

## Bishopwearmouth Pubs Profile (Demolished) – The Old Twentynine (Old 29)

Project Pub REF: 016

NGR: NZ 39391 57076

HER REF: N/A

Name of Pub: The Old Twentynine

Did it have any previous names?: The Boilermakers Arms

What did it look like in the past?

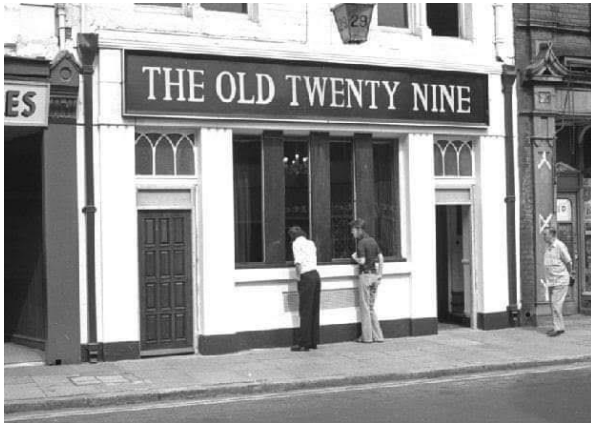


Image 1 - Photograph of Old Twentynine, c. early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Image 2 – Photograph of Old Twentynine, (Sunderland Antiquarian Society, nd).

Image 3 - Photograph of Old Twentynine, c. early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Current Photographs:

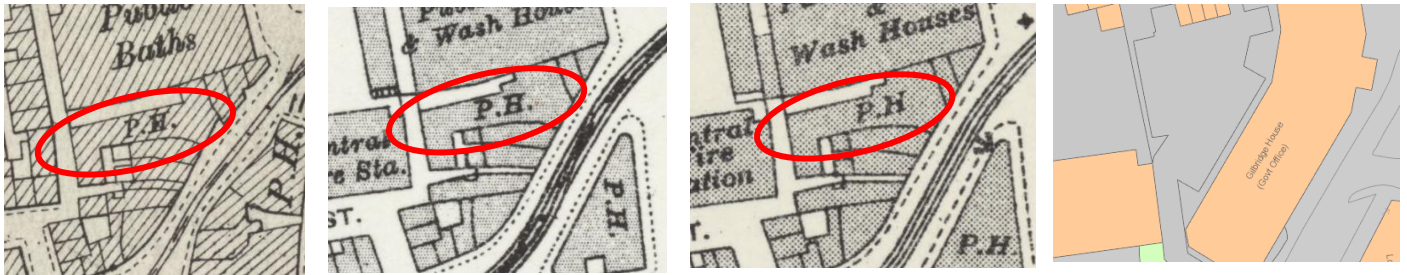


© Sam Neal, August 2022. Photograph showing the approximate location of the Old Twentynine.

Building Description: The Old Twenty Nine was a two and a half storey public house of painted and rendered brick construction with a brick chimney stack to each gable end. The ground floor comprised a central 4 fixed light window which was flanked by two timber panelled doors with pilasters and fanlights. To the first floor there were four 1/1 timber sash

windows with stone surrounds and decorative stone 3 point arches above. To the second floor, there were four additional 1/1 sash windows. There was a steeply pitched gablet with two very small sash windows with arches in the same style as those to the first floor.

#### 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 Old Twentynine with a broadly 'J' shaped plan form. It was in close proximity to the public baths and the Londonderry. By 1919, the pub had been slightly extended towards the north. There was little change to the plan form between 1919 and 1946. Modern OS mapping shows that the pub has subsequently been demolished and replaced with Gilbridge House Government Offices.

#### Who worked here?

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

##### Owner:

1916 – William Jackson  
1933 – S. Allsop & Sons Ltd  
1935 – Transferred to Inde, Coope & Allsop  
1935 – William Younger & Co Ltd  
1969 – Joshua Tetley & Son Ltd, Newcastle  
1970 – Allied Brewers, Burton on Trent

##### License Holder:

1873 – William Jackson  
1881 – Francis Kirkham  
1892 – John Robins  
1903 – James Thompson  
1915 – John Gray  
1924 – John Elliot  
1935 – Frederick Harrison  
1937 – Norman Black  
1939 – John Wiseman  
1940 – Rowland Ord  
1946 – George Charlton  
1956 – James Brown Bell  
1956 – Ernest Elliot  
1966 – John James Henderson  
1968 – Ernest Elliot  
1973 – June Cook

**Who drank here?:** The pub was known for its live music nights, with a particular interest in punk bands such as the Angelic Upstarts, The Groundhogs and the Toy Dolls (Chronicle Live, nd).

