

King's Heath Local History Society

The History of the Hare and Hounds, King's Heath



By Andy Bishop

The Hare and Hounds.

The Hare and Hounds is the second oldest pub in the centre of Kings Heath and this is its story.

It has proved impossible to put an exact date on the creation of the first Hare and Hounds, but we can certainly narrow it down to within a few years. The original Hare and Hounds was created in the early 1820s. The deeds that still survive in Burton on Trent show a “public house” recently erected in 1824, but by March 1828 describe the site in Kings Heath as follows:

“...lately enlarged and then used as a public house called the sign of the Hare and Hounds with the stable, brewhouse, outbuildings, yard and garden.”

This old public house had been built on a large parcel of land previously awarded to Clement Cottrill under the Enclosure Act of 1772. The land was later purchased by Edward Holmes, gentleman, and he leased the land to Aaron Payton, bricklayer, and James Bate (senior), gunlock maker. The land was then purchased by Aaron Payton and James Bate in 1824. However, James seems only to have been an investor in the property. The man who built and ran the first Hare and Hounds pub in Kings Heath was Aaron Payton.

AARON PAYTON

Aaron Payton built the Hare and Hounds in the 1820s. He continued to run it until 1849 when he was in his sixties. This is his story.

“Aron Peaton” (Aaron Payton) was baptised at Saint Mary’s church, Moseley, on August 10th 1777. Records of births do not survive from this period and so we are unsure of his actual date of birth. The register describes his father as Joseph Peaton and he is listed in the 1787-8 rate book for the parish of Kings Norton in the Moseley yield. He is next mentioned in 1794 where he is described by Everson as Joseph Payton the owner of Brandwood End Farm. The name Peaton, Peyton or Payton are the same surname and many names at this time do have different spellings. Luckily, Aaron seems to be an uncommon name. In fact, there are only two mentioned in the parish register for Moseley before 1850.

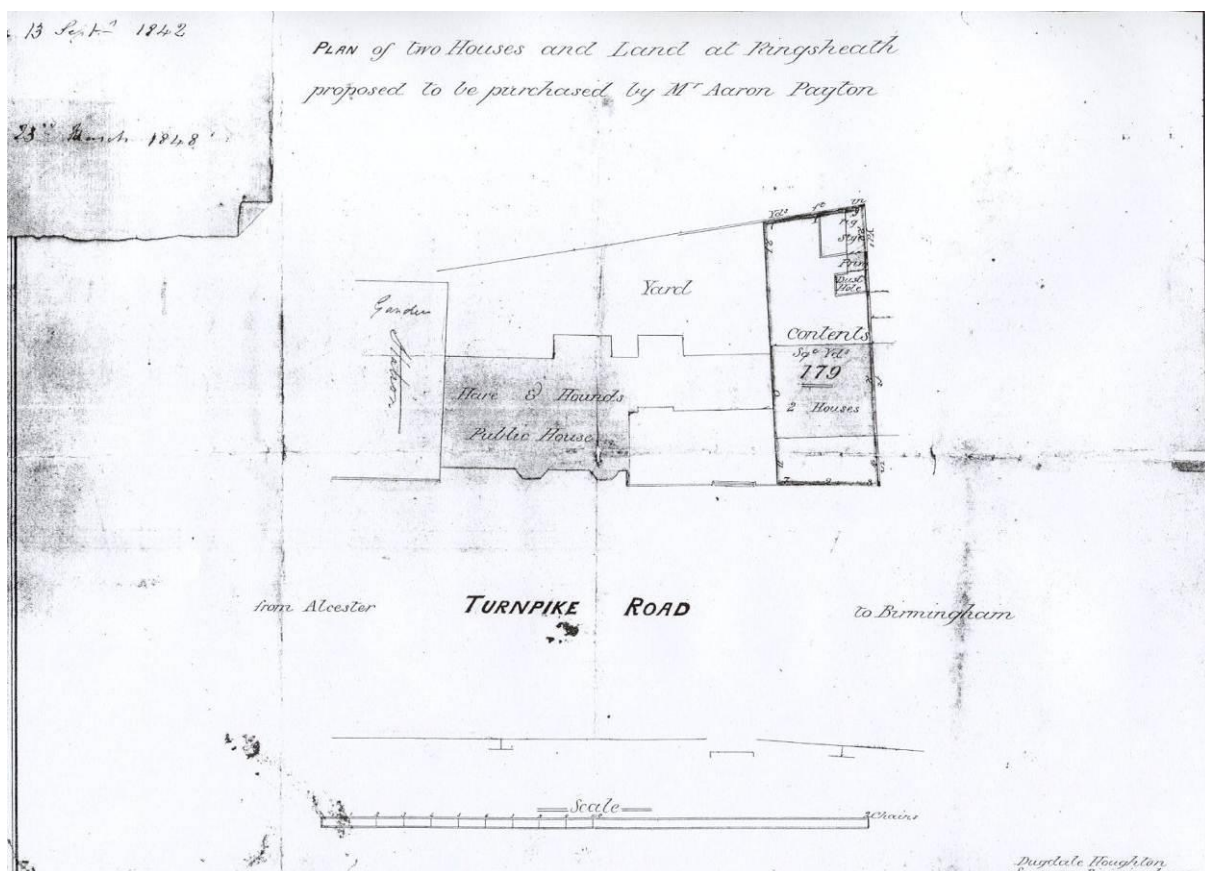
Aaron is next mentioned in the parish records upon the baptisms of his children. On September 19th 1802 Mary, daughter of Aaron and Mary Payton was baptised at Saint Mary’s, Moseley and others soon followed.

