

Bishopwearmouth Pubs Profile (Demolished) – George and Dragon

Project Pub REF: 015

NGR: NZ 39361 57016

Name of Pub: George and Dragon

What did it look like in the past?



Image 1 – Photograph of George and Dragon next to the Palace Theatre c.1900 (Sunderland Antiquarian Society)

Image 2 – Photograph of the George and Dragon c.1900 (Ron Lawson, 2019)

Image 3 – Photograph of the Palace Theatre showing the George and Dragon to the right c.1950s

Image 4 – Photograph of the Palace Theatre showing the George and Dragon c.1960s

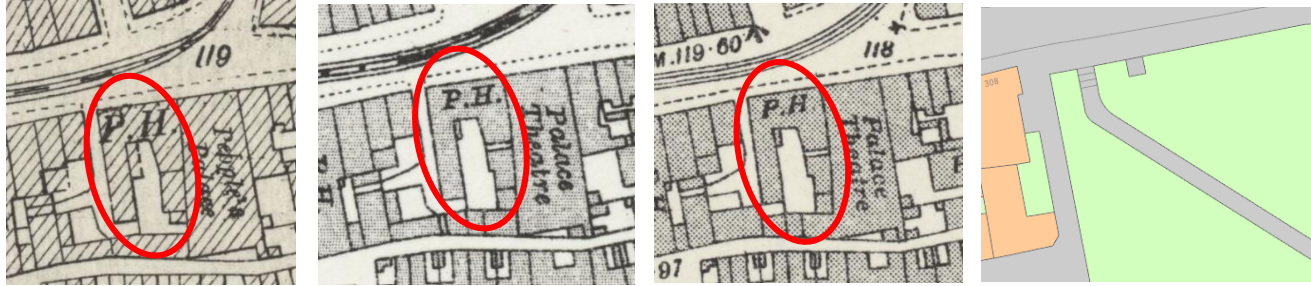
Current Photographs:



© Sam Neal, August 2022. Photograph showing approximate location of the George and Dragon.

Building Description: The George and Dragon was a two storey public house of stone construction. Early photographs show that the pub originally had a decorative, timber panelled ground floor with three large raised and fielded doors with fanlights and timber pilasters. Between the doors, there were large floor to ceiling windows. To the first floor there were four 1/1 timber sash windows with stone architraves, aprons and pediments. At some point between the 1900s and ?1950 photographs show that the ground floor had been considerably altered. The timber panelling, doors and floor to ceiling windows had been removed and replaced with a painted façade with three simple doors with fanlights and two multipaned fixed light windows. The windows to the first floor remained unaltered.

Map regression:



Map 1 - 1887 Ordnance Survey Map (25") [Accessed via National Library of Scotland].

Map 2 – 1919 Ordnance Survey Map (25") [Accessed via National Library of Scotland].

Map 3 - 1946 Ordnance Survey Map (25") [Accessed via National Library of Scotland].

Map 4 - Modern Ordnance Survey Map (25") [Accessed via Historic England, Search the List].

Historic OS mapping of 1887 shows the George and Dragon with two wings to the rear and the Palace Theatre next door. There is little notable change to the plan form of the building between 1887, 1919 and 1946, however modern OS mapping shows that the building has subsequently been demolished.

How long had it been a pub?: The earliest available reference to the pub is in a trade directory of 1802 (Refer to appendix 1).

Who worked here?

The following information has been extracted from Ron Lawsons Pubs of Bishopwearmouth (2019).

Owners:

- 1802 - ?White
- 1823 – George Robinson
- 1905 – Mortgagee – William Dalla Mann, Somerford Buildings, Sunderland
- 1910 – William Younger & Co Ltd, Abbey Brewery, Edinburgh
- 1959 – Scottish Breweries Ltd, Edinburgh.
- 1962 – Scottish & Newcastle Breweries Ltd, Edinburgh

Trade Directory:

- 1802-31 – John Ranson
- 1834-43 – Joseph Gibson
- 1844-47 – Christopher Holiday
- 1847-51 – Joseph Green
- 1851-67 – William Forcer

License Holder:

- 1887 - William Bruce Reid
- 1888 – Mathias Waddle
- 1910 – George Bell
- 1932 – John George Hugall
- 1954 – William Edgar Lewis

1957 – Christopher Sutherland

For a more detailed analysis of the people who worked at the George and Dragon, please refer to appendix 1.

