

FOX & HOUNDS

This pub is said to have kept the same name for centuries, and some even claim it is the oldest pub in Essex, but this is not provable, and it seems likely it has only been so-called since sometime in the 19th century, before that it was just named after the chap who built it who seems to have been John Capp, so it was called Capps this seems to be the inference of an 1869 legal document in Essex Record Office, which also suggests that the house next door was originally the pub called the Fox & Hounds:

Admission by W. Edgar C. Hawkes on the death of his father, William Robert Hawkes, ref a building *'formerly erected or rebuilt by William Berry with the cellars sollars and appurtenances formerly in occupation of William Berry and then of John Capp deceased, then a victualler and by him occupied with the Fox and Hounds alehouse late Capps... and tenement formerly called Good Rooms but then known by name or sign of the Fox and Hounds and wherein the said John Capp did dwell and the houses outhouses yards gardens and orchards and one croft or pasture and orchard ground being formerly two crofts or pightels and containing three roods... said messauge late Capps and formerly Hewitts...'*. This suggests the building was constructed by William Berry, perhaps as an addition to the existing alehouse run by the victualler John Capp. The reference to a tenement called Good Rooms could refer to the present pub or to the house next door, where travellers were accommodated – possibly the original beerhouse was actually in the house next door?

The pub goes back to at least 1841 when George Hockley was listed as publican. As well as his family, there were many other people living there - a servant, an ostler, a tailor, a

schoolmistress, a farm labourer and two people described as paupers.

Fox & Hounds, Bridge End - The oldest pub in Clavering, although no one knows when it was licensed. There have been numerous publicans here including:

1841, 1845 George Hockley

1848 Thomas Westwood – Victualler –up to 1876 - also Leather Seller.

1878, 1882 Walter Bailey, Victualler & Pig Dealer

1886 George Coleman

1890 William Syrett

1891 Frederick Cartwright

1894-5 William Smith

1898-9 William White

1902 William John Lewis

1906 John Sadler

1908, 1910, 1912 Charles Bristow

1914 D. Shennerton

1915-17? Alfred Charles Miller and Emma Miller, daughter Gladys. Emma did not make a financial success of The Fox & Hounds as she was over generous with the beer.

1917 William R. Pitcher

1922 Walter Parkhurst

1925 William Carter

1929 Edgar Carter

1933, 1937 Richard W. Juby

1851, 1861, 1871 – Thomas Westwood was publican for 20-30 years – in 1871 he was also described as a farmer of 31 acres.

1877 auction of meadow and garden adjoining the pub occupied by butcher William Cowell; also a cottage with a small barn adjoining occupied by George Hayden.

Photos approx 1930s, 1950s-60, 1980s.

