



Public Houses of Gorse Hill



Tabernacle, 159/161 Cricklade Road, Gorse Hill

Originally a farm, opened as a beer house before 1859, also known as The Halfway House, with a dancing licence for hall at the rear. Henry Wright was charged with having eight, pint cups of deficient measure, Wright said he has bought them warranted to be of good measure. *Swindon Advertiser 16-08-1869.*

The present pub now named The Duke of Edinburgh was built next door, the land was bought from A T Jeeves by Arkell's in 1874 and new pub erected at a cost of £1200 the licence being transferred on 07/10/1874.

1881 and an application was made to extend hours from 10 to 11 at night to Local Police Court. Reason was growing population of Gorse Hill area. Told to apply to County Licensing Committee as Police Court not authorised to give permanent changes in hours. *Swindon Advertiser 07-05-1881.*

In 1889 the Innkeeper William Thomas Miles was convicted of supplying refreshments to two police officers while they were on duty.

From the early 1900's the grounds at the back were used for Sports event. *e.g., Swindon Advertiser 16-06-1902.*

1909 request to extend Jug & Bottle area was rejected. *Swindon Advertiser 23-04-1909.*

1917 Sarah Bowker was fined £20 for selling bottle of whiskey on a Sunday.

The 12 acres at the rear of the pub is bought by a London Greyhound Racing Syndicate, hoping to open for racing next year. *North Wilts Herald 02-12-1927.*

In 2016 former professional dart player Mark Thompson became landlord.

Landlords

License Held	Surname	Given Names	Title
1864	Green	Ann	
1868-1871	Wright	Henry	
1872-1880	Davis	Frederick	
1880-Oct 1887	Wright	E.	
Oct 1887	Wheeler	J.	
1888-1891 Jul	Miles	William Thomas	
1891 Jul -1911	Bowker	Arthur	
1912-1918	Bowker	Sarah	
1919-1939	Bowker	Frank Crossley (son of Arthur)	
1961	Johnson	John H	
	White	Eric	
	Arman	Peter & Jean	
c.1990	Togets	Dave & Yvonne	
2008-Sep 2011	Smith	Mick & Georgina	
Sep 2011-	Thomson	Mark & Allyson	

Gorse Hill Working Men's Club, Gypsy Lane

Original building closed in 2008, now mosque.

Stewards

License Held	Surname	Given Names	Title

Carpenters Arms, 108/110 Cricklade Road, Gorse Hill

Originally opened as an Off-licence in 1874 and was run by a local carpenter named William Thomas Penny, obtained a full licence in 1877. The pub was demolished in 1964 due to a road widening scheme and was rebuilt as,



Carpenters Arms, Gypsy Lane, Gorse Hill - built by John Pattison Ltd 1964, in 1988 it was later renamed 'The Swiss Chalet', because of its unique style.

Landlords

License Held	Surname	Given Names	Notes
1874-1891	Penny	William Thomas	Full licence <i>Swindon Advertiser</i> 27-08-1877

1901-1915	Hayward	Ernest Herbert	
1927-1928	Horsington	James William	
1961	Horsington	Frederick J	
1967	Piper	Chris & Pat	
	Darcy Masters	Val & Bruce	
1970's	Leighfield	Dave & Jean	
1977-1980	Daniels	Mick & Sue	
-1987		Martin & Joan	
1987-	Franklin	Ron	
	Young	Ian	
1990's	Piper	Chris	
2014-	Honeyman	John	



The Princess Hotel, 45-47 Beatrice Street –

Built by George Whitehead in 1898 on land leased from Rolleston estate. George Whitehead was given permission to improve his house. *Swindon Advertiser 16-05-1902.*

Refurbished in 1964, re-branded as The Meerkat 2012 to 2014 now converted to flats.

A pidgeon Racing Club was run from here, 'Princess Flying Club'.

Landlords

License Held	Surname	Given Names	Title
1898-1915	Whitehead	George	
1927-1928	Harris	William Edward	
1939	Poppet	Granville	
	Gray	Donald	

Plessey Club, Cricklade Road. Housed in an old Baptist chapel, this was extended in 1961 at the cost of £7000.



Kembrey Inn – Kembrey Industrial Park.

Kembrey Inn was built on the site of an old factory building & opened as a Brewers Fayre in 2005.

Landlords

License Held	Surname	Given Names	Title

Other licences noted –

15/01/1877 Joseph Sellwood passed a licence to James Carter

John B APLIN, transferred an outdoor beer licence to Henry John Tarrant of Chippenham. *Swindon Advertiser 06-01-1883.*

James SMART, innkeeper and pork butchers, *Jacksons Oxford Journal 22-8-1891.*

James SLY, 9 Gorse Hill, was applying for an indoor licence *The Western Daily Press 24-8-1877.* and for a renewal in 1879. *Swindon Advertiser 08-11-1879.*

Outdoor beer licence of Richard Pullen, temporarily transferred on hold-over to John B Aplin. *Swindon Advertiser 24-07-1880.*

George RICKS applying for licence for 1 Ferndale Road. *Swindon Advertiser 28-07-1899.*