

## Bishopwearmouth Pubs Profile (Listed) - Fitzgeralds

Project Pub REF: 005  
HER REF: 4469

Location: [Streetview, 2020](#).  
NGR: NZ3928567

**Name of Pub:** Fitzgeralds

**Any explanation of the pub's name or changes of name?:** Named after John Fitzgerald who, after completing an apprenticeship in the wine and spirit trade, moved to Newcastle in 1878 and started his own business. By 1896, he bought his first licensed premises and pioneered the 'long bar system' which was ground breaking for social drinking in England (<https://sif.co.uk/our-story/>, accessed May 2022). He served as Lord Mayor for Newcastle from 1914-15, and was knighted for services to the city in 1920.

**Any previous names?** No.12 Green Terrace, Greensleeves, now Fitzy's, which had been its nickname for many years. It is not known why it was named Greensleeves, but the change to Fitzgerald's was in reflection of its then owners, as noted above.

**What did it look like in the past?**



**Image 1** – Photograph of Fitzgeralds in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Image 2** – Photograph of Fitzgeralds in the 1930s showing a bold semi circular staircase window which has since been demolished.

**Current Photographs:**



© John Tunman, 2022. Photograph showing the front and rear elevations of Fitzgeralds.

**Bishopweamouth Village Atlas:** The next building, 12 Green Terrace, forming the bulk of Fitzgeralds Public House, is the only building remaining in Green Terrace or Low Row to be shown on the Rains Eye Plan, making it well over 200 years old. William and Caleb Richardson inherited the tannery and milling business to the south and rear of these premises from their father, but following a disagreement William took on the tanyard and Caleb the flour mill. In 1851, William Richardson, having the tanyard, was living at No. 12 which was beside the entrance to the yard. It is not known how many men William was employing, though his son who was also living there, was a paper manufacturer, employing 24 men and 15 women. Caleb, who had the flour mill, lived nearby at West Lodge on Tunstall Lane. A number of people living in the terrace were employed by the mill and tannery.

By the time of the 1911 census, Dr Herbert Wallace was living alone at 12 Green Terrace with two servants. The house was large, having, according to the census, 10 rooms. It remained in a medical related use for some time as immediately before it became a pub it was a dentist surgery.

**Historic Environment Record:** House, now public house. Third quarter of 18th century. Incised render with painted ashlar dressings; Welsh slate roof with stone gable coping and brick chimney. 2 storeys, 3 windows. Central later 19th century 4-panelled door of 2 leaves now united, with plain overlight in panelled reveals to pilaster and entablature doorcase with large acanthus leaves below scroll brackets supporting cornice.

**Historic England Description:** House, now public house. Third quarter C18. Incised render with painted ashlar dressings; Welsh slate roof with stone gable coping and brick chimney. 2 storeys, 3 windows. Central later C19 4-panel door of 2 leaves now united, with plain overlight in panelled reveals to pilaster and entablature doorcase with large acanthus leaves below scroll brackets supporting cornice. Flanking ground floor tripartite bow windows with projecting stone sills, pilaster mullions, cornices and curved roofs. Upper sashes have glazing bars in exposed frames. INTERIOR: shows ground floor room partitions removed. First floor flat has wide landing arches; C18 cast-iron fire grate in rear room with fluted panels; similar fires reported to be in attic.

**Map regression:**



**Map 1** – Rain’s Eye Plan 1785 [Accessed via Sunderland Antiquarian Society].

**Map 2** – 1857 Ordnance Survey Map (10”) [Accessed via Sunderland Antiquarian Society]

**Map 3** – 1857 Ordnance Survey Map (25”) [Accessed via Sunderland Antiquarian Society]

**Map 4** - 1897 Ordnance Survey Map (25”) [Accessed via National Library of Scotland].

**Map 5** – 1919 Ordnance Survey Map (25”) [Accessed via National Library of Scotland].

**Map 6** - 1946 Ordnance Survey Map (25”) [Accessed via National Library of Scotland].

**Map 7** - Modern Ordnance Survey Map (25”) [Accessed via Historic England, Search the List].

**Commentary on maps (By John Tunman):**

If Historic England’s assessment of the age of the building is correct, it would have been newly built when John Rain prepared his Rain’s Eye Plan. In essence, successive editions of the OS Map show the same footprint for the building. However, the context for the building altered appreciably as the locality became more urban in form. Between the Rain’s Eye Plan and the First Edition OS Map the Tanyard to the south had grown considerably, having extended to the west and being augmented by a steam mill and various associated workshops, these being the premises of the Richardson brothers. Between the First and Second Editions, the long west facing front garden to the house had been truncated to provide rear access to property to the north, and the location of the arched access to the tanyard and these properties, which had been immediately adjacent to 12 Green Terrace, had been moved to the south as part of the redevelopment of the block between it and Westfield House (now the Priestman Building of the University). The Tanyard appears to have gone by this time, and Bishopwearmouth Flour Mill further expanded onto its site. There was no appreciable change between the Second and Fourth Editions of the OS Map. A semi-circular structure in the centre of the rear elevation shown on each edition of the OS Map and presumed a staircase window, was taken out at some time. After conversion to a Public House, the building was expanded to the rear to provide toilet accommodation (not shown on the accompanying maps); this may have occasioned removal of the semi-circular structure referred to above.

