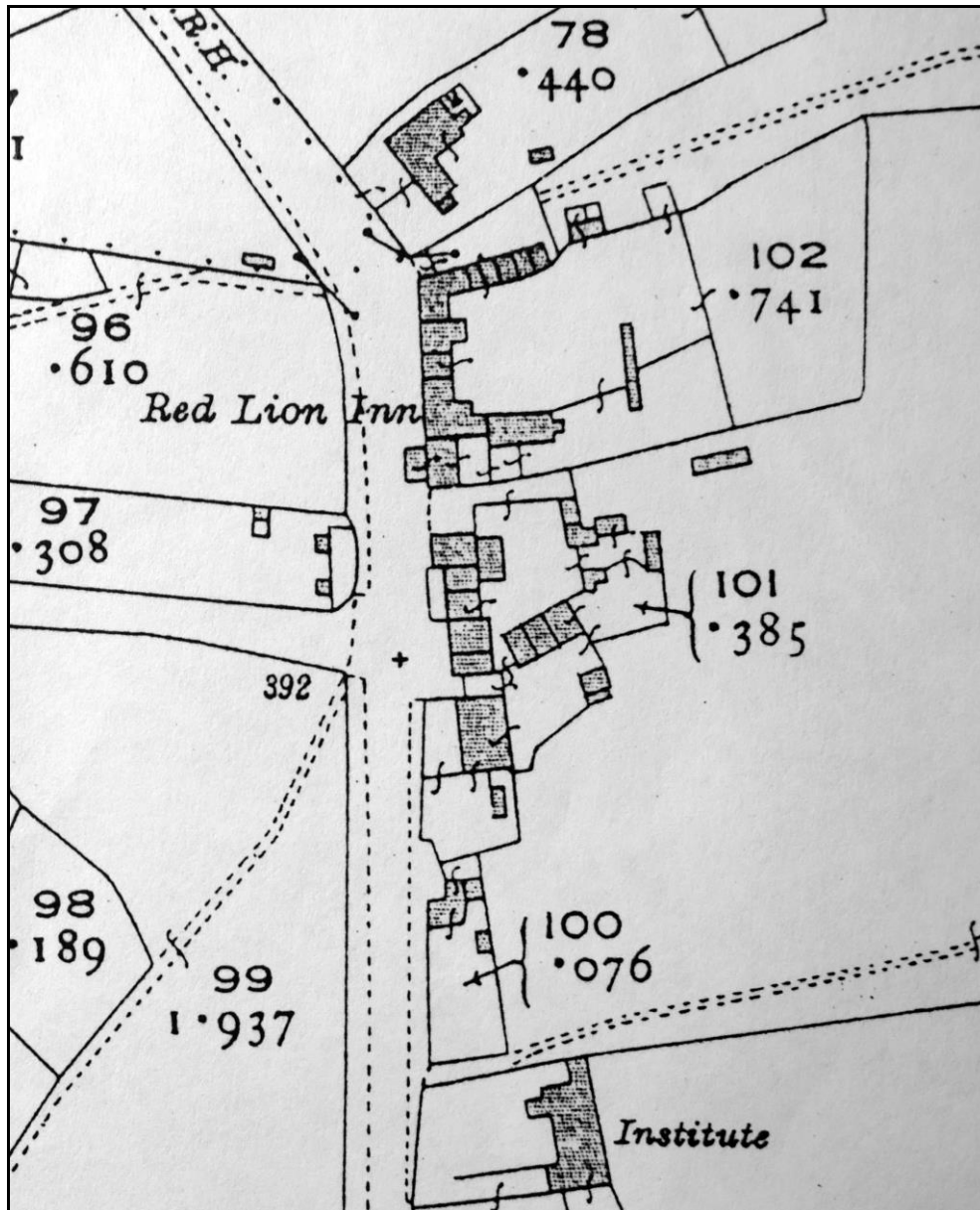


THE RED LION INN - PEGG'S GREEN
(including supplementary information)



EXTRACT FROM 1923 O/S MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE RED LION

BY SAMUEL T STEWART – MARCH 2021
Updated January 2025

INTRODUCTION

This is one of a series of publications on local public houses in the area of Griffydam, Pegg's Green, Osgathorpe, Worthington and Coleorton which have gradually closed over the years with only the 'New Inn' at Pegg's Green, 'The George' at Coleorton and the 'Malt Shovel' at Worthington still open now. These Inns were the bastions of social life at one time in the local communities with their domino, darts and football teams etc. It is hoped that readers will be able to provide more information and photographs to those that are included here.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Many thanks to Helen Devaney for proving information in relation to the text in pages 9 and 10 of this publication.

