

A Walk to look at the lost Pubs and Hotels of Dawlish





by Suzanne Jones (January 2019)

(The walk starts at the Station)










The growth of public houses and hotels in Dawlish reflected its growth from a small Devon village into a popular seaside destination; first with the Georgian holiday trade and the families of the British Fleet living in the area during the Napoleonic Wars. Later with the development of the gentleman's residents in the 19th century and the coming of the railway, making access to the town easier.







The change in the law in 1830 effecting Beer tariffs and Beer House licencing stimulated the opening of several pubs over the next ten years, with many of these establishment stayed trading well into the 20th century. Dawlish remained a popular holiday resort allowing the town to also supported three large town centre hotels in the 19th century. Today Dawlish still has a higher proportion of public houses to the population than many parts of the country, reflecting its continued status as a holiday and day trip destination.

(Not included in the list below are the small private hotels and boarding houses that developed on Exeter Road and East Cliff Road.)

Historic Pictures	History	Now
Richmond Place		
The Royal Hotel 1867 – 1975 	<p>First open as the Public Rooms in 1811, became the Royal Hotel in 1867. Owned for a short time at the beginning of the 20th century by Robert and Brown Brewery of Teignmouth, otherwise privately owned by several different owners. Closed in 1975, it now comprises of shops and flats. Historic photo is from 1920.</p>	
The Royal Albert / Grand Hotel 1860-1975 	<p>Opened in 1860 as the Station Hotel, Dawlish Brewery took it over in 1874 and was by this time the Royal Albert. In 1904 changed its name to the Grand Hotel. Closed in 1975 was demolished and the site is now Brunel Court retirement flats. Historic photo is from 1906.</p>	

<p>Royal Western Hotel 1849-1860</p> 	<p>Appears to have been a combination of public house and boarding house. Became a private house, Richmond House in 1860 and later became Harris Temperance Hotel, as depicted in the 1910 photo on the left.</p>	
<p>Beach Road</p>		
<p>Exeter Inn 1841-2016</p> 	<p>A public house was on this site in 1839, probably call New York. The name was changed in 1852 to the Exeter Inn. Dawlish Brewery took it over in 1869, it was sold to Heavitree Brewery in 1891. Closed in 2016 and now is 3 town houses. Historic photo is from 1908</p>	
<p>Little Park Street / Commercial Road</p>		
<p>Mariners Compass 1841 - ? and between 1884 & 1909</p>	<p>Located in Little Park Street later re-named Commercial Road, exact position unknown. Appears in 1841, when it closed is debatable. It was an empty building in 1861, however there is a mention of it in the 1884 Exeter Flying Post newspaper. In the will of William Tapper in 1909, he leaves the property, formerly the Mariners Compass to his daughter</p>	
<p>King Street / Regent Street</p>		
<p>Victoria Inn 1862-1886</p>	<p>Little is known about this Inn, it was no. 7 or 8 King Street. In the 1872 Whites Directory there is an unnamed Beer House listed at no.7 Regent street run by Mrs Elizabeth Hine. It is possible they are the same establishment.</p>	
<p>Old Town Street</p>		
<p>Devon Arms 1893-2010 Photo - 2000</p> 	<p>Opened in 1893, by 1902 owned by City Brewery, Exeter. Changed its name by 2000 to the Ferret and Radiator, purchased and incorporated what was Chapmans Photographic Shop next door a few years later. Closed in 2010 and now is flats</p>	

<p>Prince of Wales 1833-2002 Photo - 2000</p> 	<p>Started in 1833 with Richard Poulton as Brewer, switching to brewhouse in 1849. Became the Prince of Wales in 1863. Purchased by Dawlish Brewery in 1872. Closed in 2002 and now is a private house</p>	
<p>New Inn 1856-1936</p> 	<p>First evidence in 1856, at beginning of 20th century was owned by Ross and Pridsley Brewers of Exeter, then Well Park Brewery in Exeter and then during the first World War Devenish & Co of Weymouth. Probably closed in 1936 and became a shop. Historic photo is from 1908</p>	
<p>Queen Victoria 1838-1844</p>	<p>Its exact position is unknown, however likely in the vicinity of Queens Lane</p>	
<p>Red Lion 1797 - 1988</p> 	<p>This was one of Dawlish's earliest pubs, with a licence from 1797, but could go back to as early as 1730. It was owned and run by the blacksmith who had his forge across the road. Sold to Dawlish Brewery for £810 in 1899. Closed in 1988, demolished in 1991, now flats. Historical photo 1908</p>	
<p>Carpenters Arms 1866-1933</p>	<p>Opened in the 1860's purchased by Dawlish Brewery in 1872, in 1903 its licence was still as a Beer House. Closed and Sold by Heavitree in 1933, has been a greengrocer in living memory</p>	
<p>Town Tree Hill – Beer House</p>	<p>There was a Beer House here in 1903 owned by City Brewery, Exeter. However, there is no evidence of where in the road it was or its dates.</p>	

Brook Street		
The Manor Inn 1833 - 1952 	<p>Opened as the Kings Arms in 1833, becoming the Manor in 1853 when it still had its own brewhouse. Purchased by Dawlish Brewery in 1883. Closed in 1952 when it was converted to flats for retired Heavitree licensees.</p> <p>Historic photo 1908</p>	
The Beehive	<p>There is very little know about this pub apart from a directory entry in 1836</p>	
The Strand		
The York Hotel 1786 - 1870	<p>One of the two early large Inns built for the Regency tourists in 1786, then known as the New Inn. Became the York Hotel in 1820. Closed and demolished in 1870 when the Congregational chapel was built, now the Strand Church.</p>	
The Albert 1844 - 2007	<p>Situated on a plot of land that was owned by Richard Ferris who purchased Dawlish Brewery in 1825. It was a wine shop in 1844 and the Albert Hotel in 1872, later the Prince Albert Inn and more recently the Hole in the Wall. Closed in 2007</p>	
The London Hotel 1789 - 1919 	<p>A Regency Inn dating to 1785, it developed and grew to become a hotel in 1856. It closed in 1919 and was demolished to widen Exeter Road.</p> <p>Historic photo is from 1900</p>	
Brunswick Terrance		
Horse and Groom 1835-1849	<p>Operated from 1835-1849, closed and demolished for the building of a Chapel of Ease, St Marks, in 1851. This church was in turn demolished in 1975 and flats were built on the site.</p>	