

Bishopwearmouth Pubs Profile (Demolished) – The Red Lion

Project Pub REF: 019

NGR: NZ 39410 57001

HER REF: N/A

Name of Pub: Red Lion (Hotel)

What did it look like in the past?



Image 1 – Earliest known photograph of the Red Lion Hotel, the clothing of the woman photographed, and the pony and trap suggests that the photo was taken in the late 19th century [Accessed via Alan Bolan].

Image 2 – Photograph of the Red Lion in c.1940, showing the re-modelling of the ground floor.

Image 3 – Photograph showing the Red Lion in c. 1970.

Current Photographs:



© Sam Neal, 2022. Photograph showing approximate location of the Red Lion.

Building Description: The Red Lion Hotel was a two storey public house of painted brick construction with a slate roof and brick chimney stack to each gable end. Earlier photographs suggest that the ground floor was originally timber with three doors and casement windows, however the frontage was subsequently altered. Later photographs show the Red Lion with two doors to the ground floor which flanked a large central window with stained glass. The doors and window were surrounded with what appeared to be faience. To the first floor, there were two timber bay windows which flanked a central 1/1 timber sash with a stone lintel and sill. Above the first floor windows, there was a saw-tooth brick string course.

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].

The first known reference to The Red Lion on a historic map is the 1887 Ordnance Survey, which shows an unnamed 'Public House' with a broadly rectangular plan form. Interestingly, at this point, the building next door to the Red Lion was also a public house, known as Crowtree Inn. The Palace Theatre also sat directly to the rear of the building. There is no noticeable change to the plan form by 1919 to the Red Lion, or the public house next door, however by this point the Empire Theatre had been constructed directly adjacent to both pubs. Again, between 1919 and 1946, the pub had undergone little notable change to the plan form and the surrounding area also remained largely unaltered. At some point between 1946 and modern day, the pub had been demolished in favor of a green open space.

How long had it been a pub?: The earliest known record for the Red Lion Hotel is the 1827 in the trade directory, at which point Mary Burton is the landlady.

Who worked here?

The following information has been extracted from *The Pubs of Bishopwearmouth*, Ron Lawson (2019).

Owners:

? – Eleanor Barker

1828 – John Robinson

1838 – Mary Brass and William M. Hindmarch (Brewer)

1838 – Alexander Nichol, Anthony Crofton & Thomas Moore

1840 – Sisters of the late William M. Hindmarch

Rebuilt 1884.

June 1905 – Mortgagees of William Younger & Co Ltd., Holyrood Breweries Edinburgh

Aug 1910 – William Younger & Co Ltd., managed by W.B Reid & Co Ltd.

Nov 1959 – Scottish Brewers Ltd., Abbey Brewery, Holyrood Edinburgh.

Jan 1962 – Scottish & Newcastle Breweries Ltd., Haymarket.

Trade Directory:

1827 – 34: Mary Brunton

1841 – 44: Susannah Brunton

1847: George Mitchell

1850 – 57: James Dent, also Sawyer

1858 – 61: Edward Robson, also Sawyer

1864: William Seed

1865: William Young Sowter

1865 – 66: George Turnbull

1866 – 67: T. Wallhead

1871 – 73: Adam Adamson

1873 – 74: Louis Tallentire

1876 – 77: George Boyes

1879: George Kay
1881 – 83: John Smith
1886: Mrs. Hannah A. Young

License Holder:

Oct 1887 – William Bruce Reid
Aug 1888 – Mathias Waddle
Aug 1910 – George Bell
Nov 1945 – Charles Peter Rea
1956 – James Brown Bell

Who drank here?: There is no available evidence to suggest the type of clientele that drank at the Red Lion. However, there are several newspaper articles across the mid 19th – mid 20th century calling for barmaids/barman which may suggest that the pub was popular/ well frequented.

Brewery link: The first brewery to run The Red Lion was **William Younger & Co. Ltd**. This brewery was first established at Leith in 1749, moving to Holyrood in 1778. They merged with **William McEwan & Co. Ltd** in 1931 to form **Scottish Brewers Ltd**, who then merged with **Newcastle Breweries Ltd** in 1960 to form **Scottish & Newcastle Breweries Ltd** ([Brewery History, nd](#)). The Red Lion continued to be owned by this brewery throughout all its iterations.

Story timeline:

All images are accessed via British Newspaper Archives unless otherwise specified.

1630 - The pub is first mentioned as existing in 1630 in Vol.XI. of the Sunderland Antiquities by G.W.Bain, however this is not accompanied by any references.

TO BE SOLD OR LET ON LEASE, the WELLINGTON BREWERY, Offices, Malting Warehouses, and Premises, situate in the High-street, and Bank-street, Sunderland, and the following fully licensed houses:— Wellington Tavern, High-street, Sunderland; Pine Apple Inn, George-street, Sunderland; Red Lion, Crowtree-road, Sunderland; Unity Tavern, Silver-street, Sunderland; Sun Inn, Southwick; Colliery Inn, Brockley Whins. Also, the following Beerhouses:—New Bridge Inn, Lombard-street, Sunderland; Masons' Arms, Ogdon-street, Millfield; HOUSE and SHOP, 155, Victor-street, Monkwearmouth. The licensed houses will be sold or let either alone or with the Brewery premises. In case of a sale a large part of the purchase money may remain on mortgage.
For further particulars, apply to
Messrs WM. MOORE, LONGDEN, and MANN,
Solicitors, Sunderland.