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THE RED LION – EARLY 1900's

The earliest reliable evidence found by the author of the Red Lion's existence was in 1842 when it was recorded in the Ashby de la Zouch register of licenses. The building is not shown on the 1836 issued O/S map. Originally, it was in the parish of Thringstone which was part of the ecclesiastical parish of Whitwick following the 1807 Thringstone and Peggs Green enclosure awards. In 1936, Peggs Green and the *Red Lion* became part of the parish of Coleorton.

The reference in the licensing records to Lord Donington's and his trustees ownership of the Red Lion from 1882 to 1920 is interesting and requires further research:-

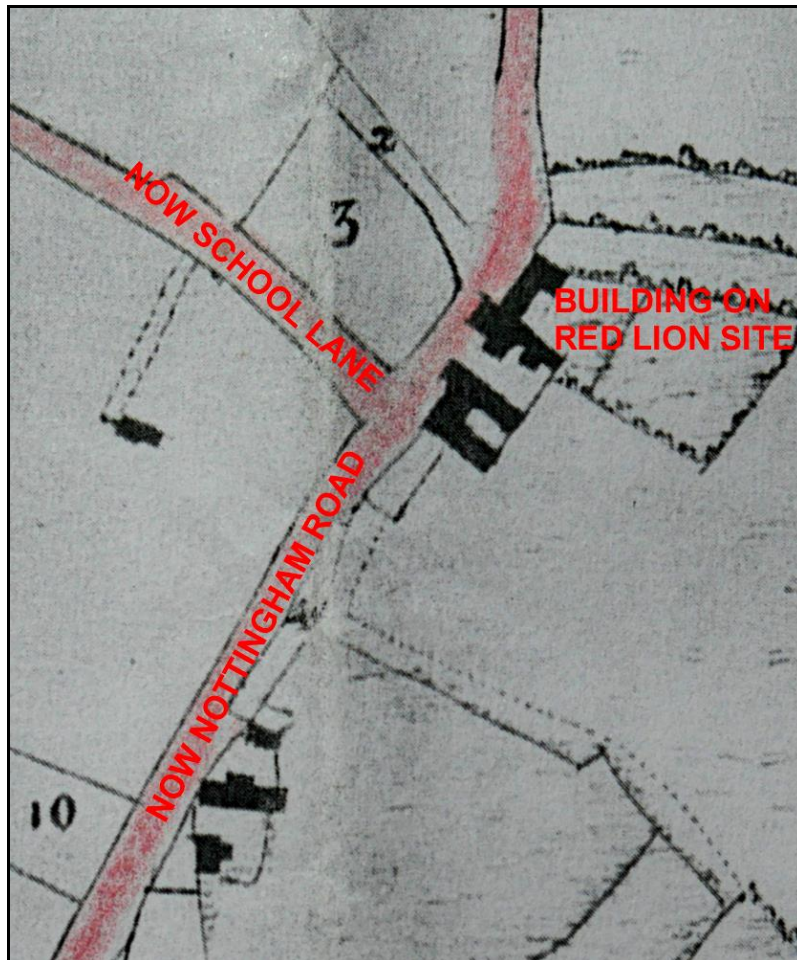
Henry (aka Harry) Hastings at the age of 9 became the new 4th Marquis of Hastings achieving his majority in 1863. His main claim to "infamy" was to squander a fortune on the race track suggested to be equivalent to at least £25 million today! By 1868 when he died he was apparently ruined in health and a pitiful sight. The great Hastings's estate had to be broken up, but Donington Hall and park remained in the hands of the Hastings, only through the determined efforts of the 4th Marquis of Hastings wealthy sister Lady Edith. Through her marriage to Charles Frederick Clifton (awarded the title of Lord Donington in 1880), they assumed the surname and arms of Abney-Hastings, purchased the reversion of the 4th Marquis's English estates, paid off his debts, and took up residence at Donington Hall.