Who drank here?: An analysis of historic newspaper articles about the George and Dragon reveal that the pub was often frequented by societies and unions who would hold their annual meetings there. The earliest available reference for the pub being used in this way is 1899, when a society of patternmakers to discuss pay (Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette, 1899). Other societies frequenting the pub included Sunderland and District Cumberland and Westmorland Association, Durham Mechanics' Union and the National Farmers' Union. Newspaper articles also reveal that the pub was often used by the home guard.

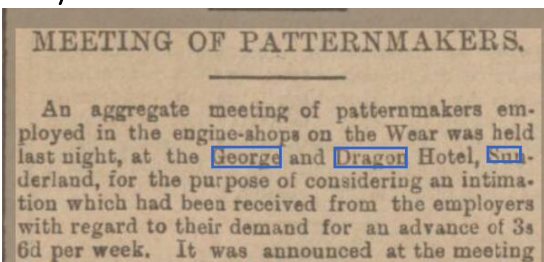
Brewery link:

1910 – 1959: Abbey Brewery, Edinburgh – This brewery was probably associated with Melrose Abbey from the Medieval times, but the first recorded commercial brewer was Francis Vanhagen who ran the site from at least 1820 – 1828 ([Scottish Brewing Heritage](#), nd). In 1900, the Newcastle-upon-Tyne business, Robert Deuchar Ltd bought almost all the company shares, and it is around this period that they acquired the George and Dragon (ibid). Interestingly, Robert Deuchar owned many other public houses in Bishopwearmouth including The Dun Cow, Oddfellow and the Royal Tent.

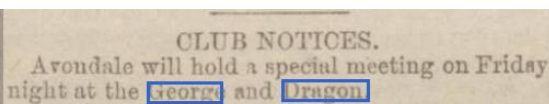
1959 – 1962: Scottish Breweries Ltd, Edinburgh – This brewery was formed in 1931 as a result of the merging between William McEwan & Co Ltd and William Younger & Co Ltd. In 1960, they merged with Newcastle Breweries Ltd to form Scottish & Newcastle Breweries Ltd who continued to own the George and Dragon ([Brewery History](#), nd)

1962 – Closure: Scottish & Newcastle Breweries Ltd, Edinburgh – Created in 1960 following the merging of Scottish Breweries Ltd and Newcastle Breweries Ltd. They went on to acquire Home Brewery Co. Ltd in 1986 with 447 pub, then Mathew Brown & Co Ltd in 1987 with 550 pubs. In 2003, they acquired Bulmers Cider, and in 2008 the company was acquired by Heineken and Carlsberg ([Brewery History](#), nd)

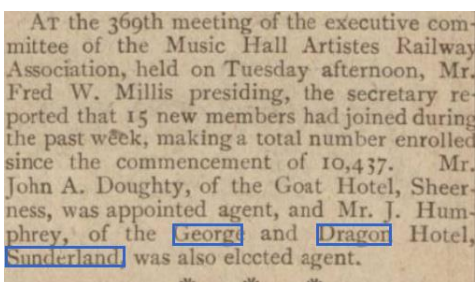
Story timeline:



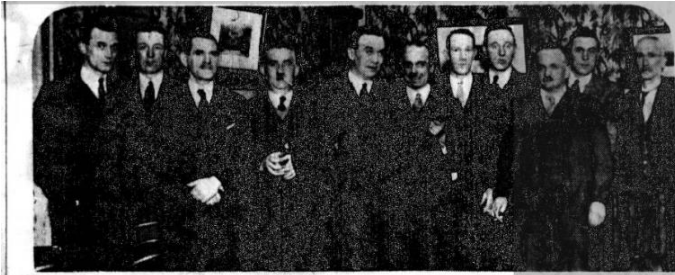
Wednesday 21st March 1894 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Meeting of patternmakers is held at the George and Dragon.