- ◆ April 14th 1805 Joseph
- ◆ February 7th 1808 Thomas
- ◆ October 7th 1810 Harriot
- ◆ November 22nd 1812 Edwin
- ◆ March 24th 1816 Aaron (junior) son of Aaron Payton, bricklayer, Moseley.
- ◆ May 13th 1821 Hannah daughter of Aaron Payton, brick maker, Kings Heath.
- ◆ February 23rd 1823 William son of Aaron Payton, bricklayer, Kings Heath.

Aaron clearly lived his youth around Moseley and Kings Heath. He married Mary Blunt (or Blunn) on September 3rd 1799 at Saint John the Baptist in Bromsgrove. The witnesses were Mary Stancox and Edward Blunn. However, Aaron and Mary had both moved to Kings Heath by 1805. Aaron and his brother Henry bought "Old Brick Kiln Ground" from John Taylor of Moseley Hall for £52.10s. This was a logical step for a bricklayer as Kings Heath had a clay soil perfect for brick making and certainly bricks were made there. These bricks were used to build new houses and cottages in the new village of Kings Heath.

Aaron would probably have known the Kings Heath area well. He clearly knew James Bate, as deeds show that he borrowed money from him to buy some more land in Kings Heath in 1824. The land adjoined the turnpike and was just on the southern fringe of Kings Heath with only a few other houses as its neighbours. There were buildings there already and Aaron set about enlarging these and erecting others.

The original Hare and Hounds probably started life as Aaron and Mary's family home. Aaron built a small cottage to house his family. This was built between 1820 and 1824. Aaron then decided at some point to enlarge his cottage and began to brew and sell his own beer. Indeed, at this time lots of houses could brew and sell their own beer. Sometimes the occupants of these houses went one step further and decided to allow members of the public into their houses to drink beer that had been brewed on site. These became known as public houses and also offered wine and spirits for sale as opposed to an ordinary beerhouse which had no spirit license. (see plan below of Hare and Hounds 1842)



The original Hare and Hounds was built to serve the local agricultural labourers and farmers who worked in the surrounding countryside. Indeed, the name of the pub itself reflects the rural aspect of Kings Heath at the time and its links to the local community of workers.

Everson records the earliest mention of the pub's position in community life:

“May 3rd 1831. Worcestershire County Election. At a numerous meeting of freeholders living in the parish of Kings Norton, held at the Hare and Hounds, Kings Heath.”

Aaron and Mary continued to run the pub with Aaron Junior too until 1849 when Aaron sold the land and pub outright to a man called Samuel Pike. Aaron was probably forced to sell due to his mounting debts. Over the years he had borrowed money from various associates, but more recently had been unable to repay these loans. The year 1843 saw Aaron borrowing £600 at an interest of £4 10s per annum from Charles Attwood of Great Barr, butcher. However, by January 1849 Aaron had not repaid Charles, had incurred arrears, and now owed £642 13s 1d. Aaron had asked George Bradnock Stubbs of Walsall, gentleman and John Stubbs of Great Barr, surgeon, to pay off the debt and lend him a further £57 so that he owed them a total of £700. It was to pay off this debt that forced Aaron to sell the pub.

What happened to Aaron and Mary after they left the Hare and Hounds is unclear. We know from documents and voting registers that they lived at Billesley Common and then Aston in the 1850s. However, the 1861 census of Kings Heath lists Aaron living back in the area with a woman called Mary Sawyer and he is described as her father. This is, in fact, Mary Payton, Aaron's daughter who had since married Benjamin Sawyer. Aaron was now a widower and in ill-health and had returned to the area he knew so well. Sadly Aaron soon passed away. Everson records the following notice:

“June 29th 1861. Mr. Aaron Payton, for many years proprietor of the Hare and Hounds Inn, Kings Heath, died. Much respected.”

