

HISTORY OF THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN

Dating back **over** 230 years, the Prussian Queen has been the last remaining pub in Saltfleetby since the closure of the Angel Inn in the early 1920s. Thought to be the only inn in the country ever to have that name: a country pub in a beautiful location that's played an important part in rural life.

THE MYSTERY OF THE NAME

The exact origins of the unique name are long lost in time, and have caused much speculation.

A Wrecked Ship?

Many believe it was named after a German ship called *The Prussian Queen* that was wrecked off the coast nearby. A large four sailed barque, her timbers were salvaged and used to rebuild the pub. The ship's carved wooden figurehead of a queen was displayed outside as the pub sign, disintegrating over the years but retaining traces of the original red and gold paint. The wreck's rusting rudder post could be seen stuck in the beach sand for years.



It's certainly true that there were many shipwrecks on the Saltfleetby shore, with their wood salvaged and used for buildings (such as the 1874 wreck of *The Rimac*), but no-one has yet found evidence of a wrecked *Prussian Queen* anywhere here. The most common version of the story states that it occurred in the 1850s, but evidence shows that the pub was known as *The Queen of Prussia* or *Prussian Queen* decades before this time.

A Stamp Called the Prussian Blue?

The story goes that it's named after a rare stamp, in the collection of a local philatelist, depicting the face of the Queen of Prussia, or was it a notorious forgery? But the *Prussian Queen* pub had its name long before postage stamps were even invented, the first being the *Penny Black* in 1840.



1857 Prussian stamp
King Friedrich Wilhelm IV

The first stamps produced in Prussia were in the 1850s, when they showed the face of King Friedrich Wilhelm IV. None showed a queen. There is a valuable rare *British* stamp called the *Prussian Blue*, named after the colour which was used in error to print only 480 of these stamps in 1935 depicting King George V. They are now worth about £15,000 each.



Rare British stamp from
1935: The Silver Jubilee 2½d
Prussian Blue



Queen Sophia Dorothea of Prussia,
1737 portrait by Antoine Pesne

Named after the daughter of King George I?

Princess Sophia Dorothea (the only daughter of George I) married Crown Prince Frederick William of Prussia in 1706. They became King and Queen of Prussia in 1713. The story goes that she had a connection to our area having sailed to the continent from Saltfleet Haven. But she was born and raised in Hanover, Germany, when her father was George Louis of Hanover. He didn't become king of England until she was 27 years old, already married and Queen of Prussia, in fact she never visited England at all.

Maybe a different Prussian Queen is the namesake of our village pub?

Saltfleetby During the Napoleonic Wars

After the French Revolution, France was at war with Britain for over two decades. The last invasion of the British mainland by a foreign power was in 1797, when the French were defeated at the Battle of Fishguard in Wales. Further invasion was feared, especially after Napoleon Bonapart declared war against Britain in 1803.

Volunteer Corps were raised, such as the *Loyal Lincolnshire Village Volunteers*, said to have members in every village. Members of the upper-classes were founders of the local groups, leading the lower-class volunteer soldiers. Lord Brownlow of Belton House, who was the patron of Saltfleetby St Clement's Church, took command of two of the volunteer companies, at Belton and Hougham. By the end of 1803 the Lincolnshire Volunteers totalled 587 cavalry and 6,720 infantry.

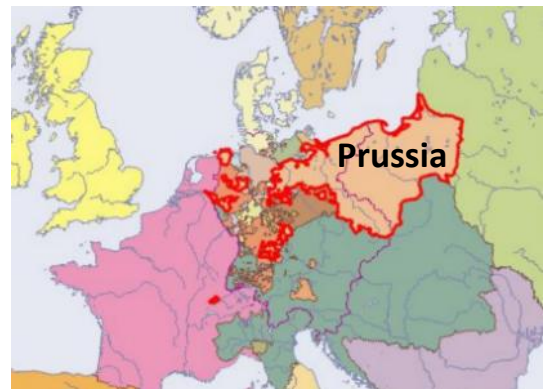
A series of signal beacons were established along the coast at Cleethorpes Cliff, Marshchapel, Donna Nook, Saltfleet, Mablethorpe, Sutton (in-the-Marsh, now Sutton-on-Sea), Anderby Creek, Ingoldmells Point, Skegness (on a sandhill, now part of Seacroft Gold Links) and Gibraltar Point. The beacon at Saltfleet would have been visible from the pub in Saltfleetby. Additional beacons were placed on uplands further inland. Flags would be raised to indicate the sighting of enemy ships in the day, or the beacons lit after dark, the signals relayed to alert the surrounding area to the impending attack. A code of signals was displayed on a mast with tall topmast, from which a system of flags and balls were flown. A blue flag meant enemy vessels had been sighted. A red flag with black shapes of varying number indicated the urgency of the situation. Flags displayed with a ball meant that a scouting force of frigates (with three masts and up to 40 guns) had been spotted and there was time to begin evacuation of the area. Two balls above the red flag meant enemy small cruiser battleships containing 74 guns were in sight. Three balls above the red flag meant extreme urgency, the approaching invasion force was large and/or close and the area was to be evacuated quickly. The system was tested on 7th November 1803 to make sure the chain was complete. Flags were hoisted at noon, and the beacons lit at 8pm. Ministers in the parishes warned their parishioners at Sunday services the day before, not to be alarmed if they saw the signals deployed. The system worked successfully, but it never had to be used for an actual invasion.

A *Saltfleetby and Theddlethorpe Volunteer Corp* was raised and commanded by local gentry. William Marshall (1759-1847) was a Justice of the Peace, chairman of the drainage committee, and son of the late Sheriff of Lincolnshire, William Marshall of Theddlethorpe St Helen's Hall. During the war he was Acting Assistant Commissary for the County of Lincoln, who planned the local beacon system, which was discussed at meetings held at the Windmill Inn in Alford. Charles Dennis (1746-1828) was a Theddlethorpe farmer, grazier and drainage surveyor. They were assisted by Captain Langley. Two Saltfleetby farmers were lower ranking officers: Lieutenant Langley Gace Hodgson (1772-1804) was the nephew of the vicar of Skidbrooke, and the church warden of Saltfleetby All Saints. Ensign Thomas Showler (1759-1830) of Saltfleetby St Peter, was also a drainage surveyor who oversaw work to the River Eau draining into Saltfleet Gowt. The pub in Saltfleetby had long been the venue of an annual auction to allocate sections of drainage dyke to be cleared of reeds by local farm labourers.

Napoleon considered the British a nation of insolent shopkeepers. He attempted to bring hardship to Britain by destroying our trade with Europe. In 1806 a decree was issued blockading vessels coming from Britain from entering into any port under French control. In response to Britain's counter measures, in 1807, another French decree ordered that all ships touching British ports before sailing into French territorial waters were to be confiscated. The busy ports in our coastal area like Grimsby and Saltfleet would have been adversely affected as valuable exports to Europe drastically fell, and merchant shipping suffered.

A Royal Ally in Prussia

The British King George III was married to Queen Charlotte, who came from the small European Dutchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz in Northern Germany. Her brother Charles became Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. His eldest daughter Duchess Louise Auguste Wilhelmine Amalie of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, married the heir to the Prussian throne, Crown Prince Frederick William, in 1793 when she was 17. When he succeeded to the throne in 1797, Louise became the new Queen of Prussia.



The Kingdom of Prussia in 1800



1802 portrait of Queen Louise of Prussia by Josef Grassi

Queen Louise was a very popular public figure, who soon became a beloved celebrity. Large crowds turned out to see appearances by the celebrated young queen. She enjoyed interacting with the public during tours of their kingdom, even when it meant breaking royal protocol by stooping to pick up and kiss children in the crowd. Her husband King Frederick was shy and introverted, whereas she was seen as an energetic, glamorous fashion icon.

She was well-known in Britain too, with portraits displayed in London, reports and articles about her featuring in newspapers and magazines. One of the most important women's magazines of its time was *Bell's Court and Fashionable Magazine (London)*. It featured a long article about Queen Louise in August 1807 as part of their *Illustrious Ladies* series.

She started a fashion trend of wearing a neckerchief or scarf, which she actually wore to keep from getting ill, and also conceal a scar.

In 1805 she advised her husband that Prussia should no longer remain neutral in the war, and helped forge the alliance of Prussia, Russia and Austria against Napoleon's French forces. As a result, Napoleon called her "my beautiful enemy".



French Engraving of Queen Louise in Cavalry Uniform, (from the British Royal Collection)

To encourage and support the allied forces, she joined them on location as they prepared for battle, sometimes dressed in military uniform herself. Whilst accompanying troops into battle at Jena in 1806, apparently dressed like an Amazon warrior from Greek mythology, she had to flee from French troops and narrowly evaded capture.

She also visited the barracks of sick and wounded allied soldiers to help boost their morale.

In 1807, after harsh losses for the Prussians, she and the Prussian King were forced to meet with Napoleon in person to sign a peace treaty. She requested a private meeting with Napoleon, to plead for a more favourable treaty. He was said to be impressed by her determination, but refused to make any concessions.



Illustration of Queen Louise of Prussia from the August 1807 edition of *Bell's Court and Fashionable Magazine*



Detail of painting: Napoleon Bonaparte receives the Queen of Prussia at Tilsit, July 6, 1807 by Nicolas Gosse in 1900

As Prussia was occupied by France, Napoleon attempted to destroy the queen's reputation, she had to endure harsh personal insults. While the royal couple were staying elsewhere, their Charlottenburg Palace in Berlin was ransacked, they returned to find that Napoleon and his commanders had stripped its rooms of precious paintings, sculptures and other antiquities.

Whilst staying at her father's home in summer 1810 she became ill, developing a fever. She died on 19th July 1810, at the age of 35, leaving seven children between the ages of one and fourteen.

In Britain the Lord Chamberlain ordered the Court to go into mourning for three weeks. Announcements and tributes were published in newspapers across the country.

It is with much regret that we record the death of the unfortunate Queen of Prussia, which took place, at Hohenzierietz, the country seat of her father, the Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, on the 19th ult. in the 35th year of her age, nearly seventeen of which she had been married to his Prussian Majesty. She has been invariably described as a most elegant, amiable, and altogether lovely woman.

Chester Chronicle 10th August 1810

The Queen of Prussia died on the 19th ult. at a country seat of her father's, in the territory of Mecklenburgh. With the exception of Bonaparte, there is not a person in Europe who will not bear homage to the numerous virtues as well as admirable talents of this most amiable woman. It was perhaps not her least merit that she excited the mortal hatred of the ferocious Corsican; witness his scurrilous and unmanly invectives against her after the battle of Jena.

Cambridge Chronicle and Journal 10th August 1810 (also circulated in Lincolnshire)



Louisa, Queen of Prussia by Peter Edward Stroehling, in The Royal Lodge, Windsor Park.

This painting may have been one that was first displayed in London at Somerset House, later taken from the possession of the Prussian King and hung in the Paris apartment of Napoleon's second wife. In 1816 (after the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo) it was in the Prince Regent's mansion, Carlton House in Westminster, then taken to Windsor in 1823.

Perhaps Louise, tragic heroine of the Napoleonic Wars, was the Prussian Queen who was honoured by a Lincolnshire Marsh village pub?



Luise von Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Queen of Prussia by Elisabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun, 1802, in The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

THE FIRST RECORDS OF THE QUEEN OF PRUSSIA ALEHOUSE

Early Licencing Agreements

It had been law since 1552 that keepers of alehouses had to enter into a bond, promising to maintain good order in their houses and not to permit unlawful games. Victuallers (person who had a licence to sell alcoholic liquor) had to bind themselves by recognizance each year at special licensing sessions in front of two Justices of the Peace. In our area this took place in Louth Guildhall, which used to be where Cornmarket is now. From the mid-1790s until 1802 one of the Justices of the Peace that signed and certified the recognizances was William Marshall of Theddlethorpe (founder of the *Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Volunteer Corps*). The annual sessions were held one day each September, when the fifteen or so alehouse keepers from the Loutheske district (covering Alvingham, Burwell, Covenham, Grainthorpe, Ludborough, Manby, Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, North and South Somercotes) came together, along with their sureties (a friend or relative acting as guarantor) to renew their recognizance for the year. Applicants not previously licensed had to produce a certificate of good character signed by the minister and churchwardens of the parish.

Alehouse Recognizance

These local alehouse recognizances from 1792 until 1828 (after which the system was changed) are now held in the Lincolnshire Archives in Lincoln. **The pubs could be much older.** In 1792 Saltfleetby had three licenced public houses, the following year onwards only two. **James Smith** was named as alehouse keeper in Saltfleetby All Saints from the *earliest surviving* records in **1792**. It wasn't until 1823 that the name, or sign by which the pub was known, was recorded on the recognizance forms.

So, the first known written record of the pub's name was on its **1823 alehouse recognizance** which reads: "*Upon condition that... **James Smith at the Sign of the Queen of Prussia in Saltfleetby All Saints in the said parts Victualler...** do and shall keep the true Assize in uttering and selling Bread and other Victuals, Beer, Ale and other Liquors, in his House, and shall not fraudulently dilute or adulterate the same, and shall not use, in uttering and selling thereof, any Pots or other Measures that are not of full Size, and shall not wilfully or knowingly permit Drunkenness or Tippling, nor get Drunk in his House or other Premises; nor knowingly suffer any gaming with Cards, Draughts, Dice, Bagatelle, or any other sedentary Game in his House, or any of the Outhouses, Appurtenances, or Easements thereto belonging, by Journeymen, Labourers, Servants, or Apprentices; nor knowingly introduce, permit, or suffer any Bull, Bear, or Badger-baiting, Cock-fighting, or other such Sport or Amusement, in any part of his Premises; nor shall knowingly or designedly, and with a view to harbour and entertain such, permit or suffer Men or Women of notoriously bad Fame, or dissolute Girls and Boys to assemble and meet together in his House, or any of the Premises thereto belonging; nor shall keep open his house, nor permit or suffer any drinking or tippling in any Part of his Premises, during the usual Hours of Divine Service on Sundays; nor shall keep open his House or other Premises during late Hours of the Night, or early in the Morning, for any other Purpose than the Reception of Travellers, but do keep good Rule and Order therein, according to the Purport of a Licence granted for selling Ale, Beer, or other Liquors, by Retail, in the said House and Premises, for One whole Year, commencing on the Tenth day of October next, then this Recognizance to be void, or else to remain in full force"*

At first the two named people, who appeared at the Guildhall in person, pledged to pay **£10 each** if any of these conditions were breached. These were usually the innkeeper themselves and their surety. Other local innkeepers often vouched for each other, acting as their sureties. After 1823 the pledged amounts had increased to **£30** and **£20** (equivalent of about £4,500 and £3,000 today).

JAMES AND SARAH SMITH

James Smith was born in about 1729. In 1766 he was working as a carpenter in Theddlethorpe. He married Sarah Ryley in Theddlethorpe All Saints Church on 2nd October 1766.

Sarah was born in 1745, the daughter of Joseph and Sarah Ryley who had **The Ship Inn** at Theddlethorpe. At this time the Ship was the only licenced alehouse in Theddlethorpe, The Kings Head was still just a private cottage (originally built in the 16th Century) before it became a pub called the King William IV Inn in 1830. Sarah's father Joseph, died in 1799 age 89, then her mother Sarah took over the licence for their pub. James Smith acted as her surety on the 1806 alehouse recognizance. It remained run by other members of the Ryley family until 1813. Now long closed-down, the remains of the old inn can still be seen on Saltfleet Road, opposite Churchill Lane.



The old Ship Inn, Theddlethorpe: photographed in the early 20th Century and in 2025, now derelict, on the A1031. Formerly the home of the first known landlady of The Prussian Queen, Sarah Smith (nee Ryley) and her family in the 18th Century.

James Smith remained the licenced victualler of the Queen of Prussia alehouse until his death in 1826 at the age of 97. He was buried in the graveyard of Saltfleetby All Saints Church on 9th May 1826.

Smith, James, Victualler

James Smith listed in the June **1818 Poll Book for Lincolnshire**: As a freeholder (the owner of freehold property with an annual rental value of at least 40 shillings) he was eligible to vote. He's listed as residing in Saltfleetby. Before secret ballots, who someone voted for was published in a Poll Book. In June 1818 two MPs were elected to represent Lincolnshire. James Smith voted for the two winning candidates: Charles Anderson Pelham (1781-1846, the 1st Earl of Yarborough) and Charles Chaplin II (1786-1859).

No one in Saltfleetby voted for the third candidate: Sir Robert Heron.

His widow Sarah took over the licence of their alehouse. Thomas Leach Cross, a miller, baker and merchant from Louth was her surety, as his father William had been for James in 1792.

As a new licensee, the curate of the parish, Reverend Richard Kilvington, wrote a letter of recommendation submitted to the Justices of the Peace, also signed by churchwarden John Duckitt. He stated that the alehouse in Saltfleetby All Saints, known by the sign of the Queen of Prussia had been kept by her husband, James Smith to the time of his death and since by Sarah Smith *"and that the said Sarah Smith is of good fame, sober life and conversation and a fit and proper person to be entrusted with a licence for the purpose of keeping an alehouse and Victualling House and to sell Ale, Beer or other excisable liquors by Retail"* dated *"the Nineteenth day of September 1826"*. [the day before the licencing session took place at Louth Guildhall]

She died the following year, aged 82, having run the Queen or Prussia for a year and a half after her husband's death. She was buried in All Saints Churchyard on 16th October 1827.

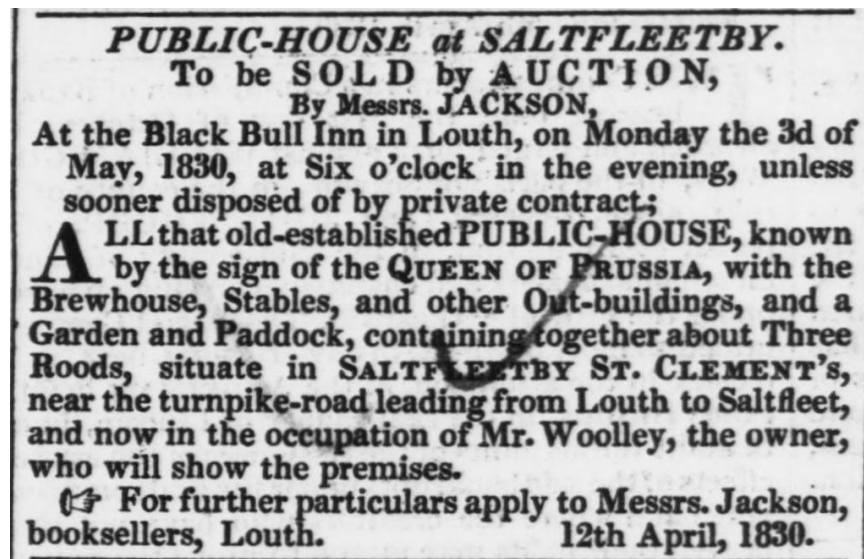
EMERSON WOOLLEY

Emerson Woolley was born in Louth in 1753, the son of Stephen and Eleanor Woolley (nee Emerson). He was christened in Louth St James Church on 22nd January 1753. His mother died in 1756. His father remarried and had further children in Louth.

In 1777 Emerson was working as an attorney in London. At this time an attorney was someone who deputised for another, such as carrying out business for a client, acting on their behalf. On 16th April 1777 he married Mary Ryley, the sister of Sarah Smith (nee Ryley). Mary was born in Theddlethorpe in 1750 and was married in Saint Mary Le Bow Church, London. Their wedding was witnessed by Lincolnshire publicans Joseph Ryley (her father) and James Smith (her sister's husband). At first Emerson and Mary lived in Floyd's Yard on Coleman Street, in the City of London. They had children: James (in 1778, baptised at St Stephen's Walbrooke), Sarah, Mary Ann and Robert (in 1784, 87 and 89, baptised in St Luke's Finsbury). Emerson's wife Mary died in 1815 and was buried in St Marylebone churchyard, London on 20th October 1815.

Emerson came back to live in Lincolnshire for some time before applying to take over the pub licence in 1828. Again, the local curate, Richard Kilvington, wrote a letter of recommendation for the Justices of the Peace. He stated that Emerson Woolley had *"inhabited or dwell for the space of six months and upwards in the said Parish of Saltfleetby All Saints and been there a Housekeeper and kept a certain alehouse called or known by the name or sign of the Queen of Prussia" ... "a proper person to be entrusted with a licence"* ... etc, signed also by churchwardens and overseers John North and William Chapman on 17th September 1828. His surety on the alehouse recognizance (who pledged £20) was (his half-brother) Jenkins Woolley, a hairdresser living in Butcher's Market in Louth, who had also been surety for James Smith in 1823 and 1824.

Sale of the pub in 1830



PUBLIC-HOUSE at SALT FLEETBY.
To be SOLD by AUCTION,
By Messrs. JACKSON,
At the Black Bull Inn in Louth, on Monday the 3d of
May, 1830, at Six o'clock in the evening, unless
sooner disposed of by private contract;
ALL that old-established PUBLIC-HOUSE, known
by the sign of the QUEEN OF PRUSSIA, with the
Brewhouse, Stables, and other Out-buildings, and a
Garden and Paddock, containing together about Three
Roods, situate in SALT FLEETBY ST. CLEMENT'S,
near the turnpike-road leading from Louth to Saltfleet,
and now in the occupation of Mr. Woolley, the owner,
who will show the premises.
For further particulars apply to Messrs. Jackson,
booksellers, Louth. 12th April, 1830.

Stamford Mercury 16th April 1830

This is the first known newspaper reference to the pub, in April 1830 announcing that the owner, Mr Woolley, was selling *"All that old-established Public-House, known by the sign of the Queen of Prussia"*, at auction in Louth on 3rd May that year. As well as a brewhouse, stables and other outbuildings, it had a garden and paddock of about 3 roods (or $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre).

Emerson Woolley died in 1831, at the age of 79, and was buried in Saltfleetby All Saints churchyard on 31st March 1831.

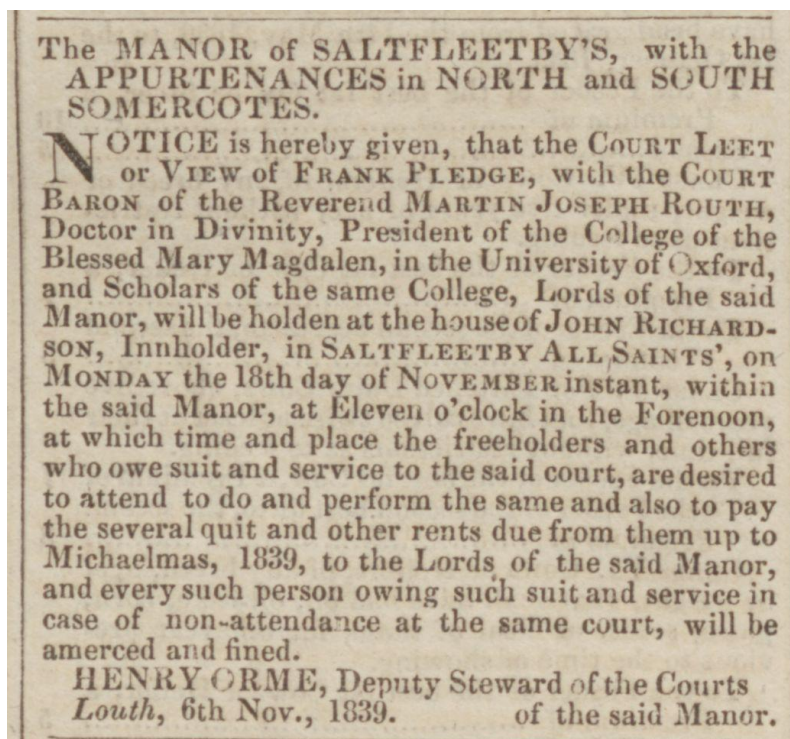
THE RICHARDSON FAMILY

From the 1830s, John Richardson was the publican and also a butcher at the Prussian Queen. His grandfather, farmer Thomas Richardson, had been surety for James Smith on the 1790s alehouse recognizances. John was born in Saltfleetby All Saints in 1804, the third of ten children, of David Bancroft Richardson (1774-1843) a farmer and butcher, and Mary (nee Whitworth, 1779-1866). He was christened in Saltfleetby All Saints Church on 15th October 1804.

Ann Garton was born in 1809 in Crofton, near Swarby, Sleaford, the fifth of ten children of Samuel Garton (1773-1860), a farmer from Helpringham, Lincolnshire and his wife Ann (nee Baily 1778-1842). She was christened in Swarby St Mary & All Saints Church on 17th September 1809. John and Ann married at Saltfleetby All Saints Church on 2nd August 1832.

John Richardson's younger brother Thomas and Ann's sister Mary also married there four years later, and lived on the Main Road in Saltfleetby All Saints where they had a 20 acre farm.

John and Ann had seven children: Mary Ann in 1833, Susannah in 1835, George in 1836, Victoria Azubah in 1840, and three boys who died in infancy: William in 1837 aged 18 weeks, another William in 1839 age 10 weeks of whooping cough, and John David Bancroft in 1843 age 2 months of thrush and whooping cough.

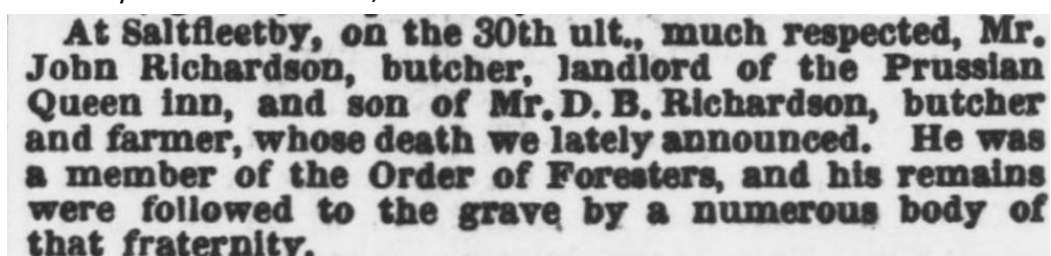


The Lincolnshire Chronicle 8th November 1839

In 1841 20-year-old Eliza Dobson was working as a servant with the family at the pub.

Local landowners held regular courts in the village inns, in order to collect rents and exercise their ancient rights as lords of the manor, including trials for minor crimes in the community. Mr Richardson hosted some of these meetings in his inn on behalf of Magdalen College, Oxford, who were also the patrons of All Saint's Church. Remnants of the medieval system of local government and law enforcement, The Court Leet and View of Frank Pledge (the pledge of responsibility made by each freeman) were overseen by the Sheriff twice a year. The Court Baron had to be attended by all free tenants of the manor, and dealt with a range of matters affecting the local community.

John died at home on 30th May 1844, at the age of 39. His cause of death was recorded simply as "Decline". He was a member of the Order of Foresters, an organisation founded in 1834 to offer financial and social support to their members, many of whom attended his funeral. He was buried in All Saints churchyard on 4th June 1844, next to his infant sons.



The Stamford Mercury, 7th June 1844



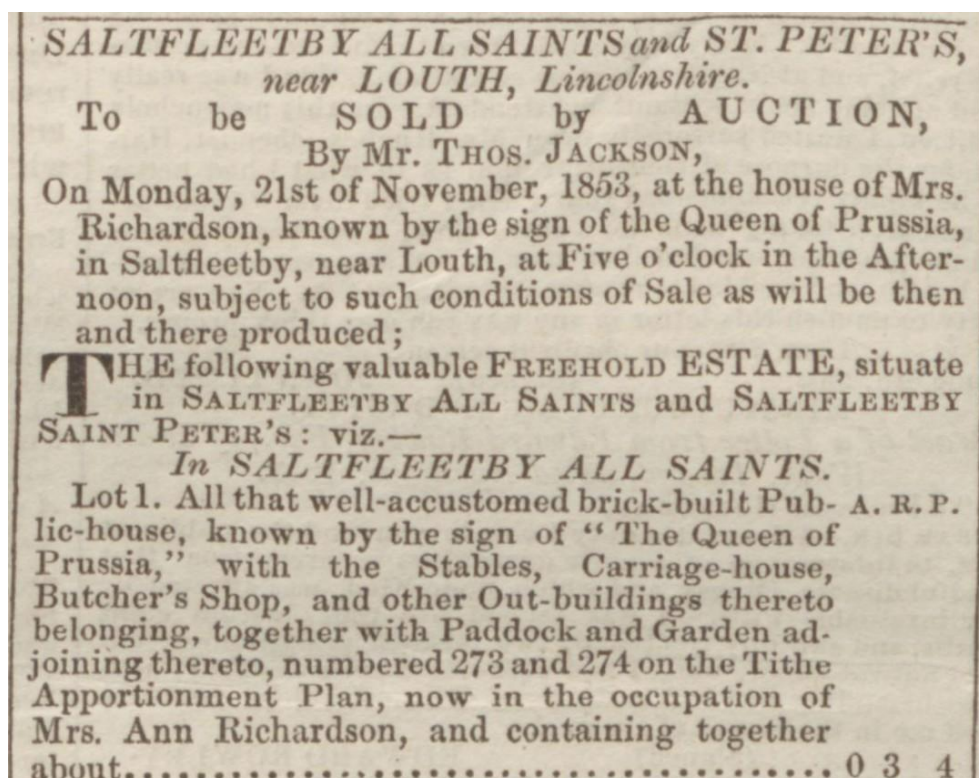
The grave of John Richardson in Saltfleetby All Saints churchyard.

The inscription reads: "*In Memory of, John Richardson, who departed this life, May 30th 1844, Aged 39 years. Also, three of his children who died in their infancy*".

At Louth Petty Sessions Court on 17th July 1844, the licence of the *Queen of Prussia* was transferred to newly widowed Ann Richardson. Despite facing many more family tragedies, she remained the licensee for the next 37 years.

Sale of the pub in 1853

Occasional auctions of local property and agricultural land were held at the Prussian Queen, including in November 1853 when the first of six lots was the pub itself.

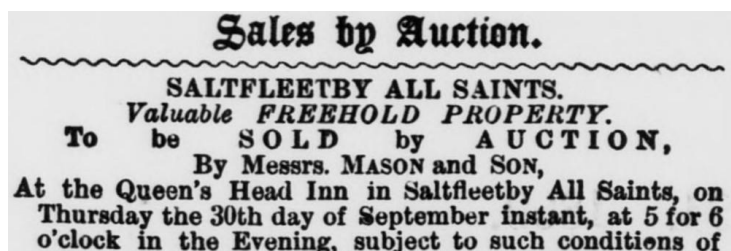


The Lincolnshire Chronicle 11th November 1853

Ann and her children remained living at the pub. The census shows she had several lodgers: Including in 1851 60-year-old gardener and agricultural labourer William Plumtree from Salmonby. He was still living with the family in 1861 age 70.

In 1881 14-year-old Alice Bradley from North Cockerington was living and working at the pub as a general servant.

Ann was listed in the Lincolnshire directories as Victualler or Innkeeper. At this time when literacy was low, it would not have had a written sign displaying the pub name, just a picture or carving to show the name. This is why some Victorian newspapers and directories occasionally referred to the pub as the “*Queen’s Head*”, the writer not realising that the sign depicted a *specific* Queen, as all locals knew. It never actually changed its name; it was just a mistake, or alternative name.



Stamford Mercury 24th September 1869 Detail from an advert for an auction of Saltfleetby All Saints farmland that took place at the village pub, incorrectly named.

Richardson Ann (Mrs.), Prussian Queen

The Post Office Directory of Lincolnshire 1861

In 1870 Mrs Richardson contributed 1s towards the extension of Saltfleetby Church of England School and the building of a teacher’s residence. This amount was based on her business’s annual value of £9 3s 1d, which determined her poor rate payments (like a ratable value).

Richardson Mrs Ann, victualler Prussian Queen

White’s Directory of Lincolnshire 1872

Until 1959 a local man was appointed as “**Dyke-Reeve**” for Saltfleetby, who took on the duty of organising work and maintenance of the drainage dykes in the village. He would usually serve in the job for a few years before a new dyke-reeve took over. Their old accounts book is now kept in the Lincolnshire Archives. It shows that Mrs Richardson was frequently paid 5 shillings for the use of a room in the pub for meetings throughout the 1850s, 60s and 70s. At the annual drain-letting auction on 1st June 1878, the dyke-reeve noted in the book that Mrs Richardson had been paid 4 shillings for 2 gallons of ale at the event (which works out at 3 pence a pint). It was claimed as an expense from the dyke maintenance funds, that were raised from a rate paid by landowners.

Mary Ann Richardson

John and Ann’s eldest daughter, known as Mary Annie, went to live with her elderly widowed grandfather, Samuel at his 40-acre farm in Helpringham, to act as his housekeeper in the early 1850s. She married Richard Forman (1828-1911), a printer from Louth, where she worked as a dress maker. They had two daughters: Susannah in 1859 (born in Surrey) and Mary Ann in 1860 in Saltfleetby. She returned to stay at her mother’s house whilst suffering from illness. She died on 20th March 1862 aged 28 at home in Saltfleetby, of pulmonary consumption (tuberculosis). She was buried in All Saints graveyard on 27th March 1862.

Their younger daughter, Mary Ann, stayed with her father, Richard who moved to Shieldfield Newcastle Upon Tyne, and remarried in 1865, having a further four children with his second wife Mary Bright Lakey (1835-1901). Their older daughter Susannah Forman stayed living with grandmother Ann in Saltfleetby, and grew up at the Prussian Queen.

Susannah Richardson

Susannah was working unpaid assisting in the family pub from her teens in the 1850s. She was later listed as the cook there in the 1860s. Susannah married Alfred Fowler (born 1839 in Fotherby), a baker and grocer in Saltfleetby. They had a daughter: Georgiana Elizabeth Fowler on 22nd August 1862. Susannah died of consumption (TB) aged 28 on 20th December 1863, her husband was present at her death. He remarried and had a further five children with his second wife Margaret.

Georgiana remained with her father and step-mother growing up at their grocer’s shop in the village, which the family ran for many years. She married sailor Gustav Everson (son of carpenter Leules Everson) at St James’ in Grimsby on 8th June 1884.

Ann's Sister Mrs Mary Richardson

John's brother Thomas died of consumption aged 52 in January 1859. His widow, Ann's sister Mary, continued to run their farm. But, on 18th February 1866, Mary died by suicide after taking vermin killer. She was 51, the tragedy shocked the village. The inquest concluded that she had "*destroyed herself whilst labouring under temporary insanity*".

Ann and her brother Samuel in Helpringham were left to deal with her estate and affairs.

SALT FLEETBY.
On Sunday morning last the inhabitants of this peaceful village were horror-struck on hearing a report that Mrs. Richardson, widow of the late Mr. Thomas Richardson, of this place, had committed suicide by taking three-pennyworth of Battle's Vermin Killer. The intelligence, alas, proved too true, the deceased having for some time been in a desponding state of mind, and had evidently previously contemplated committing the rash act, having sent to the shop for the poison on the Wednesday. An inquest was held on the body on the following day before T. Sharpley Esq., M.D. Coroner, when the jury returned a verdict that "deceased had destroyed herself whilst labouring under temporary insanity." No motive can be assigned to have induced the deceased to so rashly sacrifice herself, as her position was not at all embarrassed with difficulties.

MRS. MARY RICHARDSON, DECEASED.

ALL Persons having any Claim or Demand against the Estate and Effects of Mrs. MARY RICHARDSON, late of SALT FLEETBY, in the County of Lincoln, deceased, are requested to send the particulars forthwith to Mrs. A. RICHARDSON, of the Prussian Queen Inn, Saltfleetby; and all Persons indebted to the said Mrs. MARY RICHARDSON, at the time of her decease, are requested to pay the amount of their respective Debts on or before the 22nd day of June, 1866, to the aforesaid Mrs. A. Richardson, of Saltfleetby.
Saltfleetby, May 18th, 1866.

The Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser,
24th February 1866

When their father Samuel Garton died in 1860 aged 87, he bequeathed money in his will to his daughters Ann and Mary in Saltfleetby, as was well as his three other daughters. His son Samuel inherited his father's house and land in Helpringham.

Louth and North Lincolnshire
Advertiser, 26th May 1866

Victoria Azubah Richardson

Ann's youngest daughter Victoria Azubah, worked as a barmaid in the pub. She never married, and died at home on 8th March 1869 of *phthisis pulmonalis*, the lung infection known as consumption or tuberculosis. She was 28 years old, her mother Ann was present at her death. She was buried in All Saints with her sisters on 15th March 1869.

Death of Ann Richardson

Ann continued to live with her son George, who worked as an agricultural labourer and butcher. She died at home on 9th May 1881 of coronary artery disease, age 71. Her son George was present at her death. She was buried in All Saints on 12th May 1881.

George Richardson

George married Lily Georgiana Elizabeth Fowler (born 1861), the daughter of (his brother-in-law) Albert's brother Edwin Fowler, a farmer in Saltfleetby St Clements, in December 1881. They had a daughter, Edith in 1892, who died at the age of 11. George died in 1915 aged 77.

Susannah Forman

Ann's granddaughter Susannah, lived with the Richardsons at the Prussian Queen after her mother Mary Ann died. On 23rd August 1875, the wife of the Rector of All Saints, Mrs Elizabeth Hutchins,

died three hours after giving birth to their 7th child, a son, Spencer, at the rectory. In 1879, 20-year-old Susannah married the 47-year-old widowed Reverend William Horace Hutchins. She lived with him at the rectory on the Main Road, step-mother to his children, then aged between 15 and 3. After her husband's death in 1906 she went to live in Knossington, Leicestershire, later at the Clergy Widow's Hospital there. She died in Melton Mowbray Infirmary in October 1945, aged 87.

THE CUTHBERT FAMILY

The next innkeepers of the Prussian Queen were Thomas and Sarah Cuthbert.

Thomas Cuthbert was born in December 1824 in South Elkington, Lincolnshire, the son of Thomas and Sarah (nee Headland). He was christened at South Elkington All Saint's Church on 25th December 1824. Like his father, he became a carpenter.

Sarah Wilson was born in Fotherby in 1825, the oldest child of Thomas and Rebecca (nee Day). She was christened in Fotherby St Mary's Church on 5th September 1825. When she was a child the family moved to Louth, where her father worked as a publican and coal carter. She married Thomas Cuthbert on 14th October 1847 at Louth St James' Church.

They lived in South Elkington where Thomas worked as a wheelwright, carpenter and joiner. Here they had nine children: Thomas in 1848, Sarah in 1850, George in 1852, John Wilson in 1853, Emma in 1858, Annie in 1860, Henry in 1862, Frederick in 1865 and Robert in 1867. Their oldest daughter Sarah moved to Saltfleetby in about 1880 with her husband John Horton, who worked as a blacksmith on the Main Road. They had young sons, John Henry and Charles, and then had a further four children in the village.

SALTFLEETBY, near LOUTH.
To be SOLD by AUCTION,
By Messrs. MASON, SONS, and KIDD,
At the Prussian Queen Inn in Saltfleetby, on Thursday
the 18th day of August instant, at Seven o'clock in the
Evening precisely,
THE undermentioned valuable CROPPING now
Growing on land in the occupation of Mr. John
Graves, in such lots and subject to such conditions as
may be determined on at the time of sale, namely—
In the Thirteen Acres Close, containing 13A. 0R. 27P.
 Beans..... 4 Acres (more or less).
 Oats ½ Acre (ditto).
 Wheat 4 Acres (ditto).
 Oats 4½ Acres (ditto).
At the same time will be Let by Auction, up to the 1st
October next, the GRASS KEEPING in the Paddock
adjoining Mr. Grave's house, containing 1A. 2R. 16P.
(more or less), and also the Grass Keeping in the Close,
containing 6A. 0R. 35P. (more or less), adjoining.
The last-mentioned Close has not been stocked and is
full of Grass.
New-street Corner, Louth, 9th August, 1881.

Stamford Mercury 12th August 1881 Sale of cropping, and letting of
 grass paddocks at auction on 18th August 1881 at the Prussian Queen Inn

Following their daughter to Saltfleetby, Thomas and Sarah took over at the Prussian Queen which was thriving as a village inn, also serving as the venue for meetings and occasional auctions.

Cuthbert Thomas, Prussian Queen P.H

Kelly's Directory of Lincolnshire 1885

In 1882 Dyke-reeve, William Paddison noted in his accounts book that Mr Cuthbert was paid for use of a room in the pub three times that year, totalling 15 shillings.

Sarah Cuthbert died at home aged 61, on 8th February 1886 of *Cardiac Disease and General Dropsy* (swelling due to a build-up of fluid). Thomas was listed on the death certificate as being present at death. She was buried in Saltfleetby All Saints churchyard on 11th February 1886.

Different members of Thomas's family lived or stayed at the pub with him over the following years. His daughter Emma Cuthbert worked there as housekeeper. Son George, who had moved to Nottingham, was a frequent visitor staying at the Prussian Queen with his wife and children.

The Cuthbert family were active in many village issues and events. Thomas hosted and took part in the annual meetings to elect a *dyke-reeve* (who was in charge of the dykes and sluices involved in keeping our low-lying marshland well drained) held each December. A meeting to elect a new surveyor of sewers for Saltfleetby All Saints was adjourned from All Saints vestry, to the inn on 29th March 1892. Reverend Hutchins worked to raise money for the *All Saints Church Restoration Fund*, as the architect had estimated essential work would cost a total of £997, by March 1892 £200 of which was urgently needed to stabilise the structure from further dilapidation. Thomas pledged to subscribe £1 to the fund (equivalent of about £162 today). His daughter, Annie Cuthbert helped at a fund-raising bazaar at the rectory in July 1892, presiding over tables in the tea marquee in the afternoon. Anne remained in Saltfleetby after marrying church warden George Chapman.

