

History of The Dog & Duck

This pub was formerly known as The Old Dog & Duck, and we believe that the name came from the local sport on the pond at the rear of the property. Ducks were tethered and it was the game to see how long the dog would take to catch them.

The exact age of the building is not know, but in the years 1753 – 1773 between 8 and 10 publicans were shown for the parish of Rotherfield Greys in the Binfield Hundred, but none of these entries had public house names and it is not possible to identify the pubs.

1774 appears to be the year that publicans had to give sureties of £10 each to the Justices, as guarantee of good conduct in their pubs, as they had become such dens of vice and bad behaviour (where even the constables were afraid to risk there person)

From 1785 the entries were made in September of each year. It seems publicans often stood surety for one another. Sometimes there were just blank pages so one assumes that, for one reason or another work was just not done.

Year

1774– 1776	Richard Cheney
1778– 1780	Thomas Harris
1780– 1781	Katharine Hunter
1882– 1785	William Buckeridge
1786 - 1793	Simon Reeves
1794 – 1799	James Hill
1799 – 1811	Michael Lemon (Lunnon)
1812 – 1817	All Missing
1818 – 1821	Edward Burn
1822	Missing
1871 - 1880	James Saunders
1881	Thomas Page

Register of Licences (now in the County Archives)

Licensed as Alehouse and Victualler under 9th George Rex
Owned by Brakspear's Brewery, Henley

1882 – 1904	Thomas Page
1906	Francis William Page
1913	Josiah John Timmis
1914 - 1925	Edward William Hall Taylor and Mrs Elsie Taylor
1926 – 1929	Elsie Taylor (widowed)
1930	James Hough
1932 – 1945	Charles F Carey
1953 -	Harold Charles Venn

Dr Henry Hawley Crippen (1861 – 1910)

Mr John H Baker records in A school on the Ground Floor, seeing a dapper man dressed as for a walking tour; he recognised him from press photographs as being, Dr Henry Hawley Crippen wanted for murder of his wife Belle. Ethel le Neve his mistress dressed as boy was observed on Nettlebed common.

Crippen had afternoon tea at the Dog & Duck – asking for jam without pips because of his false teeth, and played a tune on the landlady's violin while waiting.

The wanted couple then made there way down to the south coast and embarked on the Canadian Pacific Liner Montrose for America. They were arrested on board ship as a result of wireless telegraphy - its first use in this way.