

The Black Horse Public House, The Green, Nettleham.

Trip Advisor States 'The little country gem nestled in the heart of one of Lincolnshire's most scenic areas. Cask ales, real food, and a commitment to the community!'

Former Union Workhouse, Cottage, and Beer House. Built in 1777.

Possibly the most haunted establishment in Nettleham. Pages 7 to 12



Extensive improvements were made in 1827.

The Union Workhouse: sometimes known as the Poor House, opened in 1828.

There were also Union Workhouses in Horncastle and Louth, all run by the Vestry (now Parish Councils) which managed the Workhouses.

In the above picture it shows a lady at the door of what is believed to have been The Union Workhouse.

In 1837 the Union Workhouse closed.

(for more on the Workhouse see pages 13 to 15 below)

It is said that at one time the premises of the now Black Horse comprised of 4 small cottages, 2 up 2 down on Cross Street, with the Black Horse just being on the corner of Cross Street and Chapel Lane. Then, the Workhouse with an upstairs on Chapel Lane. There was an alley to a back yard followed by a cottage with upstairs which is now the front of the Black Horse on the Green, with a separate flat upstairs.

In 1877 the Black Horse, then known as a Beer House, was put up for sale.

Black Horse, Beer House sale notice 16.3.1877 in Stamford Mercury newspaper.

Lot 1: Convenient and substantial dwelling house with out buildings and protuberances belonging to the north side of the village Green occupied by John William Kane? (Could be Kowes or Bowes, not easy to read).

Lot 2: All that dwelling house facing the village Green and adjoining the town street lately occupied by John Knowles.

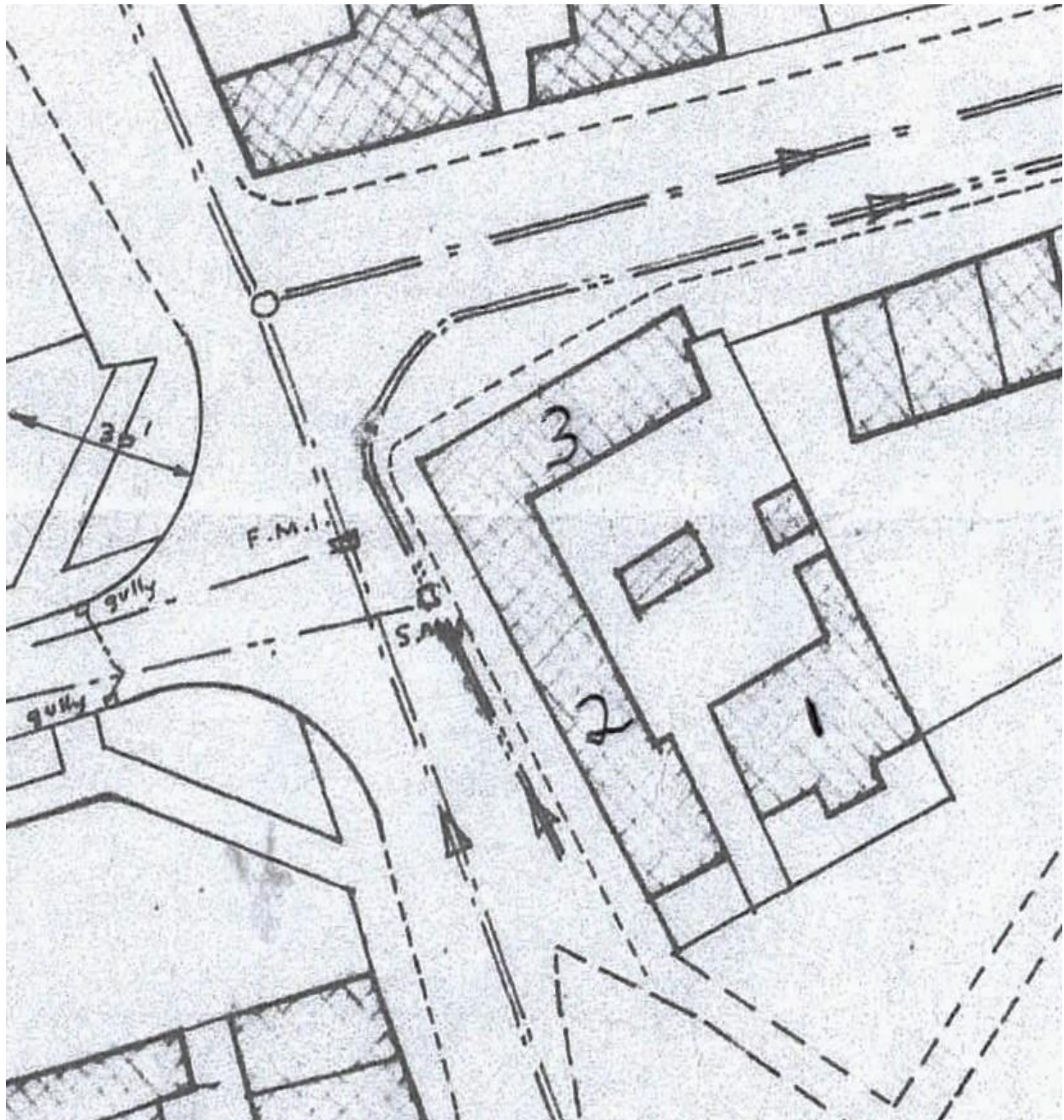
Lot 3: Beer House occupied by Peter Ogilsby under the sign of the Black Horse with the cottage adjoining and occupied by Alfred Upton.

