

Bishopwearmouth Pubs Profile (Demolished) - Wetheralls

Project Pub REF: 022

NGR: NZ 39319 56825

Name of Pub: Wetheralls Nightclub

Did it have any previous names?: Wetheralls School of Music and Dance

Are there any explanation of the pub's name or changes of name?: Named after John and Elizabeth Wetherall who established and ran the dance school (Bishopwearmouth Village Atlas).

What did it look like in the past?

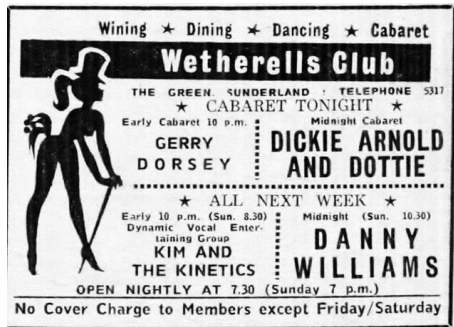


Image 1: Advertisement for Wetheralls Club in 1966. (Accessed via Sunderland Echo)

Image 2: Wetheralls Night Club in 1969 (Accessed via Sunderland Antiquarian Society)

Image 3: Wetheralls Night Club showing sign (No date, accessed via Sunderland Tap Room Facebook Page).

Image 4: Colour photograph of Wetheralls (No date, accessed via Sunderland History Memories Facebook Page).

Current Photographs:



© Sam Neale, August 2022. Photograph showing the approximate location of Wetheralls.

Building Description: Wetheralls was a two storey building of red brick construction with a painted and rendered façade with a ?clay tiled roof and brick chimney stack. To the first floor there were three 2/2 timber framed sashes with painted stone sills and skewed stone lintels. Above these, was a later added dormer window. To the ground floor there was a canted bay window with timber panelled shutters and to the right of this, was a timber paneled double door.

Bishopwearmouth Village Atlas Description: No. 13 was the long-term premises of Wetheralls School of Music and Dance for almost a century, later becoming Wetheralls nightclub in 1961 preserving the family name even when sold to the Bailey organisation.

The 1851 census lists John Hines, solicitor, his wife and seven children living at No.13. They were followed by 1861 by the Kayll family. John James Kayll was a window glass manufacturer, and lived at No. 13 with his wife and nine children, their governess, a cook, a nurse and two other servants. The Kaylls later moved to 17 The Green and John James Kayll became Mayor of Sunderland in 1866.

The 1866 borough directory is the first entry for the Wetheralls at No.13 The Green having relocated their dancing school from Durham. The Wetheralls were also a large family, the 1871 census records John, his wife Elizabeth and eight children – several of whom were teachers at the school.

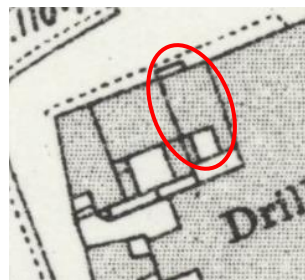
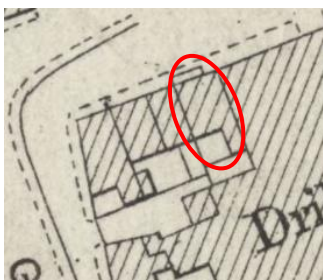
The 1894 Goads Insurance plan provides some additional detail on the building layout showing a bay window to the front elevation, the right side of the building labelled “ruin” and the height labelled as 2 and a half stories. The rear elevation has a series of smaller outbuildings and then a larger “dancing room” to the south.

The 1911 census lists John Anthony Wetherall, his wife Elisa and daughter Elizabeth Thomasine occupying 7 rooms at No.13. Miss Elizabeth Thomasine Wetherall took over management of the school after the death of her father in 1918, and the business is included on the 1933 Wards Directory with Miss Wetherall named as proprietor. No names were recorded on the 1939 register, and the building was presumably empty at that point. A Sunderland echo article refers to Miss Wetherall renting out rooms after she stopped teaching in 1932.