Aaron was buried at Saint Mary's, Moseley on July 4th 1861 aged 83 years and the Hare and Hounds was then taken over by Samuel and Susannah Pike.

SAMUEL AND SUSANNAH PIKE

Samuel Pike took over the Hare and Hounds in 1849. He was originally a pork butcher who worked in the centre of Birmingham from the 1830s until 1847. By 1847 Samuel had changed his trade and he is listed in trade directories as a wine and spirit dealer at 114 Dale End. By 1849 the premises is described as a public house called the Star.

Sadly, Samuel died in August 1850 and so probably only ran the Hare and Hounds for one year. In his will he passed on the pub to his wife Susannah. She is described as an innkeeper in the 1851 census. Susannah did not run the pub for very long as she soon remarried to Edward Nevill, a wealthy factor from Hay Hall, Yardley. Hay Hall was a large mansion in what is now Tyseley. The house still remains as office premises in an industrial area on Hay Hall Road which still echoes the buildings former use. Susannah moved into Hay Hall and so needed someone else to run the pub for her. Everson records the following advertisement:

“January 12th 1852. Desirable opportunity of taking a highly respectable country public house pleasantly situated in the village of Kings Heath.”

“To be disposed of by private treaty that very comfortable and well arranged country inn, known as the Hare and Hounds. The premises are replete and admirably adapted for business, with suitable stabling, and large productive garden and quoit ground.”

From this advertisement, the Hare and Hounds was let out to its first tenant landlady. Her name was Elizabeth Carr.

ELIZABETH CARR

Elizabeth Carr took over the Hare and Hounds in 1852 and ran it until 1861. When she took over the pub she was already in her 60s. She ran it until old age or ill-health forced her to give it up when she was in her 70s! She died on January 18th 1862 aged 77years. She was buried at Saint Mary's, Moseley, on January 28th. Her will was proved at the Worcestershire Registry. It states that the sole executor was a man called James Whilock, a grocer from Birmingham. In her will Elizabeth left James Whilock £10 for his trouble and also her:

“...household furniture and stock in trade, implements, licenses and goodwill of or belonging to my said trade or business of an innkeeper.”

JAMES WHILOCK

James Whilock took over the Hare and Hounds in 1861 where he is listed in the 1861 census. Everson records another event as well:

“May 22nd 1861. Notice. House warming dinner on Wednesday next at the old Hare and Hounds, Kings Heath. James Whilock.”

James was born in Cheadle, Staffordshire. He originally ran a grocer's and tea dealer's at 15 High Street, Bull Ring in Birmingham from 1839 until 1861.

During his tenancy at the Hare and Hounds, Susannah Nevill died. She died on April 16th 1866 soon after her husband who died on April 19th 1865. Susannah's will was proved at the Worcestershire Registry on July 13th 1866. Her will stated that the land and buildings she owned were to be sold by public auction or private sale. This was to be arranged by Daniel Holloway, surveyor and auctioneer of Yardley and John Archer, surgeon of Deritend. A private sale was arranged and on July 24th 1866 the Hare and Hounds was purchased by James and Isaac Bate of the Cross Guns, Kings Heath for £1,180. They allowed James Whilock to continue running the pub.

However, James Whilock died on August 2nd 1866 aged 60 and he was buried at Saint Mary's, Moseley on August 6th 1866. The Bates looked for another landlord to take over the pub.

ALFRED SHEPPARD

Alfred Sheppard is recorded at the Hare and Hounds from 1866 to 1874. He was born in Birmingham and worked in his father's business of William Sheppard and Sons, who are described as: “...posting masters and omnibus proprietors.”

They also ran a pub at 100 Aston Street, Birmingham called the Swan with two necks. Alfred is listed at the Hare and Hounds in the 1871 census. He left the Hare and Hounds and remained in Kings Heath running his own cab and omnibus business and in 1883 he is described as a cab proprietor with his son Alfred junior.

WILLIAM JACKSON

William Jackson was an employee of the Bate family and had previously worked at the Cross Guns and the brewery. He only ran the Hare and Hounds for 3 years and was the only landlord to have worked at both the Cross Guns and the Hare and Hounds. He remained at the pub until 1878 when he returned to work as a brewer's agent at the brewery. He was replaced at the Hare and Hounds by Edwin Carter.

EDWIN CARTER

Nothing is known about Edwin except that he only ran the hare and Hounds for one year. Everson records the reason his tenancy was short lived:

“October 18th 1878. Mr. Edwin Carter of Kings Heath died of paralysis aged 54.”

