

## The Red Lion

The deeds go back to 1744 but two properties are involved and it is not until 1773 that they come under one ownership.

In 1767 William Hedges, yeoman, of Waterperry Common bought one property and in 1773, the other. He obviously anticipated attracting a good trade from coach travellers because the road was re-routed in 1774 to its present position and his would be the first inn on the journey from Oxford to Wheatley. His expectations could not have been fulfilled, for he could not repay his mortgages, and he was imprisoned in Castle Gaol in 1779 for debt.

In the November, 'the messuage, orchard and 1 rood of land and the yard of ground in Westfield' were bought at a public auction by Rose Cherry, yeoman, of Tetsworth for £290.

It is not certain whether he took up the license immediately but he was certainly landlord from 1782 - 96. He died in 1797. Ann Small, presumably his widow, continued at the Red Lion until 1824 when it was bought by Charles Lane but he was declared bankrupt two years later.

In 1854 E.Y. & H.W. Peel, brewers of Watlington, purchased it and still owned it in 1912, when Watlington Brewery leased it to Alfred James. Hall & Co. were owners in 1930 when Harold Crawford was the landlord. He ran a carrier service to Oxford twice weekly.

The New Club moved to the Red Lion in 1954. Previously it had met in a room, now the library, in the Merry Bells