**How long has it been a pub?:** The building that is now Fitzgeralds has not always been a public house. The building was originally part of a row of terraces known as ‘Green Terrace’ which was first visible on Burleigh and Thompson’s Map of 1737. 12 Green Terrace (now Fitzgeralds) is the only remaining building (Bishopwearmouth Village Atlas, 2019). The building became a public house in 1981 (Lawson, 2019).

**Who lived here:**

**Buchanan 1868**

No entry

**Christies 1871/72**

No entry

**Kellys 1873**

Thomas Pybus – no occupation given

**Wards 1877**

R Iliff Shipbuilder (Iliff & Mounsey)

**Post Office 1879**

No entry

**Wards 1881/82**

W Clark, Miller

**Kellys 1883**

John Willis Knill (From other sources he was a captain in the merchant navy)

**Kellys 1886**

No entry

**Wards 1887/88**

Rev A C Fraser & Rev F C McDonald

**Kellys 1894; Wards 1893/94; Wards 1899/1900;**

Rev F C McDonald Vicar Designate of St Hilda’s Church Chester Rd

**Wards 1905/06; Wards 1909/10; Wards 1911/12; Wards 1913/14; Wards 1918; Wards & Kellys 1921.**

H K Wallace, Surgeon

### **Wards 1923; Wards 1925; Wards 1927; through to Wards 1939**

W Gibb, Surgeon

### **Directory 1953**

Leslie Miller

### **Directory 1963**

No entry under street but under "Dentists" Harford & Smart 12, Green Tce. (later became a dentist named Nolan until the building became a pub)

### **Census**

**1851** William Richardson 49, married, Corn Miller & Tanner; wife; 4 sons (one a 21 year old Paper Manufacturer employing 24 men & 15 women; 2 daughters; brother in law; 2 Servants and a visitor, also a Corn Miller

**1861** (Under No.10, but the same property) William Henry Richardson, 31 married, Paper Manufacturer employing 51 men, 13 boys, 24 women; wife; 2 sons; 3 Servants; also a visitor

**1871** House Empty – no return

**1881** Not found in census

**1891** Frederick McDonald, 31, single, Clerk in Holy Orders; Housekeeper; boarder, 20, Apprentice Steam Engine Maker/Fitter

**1901** Frederick McDonald, 41, single, Clergyman of the Church of England; Housekeeper

**1911** Herbert Kidson Wallace, 36, single, Medical Practitioner; 2 Servants (the house had 10 rooms)

**Brewery link:** The pub is currently owned by Sir John Fitzgerald Ltd.

### **Research Summary by John Tunman:**

#### **The Building Before it Became a Public House**

Number 12 Green Terrace is one of the very few properties shown on the Rain's Eye Plan of 1785 which survive today. It is not known precisely when it was built, but from the external appearance, it would seem likely to be 18th century. This view is confirmed by Historic England's listing description which puts it at the third quarter of that century, meaning it would have been recently built when the Rain's Eye Plan was drawn. It was a house of some substance, being double fronted and on 3 floors with a sizeable west facing rear garden. Further, there were even more substantial houses in the vicinity, namely Southgate House where the Galen Building now stands, and Westfield House, today the site of the Priestman Building. From this it may be concluded that it was built for, and occupied by, a family of some standing in the community, in a prestigious part of the village, although its environs were not entirely desirable, John Rain's plan showing a tanyard nearby.

Originally the access to the tanyard was via an arched way adjoining number 12. By the time of the First Edition OS map in the mid 1850s this remained the case, but by the Second Edition, in 1897, the terrace to the south had been rebuilt as an entity to a uniform design, and the access to the rear of the properties, still via an arch, had been moved south, away from number 12; it remains at that spot today. By 1857, in addition to the tanyard, the OS Map shows that a flour mill had been built to the west, separately accessed from the eastern end of the old Durham Road. All of these premises were owned by William and Caleb Richardson, two brothers who had inherited it from their father (1). Their father just might have been the original occupant of number 12 as the 1851 census records William Richardson, a 49 year old Corn Miller and Tanner, living at number 12, at the 'factory gates' as it were. With him were his wife, 4 sons, 2 daughters, his brother-in-law, two Servants and a visiting Corn Miller. One of his sons was a 21 year old paper manufacturer, William Henry; even as a 21 year old, he employed 24 men and 15 women. Ten years later, in 1861, his father had moved out and he was the head of the household, by now employing 51 men, 13 boys and 24 women. Living with him were his wife, 2 sons and 3 Servants.

There seems to have been a considerable turnover of occupants between the late 1860s and 1887, which might suggest it was rented out. Among residents over this period were R Iliff, a Shipbuilder (Iliff & Mounsey, who built in the South Dock (2)); another Miller, W Clark; and a Sea Captain, John Willis Knill (see below).

