

WOBBLY WHEEL

This public house on the B4100, formerly A41, lies five miles north of Banbury and on the road to Warwick. The old part, fronting the road, was built around 1800 or soon after. It was built to take advantage of the trade along the busy turnpike road which led, via Warwick, to the expanding industrial area of Birmingham. Facing the inn stood a tiny cottage which was the toll house, at which travellers would need to stop to buy or show their tickets, perhaps taking advantage of the inn's facilities at the same time.

The inn stands in Warmington parish, while the old toll house, now a caravan centre, was the most northerly building in Shotteswell parish. On large scale maps, the double right-angle change of direction in the parish boundary is discernible.

The inn was built by a Warmington carpenter called Samuel TAYLOR who was responsible for several cottages and barn conversions within the village around this date. He built the inn on a piece of land measuring one rod and one perch adjoining the Shotteswell boundary. This plot had been allotted to a Warmington man, Thomas PARISH, in 1777 on the enclosure of the open fields of Warmington, in lieu of the right to pasture two sheep on the common lands. Prior to enclosure, building outside the village envelope was rarely permitted. Thomas PARISH died in 1798, a childless widower, and his property passed to a nephew William PARISH, a woolcomber of Chacombe, Northamptonshire.

William PARISH sold the land to James JOBSON, a Warmington farmer, for £18-18-0, who sold it after a few years to the aforementioned Samuel TAYLOR, who had, it seems, already built a house upon it. Samuel TAYLOR owned it for nine or ten years before selling the property in 1813 to a publican Thomas WILKINS of Warmington.

Thomas WILKINS had become the licensee of the pub in Warmington village in 1807. This pub is now known as 'The Plough' but was recorded in 1806 and as early as 1770 as 'The Hare and Dog'. It was during Wilkins' time as landlord of the two pubs that the name of the pub in the village was transferred to the pub on the main road. The latter pub was known as 'The Hare and Hounds' for about 150 years, only acquiring the name 'The Wobbly Wheel' in around 1970.

It was around this time too that the inn lost its traditional thatched roof because of a fire. In the latter decades of the twentieth century and on into the twenty first, the business expanded, providing motel and restaurant accommodation. A disastrous fire early in 2014 destroyed the modern buildings, but the fire fighting teams succeeded in saving the historic part of the inn.

The pub has had many tenant landlords over the last two centuries. The Wyatt family had a long association with it, carrying on their business as wheelwrights with associated trades as well as holding the pub licence. William WYATT held the licence from 1816 till his death in 1856, and was succeeded for some years by his son of the same name.

Later tenant landlords included:

(from trade directories)

- John TASKER (in 1874)
- R N MACE (in 1883)
- John F TUCKEY (1888 and 1896)
- John WEBB (in 1900 and 1902)
- J J JAY (in 1908)
- Hubert GULLIVER (in 1912)
- William TAYLOR (in 1928)

(from electoral registers)

- William TAYLOR (in 1920)
- Frederick Henry BENNETT (in 1939)
- William E BODENHAM (in 1974)