

Bishopwearmouth Pubs Profile (Demolished) – Cyprus Hotel

Project Pub REF: 021

Location: NZ 39302 56921

Name of Pub: Cyprus Hotel

Did it have any previous names?: Manchester Unity (1861), Oddfellows Arms (1874) (Bishopwearmouth Village Atlas, 2021).

Did it have any local nicknames?: Drum & Monkey. (Ron Lawson, 2019).

Are there any explanation of the pub's name or changes of name?: The Manchester Unity and the Oddfellows names more than likely originate from the Independent Order of Oddfellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited. The connection with the Manchester Oddfellows Society and Sunderland/Bishopwearmouth stems from William Hall, who was a highly respected member of the society, and the oldest Oddfellow in the North of England when he died at age 75 in 1876 (<https://memorialdrinkingfountains.wordpress.com/2014/03/29/william-hall-fountain/>).

What did it look like in the past?: Unfortunately, there are no known photographs of the Cyprus Hotel that have been uncovered as part of this research.

Current Photographs:



© John Tunman, 2022. Photograph showing approximate location of the Cyprus Hotel.

Building Description: Unfortunately, as there are no known photographs of the Cyprus Hotel, it was not possible to do a description of the building.

Bishopwearmouth Village Atlas Description: We do know that at the northern end of the Littlegate/Southgate block was a longstanding public house called The Manchester Unity (1861), The Oddfellows Arms (1874) and the Cyprus Hotel (1883 – 1936) at various stages. This is referred to as No.15, No.27 and No.28 Littlegate in various records. The public house seems to have had a chequered history judging from newspaper archives with several incidents of drunk and disorderly behaviour, violence, suspected prostitution and thefts. There are also several reports of inquests being held in the building, before the magistrates court was built in 1907.

The business was offered for sale in 1889 describing the size of the premises,

“All that very valuable PUBLIC-HOUSE and Premises known as the CYPRUS HOTEL, Situate in Littlegate, near the Green, Sunderland, comprising on the Ground Floor, Sitting Room, Large Bar, Small Bar, and snug, with all necessary conveniences, capital Cellar underneath. Above are two large and lofty rooms, one suitable for a Lodge Room or Billiard Room. The property

is sold consequent on the death of the owner. A capital business has been carried on for many years” (Source: Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette, 18th November 1889)

The owner Mark Jopling had been the landlord of the pub for many years, and was a well known Sunderland figure and son of a High Street tradesman according to newspaper reports after his death. It is unknown whether he was related to Widow Jopling who once traded in apothecary on Church Lane, or to the owners of the Joplings department store on High Street West. The property was subsequently sold to a Mr. Archbold, a brewer from Newcastle for £4800.

The Cyprus Hotel continued to operate until 1935 until the owner Frank Lancelot Robson applied to have the license removed and relocated to a new premises. An article about the licensing application commented that Mr. Robson had operated The Cyprus Hotel for 25 years, and his name does appear in the 1914 Kelly’s Directory.

The building was again offered for sale at auction in 1936 described as de- licensed premises, and in 1937 the Sunderland branch of the Durham Light Infantry moved into new headquarters in the building. (Source: Sunderland Daily Echo, 12th June 1937).

The building is missing from the 1955 OS Map, perhaps demolished as a result of WWII bomb damage as a large bomb did drop immediately next to the building site on 24th May 1943 damaging several nearby buildings. The whole street had been demolished by 1959, with a surface car park for many years, and then Town Park formed on the site in 1980. The foundations of the building were uncovered during excavation work in 2019 as part of the Town Park Improvement Project funded by the Bishopwearmouth Townscape Heritage Scheme

Map regression:



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

Map 2 – 1887 Ordnance Survey Map (25”) [Accessed via National Library of Scotland].

Map 3 – 1919 Ordnance Survey Map (25”) [Accessed via National Library of Scotland].

Map 4 – 1946 Ordnance Survey Map (25”) [Accessed via National Library of Scotland].

Map 5 - Modern Ordnance Survey Map (25”) [Accessed via Historic England, Search the List].

