



History Nugget for May 2016 : The Britannia was a Youngs Pub

The Britannia Inn, today a private house at 40, Cricket Green, was once a pub tied to the Young & Co. Brewery of Wandsworth, as was the Cricketers.

A postcard on Merton Memories called 'The Britannia, the Causeway, Mitcham', provides the first clue. On it can just be seen the letters 'YOUNG', which appear to be in the same style used by Youngs.

Ancestry.com provides confirmation in its Licensed Victuallers Reports, which cover two separate years. In the 1892 report, the owners are shown as Berner & Kemp, Eltham and Young & Co., brewers, Wandsworth. In the 1902 report, it just shows Young & Co., Wandsworth.

These reports also tell us about the facilities offered by the inn: there was stabling for 2 horses, but sleeping accommodation wasn't available. For 'Refreshments other than Intoxicants', the pub provided 'Teas, luncheons and bread and cheese if required'. It also had the benefit of a urinal. The 1902 report also remarked that it did *Ordinary class trade* and that an application to transfer to George Hart was pending.

When it became a pub has been estimated by Eric Montague, in his *Mitcham Histories: 1 The Cricket Green*, pages 111-113, who said that the house dates back to 1785, and was converted to an inn in the 1830s.

When it reverted to a private house is less clear. The Kelly's Directories, consulted at the Local Studies Centre at Morden Library, provide some clues. In the 1910/11 edition, Britannia P.H. is shown, with the name George Hart. In the next available directory of 1913/14, there is no mention of the Britannia.

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