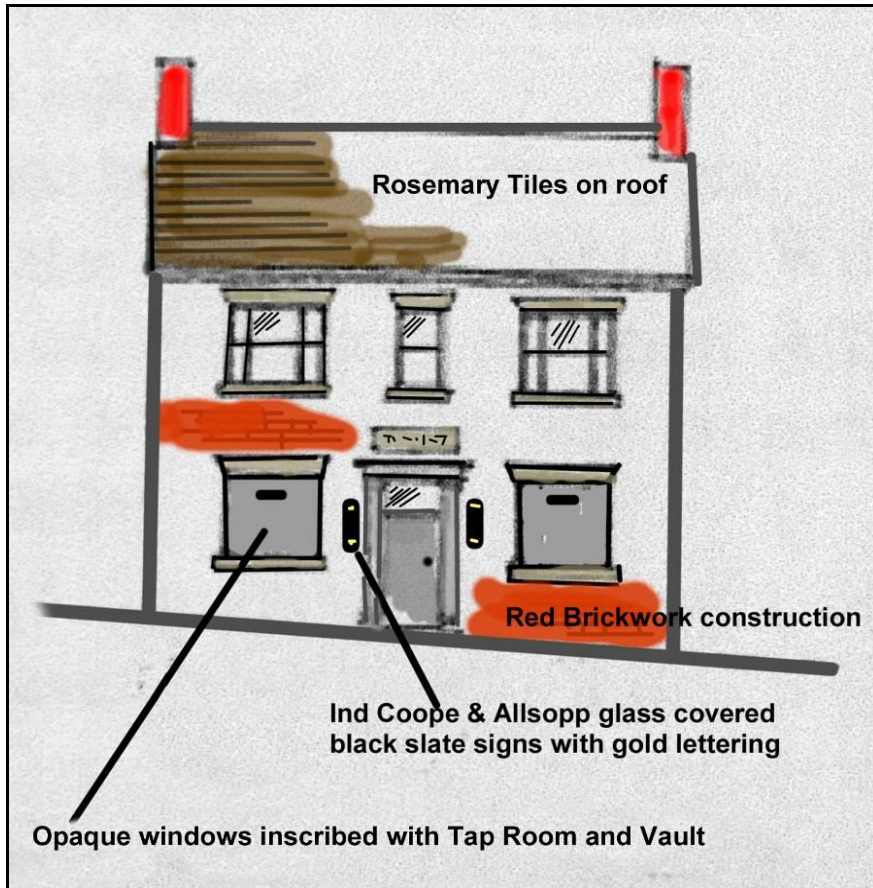


THE BLACKSMITH'S ARMS BEER HOUSE COLEORTON



DRAFT - ONGOING PROJECT

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - MARCH 2023
Updated September - 2024

FRONT COVER SKETCH

Having passed the Blacksmith's Arms over a period of 5 years on his way to and from school in Ashby, the author has retained some memories of the beer house which he has included in the sketch.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks to Terry Ward for sharing information on the Blacksmith Arms. Terry is a descendant of the Ward family who were licensees of the Blacksmith's Arms except for some 10 years of its known life as a beer house.

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INFORMATION ON BEER HOUSE ACTS

The **Beer house Act of 1830** was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, which liberalised the regulations governing the brewing and sale of beer. Sometimes known as the "Duke of Wellington Beer Act" as it was the Duke of Wellington's government in situ at that time. It was modified by subsequent legislation and finally repealed in 1993.

The precursor to the **Beer house Act** was the Alehouse Act of 1828, which established a general annual licensing meeting to be held in every city, town, division, county and riding, for the purposes of granting licences to inns, alehouses and victualling (i.e. provision of food) houses to sell excisable liquors to be drunk on the premises.

Enacted two years later, the **Beer house Act** enabled any rate-payer to brew and sell beer on payment of a license costing two guineas per annum, equivalent to about £150 today. The intention was to increase competition between brewers; lowering prices and encouraging people to drink beer instead of strong spirits. The drinking of Gin had become common place and led to an increase in drunkenness. It resulted in the opening of thousands of new public houses and breweries throughout the country, particularly in the rapidly expanding industrial centres.

A **Beer house** was a type of public house created in the United Kingdom by the 1830 Beerhouse Act, legally defined as a place "where beer is sold to be consumed *on* the premises". Existing public houses were issued with licenses by local magistrates under the terms of the Retail Brewers Act of 1828, and were subject to police inspections at any time of the day or night. **Proprietors of the new Beer houses**, on the other hand, simply had to buy a license from the government costing two guineas per annum, equivalent to about £150 in current day value. **Until the Wine and Beer house Act of 1869** gave local magistrates the authority to renew beerhouse licenses, the two classes of establishment were in direct competition.