Presumably Lord Donington refers to Charles Frederick Clifton (Lord Donington) and after his death it was owned by the Trustees of the Donington estate. Presumably the

Earl Of Loudoun shown as owning the Red Lion in 1921 was **Charles Edward Rawdon-Hastings, 11th Earl of Loudoun** (5 January 1855–17 May 1920) was a Scottish peer, the son of Charles Abney-Hastings, 1st Baron Donington and Edith Rawdon-Hastings, 10th Countess of Loudoun. However, as he died in 1920, presumably legal matters were still being sorted out

THE 1807 THRINGSTONE TOWNSHIP AND PEGG'S GREEN ENCLOSURE

This extract from the 1807 enclosure map below shows buildings existed in the area where the Red Lion was located at the time the map was surveyed and drawn by William Henry Smith for the commissioners. Following research into the Kidgers families of Pegg's Green it has become clear that the *Red Lion* was the original "Pegg's Farm house" which would also account for it being a three storey building. **This map can be compared with the map on the front cover, although the orientation of the map is slightly different.**



THE 1876 SALE OF THE RED LION

The following newspaper article describes the Red Lion as quite a substantial building. It is not known whether the butchers / bakers and grocer's shop adjoining and shown in the photograph on page 3 were added on later. It is not known what the "Fasting House" refers to, but presumably it should say "feasting".

Leicester Guardian – February 9th 1876

BY MR. ORCHARD.

**Pegg's Green, Thringstone, Leicestershire
Valuable Freehold Public house, Messuage and Land.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,**

On the premises, the "Red Lion Inn", Pegg's Green, aforesaid on Friday, the 18th day of February, 1876, at Five for Six o' clock in the Evening precisely, in the following or such other Lots as may at the time of sale be agreed upon, and subject to such conditions of Sale as will be then and there produced

Lot 1

A VALUABLE OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as the "Red Lion Inn", with large gardens adjoining thereto, situate at Pegg's Green, in the Township of Thringstone aforesaid, and fronting the Hinckley and Melbourne Turnpike Road, together with the Grocer's and Butcher's shop and Bakehouse used therewith, Stable, Fasting House, and other outbuildings thereto belonging, and now in the occupation of Miss Hoult.

A DISTRESSING CORONER'S INQUEST HELD AT THE RED LION

Ashby de la Zouch Gazette – June 9th 1883

THRINGSTONE

A CHILD DROWNED. – On Tuesday, Mr. Henry Deane, Coroner, held an inquest at the Red Lion Inn, Pegg's Green, in the parish of Thringstone, on the body of Charlotte Smith, aged two years, daughter of William Smith, shoe riveter, who was accidentally drowned on the previous day. – Elizabeth Davies said she was asked by Mrs. Horrobin to go and get a child out of the water, and she went to a water hole there was by the side of the turn-pike road, nearly opposite the Red Lion Inn. She there found the deceased child in the pit and lifted her out. She seemed quite dead, and Mrs. Horrobin took her home.- Rossana Horrobin, wife of William Horrobin, living at Pegg's Green, said on Monday the deceased's mother went to Ashby, and during her absence left the child at witness's house. Witness saw the child safe about three o'clock in the afternoon, but about an hour after her little boy came in and said Lottie had tumbled into the water. Witness went to the field but could not see her, and then fetched Mrs. Davies, who got the child out of the water. Witness fastened the garden gate so that the children could not get out, but they crept under it. – Wm. Donovan, surgeon, Whitwick, who saw the body of deceased, was of the opinion that death had resulted from suffocation by drowning. – Elizabeth Smith, mother of the deceased, said on Monday she left her two children with her sister (Mrs. Horrobin) until she went to Ashby to buy some boots for the children. – The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

