

Bishopwearmouth Pubs Profile (Demolished) – The Queens Head

Project Pub REF: 012

NGR: NZ 39246 56909

Name of Pub: Queens Head/ Queen's Head Inn

What did it look like in the past?



Image 1: Photograph showing the Queens Head c. Early 20th century.

Image 2: Queens Head in its historic setting on Low Row in the late 19th/early 20th century.

Image 3: Workers in front of the Queens Head, in the late 19th/early 20th century (Sunderland Antiquarian Society)

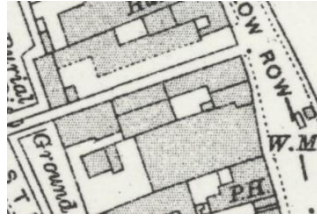
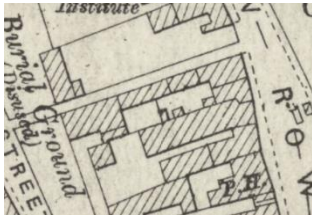
Current Photographs:



© Sam Neal, August 2022. Photograph showing the approximate location of the Queen's Head.

Building Description: The Queen's Head was a two storey building of brick construction with a ?clay tiled roof and a brick chimney stack. To the first floor, there were three timber 1/1 sash windows with brick sills and decorative stone lintels. These windows sat beneath a dentilated brick course to the eaves. To the ground floor, there were two doorways with raised and fielded timber paneling which had timber pilasters. Between the two doors were large windows with timber paneled plinths and a fascia board reading 'QUEENS HEAD'. To the right of this, was a 1/1 sash window 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 1st edition OS mapping of 1897 shows the Queens Head as an unnamed building on Low Row as part of a row of terraced buildings. At this point, the building had a simple, regular plan form with a series of linear buildings adjoining it to the rear of the plot of land. There is very little change to the plan form of the pub between 1897 and the 1919 and between 1919 and 1946 the only changes that had occurred were to the surrounding buildings, with the pub being located between the Cabinet Works and Mayfair Confectionary Works. Between 1946 and modern OS mapping, the pub had been demolished to make way for a large hotel complex.

How long had it been a pub?

The earliest known records for the pub (Which was noted as a Public House) is 1793 when the owner was listed as Andrew Thomas Hopper and prior to its closure in the 1960s, The Queens Head was supposedly the oldest pub in Bishopwearmouth (Ron Lawson, 2019).

Who worked here?

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

Owners:

1793 – Andrew Thomas Hopper
1802 – Andrew Sanders
1827-31 – W.Cowell
1834 – John Cowell
1844 – J. Davison
1847 – James Potts
1872 – Chapman & Son, Sunderland
1903 – J.W. Cameron & Co. Ltd.

Trade Directory:

1793 – Andrew Sanders
1802 - ? Stevenson
1820 – Sarah Sewell
1823 - ? Dickinson
1827 – 31 – William Cowell
1834 – John Cowell
1841 – 43 – Michael Hall
1844 – T. Davison
1847 – 56 – James Potts
1857 – Mrs. M. Potts
1857 – 66 – John Roseberry
1867 – 79 – William Hall
1881 – Mrs. E. Dennett
1881 – 83 – Mrs Maria Annie Smiles

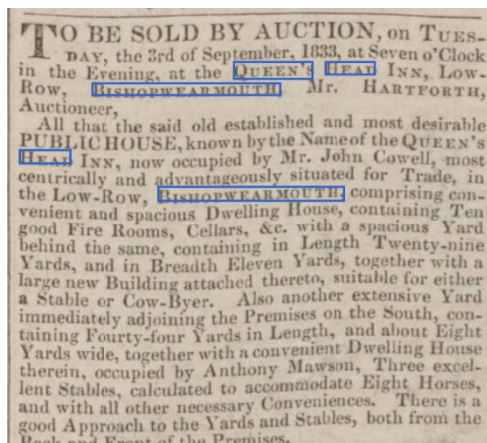
Who drank here?: Although there is no specific evidence to suggest the type of people who drank in the Queen's Head, newspaper articles from the 19th/early 20th century shed some light on the clientele. It appears the Durham Football Club often met at the Queen's Head to discuss club affairs, such as when the next annual social would be.