In 1961 the building was acquired by the Bailey Corporation and became a nightclub with notable acts such as Gerry Dorsey (later known as Englebert Humperdinck) performing in the club. A photograph taken after the building became a nightclub shows a two-storey painted or rendered frontage, with a bay window and timber door with fanlight over, first floor sash windows and a slated dormer with sash window to the attic floor. Two small sections of railings partially enclose the front, perhaps another case like No.10 which once had a strip of private frontage rather than the building directly abutting corporation land.

The building survived until 2000, when it was demolished as part of the shopping centre redevelopment.

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 1897 shows an unnamed building as part of a row of terraces and adjoining Drill Hall. At this point, the building has a square shaped plan form with a small extension to the rear and what appears to be a bay window. There is little change to the plan form between 1897 and 1919 other than the construction of an additional small extension to the rear. By 1946, it appears as though the building had been incorporated into Drill Hall, however the rear of the building had more than likely been infilled. Modern OS mapping shows the building to have since been demolished.

How long had it been a pub?: As is noted in the Bishopwearmouth Village Atlas, prior to becoming a nightclub, Wetheralls was used as a dance school for more than a century. According to the Atlas, it became a nightclub in 1961 when the Bailey Organisation took it on. The nightclub closed in the early 21st century to accommodate for the redevelopment of the area.

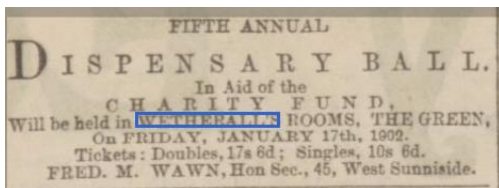
Who worked here?: Unfortunately, there is no evidence or archival material to suggest who may have worked here. However, it is clear from newspaper articles across the mid 20th century that many travelling acts, artists, performers, tv stars and cabaret acts were hosted at Wetheralls.

Who drank here?: Whilst there is no specific evidence or archival material that is able to suggest who drank at Wetheralls, there are some assumptions that can be made from available sources. Firstly, Wetheralls was an incredibly popular nightclub, not only in Bishopwearmouth/Sunderland but in the north as a whole ([Philip Curtis, 2017](#)). It hosted popular artists, performers, dancers and cabaret acts throughout the mid 20th century until its closure, suggesting it would attract a wide variety of visitors. In addition, the owners The Bailey Organisation, also introduced gambling to the club, and for many locals this would have been their first introduction to roulette and blackjack ([Philip Curtis, 2017](#)).

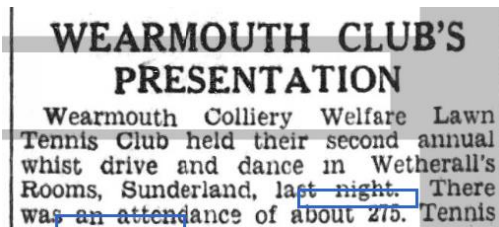
Brewery link: As Wetheralls was a nightclub, not a public house, there was no associated brewery. It was, however, owned by the Bailey Organisation.

Story timeline

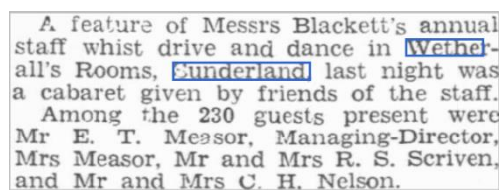
All images accessed via British Newspaper Archives unless otherwise specified.



Tuesday 24th December 1901 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: The fifth annual dispensary ball is held at Wetheralls.



Wednesday 25th September 1935 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Wearmouth Collier Welfare Lawn Tennis Club hold their second annual dance at Wetheralls.



Friday 26th February 1937 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Messers Blackett annual staff dance is held at Wetheralls.

MAUREEN AND MICHAEL

INTRODUCING BRITAIN'S MOST EXCITING NEW SINGING STARS

"The most polished Act I've seen for a long time." — David Levy, Dolce Vita, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
 "Maureen and Michael are sure to make it big!" — Jay Barn, Chorus Ladies Night, at the Cornchester Hotel.