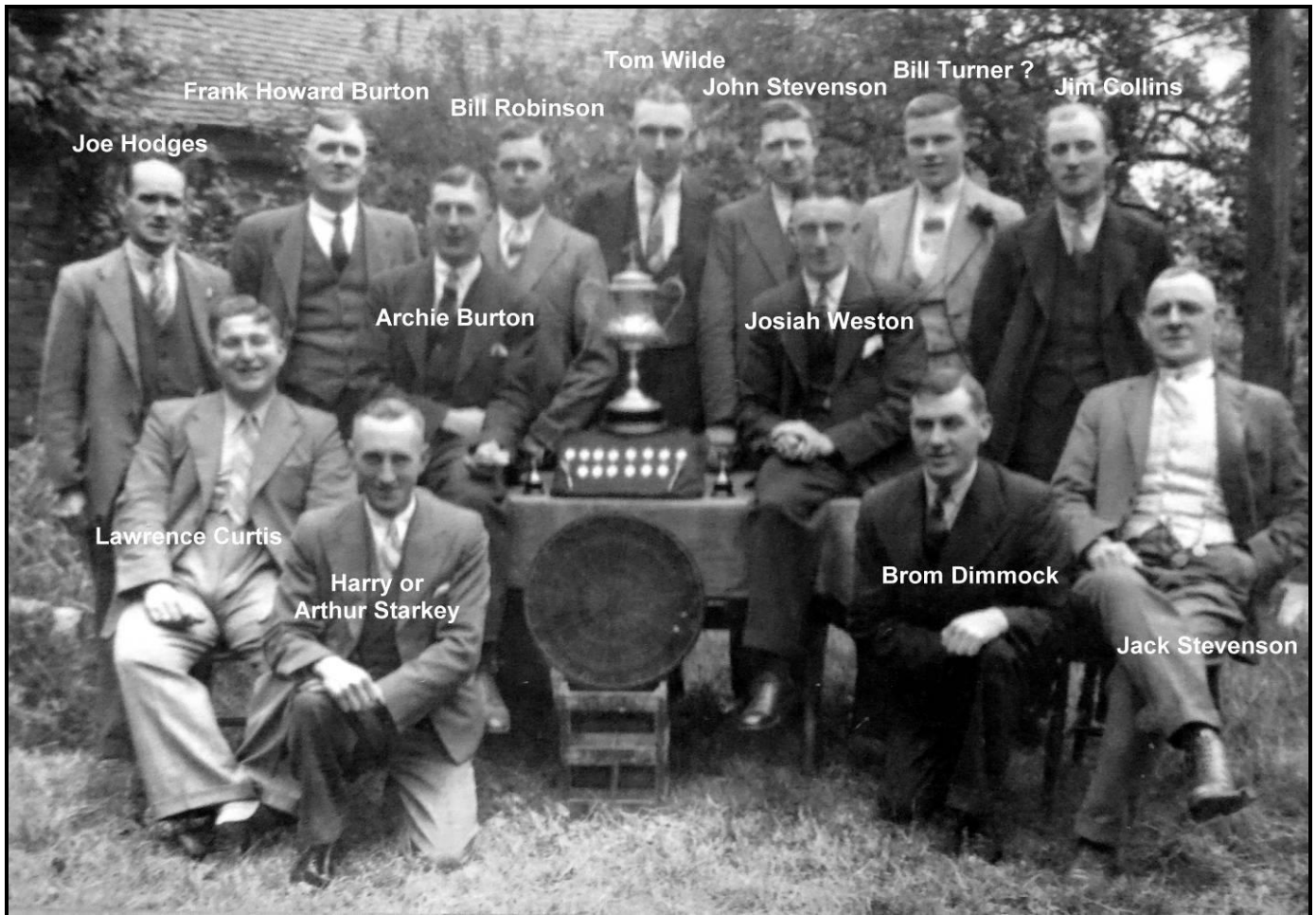
**List of Licensees -
Taken from the Ashby-de-La-Zouch licensing records up to 1936**