This sudden death left the pub without a landlord and so the owner, Isaac Bate, turned to one of his other employees.

LEVI COTTRELL

Levi Cottrell was not a victualler by trade. He was born in Wootton Wawen in 1840 and by 1871 is listed in the Kings Heath census for that year. He is recorded working at the Grange for Isaac Bate. He worked as Isaac's servant and coachman. Isaac would have known Levi well and must have thought very highly of him and offered him a tenancy at the pub. Levi took over the Hare and Hounds in 1879 and ran it for 18 years. He is recorded there in both the 1881 and 1891 censuses with his wife Sarah (see below).



Levi was at the pub when Isaac was taken to court for non payment of work carried out at the Hare and Hounds. Everson records:

“August 5th 1880 Hare and Hounds Inn. Palmer vs Bate.

Mr. Alfred Palmer, contractor, Ann Street, Birmingham, sued Mr. Isaac Bate of Kings Heath at the Warwickshire Assizes, to recover £96 16s 5d for laying down the drains and connecting to the sewers the old Hare and Hounds Inn...”

By 1896 a complete directory of Moseley and Kings Heath was written by Everson. It lists the inhabitants of each house street by street and also the various societies, institutions and activities occurring in Kings Heath at this time.

For example, it shows that in 1896 Kings Heath had its own football team known as Kings Heath Albion F.C. Its headquarters are listed as the Hare and Hounds and a list of its presidents is as follows:

President J.H.Cartland

Vice-presidents A. Chamberlain M.P., R.Cadbury J.P., B.Everitt. W.Butler, H.T.Haydon, L. Cottrell, S. Headley, S. Jones, C. Elton, J. Nixon and Dr. Rennie.

It clearly shows that the Hare and Hounds was part of a lively community at that time featuring all members of Kings Heath society. Here we have the gentry such as Major John Howard Cartland, Richard Cadbury and Austen Chamberlain mixing with commercial traders such as Levi Cottrell and Charles Elton from the Cross Guns.

The 1896 directory gives the next detailed description of the High Street since the 1840 tithe map. It shows the occupiers as follows:

GRANGE ROAD	
Birmingham Breweries LTD John T. Moakes – Brewery House	H I G H S T R E E T
C. Elton – Cross Guns Hotel	
Kings Heath Post Office	
Matthew Henry Court - Draper	
Thomas Bailey	
Frank Bromfield - Painter	
Kings Heath Baptist Church	
William Tomlin	
Mrs. Mary Yeoman	
William Canniclifts - Hairdresser	
William Field	
Mrs. E Hawkins	
The London and Midland Bank LTD	
MILFORD PLACE	
Lindsay and Cumming - Stationers	
Thomas Thompson – Boot dealer	
Levi Cottrell – Hare and Hounds	
George Bladon - Dairyman	

YORK ROAD

Levi left the Hare and Hounds in 1897. In 1896 he applied for planning permission for two houses in the newly laid York Road beside the pub. He lived in one of the houses there called Glen Helen until 1901. His departure from the pub is recorded in Everson:

“June 26th 1897. A valediction – Another local boniface is leaving us. Mr. Levi Cottrell, the cheery host of the Hare and Hounds Hotel, Kings Heath has this week said good-bye to his many customers. He has been the landlord of the Hare and Hounds for some years.”

“July 17th 1897. Local licensed victualling – Levi Cottrell, who for the last 17 or 18 years has been the landlord of the Hare and Hounds Hotel, Kings Heath, has purchased the old established outdoor beerhouse in Silver Street, kept for some years by Mr. Molesworth.”

This outdoor beerhouse was at number 18 Silver Street and Levi ran it with his son Harry. The outdoor had come up for sale following the death of its owner Mrs. Robinson (nee Molesworth) who had let her son-in-law Frederick Molesworth run it for many years.

From 1901 to 1903 Levi and his family lived at number 7 Highbury Road. In 1903 he and his family moved round the corner to number 36 Vicarage Road, “The Oaklands”. Levi remained there until his death on March 9th 1924, nearly fifty years after he took over the Hare and Hounds. He was 85 years old.

Isaac Bate had owned the Hare and Hounds out right until his death in 1885. (see below Isaac and Eleanor at the Grange 1876)



In his will Isaac left Levi £100 and the pub passed to his widow Eleanor Bate. She allowed Levi to continue running the pub. Eleanor eventually remarried on January 23rd 1889 at All Saints Church, Kings Heath, to Edward Collins from Chantry Road Moseley. They moved to the Grange and lived there until 1895.

