

Apparently Fanny Cordelia Foster had bought the property in 1921 (the first advertisement for the hotel that has been found was dated 25 November that year). She had paid £4500 for it but appears only to have put down £870. There were two mortgages of £3,000 (with 23-year-old Rev. Joseph Harrison of Ealing based on a valuation in December 1922) and £2,000 with Miss Bertha Vyner of Stratford-on-Avon. A filling station had been installed at a cost of £1,000. After a period of trading, it seemed to the proprietor that a liquor license would be beneficial to trade but this application was refused in a report dated 17 February 1926. Mrs Foster filed for bankruptcy according to a report dated 17 December 1926. In the ensuing month or so, there were many articles in the Oxfordshire press which support the financial details given above. On 21 January, it was reported that Mrs Foster had assets of £1741 but liabilities of £4,837. An press article that January reported that normal winter flooding which sometimes came up to the verandah. A witness put a value of £7,500 on the property using spurious arguments of a meadow value with the pumps of £3,000; potential hotel profits of £1,000 at three and a half years-purchase so £3,500 and a hope value of £1,000 for obtaining a liquor license! Some time later the best offer that could be obtained by the liquidator was £4,000.