The 1869 Wine and Beer houses Act brought in magisterial controls with stricter licensing laws, pre 1869, Beer houses were still exempt though and this meant that the small Beer house could thrive but the large inns that sold spirits were under increasing pressure to run a controlled and respectable house.

So, as Beer houses did not come under the control of magistrates and stricter licensing laws till 1869, this is why the "Traveller's Rest" and the "Rising Sun" were not recorded in the Ashby de la Zouch register of licenses till after 1869.

The author has come to the conclusion that these particular houses would have been equivalent to what is known as "Free houses" today. From the 1890s through to the WWI, Beer houses were increasingly targeted by the police and clergy who wanted to see the end to the long opening hours and cheap ale.

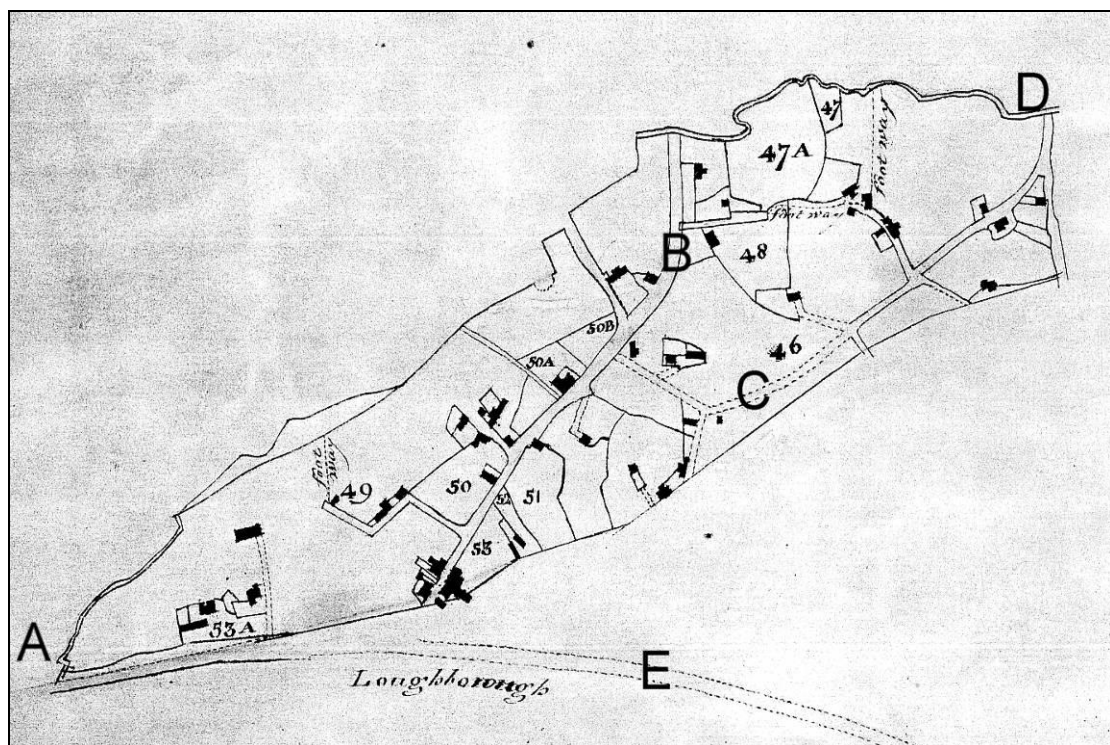
LOCATION OF THE BLACKSMITH ARMS

Walking from Coleorton cross roads down Lower Moor Road in a northerly direction, we come to Bradford's Lane on our right hand side. Opposite this, at one time, stood the "Blacksmiths Arms Beer & Wine House", an 19th century building including a cellar which was located originally within an area, formerly known as "Rotten Row" and adjacent to the Coleorton extension of the Hinckley to Melbourne Common, turnpike.

As part of the 1807 Township of Thringstone and Pegg's Green enclosure Act, "Rotten Row" became part of the Township of Thringstone, as did Pegg's Green. The Township of Thringstone was in turn part of the Ecclesiastical parish of Whitwick.

Strangely, Rotten Row became an island of land that was actually land locked within the Ecclesiastical parish of Coleorton. It remained part of the Township of Thringstone until 1884 when it became part of the parish of Coleorton.

