

The Inns and Pubs of Caistor

Caistor has recorded 40 inns, public houses and beer houses – although not all existing at the same time. They varied in status from major meeting places to small humble inns and beer houses.

The peak time for the inns was in the early 19th century when there were about 20 inns, declining to 6 by 1913. Reasons vary but the establishment of the Police Station in 1855 and the growth of the Temperance Movement were probably influential.

Caistor's former hostelries:

Horse Market: a lodging house and a beer house called the **Nag's Head** on the site of the 1960's flats. **Fountain Inn**, a beer house at the bottom of Fountain Street, an outlet for John Christian's Brewery of Market Rasen 1871 – 1910.

Plough Hill: the **Victoria Inn** 1833 to 1919.

Opposite the Victoria stood **the Plough** which closed in 1865. and became a Temperance Hotel. By 1907 it was Westgate Livery Stables.

Westgate House, now empty, was **The Windmill** in 1722, then **the Crane, the Pied Bull and the Wheatsheaf**, ceasing to trade in 1866.

Note the brickwork on the side of the building indicating extension, and probably a thatched roof.

Bob's Lane: **Marquis of Granby** beer house from 1810 to 1835

South Street: the location of most of the Caistor hostelries. On the right, the arched building was the **White Horse** also renamed the **Black Horse** 1718 - 1911. Carriers used to set off from here to Brigg and surrounding villages.

On the other side of South Street stood the **Old Reindeer Inn** from 1792 to 1841, and immediately opposite it, the **New Reindeer**, which opened soon after the Old Reindeer closed.

Almost next door to the Old Reindeer was **Angel Inn**, known to have existed in 1690

Next door is Caistor's only surviving pub – **the White Hart**. From 1793 it has been the **Nag's Head, the Sloop and the Slip**. The inn provided a bus which used to meet the train from Moortown,

The Griffin, was on the site of the present war memorial and then rebuilt on land behind it.

Cornmarket: The **Kings Head**, 1812 to 1880 (now a dress shop) where the Bishop of Lincoln used to stay, when visiting the town.

Opposite the Kings Head, was the **George Inn**, one of the most prestigious inns in Caistor. Opened in 1755 but now residential, it was a 19th century social centre, with assembly rooms, and the site of various meetings e.g. the Court of Sewers, the Caistor Canal Co, and the Matrons Society

John Henry Day of Harmston, Lincoln, was for some time, the landlord. He had been the owner of the famous Durham Ox, a fine steer weighing at its death in 1807, 189 stone (1200kg). A number of pubs around the country are named the Durham Ox because the ox was exhibited there.

John Henry Day's son took over **the Fleece**, 500 yards up the High Street, in the 19th century, the site of some of the largest sheep fairs in the country

High Street: Turn left, to pass the Victorian Public Hall, on the site of the **Kings Arms**, which became **the Falconers**, owned by the Duke of St Albans. The inn had a bowling green.

Next door is the **Talbot Inn**, site of the oldest inn in Caistor, opened in 1682 and surviving till the early 21st century. Well-known for its stabling, coach houses and the location many important meetings. This was the site of some of the earliest Lincolnshire Shows.

The Lincolnshire Co-op has preserved the Talbot frontage and incorporated it into the town's new supermarket.

A major Roman cemetery was unearthed in the land behind the Talbot during excavations for the shop and carpark.

Market Place: **The Red Lion Inn** 1748 – 1970's now smart residential development This inn, of similar status to the George, offered a ballroom, livery stables and facilities for important public meetings. The first motor bus to Grimsby set off from the Red Lion in 1905 and the bus used to meet most of the trains at Moortown.

At the corner of Bank Lane stood the **Bricklayers Arms** from 1691 till its demolition in the 19th century to create the bank, and to widen the path to allow carriages to pass to Caistor House, the oldest house in the Market Place.

Conclusion

Documentary evidence records the changing fortunes of the Caistor inns and pubs. Mainly clustered not far from the town centre they ranged from renowned public buildings of high status to humble beer houses offering places where people, mainly men, could socialise and have a drink away from their menial homes.

Over the years, however, changes in the way people spent their leisure time meant that pubs and inns became less profitable and today only The White Hart remains.

Find out more fascinating details about the Inns of Caistor by visiting the website.....