

HISTORIC PUBS

HEADINGLEY



The Woodman Hotel, undated

THE WOODMAN

By the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the former hamlet of Headingley Moor Side had expanded to become the village of Far Headingley, with its own church, St Chad's. It already had two pubs, the Three Horse Shoes and the New Inn, both opened in the 1830s. Fifty years later, another was established. According to the directories beer was being retailed from premises a few yards further up Otley Road (now no102) from the 1880s. In 1882, George Winterburn is given as 'beer retailer'.

With *Weetwood*, *Lawnswood* and *Meanwood* closeby, 'The Woodman' was probably an obvious choice when selecting name options. In 1972, 93-year-old George Merry remembered the pubs in the 1880s: "There was The Woodman, The New Inn and The Three Horse Shoes. They all used to brew their own beer. I think most of the pubs in Leeds did that. Well on brewing days, believe me, the smell of hops round Headingley was lovely."

The Three Horse Shoes appears in local directories as an "Inn" from the 1830s, whereas the New Inn and The Woodman (Hotel) are not named, merely referred to by address and occupier – "beer" or "beer and spirit" retailer. A true inn provided lodgings for travellers and stabling, and was quite different from its near public house neighbours, The Woodman and New Inn.



Horse Tram outside The Woodman, 1899 © Leeds Transport Historical Society

A photograph was taken of a horse tram standing outside the building in 1899. The pub appears to be a tied house, there being a large 'Tetley' sign above the door and 'Tetley's Pale Ale' in white lettering on the sash windows. The unspoiled building is in its original form with sliding sash windows to either side of a column and pediment framed central doorway. The building has undergone many alterations in subsequent years. The framed entrance has disappeared, the sash windows removed, the window openings enlarged and small paned frames installed. And the most dramatic change of all – the upper storey has been timber framed and rendered. In addition, a small oriel window has been fitted to the central window. An early venture into mock Tudor?

The alterations were perhaps made when Duttons Brewery Ltd acquired The Woodman Inn from Helenor Daniels (deceased) in July 1925. The deeds describe a site extending to 363 sq.yds. and including 'all that beerhouse known as the Woodman Inn with brewhouse, garage and outbuildings. And also those shops, dwellinghouses, cottages and other buildings known as 102 and 102A Otley Road and 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 Woodman Yard.' The Otley Road shops remain, but Woodman Yard was cleared, the pub extended and the rest of the land given over to parking.



The Woodman Hotel, 1960s

The Woodman became a Whitbread house when Dutton's was acquired by Whitbread in 1964. The pub name was changed to Woodies after a 1970s refit, and again to Woodies Ale-House after a 1980s refit. It's now Woodies Craft Ale House, a Greene-King pub (along with its near neighbour, the New Inn).

David Hall

Local Historian, 2022

Extracted from David Hall, *Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park* (2000, 2nd ed 2001)

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