

THE CHEQUERS INN, WHEATLEY

1630	All that messuage, cottage, now called The Chequers, which is now laid into another messuage being freehold which form one messuage and garden and bakehouse, between the cottage of William Bennett on the north and east, abutting Bennett's lane (now Friday lane) on the west, once in the occupation of Susan Stripling, widow, was sold by William Bennett, tailor, to Mary Gadburie, widow.
Early 1700s	Benjamin Harford now owned the property.
1765	Benjamin Harford left the property to his eldest son, William, two messuages, barn, backside and garden once occupied by Leonard Haseley, once occupied by Susanna Fidges, widow, and then by Althea Meadows, one of which messuages lying next the (High?) Street is now The Chequers.
1779-1802	William Harford is entered in the licensed Victuallers list as licensee of The Chequers.
1785	Land Tax. William Harford, owner and occupier of property assessed at £0/5/0 ¾ .
1789	November. Wm. Harford assessed for Poor Rate on rent of £3.
1791	November. William Harford Overseer of the Poor of the Parish.
1802-1808	Martha Harford, wife and in 1804 widow of William, took over as licensee William left his property to his wife, Martha.
1804	William left his property to his wife, Martha.
1808	Martha Harford died.
1809	July 28 Benjamin Harford, baker, of Wheatley, and Thomas Harford, size maker, of Bermondsey, sold the property to James Harper, who on September 9 sold The Chequers to Mark and James Morrell, brewers. July 28. Benjamin. Harford left two messuages, barn, backside and garden once occupied by Leonard Haseley, once occupied by Susanna Pidges, widow, and then by Althea Meadows, one of which messuages lying next the (High?) Street is now the Chequers to his eldest son, William. William Harford left his property to his wife Martha Harford. After Martha's death Benjamin Harford, baker, and Thomas Harford, size maker, of Bermondsey, sold the property to James Harper.
1809-1822	James Harper was licensee.
1813	In the Wheatley Enclosure Award James Harper had freehold tenure (jointly with Thomas Harper) of 1 Allotment of 1 acre and 1 perch. leasehold tenure (jointly with Thomas Harper) of 5 Allotments: 1st in the lower Field, 10 acres 2 roods 20 perches 2nd in The Mead, 2 acres, 30 perches 3rd The Homestead and Orchard, 3 roods. 4th The Close and Small Coppice, 1 acre 16 perches 5th Harper's Cottages and Gardens, 30 perches.
1846-1852	James Davis was licensee. He was married to Mary (1813-65) and they had three children, Richard (see below), Mary A (1844) and William (1848). In 1852 James left The Chequers and became a farmer and coal merchant (1854 just a farmer), but continued to live in Wheatley.
1852-1853	William Saul was licensee.
1861-1869	Edward Woods, son of Thomas, butcher, of Ludgershall, Bucks, was licensee, married in 1857 Joan Lamburn (1823-1886), daughter of William, mealman. Edward left The Chequers to become licensee of the White Hart, Wheatley.
1869	David Ring took over as licensee.

1874	Part of the Morrell marriage settlement referred to premises formerly known as Chequers and land adjoining
1877	Edward Davis was licensee.
1883-1887	Samuel Williams was licensee.
1891-1898	Richard Davis, son of James and Mary Davis, was licensee. In 1861 he married Pleasant Grainger, a Wheatley servant, who was born in Wallingford and whose father, John, was a publican. They had five children, Pleasant Euphemia, who died aged 7 months, Kate, Henry, Fred and Pleasant. Richard, according to the census return of 1851 was an apprentice tailor and in 1861 when he married Pleasant, he was a self-employed master tailor. His wife, Pleasant, died aged 63, and was buried in Wheatley Churchyard on February 1, 1897. Charles Bizzell became licensee. His wife was called Catherine, and their son, Percival Gordon, was born on December 19, 1905 and baptised in Wheatley Church on February 11, 1906.
1896	Richard Adam Davis mortgaged his house, bakehouse and premises in High Street, Wheatley

LAND ADJOINING THE CHEQUERS

1847	September 9 Thomas Goodgame, George Guy Macklin and his wife, Elizabeth Ann, sold a messuage bounded on the west side by The Chequers and on the southeast by a farm occupied by Edward Hatton, who married Elizabeth Davis;
1864	Lot 1 Messuage, bakehouse bounded on the west side by The Chequers, occupied by William Rogers and described at its auction as 'freehold stone & brick and tiled house with front shop, bakehouse, 7-bushel oven, two bedrooms, flour room, yard, two hovels, pump of good water and other conveniences situate at the lower end of Wheatley and occupied by William Rogers. Land Tax 1s. 8d. The above was bought by William Rogers from James Robbins and Thomas Chapman. The above property was formerly occupied by Thomas Guy, father of Elizabeth Ann Goodgame, and she had as undertenant Thomas Sheldon.
1861	Morrells obtained a piece of land fronting what is now Friday Lane. This was between the Chequers and land owned by All Souls College, and was leased to Thomas Porter. Thomas Porter at one time by one Thomas Porter and his wife, Sophia. Thomas Porter was also lessee of the turnpike Tolls. In 1778 the value of the Tolls on the Wheatley turnpike was £1,170. Wilfrid Sheldon (b. 1885) remembered the Friendly Society club feast taking place here in Whit week. The members went to church in procession behind their banner and after the service they had a 'sumptuous meal' at the Chequers. By 1926 Mrs S.A. Keen (nee Sally Gomm) kept a shop here selling groceries and sweets and it was still a shop in the 1960s. now a private house.