

## Then and Now: New Inn to Woodspring and beyond



This building, situated on the corner of Worle High Street and Station Road, has played an important part in the life of the village since the very early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

We do not have an exact date when the New Inn was built, but Lesley Brown, one of our members who wrote 'Worle's Pubs' uncovered some interesting facts. An auction sale of land was held

*'at the House of Joseph Leman known by the sign of the New Inn situate in the Parish of Worle on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> Day of July, 1811.*

The land auctioned was in Weston-super-Mare and resulted in the development of the fashionable seaside resort.

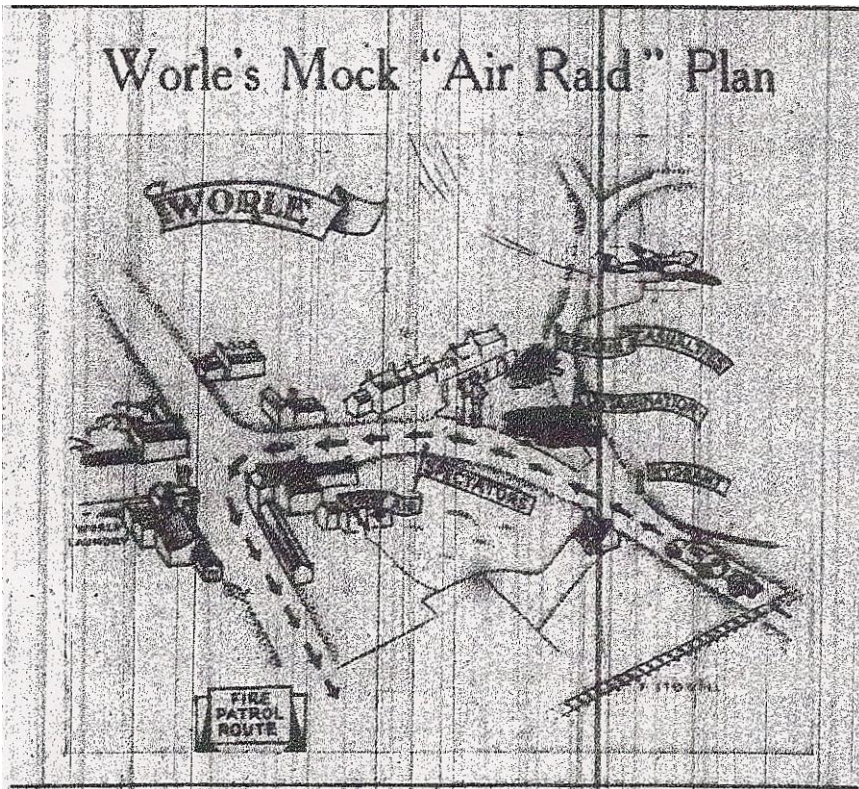
The New Inn was sold in 1814 with

*'a Ball Court, Bowling Alley, Garden, Orchard, Offices, Stables and Coach-house adjoining. The House, Offices, Stables and Coach-house were all lately new built and occupied by Joseph Leman.'*

The new facilities were probably built in 1815, when an antique bronze stirrup was said to have been found on the site.

The building occupied a large, prominent site and was originally a coaching inn. Its facilities were extensive for the time, and the New Inn was chosen for many important functions, both social and official, including a Public Enquiry into the sanitary condition of Worle in 1901. Weston Harriers regularly held their Hunt Breakfasts at the Inn. More than 20 landlords are listed as having been proud overseers of the pub.

During World War II The New Inn was the central point for the practice air raid, early in 1939. This was supposed to prepare the people of Worle for potential bombing raids.



This plan shows the general idea for the mock raid. It appeared in the Weston Mercury. The New Inn, the Imperial Laundry and the Weston, Clevedon and Portishead light railway line can all be seen.

When the ARP was formed, Worle had two sections, one of which picked the New Inn as their headquarters. It was also the favoured venue for the members of Worle Cricket Club.

In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century the pub was renamed The Woodspring and has been run with varying success by a list of licensees. Worle History Society have started on of their annual walks from the pub, and the Morris Men have danced their socks off on the wide pavement.

Sadly it is now up for sale and is unlikely to be used as a public house in the near future.

Raye Green, Worle History Society