The building is shown on the Rain's Eye Plan of 1785, it being part of the ancient village of Bishopwearmouth. The First Edition OS 1:2500 Map shows it as an unnamed rectangular building occupying a corner plot at the end of Littlegate/Church Lane, but the 10ft to the mile map of the same date names it as The Oddfellows Arms. Historic OS mapping of 1897 shows the Cyprus Hotel, then an unnamed Public House, with a rectangular shaped plan form and occupying a corner plot of land at the end of Little Gate/South Gate. The building continued to maintain this plan form between 1897, 1919 and 1946, however modern mapping shows that the pub, as well as the entirety of Little Gate and South Gate have subsequently been demolished. The demolition more than likely occurred as a result of the bombing that occurred during World War II.

How long had it been a pub?: It is not clear when the building became a public house. The first entry found in a trade directory is Whelans of 1856, where it is listed as an 'Inn'. The 10 ft to the mile Ordnance Survey of 1857 names it as the 'Oddfellows Arms PH'. In the 1871 census, Isabella Pittilla was described as an 'Innkeeper'. The pub closed on 24th December 1934 (The Pubs of Bishopwearmouth Ron Lawson, 2019).

Who worked here?

The following information has been extracted from Ron Lawson's Historic Pubs of Bishopwearmouth (2019).:

Owners:

1831 - ?Milton
? – A. Robinson
? – Mark Jopling
Then – Ourbridge & Archibald, Blandford Brewery
1897 – Dover, Newsome & Baxter
Then – James Calder & Co Ltd., Shire Brewery
1922 – Frank Lancelot Robson & John Ernest Pearch
1930 – Frank Lancelot Robson

Trade Directory:

1831 – James Alder
? – Trew hitt
? – R. Bailey
1849 – 51 – J. Sparrow & Carter
1853 – J. Sparrow
1855 – 59 – Carlton Robinson
1861 – Mrs E. Robison
1861-69 – Carlton Robinson
1871-73 – Thomas Pittill
1873 – 74 – Walsh Dixon
1881 – C. Jopling
1886 – Mark Jopling
1887 – Mrs. E. Lawson
1893 – W. Lamb

License Holder:

4 Dec. 1878 – Mark Jopling
12 Feb. 1890 – George Archibald
17 Oct. 1894 – Patrick McEwan
18 Aug. 1897 – Arthur Edward Horlington
22 Jun. 1898 – Alexander Burns
14 Aug. 1901 – Frederick Walter Dale
7 Jun. 1905 – Stephen Richardson
8 Apr. 1908 – Frank Lancelot Robson

Who drank here?: There is no explicit references to the type of person who drank in The Cyprus Hotel. However, it can be deduced from its previous names of 'The Manchester Unity' and 'The Oddfellows Arms' that the pub was originally frequented by the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows. It is suggested that public houses were often used as bases for Oddfellow Societies, and that when member met they often 'took something for the good of the house' (<https://www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/history/>). Often, landlords were willing to name their pubs after the society, as was apparently the case with the Cyprus Hotel.

Brewery link

Ourbridge & Archibald, Blandford Brewery - Located in Newcastle.

James Calder & Co Ltd., Shire Brewery – Brewery, located in Clackmannanshire which was built in 1816 by John McNellan, and acquired by James Calder in 1862 ([University of Glasgow Archive](#))

Summary of research by John Tunman:

Notes on The Cyprus Hotel

(28 or 29 Littlegate or 27 Church Lane)

The use of this building as a public house, also known at various times as The Freemasons Arms 1849/51 (1), the Manchester Unity (1850s into the early 1860s) (2), and the Oddfellows Arms (1861/1881)(1), appears to date from around 1831 (1). Occupying a corner site at the junction of Littlegate and Church Lane, it continued in existence as a public house until December 1934 when it closed and was de-licensed, the license being transferred to the Grange Hotel on Newcastle Road. In 1936 the building was auctioned (3), along with four other de-licensed properties, which were all owned by Mr Frank Robson. The auction was held on the premises, which, interestingly for Sunderland, were not subject to a rent charge, possibly indicating the antiquity of the building as a part of the old village.