Eventually the Grange was sold at auction and was demolished. The Birmingham Daily Gazette describes the sale as follows:

“May 16-17th 1895. The Grange – to be sold by auction. The costly household furniture, comprising solid mahogany bedroom suites, four massive Spanish mahogany wardrobes, chests of drawers, half-tester bedsteads.

Pollard oak dining room suite – solid oak dining table, very costly and magnificent historic carved oak sideboard, 11 feet 6 inches in length, 9 feet 6 inches high, suitable for a nobleman’s or merchant prince’s mansion.

Library furniture in pollard oak- including massive bookcases, two antique carved Spanish mahogany sideboards, inlaid Sheraton sideboard.

Elegant appointments of drawing room - by Chamberlain, King and Jones; cottage pianoforte by Collard and Collard; brilliant mirrors in carved gilt frames, expensive gaseliers, fenders, carpets, real bronzes, two magnificent grandfather’s clocks, ornaments, and a few oil paintings, books, two iron safes, 3 breech-loading guns.

Small cellar of choice wines - including Ports of vintages 1847, 1858, 1863, 1865, Champagnes, Hocks etc., kitchen furniture etc.

The outdoor effects - consist of two useful working horses, shire-bred entire cart colt, wagonette, Brougham, dog cart, pony phaeton, harness. A few useful farm implements including wagon, 2 carts, mower, horse rake, land roll, harrows, quantity of greenhouse and bedding-out plants, garden frames, garden seats and numerous miscellaneous effects.”

“July 27th 1895. The Grange – sale of superior building materials.

...the whole of the sound and useful materials in the large family residence, which contains costly and valuable fittings, extensive stabling and coach houses, large vinery with vines, and two good cottages close to Kings Heath Station.”

ELEANOR AND EDWARD COLLINS

With the Grange finally demolished and Levi leaving the pub, Eleanor and Edward Collins took over the Hare and Hounds in 1897. They remained the owners until 1906.

Edward was born in Smethwick in 1837 and in the census he is described as a commercial traveller. However, he must also have been a rather shrewd businessman. He obviously had money as he is also listed owning several buildings in Kings Heath on Broad Lane. Upon moving into the Hare and Hounds, Edward almost immediately applied to have the pub’s layout changed. The Birmingham News described the planning application as follows:

“December 3rd 1897. Plans approved for changes to the building of the Hare and Hounds. It is proposed to do away with a side passage, throwing the old tap room into the bar, thus affording better opportunity of supervision by the manager.”

This shows that Edward was worried about people entering the tap room unsupervised by staff. He was not the only person raising concerns about the Hare and Hounds. The

Birmingham News of August 26th 1898 stated that, in the petty sessions, Sergeant Wesley had objected to the renewal of the license for the Hare and Hounds. The assumption is that the behaviour of the manager or his customers was contrary to the licensing laws. The most common occurrence was police finding pubs serving beer to customers after the permitted time and this happened in all of Kings Heath's pubs over the years.

GEORGE SKIDMORE

Although Edward owned the Hare and Hounds into the 1900s, he soon found a manager to run the pub for him. By 1899 George Skidmore is recorded as the manager in the Birmingham News of August of that year. George was from Buxton in Derbyshire and is listed at the Hare and Hounds in the 1901 census of Kings Heath with his wife Clarrie and his sister Jane.

(see below photograph of the Hare and Hounds, with probably George Skidmore outside)



George was manager at the time when a lot of changes were planned for the pub by Edward Collins. These are all recorded in the Birmingham News as follows:

“May 5th 1899. Edward Collins...applied to erect a door to create a separate outdoor department to ease congestion at the bar.

...this is only to be temporary as Edward Collins intends to submit plans in August next to rebuild the old Hare and Hounds.”

“August 5th 1899. Edward Collins applied to build a new pub. The plans were dated August 2nd 1899.”

“September 1899. The Hare and Hounds. ...the old pub has been renovated. The old club room filled as a billiard saloon with one of the latest tables.”

“September 22nd 1899. The Hare and Hounds. ...the old pub was constructed out of three cottages 70-80 years ago. ...it is to be replaced by an Hotel to cost £5,000. ...a portion of the frontage (of the new establishment) is to be detached, and a shop and dwellinghouse built, with the building on the corner of York Road to be kept intact.”

Clearly Edward had decided that the old Hare and Hounds was now too small for the ever-growing village of Kings Heath of the 1890s and 1900s. The old pub had remained largely unchanged since the 1840s and 50s, but Kings Heath had grown rapidly since then and had changed from a rural area to a suburb of Birmingham. This had caused lots of professional people to move to the area to be housed on the new Grange Estate. Lots of other building developments had also occurred around this time. There was the Kings Heath Institute, the new Police Station, the new library building and even the old Cross Guns had been replaced by a more modern establishment more suitable for its customers.

