

Ufford Heritage Trail

4. The White Lion

Overlooking the ancient Saxon river crossing that gives the village of Ufford its name, there has been an inn here for at least 400 years. The earliest written reference to "The White Lyon" was in 1618, when it was sold by Francis Ballett (whose father has a skeleton brass in nearby St Mary's Church) for the princely sum of £180.



This picture from around the 1860s shows the original building with a thatched roof and the butcher's shop in the lean-to front portion.

The inn was extended into its present form by the late 1890s.

The inn was called "The Lion" for many years and the landlord was a tenant rather than an owner. There were at least nine landlords between 1825 and 1982, with several having a second trade, presumably to make ends meet. Willian Garrod in the 1850s was a gardener and Jonathan Noah Patrick, originally a bricklayer, ran the inn in the 1860s and 70s and had a butchery business. By the 1881 census Patrick had retired and Kelly's 1879 listing shows the pub, run by William Gallant.

From around 1883, the inn became a tied house, owned by Cobbold's Brewery in Ipswich. The brewery itself was owned by John D Cobbold, who ran the the family business empire. He lived at the now-demolished Holywells House in Holywells Park in Ipswich until the 1920s and also had a house in Cadogan Square, London.

From around 1890, the pub was run by Alfred and Christiana Ward. Alfred had grown up only a few doors away in Lower Street and in 1886 married Christiana, who was from Clapham. Alfred and his father were carpenters and the pub was run, for a time, in parallel with their building business. They ran the pub until at least 1925 when it was listed as the Lion Hotel run by Mrs Christiana Ward; Alfred died before the 1911 census.



The White Lion in 1901

From 1982, the landlords have also been the pub's owners. Stephen and Gaynor Thurlow now run The White Lion and it is well-known for its homely atmosphere, its Annual Car Rally, which takes place in April, and its Fireworks Night which attracts crowds from all over the county.

An Architectural Note

The White Lion is actually two abutting structures: a taller, longer brick wing from c1870 to the east and a smaller, much earlier, timber framed and plastered wing to the west, most probably from the C17th. Both sections have steeply pitched roofs with staggered gables facing the road.

Mid to late C19th photographs reveal that this wing was once thatched and that the Victorian range replaced a much earlier structure. The lean-to structure on the street frontage of the earlier range appears on early photographs of the inn.

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