LOUTH (LINDSEY) PETTY SESSIONS, WEDNESDAY.
—Before Major Smyth, Dr. Fawssett, Major Allott,
and W. Hyde, Esq.—Thomas Cuthbert, landlord of the
Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby, for permitting drunken-
ness on his licensed premises, on the 26th August last,
was fined 2s. 6d., and 9s. costs.—

Lincolnshire Chronicle 24th September 1892 Thomas Cuthbert appeared at Louth Petty Sessions Court on 21st September 1892, where he was fined for allowing drunkenness in the Prussian Queen.

Retirement and Sale in 1896

**THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN,
SALTFLEETBY.**
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY
Messrs. John Taylor and Son,
On THURSDAY, OCT. 8th, 1896,
Upon the premises of Mr. Thomas Cuthbert, of the
Prussian Queen,
**THE whole of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,
JOINERS' TOOLS, STOCK-IN-TRADE, &c.**
For particulars see Bills.
Sale to commence at 12 for 1 o'clock.

Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser, 26th September 1896

Thomas Cuthbert retired in 1896. He sold off his joiners' tools and household furniture from the pub in October 1896, and went to live with his eldest son Thomas at 80 Gregory Boulevard in North West Nottingham.

Thomas Cuthbert died on 3rd April 1898, age 74, in Nottingham. He was buried on 6th April 1898 in All Saints, next to his wife Sarah.



Their daughter Sarah also moved to Nottingham where her husband John Horton worked as a blacksmith. Two of their sons also became blacksmiths, including Charles who died in 1918 whilst serving in the army. Sarah Horton died in 1933 age 82.

**The Graves of Sarah and Thomas
Cuthbert in Saltfleetby All Saints
churchyard.**



SOPHIA WARD AND ELIZABETH HATTER

Elizabeth Cartwright was born in Ryland near Welton, Lincolnshire in 1811 the daughter of George and Mary (nee Gowshall). When she was very young, the family moved to Minting near Horncastle. She married Thomas Hatter on 14th September 1828 in Minting St Andrew's Church. They had daughters Eliza and Betsy in Timberland in 1834 and 1840. In about 1841 they moved to Hatton near Horncastle where Thomas was publican of the **Midge Inn**, and farmer of 46 acres. Elizabeth's brother George kept the near-by public house in Minting (now known as the *Sebastopol Inn*). In Hatton, Elizabeth and Thomas had another daughter, Mary Jane in 1842, and twins Matilda and Sophia on 29th September 1845.

Thomas Hatter died in November 1857 aged 62. Elizabeth and her daughters moved to Saltfleet where she took over as publican of the **Rodney Inn**. Formerly called The Admiral Rodney, after the 18th Century Royal Navy hero Admiral George Rodney, it used to be on Pump Lane next door to the *Crown Inn* and had previously been run by the Fields family.

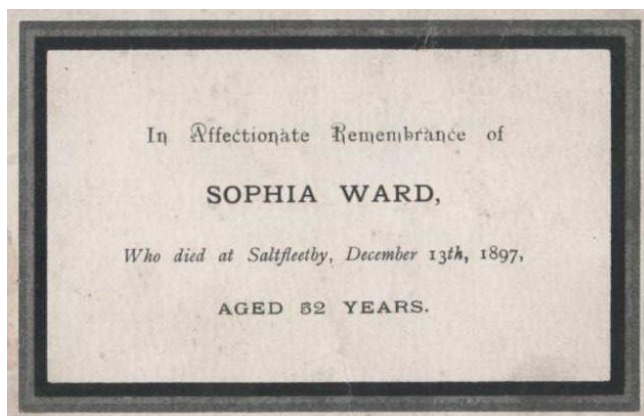
At the age of 21, Sophia married 21-year-old George Dunstan Ward, a hotel keeper from Louth. They were married on 16th October 1866 at St Michael's Church in Handsworth (then in Staffordshire, now a part of Birmingham). They went to live at Sculcoates in Hull, where in 1871 her sisters Betsy and Matilda were visitors staying with them.

Her mother Elizabeth continued to live at the Rodney Inn, Saltfleet with her eldest daughter Eliza and Eliza's young daughter Edith Parker. By 1881, Elizabeth was hotel keeper of the **Plummers Hotel**, Shore Road, Freiston, Lincolnshire. George and Sophia assisted in the business, at this time a popular seaside and bathing destination. It's now *Plummers Place Guest House*, overlooking the RSPB Nature Reserve. By 1885 Elizabeth was innkeeper of **The Anchor Inn**, at Friskney, Boston. In 1889 they were running the **Bay Horse** pub in Winteringham near Scunthorpe, Elizabeth as innkeeper with George and Sophia serving at the bar.

On 13th June 1896, George Ward died at Winteringham, aged 51. Elizabeth and Sophia then soon went to Saltfleetby to take over the Prussian Queen. Sophia was the licence holder, assisted by her mother who was then in her mid-80s.

Sophia's Fatal Accident

On 13th December 1897, a travelling chimney sweep called William Gall was sleeping in a stable attached to the house. At about 11 o'clock that night he was woken by the sound of Elizabeth crying out, saying that Sophia had fallen downstairs. When he got into the house, he found Sophia *"on the staircase with her head downwards and her feet fast in the steps. He believed she was then dead"*. He lifted her but there was no sign of life, blood could be seen. He called for assistance and Dr Walter Longheed, who lived at North Somercotes, examined her body and concluded that her



neck was broken; death would have been instantaneous. The coroner for Louth, Frederick Sharpley, held an inquest at the Prussian Queen on 15th December. The verdict was *"Accidental death"*. The cause was recorded as: *Dislocation of the neck caused by accidentally falling downstairs*. Sophia was 52 years old. She was buried in South Somercotes on 16th December 1897.

Elizabeth died in 1900, age 89, she was buried in South Somercotes on 27th January 1900.

MARTHA AND GRACE ADAMS

Grace Dorothy Tate was born in Knottingley, Yorkshire, in 1855, the youngest daughter of Richard and Martha (nee Colley). Her family quarried and sold lime for the building trade. In her teens she worked as a dressmaker. She married sailor Edward Adams in Pontefract in 1873. Their first daughter Martha Jane Adams was born in 1874 in Knottingley. The family moved to Saltfleet where Grace and Edward were publicans at the **Rodney Inn**, and had four more children. Edward died in 1887 aged 36 and was buried in Skidbrooke St Botolph's churchyard.

By 1891 Grace was innkeeper of the neighbouring **Crown Inn** in Saltfleet, with her three youngest surviving children. Martha Jane, then 16, was working at the **Ship Inn** in Saltfleet, helping the publican Mr Adlard with his grocery business there. In January 1898 they moved to take over at the Prussian Queen, with Martha as the licensee. The pub was then owned by the Alford and Louth brewery *Soulby, Sons and Winch*.

Application to Move the Licence to a New Pub

In August 1898, Martha published a notice of her intention to apply to remove the licence of the Prussian Queen and transfer it to a proposed *new* public house that was to be built near the railway station (which opened 21 years earlier in 1877). On 28th September 1898 the proposal was debated at Louth County Police Court, before five Magistrates with Reverend Freshney of Saltfleet, in the chair. Miss Adams was represented by her solicitor, William Haddon Owen of Eastgate, Louth (the legal firm he founded merged with *Bridge McFarland* in 2000). Henry Frederick Valentine Falkner, solicitor on Eastgate, Louth, represented Evison Barker, landlord of the **Angel Inn**, Saltfleetby St Peter, who opposed the idea. Frederick John Ingoldby, of *Bell and Ingoldby* solicitors, Corn Market, Louth, spoke on behalf of the *British Women's Temperance Association* and the Parish Council.

Mr Owen explained that the Prussian Queen was in an unsuitable position, and the Angel Inn was over a third of a mile from the station. Most of the population of the village lay to the west of the station, which was supplied by the Angel. So, he suggested the new pub wouldn't be poaching on their business. Miss Adams was not concerned with pushing local trade, but meeting the need of the railway. He said that station users had experienced inconvenience as those driving in traps had nowhere to put up, so neighbours had obliged by placing their stables at the disposal of friends, with some people not caring to accept such personal favours. There was very little accommodation at the station by way of a waiting room for people waiting for trains. **157** people had signed a petition in support of the application, which had been at the Prussian Queen for about 6 weeks. Louth architect Reginald Fowler had prepared plans for the proposed new house, with special attention paid to the stable accommodation for seven horses. The owners, **Soulby Sons and Winch**, had instructed him, it was to front the main road and cost about £500.

Miss Adams was asked why she wanted to leave the Prussian Queen. She explained that it was in a bad condition, and she thought there was going to be more trade than there was. Mr Haddon Owen put forward that it would be better for both her and the public if the licence were removed to a more used location. The number of signatures on the petition was questioned; she admitted that she hadn't observed them all being written and signed some names herself on behalf of some customers when asked to do so. A number of farmers who used the station to transport produce spoke of the inconvenience of lack of stable accommodation.

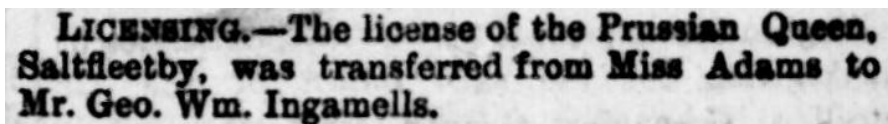
Mr Falkner said the owners of the Angel Inn had pointed out that the Prussian Queen was the only public house in the parish of All Saints, so removing it to another parish where there was already a

licenced house would be inconvenient to the inhabitants. William Doe, chairman of Saltfleetby St Peter Parish Council (who had voted against it, but not unanimously) thought that the proposal wouldn't be of benefit to the parish, there was enough stabling already, and **190** people had signed a petition *against it*. Mr Ingoldby, speaking against the proposal, said that no horses had suffered, they only come five or six miles with corn. He suggested that the firm of brewers just wanted to create more trade by "*putting temptation in the way of travellers*" and urged the Magistrates not to give power to "*a brewery company that had only one motive, to do this harm to the inhabitants*"!

The bench retired to consider the case, and returned stating that (though they were not unanimous) the application was refused. The Prussian Queen was saved and continued to keep its licence.

Martha Adams Moves On

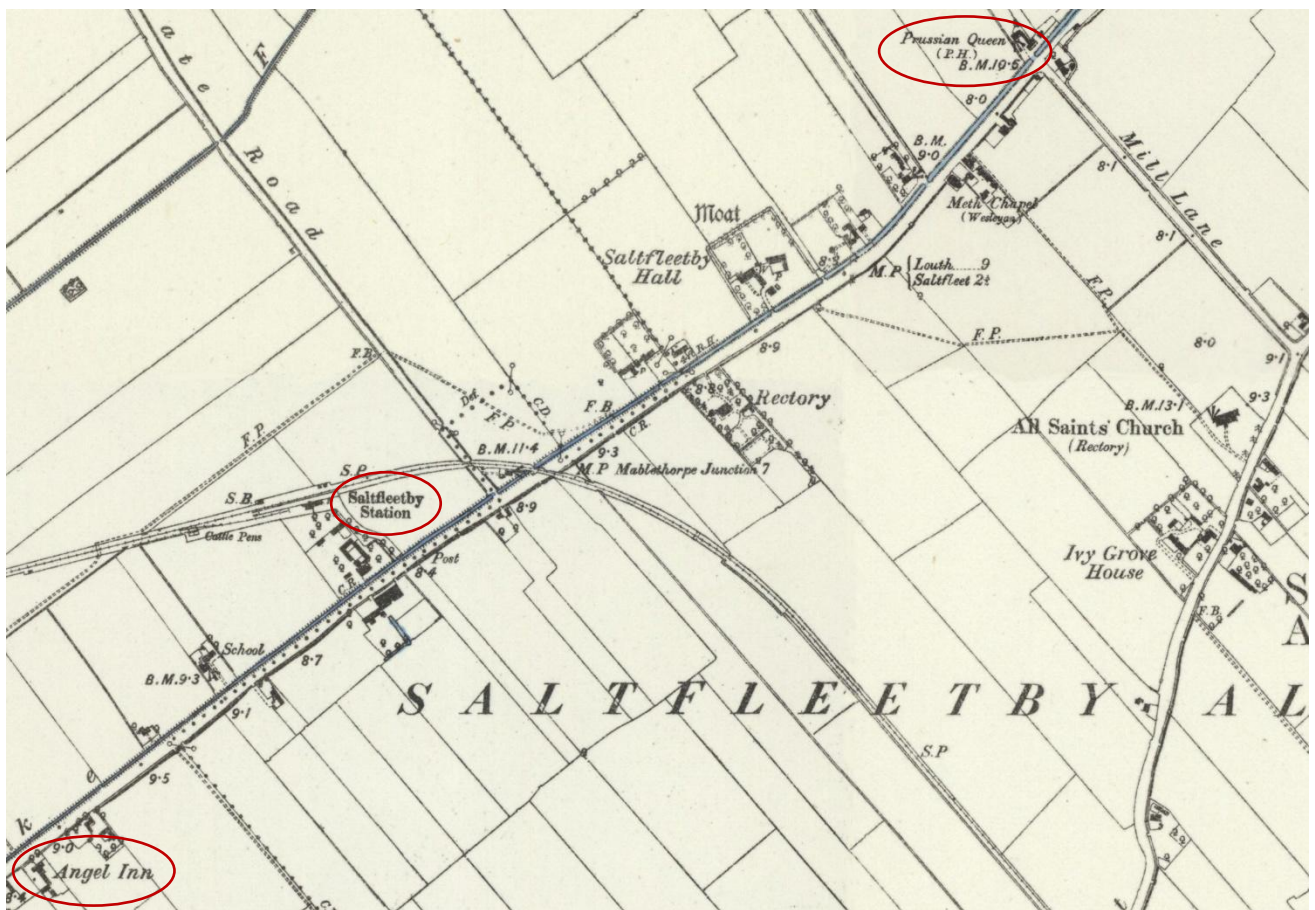
Miss Adams had stated that if the application wasn't granted, she would only stay at the Prussian Queen for a short time. Less than a month later the license was transferred to the new landlord, George William Ingamells.



Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser 15th October 1898

Martha went to work as a parlour housemaid at 24 George Street in Louth. She married Holland Kendall Morwood Lingard, a farmer from Caistor, at Bishop Norton on 5th June 1901. They had a farm at Atterby Cliff, where daughter Edna was born in 1903.

Her mother Grace continued to work as a licenced victualler, as did her son Edward, who was innkeeper of a pub in Hutton Cranswick, Yorkshire, where Grace lived with him. Martha died on 7th May 1923 at Brigg, aged 49. Grace died in Hutton Cranswick on 14th April 1933 aged 77.



1888 Ordnance Survey Map showing the distance between the Prussian Queen, the Railway Station and Angel Inn

SOULBY, SONS & WINCH

Edward Harding Soulby was a maltster and brewer in New Bollingbroke, later in Coningsby alongside his brick and tile business. He bought a long-established small brewery on West Street, Alford in 1868. He made his sons Edward and Frederick partners in the business in 1870, who had already taken over by 1890 when their father died aged 76. **E H Soulby & Sons** built up a portfolio of properties, including malthouses and public houses, owning 83 pubs by 1896.

Thomas Montagu Winch was born in Chatham, Kent in 1873 into a prosperous brewing family. His father bought a brewery for him in 1896, in Maiden Row, off Queen Street, Louth. **T M Winch & Co** were soon producing 6 cask ales and 4 bottled beers, and began buying up local pubs as they came on to the market.

Meanwhile Soulby's were experiencing difficulties. Frederick suffered depression after the death of his wife, which led to his suicide in 1896. After this Edward also suffered from depression, for which he was committed to an asylum in 1897 (where he died of a heart attack in 1903). The management of the business was taken over by their solicitor who arranged for a merger with *T M Winch & Co* of Louth. In December 1896 this became **Soulby, Sons and Winch Ltd.**



Tom Montagu Winch

**Soulby, Sons
& Winch, Ltd.**
BREWERS,
MALTSTERS,
Wine & Spirit Merchants,
MANUFACTURERS OF AERATED WATERS,
Louth, Alford & Boston.
BEG to inform the Public that they are now
delivering their
GOLD MEDAL ALES,
Which are Brewed from Barley purchased in the
district, in Casks of 4½ gallons and upwards, with-
out charge for delivery.
Particular attention is called to their Ales,
which are remarkably sound, brilliant and in high
condition.
Bottled Beers & Stout
IN PINT AND HALF-PINT BOTTLES.
WINES & SPIRITS
IN BOTTLES AND JUGS.
All orders addressed to the Firm,
**QUEEN STREET,
LOUTH,**
Will receive careful and prompt attention.
ALF. DALES, MANAGER.

Louth and North Lincolnshire
Advertiser 12th February 1898

The company expanded, enlarging the *Anchor Brewery* in Alford, doubling production, buying new sites including offices and a bottling plant in Boston, in 1900 taking over the *Phoenix Brewery* in Sleaford and *Red Lion Brewery* in Alford. By 1904 they owned around 150 pubs covering a wide area of the county, with a further 100 or so free-houses taking Soulby's beer. Thomas Winch moved from Alford to the large house *Legbourne Abbey* on Mill Lane, Legbourne near Louth. He died in 1942, aged 69.

Brewing ended in Louth in 1923, all production moved to Alford, where a serious fire gutted two floors of the brewery tower in October 1945.

In 1951 Soulby's was sold to *J W Green* of Luton (later called *Flowers Brewery*). The last brew took place at Alford in September 1952, then production was moved to Grantham. They sold off their Lincolnshire pubs in 1956, 30 in our area were bought by *Hewitt Brothers* of Grimsby.



Soulby, Sons & Winch: The Anchor Brewery on West Street, Alford in about 1940

The old brewery in Alford became a clothing factory, which closed in 2001. The building was demolished in 2008.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Lincolnshire had around 30 breweries. After Hewitt's closed in 1968, Bateman's of Wainfleet was then the last remaining large Lincolnshire Brewer.

GEORGE AND MARTHA INGAMELLS

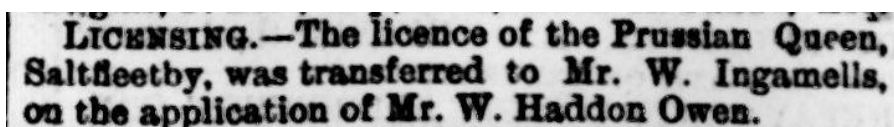
George William Ingamells was born on 22nd December 1860 in Louth, the oldest child of William Ingamells (1834–1873) from Stickney, and Anne Elizabeth (nee Atkinson, 1843–1923) from Tetney. His father was a miller, working at Baines Flour Mill on Thames Street, Louth, later working at Grimoldby Windmill.

George did an apprenticeship with Thomas Cartwright, assisting at the mill and bakery in North Somercotes. He then went on to live at Bolingbroke, before moving to Saltfleetby All Saints, to run the windmill with adjoining bakery, also working as a corn merchant. In 1890 his business was in financial difficulties, when he had to make assignment for the benefit of his creditors, having liabilities amounting to £120 and assets of only £45.

Martha Davy was born on 31st August 1863 at Mumby, the daughter of Jarvis Davy (1828-1894) from Stickney and Ruth (nee Barker, 1834-1922) from Withern. Her father was also a miller, working at Mumby, then Fotherby and Horncastle. In her teens Martha worked as a domestic servant at her uncle's farm in Withern.

George and Martha married on 2nd April 1891 in Withern. They lived at the Mill House on the Main Road, Saltfleetby, where they both ran the mill and worked in the bakery. They had a son, Archibald Cecil (known as Archie) on 3rd August 1892, and Edward Horace on 22nd February 1901. Martha's brother Edwin Davy ran a grocery shop on the Main Road, where her sister Annie also lived for a while. Her mother Ruth also came to live in the village.

George was elected as rural district councillor for Saltfleetby All Saints in March 1898. When they took over the licence of the Prussian Queen in November 1898, they initially continued to live at Mill House and run the windmill and bakery at the same time. He was active in the Saltfleetby Lodge of the *Louth and East Lincolnshire Conservative Benefit Society*, organising an annual supper for them, applying for an occasional licence to sell alcohol at this event in the granary, in February 1910



Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser 26th November 1898

A Tragic Death

On 26th August 1903, 36-year-old Arthur Bratley, a printer from Church Street in Louth, went to Saltfleetby by train for a day's fishing with his 5-year-old son Charles Frederick (known as Fred to his family), and 9-year-old nephew John Fowlkes. Mr Bratley and the boys went into the Prussian Queen for lunch, then Charles and John went outside where they played with Mr Ingamells' young son. While on a bridge crossing the Mardyke Drain, Charles fell into the water. The boys ran for assistance and Mr Bratley was fetched from the pub at once, but it was too late. Mr Ingamells, Edward Chapman and others assisted in the search, but the dyke was very full of water (about 3 ½ feet), it took about half an hour to recover the body, 10 yards from the bridge.

An inquest was held at the Prussian Queen the following day. One side of the bridge had a fence, which had been put up by Mr Winch, but Charles had fallen from the side of the bridge which didn't have a fence. Deputy coroner Herbert Sharpley said it was a simple but very sad matter, and returned a verdict of accidental death. He strongly recommended that the other side of the bridge should be fenced. The funeral took place at St Michael's Church in Louth on 29th August 1903, and he was buried in Louth Cemetery.

Saltfleetby Windmill

George Ingamells continued to list his profession as miller and publican, whilst living at the Prussian Queen. He advertised the windmill to let in 1904 and again in 1909. By 1909 the mill was described as having steam attached.

SALTFLEETBY.—To LET, with possession on the 6th of April next, a TOWER WINDMILL, driving 3 pairs of stones, with Flour Machines, &c. Also adjoining HOUSE, BAKEHOUSE, and 1½ Acres of LAND.—For particulars apply to G. W. Ingamells, Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby, Louth.

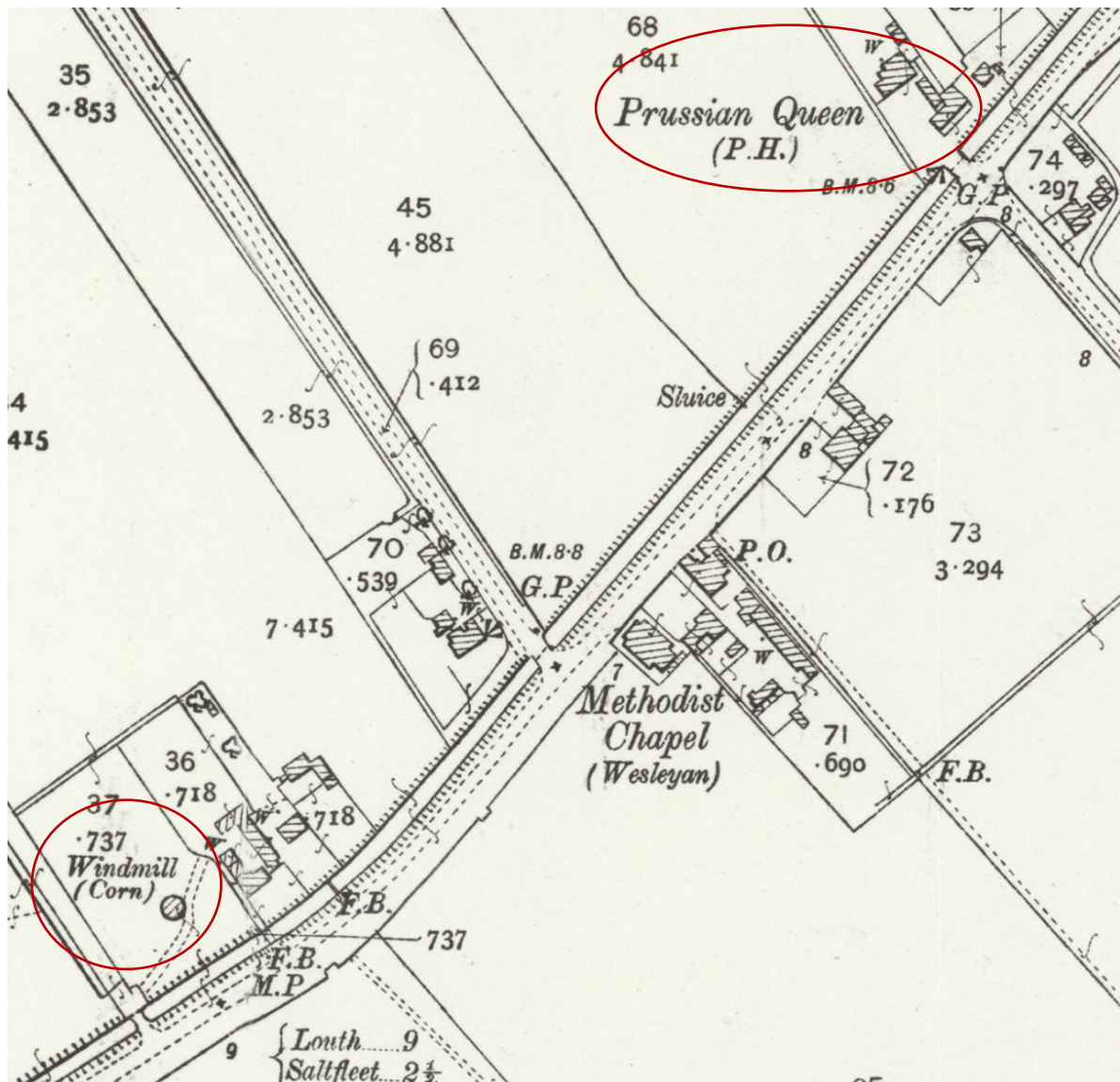
Stamford Mercury 18th November 1904

It was last sold as a working mill with bakehouse, dwelling house, piggeries and over an acre of land, in 1912, auctioned at £280. It remained occupied by Henry Stubbs and Mr Ernest E Luck, paying a rent of £34. It had ceased to be working by the early 1920s when Mr E E Luck returned after the war to live at Mill House, and for many years used the land as a market garden for growing fruit.

The mill has now long been demolished.



Saltfleetby Windmill



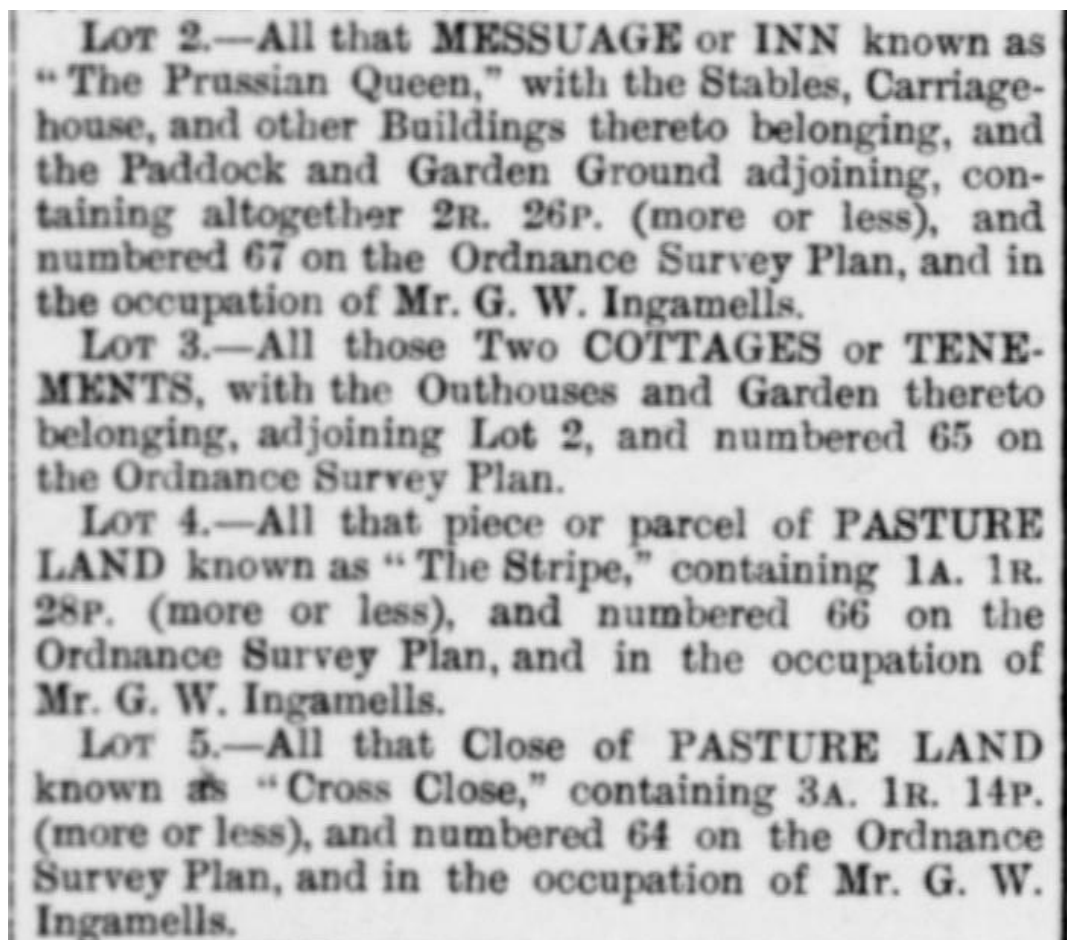
1905 Map showing the Prussian Queen, and Windmill owned by pub landlord and miller, George Ingamells

Inquest into a Tragic Death

On 30th November 1911 an inquest was held at the Prussian Queen into the death of farmer, 53-year-old William Tidswell of Saltfleet, whose body was found in Mardyke, between the windmill and the pub. He had returned on the train from Mablethorpe which arrived at Saltfleetby Station at 8pm on Tuesday 28th when he was last seen alive by witnesses. His body was noticed by Henry Stubbs the following day as he and his wife were driving to the station. Mr Tidswell was recognised and recovered from the dyke, having been dead for some considerable time. The coroner's jury of 12 local men, including George Ingamells, viewed the body and listened to witnesses give their evidence at the pub. They agreed that there was no evidence to suppose he was intoxicated and wondered if the light from a window across the road had misled him, when it was not a very dark night. They returned a verdict that he had drowned by accidentally walking into the Mardyke.

The Sale of the Prussian Queen in 1912

The pub, windmill and other pieces of nearby land were put up for sale by auction at the Masons' Arms Hotel in Louth on Wednesday 4th September 1912 at 3.30pm.



Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser, 24th August 1912

The Prussian Queen and the adjoining two cottages were bought privately before the sale for £450 by George Ingamells' younger brother Charles Christopher Ingamells (1866–1937), a miller then living at Little Carlton. Bidding at the auction, he also bought the two pieces of land near the pub, "The Stripe" containing 1 rood 28 perches (about 0.17 hectares) for £20, and "Cross Close" of 3 acres, 1 rood 14 perches (about 1.3 hectares) for £225, which continued to be let to his brother George.



George Ingamells can be seen (in front of the horse) in this early 20th Century photo of the Prussian Queen. The name of the brewery: Soulby, Sons and Winch Ltd is displayed over the door, the stables and cottages are on the right.

Louth Petty Sessions Court

Mr Ingamells appeared in court at Louth for several minor charges. The building, formerly the police station, is now owned by Louth Town Council, called Sessions House, on Eastgate, was at first the Petty Sessions Court, then called the Police Court. In June 1900 he was fined 2s 6d and 4s 6d costs for allowing a pony to stray, after Pc Clark observed it unattended on the road.

In 1905 before magistrates at the Petty Session Court he was charged with using a carriage without having a licence at Saltfleetby on 16th April 1905, and was fined £5 and costs. On 14th July 1908 he allowed a horse to stray, for which he was fined 5 shillings with costs of 4s 6d.

At Louth County Police Court on 2nd August 1911, he was summoned for keeping a dog without a licence. He pleaded guilty. Pc Cole stated that the defendant had two dogs and had an exemption for one. He was fined £1, including costs.

In June 1914 he appeared as a **witness** in a case regarding a possible breach of licencing laws. Mr Ingamells had for several years been a regular customer of Thomas Cuthbert, a grocer in Queen Street, Louth, who also manufactured mineral water, and was licenced to sell alcohol for **wholesale only**. Mr Cuthbert was summoned to court on a charge of unlawfully selling Mr Ingamells a quantity of beer *LESS* that he was licenced to sell. On 7th May Mr Ingamells instructed John Statham, a carrier of Saltfleetby, to "*Go to Cuthberts*" to get for him two dozen half-pint bottles of stout, giving him 2s 4d to pay for them. Mr Cuthbert told Statham that he wasn't allowed to sell less than six dozen, but he eventually took the money and sent the two dozen bottles to the Prussian Queen, with a label saying "*part lot, rest to follow*". The next day Mr Ingamells went to Louth and took another four-dozen bottles, and was given a receipt for a total of six dozen. The magistrates decided to fine Mr Cuthbert £2 and £1 19s costs.

In February 1917 George Ingamells was again at Louth County Police Court, charged with driving a horse and cart with only one light in front, at Grimoldby. He was fined £1, *"this not being his first offence"*. Another £1 fine was issued in December 1917 for driving a rully without a red rear light.

Saltfleetby During the First World War

Our quiet village suddenly became filled with soldiers, as large training camps were built along the coastal area. About 12,000 troops came through Saltfleetby Railway Station to stay at the hundreds of wooden huts in the dunes at Saltfleetby and Saltfleet, before they were sent to fight on the front line. It was a major training centre for soldiers of the Lincolnshire Regiment and others. The Notts and Derby *"Sherwood Foresters"* manned the concrete look-out station at Sea View. The Royal Army Service Corp set up shelter for 72 horses. D company of the 5th Yorkshire Regiment were stationed at the school, while the children's lessons had to be moved to the Methodist Sunday School rooms. Many facilities were set up for the men on the coast, including a YMCA hut (for which locals donated, books, magazines and games etc), a church hut was blessed by the Bishop of Grantham, and local civilians also helped out working in the canteens. Five soldier tragically died at the coastal camps between 1916 and 1918.



An Officers' Mess Hut at Saltfleet in the First World War

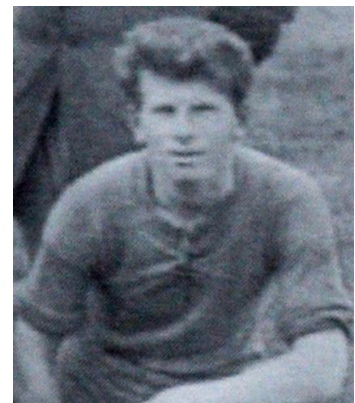
About 25 young men from Saltfleetby St Peter, and 26 from All Saints and St Clements, joined-up to serve in the armed forces, of which at least five didn't make it home alive.

Archie Ingamells's Military Service

George and Martha's oldest son, joined-up before the war at the age of 18, on 15th May 1911 in Saltfleetby, as a member of the Territorial Force with the 5th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment. His trade was recorded as *"Publican's Assistant"*, *"5 foot 10 inches tall, in good health"*.

In his miliary records he's described as of *"Very good"* character, *"A steady, sober and reliable man"*, a *Baker* by trade. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on 19th October 1915, whilst serving as infantry in France. He gained qualifications listed as: *"Bombing & Light YM Instructor"*.

He was with the 5th Lincolns when they embarked from Marseilles on the troopship *HMT Anchises* on 8th January 1916, reaching Alexandria, Egypt on 13th January. The troops disembarked the next day and went into camp, but the division's move to Egypt was countermanded and they boarded *HMT Megantic* at Alexandria on 2nd February, landing back in France on 9th February.



Archie Ingamells, playing for Saltfleetby United Football Team in the 1920-21 season

After serving over 5 years with the 5th Lincolns, he was discharged for completing his period of engagement in May 1916, he then enlisted in the 4th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment in June 1916. He was confirmed as a Corporal on 13th October 1918 whilst stationed at Skegness, returning to the front a week later.

He remained posted on active service until February 1919, and was demobilized on 5th March 1919 at Harrowby Camp in Grantham. He was awarded the 1914-1915 Star Medal, The British War Medal, Victory Star, and Military Medal in 1916 "for conspicuous service at the front".

MILITARY MEDAL — Lce.-Corpl. A. C. Ingamells, of the 5th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, son of Mr. G. W. Ingamells, of the Prussian Queen Inn, has now received the military medal which he was awarded a short time ago. It bears on one side the striking words, "For bravery in the field."

Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser 26th August 1916

The Pub Trade During the War

During the war, with so many troops based in the villages, there are stories of pubs frequently running out of beer. The East Yorkshire Regiment stationed at Theddlethorpe are said to have frequently drunk the Kings Head dry, so the landlord, James Wilson had to go with his horse and cart the following day to get more beer. Soulby's brewery had difficulties with supply owing to a shortage of fuel for delivery trucks, mainly affecting pubs supplied further from the Alford brewery.

The name "Prussian" may have seemed inappropriate whilst we were at war with Germany, though the pub was *not* renamed. Queen Louise's grandson, Frederick III, married Queen Victoria's daughter, their son was Kaiser Wilhelm, German Emperor and the last King of Prussia.

Ingamells George William, Prussian
Queen P.H 1919 Kelly's Directory of Lincolnshire

Bankruptcy Court

After the war George Ingamells was again in financial difficulty. On 4th January 1923, a sale took place at the Prussian Queen of Mr Ingamells' property, "under a sheriff's execution" (to pay off his debts).

On the 3rd May 1923, aged 62, he appeared at Grimsby Bankruptcy Court. He was referred to as a licenced victualler who dips into several branches of trade, also a coal and corn merchant.

He was in debt by £409 8s 9d, which he attributed to bad trade and bad debts, as well as the loss of some pigs. He said that nine pigs, worth about £70 had died of swine fever in 1922. He stated that when he started at the Prussian Queen, he had capital of £10. He had also started in the coal trade about 20 years ago, gradually increasing the business. The turnover in the business is said to have been about £1,220 for 1921, and £485 for 1922. He said one of his failings was giving too much credit.

[UNDER A SHERIFF'S EXECUTION.]
**PRUSSIAN QUEEN INN, SALTFLEETBY
ALL SAINTS.**
H. & L. WOOD
WILL SELL BY AUCTION,
On the premises of Mr. G. W. Ingamells,
On **THURSDAY, 4th JANUARY, 1923,**
VERY useful Bay HORSE, LIGHT LORRY,
MARKET CART, WOODEN WARE-
HOUSE, CART SHED, FOWL HOUSE,
6 Couples FOWLS, sundry Outdoor
Effects, and a quantity of Household FURNI-
TURE including Walnut Sideboard, large
Grained Wardrobe, Feather Bed, Gilt Mirror,
Mahogany Card Table, 2 Mahogany Carving
Chairs, 2 Windsor Chairs, 3 Elm Chairs, 6
Bentwood Chairs, Wringer, Paraffin Tank,
hanging and other Lamps, etc., for full par-
ticulars of which see posters.
Sale to commence 12-30 p.m.
4, South Saint Mary's Gate, Grimsby.

Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser 30th December 1922

**GRIMSBY BANKRUPTCY
COURT.**
YESTERDAY.
Before the Registrar (Mr. Cecil R.
Stephen).
LOST HIS PIGS.

Grimsby News 4th May 1923

He was questioned by the Official Receiver with regard to a statement he made to a bank at Louth that his book debts amounted to £500. He couldn't account for this and the Official Receiver said the bank regarded it as an attempt to deceive them. Mr Ingamells promised to produce further books if he could find them, as the examination was adjourned.

**SALTFLEETBY PUBLICAN'S
FAILURE.**
Alleged Statement to a Louth Bank.
DEBTER TO SEARCH FOR BOOKS.

Louth Standard 5th May 1923

An Unusual Collection

After the war George Ingamells bought one of the old sectional army huts from the Saltfleetby camp and put it up as a store behind the pub. It became filled with all kinds of unusual items that he collected, said to include furniture, clocks, an old German made Otto gas engine, cases of stuffed fish and birds, and an old belt-driven acetylene-lit Douglas motor-cycle. He managed to salvage a petrol tank from a Zeppelin L70, shot down over Norfolk in August 1918, that washed up in Saltfleetby. A German anti-aircraft gun on wooden artillery wheels, a war souvenir, was set up at the back of the pub. In the 1930s his collection was sold off. The gun (which others think was more likely a German field gun) was bought by Mr Borman, landlord of the Black Horse at Grainthorpe, where it was positioned in front, pointing at the pub with a notice reading "*Shoot over to the Black Horse Inn*". It is believed to have been donated for scrap metal during the second world war.

Ingamells George William, Prussian
Queen P.H. & coal & corn mer-
chant & dealer in cattle spice &
chicken foods & basic slag

Kelly's Directory 1926

At this time the Prussian Queen was a *free house* (not tied to any brewery) since it was sold by Soulby's in 1912, becoming privately owned by the Ingamells family. By 1920 it was supplied by **Bateman's Brewery** of Wainfleet.

The Ingamells Family

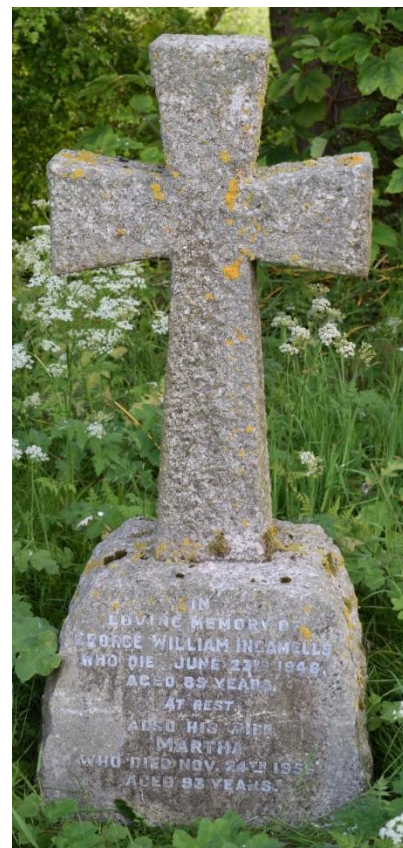
Both Archie and Horace Ingamells played for Saltfleetby United Football Club, which formed after the war, all the original players came from the village. Horace, who usually played in goal, went on to also play for Mablethorpe FC, when they won two cups in the 1926-7 season. Archie married Florence May Proctor (known as Florrie) in 1920. He worked as a railway crossing keeper, first at Orston Lane Crossing in Bottesford, Nottinghamshire. Whilst there they had their first son Gordon William in September 1920. They returned to live at the gatehouse on the Main Road, Saltfleetby, having another son, Donald Cecil in 1924.

