

The Old Brewery



The earliest ordinance survey map of 1822 shows one small building on the site and in the 1841 census the property was owned by Daniel Warren, “corn dealer & maltster”. He lived there for over thirty years, during which time his business apparently prospered, for in 1858 he built the brewery and is thereafter known as “brewer & maltster”. By 1877 the brewery and house was owned by Mr Francis Bull, he had a large family, employed a governor and made further extensions to the house to accommodate them all.

At some time during the life of the original house, the oak beams had been covered up by a plaster ceiling and they were not revealed until the 1970’s when the owners Mr & Mrs Bridge uncovered them during interior renovations. Until recently, the north side of the house fronting the road was bordered by shrubbery of Laurel bushes, but that has now disappeared; the stonework has been re-pointed, the large wooden gates at the yard entrance have gone and the whole building is converted into offices.

The brewery too has had a chequered history. The rear view from the field’s show that much of the lower storey is of stone while the upper levels are of brick; perhaps the stone parts were originally farm buildings onto which Mr Warren grafted his brewery.

By the 1920’s the building was used as a garage for Malcolm Jelley’s buses, but that business was sold in 1934 and the whole brewery stood empty until the onset of war, five years later. Storage space away from the London bombing was at a premium, and the premises were rented by and eventually sold to a firm that stored carbide there during the war years.