Thursday 13th June 1901 - Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Avondale Cricket Club hold a special meeting at the George and Dragon.



Friday 26th August 1904 – Music Hall and Theatre Review: Mr J. Humphrey of the George and Dragon is elected as agent of the Music Hall Artistes Railway Association.



Old Comrades of the 142nd (Durham) Heavy Brigade, R.G.A., who attended a smoking concert at the George and Dragon Hotel, Sunderland, last night. —“Sunderland Echo” photograph.

Thursday 17th March 1932 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Old Comrades of the 142nd (Durham) Heavy Brigade attended a smoking concert at the George and Dragon.

ENCAMPMENT VISIT

A ceremonial evening took place at the George and Dragon Hotel, Sunderland the headquarters of the No. 36 Sunderland Encampment of the Knights of the Golden Horn.

Friday 28th April 1933 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Ceremonial evening at the George and Dragon which was, at the time, headquarters of the No. 36 Sunderland Encampment of the Knights of the Golden Horn.

SUNDERLAND AND DISTRICT.

Sunderland and District Cumberland and Westmorland Association held their first annual meeting at the George and Dragon Hotel, Sunderland on Tuesday, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. Ruddick (Chief Constable of Sunderland). The

Tuesday 2nd May 1933 – Penrith Observer: Sunderland and District Cumberland and Westmorland Association hold their first annual meeting at the George and Dragon.

Silksworth Colliery branch of the Durham Mechanics' Union held its first annual dinner in the George and Dragon Hotel, Sunderland on Saturday. Following the toast of "The King," proposed by Mr F. Swinburne, who presided, Mr T. Charlton (chief engineer at Silksworth Colliery) gave "The Durham Mechanics' Union."

Monday 18th February 1935 – Shields Daily News: Durham Mechanics' Union hold first annual dinner at the George and Dragon.



Guests at the 15th annual dinner of Sunderland and South Shields sub-branch of the National Farmers' Union, held at the George and Dragon Hotel, Sunderland, last night. (See Page 3)

Tuesday 16th February 1937 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: National Farmers' Union hold their 15th annual dinner at the George and Dragon.



Members of Desford's Home Guard held a smoker in the George and Dragon Hotel, Sunderland, last night.

Saturday 29th March 1941 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Members of the Home Guard hold a smoker in the George and Dragon.

HOME GUARD SOCIAL

The 9th (Sunderland) and 26th Seaham Battalions of the Home Guard, often rivals in competitions, held a social in the George and Dragon Hotel, Sunderland last night. Chairman was Colonel C. H. Wright, while the organizer was Lieut. G. Wood, Intelligence Officer of the Sunderland Battalion.

Saturday 24th October 1953 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Home guard social is held at the George and Dragon.

Appendix 1 – Detail on George and Dragon workers, by Alastair Yule.

Year	Owner/licensee	Notes	Ref
1802-31	John Ranson	In 1834 Ranson was also listed for 'Seven Stars' In 1836 he advertised a 'Neat compact' Brewery to let	RL, TD
1834-43	Joseph Gibson		Pigot, RL
44 - 47	Christopher Holiday	Might be Halliday	TD, RL
47 - 51	Joseph Green		TD, RL
51 - 67	William Forcer	1850 listed also at 'Hat and Feathers' 1866/7 listed as E. Forcer	TD, RL
71 - 73	T. Harding		TD
73	Margaret Harding		TD
77 - 78	Joseph Bower		TD
81 - 89	William Waddle	Attached notes	TD
1899		The early days of a function room which catered for meetings, dinners, smoking evenings and widely patronised by management and workforces of the shipyards and mines, Lodges, army reunions and political meetings. Changed to a billiards centre with five tables. The billiards room had its own manager.	Sunderland Daily Echo 21.09.1899, various other dates
1890 - 1910	Matthias Waddle	Attached notes	
1911 - 34	G. Bell	G. Bell was the manager of WB Reid Brewers	TD
1911	S. Fletcher - manager	From Leazes Brewery, Newcastle. They had purchased the pub estate of William Waddle from Matthias Waddle. Included in the estate was the Minerva Hotel, George and Dragon, Crown Inn, Whitehouse Hotel, Ship Isis Hotel, Mountain Daisy, Hendon Garden Hotel, Ship Inn, Red Lion, Central hotel, Lookout Hotel. George Bell set up the Sunderland office of WB Reid at the Palatine Hotel. They had an interest and held some mortgages from the days of William Waddle but only took over in 1913.	Breweries and Breweries of North East England – Brian Bennison RL

