

Deddington Inns

The public houses in Deddington were the focal point of much social and business activity, the only other roofed buildings with public access being the parish church and the town hall.

Jackson's Oxford Journal mentions eight public houses in Deddington during the period 1820-1837, together with two in Clifton and one in Hempton. Several may have been beer houses (not licensed to sell wine and spirits) rather than inns.

Auctions of property, if not on the premises (which was the case with livestock, farm equipment, furniture and stock-in-trade), were usually conducted at the King's Arms or one of the other public houses.

While the King's Arms in Horse Fair, which had the advantage of being a coaching inn, continued to be the principal public house, from the late 1820s it began to face strong competition from the Unicorn, which attracted a similar number of property auctions between 1828 and 1837 (King's Arms 11, Unicorn 12). By 1826 its landlord was John Sturch. He may have been in partnership with his brother, William, a butcher, as there is a reference to Messrs. J. and W. Sturch, victuallers.

The Unicorn was well situated in the Market Place, and appears to have been the venue for the roasting of an ox during the annual October hiring fair.

Whilst most of the 'great and good' in Deddington appear to have been of a Tory or Conservative political persuasion, John Sturch was a staunch supporter of the Whig or Liberal cause. Following the [1837 election](#), when the Tories won all three county seats after a bitterly contested campaign, although the Liberals were returned at Westminster with a reduced majority, John Sturch hosted a dinner for Whig or Liberal Party supporters in north Oxfordshire at the Unicorn. The North Oxfordshire Conservatives held a celebratory dinner at the King's Arms.

References to the Crown and Tuns in New Street in notices in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* were not always consistent. Sometimes it is referred to as the Three Tuns. Piggott's Directory in 1830 refers to it as the Crown and Three Tuns. There is one reference to the Tuns.

A list of the references to public houses in Deddington, Clifton and Hempton mentioned in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* during the years 1820-1837 is set out below.

[King's Arms](#), Horse Fair

See separate article on the 'King's Arms and Edward Hatten'.

Red Lion, Horse Fair

The Red Lion Inn was apparently a building of some antiquity in Horse Fair (or Red Lion Street in 1771), before moving to its present site in Market Place which was a farmhouse until the mid-19th century.¹

- 1822 Landlord Richard Stevens
 Auction of pub
- 1823 Catalogues for auction elsewhere
- 1830 Landlord Henry Gibson (per Piggott's)
- 1835 Meeting of creditors of John Rose, mealman

Three Horse Shoes, Horse Fair

- 1830 Landlord John Rutter (per Piggott's)
- 1832 Auction of pub (Mr. Thomas Rutter moving to Aynho)
- 1833 Ditto
- 1836 Auction of pub (landlord Mr. Hitchman) , including a pew in the church
 Insolvency of Samuel Hitchman, innkeeper
- 1837 Auction of (1) stock of insolvent cooper, William Power, and (2) small house occupied by brazier

Unicorn, Market Place

- 1826 Landlord John Sturch
- 1828 Auction of house and shop in Market Street
 Auction of Windmill and 3 cottages
- 1830 Auction of slater's house and premises in Market Place
- 1831 Auction of confectioner's premises
 Auction of James Griffith's house in New Street
- 1832 General Annual Meeting of Deddington Association
 Auction of house and shop in Hudson's Lane let to William Claridge, grocer

¹ See 'Parishes: Deddington' in the Victoria County History of the County of Oxford, Volume XI (Wootton Hundred, Northern Part), ed. Alan Crossley (London, 1983), pp. 81-120.