Martha Ingamells cooked hot meals for the football club, of which Horace was secretary, at their annual dinners held at the Prussian Queen from 1923.

The family were active at Saltfleetby East Wesleyan Chapel, where the boys attended Sunday School and took part in concerts and services. Donald died on 8th November 1932, at the age of 8, whilst being cared for at Louth Hospital for osteomyelitis and sinusitis. A memorial service was held for him at the East Methodist Chapel; he was buried in All Saints graveyard.

George and Martha continued keeping the Prussian Queen until their retirement in 1937. They stayed in the village, moving to a house on Fishmergate. George died on 23rd June 1946, aged 85. Martha died on 24th November 1956, aged 93. They are buried together in Saltfleetby All Saints Churchyard, near their grandson Donald.

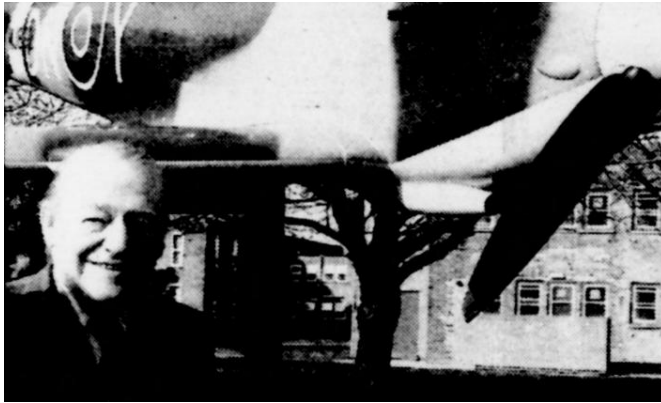
After the closure of the railway line in 1960, Archie and Florrie went to live at the Mill House in Grimoldby. He died on 4th February 1977, aged 84. Florence died on 3rd July 1983 aged 85.



The grave of George William and Martha Ingamells in Saltfleetby All Saints churchyard

Horace Ingamells married Gladys Kirton Clark in January 1931 in Louth. They had a son, Colin Edward in 1931. The family moved to Billingham where Horace was innkeeper of the **Cross Keys Pub** on Victoria Street (which closed in 1956).

Colin was the father of four children when he died suddenly in Boston in 1974 aged 43. Horace died in October 1977 aged 76. Gladys died in Sleaford in 1979 aged 88.



Sleaford Standard 8th April 1993: 72-year-old Gordon Ingamells recalling his time as a spitfire pilot during the Second World War.

Archie and Florrie's son Gordon Ingamells attended Saltfleetby School, then Monk's Dyke in Louth, before winning a place at Louth Grammar School in 1933. He volunteered with the RAF in 1940, first training as a wireless operator and air gunner, then qualifying as a pilot in 1942. During the war he flew 200 hours on Spitfires, and served around the world flying aircraft as a Warrant Officer. He married Mrs June Wilson (nee Parker) in 1963. They lived in the Sleaford area where he worked as a clerk, and was an active member of the cricket club. He died in 2012, aged 92.

LEONARD AND ELSIE DUTTON

Leonard Hopkinson Dutton was born in Nottingham on 16th April 1889, the only child of postman William Dutton (1865–1940) and Julia (nee Hopkinson, 1865-1942) who worked at home making lace. He was christened in Nottingham St Ann's church on 25th November 1889. He married Lillian Widowson in 1910. She died in April 1922 age 36 of Septicaemia. In 1923 he married Elsie Clara Kelham (born 1888 in Beeston). They had daughters Doris Lilian in 1923 and Elizabeth Julia in 1928.

He first worked in the lace industry as a lace machine carriage trimmer and comb hand/straightener. By 1926 he had started working as a bus driver and owner. He established the Dutton Bus Company based in Radcliffe-on-Trent. From 1929 he ran a service from Trinity Square, Nottingham on a route which served many small villages such as Plungar, Plumtree, Cropwell Bishop and Cropwell Butler. The business grew with more routes. In 1935 he decided to concentrate more on the garage headquarters in Radcliffe.

Preserving the Prussian Queen

In 1937 he bought the Prussian Queen, with a view to bring about changes and modernisation to the run-down old building.

First, he applied for a **protection order** for the pub. Many old buildings were simply pulled-down without much heritage protection, until the Town and Country Planning Act of 1932 offered local authorities the first tools to protect historic buildings. Mr Dutton was represented by his solicitor Basil Sharpley of Louth, who put his case before the magistrates on 24th March 1937 at Louth Police Court. The application was successful.

The agreement for Mr Dutton to buy the pub was completed in April 1937. His intention to make extensive alterations and re-modernise the pub throughout was reported in local newspapers.

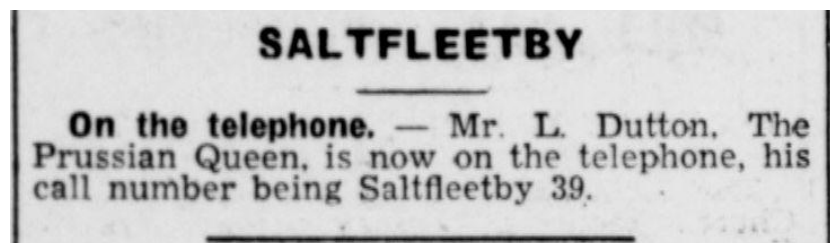
THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN. — This historic old inn, situate at Saltfleetby, for so many years occupied by the Ingamells family, well-known in Mablethorpe, has been purchased by Mr. L. Dutton, of Nottingham, a retired bus proprietor. Mr. Dutton is having the building modernised, after which his wife and daughter will take over. In the meantime a manager has been installed.

Louth Standard 17th April 1937

On 2nd June 1937, he applied successfully to transfer the licence of the Prussian Queen. Basil Sharpley appeared at Court for Mr Dutton to ask for approval for plans for alterations to the pub. He mentioned that the police had no objection to the alterations. The Chairman, Colonel Edward Kyme Cordeaux, asked if the plans made for better supervision. It was believed they would, and for better accommodation all round. They also wanted to know if the drinking space would be increased. The bench approved the plans.

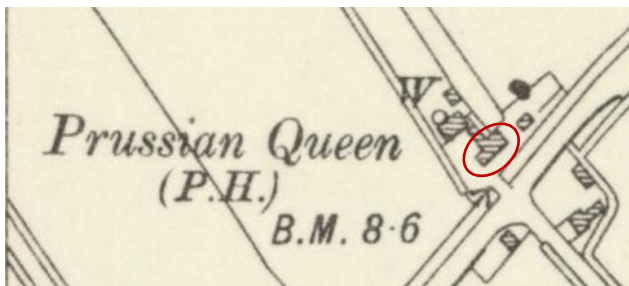
Installation of a Phone

Mr Dutton's modernisations involved having a telephone installed at the pub for the first time, in May 1937. The phone number was *Saltfleetby 39*.



Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser 22nd May 1937

Demolition of The Cottages



Details from Ordnance Survey Maps showing the Prussian Queen, published in 1907 (above) with the cottage buildings in front, and 1956 (below) after they had been demolished.



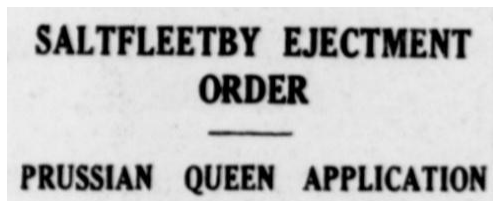
Mr Dutton also owned the two old cottages that were in front of the pub (that can be seen in the old photo). They were in a bad state of repair, so he wanted to demolish them.

Both the cottages had been condemned in November 1936, when inspected by the council housing sub-committee, who deemed them unfit and overcrowded. Statutory notices were served upon the owners, who were then Mr Ingamells and Mrs Jane Taylor. The tenants were given notice to leave. The tenant in Mrs Taylor's property, Mr Rowlett, moved out, leaving one of the cottages empty.

The other was occupied by 36-year-old Mr Charles Bertie Jacklin, a roadman employed by the Rural District Council, his wife Lily and their four children, Ralph, Roy, Thelma and Derek.

The Jacklin family remained, refusing to leave. There was a communicating door that had been plastered up with paper, leading from their cottage to the empty one next-door. Mr Jacklin removed the covering over the door and moved his furniture through it into the empty adjoining cottage, without having to take their things outside. He didn't have permission to move to the vacant cottage. He offered to pay Mr Dutton rent, but he declined to take it and served him notice to quit, telling him continually that he must get out. When he later saw Mr Jacklin, he read to him a notice of ejectment proceedings. After the Jacklins moved into the other cottage, Mr Dutton pulled down the other, now empty one, that they formerly rented.

Mr Dutton believed the cottage was insanitary, unsafe, very damp with a lot of rats and filth. He said it was very dirty, small and unfit for a family of six to live in, with only two very small bedrooms. He considered the Jacklins to be trespassers. The matter was decided at Louth County Police Court on Wednesday 25th August 1937, when he applied for an ejectment order against Mr Jacklin. The Rural District Council representative stated in court that the cottage would be condemned. They were proposing to build a pair of new houses for the Jacklins and another man, at a new site, but this could be a year before they were completed. The district valuer was still in negotiation for the site for the new houses.



Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser
28th August 1937



Louth Standard 28th August 1937

The bench retired to consider the matter, and quickly returned to grant an ejectment order, allowing the Jacklins 30 days to find other accommodation. The family moved to South Road, North Somercotes.

The Dutton family were living on Bingham Road, Radcliffe-on-Trent by September 1939, where Leonard continued working as a garage proprietor. They later moved to 5 Northfield Avenue in Radcliffe. Elsie died on 9th July 1970 aged 81. Leonard died on 2nd March 1975 aged 85.

THE HULSE FAMILY

By 1938, Samuel Hulse and his adult children were living at the Prussian Queen. Samuel Hulse was born on 16th September 1875 in Tranmere, Birkenhead, Cheshire, the second of six children of Samuel, a dock porter and coppersmith, and Sarah (nee Duckworth). The family lived at 19 Queen's Building, large tenement blocks known as "Dock Cottages", which were then the crowded home to 3,000 dock workers and labourers. His father was fined at least twice for not sending his children regularly to school. At the age of 10 Samuel was in court for illegally firing a gun in Ship Street, Frodsham, he was chased by a policeman who managed to capture him. He was fined 5 shillings.

He married Caroline Elizabeth Prosser (born 1882 in Barnsdale, Yorkshire) on 1st October 1906 in Elham Kent. Here they had a daughter Josephine Carrie in 1908 and son Samuel Donald in 1910, who died in 1918. After moving to Hull, they had sons Philip Joseph Prosser in April 1912 and David William in December 1913. They lived at 1 Dock Cottages, Queens Dock Side, Sculcoates, Hull where Samuel worked as a driver and shipwright for the North Eastern Dock Co. The family moved to the

Holderness Road area in 1930. Caroline died on 29th July 1936, aged 54 of a stroke and high blood pressure.

Philip Hulse was fined 10s 6d in 1932 for a mirror offence whilst driving in Hull, and in 1934 for not having a horn on his car. He married Esme Beadle (born 1911 in Hull where her father was a labourer) at Hull Register Office on 5th March 1938.

The newlywed couple then went on to take over the licence of the Prussian Queen.

HULSE—BEADLE.—On Saturday, March 5th at Register Office, by special licence, Esme, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Beadle, to Philip J., elder son of Mr and the late Mrs S. Hulse. Future residence: Prussian Queen Hotel, Saltfleetby, near Louth, Lincs. P7

Hull Daily Mail, 7th March 1938

SALTFLEETBY
NEW LICENCE.—An application to the Louth County Justices on Wednesday by Mr. P. J. Hulse for a protection order in respect of the licence of the "Prussian Queen," Saltfleetby All Saints, was granted.

Louth Standard 12th March 1938



Philip Joseph Hulse (photo from the collection of Louth Museum)

Samuel's daughter Josephine married George Ernest Tunnicliffe in Hull in July 1938. They lived in Haltemprice, Hull, where George worked as a chemist, and enlisted in the ARP gas detection service during the war.

The rest of the family moved from the Prussian Queen in about March 1939. They were living at 20 Bow Road, Poplar, London by September 1939. Here brothers Philip and David worked as *wine, spirits and beer merchants*, and Samuel was retired.

Esme and Philip had a son, Martin in 1942. They moved to 71 Eaton Terrace, Westminster. David later worked as an engineer and lived in Chester Square with his father, Samuel.

THE wedding took place at St. Mary's Church, Lowgate, Hull, on Saturday, of Mr George Ernest Tunnicliffe, only son of Mr and Mrs G. F. Tunnicliffe, of 28, Belgrave-drive, Anlaby-road, Hull, and Miss Josephine Carrie Hulse, only daughter of Mr Samuel L. Hulse and the late Mrs S. Hulse, of The Prussian Queen Inn, Saltfleetby.

Hull Daily Mail 18th July 1938

On Sunday 30th May 1952, 40-year-old David got into a heated argument with his 42-year-old-brother at 12.30am on Chester Row. Their 80-year-old father tried to stop the fighting brothers, but all three were arrested for the disturbance. The brothers were fined 20s each at Marlborough Court. Mr Hulse Senior was discharged, the magistrate remarking "*he was trying to keep his two sons in order I suppose*".

Philip died on 9th July 1959 at Westminster Hospital, aged 47. Esme then married his brother David Hulse in 1961.

Josephine remained living in Yorkshire and died in October 1952. The rest of the family remained in Westminster, where Samuel died in July 1964, aged 89. David died in November 1976 aged 61, and Esme in July 1991 aged 81.

WILLIAM AND EDITH SYKES

William Wallis Sykes was born in Sculcoates, Hull on 17th June 1898, the eldest child of Frank (1871–1924) a railway shunter from Drax, Yorkshire, and Elizabeth (nee Abbott, 1875–1956) from Wheldrake, Yorkshire. He grew up in Hull where he lived with his parents and younger sister Winifred at 5 Hawthorne Avenue, Hull. From 1903 he attended Hull Westbourne School. The family later moved to King Edward Road, Balby, Doncaster where his father was a freight guard and William worked as a railway clerk in the Mineral Department.

In January 1917, aged 19, he joined the army, entering the Royal Flying Corps, and training at the School for Wireless Operators, in Aldershot in December 1917. He served with the No. 59 Squadron based at Narborough Airfield in Norfolk. This became part of the newly formed Royal Air Force (RAF) from 1st April 1918.

He later served with 12 Squadron until February 1920 when he was transferred to the RAF Reserves. Returning to Doncaster he continued to work in the clerical department, mineral section of the Great Northern section of the London and North-Eastern Railway.



William W. Sykes whilst serving during the First World War

On 5th August 1924 William married Edith Evelyn Wilton at St James' Church, Ravenfield, Yorkshire. The couple went on honeymoon to Cornwall.

Edith was born on 10th February 1901 in Doncaster, the oldest daughter of Frank Herbert Wilton (1871-1939), a clerk/shopkeeper from Doncaster and his wife Edith (nee Pashley, 1876-1936). She was christened at St James' Church Doncaster on 31st March 1901. The family lived at 58 Jarrett Street, moving to 4 Morley Road, Wheatley, Doncaster, where Edith grew up with her younger sister Gladys Muriel. Her father worked as a secretary for Doncaster Mutual Co-operative and Industrial Society. Edith worked for Pearl Assurance Co. Ltd at Baxter Gate, Doncaster. They later moved to "The Moorlands" in Ravenfield near Rotherham.

William and Edith moved into The Moorlands at Ravenfield, where they had a poultry farm breeding Rhode Island red, white leghorn, buff and light Sussex chickens. Here they had daughters Evelyn Muriel in 1928 and Joyce in 1930.

In March 1939 the licence of the Prussian Queen Inn was transferred to William Wallis Sykes. Mr and Mrs Sykes lived with their children who attended school and Sunday school in the village. William worked as an inn keeper and poultry farmer.

AN APPLICATION to the Louth County Licensing Justices on Wednesday for the full transfer of the licence of the Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby All Saints, to William W. Sykes, was granted.

Louth Standard 11th March 1939

**30 White Leghorn 1938 Pullets for Sale,
4/- each, to make room; mostly
through moult; some laying. — Sykes,
Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby.**

Lincolnshire Standard and Boston Guardian 23rd September 1939

The family moved back to Yorkshire in around early 1940. Their daughters married men from Cornwall and moved down to the south west.

William died on 29th December 1963 in Yorkshire at the age of 65. Edith died in November 1988 in Kerris, Cornwall, aged 87.

THE MARFLEET FAMILY

Bertie Marfleet was born in Sherwood, Nottingham in 1899, the youngest child of Edward Marfleet (1865-1932, from North Hykeham, Lincoln) and his second wife Agnes (nee Hardwick, 1861-1948) from Wragby. His father was a tram driver, then when they moved back to Lincolnshire, a carrier, at first using horse-drawn carts, in Binbrook.

At the start of the First World War, his older brother Henry enlisted in the 1st Battalion of the Coldstream Guards. He had been at the front for 15 weeks when he was killed in action, on 5th May 1915, aged 18. Bert enlisted with the Royal Berkshire Battalion in 1918 and later served with the Military Mounted Police as a Lance Corporal. He was sent to serve in France, Ireland and Italy, where he was severely wounded and gassed on active service. He was awarded the Victory and British War medals.

From 1919 Bert was the first of the old carriers to operate a motorbus service from Binbrook, a 14-seater Model T Ford. One passenger was said to have thought it so unsafe that they jumped out at the top of Limber Hill.

Florence Alice Hewson was born in 1899 in North Thoresby, the daughter of farmer's son, Anthony (1867-1936) and Rebecca, (nee Cooper, 1871-1936) from Ludborough. The family moved to Binbrook where her father worked as a shepherd.

Bertie and Florence married in 1921, and had son Charles Stanley on 19th September 1921. He continued to drive his motorbus in Binbrook, by 1922 having a 20-seater bus. He also ran a taxi, but incurred some fines for not having the right licence for his different vehicles' passenger services. In about 1927 they moved to Thurlby Rectory, Auburn, where they worked for the owners, the Campbell family. Mr Colin Campbell was the founder and first president of the National Farmers Union. Bert worked as a gardener and chauffer, Florence as housekeeper, and by 1939 Stanley as a tractor driver.

In early 1940 the family moved to Saltfleetby, where Bert became the new licence holder of the Prussian Queen. Stan began work as a lorry driver.

In March and April 1940, they held a number of whist drives at the pub to raise money for school children's sports, and comforts for troops, Saltfleetby stationmaster, George Ingham acted as MC.

An Absentee from the R.A.F.

Stan registered for military service in February 1941. In March 1941 he submitted an application as a conscientious objector, which was refused. After being medically examined, he was ordered to report on deferred service at an RAF depot in July 1941. He applied for postponement, but this was also rejected. He was legally enlisted into the Royal Air Force on 14th July 1941, but he did not report for duty. Ordered to attend the RAF on 12th March 1942, he failed to do so. They got in touch with the police at Louth to report his absence. Sergeant Tuxworth of Louth Police investigated the case and

saw Stan on 24th June 1942, warning him that he would have to report himself. 20-year-old Stan promised to obey the order. He apparently left home to report. A witness saw him on a bus the next day, believing him to be on his way to the depot, but when he didn't arrive, the RAF requested his arrest. The police visited the Prussian Queen several times to try to find him, but were unsuccessful.

His father, Bert declared that he hadn't seen him since he left. He later said that he unexpectedly found Stan in the kitchen on **7th August 1942**, when he asked for a meal and said he was going to report the next day. He was given food and some money. His father was serving at the bar at the time, when he returned to the kitchen, he said Stan was gone.

That night after 10pm, a police sergeant and four constables visited the inn looking for Stan, asking to search the house. Bert allowed them to, telling them that they wouldn't find his son there, he didn't know where he was. After searching all the likely places, Pc Baumber went up a pair of steps where there was a trap door, but it was shut fast. Bert told them that it had been nailed up in winter to keep out snow and draughts. The officers went out onto a flat roof where there was a door which gave access to the false roof, but it was secured and nailed. Going back to try the trap door again they exerted pressure on it. Pc Baumber forced up the trap a little and said *"he's here sergeant, I can see him standing on the trap"*. Stan had finally been found hiding in a false room in the loft of the Prussian Queen. After some persuasion he came down and was taken into custody. Bert was reported for harbouring and concealing an absentee.

Bert on Trial

On **19th August 1942**, Bert was charged at Louth County Police Court, for aiding his son to evade military service and helping to conceal him. Mr Marfleet replied to the charges saying that his son had *not* joined the RAF, he was waiting for a tribunal in London, for which he had all the papers and a solicitor on the case.

The chairman, Colonel Edward Kyme Cordeaux, asked *"how do you think this country would get on in a time of crisis if all young men said they had no intention of going into the forces and would not go?"*. Bert said that his own experiences in the last war, when he was badly wounded and gassed, did not encourage him to advocate that his son should join up.

Col. Cordeaux replied *"Other people had that and others got their sons killed. It is your duty to your country, no matter what it costs you. It is the same for everybody. If you want this country to keep its place in the world and be free, you would, if you thought the matter over, have acted differently"*.

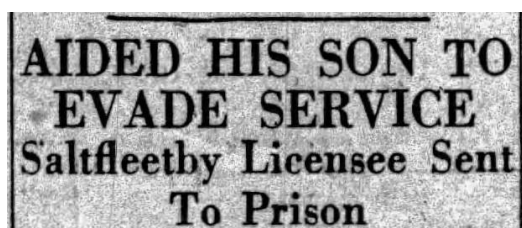
Bert said that as a result of his injuries he had to have morphia injections and expected to go into hospital for an operation. Col. Cordeaux declared that imprisonment was the only penalty for the offence, but in view of the defendant's physical condition, a report would be awaited from the medical authorities and the case would be adjourned.

Mr Marfleet was examined by police surgeon, Dr Arthur Henry Russell on 21st August.

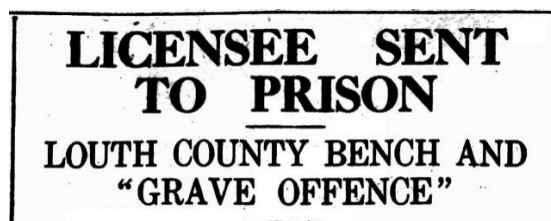
Another hearing took place on **2nd September 1942**, after the court received the medical evidence, a letter from Dr Russell stating that Bert was suffering from a duodenal ulcer and should have an operation as soon as possible. Having ascertained that he was *"quite ill"*, Col. Cordeaux took it on himself to inform Mr Marfleet that he need not attend the Court that day. He stated *"The decision of the Court is that the case be adjourned for a further fortnight and if, in the meantime Marfleet does not have an operation, he will have to appear here. If he does not, we shall then consider the length of sentence of imprisonment that we shall award him. He has to have that operation in that time or else he will have to appear here and we shall send him to prison"*.

On 15th September Bert entered a nursing home in Lincoln for an operation, but the doctor who was due to perform it was incapacitated with a foot injury and would not be able to operate for a day or two. So, he left and returned home for a few days. Mrs Marfleet had contacted the police to inform them that he was in the nursing home and asked if it would be in order for her to carry on the inn during his absence. That night Superintendent Stevens then phoned the nursing home, confirming that Mr Marfleet was there. The following morning, he received a call from the home saying that Bert had left earlier that morning, leaving a note to say he would be back when the doctor is better. The police kept observation on the buses and Bert was seen waiting for a bus to Saltfleetby. There he was warned that if he wasn't in hospital, he ought to appear before the court. He said that he had left hospital with the approval of the night nurse.

He was ordered to appear in court immediately, on **16th September**. After hearing the story, the magistrates consulted in private. Col. Cordeaux then declared that the offence was "*an exceeding grave one*" and the "*only sentence they had power to impose was one of imprisonment*". He was sentenced to six months in prison and ordered to pay £7 17s cost, or serve a further month's imprisonment in default.



Grimsby Evening Telegraph 18th September 1942



Skegness Standard 23rd September 1942

The family left the Prussian Queen and returned to live in Binbrook. Bert entered an appeal against the sentence. The now former licensee had his appeal heard at Lindsey Quarter Session in Lincoln on **26th October 1942**. Mrs Elizabeth Lane appeared to put the case for Mr Marfleet. Mr Norman Winning represented the respondent, Supt. Stevens. Mrs Lane argued that, although it was the father's duty to tell the police when he saw his absentee son, many fathers in a similar position would have hesitated to hand over their only son to the police under such circumstances. Mr Marfleet gave evidence saying that he honestly believed that the trap door was nailed-up, a workman had previously been into the false roof, and he thought had left it refastened-up. Evidence was also heard from Supt. Stevens, Dr Russell, and Dr Leon Gabbe who had seen Bert in 1940. The Court reduced Mr Marfleet's sentence to six weeks' imprisonment from that day.

Stan served in the RAF for the rest of the war, some of the time stationed at RAF Binbrook, a Bomber Command station in the Lincolnshire Wolds, where he served as a driver. His name is on the Saltfleetby Second World War Roll of Honour that is displayed in St Peter's Church.

Marfleet Coaches

After the war Bert and Stan continued to run a bus and taxi service in Binbrook, as *Marfleet and Son*. Stan married Ivy Lillian Richardson, from Caistor, in 1954 in Louth. In 1960 Stan established *Marfleet Coaches*, when they purchased several coaches for private hire and contract work, including providing a school bus services for the local authority in Market Rasen, Caistor, Louth, Binbrook and Ravendale.



A Marfleet School Bus in the 1970s (photo from Marfleet Coaches: marfleet.co.uk)

Florence died of cancer on 12th November 1959, aged 60, in Binbrook. Bert died on 8th July 1961, aged 62 of peritonitis, at Louth County Hospital. They were buried at Binbrook St Mary & St Gabriel's Church.

The coach company continued to grow with an expanded fleet. They bought their first double decker in 1963 (an ex-Nottingham Corporation bus) and their first *new* bus in 1973.

Stan died suddenly whilst on holiday in Torquay, Devon, on 19th August 1981, aged 59. With no immediate family to continue the business, his estate fell into the hands of the banks, who sold off the company's assets, ending the Marfleet Coach company. His wife Ivy died in April 1995, aged 72.

THE HOME GUARD

On the evening of 14th May 1940, the Secretary of State for War, Anthony Eden gave a radio broadcast calling for volunteers to join the new **Local Defence Volunteers**. Within ten minutes half a dozen people went to Louth Police Station to volunteer. People outside the age for the regular army (18-41), or in reserved occupations that provided essential services like farming or the railways, were eligible to volunteer.

In our village there were many veterans of the First World War, who formed the core of the Saltfleetby Home Guard. These included railway-crossing gate-keeper, Archie Ingamells whose father ran the Prussian Queen for years. Also:

Percy Epton, a market gardener on North End Lane, who saw action in the Middle East as a member of the Lincolnshire Yeomanry. Civil engineer Jack Vickers had lied about his age to enlist in the Lincolnshire Yeomanry in 1915, aged 16. Both men were aboard the troop carrier Mercian when it was attacked by German U-boats in November 1915.

Other old soldiers included Ernest E. Luck, market gardener at Mill House who had served with the London Scottish Regiment; former acting corporal in the Machine Gun Corp, James Stubbs a small holder on Rimac Road; coal, corn and offal merchant Charles Meanwell, who became a Home-Guard Lieutenant; his brother, farmer Alfred Meanwell; Walter Jacklin, a builder from Saltfleet; smallholder, Charles Merrit Adlard who served with the 1st Battalion Worcestershire Regiment in India and Burma; his brother-in-law, farmer Wilfred Kettlewell who had served in the West Yorkshire Regiment; and many others.

Major Jim Odlin

In charge of the local platoon was farmer, Jim Odlin of Poplar Farm, Saltfleetby. James Edward Odlin was born in Grimsby in 1897, his family moved to Saltfleetby when he was about 5 years old. He joined the 1st-5th Lincolnshire Regiment at the beginning of 1915. He went to serve in the trenches in France the following year, where he became a sergeant. He was invalided back home in October 1918. He had been in hospital at Stratford-Upon-Avon for a week or two when the Armistice was signed. He then had a period of convalescence in Skegness.

In Birmingham in November 1918, he was awarded the **Distinguished Conduct Medal** *"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty for a period of nineteen months, and especially during six months' operations. This non-commissioned officer is always trustworthy and an example to his men. When the battalion was holding a sector which was repeatedly bombarded, he was always cool and courageous."*



Major Jim Odlin,
Grimsby Daily
Telegraph 14th March
1973

He was selected to represent his battalion at the Victory March in London in 1919, being granted three days leave by King George V to do so, before returning to camp. He spent the next four years with the regiments' 2nd Battalion and was a member of the advance party that was sent to India in 1919. When he returned to civilian life in 1923 he held the position of Company Sergeant-Major, instructor of musketry.

He married Mary Louise Rainthorpe in 1923, their children grew up in the village and worked on the family farm. Jim Odlin was active in village societies such as being vice-president of the Social Club and a player for Saltfleetby United FC. A keen billiards player, Saltfleetby were frequent league winners in the late 20s and early 30s. In 1935 Mr Odlin won the Horsewood Billiards Cup in Louth. He was president of the Mablethorpe branch of the Royal British Legion, and Saltfleetby representative on the Rural District Council in the 1930s. His wife Mary Odlin died in 1937, aged 43.

Jim became Captain of the Saltfleetby Home Guards Platoon, and was later made a Major, Second in Command of the Louth Battalion of the Home Guards.

Jim's younger brother Jack Odlin (born in Saltfleetby in 1913) joined the forces in March 1941. He was stationed in England and Scotland early in the war, taking part in the D-Day landings in 1944. He served in the British Army of the Rhine and the Royal Army Service Corps. He died in a driving accident in Germany on 10th November 1945, aged 32. He was buried in Kiel War Cemetery, Germany, and his name appears on the Saltfleetby War Memorial outside St Peter's Church.

Jim Odlin remarried in 1955, to Eileen Abbot from Bolton, who died in 1970. Major James Edward Odlin DMC, died in Louth Hospital on 23rd October 1981, aged 83.

Saltfleetby During the Second World War

As a coastal area, our village had to again prepare for enemy attack, and needed to be guarded against invasion. From 30th June 1940 the public were banned from going onto the foreshore.

From August 1940, defending brigades were sent into the village. The 2nd Battalion of The Hampshire Regiment set up Forward Section Posts including constructing pillboxes to defend the beach and some further inland. These small concrete structures were fortified lookout stations of the Lincolnshire three-bay type, consisting of two roofed parts joined by an open central bay with fittings to mount a light anti-aircraft gun, and fittings inside the windows to hold a machine gun. Four inland pillboxes still remain in the village, seven along the nearby coast (including one dating from the first world war at Sea View) others have been removed. Other defences such as anti-tank cubes on the coast and a concrete cylinder on Church Lane can also still be seen. Anti-tank mines were laid in some areas, bridges leading from the coast were mined, and roadblocks established. The home guard manned lookout stations and roadblocks throughout the village.

As the Prussian Queen was closed after October 1942, it became the headquarters of the Saltfleetby Home Guards. There was a roadblock directly opposite the pub on the Main Road, and a Home Guard shelter in the field to the west.



A Lincolnshire three-bay pillbox on the nature reserve, north of Sea View, used by the Home Guard



The former Home Guard shelter in the field at the west side of the Prussian

Saltfleetby Home Guard in around 1945, outside their headquarters, The Prussian Queen



Back Row, Left to Right: John Taylor, H. Plaskitt, Walt Appleby, Fred Willey, Herbert Lusby, Ernie Hutton, Les Vines, Herbert Stapleton, Fred Kettlewell, Alf Meanwell

3rd. Row: Frank Pennell, John Hoyes, Herbert Richardson, Roger Chapman, Tom Tuxworth, Tom Riggall, H. Horton, Jack Drury

2nd. Row: John Stubbs, Harold Stubbs, Station Master C. Wood, Alan Monk, Jim Stubbs, Bert Pinder, W. Stone, John Tuxworth, Jack Stubbs

Front Row: Archie Ingamells, Frank Maddison, Major Jim Odlin, Major Butt, Walt Jacklin, Bill Harrison, Charlie Meanwell, Chris Stubbs, Tom Barber, Meritt Adlard.

There was a searchlight camp at Sea View, with a recreation hut that was later bought by the village to be used as a village hall and moved to the Main Road. Evacuated children were moved into Saltfleetby where they attended the village primary school. Several land girls were sent to the area by the Women's Land Army to help on farms. Some stayed on after the war and married local men. Incentives were given to encourage increased farm production such as the Ministry of Agriculture's *Victory Churn Contest*, for which Mrs Lowis of Kerlow Bank Farm won a certificate of merit for increasing her milk production by 10% in 1943.

Home Guard Training

At first the volunteers wore their civilian clothes with armbands, the men armed with twelve bore shotguns, Captain Odlin had a .22 rifle. Later they were issued with uniforms and .303 rifles. Training sessions were held every Sunday morning and at least one evening during the week. Members of the regular army trained them in the use of rifles on the ranges at Elkington. On Saltfleetby beach they learnt to throw hand grenades and use the new "Projector, Infantry, Anti-Tank" (PIAT) rifles. They were sent on weekend camps to take part in manoeuvres against the army, in order to become an effective fighting unit.

Fund-Raising Events for the War Effort at the Prussian Queen

The Lindsey 9th (Louth) Battalion Home Guard commanding officer was Lieutenant-Colonel Oscar Dixon of Kenwick Hall, Louth, whose family had a large paper mill in Grimsby. He granted permission for the Prussian Queen to be lent for occasional social events to help the war effort. Miss Jacques organised a whist drive (in which players compete in rounds of the card game, *whist*) in February 1943 that raised **£5 15s 6d** for the **Marsh District Nursing Association**. In November 1943 the Women's Voluntary Service held two whist drives at the pub that raised **£10 7s** for the **British Sailor's Society**.

The Home Guard organised a whist drive in November 1943 in the Prussian Queen. Captain Odlin was master of ceremonies (MC). Several gifts of hares, chickens and produce were sold, raising £9 18s, giving a total of **£20 0s 1d** for **Red Cross Funds**.

In December 1943 Capt. Odlin and Mr G. T. Jaques organised a whist drive in which **£10 15s** was raised for the **Red Cross Agriculture Fund**. Among the prizes won that night were soaps, envelopes, a hare, whisky, two partridges, a chicken and rabbits. Another organised by the secretary for Louth and District Hospital on 17th December 1943, where Percy Epton was MC, raised **£9 10s 6d**.

J. E. Odlin and Mr. G. T. Jaques in aid of the Red Cross Agriculture Fund, a whist drive was held in the Prussian Queen, lent by Lt.-Col. O. Dixon. Winners were: Ladies:—Mrs. Kidd (hare). Mrs. Wilkinson (envelopes), Miss Tuxworth (whisky). Gents.—Mr. T. A. Lusby (partridge). Mr. Godhold (soap). Mr. W. Appleby (whisky). Knock-out, Mr. H. Meanwell (rabbits), Mr. J. Jacklin (partridge); darts, Mr. H. Holmes (hare), Mr. E. Grundy (Muckton). Competition, Mr. D. Hoyes (chicken). Mr. P. Epton (rabbits). Proceeds totalled £10 15s.

Louth Standard 25th December 1943

A WHIST DRIVE in aid of Red Cross funds, was held in the "Prussian Queen" (by permission of Lieut.-Col. Oscar Dixon), on Friday. Capt. J. E. Odlin was M.C., the winners being: Ladies—1 Miss A. Rainthorpe; 2, Miss E. Chapman; 3, Miss R. Hoyes. Gents.—1, Flt.-Sergt. G. Ingamells; 2, Mr. G. Appleby; 3, Mr. H. Meanwell. Partner drive: Mrs. J. K. Bartholomew and Mrs. A. Jacklin. Competition winners were:—Darts, Mrs. C. Meanwell and Mr. A. Monk; dog (made by Miss Barbara Taylor), Miss K. Hoyes (realised £1 18s. 6d.); hare, Mr. H. Holmes; chicken Mr. A. T. Brown. Several gifts of hares, chickens and produce were sold and realised £9 18s. 6d. £20 0s. 1d. was cleared for the Fund. The organisers were Mr. G. T. Jaques and Mr. J. E. Odlin.

Louth Standard 20th November 1943

Another whist drive organised by Capt. Odlin and Mr Jaques in December 1944 raised **£16** for **Red Cross Funds**.

A Theft from the Home Guard Headquarters

On 14th December 1944 local policeman Pc Wastell visited the Home Guard headquarters at the Prussian Queen, and found the back door had been forced, breaking the lock, and a number of articles taken. After checking with Home Guard Quartermaster, Thomas Lusby, he commenced enquires. A missing clock was later recovered from Mablethorpe. A Scottish soldier, Peter Duffy from Glasgow was apprehended for the theft and taken to Lincoln Prison charged with breaking and entering. He was held there until appearing before magistrates at Louth County Court where he pleaded guilty to taking the clock, but denied taking a hammer and some field dressings, claiming that he found the door open. It was decided that somebody else might have interfered with the lock at the Home Guard stores, so the charge was reduced to larceny. There were already a number of convictions against him in Glasgow Juvenile courts and for army offences. He was fined £3.

FRANK YEXLEY

Frank Maurice James Yexley was born in Fulham on 23rd June 1911, the son of a labourer Charles William (1872–1944) from Whitechapel, and Jessie Mary Adelaide (nee Newton, born 1896). The ninth of eleven children, he grew up in Fulham. The large family lived in a 4-room house at 45 Ryston Road, before moving to a 5-room house at 119 Market Road, SW6. His love for boxing started early. He first fought professionally at the age of 13, for which he received the sum of 3s 6d. He was a schoolboy champion in 1926, and continued to compete as a featherweight. He married Grace Elizabeth Marion Shrimpton from Fulham in December 1932. They went to live at Colehill Lane.

In April 1933, aged 22, whilst working as a lorry driver, Frank was involved in a violent incident in a café in Lillie Road. The 23-year-old male café proprietor attacked him with a bread knife, that he was using to make sandwiches behind the counter. Frank's hand was slightly cut, he was later found collapsed in the street and was taken to hospital, though he said the collapse had nothing to do with the cut and attributed it to being "mad with neuralgia". The café owner told police that Frank had assaulted him, and had previously threatened him with a knife, but the cut was an accident. He was charged with causing grievous bodily harm, at West London Police Court. Frank appeared as prosecutor, with a bandaged hand, and said he didn't want to proceed with the charge, as it was an accident. The magistrate didn't object to the charge being withdrawn.

Frank began officiating at Sunday shows at boxing clubs all over London from 1934, becoming a well-known boxing MC. In January 1935 Frank and Grace had daughter Betty Grace, born in Fulham, then in June 1938 daughter Patricia June was born in Twickenham. They lived at Westcott Crescent in Hanwell, London. He was the secretary of the boxing section of his local sports club, The "Heslow" Club, an amalgamation of the Heston and Hounslow Gas Light and Coke Company sports clubs. He helped organise a concert for the club's supper evening in December 1938.

Military Service and a New Family

He enlisted into the army at Ealing in May 1939, initially as a Bandsman in the Royal Engineers. He then entered the Army Physical Training Corps where he rose to the rank of Sergeant Instructor. He was described as 5 foot 4 inches tall, weighing 147 pounds, with a dark complexion, black eyes and brown hair. Whilst at the Army School of Physical Training in Aldershot he served alongside sportsmen such as Matt Busby and Joe Mercer. He first came to Nottingham in 1940 where he ran boxing courses for the Army School of Physical Training at Norton Street Boys' Club. He separated from his first wife, Grace, who remained in Hanwell, and met his second wife, Mary, in Nottingham.

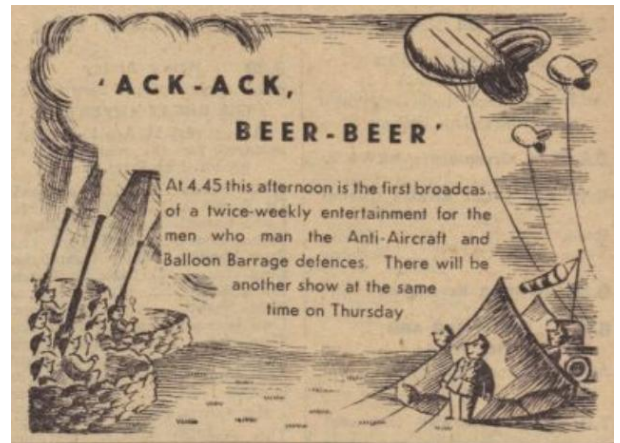
Mary Elizabeth Wright was born on 24th June 1903 in Nottingham, the second child of William Wright (1882-1964), a coal miner at Clifton Colliery, and Martha Emily (nee Pitt, 1882-1961), both from Nottingham. She grew up with older sister Rose, younger brothers Joseph and William and younger sisters Jenny and Edna. The family lived at 12 Bradmore terrace, Meadows, Nottingham, then at 166 Queen's Walk. In 1921 she was living with her family in Queens Walk, aged 17, working as a "Cornely Machinist", operating a specialist embroidery sewing machine, producing chain-stitch designs. In 1924 she married William Ramsbottom from Bridlington, who had moved to Nottingham with his parents, and was then working as a butcher. They had a son, Dennis, in 1927. Mary and William appeared to be separated by 1939 when he was living in Waterway Street, working as a fitter, and Mary was working as a shop assistant and fish monger, living in Annarth Terrace. After her second marriage, the new Mrs Yexley moved to 44 Radford Road. Frank became a beloved step-father to Dennis, who later emigrated to Australia where he raised a family with his wife Gladys.