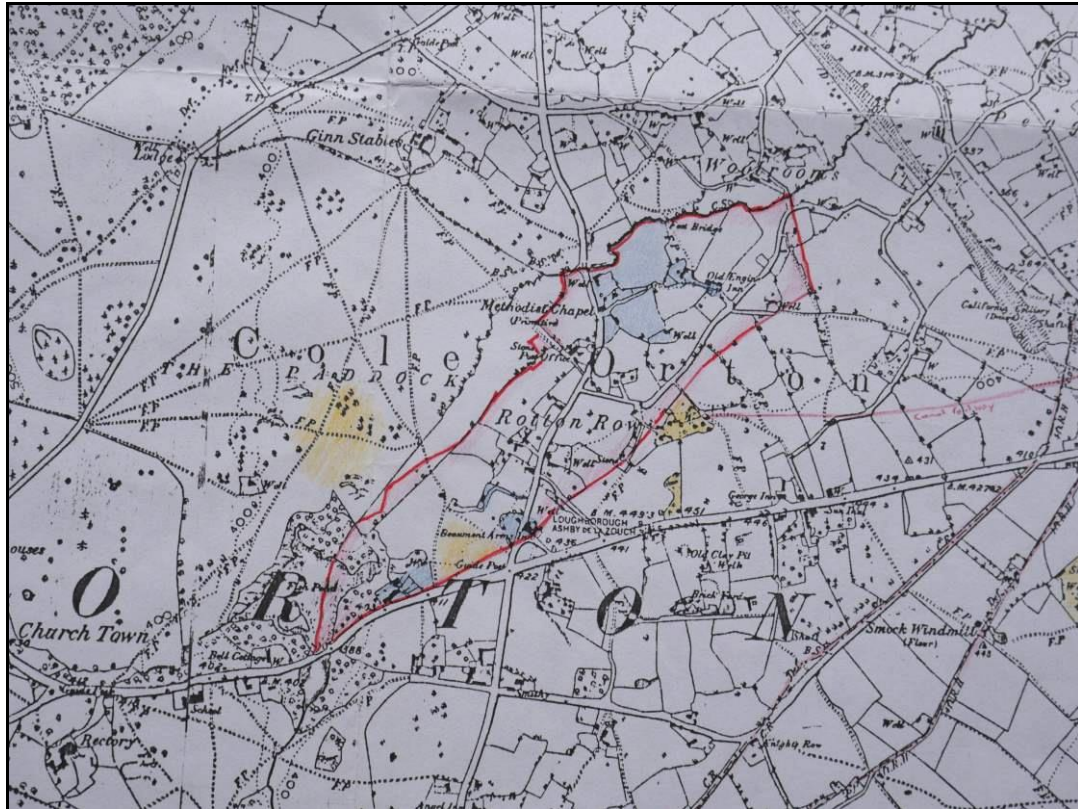
The Blacksmith Arms was the building shown on plot 50 on the map of "Rotten Row" below, adjacent to the road, and opposite Bradford's Lane. A modern bungalow named "Greenfield" was built on the plot where the Blacksmith's Arms stood following its demolition in the 1960s.



The above map shows the area of "Rotten Row". It has been annotated by the author in order to relate it to various current geographical features in Coleorton.

A = Coleorton Fish Pond, **B** = Lower Moor Road, **C** = Stoney Lane, **D** = The Woolrooms, **E** = Loughborough Road.

The brook flowing out of Coleorton fish pond is represented by the double line at the top which also defines the boundary of Worthington parish in this area.



AREA OF ROTTEN ROW SHOWN ON THE 1881 SURVEYED 6 " O/S MAP

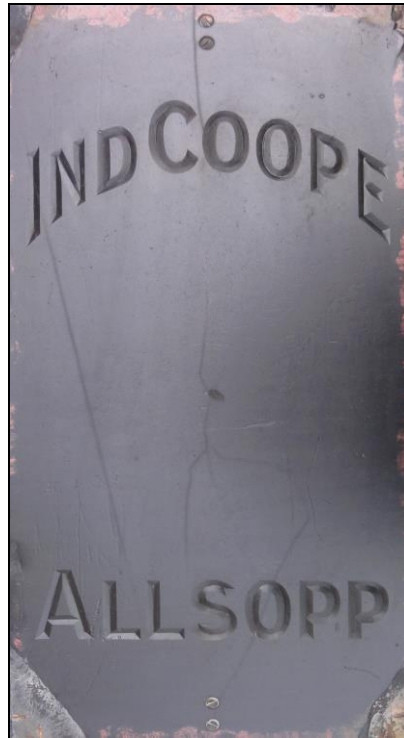


THE BLACKSMITH'S ARMS IS IN THE CENTRE OF THIS ENLARGED EXTRACT OPPOSITE BRADFORD'S LANE

Continued over page

In the 19th century, "Rotten Row" would have been a busy area with Pubs, Shops, the old Primitive Methodist Chapel and Sunday school, a Post Office and some light industries like Whetstone / Oil Stone, Spar / Bauble manufacturing, and Hat making being carried out there amongst other things over a period of time.

