

The Cabin

The Cabin is mentioned in the 1861 Census Return with John Truelove, a 40 year old from Buckland. Shown as the resident ‘beer retailer’. It would appear that Truelove had acquired not just the Cabin but also the twelve houses – in three blocks of four - down the western side of St John’s Road since these were described on the census return as Truelove’s Rents

He was still there in 1871 but died in February 1876 and is buried in Holy Trinity churchyard. His wife survived him but in 1881 the running of The Cabin was in the hands of Nathaniel Rowland from Leatherhead.

In 1891 the licensee was Charles Henley, born in Balcombe Sussex in 1854 . A survey carried out by the Dorking Petty Sessions in 1892 recorded that at that time the Beer House was tied to Lascelles & Company of Guildford and that it was frequented by mostly low class of working men and suspected persons. It also revealed that ownership of the property remained with the John Truelove’s Executors.

Charles Henley was at The Cabin for over 20 years before handing over to Mr J C Pannell in April 1904. This was possibly James C Pannell a 55 year old self employed cattle dealer whose address was Main Road Westcott in the 1901 Westcott census. In his application to take over The Cabin it was stated that J C Pannell had held the licence for Uncle Tom’s Cabin ‘for many years’.

The next licensee was probably Edward Woodnutt. His obituary notes that he spent four years as licensee of The Cabin before moving to The Cricketers where he stayed 14 years before retiring We know that he was at The Cabin in September 1908 because he featured in the trial of John Fairbrother for the murder of his wife.

THE LANDLORD’S EVIDENCE

Edward Henry Woodnutt, landlord of the Cabin public-house said: On Wednesday, as near as I can tell at ten past 12, the first thing that attracted my attention was that I heard a scream. The moment afterwards the deceased came running into the house. She lived opposite the ‘Cabin’. She held her clenched hands to her neck. When she came in I did not notice her condition, and I said to her, “My good woman, what do you come here with your troubles for?” The next moment I saw the blood streaming from her. I said “Who done this? and she said “My husband, the brute”.

When Woodnutt moved to the Cricketers he was probably replaced by Alfred Nightingale. He was certainly there in 1916 when he successfully appealed against conscription at a tribunal convened under the terms of the 1916 Military Act. The Act provided grounds for exemptions to those who suffered ill health, were the sole breadwinner with dependants or were engaged in work which was judged to be of national importance. The School Register shows that he had three daughters born between 1910 and 1914 and so it was probably this fact and not work of national importance that kept him out of the trenches.

Kelly’s Directory for 1951 shows John Alfred Nightingale still living at The Cabin but other names linked with The Cabin during the past 50 years include:

Mr C E Broadbridge who was granted a licence for the Cabin Inn on 1 10 1956 taking over from V L Butler

A W Sloan was shown as the occupant in Kemp’s Directory for 1972

On 15 November 1968 the Cabin was closed by the Brewers. It had operated as a public house since 1860, and was probably rebuilt in 1891.

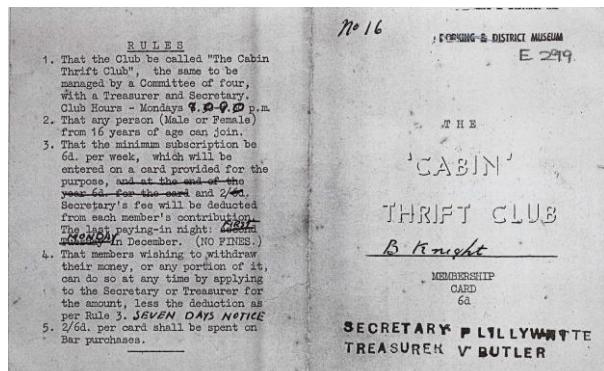
The Cabin does not appear to have featured in newspaper reports to the same extent as the main road pubs but we have a note that in 1915 'Frederick Buxton was summoned for being drunk and refusing to leave The Cabin'

The Cabin provided a 'drink or take away' service, 'teas on the lawn' in summer and was also a popular venue for wedding receptions.

1919	Nightingale	Mabel Kate Eileen	31	3	1910	Alfred	Miss Ruffel		Age
1919	Nightingale	Norah May	20	12	1911	Alfred	Miss Ruffel	23	12 1925 Age
1919	Nightingale	Florence Dorcas?	18	4	1914	Alfred	Miss Ruffel	1	8 1928 Age
1938	Rogerson	Michael	14	8	1932	Florence	None	2	8 1939 Removed to Brockham
1952	Amos	Gordon Alexander	24	11	1947	Alexander	None	24	7 1959 Sondes Place



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Thrift Club Membership Card 1956 (5/- a week)



A Cabin Outing:

From left to right standing are Bill Smithers, Arthur Gresswell, Mr Gravett (who had a shoe repair and sweet shop on the main road), the coach driver, John Nightingale, the publican, Mr Stent, Bill Wilkins and Nabby Meers.

Seated are Porky Parsons, George Bridger, Jim Holmes and Bill Stedman. Seated on the ground is Teddy Turner



Wedding Party at The Cabin