Company Sergt. Instructor Frank Yexley was MC at numerous boxing matches during his time in the military. He toured the country with Captain Jack Peterson, former British and Empire heavyweight champion, to raise money for the Army Welfare and RAF Benevolent funds.

Frank would make appeals from the ring for extra audience donations, including in 1942 in Port Talbot Drill Hall collecting a further £30 1s 3d for The Glamorgan County Welfare Fund.

He said that one time he stepped into the ring to introduce Winston Churchill.

Frank gave talks on sport to the Army and RAF and was featured with Jack Peterson on the BBC Services' radio programme "Ack-Ack, Beer-Beer", a twice weekly variety series for men in Anti-Aircraft and Balloon Barrage units.

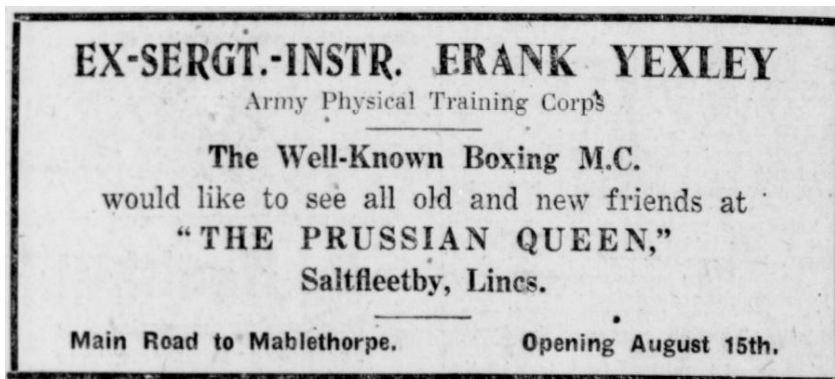


Radio Times, 28th June 1940

He proceeded on terminal leave from the army in October 1945. He was awarded the Efficiency Medal in 1946 in recognition of his 12 years of efficient service. He remained a reserve in the army until 1956 (when over the age limit of 45).

The Prussian Queen

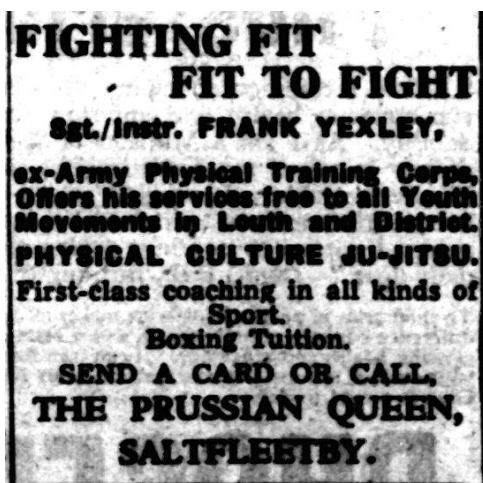
Frank and Mary took over the Prussian Queen in August 1945, placing adverts in the local papers announcing its re-opening on 15th August. Later adverts called it "The Brightest Spot in Lincolnshire"



Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser 11th August 1945



Frank Yexley in The Louth Standard 2nd April 1949



Louth Standard 20th October 1945



Louth & North Lincolnshire Advertiser 20th October 1945

Frank offered his services as a physical instructor free to all youth movements in Louth and district. He offered to work as a coach in all kinds of sports including physical culture and ju-jitsu, under the headline: "Fighting Fit, Fit to Fight". He was also a referee with the British Boxing Board of Control.

On 31st October 1945, the Mayor and Mayoress of Louth (Councillor and Mrs John Robert Sanderson) were invited to the Prussian Queen for the first of a series of charity darts and dominoes matches. Donated goods were sold during the evening. The event raised **£17** for the **British Sailors Society** (for which Coun. Sanderson was the local chairman). Jim Odlin was captain of the home darts team, who beat the visiting "Skylarks" team from the Woolpack at Louth. But the home dominoes team, captained by T. Jaques, lost to the Skylarks team, which included several former footballers from Louth Town FC.

To All Organisers of Dances.

IF YOU WANT THE BEST FULLY LICENSED BAR ENQUIRE

"THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN"

Mine Host, Frank M. J. Yexley, B.B.B.C.

MUSIC, SNACKS, VARIETY, CIVILITY.

'Phone: SALT FLEETBY 39.

Louth Standard 19th October 1946

The Prussian Queen had two darts teams (A and B) that played in the Louth and District Open Division. The pub's licence was officially transferred to Frank on 21st November 1945 at Louth County Police Court. In March 1946 his application for a music and singing licence was granted.

Mr and Mrs Yexley organised darts matches and other social functions at the end of 1945, managing to raise **£35** for a Christmas party for the children in **Branston Sanatorium**. When handing over the cheque Frank promised to raise funds to give the children in the institution a day at the seaside. Further fundraising events in 1946 achieved this, when in January the Prussian Queen hosted an evening of darts and dominoes matches against the Louth Fur and Feather Club. Frank was MC, as "The Queens" won the dominoes, but the darts was declared a draw. In February visitors to the Prussian Queen "enjoyed a capital musical evening". Gifts of "many useful articles" were sold raising the sum of **£32 11s 6d** for the children's **seaside trip**. Originally a country house, Branston Hall was used as an RAF hospital during the second world war, then a sanatorium, becoming derelict in the 1970s, now restored and converted to a hotel.

When teams of darts and dominoes players from the Wheat Sheaf, Louth, were entertained at the pub in January 1946, **£12** was raised for the **St Margaret's Children's Home** (that used to be on Victoria Road in Louth). St Margaret's was opened by the Waifs and Strays Society in 1912, accommodating up to 30 girls, becoming a mixed home after the war, until its closure in 1969. The building is now the Beaumont Hotel.

In May 1946 a charity darts match was held between two local families: the Dales of Louth vs the Applebys of Saltfleetby. Nine members of the Dale family came to the Prussian Queen to form their team. But with only six members of the Appleby family taking part, numbers for the home-team were made up by Jim Odlin, Albert Wilkinson (who was married to Mary Appleby) and L. Brown. The Dales won 8-1. **The Trelawney Band**, from Mablethorpe's Café Regent and Trelawney Ballroom (which used to be where Spanish City is now) played music for the evening. Donated gifts were sold, Mrs Yexley gave a bottle of sherry, Frank gave a function tray. The event raised **£50 5s**, which the Louth Standard thought "must be a record for any village inn in this district." Of the proceeds £25 2s 6d was sent to the Mayor of Louth's **St. Dunstan's Fund** (for blind veterans) and £25 2s 6d to the **Lindsey Blind Society**.

THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN

MINE HOST:

FRANK M. J. YEXLEY, B.B.B.C.

SALT FLEETBY

Near Louth, Lincs. :: Tel.: Saltfleetby 39.

★

MUSIC :: VARIETY :: SNACKS CIVILITY.

Grimsby Daily Telegraph 15th May 1947

The Louth Ramblers made their way through ploughed fields and ditches to reach the Prussian Queen in March 1948, where Frank provided tea.

In 1949 Frank and members of the darts team gave the children of Saltfleetby a **Christmas party**, held at the Trelawney Ballroom. It was attended by over 50 children and a number of mothers.

Open Every Night

"The Prussian Queen." Book your parties by 'phone (Saltfleetby 39). Mine host, Frank Yexley. 7239a

Grimsby Daily Telegraph 24th July 1947

A Happy New Year and the Compliments of the Season to all Old and New Customers

from

Frank M. J. Yexley

"THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN" SALT FLEETBY

★

Whisky, Gin, Rum, Cherry Brandy, Advocaat, Sherry, Port, and all other Drinks can be obtained.

LICENSED BARS PROVIDED AT ALL DANCES AND DINNERS.

★

Telephone: Saltfleetby 32.

Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser 28th December 1946

Boxing and Wrestling at Louth

In August 1946 Frank announced that he would be holding boxing contests in Louth Town Hall every month, which would include the appearance of well-known fighters. On 15th August he was MC for the first part of a popular boxing programme, which featured British Heavyweight Champion, Bruce Woodcock. During the interval Frank asked for donations for the Mayor's **Hospital Fund**, in support of Louth County Hospital. Cash was collected, including a £5 note from the personnel from RAF Binbrook. He then auctioned some items including a cake which realised £3, a half-bottle of whiskey which made 30s, and a bottle of cherry brandy £2 10s. A total of **£53 18s 4d** was raised over the evening.

Frank brought many boxing "*All-star programmes*" to Louth, frequently raising money for various local charities, such as **Louth Youth Club**. Buses ran from Grimsby, Mablethorpe and other parts of Lincolnshire to bring in the crowds. He was also involved in boxing tournaments held at Mablethorpe, in the field behind Café Regent, acting as MC and selling tickets from the Prussian Queen.

From 1947, he was promoter of a number of Free-Style Wrestling contests at Louth Town Hall. Advertised as a "*Terrific All Action Programme*", featuring star names such as the British Heavyweight Champion Bert Assirati. The programme sometimes commenced with "boy boxing contests", featuring local lads from such places as Skegness and Grimsby.

Other Events at Louth Town Hall

In April 1946 Mr Yexley organised a dance at Louth Town Hall for the **83rd Field Bakery Company**, stationed at the barracks in Kenwich Road, Louth as a farewell party to the commanding officer Captain Ladbrooke, and a number of the men who would be released from service at the same time. Frank described them as "one of the best-behaved Army units", having been established for several years and "not a single member of the unit had ever been before the Louth Courts".

Frank made the arrangements for running a licenced bar at the Town Hall for some musical entertainment events presented by Don Luck Productions. John William George Luck lived at Saltfleetby House, and set up an entertainments company under the name "Don Luck" in 1944. He put on a variety of musical acts, dances and entertainments at seaside and other venues across the region. In October 1946 Frank ran the bar when Mr Luck arranged an "**Old Time Dancing**" event led by "Harry Davidson with his famous dance orchestra of 15 performers". Tickets cost 12s 6d.

Frank joined the social activities sub-committee of the Louth Divisional Young Conservative Committee in June 1946. He organised the **Louth Young Conservatives' Ball**, held between 9pm and midnight on 27th September 1946.

When applying for a "**Miss Personality**" dance on 19th December 1946, Inspector Ford of Louth Police commented that they were not impressed by the title! During his explanation of the event Mr Yexley said that it was an endeavour to try and make the dark winter nights a bit happier. The licence was granted.

In January 1947 Frank organised the **Louth Nats Football Club** annual ball held between 8pm-1 o'clock. Louth Nats merged with Louth Town later in 1947 to form Louth United FC.

On 3rd March 1948 Frank organised the first Annual **Licensed Victuallers' Ball** at the Town Hall, between 9pm and 2am. The music was provided by renowned Nottingham bandleader and composer *Billy Merrin and His Commanders* featuring singer Penny Nicholls.

Footballer Tommy Lawton visits the Prussian Queen



The famous Notts County and England centre forward, **Tommy Lawton** (1919-1996) visited his old army friend Frank at the Prussian Queen for a few days in February 1948. Lawton, from Bolton, was playing for Everton and England when he was called up into the army in 1940, and was recruited to the Army Physical Training Corps, where he served with Frank.

In November 1947 he was sold from Chelsea to Notts County for a British record transfer fee of £20,000 (the equivalent of over a million today), making him, at the time, Britain's most expensive player. Whilst in our area he chatted to Mablethorpe United players, where Frank was an official. Lawton had scored 22 goals in his 23 England appearances, made a cameo appearance as himself in the film "The Great Game" in 1953, and became a manager and author of 5 books based on his years of professional football experience.

Later in February 1948 Frank became the chairman of **The Marshes United Sports Club**, a new club that used Saltfleet Institute for meetings, and the New Inn field for matches. **Louth British Legion band** held an evening concert in the grounds of the Prussian Queen on Sunday 12th September 1948.

Mablethorpe Events

In August 1947 Frank raised money to give 50 children from **St Anthony's Orphanage**, Grimsby (that used to be on Victor Street until its closure in 1957) a day out to Mablethorpe, ending in a party at the Trelawney Ballroom. The piano and accordion were played by Ron Appleby for the children to sing along to. Frank gave each one a toy, stick of rock, four 3d pieces and a bag of fruit to take back.

Licensed events in 1948 included a **Territorials Dance** at the Drill Hall on Victoria Road. In August he ran the bar at an Officers' Dance Invitation Ball held by the commandant and officers of the **Army Cadet Force** (Warwickshire Brigade ACF, who had a camp at Mablethorpe) in the Trelawney Ballroom, attended by over 150 guests. The following day (Saturday evening) Frank announced on a loudspeaker from the roof of the Café Regent the programme of events, before the ACF Band gave a marching demonstration in tattoo style in the vicinity of the pullover, which was watched by hundreds of visitors. In 1949 he organised a dinner for **Alford police** on 12th January, and then on 20th January the **Boarding House and Hotel Keepers' Association** dinner and ball, both at the Trelawney.

Reviving the Mablethorpe Carnival

The old Mablethorpe Carnivals had been popular before the war. In July 1948 the Mablethorpe and Sutton Council gave approval that a carnival should be held again from 20th to 26th September, serving to lengthen the season and give the area good publicity. Frank Yexley was appointed as organiser without salary. They believed that Frank had considerable experience, was an excellent organiser, raiser of money and "could get things done". He earned the nickname "*Ideas Frank*" for his efforts in creating a varied and successful event.

Six thousand programmes were printed. British Rail arranged daily excursions at single fare rates from Nottingham, Grimsby, Boston, Lincoln, Louth and other places. The week was packed with activities that drew large crowds. Frank made announcements through loud speakers, and was aided in comparing by the "Carnival King", Capt. Carl Berrington, a lion-tamer from Skegness Zoo.

The opening ceremony was at the Dunes Theatre (which was then an open-air stage), followed by the first of several talent competitions. Daily heats of the "*Ideal Holiday Girl*" contest, were held there attracting about 17 entrants per day. The winner was selected based on the volume of

audience applause. The final on Friday was won by 19-year-old Elaine Walne of Leicester who was staying for two weeks at Trusthorpe Holiday Camp with her parents and younger sister. The opening carnival ball took place at the Imperial Hotel, Sutton-on-Sea in the evening, while a whist drive at the Trelawney was so popular it had 55 tables in play.

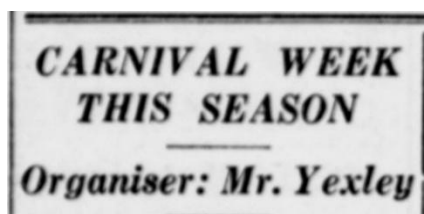


Louth and North
Lincolnshire
Advertiser 25th
September 1948

Elaine Walne who
won the *Ideal
Holiday Girl*
contest at the
Dunes Open Air
Theatre

Daily activities included the hunt for “Mr Carnival”. He could be any man in a given whereabouts throughout the day. When stopped with the words “*are you Mr Carnival? I claim today’s prize*”, he gave the prize money of £1 1s to the winning child. His identity remained a mystery until late Monday afternoon. He was not discovered at all on Tuesday, so the prize money rolled over for Wednesday, when it was announced that he would be disguised hiding in the crowd watching the “Donkey Derby” and evening sports on the beach.

There were competitions for the best decorated boarding house, and best dressed shop window. An art exhibition was held at the Imperial Hotel all week. The baby show at the Trelawney was so popular it had to be closed to further entrants after 149 babies were entered into the competition. Prizes were awarded for best baby in show (won by Baby Shelton of Leicester), best twins, and for various age categories up to 5 years old. Another baby show at the Bacchus Hotel had 36 entrants.



Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser
10th July 1948



Louth Standard 25th September 1948



Other attractions were an *Olde Tyme Dance* at the Trelawney; children’s and adults’ fancy dress; a dog show with awards for such categories as ugliest dog, most soulful eyes, most dignified, and daintiest dog; an evening sing-song at Johnny’s Bar (where Heron Foods is now); a mannequin parade in the Trelawney; a men’s knee competition at the Dunes; a carnival ball at The Grange and Links Hotel in Sandilands, and much more. Frank compered a packed Friday afternoon concert at the

Dunes which consisted of music, dancing, acrobatics, magic and marionettes. There were fireworks on the foreshore donated by Mr Butlin, who was giving daily spot prizes during the carnival at the Butlin's amusement park in Mablethorpe, some half-price tickets and an hour of free rides.

The highlight of the week was the big parade on the Saturday afternoon, which proceeded from the station along the High Street. Many local organisations and businesses took part such as the Grimsby Sea Cadets drum and bugle band, The WI, The Boy Scouts, The Mary Elvin School of Dancing, Louth British Legion and Brigg Town Bands. The gas company had an "Olympic Flame" powered by Calor gas. The town councillors and the Ideal Holiday Girl winners rode in decorated landau carriages. Frank commentated with a microphone from a platform on a lorry behind them, followed by children in fancy dress, horse drawn decorated vehicles, decorated cycles, motor vehicles and tableaux. Prizes for the best were awarded. The festivities concluded with a "Crazy Night" in the Trelawney ballroom where Frank received a "tremendous ovation". On Sunday the Dunes Theatre hosted Rev T. W. Harrison conducting community hymn singing, led by Louth British Legion Band. Frank read the lesson.



Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser
2nd October 1948

The carnival made a profit of **£209**, of which Frank was awarded an honorarium of £30. It was decided that in future years Mablethorpe and Sutton would hold separate carnivals.

The Derbyshire Miners' Holiday Centre

Frank was unable to take part in the following years' carnival as he accepted a post as entertainments organiser to the Derbyshire Miners' Welfare Holiday Centre near Skegness. Originally opened at Winthorpe in 1939, it was used as an army camp during the war and reopened in 1947. It was run by Derbyshire Miners' Association with the co-operation of the national Coal Board, the only one of its kind in the country, to give miners and their families an affordable seaside holiday.

In 1949 the seven-acre site was being developed to include a concert hall and bar. 100 staff were employed at the site. "Uncle Frank" was described as a "real live wire" who arranged all the

amusements including Donkey Derbies, talent competitions, variety shows, baby shows and holiday girl contests. He also took physical training classes on the beach in the mornings, and arranged boxing tournaments and dances.

By March 1950 Frank and Mary had returned to live in Nottingham.

William and Martha Wright

Mary's father William worked at Clifton Colliery for 37 years, where he became a deputy. He left the pit during the depression of 1937 and moved his family to Mablethorpe. William and Martha ran a boarding house and lived in Alexandra Park. He worked on the development of the resort until he retired. When their daughter and son-in-law took over at the Prussian Queen, they moved into the pub as well, where they lived for 5 years. In 1950 when the Yexleys left Saltfleetby, William and Martha moved to Theddlethorpe, living at 2 Station Villas. They celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary in 1960.

They were married at Wilford Parish Church Nottingham on 4th August 1900.

Martha died in February 1961 aged 79 at Springfield Hospital, Scartho, Grimsby. William died in December 1964 aged 83.

Their two sons and four daughters lived in Nottingham, and they had eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.



William Wright

Photos from Ancestry.com



**Mrs Martha Wright (nee Pitt) in
about 1929**

Nottingham's Famous Boxing MC



Back in Nottingham, Frank continued to be a regular official at boxing matches at different venues throughout the Midlands. Recognisable in his immaculate dinner jacket, known for his humour and showmanship, he worked with promoters such as Reg King, and introduced many famous competitors like Henry Cooper, Tommy Farr and Randolph Turpin. He frequently stepped in to keep order and deal with unruly behaviour.

Many matches were broadcast on television when he became a well-known local celebrity, "The Voice of Boxing", commencing proceedings by distinctively booming into the microphone "My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen".

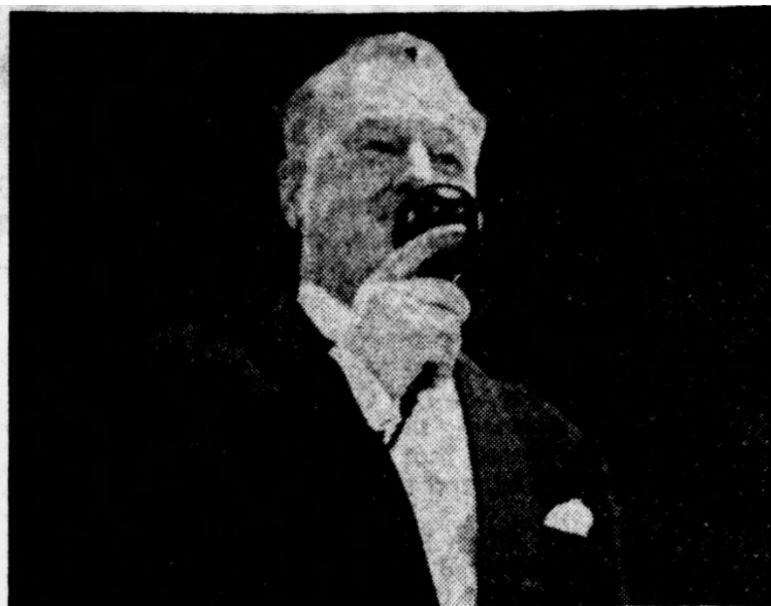
He promoted international free-style wrestling at Skegness Festival Centre every Monday from July to September 1958, though it didn't always draw in big crowds, and he said it lost him money overall.

He also had a number of jobs including a steward at the miner's welfare institute at Newstead Colliery, and a stallholder at Bulwell Market. He was manager of the New Boulevard Supermarket on Radford Road in Hyson Green, which went bankrupt in 1961 after just 12 months. He then worked as a sales rep.

He remained active in charity fund-raising, and local politics. As organiser of the Trentside Action Committee he campaigned for the repair of potholes near Beeston Marina.

In 1968 Frank joined the pools office staff at Notts County FC. In 1970 he took over organising their fund-raising activities including regular lottery, pools and bingo games. He also became the public relations officer of the Supporters Association. At their gala day on 1st May 1971, he conducted community singing with the Commodore Show Band.

He relinquished his British Board of Control licence because of ill health, making his farewell appearance as MC for the Great International Sporting Club at the Albany Hotel on 7th June 1971.



FRANK YEXLEY as the public see him announcing the contestants for a fight at one of the many tournaments at which he has been Master of Ceremonies in the Midlands.

Nottingham Evening Post 19th May 1971

Compilation of Frank as MC: <https://youtu.be/FRWY266HoXU>

Football Fraud and Swindles Exposed

In November 1971 *The People* newspaper investigated allegations that the pools and other games at Notts County were rigged. Notts County themselves had known that it was true for a few weeks and



Toys and children. Stallholder Frank Yexley interests five-year-old Vincent Walton in a cuddly French poodle.

Nottingham Evening News 9th October 1957: Frank working at Bulwell Market

In interviews for Nottingham newspapers Frank said that he rated Cassius Clay (later known as Muhammed Ali) as the finest boxer the world has ever produced, saying *"I introduced him to the Nottingham public at the Ice Stadium when he first came to England to fight Henry Cooper"*.

He recalled officiating at shows in Nottingham during the war raising money for the Notts Comforts Fund, where he shared the stage with celebrities such as George Formby, Tommy Trinder and Dan Maskell.

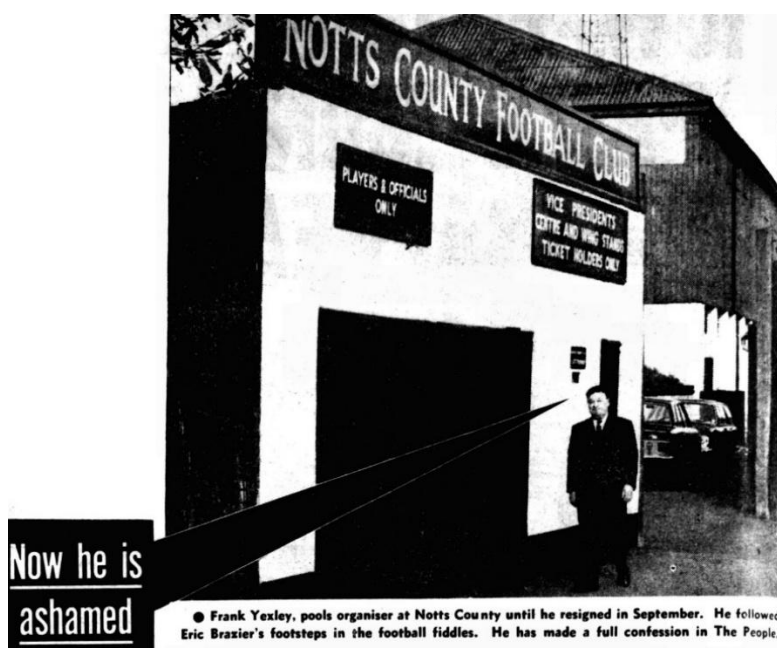
The said the finest boxing contest that he had seen was when Frenchman Ray Famechon fought a world featherweight eliminator against Ray Ankarah at Notts County football ground in front of a crowd of 30,000 in 1952.

the fraud was being investigated by the police. Frank tendered his resignation immediately when it came to light.

His predecessor in the job, Eric Brazier had masterminded the crooked competition and instructed Frank in how to run the fraudulent games. Frank would have to memorise the “winning ticket numbers” before going to public prize draws in local clubs and pubs. There, irrespective of the number drawn, he would call out the numbers memorised – the tickets for which were in his pocket. Nobody else at those draws ever saw the actual numbers. Supporters then bought sealed tickets for 1s, hoping they contained the pre-drawn winning numbers entitling them to prizes worth up to £100. Fictitious winners would be made-up for the big prizes, while the actual tickets, that Frank hid in his pocket, were destroyed or given to friends of Mr Brazier. Bingo and other games were rigged in similar ways, numbers removed so no one could get a full house. When taking over as the main fund-raising organiser from Brazier, Frank at first continued rigging the games in the same way. Unlike Brazier though, he put all funds back into the club and kept none for himself.



The People 14th November 1971



The People 14th November 1971

Frank made a full confession to the newspapers and said he was ashamed of his part in it. Though the swindle had been going on for 10 years, Frank was the only person to appear in court for it in April 1973. Brazier had died a few months before the trial. Frank pleaded guilty to conspiring to cheat and defraud, falsifying a ledger and six other charges. The prosecuting council said “There is no suggestion that he feathered his own nest. The money went into the club funds”. He was given a 12-month conditional discharge.

Frank continued to live with Mary at Trentside, Beeston Rylands. He died suddenly on 24th September 1974, aged 63. His funeral took place at Wilford Hill Crematorium, Nottingham. Mary died in Nottingham in 1995, aged 91.

FRANK AND VERA SEARBY

Frank Searby was born in Grimsby on 10th July 1904. The second youngest of 6 children of William (1872-1914) and Hannah Searby (nee Brogden, 1876-1953). The family lived at 96 Hamilton Street, where his father worked as a dock labourer and fish curer. He was christened at St Andrew's Church, Grimsby on 20th July 1904. He attended St John's School that used to be on the corner of Cleethorpes Road and Rutland Street. After his father died in 1914, his mother married fisherman, Percy Leggett and the family went to live at 43 Montague Street, Cleethorpes. Frank worked as a tram driver for the Grimsby Corporation Tramways.

Vera Daniels was born in Sheffield on 11th June 1905, the second daughter of Lawrence (1878-1961) a clerk, and Elizabeth Ann (nee Carrick, 1880-1938). She was christened at Sheffield St Michael and All Angels, Neepsend on 5th July 1905. As a young child she moved to Cleethorpes with her parents and older sister Dorothy, where the family lived at 15, then 27 Douglas Road. Here her father worked as a railway shunter and then a railway traffic inspector. In 1921 16-year-old Vera was working as an apprentice tailoress in Grimsby, her 17-year-old sister Dorothy was a milliner in Cleethorpes.

In April 1937 Frank and Vera got married in Grimsby. They lived at 73 Lestrangle Street, Cleethorpes. During the war Frank was in the ARP (Air Raid Precautions) as a part-time warden. He later worked as a groundsman at a bowling green in Cleethorpes, before the couple moved to Alford where they had a grocery shop.

When Frank suggested to Vera that they take over the Prussian Queen, she was wary, it was not in a very good state structurally or financially, she'd never even been in a pub before! Up until then a pub had been taboo, she said *"mother was dead against anything like that and I had never been in a pub before, but I told Frank I would go if I could do some catering, and not serve in the bar"*. She recalled that she was amazed at what they did there, just the two of them, whilst still having to cope with rationing. Vera said that she spent most of her time in the kitchen.

In March 1950 Frank Searby's application for a protection order for the Prussian Queen was granted by the County Sessions magistrates. The pub licence was transferred to Frank in June 1950, at this time the pub was owned by Hewitt Brothers Brewery of Grimsby.

Famous Sunday Breakfasts

From about Easter to October Vera's Sunday breakfasts at the Prussian Queen were famed far and wide, with regular bookings. The biggest number one Sunday was 100, in two sittings. The menu consisted of half a slice of gammon, two eggs, sausage and fried bread, followed by hot scones and butter.

The Searbys invited visitors to sign a guest book, which contained pages of autographs, many from air force personal who came from around the world. Many customers came from the nearby RAF stations at Manby and Binbrook. Signatures were added to the book from practically every state of the USA, plus the European, African and Asian continents. The pub soon became popular for its hospitality and superb catering, Mrs Searby's freshly home-cooked meals were in demand.

Harvest Festival Suppers

Frank had an interest in history, and had the idea of reviving an old English custom that used to be held in large barns and old alehouses. The first of their Harvest Suppers was held on Tuesday 19th October 1950. The room and bar were decorated with sheaves of corn, bowls of fruit, baskets of vegetables of every conceivable size and type, giving a warm and festive appearance to what many

considered to be the event of the year. 62 villagers sat down at trestle-tables filled with harvest produce and other foods. Among the guests were the rector of St Clements, Rev Robert G. C. Carr-Gregg, and the local policeman Pc Roy Norman. Following the supper entertainment was provided by Joe Crook, Edna Keys, Ron Appleby and Peter Tasker. The next day all the produce that had formed the decorations were taken to the Louth County Infirmary.



Photo of the first Harvest Supper at the Prussian Queen on 17th October 1950. Frank and Vera Searby are behind the bar with some of the 62 guests at trestle-tables in front. Appeared in The Louth Standard on 21st October 1950

The Harvest Suppers became an annual event. In 1951, ninety people attended the knife and fork meal, which included ham and tongue, salad, trifles and cakes. Vera Searby did all the catering, a few voluntary helpers assisted with serving. Rev Carr-Gregg said grace, Archie Ingamells was toast master for the evening. After the tables had been cleared community singing began, followed by a concert with Mr Ron Appleby accompanying. Frank called it *a little family gathering* and joked that if the numbers kept increasing as they had, they would soon need the Town Hall at Louth! The next day a van load of produce was sent to the Lindsey Blind Home at Louth.



Seated at well-laden tables are Saltfleetby residents who helped to continue the revival of the traditional harvest supper at the "Prussian Queen," on Friday evening.

Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser, 3rd November 1951

On 24th October 1952, 110 people were present. Among the esteemed guests in 1952, Rev Carr-Gregg was joined by the new Vicar of Saltfleetby All Saints, Rev Francis Kenyon; Deputy Chief Constable of Grimsby, Supt G.L. Smith and Mrs Smith; Inspector H. Thom of Grimsby; Pc and Mrs Victor Marshall; and Pc and Mrs Norman. Archie Ingamells acted as master of ceremonies. The loyal toast (to the new Queen) was proposed by Mrs S. Richardson. Major Jim Odlin proposed a toast to the host and hostess, and Mr Searby replied. Entertainment was provided by the *Co-optimists Concert Party* of Grimsby. Guests gave gifts of chickens, rabbits, eggs, fruit and flowers, which were again collected together with the harvest decorations and donated to Louth and District Hospital the following day. In 1953 eighty people attended the meal, with donations given to the Lindsey Home for the Blind.

SALTFLEETBY HARVEST SUPPER



Photograph by] [Geoffrey
This took place on Friday evening and in the photograph, behind the bar, are Mr. and Mrs. F. Searby, the landlord and landlady of the "Prussian Queen."

Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser 1st November 1952

In 1955 a hundred people attended, Rev Carr-Gregg said grace. The loyal toast was proposed by Jim Odlin; the toast to the host and hostess was proposed by Police Sgt K. Ganderton; and the toast to the artistes by Walter Johnson of Saltfleetby. The artistes who provided entertainment after the meal were Sgt Cook of RAF Manby, Mr George Turner and Miss Edna Keyes and partner of Grimsby. Gifts of garden produce were later sent to the Sycamores Blind Home in Louth.

In 1957 the event was attended by a reporter from the Louth Standard, who wrote: *The entrance to the Prussian Queen at Saltfleetby on Wednesday night looked like the foyer of a church. There were sacks of potatoes, huge cabbages and other harvest produce. Stepping into the main bar, the usual tables and chairs were gone and in their place were gleaming white tablecloths and immaculately laid tables, decorated with immense vases of flowers. The bar itself was adorned with bread, eggs, fruit, vegetables and all the good things from the land. Mr Frank Searby the genial host welcomed his guest to the seventh harvest supper. Soon the room was filled with the 100 guests from Mablethorpe, Theddlethorpe, Louth and Grimsby. The Vicar said grace and the jolly party sat down to an excellent meal. Afterwards the piano was played and the party sang and had a really good time. REAL FRIENDS: One guest from away told me: "There are no greater friends to have than country folk. This couldn't happen in a town. Here the people are friends, real friends – and it's good*

to be here". All the produce brought by the guests is to be taken to the Society for the Blind at Louth. On Sunday they will have their party with all those good things, chickens, hares and everything. Thus out of good comes more good. It was a night to remember. There were no politics. Atom bombs were never mentioned. And so home and to bed, pleasantly and comfortably full of good food and drink, and at peace with the world. It should ever be thus.

100 attend harvest supper at Saltfleetby



Louth Standard 18th October 1957

Despite heavy fog keeping some guests away, 80 people attended the 11th Harvest Supper on Friday 10th November 1961. Among the attendees were Saltfleetby clergymen Reverends Jones and Carr-Gregg, and police chief Superintendent J.G. Thomas from Louth. Gifts were sent to Lindsey Blind Home, *The Sycamores* at Louth. Mrs J Vickers ran a competition that raised £5 for Lindsey Blind Society.

Louth Darby and Joan Club Visit Saltfleetby

Darby and Joan Clubs were established after the war, with the help of the Women's Voluntary Service, to support the elderly and provide them with social activities. On Tuesday 10th July 1951 the elderly members of the Louth club attended a service at St Clement's Church led by Rev Carr-Gregg, after which they adjourned to the Prussian Queen. The Searbys provided an excellent supper for 132 people. The bad weather prevented the group from a planned visit to the seashore, instead they took a short tour and organisers had them all back home in Louth by 9.30pm.

On Monday 30th June 1952, three buses and several private cars conveyed the elderly people for another evening's outing to Saltfleetby. That year it was a beautiful warm evening for their visit. They were first welcomed to the village with the ringing of bells in St Clement's. Rev Carr-Gregg had arranged special seating in the church for the large congregation. He gave out special souvenir programmes and led the service and hymn singing, with pauses so they could listen to the accompanying pealing of bells. Following the service they visited the Prussian Queen for supper, provided by the Searbys for 130 people. They were delighted that the nice weather allowed them to dine *al fresco* in the late evening sunshine. A vote of thanks was made for all who worked hard to make it such an enjoyable and memorable evening. They all arrived home by 10pm.

The Night a Bomb Dropped on the Prussian Queen

On Wednesday 20th August 1952 one of RAF Binbrook's first jet-powered bomber planes left the air base, about 16 miles away from Saltfleetby. Number 9 Squadron had only been flying the new Canberra B2 since May. A crew of three flew through the night sky at 15,000 feet in a circuit pattern as they carried out bombing on the range at Donna Nook. The pilot, Flight Lieutenant Ted Flavell sat on his own in the cockpit, the navigators Sergeants Wilf Crank and Morris Rhodes were behind him side by side. For bombing one navigator had to crawl forward, past the pilot into the nose of the aircraft and lie prone looking out through the perspex nose-cone to take aim and release the bomb.



English Electric Canberra B Mk.2 WD932, the plane that dropped a bomb on the Prussian Queen in 1952

The weather for night flying was good with visibility of about 20 miles, a small amount of cloud 10,000 ft below the aircraft had thinned, the wind was just a light breeze.

Wilf Crank was in the nose-cone for the first half of the sortie dropping a single bomb on each attack run. The night targets on the coast were made up of a circle of lights for visual bombing. They dropped 25lb practice bombs that contained a small explosive charge that went off with a flash and a puff of smoke to aid ground staff on the range in their job of plotting the position of the bomb impact.

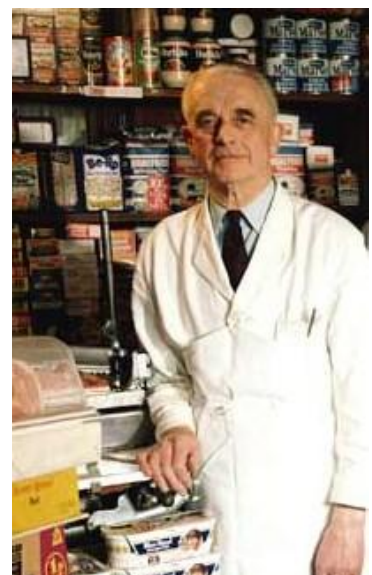
Just before 11pm Wilf climbed back into his seat behind the pilot, and Morris Rhodes went forward for his turn as bomber. They could see the countryside below them, the lights of houses and farms like small pinpricks of light in the inky blackness. The aircraft ran in towards the target and the circle of lights came into the bomb sight. Sergeant Rhodes pressed the bomb release button.....

Meanwhile the Prussian Queen had been full that evening with a mixture of local regulars, holiday makers and airmen from nearby RAF Theddlethorpe. Frank had called "time" nearly half an hour earlier. The customers had left except for a couple of friends who had stayed chatting over the bar. Vera and two helpers were clearing up empty glasses in the bar room.

Frank stood just inside the entrance to the pub. Shopkeeper Bill Platt, who ran *Platts Grocery Store* at 35 Eastgate in Louth (the one with the upside-down sign, now *The Foot Doctor*) walked round the corner to say "goodnight", then left from the back door to fetch his car from the car park. He remarked "I've been watching the airplane". Then there was a sudden loud explosion on the spot that he had just passed.

Frank later described "We heard the bomber going over then there was a terrific flash and clouds of smoke".

When the glare went from their eyes, they saw that the ladies' toilet three feet away from them, had been severely damaged. They rushed out to find it in a state of ruin, with a hole where the window had been, the cistern and lavatory pan a pile of rubble on the floor. Bill Platt stood a few yards away, shaken but unhurt.



Bill Platt in his Louth grocery shop in 1982 (photo from *The Guardian*)

The 25lb flash bomb had gone through the window, smashing glass, blowing out brickwork and twisting the metal window. No one was injured.

Frank told reporters "It was just lucky that Bill walked by that split second earlier. It was like a small gun going off. I did not think it was as near as that. It happened so quickly. I thought maybe it had dropped in a field". "If the bomb had dropped a yard to one side it would have come through the door and then some of us might have been badly hurt". Mr Platt said "it was a narrow escape; I had been watching the very plane that dropped the bomb".

An emergency call was made to the RAF authorities at the bombing range, and a bomb disposal squad turned out to recover the bomb. Frank commented to the Grimsby Evening Telegraph the following day "It was a narrow squeak, but it was business as usual again today. Only the toilet was damaged"

It seems that by a chance in a million, the lights in the pub car park were arranged in a circle, and were mistaken for the target on the range, just a short distance on to the east and the practice bomb had scored a direct hit right in the middle!

Villagers had been awakened by the explosion. Mr Geoffrey Cabot, who lived nearby, commented to the Standard: "There are lights on the bombing range and I wondered if they bombed the Prussian Queen by mistake. If so, it was good aiming". RAF officers and representatives of the brewery (Hewitt's of Grimsby) came out to examine the damage.

The following evening the crew of the Canberra bomber and some of their colleagues from RAF Binbrook visited the Prussian Queen to apologise for the damage caused. Navigator Wilf Crank later recalled: "when we realised there were no injuries, we did see the funny side of it". The RAF held a court of inquiry and the captain was reprimanded.



Canberra B2 WD932

The squadron's poet composed a ditty commemorating the incident:

Oh dear, what can the matter be?

Three old ladies locked in the lavatory,

Hiding from bombs from Monday to Saturday,

9 Squadron knew they were there.

The first one's name was Elizabeth Bonner,

She moved away for safety from Donna,

But the bombs that were dropped still fell upon her,

For 9 Squadron knew she was there.

The second one's name was Mary Lou Giles,

She thought she was safe by four or five miles,

Till down came the bomb which banished her smiles,

For 9 Squadron knew she was there.

Our third victim's name was Mrs O'Conner,

The other two ladies, they blamed it upon her,

But Flavell knew better upstairs in his bomber,

For he knew the ladies were there.