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol11/pp81-120#h3-0007>

- 1833 Auction of 2 cottages in New Street
- 1834 Auction of house on the Green, tenant John Whetton
- 1836 Auction of property at Great Barford
- Auction of messuage (in 2 tenements) in Philcock Street
- 1837 Auction of late Mrs. Fanny Hughes' house
- 1837 Liberal Party dinner
- 1837 Fat sheep roasted in Market Place during Hiring Fair
- 1837 Auction of above messuage (in 2 tenements) in Philcock Street

- 1836 Messrs. J. and W. Sturch, victuallers

Crown and [Three] Tuns, New Street

- 1829 (Three Tuns) Auction of (1) plumber's house and (2) house let to Mr. W.H. Hitchcock, solicitor
- 1830 General Annual Meeting of Deddington Association
- 1831 (Three Tuns) Auction of properties belonging to John Whetton in New Street, including 12 acre nursery, in 5 lots
- 1831 (Three Tuns) Marriage of daughter of John Poulton, landlord
- 1832 (Three Tuns) Auction of implements of husbandry of John Whetton dec. at back of pub
- 1832 Auction of house in New Street occupied by Mrs. Elizabeth Whetton
- 1833 General Annual Meeting of Deddington Association
- 1836 Ditto
- 1836 Auction of baker's house (Mr. Pargiter) in the principal street

The Plough, New Street

- 1820 Landlord William Spencer
- 1820 Annual Pink Feast
- 1820 Annual carnation, melon and gooseberry feast
- 1821 Ditto
- 1821 Annual Gooseberry Feast

1823	Annual Pink Feast
1826	Deddington Pink Show
1829	Tandem to Cover
1830	Landlord Thomas Petty (per Piggott's)
1836	Mrs. Hannah Petty, relict of late Thomas Petty, remarried

Bell public house, Market Street

1835	William Heritage, proprietor
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White Horse, High Street

1831	Auction of pub + 21 acres grass keeping
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Crown Inn, Clifton

1828	Auction of Water Corn Mill at Clifton
1829	Auction of small farm at Clifton; landlord Mr. Harris
1832	Private sale of Crown Inn (newly built), proprietor Mr. Merry
1834	Repeat notice
1835	Prosecution of William Merry, publican - acquitted

The Duke of Cumberland's Head, Clifton

1835	Private sale of pub, proprietor Mrs. Elizabeth Lacy
	Notice of auction of pub

The Plough, Hempton

1823	Landlord Mr. Daniel Salmon
	Auction of goods and effects of pub, including beer
	New landlord Francis Evins
	Auction of pub

References to Landlords 1820-1837

King's Arms

1820 Edward Hatten (proprietor)

1836 John Herring (tenant)

Red Lion

1822 Richard Stevens

1830 Henry Gibson

Three Horse Shoes

1830 John Rutter

1836 Samuel Hitchman

Unicorn

1826 John Sturch

Crown and Tuns

1831 John Poulton

The Plough

1820 William Spencer

1830 Thomas Petty

Bell

1835 William Heritage

Crown Inn, Clifton

1829 Mr. Harris

1832 William Merry

Duke of Cumberland's Head, Clifton

Mrs. Elizabeth Lacy

The Plough, Hempton

1823 Mr. Daniel Salmon

1823 Francis Evins

For a list, and map, of old pubs in Deddington, see:

<https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/buildings/inns.pubsandlodginghouses>

https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1988/eanddrdedd.pdf

5 August 1820, page 2

THE ANNUAL CARNATION, MELON, AND GOOSBERRY FEAST, will be held on Tuesday next, the 8th day of August, at Mr. Spencer's, Plough Inn, DEDDINGTON, - Dinner on the Table at Half-past One o'clock. - Tickets 2d. [sic] 6d. each.

9 February 1822, page 1

DESIRABLE PUBLIC HOUSE.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

By R. JARVIS,

On the premises, on Saturday next the 16th of February, at Three o'clock in the afternoon, - All that very desirable PUBLIC HOUSE or INN, known by the sign of the Red Lion Inn, Deddington, Oxon, in the occupation of Mr. Richard Stevens: comprising a large parlour, dining room, bar, kitchen, 5 bed rooms, good cellar, a ditto to hold 60 pipes, convenient brew-house, with never-failing water, good stabling, and other out-buildings; also a yard and garden. - Mr. Stevens will shew the above.