The following photos show the building that adjoined the Hare and Hounds on the corner of York Road. It was a separate structure but had various different uses over the years.



POLICE STATION

The building situated next to the Hare and Hounds is also a very important building in Kings Heath's history. It was, in fact, Kings Heath's first Police station. Its history was described in the Birmingham News of July 14th 1894:

"Kings Heath Police station – the old lock-up at Kings Heath. Few of the residents of Kings Heath who frequently pass through the High Street know that the house on the left hand side of the Hare and Hounds, was seventy years ago built for the village police station and there are at the present time to be seen the 3 prison cells, intact, as they were in the days of old when the present Cross Guns Hotel was used for the transaction of petty sessional business, the prisoners being brought from the lock-up mentioned. At this time, the district force consisted of Superintendent Graham and 3 police officers, and instead of the impecunious "drunk" being sent to swell the rate payers' expenses, as now, he was placed in the village stocks which stood where Mr. Bridgewaters' fruit shop now stands. The old Kings Heath Police station in which Mr. Samuel Whitehouse has resided for the last 20 years or more was built in 1821, and the builders apparently anticipated some important prisoners who would need safely binding in order to be safely found when wanted for trial, for the walls of the cells are 14 inches in thickness, and the doors and locks are of equal solidity and strength. The floors are paved with red square bricks; and the tale is told how a prisoner awaiting his trial for felony successfully utilised his braces buckle to take up the flooring, and make a space underneath the door, and make good his escape by the back door. From this it would appear that the prisoners in their 8ft by 10ft cells were not very frequently disturbed by the warders. The contrast between the cells of 70 years ago and the decidedly comfortable receptacles for offenders awaiting trial nowadays is very marked. The 3 cells referred to are ventilated by means of a small wire window at the top, through which no light could come, as the cells are in the middle of the somewhat dark hall. The last occupant of the stocks was a gentleman known in the district at that time as "Old Brum" (Brum Lawrence), and his appearance there apparently so annoyed the villagers – he appears to have been the habitual drunkard of the village – that they pelted him with rotten eggs. Lawyer Arnold, a sort of squire at that time thought that such practices were a disgrace to the place, and had the stocks removed. Some of the district tipplers, who frequently visit the petty sessions at Kings Heath, have come to think of Lawyer Arnold with gratitude. The landlord of the lock up premises wishing for some reason to let the place as a dwelling house, the police took the house at the corner of Balaclava Street and Silver Street, and the cellars here had to be utilised as cells until the present police building adjoining the railway station was finished. These were the days when the town was communicated with by "Pedales bus" the fare being 6d from Kings Heath and 8d from Alcester Lane End. One often hears talk of the "good old days" but we question if there are many who would term good after living under the present conditions. It is certain that wrongdoers in the district under the supervision of the Northfield District of the Worcestershire Police are better cared for when locked up than was the case when the prison was a sort of private house, when the magistrates "sat" in a public house, and when habitual drunkards ran the gauntlet of rotten eggs."

According to this account the police station was built in 1821 and in an indenture dated 1843 relating to the Hare and Hounds, the following is included:

“All that other messuage tenement or dwellinghouse lately erected and built by the said A. Payton as aforementioned with the outbuildings thereto belonging and then used as a police station.”

So Aaron allowed the outbuilding of the Hare and Hounds to be used as a Police station. In the indenture that records the sale of the Hare and Hounds to Samuel Pike in 1849 there is more detail:

“...subject to an agreement dated the 1st day of August 1842 whereby the said Aaron Payton agreed to grant to the Justices of the Peace of the county of Worcestershire a lease of the premises in the occupation of the said Rural Police for the term of 14 years as the rent therein mentioned.”

Clearly the building was used by the Police until 1849. However, they had no such agreement with its new owner Samuel Pike. The census of 1851 does show that the building was still occupied by Superintendent George Graham. Rather interestingly, he also lived there with his wife, 3 daughters and a Police Constable called Charles Rodman. So either the Police actually lived in the Police station or it had already become the private dwellinghouse mentioned in the Birmingham News above.

The exact position of the stocks were on the site of Mr. Bridgewater's shop at 123 High Street, on the corner of Hoddesdon Place. They would have been virtually opposite the entrance to Milford Place. They were remembered in the Moseley and Kings Heath Journal of November 1900 when Councillor Edward Holmes stated:

“...he recalled the days when Moseley and Kings Heath were small villages, with hardly any need for Police protection. He could remember the stocks at Kings Heath, opposite the Hare and Hounds, but it was not very often that anyone could be seen in them. There was room for two prisoners.”