		At the outbreak of WWII Reids owned 157 pubs. There had been close connections with Youngers Brewery who eventually took control in 1955. In 1960 Youngers merged with Newcastle Breweries to form Scottish and Newcastle Breweries.		
1935 - 39	JG Hugill			
1954	William Edgar Lewis		RL	
1957	Christopher Sutherland			
1957	John Naisbell	Known as 'Jocker', age 46, wife Margaret age 48. Naisbell was an ex miner	RL	
1965		The George and Dragon became the centre of the folk music scene in the mid 1960's. Founded by Mick Elliot who ran it until 1968 when he went to teacher training college. Eric Maxwell and his brother carried it on providing a platform for many local singers. The main residents were Mick, Ed Pickford and Nick Fenwick who formed the very successful 'Northern Front' Many well known singers from the national scene performed.		From the recollections of George Shovelin 2022
1968 /9		Northern Front were in disagreement with the Maxwell brothers and moved to play across the road to the Londonderry.		
1968	William Henry Graves		RL	
1968	Robert Wilson Stephenson		RL	
1970		The folk club did not last after Northern Front left and was replaced by darts with several tournaments being played there. The house team was one of the best in the area, suggested locally, because they were all unemployed.		
		Before its closure in 1973 The George and Dragon was recognised as the centre for unemployed workers in the building trade and a main place for picking up casual work.	Oral recollections of Keith Johnson contemporary licensee in the town	
1973	Brian Grey		RL	

William Waddle
Born 1835 in North Shields
Died 31 August 1886 in Dunston Asylum – home address,

Married South View, West Boldon
Margaret Moar at the Parish Church of Sunderland on 2 December 1860. They were later divorced in 1874, Margaret citing cruelty, violent abuse and adultery. William responded with accusations of 'violent ungovernable temper', drunkenness and ill treatment and neglect of their children.

Children
Matthias b1861 in Hartlepool
William b 1862 in Sunderland
Margaret b 1863 in Sunderland
Georgiana b 1868 in Sunderland

Children cont.

John b 1869 in Sunderland
Wilhelmina b 1875 in Boldon

1861	Occupation given as chain maker - Hartlepool	1861 census
1870	Living at The Ship Inn, Sunderland	DP
1871	Publican at 146 High Street (Ship Inn) with wife and family	1871 census
1874	Charged with assaulting a police sergeant using profane and obscene language. Magistrates found him guilty and fined him 20 shillings and costs	SDE 19.11.1874
1877	William becomes a town councillor. In the 1877 Municipal elections Sunderland was a solid Liberal town. Even though the cry was always 'No parties' in local elections, each candidate usually had their party affiliations and support. The Liberals attacked the Conservative candidates, such as William Waddle, for being unfit for public office, in several cases by being publicans. They were labelled 'Lords of the Long Bar'.	SDE 14,16,18 August; 19 October 1877
1880	William charged with two counts of assault – adjourned for one week	SDE 20.04.1880
1880	Municipal Council nominations – William Waddle promised a severe challenge by W.S. Wilson to 'oust the said Waddle from the Council.'	NE 23.10.1880
1882	Durham Assizes began a case brought by William Waddle against his neighbour Mr Storey over a road on his land in East Boldon. The judge urged the two to negotiate a settlement which Storey accepted but Waddle insisted it went before a jury. In the end a negotiated settlement was reached in the judges chamber which Waddle reluctantly accepted, each side paying their own costs.	SD 10.07.1882
1883	At South Shields County Petty Sessions William Waddle Junior was charged with assault on his father. The son claimed that Waddle senior had stopped his pocket money and refused to buy him any clothing. Waddle Senior stated he had spent thousands of pounds to educate him and he had only been home a fortnight from finishing his education in Germany. Waddle Junior was bound over to keep the peace for six months.	SDE 07.03.1883
1886	12 February 1886 William admitted to Dunstan Asylum where he later died on 31 August 1886	Patients admissions register
1887	Will Proved with executors William Bruce Reid (WB Reid) of the Leazes Brewery and William Kidson, gentleman.	Proved 21 January 1887
1887	Executors of William Waddle took Hannah Young of the Red Lion to court to evict her – case adjourned	SDE 19.07.1887
1890	Kelly directory of 1890 shows all the pubs of William Waddle under the name of Matthias Waddle:	Kelly Directory