30 August 1823, page 3

FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE,

With early Possession.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

By Mr. CHURCHILL,

At the King's Arms Inn, Deddington, Oxfordshire, on Saturday the 13th of September, 1823, at Five o'clock in the afternoon (unless previously disposed of by private contract), - That old-established PUBLIC HOUSE, the *Plough*, well situated at Hempton, in the parish of Deddington, adjoining the turnpike road to Chipping Norton: comprising cellars, kitchen, parlour, and several bed rooms, with attached brew-house, stable, and other buildings, now in the occupation of Mr. Francis Evins.

The premises may be viewed and treated for by private contract, on application to Mr. Evins; or at the office of Messrs. Churchill and Field, solicitors, Deddington.

23 August 1828, page 1

Desirable FREEHOLD PROPERTY,

DEDDINGTON, OXFORDSHIRE,

WITH EARLY POSSESSION.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

By J. CLEMENTS,

At the Unicorn Inn, Deddington, on Saturday the 6th day of September, 1828, at four o'clock in the afternoon, (unless previously disposed of by private contract,) - A Stone-built and slated FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSE, pleasantly and advantageously situated in the Market-street, in Deddington; comprising a large shop, with sashed bow windows, opening to the street; comfortable dwelling room and good kitchen; three bed rooms on the first floor, and two attics; cellaring and garden, now in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Fardon, watch-maker, who is about to remove his business.

Also a good Stone-built & Slated FREEHOLD COTTAGE, adjoining, in the occupation of William Satchell.

The Tenants will shew the premises; and further particulars thereof may be had, and the property treated for, on application to Mr. S.C. Field, solicitor, Deddington, or the auctioneer, Bicester.

25 February 1832, page 2

NEAT

Freehold Dwelling House & Garden,

DEDDINGTON, OXON.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

By T. SOTHAM and W. WING,

At the Crown and Tuns Inn, Deddington, on Monday the 5th day of March, 1832, at Five o'clock in the afternoon, unless previously disposed of, - A very neat FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSE, Stone and Slated, newly built, situate in the New Street in Deddington; comprising kitchen, parlour, three good bed rooms, cellar, pantry, and coal-house; with a large Piece of excellent Garden Ground adjoining, well planted with fruit trees, and now in the occupation of Mrs. Elizabeth Whetton.

Further particulars may be known, and the Property treated for, on application to Mr. Henry Churchill, or Mr. Robert Franklin, or to Mr. S.C. Field, solicitor, all of Deddington.

12 October 1833, page 1

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

By Mr. C.R. MALLAM,

At the Unicorn Inn, in Deddington, on Saturday the 19th of October, 1833, between the hours of Three and Five o'clock in the afternoon (unless in the mean time disposed of by private contract, of which due notice will be given), subject to conditions to be then produced, - All those TWO MESSUAGES or TENEMENTS, situate in the New-street, Deddington, in the occupation of Mrs. Osborn and widow Mobley, with the gardens, and other appurtenances thereto belonging.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Mr. Samuel Bennett, at Deddington, or to Mr. Richard Henry Rolls, solicitor, or the auctioneer, at Banbury; and for a view apply on the premises.

2 April 1836, page 2

*Deddington Association for the Prosecution of
Felons and other Offenders.*

NOTICE is hereby given, That the General Annual Meeting of this Association will be held at the Crown and Tuns Inn, Deddington, on Monday the Eleventh day of April instant, at Twelve o'clock, for the purpose of auditing and settling the Treasurer's Accounts, and renewing the Subscriptions, if necessary; at which Meeting the Members are requested to attend and pay their Arrears of Subscriptions; and all persons having any claim or demand upon the Association are desired to send in their accounts to the Treasurer, in order to their being discharged.

Persons wishing to become Members are requested to signify the same to the Treasurer at or before the above Meeting.

SAMUEL FIELD,

Deddington, April 1, 1836

Treasurer and Solicitor.

THE PRESENT MEMBERS ARE -

Deddington, Mr. Thomas Austin.

Great Barford, Mr. Wm. Coleman.

Mr. Henry Churchill.

Mr. Richard Hall.

Mr. Henry Dean, jun.