No photographs of the Beer House have surfaced, but there follows a photograph of one of the original slate signs which were located either side of the front entrance door. They were originally black with gold lettering and protected by a glass cover. Ind Coope and Allsopp, who presumably supplied the beer, merged in 1934, hence both names being on the signs.



When the Beer House was demolished in 1961, the rosemary tiles were taken off the roof and transported by Billy Harrison of Harrison's farm, Bakewell's Lane, with his tractor and trailer to the Cottages owned by Frederick Barkby at the junction of Bakewell's Lane and Stoney Lane, where they were used to re-tile the roof there. The signs were also rescued but deteriorated over time due to being left in the garden for 60 years.

How the Blacksmiths' Arms came by its name is not known, and several hand me down hearsays have been put forward. The most believable story is that a blacksmith, by the name of Samuel Bradford had a forge at a cottage on the left as you entered Bradford's Lane (formerly known as Ship Lane). He was responsible for making a copper weather vane for St. Mary's Church spire.

As it was adjacent to the Coleorton extension of the Hinckley to Melbourne turnpike, it is not unreasonable to suggest that it may have been originally built for the purpose of providing accommodation, food and drink to travellers on the turnpike and for the developing local mining industry.

LICENSING INFORMATION

The author has based the following analysis on the Ashby de la Zouch licensing records, with key information given in the following table. This is supported in part by deeds, census and trade directory records. The available licensing records start from 1872, and go through to 1936. The Beerhouse up to 1891 is registered as having "no sign", meaning it didn't have an official name. However, from 1891 onwards, it is registered each year as the "Blacksmith's Arms". One problem with the licensing records is that they do not differentiate between *Owner and Leaseholder*, although old deeds for the property indicate that in the early days, the property was owned by the Burton Brewery Company. They were voluntarily wound up in 1906 and merged with Allsopp Brewery who in turn merged with Ind Coope in 1934 which could relate to the Ind Coope / Allsopp signs being placed on the building, and was probably owned by the breweries until Francis Smith purchased it (date not known), but his will dated 1912, confirms his ownership as he left the property to John & Mary Bradford and the licensing records confirm John Bradford's ownership still in 1921 before being sold the next year to Willis Romley, a brewery agent who lived on Tamworth Road, Ashby.

Evidence suggest, that prior to 1872, it could well have been operating, perhaps illegally, as an unofficial Ale or Beer House. Deeds relating to the building indicate that William Gamble and James Bakewell prior to John Griffin, the first officially recorded licensee in 1872, were former occupants of this place. William Gamble's Will in 1832 describes him as being a shopkeeper on Coleorton Moor which would be consistent with him being an occupant of this building. James Bakewell however, may have been the first licensee of this house, although probably not officially licensed as such based on the following:-

James Bakewell appears in the census for 1841 with his family in Rotten Row, his occupation being given as "Traveller". However, the Leicester Journal of 12th June 1840 carries the following report indicating his involvement (possibly illegally) in the licensed trade at that time :-

James Bakewell of Coleorton, beer-house keeper, was charged by Superintendent Hague with an offence under the beer Act. The defendant pleaded guilty and was find 40s. and costs.

In the 1851 census James Bakewell's occupation is given as a Beer House keeper, aged 66 and born in Thringstone (could have been Rotten row). He died in 1853 aged 67 and his widow Elizabeth is then recorded as a Beer House keeper in the 1861 census with her daughter Fanny recorded as her assistant. this is confirmed in White's Trade Directory of 1863.

We now move on to the licensing records which show John Griffin as the first officially recorded licensee in 1872, of a Wine & Beer House (no sign) with Joseph Person of Packington presumably as the leaseholder, assuming the Burton Brewery Company still own the property. The 1871 census records John Griffin as an Inn Keeper and miner, age 58 together with his wife Sarah, aged 56, so the licensing authority presumably didn't record him till the following year. Not surprisingly, they were probably confused with the goings on at this Beer House.

Sarah Griffin is given as the next licensee in 1874 (presumably John Griffin's widow), but interestingly Sarah Smith has become the owner / leaseholder which she is for the next 11 years although for 3 of these years 1878/79/80 she is the joint owner leaseholder with Samuel Eagle who is apparently running the off license /

shop within the Wine / Beer House & Off License as it was registered during those 3 years. **Sarah Smith is thought to be the mother of Francis Smith (b.1841), who features later, as both the owner and licensee of the Beer House.**