*Our story's nearly over and I'm sorry to say,
The 9 Squadron's aircraft are bombing today,
So the ladies of Saltfleetby are moving away,
For the Prussian Queen bog is their target today.*



**Grimsby Daily Telegraph 21st
August 1952**

The accident was mentioned in Parliament when the issue of dangerous stray RAF bombs on the Lincolnshire coast was debated in the House of Commons on 19th November 1953. Louth's Conservative MP, Cyril Osborne, had received a lot of complaints from his constituents concerned about the increase in near-miss practice bombs falling close to farms and houses.



**Sir Cyril Osborne in 1962
(National Portrait Gallery)**

Regarding the Prussian Queen Bomb he said in his speech:

"Just after last August Bank Holiday a rather heavy smoke bomb was dropped on a public house called the "Prussian Queen." It went through the window of a lavatory. Had it dropped half an hour earlier someone would have been knocked out, or killed. Complaints have been made of a series of bombs which were dropped miles from the target. I think my Honourable Friend will agree that more than a dozen have dropped wide of the target".

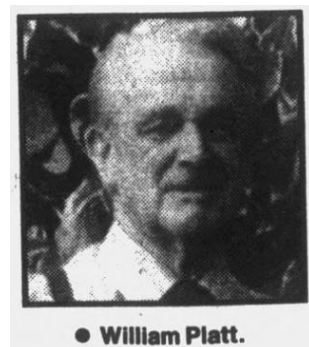
On 1st December 1953 the Air Ministry announced that it would suspend the use of the bombing range near Saltfleet.

When asked his opinion by the newspapers, Frank Searby said "Will it be permanent? I understand it would cost a lot of money to move the ranges. Look at the lads who go in the air. They are risking their lives for us every minute. Ours is just a flash in the pan. They cannot practice with pop guns".

What happened to everyone involved?

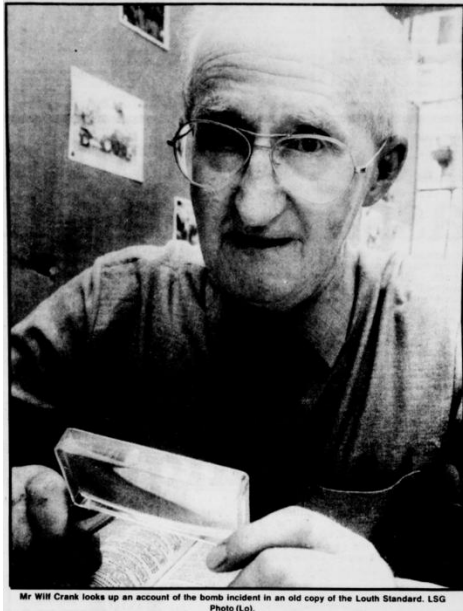
Shopkeeper Bill Platt took over his family's grocery shop in 1913 when he was just 16. He served in the second world war in the Royal Army Medical Corps. In 1954 he won £12,000 in the football pools, when his customers asked him what he was going to do with the money, he answered by smiling and carrying on working. In 1986 he retired from the old family grocery store after 73 years and went to live in Billingham.

He died in 1996 aged 87.



**● William Platt.
Lincolnshire Echo 28th
June 1996**

Flight Sergeant Morris Allen Rhodes was from Kirk Hammerton in North Yorkshire. He married Lilian Mary Calvert in June 1956, they lived in Nun Monkton, Yorkshire. On 19th October 1956, he departed with 9 Squadron from Binbook, to Nicosia in Cyprus as part of the Suez operation. On 6th November he was one of three crew members onboard a Canberra B6, when a fire developed. The pilot shut down the starboard engine, the controls were lost and the aircraft crashed just short of the runway. All three crewmen were killed. Morris was 32, the other crew members were 24 and 25 years old.



Mr Wilf Crank looks up an account of the bomb incident in an old copy of the Louth Standard. LSG Photo (L&P)

Louth Standard 21st August 1987

Pilot Edwin James George “Ted” Flavell, the son of Brigadier Edwin Flavell, was born in Battersea, London. He was promoted to Squadron Leader in January 1956. Assigned to 49 Squadron, he was one of the first pilots to fly the new Vickers Valiant B1 aircraft. He proceeded to South Australia to take part in the British nuclear tests, “*Operation Buffalo*”.

He made history on 11th October 1956, flying a Valiant bomber 30,000 feet over the Maralinga Desert, he became the first British pilot to drop a live nuclear bomb from an aircraft. Britain’s first operational nuclear weapon, the “*Blue Danube*”, equivalent to 10,000 tons of TNT, exploded at 1000ft above the ground. 200 miles away children in a school near Adelaide felt their building shake with the explosion.

In 1957 Flavell and his navigator were awarded the Air Force Cross for their part in the operation.

He retired from the RAF in 1968 after over thirty years of service, and lived with his wife Sheila and their children in Shipton Gorge, Dorset. He died in 2014 aged 91.

The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II

Many celebration events were held in our area to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in June 1953. On Monday afternoon, 1st June (the day before) Frank Searby organised a *Challenge Coronation Tug-of-War* at Saltfleet between teams from the Prussian Queen and the New Inn. He offered the prize of a barrel of beer to the winners. The Prussian Queen team was made up of Messrs P. Stubbs, W. Appleby, B. Odlin, F. Willey, W. Appleby and J. Appleby. A large crowd gathered to watch the match, which was won by the New Inn by two pulls to one. A second pull was held at Saltfleetby in the evening, with the same teams, except with the exchange of Mr B. Richardson for J. Appleby. This time the Saltfleet team won by two pulls to none.

Cold, cloudy, and wet weather curtailed some of the outdoor events planned for Coronation Day itself. Saltfleet and Skidbrooke’s fancy dress parade was moved indoors.

A large crowd of locals of all ages gathered in the Prussian Queen to enjoy the historic event.

Wilf Crank from Farnworth near Bolton, reached the rank of Master Navigator, spending the last few years of his service as an air traffic controller at Strubby. He retired to live in Fotherby with his wife Enid, then lived at Friskney near Boston, Lincolnshire.

Wilf died in 2015 aged 94.



Squadron Leader Ted Favell leaving the Valiant after dropping the atomic bomb in 1956, 4 years after he dropped a bomb on the Prussian Queen.



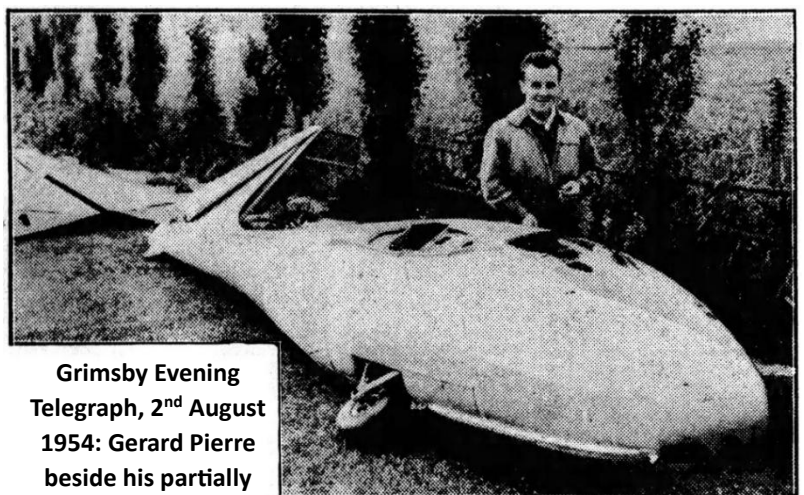
Inside the Prussian Queen for The Coronation, 2nd June 1953 (photo from Saltfleetby Millenium book)

A Glider Champion Drops in for Tea

On Saturday 31st July 1954 Saltfleetby villagers were surprised and thrilled when a glider landed in a field near the Prussian Queen. The pilot was 26-year-old French gliding champion Gerard Pierre, who was competing in the world glider championship at Great Hucklow, Derbyshire. He had flown 80 miles from Great Hucklow, where he was in the lead in the contest. Mr Jack Teanby who lived opposite the pub watched the glider circle and land, "it was a perfect landing" he said. There were a number of cattle in the field, but Pierre skilfully managed to touch down without hitting any of them and without damage to his glider.

Many of the villagers saw the glider land. First on the spot was Frank Searby, who arrived just as the glider touched down, having been called out of the inn to see what was happening. He said: "The glider landed within fifty yards of the hotel, Mr Teanby and I immediately went in the field to see what it was all about, and the pilot stepped out of the glider and tried to explain to us. He could speak very little English and we had great difficulty in understanding him, but fortunately he carried a paper printed in French and English, which explained what it was". Frank and Jack helped Monsieur Pierre to take the wings off the glider, and wheeled the fuselage into the grounds of the pub to prevent them from being damaged by the cattle. "It caused quite a bit of excitement in the village and practically every resident turned out to see it" Frank commented. Frank phoned the pilot's team in Derbyshire while M. Pierre had his tea in the pub. After tea he was soon surrounded by autograph hunters, and took everything, as Frank said: "in good part and with a smile", "he was a very nice boy".

Later other members of his team arrived with a car and trailer. They packed up the glider and all left for Derbyshire. Three days later M. Pierre was declared the new world champion. A native of Paris, where his father owned a chain of fruit and vegetable shops, he had been gliding for about 9 years. When not helping with the family business, he said he "simply lives for gliding", and held several French records for the sport.



Grimsby Evening
Telegraph, 2nd August
1954: Gerard Pierre
beside his partially
dismantled glider

Pierre stands smilingly beside his glider.

Celebration Dinners and Social Gatherings

The Prussian Queen hosted a variety of gatherings and meals, bringing together people from all over the region to celebrate events, enjoying Mrs Searby's famous catering and the pub's hospitality.

The combined Saltfleetby Church of England parishes of St Peter's and All Saints welcomed a **new rector, Reverend Francis Kenyon** in April 1952. The institution service was followed by a reception at the Prussian Queen organised by the churchwardens, where Rev Kenyon received a hearty welcome from his new parishioners.

An annual **Christmas and New Year party** was held at the Prussian Queen for children from the village. The darts team were hosts to 120 children at the 1953 event, organised by Frank Searby, T. Jacques, P. Marriott and W. Riggall. Each child received a present from the heavily laden Christmas Tree. Entertainment was provided by Mr A. T. Spencer of Grimsby who did magic tricks and performed a Punch and Judy show.

Manby Women's Social Club held their Christmas dinner party at the Prussian Queen in December 1953. The meal was followed by singing.

A **Home-Guard supper** was held at the Prussian Queen in May 1955.



Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser 7th May 1955

Louth and District Farmers had been meeting at the Prussian Queen for their annual dinners for years. They tended to meet socially without their wives, so in 1956 the wives decided they would hold a similar function, an all-female **wives dinner**. However, according to Mr Searby when he applied for an extension for the wives' dinner in 1959, they decided it was a bit flat without men, so in the following years they also invited their husbands to come along as well.

In January 1958 the annual dinner and social evening of the Louth office of the **Yorkshire Electricity Board** was held at the Prussian Queen. After dinner the 42 strong party had games for which there were prizes, and each lady received a present.

A reunion of thirteen **RAF drivers** who were based in North Cotes during the second world war took place in November 1958. It was the first time they had been together after 14 years. It was organised by Harry Sutcliffe, a garage proprietor of Saltfleetby, who as a corporal led the 18-man section. They regularly had to drive hundreds of miles a night, delivering official RAF mail to stations throughout the county. The men travelled to the Prussian Queen from as far away as Lanarkshire in Scotland and from Kent. The only other Lincolnshire man in the group was Mr P. Bullock of Mablethorpe. They recalled the nerve-wracking journeys through the blacked-out twisting Lincolnshire lanes in their 14hp vans. Two drivers to a van, they would set off at 4pm and arrive back at camp after a 600-mile round trip at 10am the following day. On many occasions they carried top secret bombing orders. The section, a branch of the *Dispatch Rider Letter Service* was together for nearly four years. They were surprised during the evening celebration by a visit from Harry Drown of Tetney who often awakened the postmen for another run with a cup of tea.



A toast to absent comrades given by Mr. H. Sutcliffe (right) to former despatch riders stationed at R.A.F. North Cotes during the war, at the re-union at the Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby. Left to right: Messrs. J. Chapman, G. Wallace, J. Murdoch, A. Singfield, R. Harris, P. Bullock, R. O'Flaherty, R. W. Page, and H. Sutcliffe.

Grimsby Daily Telegraph 3rd November 1958

Lindsey Blind Society had annual outings to the coast, in which they enjoyed a stop at the Prussian Queen for tea. A party of blind people from Louth and the surrounding district visited Sutton on Sea and Mablethorpe in July 1954. It was a bright sunny day for the trip, their afternoon by the sea ended with tea at the Prussian Queen.

In September 1957 residents of the Sycamores Blind Home, Louth, and other blind people from the area were taken to Skegness. They enjoyed an afternoon concert at the Embassy followed by an eight-mile trip on the Beach Ferry to Gibraltar Point.

In September 1958 the party with helpers numbered 54. After lunch they were entertained in the Embassy ballroom by a concert party, then toured the resort in open landau carriages. When they called in at the Prussian Queen on the way home, they all received a stick of rock.



Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser 14th September 1957

On Wednesday 4th January 1961 more than **50 churchwardens** from 15 churches in the **Louthesk East Deanery** sat down to dinner together for the first time. It became an annual event. In January 1962 they were welcomed by the Rural Dean, the Rev J W Hanson. The leather-bound visitors' book which parishes of the deanery are presenting to Diocesan House was on view.

Churchwardens' dinner at Saltfleetby



Churchwardens of the Louthesk East Deanery and their wives met socially on Tuesday when a company of nearly 50 dined at the Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby. They were welcomed by the Rural Dean, the Rev. J. W. Hanson, of Manby.

Churchwardens dine at Saltfleetby



Churchwardens of Louth Esk east deanery dined recently at the Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby. Further pictures appear on page nine.

Louth Standard 6th January 1961: The First Annual Church Wardens Dinner at the Prussian Queen

On 24th January 1961 **Alvingham Mother's Union**, parish dinner and social evening took place at the Prussian Queen, with forty people attending. Forty-four people attended their dinner at the Prussian Queen in January 1963.

Entertained at Lakeside Lido dinner



Officials of the Lakeside Lido clubs and other guests at the Lido dinner. Seated are (left to right): Mr. C. Cummings, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Special Constable Mr. J. C. Janney, Mr. A. Disney, chief starter for the Motor-Boat Racing Club, and Miss J. Neilson, secretary of the Water-Ski Club. ("Standard" photo.)



Some of the 70 guests at the "Prussian Queen," Saltfleetby, for the North Somercotes Lakeside Lido annual dinner.

Seventy guests attended a dinner for **North Somercotes Lido** in February 1961. It was partially held as a *thank you* to the police, St John's Ambulance and members of other organisations who helped at the lido the previous Easter (when a holiday boat racing event took place).

The event was also a reunion for competitors and officials of the *East Coast Motor Boat Racing Club*, the *East Coast Water-Ski Club* and the caravan owners on the Lakeside site.

Club members from Nottingham and Sheffield were welcomed. A film show of water-skiing and motor boat racing was shown.

Louth Standard 24th February 1961

An unusual bet was made at the annual farmers dinner in November 1960. Stan Robinson, licensee of the White Horse in Louth, over a drink at the bar jokingly said he could grow a better beard within six months than Charles Robinson of Legbourne Road. They started on 1st January. By the end of June victory was conceded to Stan, who said "I think I shall keep it. It's surprising the amount of interest it has created".

During the first annual dinner of the Louth branch of the **Royal Lincolnshire Regimental Old Comrades Association** at the Prussian Queen in March 1961, Brigadier General R.L. Oulton replying to the toast "The Regiment" told members and guests that the regiment would shortly be leaving for service in Germany. He was replying to the toast proposed by the branch secretary Mr F Stainton. The health of the visitors was proposed by the branch chairman Major J.E. Odlin of Saltfleetby, the response being by Major P.H. Segon. Among the guests were Supt. And Mrs J.G. Thomas and Mr and Mrs HW Bale, both from Louth.

Louth Old Comrades dine



Louth Standard 3rd March 1961: Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Old Comrades Association

Bishop of Lincoln, Rt. Rev Kenneth Riches toured the Deanery of Louthesk East in March 1961. Rural Dean Rev Hanson accompanied him to visit Mablethorpe and take a walk along the seashore at Theddlethorpe. The following day he visited Grimoldby and Saltfleetby's St Peter's and All Saints Churches, where they had a picnic lunch before going on via Saltfleet, North and South Somercotes and South Cockerington. He commented that "there are a lot of good things happening in this Marshland district. It is so gratifying to find so many churches being restored and in good order".

The day's schedule ended at the Prussian Queen, where a meal was held, attended by more than **60 clergy and church officials** from the surrounding parishes. The location for the meeting was chosen as it's the most central point in the deanery.

Leaning against the lounge bar in the crowded pub, the bishop said that many of the changes being made in the Church were necessary in order to make an archaic system suitable to present-day needs. Sitting around tables in the cosy lounge, Bishop Riches spoke about the problem of staffing and funding, believing that churches should receive government grants like those given to stately homes. After answering questions, the bishop chatted with villagers and joined them for sandwiches and coffee.



The Bishop of Lincoln speaking to clergy and officials from parishes in the Saltfleetby area at the Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby.



Mr. and Mrs. R. Wright, of North Cockerington.

Bishop meets helpers in local

Grimsby Daily Telegraph 30th March 1961



Sir Charles Bruce Locker Tennyson in 1947, National Portrait Gallery

In August 1961 members of **The Tennyson Society** met at Locksley Hall in North Somercotes, which inspired Alfred Tennyson's poem of that name. The group was led by the Society's secretary the Archdeacon of Lincoln, the Venerable A.C. Smith. The famous poet's grandson, **Sir Charles Tennyson** gave an address on the hall's lawn, when the society heard some completely new facts about the poet's life and work. A transcript of Sir Charles' talk was deposited in the Usher Art Gallery in Lincoln.

After being shown around Locksley Hall and its numerous art treasures by the owners Mr and Mrs H. Taylor, the group journeyed to the Prussian Queen for tea. Among the prestigious guests were the Sub Dean of Lincoln Cathedral, Canon A.M. Cook, and Mrs R. Tennyson d'Eyncourt. One guest, Mr Hunter, cycled from Newark to join the event.

In January 1962 North Somercotes **Women's Fellowship** and friends held their annual dinner at the Prussian Queen. The Vicar, Rev Woolf welcomed guests and thanked all who promoted the welfare of the church, followed by community singing led by Mrs Johnson at the piano.



Some of the guests at the North Somercotes Bowls Club dinner, in the Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby, on Friday night.

Louth Standard 2nd February 1962: members of North Somercotes Bowls Club in the Prussian Queen

North Somercotes Bowls Club held their first annual dinner at the Prussian Queen on Friday 24th November 1962. The club was opened by Mr K. Drinkall of Louth in July that year and had a membership of 28, 5 of whom were ladies. The chairman of the Playing Fields Association presided at the dinner and recalled that some years ago when plans for developing the playing fields were drawn up, a piece of ground was ear-marked for a bowling green. Thanks to the committee, this became a reality.

The dinner was followed by the presentation of the Jackson Cup, and piano music played by Mr A. Enderby. The club secretary ended by appealing for more women members.

Members of **Louth Boy Scouts' Association** held their dinner at the Prussian Queen in February 1962. The informal event was organised by Mr Eric Holmes, who thanks all for their attendance and looked forward to the continuation for the committee and scouting in general.

The work of the president of the **Louth Boy Scouts Association**, Mr D. Chittenden, who was retiring to live in Canterbury, was praised by the District Commissioner, Captain Hall, at the first dinner for Louth scouters at the Prussian Queen in December 1963.

'Get together' for Louth Scouts' parents



Members of Louth Scouts Parents Association pictured here at their dinner held at the Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby, last Thursday. Left to right: Top picture: Mr. E. Turton, Mr. K. Gibson, M. J. Wilson, Mr. K. Goy, Mr. J. Starnmore and Mr. F. Bailey. Bottom: Mrs. Davey, Mrs. E. Brown, Mrs. Goy, Mr. E. Holmes, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Turton and Mrs. Holmes. ("Standard" photos.)

Louth Standard 2nd February 1962

The president of the **Skegness Hoteliers' Association**, Mr Harry Tarnes made a speech at a dinner party organised by the **Mablethorpe Guest House Association** at the Prussian Queen in November 1963. He said: "You many be few in number but it's plain that you are members of a team which pulls together". His wife was presented with chocolates and a spray of white carnations, Mrs Tarnes was then asked to select the winners in a competition, the first prize being a 14-day free stay at the residence of any member of the association.



Guests who attended the Louthesk East clergy and church wardens' annual dinner, at the Prussian Queen Inn, Saltfleetby, last night.

Grimsby Daily Telegraph 3rd January 1964

The vicar of **Mablethorpe**, 55-year-old Rev Dewey was honoured at the 1964 annual **clergy and churchwarden's** dinner. He was due to leave for New Zealand at the end of January that year to assist the Archdeacon of Christchurch, where his son was already a teacher. The Rural Dean, Rev Hanson, presented him with a parting gift of a painting of the interior of Mablethorpe St Mary's Parish Church by Mr I. Pridgeon of Great Carlton.



Guests who attended the Louthesk East Deanery clergy and churchwardens' dinner. (Photo:)



The Rural Dean of Louthesk East, the Rev. J. W. Hanson (left) presented a painting of the interior of Mablethorpe Church to the Rev. and Mrs. W. R. Dewey, who leave for New Zealand at the end of the month. The gift, from the clergy and churchwardens of the deanery, was presented at a deanery dinner at the Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby, on Thursday.

Louth Standard 10th January 1964

About 20 special constables from the **North Somercotes Police** section said goodbye to village constable of 14 years, Pc Kenneth Cooke, at a **farewell dinner** at the Prussian Queen in May 1964. They thanked Pc Cooke, paying tribute to him for "fathering" them and being a very real friend as well as policeman. His wife was also honoured, saying that, like many other village constables' wives, she was the "policeman in his absence", answering the telephone and dealing with personal callers.

The Southwold Hunt

On 4th July 1956 about 50 people, on horseback and on foot, met at the Prussian Queen to take part in an evening foxhunt. The hounds found two foxes in the sandhills towards Theddlethorpe, one of whom was quickly killed. Another hunt started at the pub a week later, they proceeded in the sandhills towards Saltfleet, this time the hounds did not find a fox.

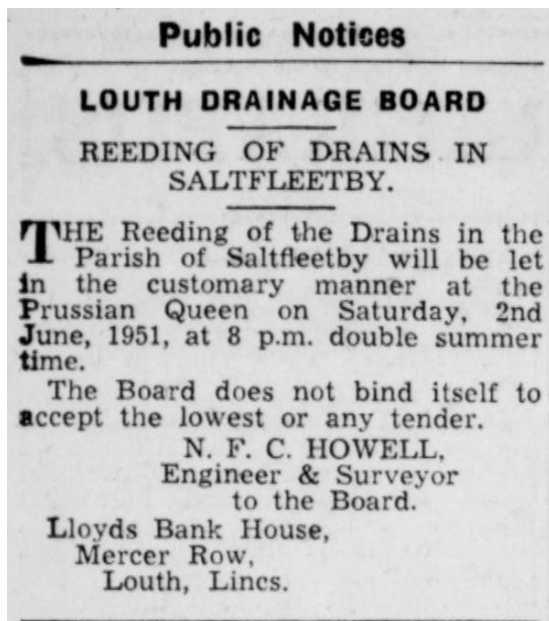
Drain Reeding Auction: The End of a Long Tradition

The low-lying marshland area has long been drained by a series of dykes that help to prevent flooding. The system of drains needs constant maintenance. Each year they had to be cleared of reeds, some needed reeding twice a year (in July and November) to allow fresh water to get into the dykes in summer and then allow a free outward flow in winter.

The reeding was done manually by local men. It was not an easy job, often entailing standing with one leg in the water and the other on the drain-side to scythe the reeds and other vegetation, to keep the waterway clear. Local farmers could earn a lot of extra money by taking on the task.



Mar Dyke at the Old Post Office, in approx. the 1950s



Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser, 26th
May 1951

Traditionally contracts for this work were allocated to men who came along to the local pub to bid for them at the annual "*Ridding of the Reeds*" auctions. These were held at the end of May or beginning of June, the bidding commenced at 8pm.

There used to be several such auctions in the area, the one in Saltfleetby was the last remaining, a unique tradition in our village. The old custom of dyke-letting had been conducted for perhaps 300 years or more, maybe even to the time of Henry VIII. It was believed to have been taking place at the Prussian Queen at least since the early 1800s.

Around 50 or 60 local men gathered in the lounge of the pub to take part in a rare example of a **Dutch auction**, where the **lowest bid** won the contract.

The auctions used to be conducted by the dyke-reeve, a local appointed in each village to oversee work on the dykes and levy a rate for their upkeep from the landowners. The Louth Drainage Board, formed in 1938, was then responsible for this work. Mr Fred Taylor of Thornton Farm, Saltfleetby was the last dyke-reeve for our village, who attended as an observer while the drainage board engineer conducted the auctions.

In 1952 engineer Mr N.C.F. Howell conducted the auction at the Prussian Queen, obtaining prices for cleaning the drains in the three Saltfleetby parishes, together with parts of the drains at Skidbrooke and Manby. The board's works foreman, Mr G. Murdy and members of the Reeding Sub-Committee oversaw the proceedings. The bidding was extremely keen at times, and prices which were accepted were slightly higher than those the previous year, varying from £3 10s to £80 10s. The contractors undertook to mow both banks, reed the bottom out and rake daily for a specified period.

The 23 dykes are known by their distinctive ancient names such as Rabbitmere, Outgang, Greyfleet, Long Croft, Lowlands, Backstreet, Fleet Drain, Fishmere, The Aples and Mardyke. Their lengths were measured in chains (one chain is about 20.1 metres). Lengths ranged from 200 yards to 3 miles. Those who wanted to do the work named the price, or "bid" for which they are prepared to clear a particular section of dyke, while the landlord, chalked up the bids on a large blackboard. Bids often started optimistically too high and were soon beaten by lower bids, bringing the price to be paid for the work down until a lower offer received the contract.



The Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser, 16th May 1953



An unusually optimistic bid brings a smile from "auctioneer" Mr. D. C. Morris, engineer to the Louth Drainage Board, and Mr. G. Murdy, the board's general foreman.

Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph 31st May 1956:
Engineer DC Morris and foreman G Murdy.

Among the 1956 bidders was 73-year-old Edward Dring, though stone deaf he followed the proceedings by lip reading a friend beside him. After securing a contract with a bid of £19 15s he masked his smile of triumph behind his pint pot.

65-year-old Ernest Clark, considered a veteran Wizard of the Scythe, triumphantly celebrated his winning bids. He told the newspaper reporter: *"You've got to know how to swing a scythe – aye, and how to sharpen one too. Otherwise you can go home"*.

He grinned as his next successful bid prompted a shout of: *"Are you saving to get wed?"*

At the 1956 auction engineer Mr D.C. Morris' voice rang out in the bar: *"What am I bid? Its only 106 chains and once ridding...Only two days hard work, or three if you take it steady"*. As the many dyke-reeves had done over the past centuries.

In the crowded pub fascinated bystanders watched as the proceedings were conducted with good humour. The local reeding veterans keenly competed to under-bid each other to earn money at the expense of the drainage board.

"What am I bid for Manby Middle Gate?" called Mr Morris. And in a reply to a comically high bid of £35, he replied *"We are letting, not selling you know!"*



A smile of triumph from a "wizard" of the scythe, 65-years-old Mr. Ernest Clarke. Among his successful bids was one for the Landlord's Dyke — and that includes free dinner and beer.

Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph 31st May 1956:
Ernest Clarke

SALTFLEETBY'S REED AUCTION IS UNIQUE



Members of the Louth Drainage Board at the sale. (Left to right, front row) : Messrs. J. W. Needham (vice-chairman), G. H. Pridgeon (chairman), G. Murdy (general foreman) and D. G. Morris (engineer). Back row: S. Spendlow, J. W. Nurrish, F. J. Taylor, J. R. Brooks and G. R. Jacklin.

Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph 31st May 1956: Louth Drainage Board

The 1957 auction took place on the 24th May when 50 farmers and farmworkers from the marshes again gathered in the Prussian Queen and began bidding at a fast and furious pace. As ever they were hoping to earn some extra money. It was reported that the BBC were interested in filming the sale for their programme *Country Magazine*. But the series had finished in April, too late for the May auction, so it was considered to hold it in April the following year so the BBC could attend then.

In 1958 the auction was held slightly earlier on 16th May. A **BBC radio recording unit** attended, to feature the auction in the programme *"Northern Affairs"*. Their presence heightened interest with many onlookers in the packed pub.

Frank thought that it may have ended up being the last due to the declining number of bidders coming forward to take part and the increasing mechanisation that was "gradually cutting out the need for the men".

Watching the auction as a spectator, 60-year-old dyke-reeve Fred Taylor, puffing his pipe commented *"What shall we do when these old ones are gone? For the young men are not coming forward"*.

Mr Morris said that the drainage board *"are only too keen for it to continue, for it provides employment and is an excellent way of getting the work done"*. At the end of the auction the total cost of clearing the dykes in the 7,500-acre area came to £475. So closed the ceremony and its host, Mr Searby, cleaned the blackboard for yet another year.



The landlord of the Prussian Queen, Mr. Frank Searby, chalks up the bids for one of the lots.

Grimsby Evening Telegraph 3rd June 1959



Grimsby Evening Telegraph 3rd June 1959: Farmworkers gather at the Prussian Queen

In 1958 the total of bids came to £450, about £10 more than the previous year. It was noted that "there are not many bidders these days and the final per chain depends on what the men think is fair remuneration for the work, and also on the opinion of the auctioneer Mr Morris".

The next auction took place on Friday 29th May 1959 when farmworkers met in the pub lounge to compete to earn money. Again, Frank marked up bids on a blackboard.

Farm men will visit pub.-
to earn money

A committee from the drainage board sat as "referees" when bids for a particular stretch of dyke are too high. They had to decide whether or not to hire the local labour, or if it would be cheaper to do the higher-priced dykes by machine.

Mr Morris commented to the Louth Standard that at the 1960 auction "there were more people sitting at the auctioneer's table than there were bidding". Because of lack of competition in bidding, Louth Drainage Board made the close-down decision to end this centuries old tradition in 1961.



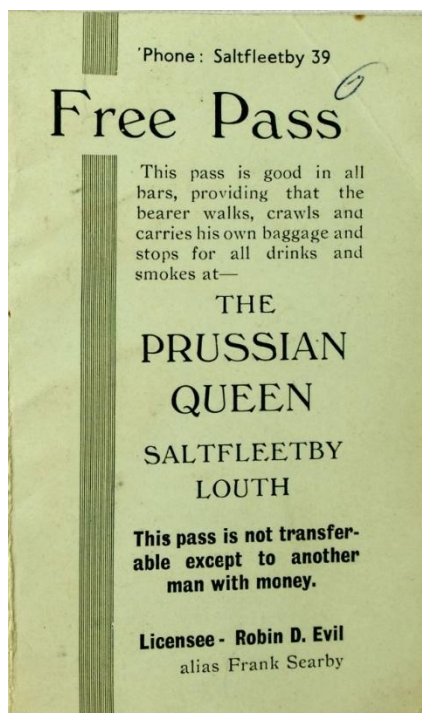
The engineer to the Louth Drainage Board, Mr. D. C. Morris (centre), conducts the auction assisted by (left) the chairman of the board, Mr. G. H. Pridgeon, and (right) Mr. G. Murdy, the general foreman.

Grimsby Evening
Telegraph 3rd June 1959

They thought that present day conditions had created other methods of making extra money and the bidders had mostly disappeared. Of the board's 16,000 chains of dykes, only a small percentage were up for auction in later years. The Drainage Board reluctantly declared that there would be no more Dutch auctions at the Prussian Queen. The 1960 auction turned out to be the last. *The Standard* commented that "No longer will the auctioneer call out those very odd dyke-names: "Little Mardyke, South Apple, Backstreet Sewer, Rabbitmere, Dogdyke, Outgang".

Frank Searby's "Free Pass" to the Pub Leaflet

Thanks to Louth Museum for sharing their copy of this humorous "Free Pass" that was printed in the 1950s as an imaginative way to promote the pub.



TEN COMMANDMENTS

I—When thirsty thou shalt come to my house and drink. Thou shalt honour me and my barman, so that thou may live long in the land and continue to drink at my house for ever.

II—Thou shalt not take anything from me unjustly, for I need all I have and as much more as I can get.

III—Thou shalt not expect glasses too full or glasses too large, for I must pay my rent.

IV—Thou shalt not sing or dance too long for it is wasted drinking time.

V—Thou shalt honour me and mine, that thou may'st live long and see me often.

VI—Thou shalt not break or destroy anything on the premises, else thou shalt pay for double the value. Thou shalt not dare to pay me in bad money, "crook cheques," "chalk," "slate" or foreign currency.

VII—Thou shalt call at my place hourly. If unable to come, I shall

consider it an insult unless thou sendest a substitute or an apology.

VIII—Thou shalt not offend thy fellow customers, nor cast base insinuations upon their characters by hinting that they cannot drink too much.

IX—Thou shalt not take the name of my goods in vain by calling my beer "slops" or with a glance at the sky remarking "it looks like rain again," for I always sell the best the market affords, and am always at home to my friends.

X—Thou shalt not forget thy most honourable position and high standing in the community as to ask the barman to "shout" but thou may'st "shout" for him (or me) often.

The Disasters that Happened to Three of my Customers

One said: "I'll pay Saturday night as sure as I live."—**He's dead.**

Another said: "I'll see you tomorrow."—**He's blind.**

The other said: "I will pay this week or go to hell."—**He's gone.**

Moral: The best-laid schemes, etc.



Archie Benton and Carl Jones, friends enjoying a pint in their local, The Prussian Queen in the 1960s. Photo from Saltfleetby Millenium Book

A Popular Wedding Reception Venue

During The Searby's time at the Prussian Queen, the pub hosted many wedding receptions for local couples. These included:

On Easter Monday 1951 Jim Odlin's daughter Marian, married Maurice Jackson of Grimoldby in St. Peter's Church, Saltfleetby. The service was conducted by Reverend Palmer, and was followed by a reception at the Prussian Queen, before the couple headed off for a honeymoon in Skegness. They went on to live on North End Lane in Saltfleetby.

In August 1954 Miss Dorothy Rainthorpe of Willow Bank Farm, Saltfleetby married Geoffrey Appleby of South Somercotes at St Peter's Church, officiated by Rev Francis Kenyon, where the grooms brother Ron Appleby was best man. The ceremony was followed by a reception at the village pub.

Nurse Miss Joyce Richardson, of The Grove Saltfleetby, married engineer Terrance Connor from Plymouth at Saltfleetby East Methodist Chapel in March 1955. Choirs from both the East and West chapels led the singing. Fifty guests attended the reception at the pub.

In April 1956 Flight Sergeant John Clark's daughter Margaret, of RAF Manby married Robert Clougherty from Kirkcudbright, Scotland, in Manby St Mary's Church. At the reception the bride cut a cake in the shape of a horseshoe. They spent their honeymoon in South Shields and continued to live in Manby where the bridegroom was serving in the RAF.

In September 1956 Miss Marlene Wells from Theddlethorpe married Cyril Spence of North Somercotes at Theddlethorpe St Helen's Church. After their reception they left for a honeymoon in Hertfordshire and London.

Miss Ivy May Appleby of Saltfleetby, married Samuel Nicholson from Louth at St Clement's Church in March 1957. The service was conducted by Rev Carr-Gregg. Ivy had been employed at the Prussian Queen where their reception was held. They went on to live in Louth.

Miss Barbara Harrison of Sturdy's Farm on the Main Road, was married to John Broddle from North Somercotes at St Peter's Church by Rev Kenyon in March 1957. In October 1957 hairdresser Miss Barbara Benton of Saltfleetby married farm mechanic Leslie Jacklin from Grainthorpe, at Saltfleetby St Peter's. After the reception at the Prussian Queen the couple left for a honeymoon in Cambridge.

Former member of Louth Borough Council, Reginald Cross married Winifred Peall of Kidgate, at Louth Register Office. At their reception in Saltfleetby their wedding cake was decorated with a map of the Cadwell Park racing circuit, and they left for a honeymoon in the Isle of Man for the International TT meeting.

In April 1960 Patricia Stubbs from Woodlands, Saltfleetby married Peter Green from Gainsborough at Saltfleetby Methodist Church. About 70 guests attended the reception at the pub. The following week Miss Roma Standaloft of North Somercotes and David Balantyne of Porthcawl Gamorgan were married in St Mary's Church, North Somercotes, followed by a reception at Saltfleetby, going on to their honeymoon in Woodhall Spa.

Motor mechanic, William Bently of Swaby married Jennifer Reeson of South Cockerington at St Leonard's Church, South Cockerington in June 1961. After their Prussian Queen reception they had a honeymoon at Ripon, Yorkshire.

Jim Odlin's step-daughter Maureen Abbott of Saltfleetby had her reception at the village pub after marrying Peter Robinson of Manby at Louth Register Office in July 1961. In October 1961 *Mid Marsh Young Farmer's Club* members John Wilson Stubbs of Trusthorpe and Patricia Brown of Grimoldby were married at Grimoldby Methodist Church, then held their reception in Saltfleetby.

In April 1962 Miss Beryl Johnson from Grove Farm, Saltfleetby married Frank Hanlon from Southampton at Saltfleetby East Methodist Chapel. Formerly a student at the Domestic Science College in London, Beryl made her own wedding cake, wedding gown and bridesmaids' dresses. They honeymooned in Scotland and went on to live together in Southampton.

Miss Catherine Lawrence of Saltfleet married James Henderson of County Antrim at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Mablethorpe in September 1962. The bride, who worked for Mr Harvey's bakery in Saltfleet, made her own dress and those for her bridesmaids. They left their reception in Saltfleetby for a honeymoon in Ireland.

Two former pupils of Louth King Edward VI School, Jacquelin Kenny of Grimoldby and Richard Staines of Stamford, were married at St Edith's Church Grimoldby in April 1963. After their reception in Saltfleetby they went on a touring honeymoon of the south of England, making their home together in Market Deeping.

Mr. John F. W. Teanby —Miss Margaret Benton



Louth Standard 14th June 1963

In June 1963 Lincoln City policeman John Teanby from Rimac, married Miss Margaret Benton, also from Saltfleetby, a dispenser at a Louth surgery. The ceremony was conducted by Reverend Keith Jones at Saltfleetby St Peter's Church.

Margaret's bridesmaids were her cousin Miss Diane Stones, and Miss Yvonne Smart. The bridegroom's brother, Michael Teanby was best man. After their reception at the village pub, they left for Cornwall, and went on to live in Lincoln.

In May 1964 Kathryn Ward, the daughter of a Flight Sergeant at RAF Manby, married Trevor Griffiths of RAF Yatesbury, at Manby Church. After their reception at the Prussian Queen, they left for a honeymoon in London. In October 1964 Miss Rosalind Parker of Donna Nook married Anthony Rudd from Driffild in North Somercotes S Mary's Church. After their reception in Saltfleetby they spent their honeymoon in Wales.

A London honeymoon followed the wedding of Stephanie Borley of Louth and Michael Teanby of Railway Cottages Saltfleetby. The service was conducted by Rev Keith Jones at Saltfleetby St Peter's Church in March 1965.

Elsie Adlard from Weldon House, Skidbrooke married Roy Maddison from Fulstow at St Peter's Church in April 1965. After their reception at the Prussian Queen, they had a honeymoon in London and went on to live in Yaddletorpe, Scunthorpe where Roy worked at the steelworks.

Mr. R. Maddison—Miss E. M. Adlard



Louth Standard 2nd April 1965 Newlywed Mr and Mrs Maddison cut their wedding cake at the Prussian Queen

A Welcome Stop for Cycling Clubs

Louth Wheelers and **Louth Spire Road Racing Club** frequently stopped over at the Prussian Queen as a break for refreshments during their long rural rides. Spire cyclists were led on a mystery route through some of Lincolnshire's narrowest and muddiest lanes in November 1953. After proceeding from a stop in Tattershall through Hagworthingham, Alford and Mablethorpe in the rain, *"the resources of the Prussian Queen were called upon to restore a semblance of civilised appearance and the feeling of satisfaction which follows a good meal in front of a large fire"*. On a foggy December Sunday afternoon in 1953 the Spires arrived at the Prussian Queen, and were soon joined by some members of their opposition club, the Louth Wheelers. The two parties were happy to join forces there for tea and then ride home together.

A tea break at the Prussian Queen in November 1954, during a 70-mile ride, became like a social event for the Spires Club members, who were reluctant to finally take the plunge into the frosty air and leave the cosy pub for the homeward trip.

The Wheelers and Spires club competed in a Louth inter-club 25-mile championship, both clubs also met together for tea at the Prussian Queen after a short afternoon run in June 1955.

During a tough ride to Caistor via Grimsby in the wind and rain in February 1956, Spires member S.R. Wilson had the misfortune to get a puncture about 200 yards from the Prussian Queen. There they were supplied with hot water, towel, soap and an excellent hot meal by Mr Searby. The club had an afternoon run on some of the lesser used roads to the Prussian Queen in April 1956, where Mr Searby provided an excellent tea which was greatly appreciated by all members. In May the Spires enjoyed a short club run to Mablethorpe where they looked around the amusements for an hour before going on to the Prussian Queen where they were looked after by Mr and Mrs Searby. The club returned again for tea in October 1956 after visiting Tennyson's birthplace at Somerby.