(This looks as if the Black Horse pub or Beer House, Lot three, faces Cross Street and the cottage adjoining would then be the bit between Lots 2 and 3. Lot 1 would be the house with the columned porch, now No 7 The Green.

The below Plan shows the Beer House to the north: Lot three.

Lot 2: The dwelling house Chapel Lane and facing the Green, including the

Union Workhouse and Lot 1 to the south, facing the Green, now No 7 The Green.



See more photos below, and then read more below about, the most haunted establishment in Nettleham.

It is difficult to date some of the pictures below. This one and the one below, dated 1908 we believe, shows the wooden bar outside the Black Horse, where you could tie up your horse.





It is a shame about the reflection of the fingers on this photo which is worn.



Oddly enough, this photo was taken without the horse bar. Is it before it was put up or after it was taken down?



This photo is taken looking up Chapel Lane and on the right is Cross Street. This clearly shows what should have been, the Union Workhouse in the middle of the pub, although by that time it was long gone. Note the lovely footpath now put in.



The Ghosts of the Black Horse Public House, Nettleham?

Some may take these stories as proof whilst others will be very sceptical. There have been stories mentioned by numerous people about the Black Horse. Some mention taps going on and off and knocking on doors.

An interview with a previous owner, Tom Rankin, who owned the Black Horse from 1994 to 2005

Mr Rankin had heard stories of possible hauntings of the Black Horse before he purchased the premises but took them with a pinch of salt.

Just a few days after taking ownership of the Black Horse, Mr Rankin was visited by a Romany lady who wanted to read his palm. Mr Rankin declined but made her tea.

Just as the Romany lady was leaving the pub, she told Mr Rankin that there were a lot of spirits in the pub but that he shouldn't worry. She did warn him he would have problems with water and that, whatever he did he should not hang up a picture of himself on the wall near the hatchway in the Public Bar.

Up to 1998 the Black Horse was flooded on three occasions. Once the water came up the walls about 8 to 10 inches (26cm).

About a week after the Romany Lady had been to the pub a man went in and got talking to Mr Rankin, stating he recognised him from a previous place. Mr Rankin fetched a picture with himself in it, at a charity event. After having a drink Mr Rankin just hung the picture up on the wall, without thinking. The same wall he was warned about by the Romany Lady.