The position of the stocks and the Police station so close to the Hare and Hounds might be explained by an obituary recorded in the Birmingham News dated June 16th 1900. This obituary recorded the death of Emma Blunn of 42 Silver Street who was 72 years old. It states:

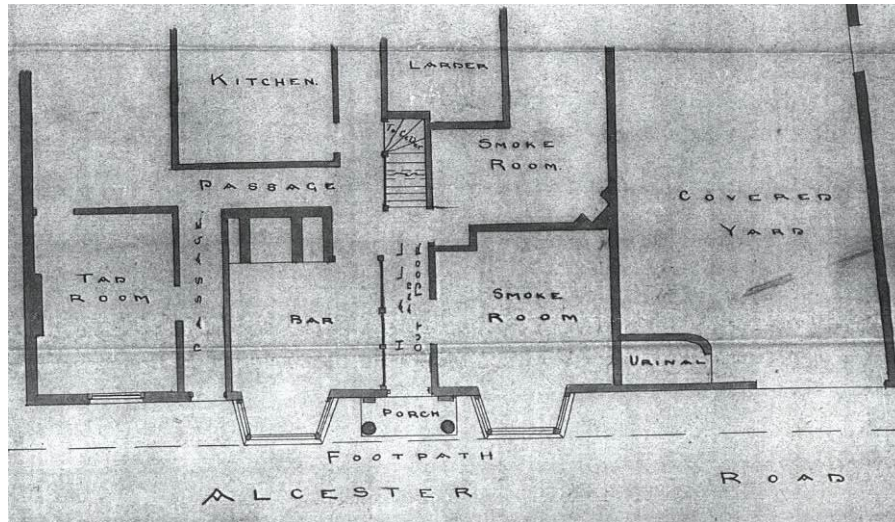
“...her father Benjamin Sawyer, was foreman of the brickyard where the Board Schools now stand and lived in a cottage where the Institute is. Her husband, the late Jessie Blunn, lived in an adjoining cottage and on the death of Mr. Sawyer took over his position of foreman. Mrs. Blunn's grandfather, Mr. Aaron Payton was constable for the hamlet of Kings Heath and she well remembered the stocks which were once opposite the Hare and Hounds being occupied by persons who had been guilty of misconduct.”

So, not only was the Hare and Hounds involved in law and order in Kings Heath, but the man that built it and ran it was also the constable of the small hamlet of Kings Heath. The reason for the Hare and Hounds existence, the building of Kings Heath's first Police station and its proximity to the village stocks are all due to Aaron Payton.

The Police station eventually moved to the corner of Balaclava Road and Silver Street and the old Police station was occupied by Samuel Whitehouse. He is recorded there in the 1881 and 1891 censuses. He is described as an “engine driver in the brewery.” However,

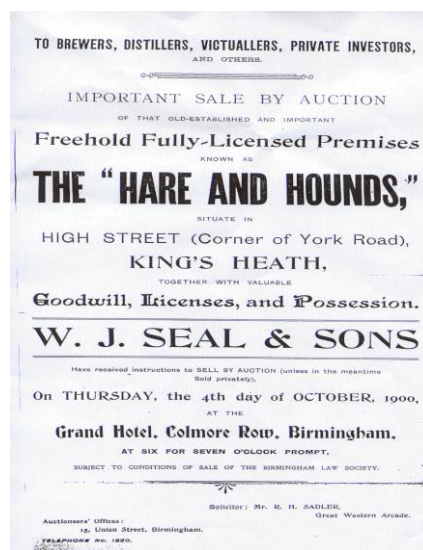
by 1896 the building was occupied by George Bladon, dairyman, until 1901 when he moved to number 7 York Road. He remained there until 1911. His shop was called “Ye Old Dairy” and advertised, “...a fresh supply of poultry and eggs weekly, and also farm fed pork, pure milk and fresh butter.”

In 1897 Edward Collins applied to have alterations made to the Hare and Hounds (see below).



The internal plan clearly shows the different rooms in the pub. The two bay windows are part of the bar and the front smoke room which were situated either side of the main entrance hall which also served as the outdoor department. One can also see why Edward Collins was worried about supervision of the tap room as it was completely separate from the bar with a passage in between that was open to the street. His new proposed plan placed a large counter across a much larger bar, having incorporated the tap room, and having a separate outdoor department to ease congestion in the bar.