Friday December 14th 1883 - Sunderland Daily Echo: The Red Lion is to be sold as part of the Wellington Brewery, along with their offices, maltings and

FOR SALE, the BAR FRONT of the Red Lion, Crowtree-road.—Apply on the premises.

Monday 26th May 1884 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: The bar front of the Red Lion is for sale.

MR. BURLINSON, instructed by the Mortgagees, will offer for SALE BY AUCTION, at the Queen's Hotel, Fawcett Street, Sunderland, on Monday, August 30th, 1886, at 8 o'clock in the evening, all that recently-erected FREEHOLD PUBLIC-HOUSE, the Red Lion, Crowtree Road, Bishopwearmouth, containing on the ground floor noble, well-lighted Bar, with private Sitting Room behind, with first-class Concrete Cellar underneath. The Dwelling House, with separate entrance, containing on the first floor three capital Sitting and Bedrooms, Kitchen, and Bathroom, and on the second floor three large Attics, with fireplaces, together with Concrete Yard, Washhouse, and other conveniences. The Auctioneer would call special attention to this property, having been built within the past two years, under the practical superintendence of the owner, and being situated in one of the main thoroughfares of the borough and in close proximity to the busiest portion of the High Street, offers advantages rarely met with.—For further information apply to the Auctioneer, Central Hall, John Street; or to Messrs. Kidson, McKenzies, and Kidson, Solicitors, 66, John Street, Sunderland.

Monday 23rd August 1886 – Newcastle Evening Chronicle: The Red Lion is for sale by auction. This provides an interesting description of The Red Lion as it was in the late 19th century. At this time, it included a well-lighted bar, private sitting room and a first class concrete cellar.

At the Borough Police Court to-day, before the Mayor (in the chair), Ald. Robson, Mr John Kidson, and Dr Morgan, Matthias Waddle, Solicitor, was summoned for assaulting Hannah Adamson Young, who holds the license for the Red Lion public house, Crowtree road. — Mr J. Bentham appeared for Mr Waddle.—Mrs Young said she had kept the Red Lion for three years, having held the license from the late Mr Waddle. Four weeks ago she became ill, and the bar was closed. She was ill upstairs, and when she got better she went to Mr Waddle's office to make some arrangement. He said he wanted the license transferred, but that she would have to communicate with him by letter. The bar was then closed against her. She managed to get in and Mr Waddle ordered her out. She refused to go, and the defendant then pushed her into a passage and locked the door.—By Mr Bentham:

Thursday June 23rd 1887 – Sunderland Daily Echo: License holder of The Red Lion Hannah Adamson Young gets into an altercation over transferring the license of the pub following a week off due to illness.

We regret to announce the death of Mr John W. Dugdale, which took place at his residence, the Red Lion Hotel, Crowtree Road at five o'clock this morning. Mr Dugdale, who was 43 years of age, had been in the employ of the late Mr William Waddle and his son, the present proprietor of several licensed houses, for about 25 years, entering the service as barman.

Friday 25th September 1903 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Mr John Dugdale of the Red Lion passes away. He is noted as being the employee of Mr William Waddle for 25 years.

LOST, from Red Lion Crowtree Road, an IRISH TERRIER PUPPY. Finder rewarded.

Friday 25th February 1910 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Irish Terrier puppy goes missing from the Red Lion.

Blanchard was also charged with breaking into a public-house in High Street West and stealing money and cigarettes valued at £16.

Friday 6th June 1947 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: The Red Lion is broken into.

It was stated by the prosecution that the manager of the Red Lion Hotel, Crowtree Road had spoken to Blanchard and Todd in the sitting-room of the hotel where they were drinking alone.

Apply 46 John St., Sunderland. C
BARMAN WANTED, Red Lion Hotel, Crowtree Road; experience not necessary if willing to learn; references. Apply Manager. B

Tuesday 31st October 1950 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Barman wanted.

Last night representatives of the various clubs met in the Red Lion Hotel, Crowtree Road for the first annual presentation of trophies.

Thursday 24th April 1952 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: The Sunderland Ladies Darts League meet at the Red Lion Hotel for the annual presentation of trophies.

THE life of "mine host" is rarely dull and never idle, but it must seem rather tame to Mr James Bell, whose ten years of sea-going included three narrow escapes from death by drowning and a rough period in Japanese hands. Mr Bell recently became the new manager of the Red Lion in Crowtree Road.

Thursday 18th February 1954 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Mr James Bell becomes the new manager at the Red Lion.

BARMAID Wanted. Red Lion Crowtree Road, Sunderland. B

Tuesday 19th October 1954 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Barmaid wanted.

February 1973 - According to Ron Lawsons Pubs of Bishopwearmouth, the Red Lion closed its doors for the last time in February 1973 when it was sold to Sunderland Council for £16,000 (Lawson, 2019).

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 (2019) Historic Pubs of Bishopwearmouth.

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