

EXTRACT FROM 'JACKSON'S OXFORD JOURNAL 1st January 1780

(This was the Local Newspaper in those days)

"...WHEATLEY OXFORDSHIRE, December 29 1779....

TO BE LET and entered upon at Lady Day next, an old and good- accustomed PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the sign of THE BELL, and now in occupation of James Taylor, with Brew House, and two stables in required, one a very lofty commodious-built stable; also a very commodious-built bakehouse adjoining, with Dough-trough, and other fixtures suitable and convenient for carrying on the Baking Business and good storerooms for flour etc, with a Garden and Piggeries and other conveniences thereto belonging.

"The Bake-house, with Dwelling House and Bread Shop and 5 rooms over them with one Stable may be entered on immediately if required. For further particulars and to treat for the same apply to William Davies, Maltster, Wheatley."

"NB. The premises are all in exceeding good repair and everything that is necessary for the advantage of the Tenant will be complied with. There are good conveniences of Store-room for carrying on the Mealing Business with the Baking. No person need apply that has not a Capital. It will not be advertised any more for the present if not let."

According to an Index of INNKEEPERS mentioned in "Jacksons Oxford Journal" between 1753 & 1780 there was a T. DAVIS at the KING'S ARMS, as well as J.TAYLOR at THE BELL as well as others.

Note by resident of No.5 Bell Lane: THE BELL was at corner of High St & Bell, Lane & the first 4 cottages in Bell Lane 'overlap each other in various ways thus they were all part of the original INN with outbuildings etc. Recent restoration in No.1 revealed the MALITNC OVENS: the centre passage between 2nd & 3rd cottage shows a wide chimney breast (recently exposed in No.3) which could have been the bakehouse; upper floors were "walk-through" as there are bricked-in doorways; some STABLE EQUIPMENT found in the garden of No.5 (old horse-shoe, harness buckle, horse brass, stable-yard tiles, gulley etc.& iron chain ring for hitching fastened in passage wall).