MARCH 29th —
 APRIL 5th — GERRARD
 12th —
 19th — AVAILABLE 000 NIGHTS RECORDING (LONDON)
 MAY 10th — PETER CLUB (STOCKTON)
 17th — AVAILABLE
 24th — T.V. BROADCASTS LONDON
 JUNE 10th — BUCKINGHAM CLUB — MANCHESTER
 17th — RIVERSIDE CLUB
 24th — MORNING CLUB — LEEDS
 JULY 1st — SCALA CLUB — DONCASTER
 8th — CANTON CLUB — NEWCASTLE
 15th — LA MANITA — DUNELM
 22nd — LA MANITA — WOLLESTON

ENQUIRIES INVITED

SOLE REPRESENTATION
MICHAEL BLACK ENTERTAINMENTS LTD.
 32 ST. WINDMILL STREET, LONDON, W.1. Tel. GERRARD 9315-4

Thursday 18th March 1965 – The Stage: 'Britain's most exciting new singing stars' Maureen and Michael appear at Wetheralls.

THE AVONS
 RADIO, T.V., CABARET and RECORDING STARS

22nd Dec. '67 - 15th Feb. '68 — WEST INDIES
 W/c 18th Feb. — CASINO CLUB, PORT TALBOT
 W/c 25th Feb. — PARKSIDE CLUB, NOTTINGHAM
 W/c 10th Mar. — CAVENDISH CLUB, NEWCASTLE
 & ~~WOLLESTON~~ ~~WOLLESTON~~
 W/c 18th Mar. — ASTOR CLUB, LONDON
 W/c 24th Mar. — TOWER RESTAURANT, GT. YARMOUTH

SOLE REPRESENTATION:
HARRY DAWSON AND BERTIE GREEN
 ASTOR PRODUCTIONS
 ASTOR CLUB
 BERKELEY SQUARE, W.1
 Tel: 01-499 3181

Thursday 4th January 1968 – The Stage: Radio, T.V and Cabaret stars 'The Avons' appear at Wetheralls.

PATRICIA MAR'EE
 EXOTIC DANCER

Thank you TYNE TEES TELEVISION for recent interview, also ANNE ROBERTSON for successful dates at:
 LA DOLCIA VITA, NEWCASTLE
WETHERALLS, SUNDERLAND
 TITO'S STOCKTON
 FLAMINGO, NEWCASTLE
 FLAMINGO, DARLINGTON
 BIRDCAGE, NEWCASTLE

VACANT FOR PRIVATE BOOKINGS & CABARET

Home address:
 54 Ross Avenue, Litherland, Liverpool 20.
 051-922 0110.

Thursday 26th September 1968 – The Stage: Exotic Dancer, Patricia Mar'ee appears at Wetheralls.

AS ONE new club is born, the expected closure of another is announced. The club concerned the Bailey owned **Wetheralls** at Sunderland was something of a pioneer of North East Nightlife and has never lost its popularity with Wearsiders.

The present policy of the Gaming Board is entirely responsible for the closure of **Wetheralls** which will die in two years' time when the lease expires.

The club would of course have had to close then anyway, but the owners did have plans for a new even more luxurious club elsewhere in **Sunderland** that is until the "without-it" dictators of the Gaming Board imposed their crippling regulations.

Thursday 21st January 1971 – The Stage: Wetheralls, described as a 'Pioneer of North East Nighlife' closure is announced as a result of the Gaming Board policy.

As a musical contrast lovers of latin American music could do no better than listen to **Los Reales Del Paraguay** who recently appeared at Club **Wetheralls Sunderland** and other venues in the region. The hot-

Thursday 18th March 1971 – The Stage: Los Reales Del Paraguay appeared at Wetheralls.

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>

Sunderland Echo (2017) The Sunderland nightclub which had two acts a night. Available at: <https://www.sunderlandecho.com/news/sunderland-nightclub-which-had-two-acts-night-358798>

Trade Directories. Available at: <https://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4>

Completed by: Caitlin Osborne (TDR Heritage).

Date: 7/09/22