Brewery link: According to the Bishopwearmouth Village Atlas, the Queens Head was associated with the Barley Mow Brewery (Bishopwearmouth Village Atlas, 2021). The Atlas states: There was a narrow lane next to the Queen's Head linking Low Row and Hind Street (10 ft to the mile Ordnance Survey map 1857) and the Barley Mow Brewery. It was a small brewery run in connection with the Queen's Head and possibly other local outlets. Although it does not appear to have been built when Rain drew his plan, it was there by 1827 when William Cowell held it. It was sold to Francis Trehwhitt in 1833 and was in the possession of the Trehwhitts (see Trehwhitt's Buildings) until 1867 when it was sold to John Roseberry, the owner of the Queen's Head. An 1875 article refers to the dissolution of partnership between Spensley and Bell Bottlers at Barley Mow Brewery (Source: Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette, 11 June 1875). The contents of their working plant was later advertised for sale in September 1875, and referred to the company as "Ale and Porter merchants, Ginger Beer and Lemonade Manufacturers" with two years remaining on their lease costing £28 per annum at Barley Mow Brewery (Source: Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette, 20 September 1875). Part of the outside rubble wall of the brewery was still standing in 1983. (C B Walker "Bishopwearmouth Township" in Sunderland's History No 1 page 43. Sunderland Antiquarian Society 1983 and Corder HER 163).

Family Link: It appears as though the Queens Head was owned by the Trehwhitt Family.

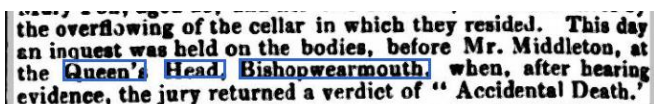
Story timeline

All images accessed through the British Newspaper Archives unless otherwise specified.



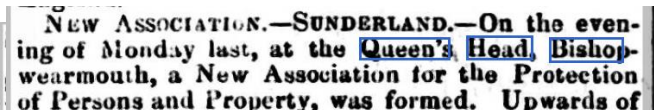
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, on TUESDAY, the 3rd of September, 1833, at Seven o'Clock in the Evening, at the QUEEN'S HEAD INN, Low-Row, BISHOPWEARMOUTH. Mr. HARTFORTH, Auctioneer.
All that the said old established and most desirable PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the Name of the QUEEN'S HEAD INN, now occupied by Mr. John Cowell, most centrally and advantageously situated for Trade, in the Low-Row, BISHOPWEARMOUTH, comprising convenient and spacious Dwelling House, containing Ten good Fire Rooms, Cellars, &c. with a spacious Yard behind the same, containing in Length Twenty-nine Yards, and in Breadth Eleven Yards, together with a large new Building attached thereto, suitable for either a Stable or Cow-Byer. Also another extensive Yard immediately adjoining the Premises on the South, containing Forty-four Yards in Length, and about Eight Yards wide, together with a convenient Dwelling House therein, occupied by Anthony Mawson, Three excellent Stables, calculated to accommodate Eight Horses, and with all other necessary Conveniences. There is a good Approach to the Yards and Stables, both from the Back and Front of the Premises.

Saturday 31st August 1833 – Newcastle Journal: The Queens Head is to be sold by auction. This provides an interesting description of the pub as it was in 1833, at which time it included: Ten good fire rooms, cellars, a spacious yard and a new building which was suitable for either a stable or Cow Byre.



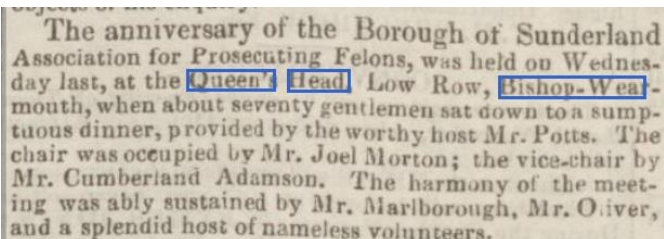
the overflowing of the cellar in which they resided. This day an inquest was held on the bodies, before Mr. Middleton, at the Queen's Head, Bishopwearmouth, when, after hearing evidence, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death."