The license holder between December 1878 (1) and his rather early death in November 1889 at the age of 41 (4) was Mark Jopling. Mr Jopling was the son of James Jopling, of Foyle St/Manor Place, who, in 1851 was described as a draper employing 8 men (5). In other words, the Jopling of Jopling and Tuer, which later became Joplings department store. Mark Jopling had married a woman 13 years younger than him just months after becoming the licensee, and was sufficiently well off to live away from the pub in a house at 4 Salem Hill (6), at that time a very respectable address. His wife, Hannah, had an affair with one Oswald Thompson, son of Joseph Thompson, a prosperous timber merchant and builder, who, with his brother John, built many of the grand 3 storey terraced houses in the Ashbrooke area. Oswald was about the same age as Hannah and living with his parents on Gray Road, just round the corner from the Joplings' house (6). This culminated in a divorce (an unusual event in those days), with Oswald Thompson ordered to pay £250 damages to Mark Jopling, the President of the court having informed the jury that "the husband was entitled to money compensation for the pain of mind which he – assuming him to be an ordinary husband – must have suffered on finding that his wife had received the embraces of another man". (7) Mr Jopling died about 18 months later, and the Cyprus Hotel was auctioned off; the buyer was a Mr Archbold, brewer, of Newcastle, who paid £4,800 for it (8). There was a detailed description of the accommodation provided by the pub which has been noted in the pro forma (9). This description included first floor public rooms. As no owners or managers appear to have lived on the premises from Mark Jopling's ownership, it is possible that he was responsible for extending the public areas into the first floor.

There is an implication that, in addition to owning The Cyprus Hotel, Mark Jopling also owned property on High Street (10).

The Cyprus Hotel was the venue for some inquests into the death of local residents during the second part of the 19th century (11).

As noted, for a while the pub was known as The Oddfellows Arms and the Manchester Unity, possibly reflecting a connection with the Manchester Unity Friendly Society, and it seems meetings were still being held there towards the end of the 19th

century. For example, in July 1895 there was a report of the 72nd quarterly meeting of the National Independent Order of Oddfellows M U being held there (12).

The Cyprus Hotel also seems to have, on occasion, been the target of burglaries and acts of vandalism, as well as, perhaps inevitably, drunken behaviour (13). Perhaps the most sensational was a case where a 14 year old boy broke a window, stole some bottles of brandy, one of which he threw at one of the group he was with, and in so doing, fell and broke the remaining bottles. He got up, but fell again. It appears broken glass had punctured his abdomen, and part of his bowel was protruding. He was taken to the Infirmary but died 3 days later (14).

References

- (1) The Pubs of Bishopwearmouth Ron Lawson pp30/66
- (2) Whelan's Directory 1856; Wards Directory 1857/58; 1861 Census
- (3) SDE 12/09/1936 page 2 col 1
- (4) SDE 08/11/1889 page 3 col 3
- (5) 1851 Census
- (6) 1881 Census
- (7) SDE 26/04/1888 p 3 col 2
- (8) SDE 26/11/1889 p3 col 2
- (9) SDE 23/11/1889 p2 col
- (10) For example, see SDE 04/10/1881 p 2 col 1; 25/04/1885 p2 col 1.
- (11) For example, see SDE 02/01/1884 p2 col 6; 02/04/1884 p3 col 2; 30/11/1891 p3 col 3
- (12) SDE 02/07/1895 p 3 col 3
- (13) 19/10/1886 p 3 col 4; 17/02/1890 p3 col 123/04/1879 p4 col 1; 14/02/1891 p 3 col 2.
- (14) SDE 09/01/1880 p 3 col 2

Sources Consulted:

19/10/1886 p 3 col 4; 17/02/1890 p3 col 123/04/1879 p4 col 1; 14/02/1891 p 3 col 2.
Bishopwearmouth Village Atlas (2021). Available at: <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/16351/History-of-Bishopwearmouth>
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Historic England, Search the List. Available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>
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SDE 02/01/1884 p2 col 6; 02/04/1884 p3 col 2; 30/11/1891 p3 col 3
SDE 02/07/1895 p 3 col 3
SDE 04/10/1881 p 2 col 1; 25/04/1885 p2 col 1.
SDE 08/11/1889 page 3 col 3
SDE 09/01/1880 p 3 col 2
SDE 12/09/1936 page 2 col 1
SDE 23/11/1889 p2 col
SDE 26/04/1888 p 3 col 2
SDE 26/11/1889 p3 col 2
Trade Directories. Available at: <https://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4>
Whelan's Directory 1856; Wards Directory 1857/58; 1861 Census

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

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