



# King's Lynn u3a History Trails



## Old Pubs Trail no.2

# King's Lynn Pub Walk

## Part 2

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.

**Start** your trail outside the - **Town Hall** (Tourist Information Centre)

opposite **The Minster** - previously St. Margaret's Follow the map past the West Door of the church into

**Priory Lane**.....

**1. The Valiant Sailor** stands on the site of the outbuildings of the dissolved St. Margaret's Priory. The building may have been a pub since the **1600s**. Licensed in **1728**, it ceased being a pub in **1925**. The property then became the home of **Walter Dexter**, British artist (see wall plaque).

Walk along **Nelson Street** to **Bridge Street**, where there were in excess of 10 pubs, due to its proximity to the river. We have shown two.....

## 2. The Greenland Fishery



Originally built as a house in **1605**, it was divided into two prior to **1660**. One half became a public house; it was the **Fisherman's Arms**, renamed the **Waterman's Arms** and became the **Greenland Fishery** in **1796**.

It was very important to sailors of the whaling industry. It was also known as the Greenland Beer House, but declared unfit for human occupation in **1899**.

The premises were bought in **1912** and opened as the Greenland Fishery Museum. The rear of the building was destroyed by a bomb in **1941**.

The building was divided again after the war and became a house and office, first tenanted in **1951**.

## 3. The Hulk



Previously **The Ship's Hulk (1736)**, became the **Ship Hulk (1834)** and was licensed until **1970**. It survived the World War II bombing, but 16 people died in the area.

It is now the -  
Friends' Meeting  
House, bought by the  
Quakers in 1986.

Turn left into **All Saint's Street**, then turn left onto **Church Lane**.....

## **4. The Anchor**

This impressive building stands in front of you and was a pub until **1995**.



Continue down **Church Lane** past.....

**All Saint's** (the oldest church in King's Lynn), through **Hillington Square**.... on the right of the **Millfleet**.....

## **5. Lincoln Tavern**

A handy place for a drink when waiting for a bus in the old in the old **Millfleet Bus Station**.



Turn left. Cross **Stonegate Street** and.....

Turn right into **Church Street**.....

At the end of which, facing you is.....

**6. White Hart**, the oldest continually licensed pub in the town (1625 to the present time).



Legend has it that a monk from the nearby St. Margaret’s Church (now the Minster) would secretly imbibe a flagon of mead, returning to the Minster via a passageway which connected to the pub cellar.

Turn left into **Saturday Market Place**.....

## **7. The Coach and Horses**

previously-  
**The Duke of Fife**  
is now a convenience store.  
In this tiny space there was once a music hall as well as a pub, and because of the rowdiness of patrons leaving the building, its license was withdrawn in February 1904.



Passing the end of the **High Street**, you come to -

**8. The Wennis** (1872 – 1956). It comprises two buildings (on the left 17th Century / early 18th Century and on the right, mid-19th Century). Since **1961** it has been at various times a hotel and a restaurant, and is now once again a public house.

Pass the **Town Hall** and turn right into.....

## Queen Street.

This street is lined with former **merchants' houses**, some of which are known to have been **public houses** in their time, but little trace remains to be seen at street level.

# Trail no 2 Map



# King's Lynn u3a History Trails

We hope you enjoyed this u3a Town Trail. This and other trails are available on the King's Lynn u3a website: [www.kingslynnu3a.org.uk](http://www.kingslynnu3a.org.uk)

Then select 'Town Trails' from the menu.  
Or just scan the QR Code.