Many more "first class teas" were enjoyed at the Prussian Queen on rides throughout the 1950s and 60s. In June 1958 a *good crowd* of club members played cricket in Saltfleetby before taking their tea at the Prussian Queen.

A cycling treasure hunt organised by the Spire Club was held in December 1959 which took participants through villages such as Covenham, Yarburgh, North Somercotes, Skidbrooke and finally to the Prussian Queen for tea. Three riders found themselves in a mystery village while travelling by-roads in the dark. After some thought they found out they were in Saltfleetby and on a very familiar road!

Darts

The Prussian Queen played in the Louth and District Open Darts League throughout the 50s and 60s. In April 1950 Mr A. Benton represented the Prussian Queen in the **Louth and District Darts League** Individual Championship. In 1951 it was H. Stubbs who played for our pub in the individual championships.

The team were awarded the *wooden spoon* for coming bottom of the league in 1951.

In October 1953 Frank Searby took on responsibility as the new chairman of the Louth League, taking over from Mr Ellis of the Brown Cow.

MABLETHORPE DARTS LEAGUE					
Division I. — Eagle Casuals 6, The Lads 4; Railway Tavern B 3, Book-in-Hand 7; Prussian Queen 6, Red Lion B 4; Axe and Cleaver 6, Red Lion A 4.					
Division II. — Fulbeacons 5, Louth Hotel 5; GPO 5, Eagle Nomads 5; Cross Keys 5, Sea Crest Club 5; Cons. Club 6, Social Club 4.					
LEAGUE TABLES					
DIVISION I					
	P	W	D	L	P
Railway Tav. A ..	7	5	2	0	12
Book in Hand ..	7	4	3	0	11
Eagle Casuals ..	7	4	2	1	10
Axe and Cleaver	7	4	1	2	9
The Lads	7	3	3	1	9
Beach Hotel	6	3	2	1	8
Prussian Queen ..	7	3	2	2	8
Red Lion A	7	2	3	2	7
Red Lion B	7	2	0	5	4
White Hart	6	1	0	5	2
Nuisance Club ..	7	1	0	6	2
Railway Tav. B ..	7	0	0	7	0

Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser
26th November 1955

In April 1954 the Prussian Queen were runners up in the league competing for the Hewitt Cup, presented by Hewitt Brothers Brewery of Grimsby. The finals were held at the **British Legion Hall** in Louth, refereed by H. Stubbs of the Prussian Queen with other officials from the Brown Cow in Louth. The pairs team of Mr A. Benton and J. Teanby of the Prussian Queen beat H. Appleby and J. Odlin playing for the Crown Inn, Saltfleet in their semi-final. Then in the first round of the final they were beaten by the Brown Cow's team in the first leg, won the second leg but were finally beaten into second place by a win in the third leg by the Brown Cow. In the singles championship semi-final Frank Searby of the Prussian Queen beat L. Davenport of the Crown, Saltfleet, but in the final Frank

OPEN DIVISION		
	Played	Points
Crown, Saltfleet	19	150
White Horse, Louth..	18	136
Wanderers, Louth ..	18	115
Waggon & Horses ..	18	113
Sgts. Mess, Manby..	19	112
Skylarks A, Louth..	19	107
White Hart	18	105
Prussian Queen	17	89
Woodman, Louth ..	18	79
King's Head Vaults..	18	79
Brown Cow, Louth..	18	72
Skylarks B, Louth ..	18	42
Knock - Out Competition, second round. — Wanderers lost to Jolly Sailor A; Globe A lost to Prussian Queen.		

Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser 10th March 1951: Louth and District Open Darts League Table

The darts team also played in the **Mablethorpe and District Darts League** from the early 1950s until 1956. In 1952 they were the second division winners. They lost to the Louth Hotel team after a match for the Billy Shaw cup played at the Trelawney Ballroom in May 1952. Mr Stubbs was team captain, with A Monk, J Teanby, F Willey, T Leak and A Benton.

The Prussian Queen darts team were one of many that sent a floral tribute to the funeral of popular Mablethorpe darts player Mr Harry Goldsmith. A former soldier serving with Royal Army Service Corp in the war, and professional golfer at Mablethorpe Golf Club, stallholder at Funland, Mablethorpe, he was the captain of *The Nuisance Club* team attached to the Fulbeck Hotel. Six members of his darts team acted as bearers at the funeral at Mablethorpe Parish Church in March 1954.

was beaten by R. Clarey of the White Horse. The Prussian Queen were presented with a wooden spoon with a bow of red ribbon as a losers' prize for their league performance.



New doubles champions of Louth Open Darts League are W. Appleby (left) and A. Benton, of the Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby.

Louth Standard 9th April 1955: Prussian Queen
champions Messrs Benton and Appleby

At the 1955 championships at the British Legion Hall in Louth, Frank Searby played in the singles semi-final, losing to Mr Sargisson of the Waggon and Horses, South Reston. Despite getting a "ton" towards the end he couldn't make up the leeway.

A. Benton and W. Appleby represented the Prussian Queen in the doubles, against a pair from the Brown Cow. It was a close final, but they held onto their lead and won, becoming the league's new doubles champions.

In April 1956 a team from the Prussian Queen competed for the Billy Shaw Cup at the Trelawney Ballroom in Mablethorpe but were beaten by a team from the Eagle of Mablethorpe in five straight games. Playing for the Prussian Queen were: J. Odlin (captain), J. Teanby, L Moody, G. Brown, F. Willey, B. Appleby and Frank Searby.

In March 1956 the finals of the Louth Open League took place at the Prussian Queen, about 120 people attended. Cups and prizes were presented by the chairman's wife, Mrs Vera Searby to the Anchor of South Somercotes (individual champion), The Queen's Head of Legbourne (doubles) and White Horse of Louth who were league champions. At the Open Darts League annual meeting at the Prussian Queen in September 1956, Mr J. Richardson of the Brown Cow was elected the new chairman.

In the April 1959 finals of the Open League at the British Legion in Louth, Frank Searby took part in the individual competition and the pairs with W. Appleby when they beat the pairs from the Manby Arms and the New Inn.

The Prussian Queen came third overall in 1960, with the second highest number of scores over 100. The New Inn at Thoresby were that years wooden-spoonists.

Motor Rallies and Trials

Banovallum (Horncastle) **Motor-Cycle Club's** had their lunch stop at the Prussian Queen. In August 1956 a misunderstanding about which direction to take at the start of section two of their main road trial led practically all competitors to cover about 10 extra miles before finding the correct route. And then everyone was back where they started – the tea-stop at the Prussian Queen Inn, but approximately 30 minutes late!

In November 1957 21 cars competed for the *Anon Cup* in a rally organised by Mr and Mrs B.C. Wilkinson of Grimsby. The Prussian Queen was the starting point where they left the car park to take a route of approximately 100 miles.

Despite the fog in November 1958, five motor cycles and seven cars took part in Banovallum MCC's annual Winter Trial. They left Roughton at 10am, travelling a 52-mile route before arriving at Saltfleetby, setting off again at 1.30pm for a further 76 miles.

In December 1960 seventeen members of the club competed for the Winter Trial Shield over a course of about 105 miles in the Wolds and Marsh. Nine motorcyclists and eight in cars travelled through villages such as Tetford and North Somercotes before their break for lunch at the Prussian Queen. Included in the route card were questions which meant collecting the names of two licensees of public houses, dates on buildings and on a public seat, which the competitors found all very confusing!

Reverend Carr Gregg of St Clement's Church

When still new publicans at the Prussian Queen, Frank and Vera served tea in the Rectory when Rev Robert Carr-Gregg opened-up his home to hold a garden fete in August 1950. After a harvest thanksgiving service at St Clement's Church in October 1953, the visiting church singers and friends were entertained to light refreshments at the Prussian Queen before they left for home.

Reverend Carr-Gregg was a regular visitor to the pub who frequently attended community events.



This photo of Rev. Carr-Gregg (1878-1964) at an event at the Prussian Queen in the 1960s was sent into *Lincolnshire World* in February 2016 by Mrs Carol Vines, whose husband David appears in the picture with his mother. Joan Riggall, George Riggall and Nancy Vickers have also been identified in the group.

A Bar on a Train

When local farmer Walter Stubbs of North Somercotes hired a diesel train to take farmers and their families to London and back in December 1953, all 126 seats were filled. Mr Searby set up and ran a bar in the train, also providing sandwiches and other eatables for the journey.

A Glowing Review

People eating out at the Prussian Queen were impressed by the quality and value. One reviewer wrote: *"How pleasant it was for me to call at an English pub on Sunday....When it came for me to pay the bill for two adults and three children, the total cost was 16s. For this we had soup, choice of chicken or lamb (and I mean lamb!) with plenty of vegetables, a choice of sweet, biscuits with butter*

and cheese, coffee. What I like about the place was that the children had children's portions and I was charged a lower price for them. This then was sensible, reasonable eating out. The place in case you are interested – and I can strongly recommend it - was the Prussian Queen at Saltfleetby, between Louth and Mablethorpe” [Gainsborough Evening News 3rd July 1956]

The Victuallers' Association

Frank was president of the **Licenced Victuallers' Association**, helping to arrange things like an extended licence for all pubs in the Louth rural district to stay open an hour later on Boxing Day. This request was at first turned down by Louth magistrates in 1957, but they later reversed the decision.

National Farmers' Union Meetings

Occasional meetings of the NFU were held at the pub, including on 5th February 1957, when 40 local farmers and egg-producers attended to join in discussions and ask questions of the branch chairman and panel of officials. During the 1 ½ hour meeting the farmers were unanimously in favour of the egg marketing scheme. Keen to get NFU meetings into the local villages, another was held on 20th May 1957 when farmers were again encouraged to come along to discuss problems and NFU policy.

Lincolnshire Naturalists Union

Members of the group that was the forerunner of the *Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust* used to meet at the new nature reserve at Rimac, when the red flag was not flying to show that the bombing range was in use. After exploring the site, which was then only 176 acres (it now covers about 2,400 acres) to search for species, they would meet at the Prussian Queen for tea. In August 1957 thirty men and women carrying binoculars, walking sticks and nets for catching insects, divided into two groups to survey flora in the dune grass, and marsh birds on the coast. Back at the Prussian tea for tea they reported their finds and compared notes, though nothing was allowed to be taken away from the reserve. Over 50 people joined the field meeting at Rimac in October 1957, to again record and study wildlife in the reserve. Later, tea was provided by Mr and Mrs Searby at the Prussian Queen where various reports were given. Among the birds seen were sandwich terns, black backed gull, redshank, teal, herons, curlew, sandpiper, dunlin and shelduck.

Live Music in the Pub


It was reported in February 1959 that there were no convictions in the Louth area for drunkenness and there were no objections to the renewal of any licences. However, Frank Searby was refused permission to vary condition of a music licence for the Prussian Queen, to include the occasional use of a **saxophone**. He tried again, stating to Louth County licensing magistrates that the piano and saxophone combination would only be performing three or four times a year. Supported by Supt. J G Thomas who said to the magistrates: "You are, no doubt aware of the position of this house. No neighbours are likely to be disturbed". They renewed the Prussian Queen's six-day music licence, allowing the inclusion of a saxophone in the house's music.



The Sale of Donna Nook Aerodrome

By order of the Secretary of State for Air, parts of the former Donna Nook Aerodrome were sold by auction at the Prussian Queen on 15th July 1959. The auction was conducted by *Dickinson, Davy & Markham* of Louth, and consisted of an acre plot with buildings, 12,000 gall petrol tanks, piping and cabling as well as 2 plots of arable land (36 and 11.6 acres).

By Order of the Secretary of State
for Air

E.  R.

NORTH SOMERCOTES
Parts of the former
DONNA NOOK AERODROME
(14 miles Grimsby—7 miles Louth)
will be offered for Sale by Auction at
"The Prussian Queen," Saltfleetby
St. Clements, at 7 p.m., on
Wednesday, July 15th, 1959
by
DICKINSON, DAVY & MARKHAM

Louth Standard 3rd July 1959

A Giant Mushroom

In 1960 a giant mushroom was found by Mr K. Irwin of Back Street, Saltfleetby, it weighed 11lb 6oz, and was 14 ½ inches by 10 inches wide (approx. 37 x 25.4cm). It went on display at the Prussian Queen.

No lack of callers



Louth Standard 23rd September 1960

Frank's Autograph Book

Throughout their time at the Prussian Queen Frank and Vera created a large circle of friends, many of them in the services. They collected many mementoes in their hefty "log book".

Proof that the P.Q. is known throughout the world comes in the pages headed: **Autographs of Visitors**. The signatures of American airmen from Ohio, Georgia, Pennsylvania, California, West Virginia and so on, crowd the early pages. Then there are callers from Spain, Holland, Finland, Sweden, Poland, Denmark, South Africa, India, Australia, Canada and on and on round the world.

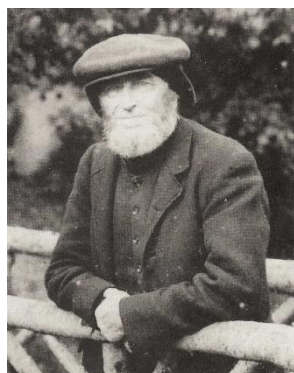
Frank was happy to point out some of the gems such as glider champion, Gerard Pierre who dropped in in 1954.

An Amateur Historian

When talking to local farmer Frederick Taylor about history, he mentioned that he had an ancient salve box made by his grandfather. Frank took such an interest that Mr Taylor gave him the box. It was hand carved from soft wood to form a container to hold salve used to control parasites before the days of sheep dipping. It was made to be strapped to the wrist of the shepherd for convenience while handling sheep. Frank donated the box to the *Museum of English Rural Life* in Reading in 1958, where it is still kept.



Saltfleetby farmer Fred Taylor's shepherd's salve box, now in the Museum of English Rural Life



William Paddison 1839-1916

The diaries of **William Paddison**, a Saltfleetby farmer who lived in the village from 1846 until his death at the age of 78 in 1916, consisted of over 1,000 pages in 7 volumes, describing local life. He used to live at Saltfleetby House and did much of his writing in the gazebo (Prospect Tower) there. His friend Miss Frances Fletcher had these diaries after his death. When she died in 1956, her brother came over from Nice, France to wind up his late sister's affairs. He had heard about Frank's involvement in preserving the shepherd's salve box in a museum, so therefore gave the collection of diaries to Frank for safe keeping. Frank had them on show in the pub where interested customers were entertained by reading "Saltfleetby's Samuel Pepys".

Described as a complete history of Victorian Saltfleetby, a mirror to the agricultural community and a record of ancient customs, including the famous dyke-letting auction. After retiring from the pub Frank passed them on to Reverend Keith Jones, who published extracts in his parish magazine. They are now kept in the Lincolnshire Archives, and highlights have been published as a book: "**Billy Paddison of Soloby**" by Linda Crust in January 2000.

There has long been debate about if there was an original village of Saltfleet, about 2 miles east of its present location that has been under the sea since the 13th century. Frank told the Scunthorpe Telegraph in 1958 that he had several old letters that he thought disproved the theory and cited reasons such as the ghostly church bells that are said to be heard at low tide may actually come from a wrecked ship.

Frank also owned a rare traveller's stagecoach guide book, published in 1798, details of which he shared with the Louth Standard. It contained a list of cities, enabling travellers to look up the cost of journeys between them via the old routes, naming places worthy of observation at the end of each road, such as parks, seats, castles and ruins.

A Beacon of Pennies

A permit was granted to the Prussian Queen in April 1965 for the provision of amusements with prizes, to be in force until April 1968. A beacon built up of pennies on the bar contained £33, which was donated towards the cost of the Lincolnshire Spastics Centre (for people with cerebral palsy), which was then under construction. The beacon was pushed over by Mr Fred Rushby, a member of the Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Friends of Spastics Society (now known as *Scope*) in Sept 1965.

Frank and Vera's Retirement

After 16 years as licensees of the Prussian Queen, Frank and Vera retired in November 1965. They were presented with gifts and flowers from staff, customers and friends at the Prussian Queen on 25th November 1965.



Mr. and Mrs. F. Searby, who are retiring after 16 years as licensees of the Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby, with members of their staff and friends after presentations from the staff, customers and friends last night.

Grimsby Daily Telegraph 26th November 1965

They went to live in South Cockerington, in bungalow, *Red Roofs*, at 2 South View Lane.

Frank died on 11th May 1980, age 75. The funeral service at Grimsby Crematorium on 16th May was led by Reverend K. Yates. Vera thanked him for his comforting service. She also expressed her sincere thanks for all the letters of sympathy and beautiful floral tributes received from relatives, neighbours and friends.

Vera treasured her scrapbook of memories from their happy years at the Prussian Queen, full of photos of smiling faces at the beautifully laden tables, as well as family pictures of holidays in Spain when it was still quiet. Speaking to the Louth Standard in 1988 she recollected with joy and modesty their hospitality which extended to the superb catering which made their harvest suppers, farmers' dinners, staff and children's parties such a magnet. During this golden era, she considered that the Prussian Queen was more than a pub, remembering the many visitors who left their autographs, as varied as the Bishop of Lincoln, The Tennyson Society, and a champion glider pilot.

Vera Searby died on 24th January 1993 at the age of 88.

ALBERT AND FLORENCE TOOTHILL

Albert Toothill was born in Sheffield on 25th September 1918. He was christened at Sheffield St Peter & St Paul's Cathedral. His father Willie Toothill, a labourer, mother Martha (nee Broomfield) and his siblings lived on Sheldon Street, Sheffield. In 1939 Albert was living with his mother and half-sister on Penrith Close, Sheffield, working as a van driver.

Florence May Welsh was born in Oldham, Lancashire on 9th April 1919 the daughter of Joseph, and Lillian (nee Peatman). In 1939 the family were living on Walker Street in Middleton, Lancashire where her father was a boiler fireman, and Florence was working in a preserve works as a sauce strainer. Albert and Florence married in Middleton in September 1943.

Mr and Mrs Toothill took over at the Prussian Queen in 1965, where they lived with their family.

Toothill Albert, The Prussian Queen.....Saltfleetby 239

The Phone Book 1970

Wedding Receptions

Mr and Mrs Toothill continued to host wedding receptions, including for RAF Aircraftman David Craggs from Beesby Top and Janet Johnson of North Somercotes, who were wed in February 1966 at St Mary's, North Somercotes.

In August 1966 Susan Leeming of London married Brian Handley from Rose Cottage, Saltfleetby, in St Peter's Church. Rev Keith Jones conducted the ceremony for the couple who met whilst attending Monk's Dyke school in Louth. They left the reception at the village pub, for a honeymoon in Scarborough.

Barrie Wilkinson from Grimoldby married Pamela Evison of Carlton Grange Cottages, Saltfleetby at St Peter's Church in March 1967. The couple lived in Saltfleetby.

In February 1968 Frederick Silvester of North Somercotes married Josephine Walker from Cleethorpes in St Mary's Church, North Somercotes. The reception was held at the Prussian Queen and the couple went on to live in Grainthorpe.

LINPAC Containers Ltd Sports Socials

The LINPAC factories that produced food packaging, in both Louth and Featherstone, Yorkshire used to compete with each other at various sports, visiting each other's factories and sports grounds. Some of the employees at Featherstone formerly worked at Louth, and it was seen as a good way to get the two works together. After a football match at Louth Park Avenue in August 1966, between the Lincolnshire and Yorkshire sides, in which the Featherstone team won 4-3, they all went on for a

social evening at the Prussian Queen. Here the trophy was presented to the winner of the table tennis handicap, Bill Walmsley of Louth by Mr Jones, formerly of Louth, then the factory superintendent at Featherstone.



Louth Standard 26th August 1966: LINPAC employees get together at the Prussian Queen

Dominoes

The Prussian Queen played in the North Somercotes and District Domino League. In March 1966 they hosted a knockout competition in the pub, between the Woolpack and Bricklayers Arms teams of North Somercotes. The Woolpack won 5-4. Mr Hudson of Hewitt Brothers Brewery presented the cups and awards to the league winners: Bricklayers Arms and the New Inn, Saltfleet.

From about October 1967 the Prussian Queen were entering two teams into the Dominoes League. The B team always remained on or near the bottom of the league.

NORTH SOMERCOTES DOMINO LEAGUE				
Prussian Queen A 5, Bricks G 4; Axe and Cleaver 2, Bricks A 7; New Inn 5, Manby Arms 4; Black Horse B 5, Prussian Queen B 4; Anchor 4, Black Horse A 5; Crown 3, Plough 6; Bricks B 4, Woolpack 5.				
LEAGUE TABLE				
	P	W	L	P
Bricklayers A	4	4	0	26
Black Horse B	4	4	0	24
Axe and Cleaver	4	2	2	21
Woolpack	4	3	1	21
Plough	4	3	1	21
Bricklayers B	4	2	2	19
Anchor	4	2	2	18
Black Horse A	4	2	2	17
New Inn	4	3	1	16
Prussian Queen B	4	2	2	16
Prussian Queen A	4	2	2	15
Bricklayers G	4	0	4	14
Crown	4	0	4	12
Manby Arms	4	1	3	12

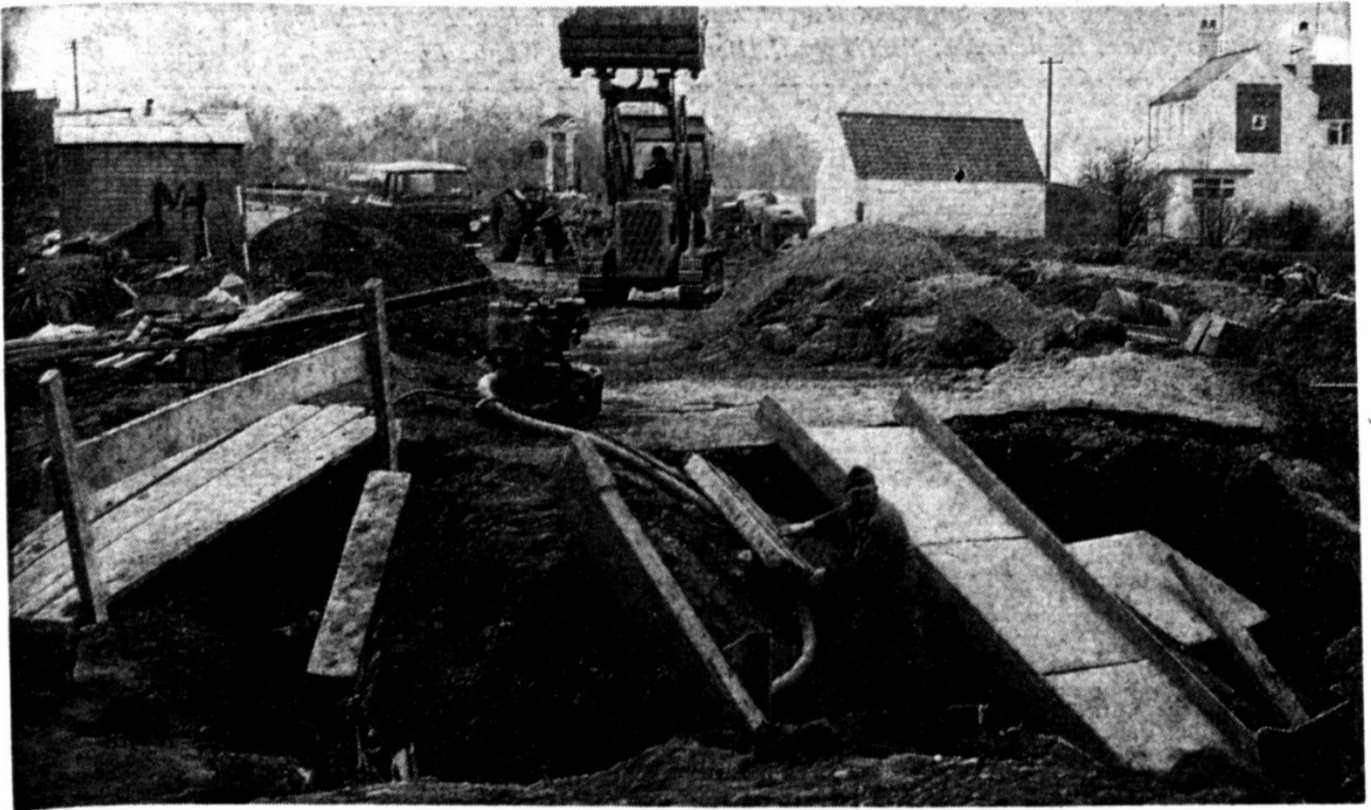
Louth Standard 27th October 1967

The Great Eau Scheme

North East Lincolnshire Water Board undertook one of the county's biggest water projects: the Great Eau Scheme, to take water from the Great Eau River to ensure a sufficient local water supply as demand was due to increase locally, and for Humber Bank industries.

The works caused disruption in Saltfleetby as parts of the Main Road were closed while work took place on the scheme, including beside Mardyke near the Prussian Queen.

WORK PROCEEDING UNDER EAU WATER SCHEME



Louth Standard 10th March 1967

Not the Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby, under siege, but a view of the road beside the Mardyke completely closed as work proceeds under the Great Eau scheme of the North East Lincolnshire Water Board to provide more water for the Humber bank. (Photo :

Louth and District Sea Angling Club

The first outing of a new local angling club took place on Sunday 19th March 1967, when members met at the Prussian Queen at 9am, before going on to take part in an open competition at Saltfleet.

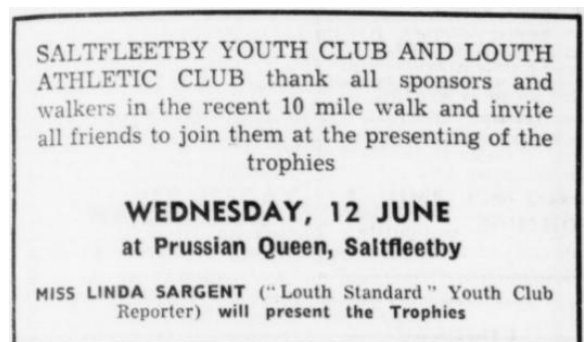
Scouts Cycle Route

In July 1967 the Louth and District Scouts set off to cover 60 miles of rally-type route on their bicycles, to mark the movement's 60th year. The scouts set off from six different starting places, routes which all linked up near the Prussian Queen. From there they proceeded in a joint route to North Somercotes for an overnight camp, setting off across the marsh to the Wolds the following day.

Youth Club Sponsored Walks

Saltfleetby Youth Club set off for a 10-mile sponsored walk on 20th July 1967 at 7.30pm, starting and finishing at the Prussian Queen. The route took them from the pub via Saltfleetby village, North and South Somercotes and back to the starting point. All the walkers were sponsored per mile to raise money to go to Dr. Barnardo's children's homes.

Their second sponsored walk took place on 23rd May 1968, leaving from Louth at 7pm and ending at Saltfleetby Village Hall. Money was raised for Youth Club funds and for Louth Athletics Club. Plaques were awarded to the most sponsored man and woman. The winners' trophies were presented at the Prussian Queen on 12th June 1968.



Louth Standard 7th June 1968

Darts Contest

A contest between North Cotes and Saltfleetby darts players was held at the Prussian Queen on Thursday 10th April 1969. The home team lost both the 1001 and knock out contests.

Marshlands Rifle Club

The newly formed Marshlands Rifle Club held their first dinner at the Prussian Queen on Saturday 25th January 1969. Meetings of the club were held at the pub on 28th April, when plans for fundraising were discussed, and on 12th May 1969. By then the small-bore rifle club had officers, a committee and some members but no rifle range and no funds. Mr and Mrs F. Cuppleditch of Saltergate, Saltfleetby purchased a piece of railway land for use as a range, which would need a Ministry Safety Certificate before it could be used. At the meeting he reassured people that it would pose no danger to local inhabitants or farm stock.



Louth Standard 31st January 1969

The Toothhills Leave the Prussian Queen

Albert and Florence vacated the Prussian Queen in February 1971 without knowledge of the brewers. The pub remained closed for most of 1971 while the brewery tried to find new landlords.

Albert Toothill died in October 1988 in Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire, when he was 70 years old. Florence died in July 2001 aged 82.

KEN AND OLWEN BURKITT

Kenneth Allan Burkitt was born in Louth in April 1942, he went to Welholme Boy's School, Grimsby. Olwen W. Leveritt was born in Grimsby in 1937. They were married in Grimsby in 1962, and went on to live on Mount Pleasant in Louth. In 1967 Ken set up Louth Hovercraft Club, and assisted in the design and making of a working hovercraft to take part in a national rally and competition. He worked as a builder and was a businessman, in 1970 importing thousands of candles from Portugal to be sold at markets around Lincolnshire.

In December 1971 Ken and Olwen bought the Prussian Queen, which was sold on lease by its former brewery owners (Hewitts of Grimsby) after being closed since February 1971.



Louth businessman Mr. Ken Burkitt outside Freeman-street market this morning

Grimsby Evening Telegraph
15th December 1970

PRUSSIAN QUEEN REIGNS AGAIN

A VILLAGE PUB with an unusual name is to reopen this week after being closed since February.

Saltfleetby used to have a second pub, the Angel, which is now an empty house. It was closed about 50 years ago.

Grimsby Daily Telegraph 9th December 1971

Pub gets new landlord

A NEW landlord for the pub out on the Saltfleetby marshes, the Prussian Queen, is Mr Kenneth Burkitt, Mount Pleasant, Louth.

Louth Standard 10th December 1971

Live Music

From its reopening in December, a resident trio of musicians, "*Dos Amigos*" played at the pub every Friday night and occasional other nights. Charlie Thompson and Tony Beaumont played guitar and Frank Michael played bass. All lived in Louth and specialised in playing Latin American, Spanish, swing and jazz. Charlie, who ran a fretted instrument society in Louth, had a thinly disguised contempt for pop music, so they never played any. Ken Burkitt said: "People come out to the place just to hear them...that's why I hire them!".

In October 1972 they travelled to Leeds to record some music for the BBC, and later secured a booking at the White Hart Hotel in Lincoln.



The Louth trio playing at the Prussian Queen . . the two guitarists are Tony Beaumont (left) and Charlie Thompson and Frank Michael is on bass.

Louth Standard 19th May 1972

New Exclusive Restaurant

On 29th February Mr and Mrs Burkitt opened a new restaurant at the Prussian Queen.

**PRUSSIAN QUEEN
SALTFLEETBY**

OPENING 29th FEBRUARY, 1972
OUR NEW, EXCLUSIVE RESTAURANT

WINE AND DINE, CHOOSING FROM OUR
CAREFULLY COMPILED MENU FOR THE
GOURMET WITH A DISCERNING TASTE
FOR THE HIGHEST CUISINE.

Wines from our superbly stocked cellar

**DINNER SERVED 7 p.m. to 10.15 p.m. INCLUDING
SUNDAY**

**TRADITIONAL OLD ENGLISH SUNDAY
LUNCHEON SERVED 12 TO 2 PM**

WEEKDAY LUNCHEONS BY BOOKING ONLY.
TABLE RESERVATIONS PREFERRED BY PHONE

PHONE SALTFLEETBY 391 1e/50

Sleaford Standard 18th February 1972

Prussian Queen
Restaurant

**A SPECIAL MEAL for
A SPECIAL PERSON**

MOTHERS DAY, 12th March
Luncheon 12 noon to 2 p.m.

— : MENU : —

Cream of Asparagus Soup
or Melon Orporto

Prawn Cocktail or Smoked Trout

Roast Baron of Beef with fresh
Creamed Horseradish, Roast and
Parisian Potatoes and Vegetables in season.

Gateau Prussian Queen, Charlotte Rousse

English and Continental Cheeses.
Coffee with fresh Cream, Fresh Fruit.

Bookings now being taken . . .
TELEPHONE SALTFLEETBY 391

Grimsby Daily Telegraph 23rd Feb 1972

**THE
PRUSSIAN QUEEN**

Saltfleetby — FREE HOUSE

Our New Exclusive RESTAURANT which
is fast gaining a reputation for the best
cuisine throughout the county —

Speciality

5 - COURSE LUNCHEON
served over the
EASTER PERIOD

**GOOD FRIDAY, SATURDAY,
EASTER SUNDAY & MONDAY**
Book early to avoid disappointment
LUNCHEON 12 to 2 p.m.
DINNER A-la-Carte Menu
Served nightly 7 to 10 p.m.

Bookings preferred by phone
Saltfleetby 391

Grimsby Daily Telegraph 18th March 1972

It boasted a: "carefully compiled menu for the gourmet with a discerning taste for the highest cuisine". A traditional old English Sunday Luncheon was served from 12-2pm.

An application for a supper-hour extension was granted to Mr Burkitt at the annual licensing meeting at Louth in March 1972.

A special five course Mothers' Day meal was served on 12th March.

In May they were advertising for additional restaurant staff: an assistant cook, waiter or waitress and washer-up at the "*Old World Inn and Exclusive Restaurant*", offering excellent rates of pay.

Wedding Reception

In July 1972 Miss Doreen Appleby of Home Farm, Saltfleetby married Martyn Hobson of North Somercotes at St Peter's Church. The service was conducted by Rev David Lambert. After the reception at the Prussian Queen, they left for a touring honeymoon in Scotland.

Harvest Supper

In October 1972 Mr and Mrs Burkitt arranged a harvest supper, which was followed by an auction of the goods conducted by Mike Atkinson, which raised **£61** for charity. The money went to **Meals on Wheels** for Saltfleetby, Theddlethorpe, Grimoldby and Manby, to be used for new equipment.

Sale of the Prussian Queen

In August 1972 the Burkitts put the pub up for sale, first offered privately, advertised as "Turnover approx. £800 p.w., No rent, 99yr lease". In September it was announced to be sold by auction as a going concern, which was to take place on the premises on 12th October.

**THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN,
SALTFLEETBY**

Old world inn and exclusive
restaurant
require the following staff:

Evenings :
'ASSISTANT COOK
(Male or female)

**WAITER or
WAITRESS**

Some knowledge of silver
service an advantage.
Excellent training will be
given to all staff.

Also :
WASHER-UP
required.

Excellent rates of pay plus
food. Transport can be
arranged.
TEL. SALTFLEETBY 391.

Grimsby Daily Telegraph 9th May 1972

Instructed by K. Burkitt, Esq., with Vacant Possession
SALTFLEETBY ALL SAINTS
 Near Louth.
 Public House and Restaurant known as
THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN
 to be Sold by Auction as a going concern (unless previously
 sold privately) on the premises on
THURSDAY, 12th OCTOBER, 1972 at 3 p.m.
 The accommodation comprises briefly:
 Ground Floor — enclosed veranda, Public Bar and
 servery, Lounge Bar and servery, dining room, kitchen,
 cellar and bottle store.
 First Floor — Living accommodation of landing, lounge,
 two double bedrooms, bathroom and wc.
 Outside — Fuel store, wc, two garages and store.
 The grounds extend to approximately 1 acre.
 This property has been recently renovated and modernised
 and is ideally situated for the coastal resorts, R.A.F. Manby
 and the Natural Gas Terminal.
 Full details available from the Auctioneers, Louth 2904.
 Solicitors: HADDON OWEN & SON. 1 Eastgate, Louth. Tel.
 2234.

Grimsby Daily Telegraph 15th September 1972

Ken and Olwen Burkitt left Saltfleetby and were living in Fulstow by the beginning of 1973.

TED AND MURIEL ASTON

George "Ted" Aston, a Warwickshire famer's son, married Muriel in 1957. He worked in Coventry's motor trade before they left the UK to manage two pubs in Alicante, Spain for 10 years. They returned to Britain and took on the Prussian Queen in 1973. It was shut when they bought it, but they soon breathed new life into the old place to make it a thriving pub again.

PRUSSIAN QUEEN Saltfleetby

FREE HOUSE and RESTAURANT



ST. VALENTINE'S NIGHT

Wednesday, February 14th
 Entertainment by the Fantastic
EDDIE MCGILL
 (Guitarist and Vocalist)
 with **Stuart Larder** on the Drums.
Buffet Supper 60p
 Late Night Extension to 12.30 a.m.
 ★ Late Night Extension will apply to Buffet ticket holders only.
 Tickets will be available on the night at the bar.

Grimsby Daily Telegraph 13th
 February 1973

NOW UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Mine Hosts :
TED & MURIEL ASTON

We would be pleased to welcome
 friends & customers old & new

PRUSSIAN QUEEN
SALTFLEETBY — Nr Louth

Louth Standard 3rd August 1973

Darts and Dominoes

The Prussian Queen rejoined the Mablethorpe and District Darts League for the 1973 season, remaining bottom of division two. They continued playing in the North Somercotes and District Dominoes League until the end of the season in April 1974, when they came second.

★ **NOW**
 ★ **OPEN!**
 OUR NEW ...



Cold Carvery

For that Evening to remember

PRUSSIAN QUEEN
 (TED AND MURIEL ASTON)
SALTFLEETBY, Nr Louth
 Telephone SALTFLEETBY 391

Louth Standard 10th August 1973

Wedding Receptions

Many more couples were welcomed at the Prussian Queen for their wedding receptions, including: Robert Fox from North Thoresby and Julie Vickers of Ashbourne, Saltfleetby who were married at St Peter's Church in February 1973. After a reception the couple left for their touring honeymoon, going on to live at Cleethorpes.

Susan Dillon from Grimoldby made her own and the bridesmaids' dresses for her wedding to Terry Short of Louth at St Edith's Church, Grimoldby in June 1974. They left for a touring holiday after their reception and went on to make their home in Louth.

The wedding of Jill Smith of Skidbrooke and Alan Clarey of Legbourne took place at St Peter's Church, Saltfleetby in April 1975. The church was decorated with white and yellow *cheerfulness* narcissi and arum lilies; Rev Lambert conducted the ceremony. They went to live at Legbourne.

Miss Elaine Jones of Theddlethorpe married Alan Gains from Louth in St Helen's Church, Theddlethorpe in May 1975. After their reception at the Prussian Queen, they had a honeymoon in Jersey and went on to live in South Somercotes.

In June 1975 two employees of Northray Frozen Foods were married at St Giles' Church, Scartho: Rosalie Dyson of Saltfleet and Martin Waller of Scartho. After the ceremony they went to Saltfleetby for their reception and went on to live in Scartho.

A Bradford teacher, Miss Linda Brader of Fotherby married animation artist, Victor Burton of Louth at St Andrew's Church, Utterby in May 1976. The couple met whilst studying at Louth Grammar School, their old geography teacher, Mr Pillons played the organ at their wedding. The bride's mother made their wedding cake. After the reception they left for a touring honeymoon in Sweden and Norway.

Harvest Festival

Mr and Mrs Aston arranged a harvest festival at the Prussian Queen in October 1973, when a free harvest supper was provided. The rector Rev David Lambert led the singing and David Barton was auctioneer. **£67** was raised for the local *Meals on Wheels* service.

Pianist

Adverts appeared in the local newspapers in 1974 for a pianist required to play at the Prussian Queen for 3 or 4 nights weekly.

Ramblers

The rambling section of Alford and District Civic Trust visited the seashore at Saltfleetby and Theddlethorpe Nature Reserve in December 1974. After going through the reserve to view the varied wildlife and plants, they had light refreshments at the Prussian Queen.



Louth Standard 29th November 1974

A New Pool League

Starting as an American bar and club game, pool had become popular in British pubs in the 1960s and 70s. When a new Louth and District Pool League were formed in November 1978, 16 pub teams joined, including the Prussian Queen. The numbers of teams taking part increased over the years, so by 1980 there were three divisions with 10 or 11 teams in each, with the Prussian Queen playing in Division A.

Ted and Muriel move on to a New Challenge

In 1979 Mr and Mrs Aston left the Prussian Queen after 7 years, and moved to South Somercotes, continuing their family building business, restoring old cottages. Here they bought the old **Anchor Inn**, which had been closed since December 1980, for around £20,000. It was another of the Lincolnshire Marshes' ancient country inns with a long history. Like the Prussian Queen, records of it date back to the first alehouse recognizances in 1792, stored at the Lincolnshire Archives. It was first named as the **Blue Bell** in the 1823 recognizance, but was later named The Anchor. The Astons worked hard to completely renovate the interior and it re-opened in August 1981.



TED and Muriel Aston — new faces at the helm of the Anchor Inn, North Somercotes. (Photo: Ken Atterby).
Louth Standard 28th August 1981: Muriel and Ted Aston in their newly renovated Anchor Inn, South Somercotes



Mr. and Mrs. Aston. See "Anchor aweigh."
Grimsby Daily Telegraph 17th June 1981

They later opened *Aston's Delicatessen and Tea Rooms* in North Somercotes. Ted Aston died at Louth County Hospital in 1993, aged 69, many local people attended his funeral service in Grimsby.

BRIAN AND VILMA O'CONNOR

Thomas Brian O'Connor was born in Durham in 1938 where his father was a colliery hewer. He married Vilma May Anderson in Coventry in 1962. They moved from Mansfield to Saltfleetby to take over at the Prussian Queen in September 1979.



Louth Standard 1st August 1980

Planning Application

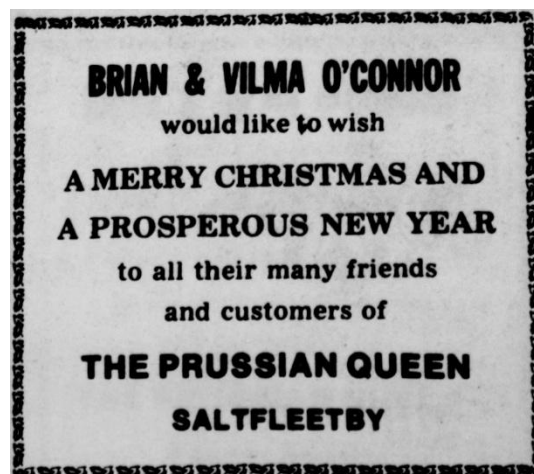
In August 1980 Mr O'Connor applied for an extension and alterations to the living accommodation at the Prussian Queen.

