

The Anchor Inn, Normandy

The Anchor was the oldest-established public house in Normandy by many years. The earliest reference to it being an alehouse is in 1720. It was originally held by copyhold from the lord of the manor of Cleygate, and it was described as: copyhold cottage being the Anchor Alehouse and parcel of land adjoining, rent 2d, heriot 2d, fine 2d. Heriots and fines were 'taxes' paid to the lord of the manor when the property changed hands either by sale or inheritance. Two adjacent parcels of land were also held copyhold and became incorporated into the Anchor property; one was described as: sometime parcel of the waste on which a barn is built, rent 2d, heriot 6d, fine 6d, and the other as: 4 rods of land sometime parcel of the waste adjoining said barn, rent 4d, heriot 1d, fine 1d. In the 1830s (and probably for some time before) the occupant of the Anchor was entitled to use a specific pew at Ash Church.

The main dates in the history of the Anchor, according to our research so far, are as follows: -

- In 1649 The parcel of 5 rods with barn was granted to William Chewter.
- By 1664 William Chewter senior died and it descended to his son William Chewter.
- 1664 Dorothy Lovell sold the copyhold cottage and parcel of land, next to the barn, to William Chewter. Then all three properties were owned by William Chewter.
- By 1697 William Chewter died and it descended to his daughter and heir Elizabeth Chewter. But Dorothy Chewter, widow and mother of Elizabeth, told the manorial court that she is under 21 years of age and should not be admitted until she is of full age.
- 1710 On the 14th of August Elizabeth Chewter, spinster, (apparently the daughter) sold it to John Norris.
- 1712 John Norris has planted trees on the road between Ash and Guildford near Tickners Bridge and was fined 6d by the manorial court.
- By 1720 John Norris died and it descended to his wife Sarah Norris. This transaction is the first reference to 'The Anchor Alehouse'.
- 1722 It had been held by Sarah Norris, who died and it descended to her son Stephen Norris, according to the court roll of the manor of Cleygate.
- 1730 On the 1st of February, Stephen Norris, a blacksmith of Eashing Godalming, sold it to Thomas Bicknell, a victualler late of Elstead but now of Ash. It had formerly been the cottage of William Chewter, now the Anchor Alehouse.
- 1741 It was owned by Thomas Bicknell the elder, victualler of Ash, occupied by Thomas Bicknell (probably his son).
- By 1755 Thomas Bicknell died and bequeathed it to his wife Mary for life, then to his son Thomas Bicknell.
- 1755-59 Mary Bicknell died and it descended to her son Thomas Bicknell.
- 1781 to 92 It was still owned by Thomas Bicknell, according to the land tax.

- 1781 to 1816 It was occupied by Will Christmas at a rent of £3 10s, according to the land tax.
- 1795 to 97 It was apparently owned by Mr Bradley, according to the land tax. Possibly he was a trustee.
- 1798 to 1805 It was owned by William Bicknell, according to the land tax.
- 1806 to 20 It was owned by Thomas Bicknell, according to the land tax.
- In 1820 It was occupied by Ann Barrett, according to the land tax.
- 1820 On the 8th of November, Thomas Bicknell, yeoman of Guildford, sold it to John Knight, brewer of Farnham, for £512 10s, according to Cleygate court roll.
- 1821 to 31 Owned by CG Knight, occupied by William Faggotter, according to the land tax.
- 1841 to 61 It was occupied by Edmund Waters, licenced victualler, according to the census.
- 1844 Owned by John Knight, occupied by Edmund Waters, with an area of 2 roods, 38 perches (about three-quarters of an acre), according to the tithe survey.
- 1856 or 57 John Knight, banker and brewer of Farnham, died; his will bequeathed it to his wife Mary and son John Henry Knight, when he attains the age of 21.
- 1868 In February John Henry Knight of Weybourne House, Farnham, attained age 21.
- 1871 It was still occupied by Edmund Waters, who was now a licenced victualler and farmer, according to the census.
- 1874 Owned by John Knight and still occupied by Edmund Waters, according to the poor rate book.
- 1881 Occupied by William Hill, licenced victualler, who had married Edmund Waters' daughter, according to the census.
- 1882 William Hill was still landlord, according to Kelly's directory.
- 1884 to 95 The landlord was James Gardiner, according to the directories and rate books. In 1891 James Gardiner was a publican age 48, according to the census.
- 1888 On 25th June, John Henry Knight Esq of Barfield, Runfold, sold it to Messrs John and Edward Barrett, brewers of Farnham, for £1,110.
- 1890 On 6th June, John and Edward Barrett, brewers of Farnham, sold it to Sir William Henry Humphrey, Bart, of 84 Piccadilly and Robert George Trimmer Esq of Oakhanger Hants, for £1,500.
- 1898 to 1938 James Hutchins became the landlord in 1898 and remained at the Anchor until 1938, according to the Surrey Advertiser, as well as rate books and directories.
- 1903 Robert George Trimmer died.