The next day the same picture was found lying the other side of the public bar area some 10 meters away from where it had been hung up. The glass in the picture was broken but only where the picture lay.

Often at the end of the night before leaving Tom Rankin would have a chat with his wife. He would often hear what sounded like someone walking up and down stairs. The noise seemingly coming from a blocked off part of the Pub where there had been an old cottage, (to the right of the public bar entrance). Quite a few people have stated they have heard those noises.

Whilst Mr Rankin owned the Black Horse, he made the old cottage and above into a separate self-contained flat. Soon after, his daughter then around 15 years old, asked to have a sleepover in the flat with a friend. She had no idea about any talk of ghosts.

In the middle of the night, they woke up and the daughter rang her father Mr. Rankin, clearly upset. The two had been woken in the night and heard someone outside the bedroom walking about. They went to look and saw what they described as an old woman with her back to them walking in the corridor. As it was dark, they couldn't make out much more. The old woman then just disappeared. The daughter never slept there again.

Not long after moving to the Black Horse the then cleaner mentioned something strange. She stated she had been cleaning in the pub as usual prior to 10am in the morning. Her daughter told her she had walked past and seen her in the pub. She had tapped on the window, but her mother didn't notice, she just thought she must be busy. When she saw her mother, the daughter mentioned the incident saying you must have been busy talking to the old woman next to you. The cleaner said she was alone. The old woman was described as wearing a long skirt and puffy shoulders wearing a headscarf, as you see in old films.

Some days after the above incident, a very well-dressed elderly woman went into the pub and spoke with Mr Rankin. She told him she had heard he had been visited by the lady and described her as the same lady seen by the cleaner's daughter.

This lady went on to say that when she was a child, she had gone into the pub with her mother who spoke to someone in the pub. She had tried to get her mother's attention but was ignored.

When outside she said her mother had scolded her for being so rude. She told her mother about the old lady standing in the pub but not saying anything. Her mother had said there was no one there. The lady remembered it as it was the only time her mother had smacked her bottom, and she was told to never mention it to anyone. The lady knew it had happened on occasions since, always involving a mother and daughter.

One evening Mr Rankin was with 5 or 6 others. He put his pint of beer on a table near the door to the rest of the pub in the Public Bar and went up the other end to play pool. Someone suddenly shouted. The pint had somehow slid off the table and onto the floor. The glass had not broken. Mr Rankin filled the pint glass with beer and this time made sure he put it in the centre of the same table. This pint slid to the edge of the table tilted over and fell to the floor. The glass did not break.

The following week Mr Rankin was about to close when a man was noticed looking at the pictures in the lounge (dining area). He stated he didn't recognise that part of the pub as he hadn't been there for some time. He did recognise the public bar and pointed out that his dad had died at the same table the pint glasses had fallen off. He went on to say his father worked for Ruston's engineers in Lincoln and used to cycle home. Often the Black Horse was closed but, if he was lucky, he managed to get in just before it closed. On one occasion he managed to buy a pint and sat at the table he had pointed out. He said that his father and the pint glass had slid forward off the table. It was at first thought his father had fallen to sleep, but he had in fact died. The glass did not break.

Numerous people who frequent the Public Bar of the Black Horse today state they have seen a pint of beer slide off the same table and land upright without beer spilling. They say it happens with the same table no matter where it is in the Public Bar.

An interview with Liana, keyholder, caretaker, cleaner, for one-year 2020 to 2021. It must be said she only left due to getting a better job.

Liana is something of a psychic and has had many experiences she can recount outside the Black Horse Pub. She does not know why but at times can feel and see things some of us are unable to.

These are accounts of what Liana saw and heard whilst working at the Black Horse Pub.

Around October 2020, Liana unlocked and went in the Black Horse as normal in the morning. She got a sense of a seance being recently held in the pub. She said "George, if you are here make this light nearest the door flash." (knowing the ghost talked of had that name). The wall light nearest the door on North Street started flashing and continued to do so until she left the pub.

