



# King's Lynn u3a History Trails



# Old Pubs

## Trail no.1

# King's Lynn Pubs Walk Part 1

From the 14th century until today pubs have contributed enormously to the social history of King's Lynn. Lynn's old pubs offered lodgings, sick club, savings banks and an improvised mortuary in one case. Attractions ranged from cock fighting to ship auctions.

In **1764** there were 82 inns/taverns for a population of 10.000. By **1800** there were still 10,000 residents and 68 hostelries; by **1850** numbers had doubled to 136 plus 9 Breweries.

As well as catering to the needs of the local population the many sailing ships putting into port brought thirsty sailors with money to spend on ale and other forms of amusement. With the introduction of steamships, ships' crews were much smaller, and the need for as many establishments declined.

Many pubs have been demolished to make way for the development of the town.

This trail will take you past some that can be identified today.

**The walk starts** at the junction of:

**Purfleet Quay and King Street. . . . .**

## 1. The Angel and Trumpet

(once the Angel and The London Tavern) is on the corner of King Street and Purfleet, where the river used to connect to the dockside. This pub was popular with ship's officers, due to its proximity to the Custom House. Buildings on either side of the street here linked through their cellar system, so that goods could be unloaded and moved below ground.



## 2. The Shades 19 King Street

The sign over the entrance indicates that this building was previously a foundry, but it then became a pub until its license was revoked, due to it being described as a haunt of prostitutes and disorderly characters, which was a feature of many pubs in King's Lynn around that time. Note the sign to John Aikman 1827.



Turn left into **Ferry Lane**, where you will find . . . . .

## 3. The Ferry Boat (1882) later known as The Ouse Amateur Sailing Club.

The Cambridge boat crew would stop in for refreshment when training on the river, and during World War II it was an unofficial officers' mess for the Royal Navy when in King's Lynn.

Return to **Kings Street** where on the left is . . . . .

## 4. The Lamb pub and brewery,

**25 King Street** was an imposing double fronted building with a large rear yard, divided into two buildings after its sale for £200 for conversion to housing after **1910**.



**5. The Globe** was a hotel and gained its license in **1779** after its conversion from an early 18th Century townhouse. It stands at the corner of . . . . .

**King Street** and **Tuesday Market** place.

Still in use as a public house today, it was once a coaching inn, with coaches calling at either The Globe or The Duke's Head across the square, on alternate days.

Around the corner into Ferry Street stands . . . . .

## **6. The Crown and Mitre,**

one of the many King's Lynn pubs owned in the past by brewers Steward and Patteson. The current pub sign was reproduced from a photograph by a past landlord, after the original sign went missing at the end of World War II. It was later found in the USA, having been taken by an American serviceman as a souvenir of his time in the town! The present building is largely 19th and 20th Century, but is believed to have had 16th Century origins. The late 19th Century history is represented by the entrance doorway and the main display windows set within the original 18th Century brickwork. The pub has many marine artefacts on display, and two restored ship's cannons.

## **Tuesday Market Place**

On the **opposite corner to The Globe**, facing the Tuesday Market Place, stands a building which is now a restaurant, but a clue to its past as local pub . . . . .

**7. "The Woolpack"** remains in the wrought-iron gate which gives onto King Street, where the initials S and P can be seen (Steward and Patteson brewery).



**8. The Corn Exchange** was previously **The Angel Inn** erected in **1854**. When the pub was demolished, a local wrote of the Landlord, (Mr King):

*The king and queen once lived here*

*The Angel kept the door*

*The king is dead, the queen has fled*

*The Angel is no more!*

**9. The Duke's Head**, built in **1683** for the King's Lynn member of

Parliament **Sir John Turner**, by **Henry Bell**, a renowned local architect who also built the **Custom House**. It stands on the site of an ancient inn called **The Gryffin**.

It was a drinking hole for Walpole, the prime minister, and renamed after James II when he was Duke of York. The Duke's Head is reputed to be one of the most haunted buildings in King's Lynn. The ghosts are a red lady who killed herself over two lovers. Also a maid servant who was executed on the market place for poisoning her mistress..

A staircase in the present hotel was constructed from timbers reputedly from one of ships taken by Captain Vancouver on his voyages of discovery along the North-Western coastline of North America. The building also incorporated a large room used for over two hundred years as a **Masonic Temple**, of which **King Edward VII** was one of the foremost members, joining in **1870** whilst still Prince of Wales, and becoming the Lodge Patron in **1910**. The frontage of the hotel was restored in the 20th Century.

**10. The Maid's Head** was also constructed in the 17th Century.

The old original brick frontage remains, featuring two large oval panels with lettering in relief: "Bullards Bottled Beers and Stouts" and "Bullards Pure Ales". The panels are different shapes and quite crudely fashioned and are probably of considerable age.

This hotel has a dark history and is said to be haunted by the ghost of a maid who was boiled in oil in the Tuesday Market Place, one of only two people to die in this horrific manner, the other being put to death in London. At the end of the square on this side stands. . . . .

**11. The Victory**



A large building, renovated by Ring and Associates. Now called Ascot Lloyd. The building has 15th century origins and incorporates all that remains of, which was damaged by enemy action twice during World War II, and was finally closed in 1961. The outer façade of the pub can be seen on the corner, and some of the original fixtures and fittings have been retained inside.

Turning right into **St Nicholas Street** and crossing the road we come to . . . . .

## **12. The Tudor Rose** at no's **10** and **11**.



Although only a pub from **1972**, the building is of considerable interest, having been built on the site of a former 15<sup>th</sup> Century nunnery, of which the ancient wooden door remains.

