

Bottle and Glass Inn

The 'Bottle and Glass' pub stood originally on Brierley Hill Road, Brockmoor. It backed on to the Stourbridge Canal at the top of the 'Sixteen Locks' near the settlement of Buckpool. The exact date of construction is not known but it is likely that it was built shortly after the Canal was cut between 1776 and 1779.

A map of 1822 shows what appears to be this building but under the name of 'The Bush'. By the 1840s it was known as the 'Bottle and Glass', the name it kept until it closed in 1979.

For much of its history, the pub was popular with miners, boatmen and brickmakers working nearby on the canals, or in Brockmoor's numerous mines and brickyards. Men would drink in the front room while ladies generally went in the back room - or 'snug' as it was called - where they would not have to listen to bad language. Ladies tended not to go into pubs on their own because people would think they were disreputable.

The pub was very much part of the community but on occasion got into trouble with the law - for example in 1857 "Henry Widgeon of the Bottle and Glass Inn, Buckpool, pleaded guilty to having his house open for the sale of liquor during the hours of divine service on February 22nd; for which offence he was fined 5/- and costs".

He was not the only landlord to fall foul of the law for in 1871 William Mullet, boatman and publican, 'Landlord of the Bottle and Glass Inn was charged with permitting drunkenness in his house.

In 1899 the pub ceased to be a 'free house' and passed to the Wordsley Brewery Company and later to Thomas Plant's Brewery at Netherton.

At the museum, the Bottle and Glass is again functioning as a public house serving traditional beers from several local breweries.

In order to comply with current environmental health regulations minor changes have had to be made. The original softwood bar top had been replaced with hardwood as have the shelves for glasses beneath it. The pipework and cylinders of the turn of the century beer engine have been lined with polythene and a modern glass washing area provided. Despite these changes something of the original atmosphere of the Bottle and Glass remains and hope you will enjoy a local pint in this working pub.

A print entitled 'Fighting Cock with Silver Spurs' was donated to the Museum by Mr. Frank Leslie Jones. The print is hand coloured and is believed to date from 1820. The donor also believes that it was originally torn from an old sporting book.

Cockfights or 'mains' as they were called, were a popular blood sport. When they were outlawed in 1835

they began to be held in secret places or at Public Houses in a closed yard or the upper room. This went on to the 1930s.

Cockfighting spurs were made from iron, brass, steel or silver. Silver spurs often had a portion of copper in their composition to make them stronger and more flexible. All matches of importance were fought in silver spurs, as they were not so immediately destructive as steel. This enabled the birds to show their powers of endurance more fully.

The spurs were padded firm at the socket and secured firmly with cobbler's waxed thread. If they came off in a fight they were not allowed to be replaced. Pub landlords and Landladies often provided games for their customers to play, including cards and dominos, so if you have time, why not have a game yourself? Ask our landlady or one of her staff!