William Ward, who was born in Heather in 1831 is recorded as being the next licensee for 1 year only from August the 26th 1875 to August 25th 1876. At this time he was living with his wife, the former Sarah Smith (b. 1835 Thringstone - probably Rotten Row) and 7 children - William (b.1861), Sarah A (b.1863), Francis (b.1874), Thomas E (b.1866), Henry (b.1870), Elizabeth (b.1873), and Mary (b.1875). **William next became licensee of the Old Engine Inn in Elverston's Yard off Stoney Lane from Aug 1878 to Aug 1886.**

This information in the following table is as recorded in the Ashby de la Zouch licensing records except for the rows coloured green (1898 to 1904) where no licensing information was recorded. William Ward died in 1900 and the Coleorton 1901 census confirmed Sarah Ward as a widow and a Beer house keeper on her own account, so we can be confident that the information entered is basically correct. A Further confirmation is given in the following transcribed newspaper report:-

Leicester Chronicle - Saturday 31 March 1900

ASHBY POLICE COURT

The license of the Blacksmith's Arms, Coleorton, was transferred to Sarah Ward from her husband.

Comments in blue in the following table have been annotated by the author.

DATE	VICTUALLER / PUBLICAN	OWNER / LEASE HOLDER	
1872 Aug 31	John Griffin	Joseph Person, Packington	Wine & Beerhouse
1873 Aug 29	John Griffin	Joseph Person, Packington	Wine & Beerhouse
1874 Aug 28	Sarah Griffin	Sarah Smith, Coleorton Mother of Francis Smith	Wine & Beerhouse
1875 Aug 26	William Ward	Sarah Smith, Coleorton Mother of Francis Smith	Wine & Beerhouse
1876 Aug 25	William Ward	Mother of Francis Smith Sarah Smith, Coleorton	Wine & Beerhouse
1877 Aug 30	Francis Smith Brother - in - Law to William Ward	Mother of Francis Smith Sarah Smith	Wine & Beerhouse
1878 Nov 24	Thomas Ball	Samuel Eagle	Off Licence
1878 Aug 23	Francis Smith	Sarah Smith	Wine & Beerhouse
1879 Aug 23	Thomas Ball	Samuel Eagle	Off Licence
1879 Aug 21	Francis Smith	Mother of Francis Smith Sarah Smith	Wine & Beerhouse
1880 Aug 21	Thomas Ball	Samuel Eagle	Off Licence
1880 Aug 27	Francis Smith	Mother of Francis Smith Sarah Smith	Wine & Beerhouse
1881	Francis Smith	Sarah Smith	Beerhouse

Aug 26		Mother of Francis Smith	
1882 Aug 26	Francis Smith	Mother of Francis Smith Sarah Smith	Beerhouse
1883 Sep 25	Francis Smith	Mother of Francis Smith Sarah Smith	Beerhouse
1884 Aug 30	Francis Smith	Mother of Francis Smith Sarah Smith	Beerhouse
1885 Aug 29	Thomas Kinsey	Francis Smith	Beerhouse
1886 Aug 28	Thomas Kinsey	Francis Smith	Beerhouse
1887 Aug 27	William Ward	Francis Smith	Beerhouse
1888 Aug 25	William Ward	Francis Smith	Beerhouse
1889 Aug 24	William Ward	Francis Smith	Beerhouse
1890 Aug 23	William Ward	Francis Smith	Beerhouse
1891 Aug 22	William Ward	Francis Smith	Beerhouse
1892 Aug 27	William Ward	Francis Smith	Beerhouse
1893 Aug 26	William Ward	Francis Smith	Beerhouse
1894 Aug 25	William Ward	Francis Smith	Beerhouse
1895 Aug 31	William Ward	Francis Smith	Beerhouse
1896 Aug 29	William Ward	Francis Smith	Beerhouse
1897 Aug 28	William Ward	Francis Smith	Beerhouse
1898	William Ward	Francis Smith ?	Beerhouse
1899	William Ward	Francis Smith ?	Beerhouse
1900	William Ward (died 1900) License transferred to Sarah Ward his widow in March	Francis Smith ?	Beerhouse
1901	Sarah Ward	Francis Smith ?	Beerhouse
1902	Sarah Ward	Francis Smith ?	Beerhouse
1903	Sarah Ward	Francis Smith ?	Beerhouse
1904	Sarah Ward	Francis Smith ?	Beerhouse
1905 Feb 4	Sarah Ward	Francis Smith	Beerhouse
1906 Feb 3	Sarah Ward	Francis Smith	Beerhouse
1907 Feb 2	Sarah Ward	Francis Smith	Beerhouse
1908 Feb 8	Sarah Ward	Francis Smith	Beerhouse
1909 Feb 6	Sarah Ward	Francis Smith	Beerhouse
1910 Feb 12	Sarah Ward	Francis Smith, Coleorton	Beerhouse