One morning Liana was listening to music in her earphones whilst working in the Public Bar. She was vacuuming near the pool table and facing towards the Green. She saw something out of the corner of her eye in the room about twelve feet away and a third of the way down the wall onto North Street.

Liana looked around and saw the outline of a woman in her 20's. She had brown hair tied up at the back which was quite long. The woman wore a long cotton grey dress down to her ankles and over that was a crispy white cotton apron down past her knees. The apron was short of bunched at each shoulder. She held what looked like a folded crispy white pillowcase. The woman looked very contented and seemed to notice her and was looking at her in a friendly way. She disappeared after 2 or 3 seconds.

Liana went in the empty Black Horse one day and said, "You are welcome to move stuff." Some smallish glasses had been put on a tray on the bar, in the Public Bar. They started clanging together: she could see this happening. After about six seconds it stopped, and Liana heard a young girl's voice laughing and giggling for about 6 seconds.

Early mornings Liana would vacuum the floor in the public bar. She was doing this one day and out of the corner of her eye were what looked like up to eight at a time, very thin small children almost skeletal running the width of the public bar and disappearing through the wall.

One morning Liana unlocked the door to Cross Street and went into the lounge/dining room of the Black Horse. She put the keys on the table nearest the bar gangway. After doing a bit of work she noticed the keys had gone. Liana went through to the Public Bar and the keys were on the first table near the door. She had not been in the Public Bar that morning.

Once Liana went into the Black Horse, her radio was playing Lincs FM, she changed the station to Radio X, Indy Rock. Suddenly about 5 beer mats which had been stacked on the bar flew towards the radio.

Liana went into the Black Horse one morning. Her vacuum and other items were kept in a cupboard which door tends to stick. She said, "Open the cupboard door for me please." The door opened, and it did that a few times when she went into the pub early mornings.

Liana states she often heard different voices, mainly male. Nothing put her off going into the pub alone at all, as all seemed friendly.

Jacqui Thompson (Plant Pot) was Manager at the Black Horse Public House, Nettleham from 2016 to 2020.

When interviewed Jacqui stated the following:

When Jacqui first started at the Black Horse, they didn't serve food. A regular customer used to bring in a takeaway when he finished work. With others we would go into the lounge/dining room, and I used to sit at what was a bench along the wall facing the bar area. In that way I could see if there were any customers in the Public Bar. Above me was a wall light fitting. Every time I sat in that position this wall light above used to flicker. It never seemed to happen with anyone else.

It was said that in the 1970's a man called George used to frequent the lounge/dining room in the Black Horse. It was known that George did not like women.

At one time Jacqui was sat in the lounge/dining room on the same bench at the same place as mentioned before. Jacqui mentioned George by name. The light above flickered and the bulb shattered along with the glass fitting covering the bulb. Jacqui was showered with glass.

The cellar at the Black Horse is on the ground floor near the toilets and consists of two rooms. It is said that is where there used to be an alleyway running from Chapel Lane and would have probably been between what was the Workhouse and what was then the small Black Horse Pub.

Jacqui stated that no one liked going in the cellar and some staff would certainly try not to go in. There was always a horrible feeling of being watched. On occasions there was a very low soft male voice saying, "Get out." numerous times. There was also a strange feeling of being watched in the lady's toilet and some staff would always use the disabled toilet instead of the ladies.

Jacqui stated that every night whilst leaving the pub she would switch off the lights which were by the bar area of the Public Bar and walk to the door. In the corner near the cleaning cupboard where the pool table is there was always a standing shadow of a tall thin man. Lots of other people said they saw this. As a result, Jacqui used to walk to the door in a blinkered fashion, looking straight at the door so that she could see nothing else.