#### Brewery link:

**1933 -35: Samuel Allsopp & Sons** – One of the largest breweries operating in Burton upon Trent. It is unclear why or how they settled on owning a pub in Bishopwearmouth.

**1935: Inde Coope & Allsop** – Brewery first registered in 1886 and merged with Samuel Allsopp & Sons in 1934. ([Brewery History](#), nd)

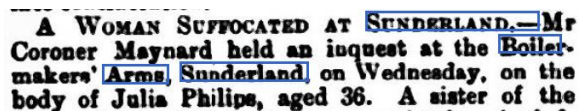
**1935: William Younger & Co** – Brewery established in 1749 and merged with William McEwan & Co Ltd in 1931 to form Scottish Brewers Ltd who also owned other pubs in Bishopwearmouth around the same time period including The George and Dragon.

**1969-70: Joshua Tetley & Son Ltd** – Founded in October 1822 when Joshua Tetley acquired William Sykes' Brewery. Merged with Walker Cain Ltd in 1960 to become Tetley Walker Ltd, gaining 2771 public houses. In 1961 it became part of Allied Breweries, who continued to own the Old Twentynine ([Brewery History](#), nd).

**1970 – closure: Allied Breweries** – A major brewing and pub owning conglomerate with the merging of Ansells Brewery, Ind Coope Ltd and Tetley Walker Ltd (ibid).

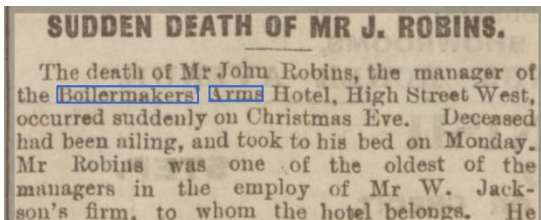
#### Story timeline

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



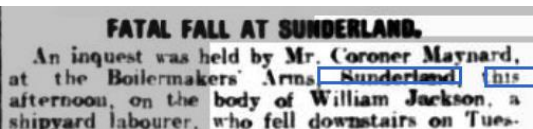
**A WOMAN SUFFOCATED AT SUNDERLAND.—Mr Coroner Maynard held an inquest at the Boilermakers' Arms, Sunderland, on Wednesday, on the body of Julia Philips, aged 36. A sister of the**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 1894 – Durham County Advertiser: Inquest is held at the Boilermakers Arms.



**SUDDEN DEATH OF MR J. ROBINS.**  
The death of Mr John Robins, the manager of the Boilermakers Arms Hotel, High Street West, occurred suddenly on Christmas Eve. Deceased had been ailing, and took to his bed on Monday. Mr Robins was one of the oldest of the managers in the employ of Mr W. Jackson's firm, to whom the hotel belongs. He

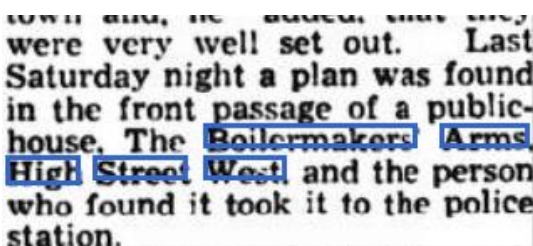
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December 1902 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Manager of the Boilermakers Arms dies suddenly. He was noted as being one of the oldest employers.



**FATAL FALL AT SUNDERLAND.**  
An inquest was held by Mr. Coroner Maynard, at the Boilermakers Arms, Sunderland, this afternoon, on the body of William Jackson, a shipyard labourer, who fell downstairs on Tues-

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 1904 – Newcastle Evening Chronicle: Inquest is held at the Boilermakers Arms.