Harvest Supper

In November 1980 Brian and Vilma with friends arranged an evening harvest supper at the Prussian Queen. Seventy local folk enjoyed the meal. Everything had been baked by the family and friends. There was entertainment by a Western group. Many people gave gifts of produce which were auctioned, raising **£53** proceeds what went to the **Vera Dean Body Scanner Appeal Fund**. This appeal raised money throughout the 1980s to buy a scanner to detect diseases for patients throughout Lincolnshire and South Humberside.



Louth Standard 7th November 1980



Louth Standard 26th December 1980

Darts and Dominoes Leagues

A team from the Prussian Queen played in the Mablethorpe Men's Darts League from 1980 to 81.

They rejoined the North Somercotes and District Dominoes League in October 1981 and played in the South Division.

Coastguard Hunt for a Missing Man

A massive search took place on the Lincolnshire coast at Saltfleetby involving police, coastguards and a helicopter on 30th December 1981, after a 37-year-old man from Dundee was reported as missing. After he departed from a house in the area, footprints were found in the sand leading to the beach at Sea View. Police with tracker dogs, and on horseback, joined the search as well as farmers and fishermen. The Prussian Queen was used as a headquarters by the searchers. Mr and Mrs O'Connor provided sandwiches, hot soup, tea and coffee for the cold tired searchers who had been out trekking in the snow-covered landscape since dawn that morning. The search was called off mid-morning after relatives received a phone call from the man to let them know he was safe.

A Broken Window

A 22-year-old man from Saltfleetby was fined £20 and told to pay £30 compensation for breaking a window at the Prussian Queen after an argument with his father outside the pub. He was also bound over in the sum of £50 for one year to behave himself. He admitted the offenses at Louth Magistrates Court in November 1982.

The O'Connor's Leave Saltfleetby

The O'Connor family left in around April 1983, and went to live in Bulkington, near Nuneaton, Warwickshire. Here Brian O'Connor died on 19th August 1983, at the age of 45. Vilma died in Bulkington in December 2004 aged 68.

ALLEN, EILEEN AND CHRIS BRUCE

Edward Allen Bruce and his wife Eileen were born in Lancashire and married at Swinton. Mr Bruce was an accomplished trumpeter and spent his National Service with the RAF military and dance bands. He then had a long career with the Commercial Union working in Manchester, Bolton, Nottingham and Lincoln. Their eldest son Christopher gained experience in catering and hospitality working in Manchester, Warrington and then at the Painswick Hotel in the Cotswolds in

Gloucestershire. Allen had been working at the Commercial Union's insurance company offices in Lincoln for years until taking what he referred to as "voluntary retirement" at the age of 53 in 1983. He moved with his wife, Eileen and son Chris to take over the Prussian Queen in Saltfleetby. The family were keen to look into the history of the pub as well as providing dinner menus on every night.

THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN. Saltfleetby.
Tel. Saltfleetby 707.
Your new hosts Eileen, Allen and Chris Bruce offer you home cooking based on seasonal fare and available every day. Snacks, Bar Meals, A' La Carte Restaurant. Supper Licence and traditional Sunday Lunch.

Horncastle News 11th August 1983

THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN
Saltfleetby, near Louth.
From August 17th your new hosts Eileen, Allen and Chris Bruce are opening an
EXTENSIVE A LA CARTE RESTAURANT
on WEDNESDAY, Thursday and Friday
Evenings.
For table reservations please
Tel. Saltfleetby 707.
Summer Saturday Evening Cold Carvery, Traditional Sunday Lunch.
Bar meals still available 7 days a week.

Grimsby Evening Telegraph 12th August 1983

THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN
SALTFLEETBY
Chris Bruce invites you to try his extensive a la carte menu, now also available on Saturday evenings, replacing the summer carvery.
BEST VALUE AROUND
FOR TABLE RESERVATIONS
TEL. SALTFLEETBY 707

Grimsby Daily Telegraph 30th September 1983

Pub Grub

In September 1983, out of an extremely high number of nominated pubs, The Prussian Queen were placed in the top ten of the *Lindsey Group of Newspapers Pub Grub Awards*. (First place went to the Red Lion in Baumber).

In 1984 they again were in the top ten of nominated pubs. The Gordon Arms, Market Rasen took first place that year.

Debate About the Origin of the Name

The Bruce family wanted to restore a traditional double swinging pub sign as seen in the old photograph of the pub from the early 20th century. But what or who should it depict? This question caused a spirited debate in the *Louth and District Diary pages* by Peter Chapman in the Grimsby Daily Telegraph in 1983. Many people wrote in to add ideas to the discussion, including George Ingamells' great-nephew with many memories of his uncle's time there. He favoured the *named after a ship* idea, with its figure head of a queen as the pub sign, but others wrote in to point out that there's no record of a ship coming aground of that name. Someone even checked the Lloyds register from 1805 to 1856, and another wrote to the Director of the Maritime Museum at Greenwich, also to discover no record of such a ship. Perhaps another German shipwreck, mispronounced by the Lincolnshire locals, or even being named after Queen Victoria, were all ideas put forward.

THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN
SALTFLEETBY
YOUR HOSTS
EILEEN, ALLEN
AND CHRIS BRUCE
OFFER YOU
HOME COOKING
based on seasonal fare
and available every day.
Snacks, bar meals,
a' la carte restaurant.
SUPPER LICENCE AND
TRADITIONAL SUNDAY LUNCH
Tel: Saltfleetby 707

Horncastle News 4th October 1984

A New Sign

Signwriter and commercial artist, David Peek of Saltfleetby House, painted the new Prussian Queen sign that was unveiled in September 1983. He decided himself that it should depict Queen Louisa of Prussia as a ship's figurehead. He admitted that he didn't go to reference books to see what she looked like, nor check her crown or kit. "I just made it up. I thought it would be best to do as less a controversial sign as possible. It's purely figurative, symbolic" he said.

Mr Peek, originally from Dorset, had never painted a pub sign before and said that he enjoyed the exercise and would paint others. The Bruce family were pleased with the new sign.

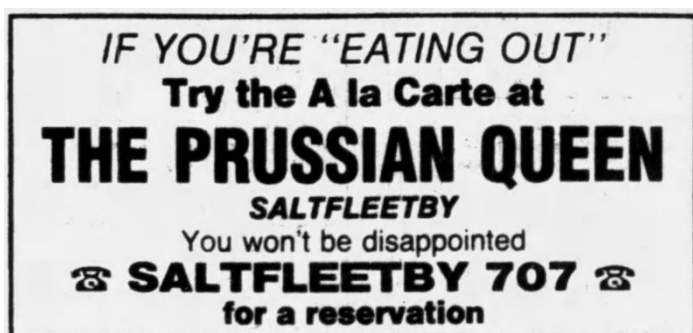


Chris Bruce with the new sign

Grimsby Daily Telegraph 28th September 1983: Chris Bruce with the sign showing a ship's figurehead of Queen Louise.

Pub Sports

Teams from the Prussian Queen continued to play in the North Somercotes and District Dominoes League, and Louth Pools league. In 1984 our first ladies' darts team joined the Mablethorpe Ladies Darts League. The female team was at this time the only darts team playing for the pub for a while.



Grimsby Evening Telegraph 10th February 1984



Grimsby Evening Telegraph 2nd March 1984

Property Auctions

In March 1984 two lots of grassland were sold at the Prussian Queen by auction by John Taylors: 8.5 acres known as *Welburn's Field* was sold for £17,500; and 11.3 acre *Cherry Tree Field* was sold for £24,800. Another agricultural auction was planned by Mawer Mason and Bell for 8th August 1985, consisting of 7 acres on Ings Lane, but this was cancelled. The bar of the Prussian Queen was packed

at an evening auction on 10th October 1985, when *Belmont House* on the Main Road was offered for sale. The bidding commenced at £18,500 but the house was withdrawn for sale by private treaty.



THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN
SALT FLEETBY
near Louth.

Invite you to try our extensive A La Carte Menu
Wednesday-Saturday evenings.

FREE Bottle of House Wine with every table for 4
reserved (evenings) during National Eating Out Week.

For reservations telephone SALT FLEETBY 707.

Grimsby Evening Telegraph 1st May 1984



THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN
Saltfleetby

'THE INN' PLACE FOR GOOD FOOD

NEW TABLE
D' HOTE MENU
£5.95 per person
A La Carte Menu
Wed-Sat evenings
Bar Meals 7 days a week
Trad. Roast Sunday Lunch
£4.25

TEL: SALT FLEETBY 707

Horncastle News 10th October 1985

During arctic temperatures which caused travel chaos on 27th November 1985, Allen Bruce escaped injury when his car left the A157 Louth-Horncastle Road at Tibbs Inn Crossroads. The Bruce family left the Prussian Queen at the beginning of December 1985, and the licence was transferred to the new landlords on 5th December.

SIMON, TRACY AND PATSY MILNES

Young married couple Simon and Tracy Milnes, with Simon's mother Pat, took over at the Prussian Queen in December 1985. They continued to provide bar meals and an A La Carte Restaurant.



Simon, Tracy & Pat Milnes welcome you to...

THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN
(FREE HOUSE)
SALT FLEETBY. Tel: Saltfleetby 707

and offer you

Morning Coffees
Home cooking based on seasonal fare
and available every day Snacks and Bar Meals
A La Carte Restaurant — Supper Licence
Traditional Sunday Lunches
Function Catering

Come for a drink, a snack or a leisurely dinner — whether you're
with us for a few minutes or a few hours — we'll look forward to
making your visit a pleasant one.

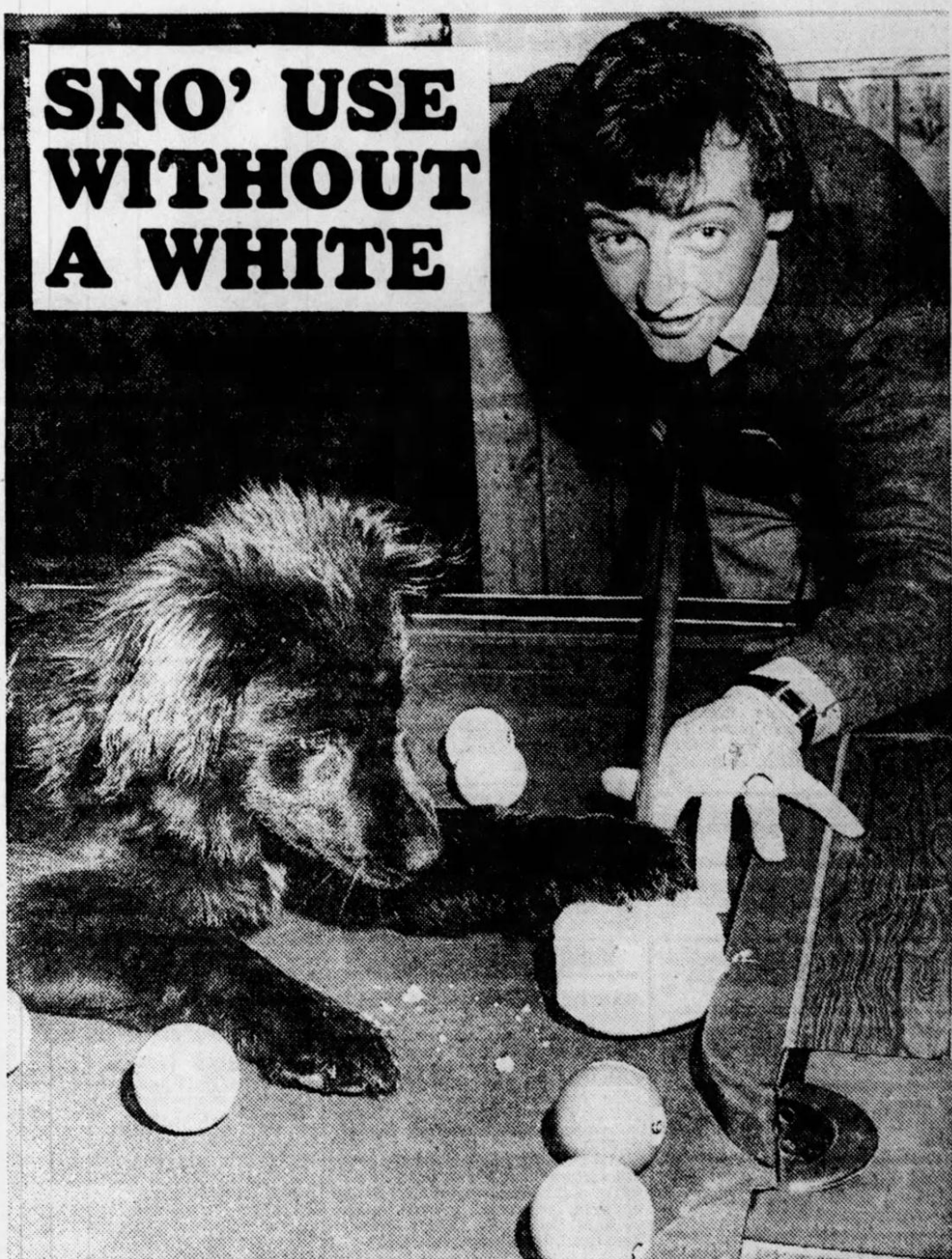
Louth Standard 30th May 1986

When Egon Ronay's Pub Guide 1986 was published, not one pub in North Lincolnshire or South Humberside were mentioned! Simon Milnes commented to the *Grimsby Evening Telegraph* that he would be only too pleased to welcome Mr Ronay's inspectors and was confident that they would be duly impressed.

From early 1986 the men's darts team rejoined the Mablethorpe league, playing in division four.

In February 1986 the local paper reported on how the Milnes' young dog, Soot, a back labrador cross, was preventing pub regulars from playing pool as he had a habit of taking the cue ball and hiding it! During the snowy weather he would bury it in the snow. Efforts to search for and dig up the ball were to no avail, so games of pool had to be suspended until the snow thawed.

SNO' USE WITHOUT A WHITE



'Sno good — I'll never cannon this white with his paw there,' says landlord Simon.

Pool paws for thaw!

SOOT has prevented regulars at the Prussian Queen pub in Saltfleetby, near Louth, playing pool — at least until the snow has thawed!

Soot is landlord Simon Milnes' five-month-old labrador cross pup, and it has a habit of pinching the white cue ball from the pool table, even when people are halfway through a game.

Normally the pesky pooch hides the ball in the dining room, but now he has gone one further.

Simon (24), explained: "The other night he jumped up and took the cue ball — he never takes any other, it's always the white.

"Then he ran outside and buried it in the snow. We went out with torches to look for it, but to no avail.

"It means the pool table is out of operation until the snow melts. We tried using a snowball but it melted under the lights before anyone could pot the black."

Simon took over as joint licensee of the pub with his wife, Tracy, and mother, Pat, just before Christmas. The dog arrived on Christmas Eve and has become a firm favourite with regulars, despite his pool room antics.

But this is not the first bizarre happening the trio have encountered. Simon once played a darts match in drag for a women's team — and nobody knew until Gloria revealed his true identity.

And Pat once had to take Albert to the dentist in London and caused a traffic jam — because Albert was a skeleton!

Restaurant of the Month

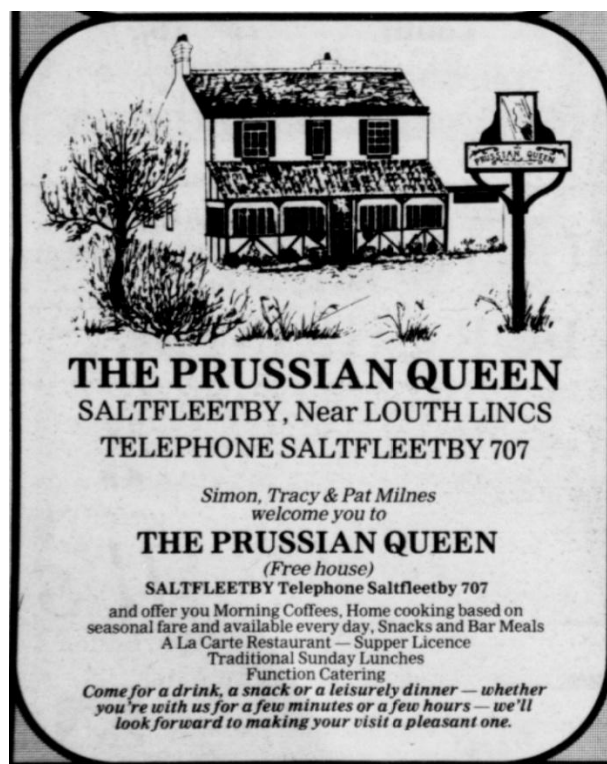
The Prussian Queen featured as the Louth Standard's Restaurant of the Month for December 1986:

"It's well off the beaten track, but the Prussian Queen at Saltfleetby is definitely worth stopping off at for that special celebration meal.

The a la carte restaurant is very warm, inviting and cosy and is separated off from the lounge part of the pub to ensure you can enjoy your meal in relative quiet.

The best bet is to arrive a bit early and enjoy a relaxing drink in the lounge beforehand while studying the menu, with its choice of seven cold starters or five hot ones to get the ball rolling. – The prawn cocktail at £1.95 was of a high standard and was nice and tasty, but if you don't fancy that, how about pate and toast at £1.45, dressed crab at £1.95 or half a melon with black cherries at £1.85?

Or if you'd rather have a hot starter, what better than giving the snails a try at £2.25? If you're not quite that adventurous, there is always white bait at £1.45 or potted prawns at £1.85.



Louth Standard 19th December 1986

Some restaurants have a decidedly limited choice for main course – in fact the choice is often take it or leave it – but that's certainly not the case at the Prussian Queen. A nice feature which I appreciated was the presence of five different meats from the grill. These included garnished fillet at £7.25, pork chops at £5.35 and what I plumped for, lamb chops. Portions were generous and I practically fell off my chair when I saw the size of the three chops I was presented with. They were very good, too – and the more than ample supplies of two types of potato and a good selection of vegetables also were impressive. It certainly made a good plateful. No complaints whatever on that front. No-one could accuse the Prussian Queen of being stingy! My companions elected to try the escalope of fillet steak filled with Stilton and coated with port sauce. From all accounts, that also went down well. The price was £6.45.

The main course menu features a choice of nine – not counting the five from the grill - so there is certain to be something to please everyone. Other examples are gammon with pineapple (£5.25), quarter chicken in white wine (£4.95), fillet of sole in white wine and mushroom sauce (£5.95), and beef stroganoff with paprika (£6.45). To wash everything down there is a good wine list for you to cast your expert eye over. House wines are £3.75 but also worthy of consideration are Cotes du Rhone red (Appellation AC) at £4.85 or Bordeaux white a £4.45. For that special celebration there is, of course, always the Moet and Chandon champagne which will set you back between £14 and £19.

The choice of sweets from the trolley is again good, the portions generous and the whole attractively laid out. The trifle was among the best ever tasted – and that includes my mother's (she is a leading expert in this field). At £1.40 a time, the sweets are good value in my book and highly recommended. For those without a sweet tooth, there is a cheese board. To round off a very good meal, there is the ever-welcome coffee – served with those well-known wafer mints, two per person I might add – not the mere one you often get if at all, at some places. At 60p per person, it's not an unreasonable price.

The hosts at the Prussian Queen are Simon, Tracy and Pat Milnes, and I take my hat off to them for providing a very cosy restaurant with excellent fare. The pub also does morning coffees, snacks and bar meals, traditional Sunday lunches, function catering and bed and breakfast. It's definitely well worth adding to your list of eating-out haunts. In fact, I can't think of a better way of spending a quiet evening. It certainly beats having to cook yourself – especially when you're as bad in the kitchen as I am. MWN



Grimsby Telegraph 17th
April 1987

The Milnes family left Saltfleetby in early 1988.

STEWART WHITE

In February 1988 Mr White applied to East Lindsey council for planning permission to build a cellar, improve the bar area and install a liquid petroleum gas tank.

Events

On 20th October 1988 **North Somercotes Bowls Club** held their annual dinner at the Prussian Queen. A North Somercotes couple celebrated their **silver wedding** with a meal at the pub after a blessing from the Methodist minister to renew their vows.

A **harvest supper** was held at the pub on 10th October 1989: a three-course meal followed by the auction of produce, with profits donated to the **Parochial Church Council (PCC)** funds.

Property and Land Auctions

Auctioneers Broadgate and Thompson held a property auction at the pub on 16th November 1988: a building plot with a grass paddock on the Main Road and the adjoining cottage that needed complete renovation were up for sale. Another auction was held on 10th Augst 1989 consisting of 33 acres of arable land in 5 lots, fetching over £45,000. Another auction of 32 acres of productive arable land in 6 lots was held on 4th October 1989.

Sale of the Prussian Queen

*** AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT ***
Desirable Freehold Freehouse + Restaurant
 Situated in pretty village between Mablethorpe and Louth — in Lincolnshire.



Guy Simmonds have been instructed to auction the freehouse on the premises — ON THURSDAY 17th AUGUST at 6.30 p.m. The Prussian Queen, at Saltfleetby, Nr. Mablethorpe has excellent local trade with the benefit of holidaymakers during the summer season. Takings in the region of £2,000 weekly.

Must be sold — due to personal circumstances.

Price Guide £180,000 freehold.
 Large bar, lounge, owner's 3 bed accom., lovely lawns etc.
Full details from Guy Simmonds Ref: 659/FR/NP.

Nottingham Evening Post 18th July 1989

The Prussian Queen was put up for sale at auction, held in the pub on 17th August 1989. With takings in the region of £2,000 a week, the guide price was £180,000.

CHRIS APPLEBY

The Appleby family had been living and farming in Saltfleetby for generations. When Chris Appleby became the owner of the pub, and took over its running in December 1889 at the age of 27, he had already been working there as a barman for about 7 years. He had worked for four landlords at the pub since starting part-time in 1982. He commented to the *Grimsby Evening Telegraph*: "It's still the same job and I still have the same work to do, but at the end of the day it's all mine — and I don't

Prussian Queen
 Main Rd Saltfleetby
 Tel 83707
 Stewart and Staff
 Congratulate Paul on
 becoming the Top Bass
 Representative

Bar meals available
 7 days a week. Weekends
 a la Carte Restaurant
 plus trad Sunday lunch

**Friendly welcome
 extended to all!**

Spilsby Standard 7th April 1989

**** AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT ****
 * The Prussian Queen - Freehouse. Saltfleetby, Nr. Louth, Lincs. *



Guy Simmonds have been appointed to auction this highly desirable Freehouse on THURSDAY 17th AUGUST at 6.30 pm - on the premises. **GUIDE PRICE - £180,000 Freehold.** Lovely Freehouse with regular trade - situated on coastal road to the busy resort of MABLETHORPE. LOUNGE BAR, GAMES ROOM, PUBLIC BAR. Superb owners 3 Bed accom. Beautiful lawns with amusements. Declared turnover approx - £100,000. MUST BE SOLD FOR GENUINE PERSONAL REASONS. A SUPERB PROPOSITION AND RARE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE IN THIS DESIRABLE LOCATION.

Full details, brochure, vendors solicitor and accounts available from our NOTTINGHAM OFFICE.

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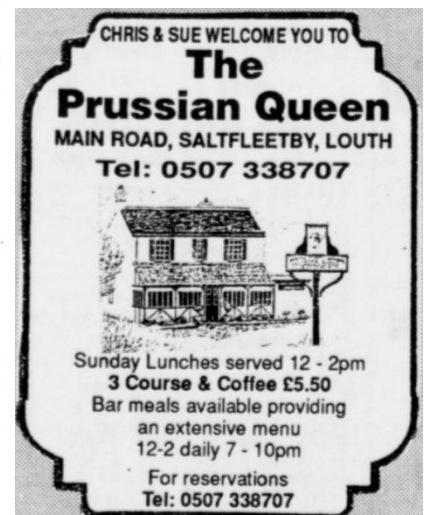
Skegness Standard 28th July 1989

have to walk home!". He had also been a salesman for a firm of agricultural dealers for eight years. He was joined in the venture by another former member of staff at the pub, **Sue Irwin**. She had moved to Saltfleetby 20 years earlier, so regulars felt at home with their new bar manager and landlady figure. They didn't plan many major changes, except opening all days on Fridays and Saturdays and serving special lunches for **pensioners** in the village. Chris explained: "We will be doing lunchtime special meals such as cottage pie and steak and mushrooms, and these will vary from day to day, but they will be offered to our senior citizens for £2-a-head. We will also be doing special meals on Fridays and Saturdays – steaks and sauces, chicken Kiev and so on – and traditional Sunday lunches on top of our fairly comprehensive menu". He stressed that the food was fresh and mostly homemade, particularly the sweet trolley, already having takeaway orders for his trifle! He would continue to cater for parties and discos by arrangement and would be hosting a Christmas party for all the children in the village. He explained: "Because Sue and I are both local, we are determined to make the pub a success first and foremost with the people of the village, a sort of community focal-point. If we can do that, I shall be happy".



Chris and Sue toast their venture.

Grimsby Evening Telegraph 8th December 1989



Louth Standard 7th June 1991

A **Christmas party** was given for the village children, attended by about 40 in 1989, who enjoyed party games and were provided with a lovely tea. A visit from Santa Claus made the party a great success.

The New Year 1990, was seen in in great style at a **fancy dress night** at the pub.

Another children's afternoon **party** was held at the start of the spring holiday in May 1990. Landlord Chris and manageress Sue judged the bonnet parade. Rev Barker of Somercotes judged a picture competition. Mrs Sue Turnbull organised games, which were followed by disco dancing, a party tea including jelly and ice cream and finally a **firework display**.

A New Sign

In August 1990 a new pub sign was installed, depicting another Queen of Prussia, **Sophia Dorothea**, the daughter of King George I and his wife Sophia Doratheia of Celle, the sister of George II. She married King Frederick William II of Prussia, becoming the mother of his son, Frederick II, better known as Frederick the Great, victor in the Seven Years War against Austria, and in his time the most powerful man in Europe. Hence, she was **The Prussian Queen**.

The new landlord, Chris Appleby disagreed with the theory that it was named after Sophia Dorathea's grandson's wife, **Queen Louise**, hero of the Napoleonic Wars. He reasoned: "why name a pub in remotest Lincolnshire after the wife of a second-rate king in a far-off country? If she was so popular, would there not be more pubs of the same name dotted around the country?"

Also, he said that during Queen Sophia's lifetime Saltfleet Haven was a large Royal Port, as late as 1805 visited by Nelson's ships stocking up with salt for their fighting visit to the Peninsular Wars. Maybe the pub was named in honour of her after she made her way to Northern Europe via Saltfleet?



Pride and the Prussian — landlord Chris Appleby shows off his new sign.

Grimsby Daily Telegraph 18th August 1990

Charity Fund-Raising

During his time at the pub Mr Appleby raised **thousands of pounds** for local and national charities through a variety of events that were well-supported and enjoyed by villagers, bringing the community together to have fun to help good causes. *A few charity events included:*

In April 1990 things got a little out of hand during a **bring-and-buy charity auction** when keen supporter started taking down pub fittings to go under the hammer. But landlord Chris simply outbid the opposition and bought back his brass warming pan and chestnut roaster for £10. They managed to raise more than **£200** for **Guide Dogs for the Blind** at the auction and a **chine supper**.

To support ITV's **Telethon** in May 1990, the pub's newly acquired piano was played by Pete Tasker during the evening of games. They staged a marathon 27 hours of pub games and activities, initially raising **£760**. Teams of locals took each other on at everything from pool to darts. Local plumber, Ian Appleby was sponsored to have his head shaved. Staff and customers also played at highwaymen, greeting travellers on the B1200 with Telethon collecting tins.

Chris thanked everyone for their hard work and said: "There was a marvellous atmosphere and we would have been happy to raise £400 - £500, but to raise over £700 was magnificent".

Yorkshire Television celebrity **Stan Richards**, who played Seth Armstrong on **Emmerdale** came in person to accept the cheque, on behalf of the Telethon. By then the total had risen to **£842.57**. He arrived at about 7pm and stayed for an hour, entertaining the crowd by playing the piano and generally giving a cheerful start to the evening.



Stan Richards, who plays Seth Armstrong in Yorkshire TV's Emmerdale, receives a cheque for £842 from customers and staff of the Prussian Queen at Saltfleetby, the proceeds of their ITV Telethon charity event. On the right is landlord Chris Appleby.

Grimsby Evening Telegraph 30th July 1990

For the BBC **Children in Need** appeal in November 1990, they managed to raise **£715** in just four hours of pub games, an auction and competition. The Anchor pub at South Somercotes chipped in £25 after one customer was “kidnapped” by their Prussian Queen counterparts.

A 27-hour **sports marathon** was held in May 1991 from 7pm on Sunday until 10pm on Monday, when eleven stalwarts, including several Saltfleetby United footballers, defied fatigue in a gruelling extravaganza, helped by a full back-up team. Games included dominoes, darts, table games and volleyball (outside). Villager Steve Cox started out with long hair before supporters paid £1 a time to cut his hair, beard and moustache. A total of **£1,002** was raised for improvements to Saltfleetby's **football ground**.



Louth Standard 31st May 1991



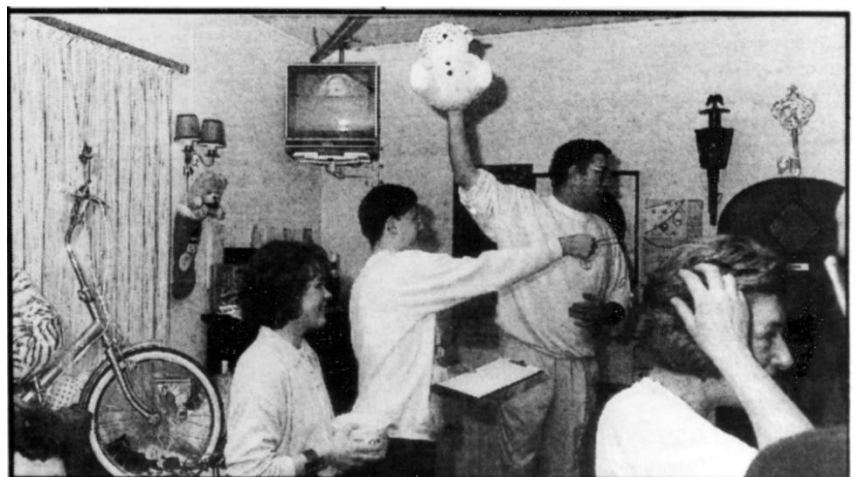
Louth Standard 8th November 1991

In November 1991 Chris Appleby handed over a cheque for **£511** during a dance at Louth Town Hall, to Mr Paul Matthews and Mr Avtar Bath on behalf of **Louth International Charities Albanian Children's Appeal**. The money was raised from an event in the pub for Albanian refugees.

Other events at the pub earlier in 1991 included raising **£300** for South Somercotes over 60s, and **£250** for **local churches**.

The Prussian Queen was packed on 22nd November 1991 for another evening of fun and games in aid of **Children in Need**. In just four and a half hours they achieved the remarkable total of **£1,053**. Games included darts and pool challenges, a bingo game and throwing pound coins at a gallon bottle of whiskey, which raised £200 on its own. The whiskey went to the thrower of the nearest coin to the bottle.

The total raised for charity in 1990 to 1991 came to **£7,200**.



Louth Standard 6th December 1991

For the ITV **Telethon** in July 1992, the Prussian Queen event managed to raise a magnificent **£2,155**. Starting at 8pm on Saturday and continuing until late on Sunday, the pub was packed for their own version of *Family Fortunes*, compered by the landlord, with the help of deputy Keith Warsap, Colin Paddison, and Richard Aldridge keeping the scoreboard. 2 teams of 5, each paid £2 to take part.



The Prussian Queen
Main Road, Saltfleetby

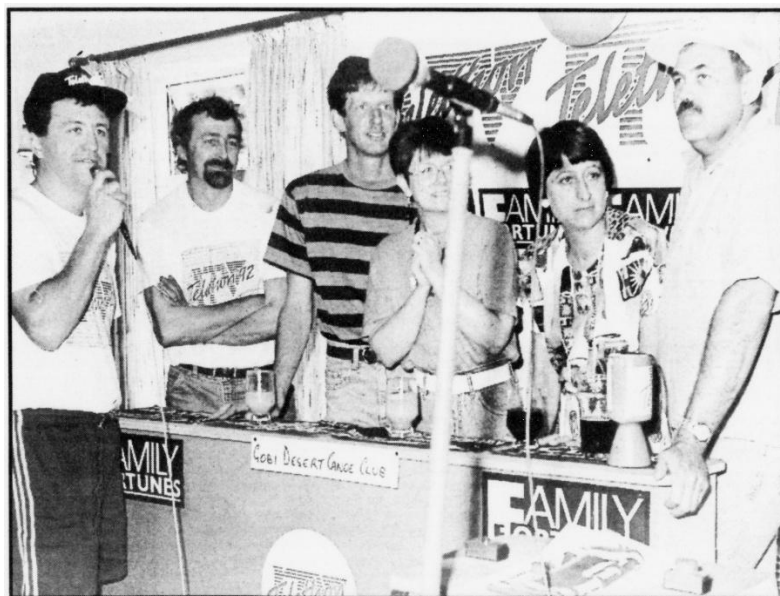
- Large selection of home cooked bar meals available daily
- Traditional 3 course Sunday Lunch, including coffee £5.95

BAR OPEN ALL DAY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

DON'T FORGET
ITV's Telethon July 18th & 19th
Join in the 'FAMILY FORTUNES' fun by picking up an application form from the bar.

PRIVATE FUNCTIONS CATERED FOR AND OUTSIDE BAR AVAILABLE
Telephone for bookings on:- 0507 338707

Louth Standard 3rd July 1992



The winners are ... from left, members of the Gobi Desert Canoe Club, Graham Butler, Malcolm Odling, his wife Ann, Christine Laking, and her husband Pete, who beat the Dog Rough Team during Family Fortunes at the Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby.

Louth Standard 24th July 1992

There were also a number of other games, including a pool marathon. Pub regular, Brian Bogg, arrived late on Saturday after running from the Woolpack in Louth to the Prussian Queen dressed in drag, raising £170. When the pub shut on Sunday night, Chris, Keith and Richard joined local milkman Colin on his milk-round, when well-wishers filled their fundraisers buckets with cash. They were greeted by a rousing reception back at the pub after finishing the 12-hour milk-round. Chris commented on the game show: "When the event started the competitors were very serious, but as the night wore on it became more and more frivolous, I think the amount we raised was brilliant because it is not a very big place. The place was packed for most of the night. Apparently, the police had to put out traffic cones because so many people wanted to come to the event". They were invited to go to the YTV studios to present their cheque. Sadly £25 was stolen from a charity bucket at the pub, but later a mystery benefactor made up the missing cash from their own pocket.

The Prussian Queen continued to hold special events to support BBC **Children in Need**: there were quizzes and an auction in 1992. The highlight of the fun night in November 1993 was a version of the Channel 4 general knowledge quiz "15 to 1", for which local DJ, Keith Warsap acted as quiz-master. There was also a one-gallon bottle of whisky, won by whoever threw a £1 nearest to the bottle by midnight. A raffle and versions of Dingbats, and lots of pub games also helped boost the appeal's funds. Annual events supporting Children in Need continued for years.



Louth Standard 25th February 1993

In February 1993 the Prussian Queen held a chine supper to raise money towards **replacing equipment at the village school**, such as personal stereos, which had recently been stolen in three separate break-ins. The meal managed to raise **£291**. The photo (left) shows Susan and Brian Handley receiving generous portions from caterers Paul Asquith and Sue Irwin.

Another stuffed chine supper for **church funds** was held in July 1996

Louth's **Strongest Man** competition attracted a large crowd at King Edward VI School in May 1993 and raised £880 for the **Save the Children Fund**. The Prussian Queen supported the event and managed to win the pub *tug of war* contest.

A turkey shoot took place at the Prussian Queen for **St Peter's Church** building fund in March 1994, raising **£582.66**. There were 36 winners in the turkey targets, also a raffle, tombola, cakes and Easter eggs that were generously donated.

On **Halloween 1994**, The Prussian Queen took part in the **Lincs FM Spookathon** in aid of **Marie Curie Cancer Care**. Eleven Lincolnshire pubs and venues that claim to be haunted by real ghosts, joined in the colourful event with a Lincs FM presenter broadcasting live from each haunted venue, swapping fright night experiences with the listeners at home.



'Drac' does his fang

THERE were some spooky goings-on in Saltfleetby on Halloween as Count Dracula, alias Keith Halliwell, serenaded two nuns with the 'Sound of Music' at the Prussian Queen pub. The Count and his two friends, Katy Bullivant and Kalle Knights, were taking part in the Lincs FM Spookathon to raise funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care. See also page 13. Picture: Derrick Furlong.

Brave punters in fancy dress were sponsored to stay in the most haunted venues all night: The Fleece at North Cotes, Petwood House Hotel in Woodhall Spa and the Prussian Queen.

It started at 8pm on 31st October and continued all night until 7am the following morning.

People travelling to the Prussian Queen were promised a night of spooks and fun. All the staff were in fancy dress and served a special menu to "*chill the blood*". Chris Appleby went to a lot of trouble to ensure the night was one to remember, offering to cook breakfast for everyone in the morning.

Louth Standard 4th November 1994



Lincs FM DJ Jeremy Buxton and his little friend join in the ghostly goings-on at the Prussian Queen.



Enjoying a night of fright at Lincs FM's Spookathon in the Prussian Queen at Saltfleetby are Sue Bailey, Joanne Greenwood, Ro Halliwell and Keith Halliwell.

A 50/50 **auction** was held at the pub on 15th April 1995 with proceeds going towards financing the village's 50th anniversary of **VE Day celebrations**. A party night was held at the Prussian Queen in May, which included a barbeque.

A **charity darts competition** was held in December 1995 when 23 players took part, with a £60 prize for the winner and £15 for the runner-up. During the afternoon there were two bottles to be won in a name card competition, as well as an auction of goods donated to raise money for **the Guide Dogs for the Blind**. At the end of the afternoon the landlord thanked everyone who took part and helped raised **£87.21**.

Another open singles darts competition for the Louth branch of **Guide Dogs for the Blind** was held in February 1996, when 33 players took part. First prize was £50 and runner-up £15. A second competition had 15 play one leg of 501 for a £10 voucher, Chris Appleby won the runner up prize of a bottle of wine. Name cards and an auction brought the total raised to **£95**.



Louth Standard 25th April 1997

At the next one in April 1996, **£25** was raised.

Nineteen players took part in the event in February 1997. Held again in April, players paid £2 each to take part and they raised **£22** for the charity. First prize was £50 and runner-up prize of £20, other runners-up won a bottle of wine and guide-dog t-shirts.

Despite only 18 players registering for the charity darts in October 1997, **£30** was raised for the guide dogs fund, with the next one taking place in December 1997.

On 3rd May 1996 a **charity auction** was held in aid of **Deighton Close School** in Louth.

The Prussian Queen's 1997 **Harvest Supper** and Auction raised **£362.18** for **Friends of St Peter's Church**. A highlight of the evening was the auction of a large bottle of homemade pure apple juice.

The Saltfleetby **Women's Institute** frequently held charity bingo nights at the pub. Their December 1997 event raised **£272**. Angela Warne was the organiser, with her son Neil the caller. From 1998 the WI's bingo nights raised money for **Saltfleetby Millenium Fund**, to go towards costs of a village celebration and souvenir items to mark the year 2000. Their Easter 1998 bingo raised **£283**, with many more held over the next few years, including in February 1999 when **£250** was raised.



Louth Target 20th May 1998

A **grand auction** was held at the Prussian Queen on 16th May 1998 to raise funds for **Saltfleetby Joint Churches**. The village's last Methodist Chapel, Saltfleetby East (on the Main Road, opposite Swallowgate, near the pub) closed in 1997, having been first built in 1827, then rebuilt larger in 1877. The old chapel organ was sold at the auction, seen on the left played by Mrs Eileen Borrill, who had played it in chapel for many years, as did her mother before her. The 320 lots, included church vases, crockery and other items from the old chapel, as well as a Rayburn cooker and many locally donated items.

A total of **£1,400** was raised at the auction, which one of the organisers, Colin Vickers, said was "beyond our wildest dreams".

Chris Appleby was involved in the **Royal Air Forces Association's** annual **Battle of Britian Wings Appeal**. It was noted that in 1998 the Louth area achieved its best-ever total, making a significant contribution towards cost of maintaining and running their disabled and convalescent homes, sheltered housing and welfare facilities for ex-service men and women. The president of the Louth branch thanked the *"sterling contribution"* of *"Mr Chris Appleby of the Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby, whose enthusiastic and generous help throughout this and previous years, has been most encouraging"*.

Mr Appleby organised many events for the **Saltfleetby 2000** fund including an **Easter Egg draw** in 1998 that added **£75** towards the total, and a **New Year's raffle** in 1999 raised **£55**. In May 1999 the village football teams took on each other, followed by evening entertainment by barbershop quartet *The Quarterjacks*, and a buffet supper. A Valentine's bingo in February 2000 raised **£250** for the fund.

Bonfire Night Fireworks

An annual Guy Fawkes night event was held at the Prussian Queen every 5th November. A giant bonfire, said to be the biggest on the East Coast between Grimsby and Skegness, was lit in a field next to the pub on 5th November 1993 at 7pm, followed by a massive firework display at 7.15. Entry was free, with hot dogs, toffee apples and hot soup on sale.