One night before the Nettleham Carnival Day Jacqui locked up the cellar leaving boxes of plastic cups sleeved and in sealed boxes in the back room of the cellar. She locked and left the pub. The following day she unlocked the pub and cellar to find the plastic cups out of the boxes, out of the sleeves and strewn in the front cellar room. There was no explanation for it.

Jacqui was in the Public Bar one evening when a pint glass, about half full of some sort of beer, slid across a table and flew across the room smashing on the far wall.

Jacqui did start holding some Ghost Hunt evenings at the Black Horse Public House with two psychic mediums. On one occasion a young blonde woman in her early 20's was at a Ghost Hunt. She was in the corridor when her hand was pulled to the back of her neck, and she was physically pulled backwards. The girl was very upset and crying and was spoken to quietly by one of the mediums.

Workhouse from Church Vestry notes.

23.6.1827: The decision was made to build the Workhouse “according to the plans and specifications.”

07.05.1827: Agreement to fence off the land next to the Workhouse.

20.10.1829: Recording an inventory made of the tools owned by the Highways Committee and given to the governor of the Workhouse for use by the inmates.

4 barrows	3 rakes	(n.b The Vestry appointed a
3 barrows	2 scrapers	highways manager each Easter
4 picks	2 gabbocks	Monday to control the repair of
		the village roads i.e. adding stone)

25.11.1832: Anthony Taylor turned out of the Workhouse for disobedience and refusing to work.

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29.1.1833: Price of labour on highways.

Man and wife 1 shilling a day 1/-

Man & wife & 1 child 1/5 p.d,

Man & wife & 2 children 1/6 p.d.

Man & wife & 3 children 1/9 p.d

Man & wife & more than 3 children 2/- p.d.

Large stones on Lincoln Road breaking 1/-, 1/2, 1-4 per load.

Men to work not less than 8 ½. hours a day until last day of February If more get extra pay.

08.01.1835: Naming those to get stone for the roads. If work not carried out resort to magistrates.

2.4.1835: Richard Richardson to have present Workhouse and garden in Church Close free of rent and to have:-

3/-per week for old folk and children

1/8 for working boys plus wages.
4/6 for able bodied single men plus wages
19/6 for every living in woman
£1/19/- every funeral
Man +, wife + children have all man's earnings.

Paupers to be decently clothed on arrival and leaving.
Beds, furniture, etc. to be supplied by Richardson.
Signature for land and house made by Sinclair Hood and Richardson made his mark.

18.6.1835: Anthony Taylor to leave Workhouse and get 1/6 for rent in common house lodging. Paupers clothing to be inspected.

5.11.1835: (More on stone breaking)
4d a yard for stone from Adam's pit
3d.a yards for breaking soft stone.
7d a yard for breaking low stone.
Anthony Taylor to break stone deposited outside his house to earn 1/6 per week or be turned out.
Woman spinning 9d.per pound.

14.4.36: Richardson to keep Workhouse for a further 5 years.

16.6.1836: R. Proctor, A. Clipsham and R. Williams are to inspect accounts of Mr. Hird from the time Church Close was let to William Cooper; that all errors be corrected to the best of their judgement t; a fair copy be drawn out for inspection at future meeting and Mr Juitt be requested to give every information that is in his power for the elucidation of the above.

2.2.1837: Workhouse to be sold forthwith. Advertise in the Stamford Mercury and the Lincolnshire Chronicle. After the sale if the Parish is not entitled to any money pay back in instalments.

9.3.1837: Garden at Workhouse to be let to Michael Green at £5/15. - with conditions in case we should want the land. He has it free from rates and taxes.

27'7.1837: Sell Workhouse towards defraying instalments. Advertise in Stamford Mercury and house to house.