1911 Feb 11	Henry Ward	Francis Smith, Coleorton	Beerhouse
1912 Feb 10	Henry Ward	Francis Smith, Coleorton	Beerhouse
1913 Feb 08	Henry Ward	Died 1912 Francis Smith, Coleorton ???	Beerhouse
1914 Feb 07	Henry Ward	Died 1912 Francis Smith, Coleorton ???	Beerhouse
1915 Feb 06	Harry Ward	Various	Beerhouse
1916 Feb 05	Harry Ward	Various	Beerhouse
1917 Feb 03	John Ward	Various	Beerhouse
1918 Feb 02	John Ward	Various	Beerhouse
1919 Feb 01	John Ward	Various	Beerhouse
1920 Feb 14	John Ward	John Bradford, Ashby	Beerhouse
1921 Feb 12	John Ward	John Bradford, Ashby	Beerhouse
1922 Feb 11	John Ward	Willis Rumley, Ashby	Beerhouse
1923 Feb 10	John Ward	Willis Rumley, Ashby	Beerhouse
1924 Feb 09	John Ward	Willis Rumley, Ashby	Beerhouse
1925 Feb 07	John Ward	Willis Rumley	Beerhouse
1926 Feb 06	John Ward	Willis Rumley	Beerhouse
1927 Feb 05	John Ward	Willis Rumley	Beerhouse
1928 Feb 04	John Ward	Willis Rumley	Beerhouse
1929 Feb 02	Harriett Ward	Willis Rumley	Beerhouse
1930 Feb 07	Harriett Ward	Willis Rumley	Beerhouse
1931 Feb 14	Harriett Ward	Willis Rumley	Beerhouse
1932 Feb 13	Harriett Ward	Willis Rumley	Beerhouse
1933 Feb 11	Harriett Ward	Willis Rumley	Beerhouse
1934 Feb 10	Harriett Ward	Willis Rumley	Beerhouse
1935 Feb 09	Harriett Ward	Willis Rumley, Ashby	Beerhouse
1936 Feb 08	Harriett Ward	Willis Rumley, Ashby	Beerhouse
1941	Mrs. Harriet Ward	Quoted as Victualler in Kelly's 1941 Trade Directory	

Apparently, at some point the license passed to Mrs. Harriet Ward's son, Johnnie Ward, who held it until the Blacksmith's Arms ceased to trade as a Beer House prior to 1957. The following transcribed newspaper report confirms this:-

Transcribed from the Hinckley Times - Friday 26th April 1957

BOSWORTH COURT CASES
Welder on Probation for two years
Theft of copper tubing from Colliery

A Thirty year-old welder residing at a former pub in the Coalville area was put on probation for two years and ordered pay £1 5s court fees when found guilty at Bosworth magistrates court last Thursday of stealing copper tubing valued at £3 13s. John Arthur Wain of the old **Blacksmith's Arms, Coleorton**, admitted the offence. The theft was noticed by Charles Crisp employed at the same colliery but under another contractor. He saw Wain loading a certain amount of copper tubing, presumably to take away. Wain said he took some out of the showers and some from the gully. He was hoping to sell it. He was sorry he had done it and it was the first time he had been in trouble. He pleaded that he was only thinking of his family. There were two children and his wife was expecting their third. For two days he had been to work without food. His wage was about £7 a week but last week he had to pay a debt and was left with barely £1. Wain found it difficult to get work, the probation officer told the court. He was always self-conscious and aware of the fact that he was wearing his only set of clothes. **The probation officer from Coalville mentioned that the accommodation was quite inadequate, the former pub had been made into three flats there where 15 people were living and the sanitation was not all that could be desired. He was already making calls there with regard to another member of the same family.**

The licensing records for the Blacksmith's Arms which started in 1872 always recorded it with that name from 1891 onwards. However, prior to that it was recorded as having "no sign" which wasn't a lawful requirement for a Beer House at that time. The Blacksmith's Arms, was first registered as a *Wine and Beer* house in 1872 when John and Sarah Griffin were the licensees for the first three years. In 1878, 79 & 80 when Thomas Ball and Francis Smith took over as joint licensees, it was registered as a Wine / Beerhouse / Off License. Sarah Smith and Samuel Eagle were joint Owners / Leaseholders during this period, and the author believes that Samuel Eagle Esq., would have been running a shop and Off License from there as he was recorded as a shop keeper in Rotten Row. From 1881 onwards, the Blacksmith's Arms was registered as a "Beerhouse" only.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

The pubs in Coleorton would have been dangerous places to frequent in days gone by, as confirmed by the following extract which was taken from Lavengro's column in the 29.12.1967 edition of the Coalville Times :-

"There was a certain amount of liveliness from time to time at the Kings Arms, where the excitement was intensified because the patrons were in the habit of taking with them their tins filled with blasting powder, which they used to buy from "Atkins' Powder Magazine" at Swannington. The Landlord, "Smacker" Bakewell (James Bakewell) , was well able to keep reasonable order. In other words, the fighting was kept within limits.