Mr. William Iorns.

Mr. Wm. Emberlin.

Mr. Joseph Lovedren.

Mr. Samuel Field.

Mr. William Tims.

Mr. John Gilkes.

Little Barford, Mr. Wm. Austin.

Mr. Edw. Hatten.

Mr. John Tims.

Mr. Wm. Merry, jun.

Barton, Mr. John Barnard.

Mr. Benj. Pritchett.

Clifton, Mr. Wm. Bloxham.

Mr. John Poulton.	<i>Dunstew</i> , Mr. William Haynes.
Mr. Joseph Slatter.	<i>Fewcott</i> , Mr. Edward Burton.
Mr. John Sturch.	<i>Fritwell</i> , Mr. James East.
Mr. Thos. W. Turner.	<i>Lower Heyford</i> , Rev. G.D. Faithful.
Mr. Peter P. Smythe.	<i>Ledwell</i> , Dr. Robinson.
Mr. John Herring.	<i>Rousham</i> , Chas. C. Dormer, Esq.
<i>North Aston</i> , C.O. Bowles, Esq.	Wm. East's Executors.
Christ. D'Oyley, Esq.	Mr. Thomas Busby.
Mrs. Sarah Rogers.	<i>Sandford</i> , Rev. Edward Marshall
<i>Steeple Aston</i> , Mr. Thomas Creek.	Hacker.
Mr. John Coles.	<i>Southnewington</i> , Mr. J. Checkley.
Mr. Charles Harris.	Mr. Thomas Gunn.
Mr. John Jas. Perry.	Mr. Wm. Robinson.
Mr. Richard Prentice.	<i>Stoke Lyne</i> , Mr. John Borton.
Mr. William Wall.	<i>Little Tew</i> , Mr. Samuel Busby.
Mr. William Wing.	Mr. Thomas Gardner.
Mr. William Wing, jun.	<i>Wigginton</i> , Mr. Richard Hall.
John Lechmere, Esq.	Mr. Zachariah Hollier.
	<i>Worton</i> , Mr. Edw. Boddington.

► Dinner at Two o'clock precisely.

3 September 1836, page 2

FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE,

DEDDINGTON, OXON.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

By R. JARVIS and C. ROWELL,

On the premises, on Saturday the 17th of September, 1836, at Four o'clock, - All those old-accustomed FREEHOLD PREMISES, called the *Three Horse Shoes*, situate in Deddington aforesaid. The House comprises a large parlour, bar parlour, capital kitchen, good cellar, and four bed rooms; detached is a good brew-house, large bake-house, with a club room over, drying room oven over the oven, large coal-house, stabling for ten horses, a yard, in which is a pump of never failing water, a gravelled skittle alley; also a stable and gig house, a good

garden, wagon way to the back road. There is also a pew in the Church.

The above is a desirable opportunity to any person wishing to blend any other business requiring room with the public business. - For a view apply to Mr. Hitchman, on the premises.

**The Oxford City and County Chronicle, 16 September 1837,
page 2**

UNICORN INN, DEDDINGTON.

MR. STURCH begs to announce that the Friends of Mr. STONOR will dine at his house, on Tuesday, the 26th of September, at Two o'clock. Tickets for Dinner, 3s each. JOHN STURCH.

The Oxford City and County Chronicle, 21 October 1837, page 2

DEDDINGTON, OCTOBER 20.

On Saturday last the Court Leet of the three [Parts] of this Manor was held at Mr. Herring's, King's Arms [Inn,] who provided an excellent dinner on the occasion. [Mr.] Benjamin Pritchett, our active guardian, was [elected] bailiff, and Messrs. Fardon and Lymath, constables [for the] ensuing year.

The fun and frolic of our [annual Hiring] fair was increased by the landlord of the Unicorn Inn (a staunch supporter of the Liberal cause) roasting a fine fat sheep in the Market [Place] for his friends and customers to partake of. We had xxxx amusements for the holiday folk - climbing up a pole xxxx tobacco in a waggon, &c. for prizes. The day [terminated] peaceably.