Always a popular, traditional event that was well attended and greatly enjoyed. In 1998 the Saltfleetby WI held a cake and preserve stall at the bonfire event to help raise funds. In 1999 the bonfire event raised **£60** for the Saltfleetby 2000 fund.



Louth Target, 10th November 1999: *"There was lots of sparkler fun at the Prussian Queen Bonfire Party agree Jason Daff, Keith Kirkby and Alex Edwards"*

Community Groups

Many local groups held events in the Prussian Queen. **Saltfleetby Women's Institute** frequently met at the pub for meetings and meals. Each March, Mrs Maureen Robinson arranged a **Darts Fun Evening** and supper at the Prussian Queen for **Manby and Grimoldby Women's Institute**. Teams from the group enjoyed a friendly darts competition. **North Somercotes Gardening Club** enjoyed their Christmas Dinner at the pub, attended by about 16 members in December 1998, when the landlord provided a Christmas quiz. 24 people attended the event in 1999. **Legbourne and Little Cawthorpe WI** went for lunch at the pub following their walk at Rimac in July 1999.

25 members of **Churches Together** (both Anglican and Methodist) went along the beach at Saltfleetby in August 1999, joining up with the non-walkers at the Prussian Queen for a meal. They enjoyed this annual church chapel evening walk again in August 2000, followed by a pub supper.

Far Welter'd, the East Lincolnshire Dialect Society held a meeting at the pub in November 1999 when guests read dialect pieces, told anecdotes and performed songs. They were provided with a buffet with a Lincolnshire flavour. In 2000: *"They're baach agean, wiv anutther hininvite, to coom oop to the Prussian Queen hon Monday 30 fur a bit on a do"*. In other words, Far Welter'd held another East Lincolnshire Dialect event, a Lincolnshire-style harvest celebration with harvest songs and poems.

In 1994-95 BBC *Spring-Watch* presenter, **Bill Oddie** recorded **audio guides** for the nature trail around the **Rimac reserve** for Natural England. These were available to borrow on cassette tape from the Prussian Queen to listen to on a personal stereo whilst walking the trail. They are now available to stream or download from: <https://dynamicdunesapes.co.uk/bill-oddie-audio-trail-saltfleetby/>

Saltfleetby 2000

Many meetings of the committee involved in organising events to mark the new Millenium in the village, were held at the Prussian Queen with Chris Appleby as chairman. The villagers got behind

multiple fund-raising events: by May 1999 about £7,000 had been raised, by the end of the year it had reached £10,857.10. By August 2000, the total had reached over £13,000.

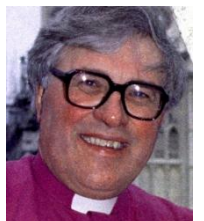
There was a good turnout for a sponsored walk in May 1999. Setting off from the Prussian Queen there was a choice of a four mile or seven-mile route, followed by a barbecue back at the pub.



Louth Target 26th May 1999

After three years of planning, a weekend packed with celebrations took place from 4th August 2000, mostly in a marquee next to the Prussian Queen. The festival started with **A Grand Family Night**, that featured top function band: *The Sound* and the *Elektron disco*. Saturday daytime was free for the children with fun and games, and bouncy castle on the football field, with refreshments and then circus-style entertainment by the *Earthbound Misfits*. On the Saturday night there was a dance for over 18s compared by comedy magician John Knight with *Mister Sister*, an eight-piece band with an all-girl brass section, and a disco by *Elektron* again.

The Bishop of Lincoln, the Rt Reverend Robert Hardy led the Sunday morning service in the marquee. The *Riverhead Brass Band* played at the service, with the *Quarterjacks* barbershop quartet. This was followed by a parade by the **Fell Pony Society**.



Bishop of Lincoln Rt
Rev "Bob" Hardy

The Sunday afternoon saw a free **tea dance** with tea and cakes, some of Saltfleetby's elderly residents were driven there in a Rolls Royce. On Sunday evening there was a concert by the **Millenium Jazz band**, when the grand raffle draw was held, with a first prize of a five-day holiday for two adults in New York, and the second prize of a family trip to *Euro Disney*.

Commemorative mugs and videos were on sale at the Prussian Queen after the event. Some of the money raised went towards compiling and publishing a pictural history book. People sent in their old photos of the village for inclusion.

The result was a 175-page paperback packed with historic photos, and some information and reminiscences about Saltfleetby's history. All village residents received a copy, as well as a commemorative mug.



Fundraising in aid of Saltfleetby 2000 Millennium Project continued with further event such as prize bingos at the pub.

Pub Sports

With teams active in the Louth Pools League, Mablethorpe men's and ladies' darts league, Covenham and District summer darts league and North Somercotes dominoes league, pub sports were thriving at the Prussian Queen in the 1990s, when many trophies were brought home.

At the final of the May 1992 Mablethorpe and District Darts League played at Mablethorpe Social Club they were beaten by the Remington Club for the Shipstone Shield. The Prussian Queen beat the Royal British Legion team to win the Billy Shaw Cup. They also won the Whitbread Cup, and were runners-up in the doubles.



Skegness Standard 30th April 1993

Multiple darts trophies were won by the Prussian Queen in 1993. A four-man team competed at the Fulbeck Hotel in April to win the Bellamy Cup. The Prussian Queen team won the Shipston Shield at Mablethorpe Social Club, beating the seven other pub teams taking part, also taking home a bottle of whiskey. They also took home the Whitebread Cup and Broughton Shield. It was a close battle between the top two teams for the Billy Shaw Cup in May when they came second to the Book in Hand.



Skegness Standard 23rd April 1993



Skegness Standard 28th May 1993

In May 1994, The Prussian Queen team won the Whitbread Cup darts finals at Sutton Social Club. The winning team (right) comprised of Richard Aldrich (captain), Les Cooper, Paul Asquith, Ian Warsap, Mick Phillips and Dave Clarke. They also won the Billy Shaw Cup final after coming top of Division one by winning all of their 18 games.



Skegness Standard 3rd June 1994



Skegness Standard 20th May 1994

The Prussian Queen also won the Broughton Shield 1994.

Pictured left: the team at the presentation evening at Mablethorpe Social and Working Men's Club: Paul Asquith, Richard Aldrich, Les Cooper, Dave Clarke, Mick Phillips, Ian Warsap and reserve player Kerry Phillips.



The winner Prussian Queen "A" of Saltfleetby, who beat the Turk's Head of Maltby-le-Marsh to claim the Bellamy Cup at Sutton-on-Sea last Thursday. Photo: Ian Holmes

At Sutton on Sea Social Club in May 1995, the Prussian Queen beat the Turk's Head to win the Bellamy Cup.

QUEEN LIFT DARTS CROWN

Louth Standard 5th May 1995: The winning darts team of the Bellamy Cup 1995

In May 1995 the Prussian Queen were runners-up in the North Somercotes and District **Domino** League in both the team cup and the South division pairs consisting of J. Tuxworth and M. Vickers. The presentations were held at the Lakeside Lido in North Somercotes.

In 1996 they managed to scoop several trophies in the Mablethorpe Ladies Darts League. At the league's annual presentation at the *Grange and Links* at Sandilands, the Prussian Queen team were presented with the Division One championship trophy, the Don Noble Cup, the Whitbread Shield and the runners-up prize in the Rose Bowl competition.



Louth Standard 26th April 1996: Pictured are the victorious Prussian Queen team receiving their trophies from league secretary Roy Skeldon. The team: Esta Aldrich, Sue Cooper, Trish Atkinson, Shirley Hewson, Sue Irwin and Anne Monks



Anne Monks and Shirley Hewson, from the Prussian Queen team, also won the league's doubles competition. They were presented with their trophies by Mr Harry Cook.

Louth Standard 26th April 1996: Anne Monks and Shirley Hewson from the Prussian Queen team also won the league's doubles competition, presented with their trophies by Mr Harry Cook



The Prussian Queen.

The Prussian Queen Men's team won the 1996 Whitbread Cup

In May 1997 the Ladie's Darts team were the Mablethorpe Division One winners. Ann Monks and Shirley Hewson won the doubles for the Prussian Queen. Trophies were presented at the Grange Links Hotel in Sandilands.



Mablethorpe Ladies' Darts League turned out in force at the Grange and Links Hotel, Sandilands for its presentation night. Pictured here are Division One winners the Prussian Ladies. Photos: Ian Holmes.



Doubles winners Ann Monks (left) and Shirley Hewson. Photo: Ian

Spilsby Standard 16th May 1997

In May 2000 the Prussian Queen team were runners-up in the North Somercotes and District **Domino** League pairs knock-out for the south division held at North Somercotes Lido prize-giving evening, losing to the New Inn of Saltfleet.

At Louth **Pool** League's presentation night at the *Linpac Club* in Louth in May 2000, the Prussian Queen team were awarded the wooden spoon for coming bottom of division two.

A Popular Pub and Restaurant

The pub got excellent reviews for food and hospitality throughout the 90s and into the 2000s.

An active programme of special events was provided with a variety to bring members of the community together. Chris marked his 10th anniversary in charge of the pub at the end of 1999.

Perfect meals at Prussian Queen



Louth Standard 3rd July 1992



The Prussian Queen

Main Road, Saltfleetby, Louth
Telephone: 01507 338707

A Right Royal 10th Anniversary Welcome Awaits You!

CHRISTMAS DIARY

Christmas & New Year Celebrations start here...

CHRISTMAS PRIZE BINGO
Sunday 12th December
'Eyes Down' 2.30pm
In aid of Saltfleetby WI
Food available 12 - 2pm & 7 - 10pm

CHRISTMAS QUIZ & SUPPER
Friday 17th Dec starts 9pm
Open all day Sat 18th Dec
12 noon - 11pm
Food available 12 noon - 2pm & 7 - 10pm

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY
Sunday 19th December
2.30 - 5.00pm

GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW
Wednesday 22th December
(9pm start includes free supper)

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS
AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE
with Saltfleetby Churches Choir on
Friday 24th December 9.30pm start
(includes free supper)

CHRISTMAS DAY
Open 11.30am - 2.30pm

BOXING DAY
Open 12 noon - 3pm & 7 - 11pm
(food available lunchtime only)

GRAND FIREWORKS DISPLAY & RAFFLE
Wednesday 29th December 8pm start

"WELCOME TO 2000 QUIZ"
Sunday 2nd January, 2000 8pm start
(includes free supper)
Food available 12 noon - 2pm & 7 - 9.30pm

VERY LIMITED PLACES LEFT FOR CHRISTMAS AND BOXING DAY LUNCH

SERVED EVERY DAY
Good Home-cooked Fare to suit all tastes

Open for Sunday Lunches
12 noon - 2pm

Bar Open all day Saturday

Bar Meals available daily
12 noon - 2pm & 7 - 10pm

Christmas Fayre Lunch & Dinner Menu
available on 5th, 12th & 19th Dec
by arrangement on other dates



Louth Standard 3rd December 1999

THIS month's gourmet guide features the Prussian Queen public house in Saltfleetby, near Louth, the perfect venue for all occasions from a quick snack at lunchtime to an intimate evening out.

My partner and I arrived at about 7.30pm and made our way through the sun lounge porch into the bar area and ordered a drink each.

We were handed a menu to study at our leisure and took a seat at the bar to do just that.

We found the extensive menu extremely appetising with prawn cocktail or a choice of two soups of the day, cream of vegetable or cream of tomato (chicken, minestrone and mushroom are also available on various different days).

Endless

Lee chose the vegetable soup but I decided to save myself for the sweet trolley! As for the main course, the list is almost endless! It includes steak and kidney pie, gammon and pineapple, home-made meat or vegetarian lasagne with the option of French bread rather than chips, scampi, trout, plaice, steak (available in the evenings only) and two specials of the day which were half a chicken and steak with a cream, brandy and mushroom sauce. All main courses are served with chips or creamed potatoes plus salad or fresh vegetables. Lee chose the 8oz sirloin steak and myself the special steak.

After giving our order to Chris Appleby, the landlord, we were shown to the lounge which can be set for about 35 people, although it is possible to eat in the bar. After a short time the soup was brought to our table, piping hot, thick and creamy it was served with a soft, warm bun and a pat of butter. Lee assured me that it tasted as good as it smelled and I was beginning to regret not ordering a starter!

Efficient

We didn't have to wait long before the main course was served with fresh crisp salad, chips cooked to perfection and coleslaw (onion rings and mushrooms are also included with the steak). The meat was very lean — probably the best steaks we had tasted we agreed.

We were then invited to choose a sweet from the six available; I opted for the raspberry chantilly and Lee the banana split. Both presented beautifully with mountains of fresh cream and fruit, we couldn't have eaten another morsel.

The Prussian Queen also offer an all inclusive Sunday lunch for £5.95 for which they have gained regular custom and a daily snack menu with beefburger in a bun, various salads and sandwiches for example — all at reasonable prices. They are open all day on Fridays and Saturdays. We enjoyed our evening not only because of the good food but also due to the friendly efficient service provided and will definitely return.

Hayley Wilkins.

Louth Standard 3rd July 1992

QUEEN OF THE MARSHES

IF you are looking for excellent quality pub food and a quiet beer, then you can do much worse than making the trip to the Prussian Queen in Saltfleetby.

Whether you are a local or from further afield and are looking to go somewhere different, you cannot miss this pub.

It is surrounded by marshland on three sides and a dyke separates the spacious courtyard from the road. A wide bridge welcomes you in.

The place really has that traditional country pub feel. If you are not driving, you might like a pint of Stones or Guinness, or

maybe Carling is more to your taste.

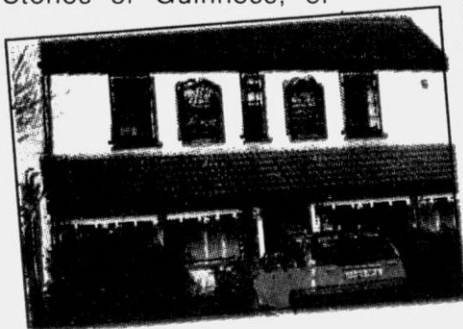
And you will not be disappointed with the food. The not-too-strong garlic bread option from the starter menu is a promise of the delights to come. (£1.50)


Choosing from an extensive array of main courses, my fellow taster plumped for a lasagne. (£4.65) She enjoyed a decent helping with a thick layer of cheese, but it perhaps needed to be a touch spicier. The lasagne was served with fresh French bread and a large side salad.

However, the lamb steak (£4.95) was more to my taste. Thickly-cut, it can be ordered with a jacket potato or salad but there was no penny pinching with the combination of chips and vegetables.

If you can manage a sweet, then from the fine selection of tempting treats, this hungry reporter can recommend a chocolate nut sundae. (£1.90)

All this makes the Prussian Queen as welcome to the traveller as an oasis in the desert.





**PUB
ON
A
PLATE**

The Prussian Queen,
Saltfleetby

FACTFILE

SERVICE: Friendly and warm.

ATMOSPHERE: All you would expect of a country village pub.

DRINKS: Wide range of beers, wines and spirits.


VALUE FOR MONEY: Good.

Grimsby Daily Telegraph 15th December 1998

Property Auctions

The Prussian Queen was used as a venue for a number of auctions to sell local farmland and a few houses in the village. Large crowds gathered from a wide area in October 1990 to attend the auction sale of a dilapidated cottage on Long Gate in 6 acres of land, which had not been occupied for 60 years, and had been used as a barn. It sold for £36,000.

Upon Instructions from R.S. Riggall Esq
FOR SALE BY AUCTION
at the PRUSSIAN QUEEN
SALT FLEETBY ALL SAINTS
on Thursday 18th October 1990 at 7.30pm




**Long Gate, Off Northend Lane,
Saltfleetby St Peter**

A dilapidated Country cottage with outline planning permission to demolish and rebuild. Sold together with 6.87 acres (more or less) pasture land ideal for horses, cattle, poultry etc

Skegness Standard 26th October 1990

RESIDENTIAL AUCTION
 FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION
 at
THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN
SALT FLEETBY ALL SAINTS
 on
TUESDAY, 11th SEPTEMBER, 1990
 at 7.00 pm
FLEET COTTAGE
SALTERGATE off NORTHEND LANE
SALT FLEETBY ST. PETER
NEAR LOUTH
 PREVIOUSLY ON THE MARKET FOR £85,000
 NOW WITH A DECLARED RESERVE OF ONLY £48,000
 A most attractive fully restored Railway Gatehouse standing in beautiful gardens of about one third of an acre in a totally secluded position by a disused Railway line. Freehold with vacant possession.
 Solicitors Messrs. John Barkers, 11 Uppgate, Louth, Lincolnshire. Tel. (0507) 604773.
 Full details available from the Auctioneers.



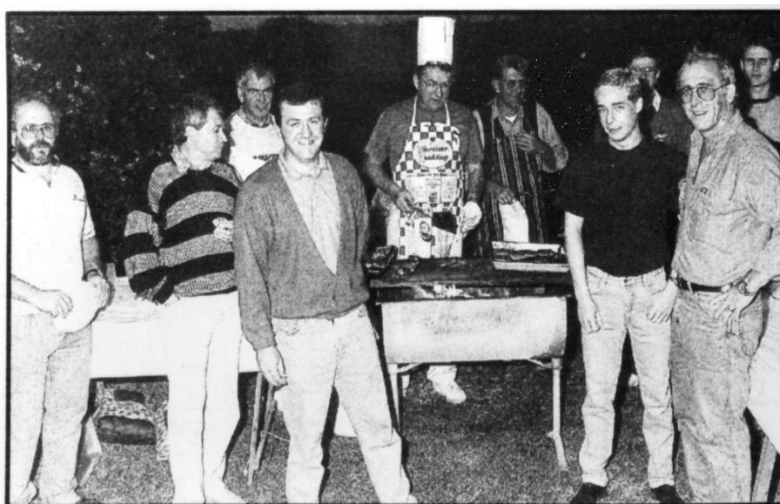
Grimsby Evening Telegraph 31st August 1990

In September 1991 23.5 acres of pasture in Theddlethorpe were for sale at auction. There was spirited competition in December 1994 when a grass field of 5.9 acres at the corner of North End Lane and Ings Lane was sold by Louth auctioneers *Broadgate and Thompson* for £15,500 (£2,600 per acre). W.R. Taylor's three fields on Three Bridges Road, North End Lane and North Cockerington were auctioned on 21st March 1995.

On 11th May 1995 35 acres of arable land from *Ralph Needham Farms*, in 3 lots, situated on Charlesgate and in Howdales were auctioned by *Mawer Mason & Bell*. 92 acres of arable land from the farm of Mr and Mrs Borrill was for sale by auction on 29th June 1995. R.S. Riggall's 14 acres of grassland: 2 adjoining fields on Long Gate, were auctioned in June 1996 by auctioneers *Broadgate and Thompson*. They sold for a new local record price for grassland for £22,000 (£2,706 per acre) and £20,000 (£3,262 per acre). A further sale of agricultural land situated in North Somercotes and Saltfleetby St Peter was held on 4th September 1996. A total of 41 acres of grassland: two at Ludney and two in Saltfleetby were auctioned on 6th November 1996.

Saltfleetby Football Club

Chris Appleby was chairman of the village football team, Saltfleetby FC. Over the years many meetings, AGMs, prize-givings and events for the team were held at the pub. Chris also sponsored the club and provided their strip, with the pub name on.



Helping out at the barbecue held in the grounds of the Prussian Queen to aid Saltfleetby F.C., were players and supporters with chairman John Smith, vice-chairman 'Chef' Mike Vickers, team manager Malcolm Shotton and landlord Chris Appleby. LSG Photo(Lo).

Louth Standard 23rd August 1991

Barbecue evenings were held in the grounds of the Prussian Queen, when the footballers took on the roles of cooks and servers. At a players' night in July 1993, live music was played by *Loose Ends*, tickets were £2.50 in aid of club funds.

In May 1996 Saltfleetby FC played against a team of Lincs FM celebrities on the second day of their 24-hour sports marathon, which included pool and darts all through the night at the pub. Funds were raised for club finds and **Lincs FM's Meningitis Appeal**.



Dave is players' choice

Lincs FM presenter Paul Chivers, front centre, was the guest at the Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby, when the local football team gathered for their trophy presentation night. On Paul's left is team manager Keith Warsap and on his right, seated, Andy Warren. Results were players' player, Dave Riggall, first team, Dai Davies, reserves; manager's player of the year, Carl Graves, first team and Carl Harris, reserves; man of the match most times, Carl Graves, first team and Jason Stainton, reserves.

Louth Standard 6th June 1997



Soloby's pick of the players

Trophy winners at the Saltfleetby FC presentation evening at The Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby (left to right): Second team trophy, captain's player and players' player trophies winner Stuart Vickers; manager's player trophy winner M. Wood, and most often man of the match trophy winner Steve Whiteley.

Grimsby Evening Telegraph 1st August 1998



SALTFLEETBY FC held a presentation night at the Prussian Queen recently. Well done to Captain's Player of the Year G. Spencer, Players Player and the Most Man of the Match Awards A. Househam, and Manager's Player C. Graves. (Photo: Ian Holmes)

Louth Target 3rd June 1998



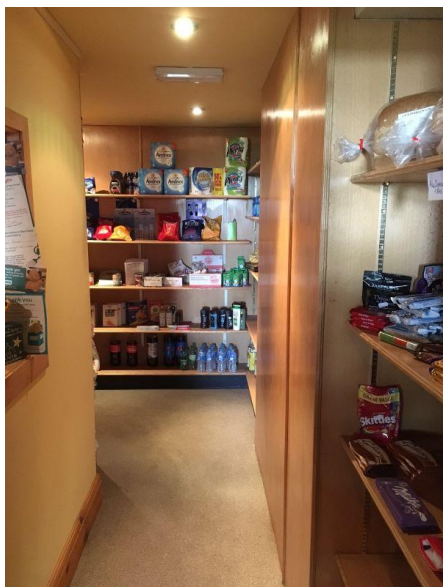
Kicking off in style

SPONSOR of Saltfleetby FC, Mr Chris Appleby of the Prussian Queen handed over the team's new strip at the weekend. With the players are manager Keith Warsap, treasurer Keith Atkinson and son Benjamin (mascot) and honorary president John Vickers. Team members pictured are Mark Wilkinson, Gavin Wray, Pete McLoughlin, Andy Househam, Phil Winter, Iain Patterson, Gary Spencer, Russell Giedhill, Darren Bell, Anthony Ablott and Nev Pickford.

Louth Standard 21st August 1998

A Shop in the Pub

The village shop closed in December 2006, leaving Saltfleetby without a shop for the first time. With help and advice from *The Pub is the Hub*, Chris made a shop inside the Prussian Queen, stocked with general groceries, saving local people a an 8-mile trip to the nearest town for a loaf of bread! Opening in 2007, a bar area was adapted to create a walk in shop with shelving and refrigerators. The counter for the shop adjoined the main bar servery, integrated with the shop to become part of the normal daily running of the pub, and meant that all customers had to come into the pub to shop.



The shop in 2016

There was an emphasis on stocking local produce, not just fruit and veg, but products from local bakeries, Lincolnshire honey, bottles of locally brewed cider etc. Customers coming to use the shop often stayed for a drink at the bar, and those visiting the bar also bought a few items from the shop while they were there. Bar staff could serve customers in the pub and the shop at the same time.



The Pub and Shop sign in 2013

photo by Ian S. on Geograph



The Prussian Queen shop interior from *The Pub is the Hub* case study



At the launch of Local Community Services Champions at the Lincolnshire County Showground in March 2012: Left to right: John and Lesley Berry, of the Cholmeley Arms in Burton-le-Coggles, John Longden, Chief Executive from Pub is The Hub, and Chris Appleby of the Prussian Queen

www.pubisthehub.org.uk/news/off-to-a-great-start-in-lincolnshire/

www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLeb_UQWfkA

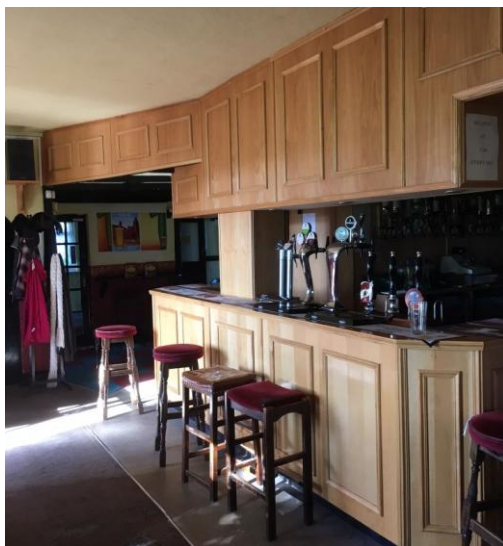
The Prussian Queen continued to be a thriving hub in the local community, hosting many more fund-raising events and village celebrations. These included for Queen Elizabeth's **Diamond Jubilee** in 2012, when a beacon was lit outside the pub to bring to an end a day of well-attended activities.

Chris retired in 2016, after 27 years of successfully running our highly-regarded village pub.

Sale of the Prussian Queen

The pub was put up for sale by auction, held at Nottingham Racecourse by *Auction Estates* on 13th December 2016:

"Freehold Pub offered For Sale; Close to the popular seaside resorts of Mablethorpe, Skegness; Ingoldmells & Cleethorpes; Approximately 6 miles east of Louth and a mile or so from the coast; Occupying a broadly rectangular shaped site of 0.83 acres; Spacious pub with 32 cover restaurant/dining area; Large customer parking areas to the front and rear of the pub; Includes a detached storage building; In need of cosmetic improvement and general upgrading; Lounge, office; 2 bedrooms & bathroom at first floor"



Photos from Auction Estates website, 2016: www.auctionestates.co.uk/property/12-The-Prussian-Queen-Main-Road-Saltfleetby-Louth-Lincolnshire-Ln11-7tp



It was sold for £90,000.

Over the next few years, the pub was let to different tenant publicans, who each tried to revive the pub and restaurant business in the new, more difficult, changed times.

In between there were periods of closure with no landlord.

Each new landlord added their own new signs and branding to the ancient pub for the 21st Century.

21ST CENTURY LANDLORDS

New landlords ran the Prussian Queen as a pub and restaurant from 2017.

It was forced to close again in 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Daniel Johnson - The Wick

In August 2020 the 30-year-old from Lincoln had only just taken over the **Harrows Inn** in North Hykeham. Both pubs were part of his **The Wick** chain. The pub was repainted grey with new signs of the new name: *The Wick at The Prussian Queen*.



Mr Johnson told Lincolnshire Live in 2020: *"I wanted to take it on mainly because it wants to be a food destination. Our plans are to serve nice gastropub food which is all traditionally home-cooked. We're just getting the kitchen ready and we open Friday, August 7th".* Renovations took place, but unfortunately further covid lockdowns and disruption meant it closed again in 2021.

Shawn Murray & family

The Pub again had new landlords, new signs (featuring the 1802 portrait of Queen Louise) and a new coat of white paint in September 2022. Experienced chef Shawn (who formally ran *The Hungry Belly Café* in Louth) introduced Monday Curry Night, Tuesday Pie Night, Thursday Steak Night, etc, with many good reviews for quality of the food. They hosted bingo, pool and karaoke nights, had guest singers, and put on several seasonal family events, some in collaboration with *Soloby Events Committee* such as a Halloween party in 2022 and motorcycle meet in August 2023. They moved out in November 2023.



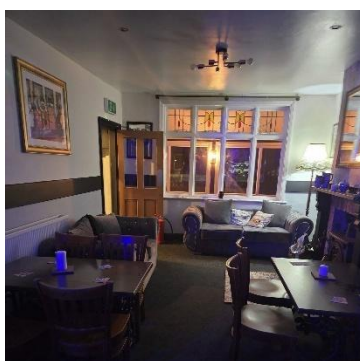
October 2023 from *Prussian Queen restaurant campsite* Facebook page

Emma Louise Mitchell a pub manager from Leicester, took over the Prussian Queen in March 2024. The pub was spruced-up with new paint and signs inside and out. The campsite welcomed visitors from April and they held regular car boot sales. Several special events were held such a family fun day in May, music bingo, country night, quiz night, paint and sip, cocktails and guest singers. She left in June 2024.



Photos of the campsite and pub front in March April 2023 from *The Queen at Saltfleetby* Facebook page

The Coulson Family from Louth, took over the pub in July 2024. They had live music on Saturday nights. But they decided that times had changed, and it was no longer viable as a pub anymore.



The bar in July and September 2024 from *Friends of the Prussian Queen* Facebook page

It looked like the days of a traditional village pub were over, until the Prussian Queen was saved by the enthusiastic new young landlords:

CHRIS AND AXIL SMITH

In March 2025 local builder Chris Smith and his wife Axil Rose, along with their young children, took over at the Prussian Queen.

They found the place in a bad state, run-down and in need of a good clean. Chris was already running his building firm: *Roofing & Renovations*, and took on the work to give the old place a thorough, well-needed renovation. Work was extensive, involving a brand-new roof, and all works inside: painting & decorating, plastering, plumbing, electrics and grounds work etc. Work cost over £60,000 and transformed the place into a warm, welcoming, smart village pub again. Chris wrote on Facebook that they planned on taking "*the famous Prussian Queen back to what she deserves: a classic country pub and restaurant*".

With lots of ideas for events and entertainments, in their first few months they had already held numerous events such as a family fun day, 1940s-day, dog show, wine tasting, Halloween parties, bonfire night fireworks display, and in December set up a Christmas grotto with presents from Santa.



New landlords Axil and Chris Smith at the bar of the Prussian Queen in April 2025

Thankfully our ancient village pub has survived to go forward into a new era.

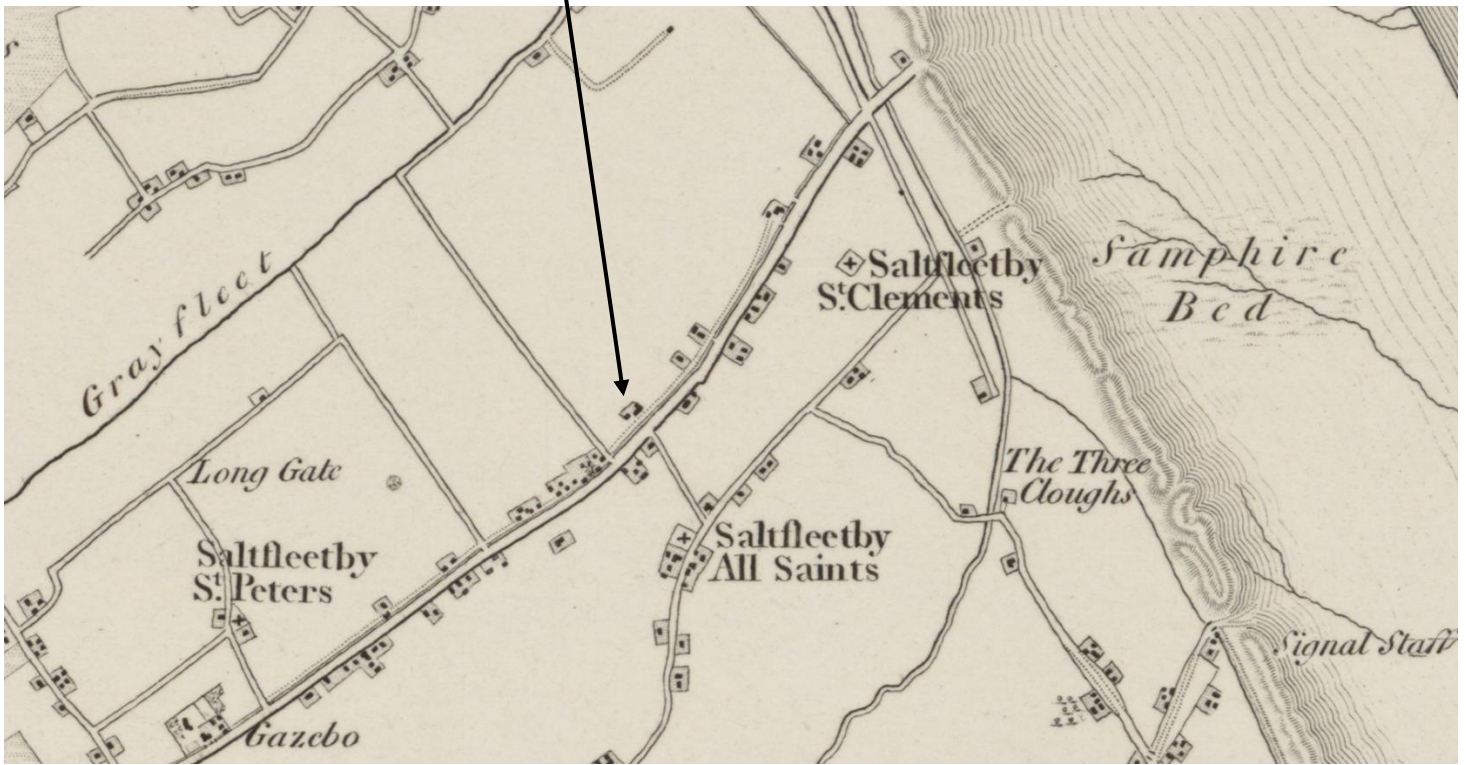
Photos from Facebook page: **Friends of the Prussian Queen**

They hold regular Karaoke nights, as both Chris and Axil are talented singers. They've received many good reviews and comments from people who have enjoyed the welcoming, friendly atmosphere and good food, pleased that the old pub is now brought back to life.

They received the top food hygiene rating of 5 (very good). The Sunday carvery is very popular, getting fully booked every week.

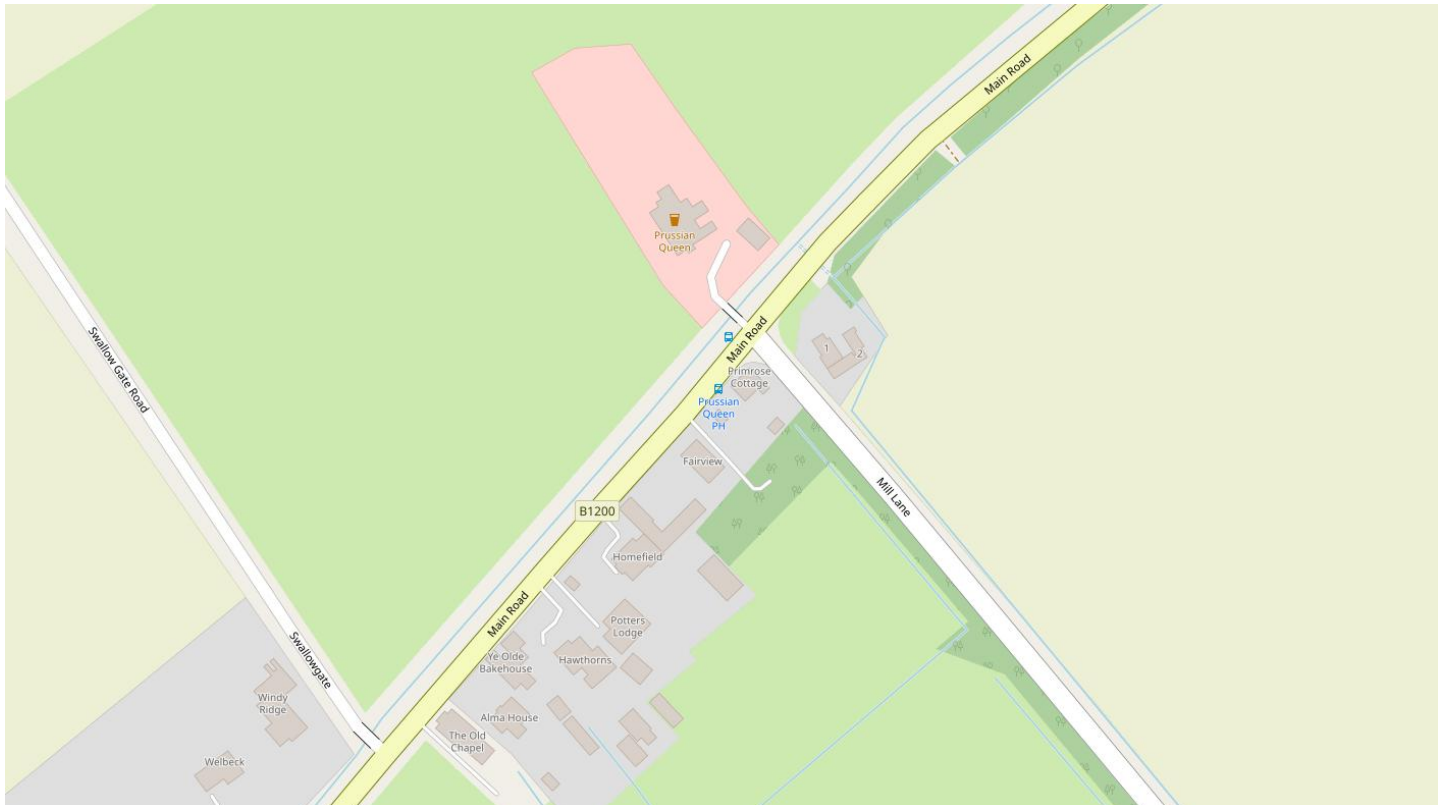


The Public House known by the
sign of The Queen of Prussian



Map surveyed in 1818 to 1819, published in 1824 (from the National Library of Scotland)

When the publicans were James and Sarah Smith



The Prussian Queen pub on OpenStreetMap in 2025

Publicans: Chris and Axil Smith

solve this riddle for a right royal banquet

How do you think the Prussian Queen pub at Saltfleetby, near Louth, gained its name? Who was the Queen of Prussia and why was this remote 19th century pub named after her – the only pub known to carry this title?

It's the question that has caused a lot of head scratching and research at the



On an October night in the 1850s, a German four-masted barque was struggling in the high winds.

Laden with cargo from the port of Boston and bound for Friesland, it was hugging the coastline in a bid to avoid the worst of the gales. But the shifting sands of the East Coast were, as still they are, treacherously difficult to follow and, in a sudden squall, the vessel was dismantled and stranded off Saltfleet.

The winds continued to batter her, wrecking her main structure until nothing was left of ship or crew. All were presumed drowned.

The next day scores of villagers went to scout the shoreline for wreckage - wood for building or burning, and any ship's provisions not damaged by the salt water.

Sticking out of the sand after the tide had receded was the rudder-post, bearing the vessel's figurehead. It was the carved image of the vessel's name, the Prussian Queen.

THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN

Saltfleetby



In the early eighteenth century, England's first Hanoverian king, the German-speaking George I, was keen to cement his ties to the Continent in view of the ever-present threat of the recently-deposed Stuarts.

Naturally, he turned to the rising force of the German politics, Prussia, and an alliance was cemented by the marriage of his daughter, Sophia Dorothea, to the daughter of King Frederick William I.

The journey to Northern Germany involved a dangerous sea voyage across the North Sea, waters which were treacherous enough - but safer than travel through Catholic France, which harboured the Old Pretender, James Stuart.

And so it was that the young princess - destined to become the mother of Fredrick the Great, the most powerful man in Europe in his day - set off from the nearest sea port, Saltfleet Haven, second only in size to London itself.

Many people flocked to see the Royal departure of their Prussian queen - and the event was commemorated by the nearest hostelry, that at Saltfleetby, which changed its name from The Plough for the occasion - and never changed it back.

THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN

Saltfleetby

Prussian Queen and has resulted in the four stories, recorded here, which adorn the menus. One of them is based on the truth and is borne out by research done by landlord Chris Appleby - but were not telling you which one.

The point is, the telling of the stories has become such fun that Chris is looking for yet another tall story to adorn his menus. And this is where readers of LIFEstyle

come in.

Chris is challenging them to come up with a winning story - as imaginative and original as they like, but also credible. The winning account will go on the menu and the winning author will be able to enjoy a full Sunday lunch with wine for two people at the pub on a date of their choice.

The story should be about the same



Saltfleetby was once the home of a famous philatelist. What was less well known was that he was also a forger.

William Mardye lived in the mid-eighteenth century and the pride of his collection was the famous Prussian Blue, one of only three in existence, a stamp rarer than the Penny Black and the Threepenny Red.

It was also the first European stamp to portray a member of the ruling dynasty, the Hohenzollerns, and was the face of Louisa of Battenburg, a second cousin of our own Queen Victoria.

Mardye was flattered when collectors asked to see this beauty and happily showed it to all and sundry, until an expert from London, one Stanley Gibbons, saw it and declared it a fake.

In the ensuing furor, the stamp was taken to London to be examined. It was a fake. But Mardye had already fled abroad in his shame.

The only reminder is a pub sign rocking in the wind.

THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN

Saltfleetby



In the early nineteenth century Britain was at war. She was fighting for her very existence against the ruler of Europe - Napoleon.

The man who had conquered France's enemies - Russia, Prussia and Austria - who had extended his rule to Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and Scandinavia, had Britain at his mercy.

But Britain was saved, not for the last time, by her Navy. Napoleon's answer was to starve the country into submission, issuing orders for a Continental blockade against the goods and trade upon which Britain depended. It was only a matter of time before the "nation of shopkeepers" was starved into submission.

But there were those on the Continent who refused to yield, and among them was Queen Louise, the wife of Frederick William III of Prussia.

While he dithered, she organised resistance, particularly in Eastern Europe, becoming a heroine to the British. They loved her so much they named a pub after her ...

THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN

Saltfleetby

length as the ones here between 150 - 180 words in length.

Send your contributions to Prussian Queen Competition LIFEstyle
The Newspaper Centre
Redstone Road, Boston
Lincolnshire PE21 8EA

to reach us no later than May 24.

Lincolnshire Standard 16th May 1996



Rimac, on the Saltfleetby – Theddlethorpe National Nature Reserve, close to the Prussian Queen