1915 – Pub is fined 20 Shillings for supplying out of hours (Ron Lawson, 2019).



... were very well set out. Last Saturday night a plan was found in the front passage of a public-house. The Boilermakers Arms, High Street West, and the person who found it took it to the police station.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1940 – Shields Daily News: Military plans are found out the front of the Boilermakers Arms. It was investigated.



**THE PUBLIC ARE INFORMED**  
 That Imperial Measures "ONLY" have  
 ALWAYS BEEN, and still are, supplied  
 IN THE VARIOUS  
 FREE  
 ESTABLISHMENTS  
 OF  
**Messrs WILLIAM JACKSON**  
 (SUNDERLAND) LTD.,  
 WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS:  
 SUNDERLAND—  
 GRAND HOTEL, BRIDGE  
 BRIDGE HOTEL,  
 ALEXANDRA HOTEL, DUNDAS  
 HOLY ISLAND CASTLE, CORONATION ST.  
 HENDON HOTEL, HENDON ROAD.  
 KING'S HANOVER PLACE.  
 NUTWITH HOTEL, CORONATION  
 SALUTATION INN, HENDON ROAD.  
 WHEAT SHEAF HOTEL, JOHNSON

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 1929 – **Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette**: Notice from Messrs William Jackson that their free establishments (including the Boilermakers Arms) supply in imperial measures.

Sunderland Licensing Magistrates to-day permitted alterations to the following public-houses to which the Chief Constable (Mr J. Ruddick) raised no objections: **Boilermakers Arms** 29 High Street West Burlington Inn, 7

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 1936 – **Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette**: Plans to alter the Boilermakers Arms to improve sanitation are approved.

January 1975 - Boilermakers Arms closes and license is not renewed (Ron Lawson, 2019).  
 1976– Building re-opens as The Old Twentynine (Ron Lawson, 2019).

THURSDAY, March 30:  
 Avalon, the Hawthorn,  
 Newcastle Neon, **Old 29**  
**Sunderland Oasis**, Newton  
 Park Hotel, Newcastle.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 1978 – **Newcastle Evening Chronicle**: Neon plays at the Old 29.

HELL's ANGEL Brian Butler has been jailed for hitting a man on the head with a beer bottle.  
 All hell was let loose in the **The Old Twenty Nine** pub in **Sunderland**, said Judge Myrella Cohen at Newcastle Crown Court.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 1979 – **Newcastle Evening Chronicle**: Hell's Angel is jailed for hitting a man with a beer bottle at the Old Twenty Nine

1980's – Punk band, The Groundhogs play a series of gigs at the Old Twentynine; described as 'The music was loud, to the point of being deafening, and could be heard on the street outside' ([My vintage rock](#), nd).

THE OLD 29  
 presents  
 The Original  
 GROUND HOGS  
 on Monday 21st January, 1985  
 from 7.30pm  
 Tickets £1.50

THE OLD TWENTY NINE  
 PRESENTS  
 THE GROUNDHOGS  
 (ORIGINAL)  
 WITH TONY Mc. PHEE  
 ON  
 WED. 7th NOVEMBER  
 ADMISSION £1-50.

The Old 29  
 presents  
 The GROUNDHOGS  
 and Support Band  
 on 16th SEPTEMBER 1987  
 Admission £1.50

**If you can't make tonight's gig, there's another chance to see The DTs in action next Saturday when they play a lunchtime show at The Old 29 pub in Sunderland and an evening gig at The Bell in Horden.**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 1981 – Newcastle Evening Chronicle: The DT's play at the Old 29.

1989 – License is not renewed and the building is demolished (Ron Lawson, 2019).

2016 - Landlord Dougie Bell has song named after him 'Do You Wanna Be Like Dougy Bell' by the Toy Dolls (Sunderland Echo, 2016).

**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), Pubs of Bishopwearmouth.

Vintage Rock Weblog (2013) The Groundhogs Sunderland Old 29 1984 – 1987. Available at: <https://myvintagerock.com/2013/01/01/the-groundhogs-sunderland-old-29-1984-1987/>

Completed by: Caitlin Osborne (TDR Heritage)

Date: 7/09/22