The most serious incident occurred at "The Blacksmith's Arms". Tom Knapp (whose real name was Smallwood), called there one winter's evening with his powder tin tucked beneath his arm. He found the whole place in an uproar. Combatants were milling in an almost unrecognisable mass, so many were fighting at the same time. The distraught Landlady, Sarah Ward, was yelling for the police, but the Blacksmith's Arms and the police were miles apart, and when Tom Knapp arrived, Sarah had given up all hope of assistance in quelling the disturbance.

In an instance, Tom saw that it was useless to interfere with the combatants. He had the bright idea of throwing his powder tin into the fire. This action precipitated a speedy exodus of the combatants from the premises, and in seconds Tom was left alone to sympathise with the terrified landlady. Her gratitude took the form of a free pint of ale for Tom, who then confided to her, that there had been no danger from the powder tin, as it was empty".

Terry Ward provided the information that his great Aunt Lilly Ward related the following story:-

The Blacksmith's Arms would open around 6.00 am in order to catch the miners coming off the night shift. Some of the men would then go straight to the Blacksmith's Arms, rather than their homes, and after eating there, would spend the rest of the day drinking and playing dominoes until the afternoon, when they went home to bed to be ready for the next shift.

Although coal mines eventually had their own explosive stores, prior to this, the coal mining holers who went down the pit in the early hours to blast the coal away from the seam prior to the hewers and fillers coming on shift at 6 a.m. had to supply their own explosives to take down pit.

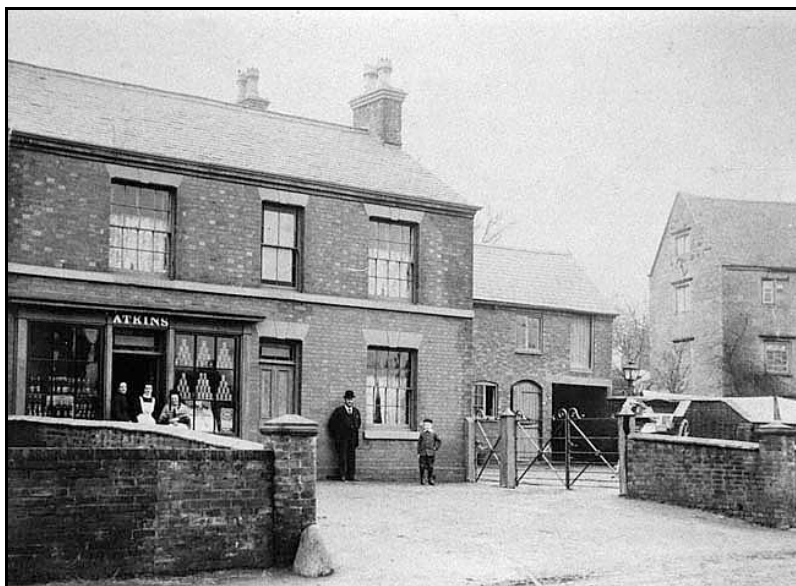
The following relating article, referring to Charles Atkin's Powder Magazine in Swannington, was written by Mr. Bill Platts, a Coleorton historian, late of Botany Bay, Coleorton.

The Big Black Box

This is a true story, passed down from my Dad and my Uncles. My father was one of five collier brothers. Miners in their day had to supply their own explosives bought from Charlie Atkins of Swannington, who described himself as a gunpowder manufacturer and confectioner. The explosive known as "black powder", went under the trade name "John Hall Powder", and fuses could be purchased from the same

source. In damp weather, John Hall Powder had to be stored in dry conditions, a black box kept on a narrow landing at the top of the steep stairs near to a chimney breast, a typical feature of Miners' cottages in the village.

As there was no electricity available at the time, candles were normally used to illuminate the way to bed for the children, and they were want to leave them on the black box, before getting into bed. I remember asking Dad how much John Hall Powder was stored, and his wry reply was, "enough to make three cottages and the Kings Arms disappear".



An old photograph of Atkins shop referred to in the story above. This was situated in Main Street, Swannington next to the old Stone House which is depicted on the extreme RH side of the photograph, and is still standing today.

Atkins shop in Main Street had a long and interesting history. The Atkins appeared to have lived in Swannington from at least 1857, and prior to that in Snibston, from at least 1851.