- 1906 On 19th June, Sir William Henry Humphery sold it to Sir William Henry Humphery and George Frederick Roumieu Esq, for 10 shillings and divers good causes according to the Cleygate manorial roll. According to the rate books, it was already owned by Farnham United Breweries by 1904.
- About 1910 It was owned by Farnham United Breweries freehold, occupied by James Hutchins, with a taproom, sitting room, clubroom, cellar, etc. It was not yet connected to main drains. It was in fair order considering its age. The gross value was £1,850, according to the national valuation survey.
- In 1916 The old Anchor building was pulled down and the latest one was built, on exactly the same site. Meanwhile, beer was sold from the stables, according to a former landlord. James Hutchins had a full licence and provided dinners, teas and minerals. There was accommodation of two beds and stabling for four horses. The clientele was "of all classes".
 Concerts were held in the Anchor and the Duke of Normandy - the Anchor was more rowdy than the Duke, according to Doug Roberts, a local resident.
 The coach and four from London to Southampton used to change horses at the Anchor. It was not a regular route, just occasional runs, according to Doug.
 There was a big tree in front where children played while their parents were inside, according to a local resident.
 The hunt used to meet at the Anchor quite often up to the 1930s.
- In 1927 Farnham United Brewery and its pubs were acquired by Courage.
- 1938 On 22nd July, Frank Hutchins took over from James, his father, according to the Surrey Advertiser. James Hutchins, age 69, died in October 1939.
- 1950 to 64 Occupied by Frank and Winifred Hutchins, according to the electoral roll.
 In the 1950s and 60s Frank used to pull all the pints down in the cellar and come up the steps with both hands full of brimming glasses, according to local resident Phil Potter.
 Frank had a very limited choice behind the bar. There was a ritual with the Gordon's Gin rep - he would come in and announce 'drinks all round' for everyone in the bar, then he would ask for a double Gordon's Gin for himself. Frank didn't stock Gordon's and would offer him the only one he had. The rep argued that they should stock Gordon's, Frank refused and he always ended up drinking the other one. The Cricket Club eventually opened its own bar because Frank and his wife would not lay on sandwiches.
- In 1965 The Hutchins retired and moved to Ash, according to the Surrey Advertiser.
- 1971-75 Occupied by Charles and Margaret Hebburn, according to the electoral roll.
- 1981 to 82 Occupied by Judy and Tony Gower, selling Gales traditional ales, according to 'focus' articles in the Surrey Advertiser.
- 1988 to 89 Occupied by Paul and Lyn Gumbrell, according to parish magazines.
- In 1991 The new proprietors were Adrian and Patricia Collins, according to the parish magazine.
- In 1992 Grand Metropolitan's Courage pubs were transferred to Intntrepreneur.
- In 1993 The tenants went into liquidation and the pub closed.

- In 1994 It reopened as a free house under new tenants.
- In 1996 'Your hosts' were Avril and Dick Henderson with an extensive menu, according to the Surrey Advertiser.
- By 2000 It had closed for good and was boarded up, with damaged cars rusting on the forecourt. Soon afterwards it was demolished and houses were built on the site.

With thanks to Mark Sturley, author of *The Breweries and Public Houses of Guildford, 1995*.

Normandy Historians
November 2005.