Licensee Surname	First name	Year	Month		Lease Holder or Owner
Haywood	William	1842	24-Aug		
Haywood	William	1843	23-Aug		
Haywood	William	1845	27-Aug		
Haywood	William	1846	05-Sep	Transfer to William Hoult 1846	
Hoult	Thomas	1847	25-Aug		
Hoult	Thomas	1848	23-Aug		
Hoult	Thomas	1849	29-Aug		
Hoult	Thomas	1850	24-Aug		
Hoult	Thomas	1851	30-Aug		
Hoult	Thomas	1852	28-Aug		
Hoult	Thomas	1853	27-Aug		
Hoult	Thomas	1854	26-Aug		
Hoult	Thomas	1855	25-Aug		
Hoult	Thomas	1856	23-Aug		
Hoult	Thomas	1858	28-Aug	Transfer to Elizabeth Hoult 1859	
Hoult	Elizabeth	1859	27-Aug		
Hoult	Elizabeth	1860	25-Aug		
Hoult	Elizabeth	1861	24-Aug		
Hoult	Elizabeth	1863	29-Aug		
Hoult	Elizabeth	1864	27-Aug		
Hoult	Elizabeth	1865	26-Aug		
Hoult	Elizabeth	1866	25-Aug		
Hoult	Elizabeth	1868	22-Aug	Transfer to Mary Holt 21-Aug 1869	
Hoult	Elizabeth	1869	21-Aug	Altered to Mary	
Hoult	Mary	1872	31-Aug		Mary Hoult
Hoult	Mary	1873	30-Aug		Mary Hoult
Hoult	Mary	1874	29-Aug		Mary Hoult
Hoult	Mary	1875	28-Aug		Mary Hoult
Renocks	William	1876	26-Aug		William Rennocks
Renocks	William	1877	25-Aug		William Rennocks
Percival	Benjamin	1878	24-Aug		William Rennocks
Percival	Benjamin	1879	23-Aug		William Rennocks
Percival	Benjamin	1880	21-Aug	27-Nov To Charles Brown	William Rennocks
Brown	Charles	1881	27-Aug		William Rennocks
Croson	John	1882	26-Aug		Lord Donnington
Croson	John	1883	25-Aug		Lord Donnington
Reeves	Sarah	1884	30-Aug		Lord Donnington

Reeves	Sarah	1885	29-Aug		Lord Donington
Reeves	Sarah	1886	28-Aug		Lord Donington
Reeves	Sarah	1887	27-Aug		Lord Donington
Reeves	Sarah	1888	25-Aug		Lord Donington
Reeves	Sarah	1889	24-Aug		Lord Donington
Reeves	Sarah	1890	23-Aug		Lord Donington
Reeves	William	1891	22-Aug		Lord Donington
Reeves	William	1892	27-Aug		Lord Donington
Reeves	William	1893	26-Aug		Lord Donington
Reeves	William	1894	25-Aug		Lord Donington
Tivey	Frederick	1895	31-Aug		Lord Donington
Leeson	Thomas Henry	1896	29-Aug		Lord Donington
Leeson	Thomas Henry	1897	28-Aug		Lord Donington
Leeson	James Orton	1905	04-Feb		Lord Doningtons Trustees
Stevenson	John	1906	03-Feb		Lord Doningtons Trustees
Stevenson	John	1907	02-Feb		Lord Doningtons Trustees
Stevenson	John	1908	08-Feb		Lord Doningtons Trustees
Stevenson	John	1909	06-Feb		Lord Doningtons Trustees
Stevenson	John	1910	12-Feb		Lord Doningtons Trustees
Stevenson	John	1911	11-Feb		Lord Doningtons Trustees
Stevenson	John	1912	10-Feb		Lord Doningtons Trustees
Stevenson	John	1913	08-Feb		Lord Doningtons Trustees
Stevenson	John	1914	07-Feb		Lord Doningtons Trustees
Stevenson	John	1915	06-Feb		Lord Doningtons Trustees
Stevenson	John	1916	05-Feb		Lord Doningtons Trustees
Stevenson	John	1917	03-Feb		Lord Doningtons Trustees
Stevenson	John	1918	02-Feb		Lord Doningtons Trustees
Stevenson	John	1919	01-Feb		Lord Doningtons Trustees
Stevenson	John	1920	14-Feb		Trustees of Lord Donington
Stevenson	John	1921	12-Feb		Earl of Loudoun
Stevenson	John	1922	11-Feb		Alton & Co. Ltd. Leicester
Stevenson	John	1923	10-Feb		Alton & Co. Ltd. Leicester
Stevenson	John	1924	09-Feb		Alton & Co. Ltd. Leicester
Stevenson	John	1925	07-Feb	At Peggs Green	Alton & Co.Ltd
Stevenson	John	1926	06-Feb		Alton & Co.Ltd
Stevenson	John	1927	05-Feb		Alton & Co.Ltd
Stevenson	John	1928	04-Feb		Alton & Co.Ltd
Stevenson	John	1929	02-Feb		Alton & Co.Ltd
Stevenson	John	1930	01-Feb	At Peggs Green	Alton & Co. Ltd
Stevenson	John	1931	14-Feb		Alton & Co. Ltd
Stevenson	John	1932	13-Feb		Alton & Co. Ltd
Stevenson	John	1933	11-Feb		Alton & Co. Ltd
Stevenson	John	1934	10-Feb		Alton & Co. Ltd
Stevenson	John	1935	09-Feb	At Peggs Green	Alton & Co. Ltd