Londonderry Arms, Ship, George and Dragon, Central Hotel, Red Lion, Lookout, Rowland Burdon Arms, Antelope
--

Matthias Waddle

Born 23 September 1861 in Hartlepool

Married Julia Garland in Newcastle in January 1880. Julia was born in Sunderland in 1866 so appears to be only 14 at the time of the marriage.

Died 10 February 1911 in South Shields

Other Lived as a married couple with Hannah Maria Hipper in South Shields and had a son, Charles Waddle, born in 1884. Hannah lived on in the house in Trajan Avenue in South Shields after his death.

Matthias became a solicitor and practised in Sunderland. He took over his father's pub chain on William's death in 1886.

SDE 23.06.1887 Fined 40/- and costs for illegally evicting Hannah Young licensee of the Red Lion in Crowtree Road.

NDC 12.12.1888 Taken to court by his wife Julia for maintenance. Strange case, after their marriage in 1880 he never provided a home for her. Initially she went to live with her mother but then entered service. Sometimes he would collect her and take her to his lodgings for several days but then 'bundle her off again'.

Waddle was described as a man of dissolute habits who kept bad company. Julia was described, at first, as being a respectable and well behaved girl who in the course of time gave way to drink. In 1885 she was sent to the Shields Union (workhouse) and Waddle had to make her an allowance, first, in 1885, of 7/6 a week rising to 30/- a week in 1887. After a court decision he kept up the payments until 1888.

Notwithstanding his own relationship with Hannah, he claimed that Julia had committed adultery while staying with his aunt. The court accepted this and declined to enforce the maintenance order. Julia appears to have spent the rest of her life living and working in institutions.

NC 04.03.1895 GW Reid and Waddle, as trustees of the William Waddle estate, brought an action against Henry Clasper for causing subsidence to their property, The Ship Inn, whilst making alterations to his own property. – case adjourned.

SDE 25.09.1903 John W Dugdale
The death of Dugdale was reported at the Red Lion Hotel. He had worked for the Waddles for 25 years, starting as a barman and working up to general manager. He had a long service to the trade organisations and local charities.

References:	
RL	Ron Lawson, Sunderland Antiquarians
TD	Trade directories; Kelly's, Wards, Whites, Piggots, Parsons Commercial, Vint & Carr, Burnett, Williams, Barnes, Whellans, Campbell, Buchanan, Wrights
SE	Sunderland Echo
SDE	Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette

NE	Northern Echo	
NC	Newcastle Courant	
<p>Sources Consulted: Bishopwearmouth Village Atlas (2021). Available at: https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/16351/History-of-Bishopwearmouth British Newspaper Archives. Available at: https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/ Historic England, Search the List. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/ National Library of Scotland Ordnance Survey Maps. Available at: https://www.nls.uk/maps Trade Directories. Available at: https://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4 Ron Lawson (2015) The Old Pubs of Bishopwearmouth.</p>		
<p>Completed by: Caitlin Osborne (TDR Heritage) and Alastair Yule</p>		<p>Date: 7/09/22</p>