independent, George Sage MULLETT 31,

painter and George's wife and 2 daughters living in Hallatrow. Betty MULLETT died in April 1844, aged 74. In her will she left everything to George during his lifetime. In 1845 George Sage MULLETT was described as a carpenter on a list of parishioners liable to serve the office of Constable. Likewise in 1846, but he was described as a painter in 1847, 1848 and 1850. On 6th September 1850 two sittings in pew No. 12 in the south aisle of High Littleton Church were appropriated to George MULLETT 's house in Hallatrow on payment by him of £1 each sitting. The 1851 Census finds George Sage MULLETT, aged 41, painter, born High Littleton, with his wife, daughter and 2 nieces living at the south end of Woodview Cottages. The 1861 Census finds George Sage MULLETT, widower, aged 51, painter and his daughter still living at Woodview Cottages. George died in August 1865, aged 55.

#### **Elijah SMITH's Beer House**

Vestry minutes of 21st September 1832 resolved that Elijah SMITH do pay 2/6d. per rate instead of 10d. owing to his now keeping a Beer House.

No Elijah SMITH, of an age to run a beer house, has been located in High Littleton, nor has the whereabouts of the beer house been discovered. It seems likely that it was shortlived.