Stevenson	John	1936	08-Feb		Alton & Co. Ltd
Weston	Olive	1940s / 50s			
Glitheroe	Mrs. T.	1960			
Grainger	Shirley	1968	Closed	Closed	

Continued over page



THE RED LION DARTS TEAM

JOHN (aka JACK) STEVENSON

John, known as Jack Stevenson on the far right of the above photograph was landlord of the Red Lion for c.30 years from 1906 to 1936 (see table of licensees). Jack married a lady by the name of Sarah Elizabeth Brown in Bedford in October 1900 and by 1901, Jack and Sarah had set up home in Main Street, Pegg's Green (formerly Froggat's Lane). In the 1901 census, Jack (aged 25) is recorded as being a coalminer. In May 1901, Jack and Sarah had a daughter, Olive Louisa Stevenson, followed in 1903 by a son named John William. Jack and Sarah had no further children. The 1911 census confirms Jack as being a coal miner and publican, as he had become licensee of the Red Lion according to the licensing records in 1906. Jack's wife Sarah died on the 22nd September 1946 and Jack died 6 months later on the 22nd February 1947. Jack actually died at the Red Lion

JOSIAH JOHN (aka SIAH) AND OLIVE STEVENSON

Jack and Sarah Stevenson's daughter Olive (see above) married Josiah John (aka Siah) Weston in 1922. Josiah John was the son of George Edward Weston who lived with his wife Ellen (nee. Barker) in Worthington all of their lives. If we now refer to the photograph

on page 3, taken in the early 1900s, we can see to the left hand side of the Red Lion, 'Westward House' and adjoining it 'Westward Cottage'. In 1923, Josiah John Weston purchased the properties and surrounding land where the family lived. These properties date back to pre 1881. Prior to their building, the 1836 O/S map shows other buildings between there and Sketchley's corner. Just to confuse matters, Josiah John and Olive had a son who they named Josiah John also, and he was born at 'Westward House' in 1928.

It is logical that Olive would have spent time at the Red Lion taking care of her parents in their latter years, and in fact she took over the license of the Red Lion at some point, possibly prior to her father's death. Her husband Josiah John (aka Siah) had other business interests so he couldn't be registered as the licensee. He had a barber's shop in Coalville, and also ran a local barber's shop (see below) in the pantry of their house. The large pantry was two steps down from the kitchen and was also used for hanging meats and bacon.

'Westward Cottage' was later renamed 'Sunnybank'. When Josiah John Weston senior died in 1965, his address was given as 'Sunnybank' and Josiah John Weston junior (d. 2014) is recorded as living in the cottage.

Apparently the family used to rent out Sunnybank / Westward Cottage at one time to provide extra income and the 1939 register confirms this.

'MRS. HAYWOOD'S SWEET SHOP'

The cottage next to the Red Lion on the left hand side, and shown in the preceding photograph, used to be run by Mrs. Haywood as a sweet shop. We know she was there in the 1940's but probably much earlier than that.

Reg Burton, a resident of Pegg's Green, has good memories of the shop, having to pass it on his way home from school of course in the 1940's and early 1950's. It apparently sold a bit of everything, from groceries to sweets and chocolate.

He remembers the big jars of sweets, and recalls that on Tuesdays they had a delivery from Barkers of potted meat, and recalls going to get some from the shop.

Reg still remembers Mr & Mrs Haywood and their son, Fred. Their other son Sid who died some years ago lived next door to the shop, and Sid's son Steven lives there later. Mr. Haywood was often referred to as Checker Haywood. Sid was a life long member of the Griffydam Wesleyan Chapel and attended the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Sunday school when it was still held in the Griffydam Wesleyan Methodist Day School just along the road, prior to the new Sunday school adjoining the chapel at Griffydam opening in 1932.