Thursday 1st June 1848 – Shipping and Mercantile Gazette: An inquest is held at the Queens Head



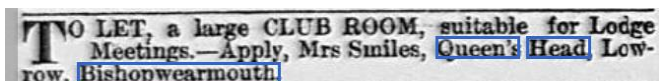
NEW ASSOCIATION.—SUNDERLAND.—On the evening of Monday last, at the Queen's Head, Bishopwearmouth, a New Association for the Protection of Persons and Property, was formed. Upwards of

Friday 27th October 1848 – Durham Chronicle: New association for the protection of persons and property was formed at the Queens Head.



The anniversary of the Borough of Sunderland Association for Prosecuting Felons, was held on Wednesday last, at the Queen's Head, Low Row, Bishop-Wearmouth, when about seventy gentlemen sat down to a sumptuous dinner, provided by the worthy host Mr. Potts. The chair was occupied by Mr. Joel Morton; the vice-chair by Mr. Cumberland Adamson. The harmony of the meeting was ably sustained by Mr. Marlborough, Mr. Oiver, and a splendid host of nameless volunteers.

Saturday 27th October 1849 – Newcastle Journal: The anniversary of the Bourough of Sunderland Association for Prosecuting Felons was held at the Queen's Head.



TO LET, a large CLUB ROOM, suitable for Lodge Meetings.—Apply, Mrs Smiles, Queen's Head, Low-row, Bishopwearmouth.

Tuesday 11th December 1864 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Mrs Smiles from the Queens Head rents out a Club Room. Unclear if this is located inside the Queens Head.

ADJOURNED INQUEST.

The inquiry which was opened on Wednesday, at the Sunderland Workhouse, touching the death of the old man Robert Carney, was resumed yesterday, at the Queen's Head, Low Row, Bishopwearmouth, before Mr Coroner Maynard.

Friday 26th November 1869 – Shields Daily Gazette: Inquiry held at the Queens Head.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

MAGISTRATES AND VILLAGE FEASTS.—Wm. Coates, of the Queen's Head, Low Row, made an application for an extension of hours on the occasion of the holding of their annual feast and athletic sports. The

Saturday 10th July 1875 – Richard and Ripon Chronicle: Wm. Coates of the Queen's Head applies for an extension of hours on the occasion of holding firsts and sporting events.

THE QUEEN'S HEAD, Low-row, Bishopwearmouth.
—TO LET, owing to the death of the late tenant, this old established full licensed house.—Apply personally to Messrs Chapman, 1, John-street, Sunderland.

Thursday 10th July 1884 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: The Queens Head is to let following the death of the tenant.

R.A.O.B.—The weekly meeting of the Lord Nelson Lodge was held at the house of Host Smith, Queen's Head, Low Row when a very numerous muster took place. The lodge was honoured by a visit from the Grand Primo of all England (Sir Mel. Davis), who embraced the opportunity of addressing the lodge with respect to the future guidance of the order. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded him. PGP Vivond and several PP Grand Primos also attended. After an enjoyable evening the lodge was duly closed by a link of thirty brothers.

Friday 10th February 1899 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: The Lord Nelson Lodge meet at the Queen's Head.

CLUB NOTICES.

3rd V.B.D.L.I. Colonel Reed's Challenge Cup.—All members of E Company interested in this competition please attend Drill Hall on Friday at 7.30 p.m.
A meeting of the Royalty will be held in the Queen's Head, Low Row to fix the date of the annual social.

Thursday 14th March 1901 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Durham Football Club meet at the Queen's Head to fix the date of the annual social.

A 61 - YEAR - OLD North Shields woman was employed at a Sunderland public house as a domestic, but when the two regular barmaids were off one evening, she was asked to help in the bar, and within five minutes of closing time she served three youths all under 18 with beer.

This was stated at Sunderland Magistrates' Court today when Margaret Fairs, of Chirton West View, North Shields, was fined a total of £6 with £1 0s. 6d. costs when she admitted six summonses of serving the youths, aged under 18, with intoxicating liquor and allowing them to consume it on the premises in the Queen's Head Hotel, Low Row, Sunderland.

Friday 29th November 1957 – Shields Daily News: A 61 year old is fined for serving three youths under the age of 18 at the Queen's Head.

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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Date: 7/09/22