The 1871 census lists Thomas Atkins (47) as a Grocer who was born in Polesworth, as was his wife Annie, they had 6 children living with them. The 1881 census lists Thomas Atkins (56) as a grocer still, with their son Thomas (30) listed as an "explosives agent" and another son Charles (23) as a "cartridge maker". By 1891, Thomas (66) is listed as a "Grocer Gunpowder Merchant", they still have 4 children living with them, and Charles now 33 is given as an "ammunition cartridge maker". By 1901, Thomas Atkins senior appears to have died, and his son Thomas junior, listed in the 1881 census as an "explosives agent" is now head of the house, and apparently running the grocery business. There is no mention of explosives still being stocked in the 1901 census.

There are several recordings of the Wards being shop keepers in Rotten Row. Terry Ward relates that Sarah Ellen Ward (nee. Beresford) ran a back room shop in her cottage which was situated almost opposite where the Blacksmiths Arms once stood. The property still exists today, and is known as "Braeside". Following Sarah's death in 1936, it passed to Daisy Ward her daughter, who later married Tommy Yates. There follows two old photographs of the property. **Note - This Sarah Ward is not the Sarah Ward who was landlady at the Blacksmith Arms**



The property, situated almost opposite the Blacksmith's Arms, where Sarah Ward (nee. Beresford) had her back room shop
(Photograph by kind permission of Terry Ward)



This photograph is older than the preceding one, and thought to have been taken prior to the back room shop conversion
(Photograph by kind permission of Robert Beresford, a descendant of an old Coleorton family)



Further down Lower Moor Lane on the same side as the preceding photographs of "Braeside Cottage", there previously stood a property known as "Squirrel Cottage". The above is a copy of a photograph taken in 1951, showing it in a dilapidated state. The property was purchased by David Bagshaw, a local architect, and developed into an impressive modern property which is still known as "Squirrel Cottage" today.



ANOTHER COTTAGE FORMERLY IN ROTTEN ROW

Mr & Mrs Fern lived in the above thatched cottage which was situated opposite / close to the Coleorton Primitive Methodist Chapel on Lower Moor Road. Due to a lack of basic facilities the house was condemned by the council and they moved to a council house at "The Moorlands", Coleorton.



Two coal miner's enjoying a glass of beer from the Blacksmith's Arms

When the author first entered this photograph in his book entitled "A History of Coal Mining in Coleorton And The Local Area" in 2013, he was led to believe that it was taken in Pit Lane. This has now proved to be incorrect and was actually taken on Lower Moor Road on the opposite side to the Blacksmith's Arms. The two gentlemen are Alonzo ("Dicki") Holland and seated Tom Fairbrother who is recorded in the Coleorton 1901 census as being aged 23 and living with his wife Ada in "Rotten Row". When the photograph was taken can be approximated by how old Tom Fairbrother looks.

According to his granddaughter, Tom was a man not to be crossed when he was in drink, even among his own family, as may be apparent in the following newspaper report:-

Transcribed from the Leicester Journal - 28th May 1920

Sequel to Dominoes - At Ashby de la Zouch Petty sessions on Saturday, James Platts of Gelsmoor, and Thomas Fairbrother, colliers of this village, were summoned by John Ward, beer house keeper, Coleorton, with being drunk and refusing to quit the licensed premises at the village on May 15th. - Platts pleaded not guilty, and Fairbrother did not appear. - Mr. J. J. Sharp (Coalville), who appeared for the complainant, said his client kept the Blacksmith's Arms, and the defendants declined to leave when requested. Complainant said that the two men were arguing and creating a disturbance. Later, the defendants fought, and despite his repeated warnings, the men declined to quit. - Platt's version of the affair was that Fairbrother was the aggressor. The cause of the trouble was a game of dominoes. Fairbrother struck him three times, and witness hit him back in defence. - Platt called a witness, but that individual declined to give evidence. - Each defendant was fined £1 1s. and 10s. witness allowance, or seven days.

**AN APPROXIMATION OF BEER PRICES IN PUBLIC HOUSES -
1939 TO 1948**

**(THE PRICE IN "BEER HOUSES" LIKE THE BLACKSMITH'S ARMS
WOULD HAVE BEEN LESS THAN THIS)**

Draught beer prices per pint (d) 1939 - 1948								
Month	Year	Ale	Mild	Best Mild	Ordinary Bitter	Best Bitter	Burton	Stout
Sept	1939	4	5	6	7	8	8	8
April	1940	5	6	7	8	9	9	9
April	1941	7	8	9	10	12	12	12
April	1942	9	10	11	12	15	15	15
April	1943	10	11	12	13	17	17	17
April	1944		11		13	15	17	17
April	1945		11		13	15	17	17
April	1946	11	12		13	16	17	17
April	1947	11	12		13	16	17	17
April	1948	12	13		14	19	19	19