Reg relates a funny story when he, his brother Harold Burton and Gerald Hall went to get a sausage roll (costing a penny) from Harwood's shop. After discovering a cobweb on it, he took it back into the shop where Mr. Haywood duly broke the end off and returned it to the boys. For some time afterwards they joked about it, calling it Checkers penny dreadful !!



**PEGG'S GREEN HOME GUARD (10B PLATOON) IN 1944
OUTSIDE THE RED LION INN**

**Back Row L to R – (1) Cyril Marshall, (2) Ken Harrison, (3) Mr. Fern (4) B.Walker
(5) Mr. Collins, (6) B.Hall, (7) H.Brooks.**

**Middle Row L to R – (1) Bill Blakey (New Engine Inn landlord), (2) Mr. Fairbrother,
(3) Gordon Morley, (4) Jack Leeson, (5) John Archie Burton, (6) T. Shaw (7) ?? (8) ??**

**Bottom Row L to R – (1) W. Nutting (2) A. Bromley (3) Arthur Else, (4) Siah Weston,
(5) Gerald Burton, (6) Brian Hickling (7) Vic Clements**

If we compare the front of the Red Lion with how it is in the above Home Guard photograph, we can see the changes that have been made to the windows on the ground floor, although the upstairs windows still seem to be the same.

**In the centre of the front row is Josiah John Weston (aka. Siah) -
See pages 9 and 10**

CLOSURE OF THE RED LION

Following a fire in 1960 the Red Lion finally closed its doors in 1968 as described in the following newspaper reports.

Leicester Evening Mail – November 8th 1960

BLAZE AT INN NEAR COALVILLE

CUSTOMERS AT THE RED LION INN, PEGG'S GREEN, NEAR COALVILLE, HELPED TO FIGHT A FIRE WHICH BROKE OUT IN THE LIVING ROOM AT THE INN SHORTLY BEFORE 10 O'CLOCK LAST NIGHT.

The blaze caused £100 damage to household goods and decorations and a pet budgerigar died. The outbreak was found by the wife of the licensee, Mrs. T. Glithero, about an hour after her husband, Mr. I. G. Clithero, had gone to his work as a miner at Ellistown Colliery.

Mrs. Glithero was met by smoke when she went to the room after the customers had told her there was a smell of burning.

An attempt was made by Mr. Arthur Beal to get into the room but he was driven back. Mr. T. Webster, who attempted to enter with a wet towel round his face was also unsuccessful. While Mr. F. Platts drove to a telephone kiosk to call the brigade a number of other customers including Mr. A. Robinson and Mr. J. Burton, threw water through the doors of the burning room and held the fire in check.

Firemen discovered that a considerable area of plaster board walling, a settee and a quantity of clothing had been destroyed in the fire. Mr. Glithero, who has been licensee at the Inn for about four years, formerly lived in Victoria street, Coalville, and at one time was secretary of the Coalville branch of the British Legion.

Birmingham Daily Post – Wednesday July 17th 1968

BREATH TEST CLOSES THE RED LION

The licensee of Leicestershire's oldest public houses said yesterday : "We are closing down because of the breathalyser".

Standing behind the bar of the Red Lion in the tiny village of Peggs Green, Mrs. Shirley Grainger said ; "Before the breathalyser, the pub was always full at weekends, but now, the only customers we have are three regulars who have been coming here for over 20 years. The situation got so bad that my husband had to go out to work to make ends meet".

"People are just too frightened to drink and drive and those who used to drive out here from the towns are leaving their cars at home and walking to their locals, and when drivers do come in they sit here all evening over one pint of beer. I have had to stop stocking mild because the only person who drinks it is one of my regulars and you can't order a whole barrel of beer for just one person".

Continued over page

TOO FAR AWAY

The oak-beamed bar which once rang with the sound of laughter and music is now deserted and silent. The juke box has been taken out because it no longer pays for itself.

There are just 152 people on Peggs Green electoral list and most of them live too far away from the Red Lion. One of the regulars, 60 year-old Mr. Vic Clements, said : "I will be sorry to see the Red Lion disappear after so long. I have been coming here practically every night but now I am going teetotal during the week and I will visit another pub at the weekends. But no pub will ever be quite the same as the Red Lion".

Mrs. Grainger said : "The Red lion is probably the first pub to be closed by the breathalyser but it won't be the last. I would like Mrs. Barbara Castle to come along here herself and see what the breathalyser has done".