9.11.1837: Hold a public meeting about the Workhouse “in pursuance of the Act of the 4th and 5th, year of the late King William---amendment and better administration of the laws relating to the poor in England and Wales--- can have property and land from parishes ... “

The Poor Law Act of 1834 established Union Workhouses. Groups of parishes were to give up their individual Workhouses and send paupers to a central one. These were large establishments like Lincoln and Southwell. There was much objection. Nettleham did appoint a parishioner to manage the Lincoln Union workhouse. It looks as if in Nettleham it was some time before the Workhouse in the village closed its doors and there was a problem about the sale. Could the parish keep the money from the sale?

Lastly for those interested we have Two framed documents relating to sale of the Black Horse in 1915.

1. Framed document titled Inland Revenue.

This is an application for a certificate under Section 11(1) of the Finance Act 1894

Explains the Nettleham property of the late Hannah Appleton who died on 25.1. 1915. Signed by undecipherable name; the solicitor of the executors at 35 Silver Street, Lincoln. 20.3. 1915

The property heretofore referred to: –

House and land containing 130 square yards situated on The Green. Nettleham in the County of Lincoln in deceased's occupation. The property is to be sold for £225 by contract on 22nd February 1915.

There is a lot of jargon but no mention of the Black Horse

2. Framed document headed "This Indenture" dated 26.2.1915.

Is a sale agreement between Elizabeth Bust, wife of Joseph Sharp Bust of King Street Winteringham and Edward Archibald Stevens of Lincoln, Solicitor, vendor, on the one part and Eva Killington, wife of John Killington of Nettleham, watchmaker, purchaser.

It is the sale of Hannah Appleton's house for £225. Described -Dwelling house with yard and outbuildings 130 sq. yds.-on north side of The Green. North side Black Horse Inn, on the east side property of William Bailey, on the west part by the Black Horse and other part by the property of John Knowles, deceased, and now John Kirk and south by The Green, lately by Hannah Appleton includes use of the well.

It looks as if all this refers to the house with the columned porch. The west part looks as if the bit of the Black Horse adjoining The Green was not yet part of the Black Horse premises, but Lot 2 above.

Lot 3 indicates the original Black Horse was the bit facing Cross Street and the adjoining cottage the bit facing Chapel Lane most likely the workhouse.

2 Documents shown below:

INLAND REVENUE.

APPLICATION for a CERTIFICATE under Section 11 (1) of the Finance Act, 1894.

**This Form, when filled up in duplicate, should be transmitted by post to the
Secretary, Estate Duty Office, Somerset House, London, W.C.**

Official Reference:—File 10277 /19 15 || Regr. _____ l _____. Fo. _____. Afft. _____.

Application is hereby made for a Certificate under the provisions of Section 11 (1) of the Finance Act, 1894, that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue are satisfied that the full Estate Duty has been paid in connection with the death of **Hannah Appleton** late of **Nettleham** in the County of **Lincoln**, who died on the **29th** day of **January**, **1915** in respect of the property hereinafter described.

(a) ~~Strike out the words not applicable and state the number or distinctive letter of the Account annexed to the Inland Revenue Affidavit.~~

(a) The property was accounted for in (the Account "A" annexed to the Inland Revenue Affidavit of the deceased's Estate) (an Estate Duty Account dated the _____, 1_____, which has been delivered with reference to the death of the deceased).

(b) The application must be made by the person or persons accounting for the Estate Duty, by the Solicitor or Solicitors acting on his or their behalf, or by some other person authorised in writing by the accounting person or persons.

(b) Signature of Applicant *Samuelson & Kierup*
Address **35 Silver Street, Lincoln.**
How concerned **Solicitors to the Executors**
Date of Application **20th March 1915 .**

(c) The description of the property should agree with, though it need not be a full copy of, that contained in the Affidavit or Account delivered to the Estate Duty Office.

If the property has been agreed to be sold, the date of the Contract and the gross amount of the sale moneys should be stated.

(c) The property hereinbefore referred to:—

House and land containing 130 square yards situate on the Green, Nettleham in the County of Lincoln in deceased's own occupation.

The property is contracted to be sold for £225 by Contract dated the 22nd February 1915.