By 1887, the house was occupied by two clergymen, the Rev. Frederick C McDonald, who in 1894 was described as "Vicar Designate of St Hilda's Church" (on Chester Road), and the Rev A C Fraser. Rev McDonald, who was to remain there into

the early 1900s, was a young single man (he was 31 at the time of the 1891 census). In 1891 he had a boarder living there and a Housekeeper; by 1901 it was just him and a Housekeeper.

For much of the twentieth century the house was either lived in by, or used in connection with, the medical profession. A Directory of 1905 records the house was occupied by Herbert Kidson Wallace, a Surgeon. He was to remain there until sometime between 1921 and 1923. The 1911 census records that he, like Rev McDonald, was not married, and was living in the 10 rooms which comprised the house with two Servants. Another Surgeon, William Gibb, followed him, remaining there until sometime around the Second World War. He carried on a private practice and from 1922 was also District Medical Officer for the West Central District of Sunderland (3). After the war it became a Dentist's Surgery, a firm called Harford & Miller being there in 1963; it later became Solan's Dentist Surgery (4), which it remained until the building was converted to a Public House. (5).

As noted earlier, Captain Knill lived at the address for some time in the 1880s. Prior to his taking up residence there, his certificate as Master was withdrawn for 6 months after the Barque of which he was Master, the Savannah, was stranded near Marseilles (6). After he and his wife moved to 12 Green Terrace they took in a boarder, George Denman. Described as being "of gentlemanly appearance" by the reporter from the Sunderland Daily Echo on Denman's appearance at the Magistrates' Court in December 1881, he was charged with burglary at the Roker Hotel, a house at Holmelands, and another at Monkwearmouth Shore. His apprehension came about as the result of Mrs Knill finding "plated articles" in a bag in his room. It turned out that his real name was not Denman, but Haig, and that he had also previously undertaken robberies in the Sheffield and Rotherham areas, where he had been brought up. These robberies included a post office and also his own father-in-law, for which he had served penal sentences. This time round, he was sentenced to 10 years penal servitude on account of his previous convictions. (7).

#### **After Conversion into a Public House**

After the dental practice vacated the premises, 12 Green Terrace was bought by D A Bruce, who obtained a license in May 1981; the new Public House opened under the name of Greensleeves. In April 1986 it was bought by Sir John Fitzgerald Ltd of Newcastle (8), who operated a chain of 18 pubs throughout the area, though Greensleeves/Fitzgeralds was their only outlet in Sunderland (9). Although from 1986 it was owned by Sir John Fitzgerald, the name only changed to Fitzgeralds (reflecting the name of the company) in 1994. At this time, the two small former houses immediately to the north of 12 Green Terrace were purchased to expand the premises to provide a second bar (9). It was the Sunderland and South Tyneside branch of CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale) Pub of the Year in 2012 and was listed in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide for 2020 for the 26th consecutive year (9).

The pub closed down a few days before the first lockdown came into force on 23rd March 2020, the staff of 15 being put on furlough (10). It was then put up for sale by Sir John Fitzgerald for an asking price of £695,000. With it came private accommodation comprising a 3 bedroom flat, and an annual income of £18,000 from a business operating in another part of the building (a brides wear shop) (9). It was bought by the Ladhar Group, a north east leisure company who bought all of Sir John Fitzgerald's pubs (11). The Group are involved in the care, property and leisure sectors (12).

After the acquisition of the property and reopening after lockdown, the name was changed to "Fitzys", by which nickname it has been known for many years.

#### **References**

- (1) Bishopwearmouth Village Atlas p 467
- (2) <http://www.searlecanada.org/sunderland/sunderland060.html>
- (3) SDE 22/05/1929 p 8 col 3; SDE 31/12/1929 p 7 col 1; SDE 29/12/1934 p 9 col 1; SDE 31/12/1934 p 7 col 1
- (4) Personal knowledge of the author
- (5) See various Trade Directories on the Profile for occupants
- (6) SDE 18/02/1879 p 3 col 3
- (7) SDE 30/11/1881 p 5 cols 6 & 7; Newcastle Courant 02/12/1881 p 5 col 6; Newcastle Courant 09/12/1881 p 5 col 7; Newcastle Courant 06/01/1882 p 2 col 5

(8) A Historic Look at the Pubs of Bishopwearmouth, Ron Lawson p 42

(9) Sunderland Echo 15/03/2020 online

(10) SDE 17/08/2020 online

(11) Chronicle Live 07/12/2020 online

(12) <https://www.cbinsights.com/investor/ladhar-group>

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Bishopwearmouth Village Atlas (2021). Available at: <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/16351/History-of-Bishopwearmouth>

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SDE 31/12/1934 p 7 col 1

Sunderland Echo 15/03/2020 online

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**Completed by: Caitlin Osborne (TDR Heritage) and John Tunman**

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