Number 10 was attached to St Ann's House and was dismantled and shipped to America between **1914** and **1916**. The current building was purchased in **1921** to house the curate from St Nicholas Chapel, and was lived in until it was turned into a hotel.

Walk to the corner of the road and turn right into **Chapel Street**, then take the first turning on the left (**Austin Street**). A small cobbled street to the left again, is. . . . .

**Pilot Street**, which runs behind St Nicholas Chapel churchyard. At one time this little street was home to at least 10 public houses, most of which have long disappeared. Two however remain:

**13. No10, The Pilot Hoy**, is part of the terrace of houses at the bend of the street.



A hoy was the name given to the small ship which would take the local pilots out to the large ships waiting to come upriver into King's Lynn. Once a pub, the building now belongs to the local diocese and is home to clergy from Kings Lynn Minster. William Savage, the licensee, was accused in 1862 of selling beer past midnight, but the case was dismissed since he claimed that the beer had been served prior to 12 o'clock.

## **14. The Grampus**

At the end of the street is an attractive building with a jutting first floor; now divided into two private houses, it was once a substantial public house. The name comes from the discovery of a 19-foot-long grampus whale which managed to swim upriver as far as King's Lynn in **1830**.



Retrace your steps to **Chapel Street** and turn left. Crossing the road you come to. . . .

**15. The Lattice House**. This timber framed building dates from **1480** and was originally small shops with accommodation over. Two rear wings were added in the late 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries. This building has an unusual construction for King's Lynn, having a wide frontage onto the street, whereas the majority of King's Lynn mediaeval properties have little frontage and greater depth. The central part of the building was in use as an inn by 1714; despite this the remainder was leased by the local diocese to house the vergers from St Nicholas Chapel, the last of whom left the premises in 1974. The serving parish clerk lived here rent-free until 1852.

Turn right down Surrey Street to join . . . . .

**High Street** turning left, you will pass an unprepossessing building which currently houses an ale house known as the **Nip and Growler (opened in 2017)**.

This frontage belies the fact that the original building, much of which remains at the rear, housed -



**16. The Bull Inn**, which dates back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It was a much grander affair than might be thought, having a large yard with stabling. It is thought to have got its name from the popular spectacle of bullbaiting, which is known to have taken place in the Saturday Market Place, then known as Bull Stake Street. In the **1980's** Nichol's cart was based at the Bull Inn, traveling between the inn and Castle Acre, and visiting the villages in between, to bring people from the surrounding countryside into town for the Tuesday and Saturday markets (and, no doubt, for some liquid refreshment at The Bull).

**17.** Continue down **High Street** until you reach the junction with Saturday Market place. On the left-hand corner is a building (now a bakery) which was once . . . . .

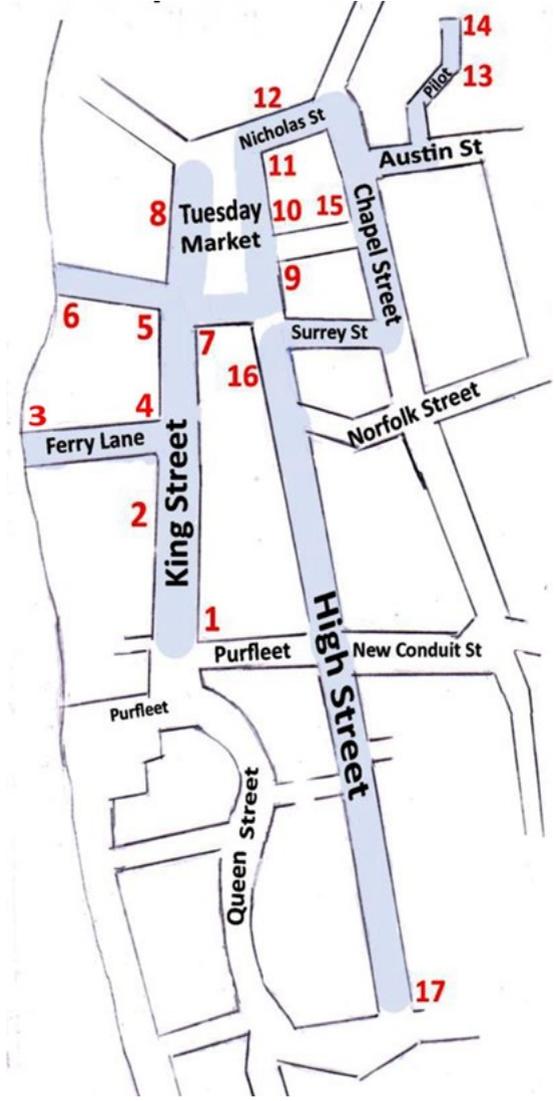
## The Three Conies.



This was once the grand house built for Walter Coney, who was four-times **Mayor of King's Lynn** in the **15th Century**. He was a benefactor of St. Margaret's Church opposite his house (now King's Lynn Minster) and a prominent member of the Trinity Guild. A monumental brass, commemorating his life, which used to be in the church, dated **1476**, has sadly been largely destroyed, but brass-rubbings remain. **Walter Coney's** coat of arms showed three rabbits on a sable ground, which is where the pub got its name.

This walk finishes here, but there is another similar walk, **Old Pubs of King's Lynn Part 2**, which starts at the Town Hall to your right.....

# Trail Map



# King's Lynn u3a History Trails

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[www.kingslynnu3a.org.uk](http://www.kingslynnu3a.org.uk)

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