However, by 1900 Edward Collins seemed determined to replace the old pub with a newer, more modern one. On October 4th 1900 an auction was held at the Grand Hotel in Birmingham. (see the advertisements for the auction below)





These include a description of the pub and its situation. They also include an illustration of the old pub and the proposed new pub to be built in its place. This proposed pub was never built. In fact, the Hare and Hounds was not sold at this auction. What happened is described in the Birmingham News of the time:

“At the Grand Hotel last evening, the sale of the Hare and Hounds by auction – there was a large attendance and bidding was started at £10,000. The highest bid recorded was £17,800 and at that sum the property was withdrawn.”

Incredibly, the pub failed to reach a sum of money suitable for Edward Collins and the old pub remained as it was until 1907.

CHARLES HOOK COLLETT

Charles Hook Collett, an architect, bought the Hare and Hounds from Edward and Eleanor Collins. Charles then mortgaged the old pub back to Edward, Eleanor and the Holt Brewery Company, who wanted the pub all along. Collett then had the old pub knocked down and the present Hare and Hounds built in 1907.

THE NEW HARE AND HOUNDS 1907-PRESENT

The present Hare and Hounds must have appeared a very impressive building when it was first seen by the local community in 1907. Although Charles Collett was himself an architect, the Hare and Hounds was designed by Samuel Owen of the company Owen and Ward of Birmingham. The architect used a terracotta brick façade which had become a very fashionable building material at that time. The new pub also incorporated a corner clock tower, also popular at the time, and may have been influenced by the tower on its recently rebuilt neighbour, the Fighting Cocks in Moseley. If the outside was impressive, so

was the interior. Many period details were present. The large wooden bar, the mirrored backdrop behind the counter and the Art Nouveau tiles on the walls. The pub was also divided up with wooden partitioning into several smaller rooms such as small bars, smoke room, coffee room and outdoor department. This must have all been in stark contrast to the old pub.



The actual building work of the Hare and Hounds was carried out by builder John Morris of Station Road, Kings Heath. The plans of the building show that the foundations were finished on November 27th 1906 and approved by the Holt Brewery on November 28th 1906. The main structure was completed in July 1907 and the Birmingham News records the following:

“August 3rd 1907. The scaffolding has been taken down from the new Hare and Hounds to reveal its terracotta and Aberdeen granite frontage.”

“...the inside is not yet complete... a small part of it may be open for the Bank Holiday.”

Once completed, the new building was added to in March 1909. Charles Collett himself designed the assembly room on the first floor and John Morris, again, carried out the building work.

The present Hare and Hounds was finally bought by the Holt Brewery Company from Charles Collett on April 27th 1910. This brought an end to the Hare and Hounds' independence. From now on it would be owned by large brewery companies and run by their tenant managers. Over the years, the Hare and Hounds has been owned by the Holt Brewery Co., Anells Brewery, Allied Domecq and Punch Retail.

LISTED BUILDING STATUS

The Hare and Hounds has managed to retain a lot of its original features. So many, in fact, that on August 24th 1995 it merited being listed as a grade II listed building. The listing was made when the pub's features were brought to the attention of the, then, Department of National Heritage.

They described the Hare and Hounds as an essentially intact turn of the century pub. Few of these remain without drastic and detrimental alterations having occurred. For the Hare and Hounds, there was not one particular feature responsible for its listing, rather it was a combination of the outside architecture and the retention of many interior features. It highlighted the following:

- ◆ The mahogany bar counter
- ◆ The elaborately mirrored bar back
- ◆ The original fixed seating
- ◆ The curved mahogany screen by the York Road entrance
- ◆ The glazed tiles with Art Nouveau designs in the entrance hall and up the stairs
- ◆ The function room with its barrel vaulted ceiling with plaster decoration

The listing also reported that there had been a loss of some of the original partitioning and that also there had been some alteration to the arched windows, however, this was seen as not being too drastic to detrimentally affect the building.

HARE AND HOUNDS LANDLORDS/LADIES 1824-1907

1824-1849 Aaron Payton
1849-1850 Samuel Pike
1851-1852 Susannah Pike
1852-1860 Elizabeth Carr
1861-1865 James Whilock
1866-1874 Alfred Sheppard
1875-1877 William Jackson
1878 Edwin Carter
1879-1897 Levi Cottrell
1897-1907 Edward and Eleanor Collins

HARE AND HOUNDS LANDLORDS/LADIES 1907-1974

1907-1908 George Wright
1909-1911 Haratio Samuel Fletcher
1912 Arthur Augustus Lilley
1913-1916 John Christopher Gaynor
1917-1920 George Frederick Whitehouse
1921-1922 Robert Middlemass
1923 Albert Henry Pratt
1924-1925 Robert Middlemass
1926-1930 John Cookes
1931-1940 Harry Wheeler
1941-1947 Thomas Evans
1948-1950 Harry Norton Evans
1951 Katherine Lance
1952-1974 Harry Keeling