

TWO GATES CLUB HISTORY TIMELINE

Some stories that made the news...

- 1903 :- The Jolly Collier Inn appeal against license renewal
- 1930:- Two Gates Cricket team and officials
- 1950:- Annual Ladies Darts Party
- 1957:- Braille writing demonstration
- 1958:- Two Gates opens new club premises
- 1962:- Facelift for Two gates W.M.C
- 1962:- Club denies it was "Inhuman" towards stewardess and family
- 1964:- Two Gates darts and dominoes awards
- 1965:- First old folks party at Two Gates W.M.C
- 1966:- Two Gates W.M.C. entertain O.A.P.s.
- 1967:- Presentation to Two Gates W.M.C. steward
- 1969:- To Blackpool - with ten bob to spend
- 1970:- Remembrance Service at Two Gates W.M.C
- 1971:- W.M.C. Ladies Darts Section Annual Dinner
- 1972:- 29th Annual Dinner - Wins ladies darts cup for fifth year
- 1972:- Two Gates extension opened by Major
- 1972:- Yuletide Party for senior members
- 1983:- Friendly group that's right on target
- 1991:- Big Smiles from the Two Gates stars (Fishing)
- 1992:- Plenty of smiles for the Two Gates fishermen
- 1992:- Sparkling - and safe
- 1992:- Local young boxers meet two old greats

Plus the Colin Grazier story...

18/04/1903 The Jolly Collier Inn, Two Gates

The Jolly Collier Inn, Two Gates

18th April 1903 - At the Warwickshire Quarter Sessions last week (as already reported briefly), John Spooner, tenant of the Jolly Collier Inn, Two Gates, Wilnecote, appealed against the refusal of the Tamworth Magistrates to renew his license.-- Mr. Parfitt and Mr. Joy were for the justices. and Mr. Young, K.C, and Mr. McCardie for the appellant.-- Mr. Parfitt said the license was objected to on the ground that the premises were not structurally adapted, and were not required. There were three other full-licenses and an off-license within about 350 yards, and the population was only 263. The Tamworth magistrates were equally divided on the subject. and as they refused to adjourn, the refusal of the license was a necessary consequence.--P.s. Harrison gave evidence as to the low ceilings of the inn, and said the accommodation was considerably worse than at other licensed houses in the place. -- Cross examined: Witness admitted that the appellant signified his willingness to the Tamworth Bench to build a new house if the license were renewed.--Mr. Young urged that the appellant should be allowed to bring the house up to the standard required saying that no previous warning had been given him to do so. He called the owner of the house, Mr. Freeland, to state that he was willing to carry out any alterations which were thought necessary,--Mr. Parfitt: I have no doubt that what was at the bottom of the minds of the magistrates was that the place was a bad one, and should be altered.--The Chairman said the Court had come to the conclusion, considering what had taken place at the licensing meeting that the ought to allow the appeal and grant the license for this year, with a view to the whole question of structure and surroundings being reconsidered by the Tamworth justices. They took it that, before the license expired, the whole question would have been considered by the justices and they presumed that what the latter required with regard to the structure and surroundings would be complied with. If the Court found next year that the justices' requirements had not been complied with the state of affairs would be very different.

1930's



Photograph courtesy of Toby Clempson

Top Row

Unknown, Unknown, Syd Clempson (Chairman), Unknown, Unknown (Steward), J.Thomas, Unknown, J.Mathis (Secretary), F.Walker (Committee), F.Fullove, A.Spooner

Middle Row (Seated) L.Brooks, Unknown, C.Brooks, D.Priest, B.Riley

Front Row (On Ground) Unknown, F.Brooks, F.Mathis, E.Wedge, Arthur Clempson

Do you know the names of any of the Unknown member - Please let me know

15/01/1950

Ladies Darts Party

Ladies' Darts team annual party.

15th January 1950 - Members of the Two Gates W.M.C. ladies' darts team, with their husbands and friends, at the annual party in the clubroom on Saturday evening.

After the company of 60 had enjoyed a meat tea provided by the committee, Mrs. S. Walters (committee chairman) opened the programme by wishing everyone happiness and success in 1950.

Chairman of the club (Mr. Syd Clempson) paid tribute to the work of the ladies' darts team during the past 12 months, particularly with the monetary assistance given in connection with the children's field day fund and the old folk's fund. He expressed the thanks of all present for an excellent tea and concluded by wishing the ladies' darts team every success for the future.

Mr.J.Heathcote (vice-chairman), who seconded the vote of thanks, handed a donation to the ladies' treasurer (Mrs.C.Grazier).

The silver cup was then presented to the champion of the season (Mrs.A.Dennis). The runner-up was Mrs.Sml.Clempson.

A parade of the fancy dress competitors followed, prizes being won by Mrs. G. Thompson ("Twenty Questions") and Mr.C.Stevenson ("Violet Elizabeth"). The rest of the evening was then taken up with impromptu turns by several members present. Mr.K.Hughes (accordionist) was the accompanist.



16/08/1957

Braille Writing

Braille writing demonstrations at Two Gates W.M.C

16th August 1957 -- Although collections for the blind have been held at Two Gates Working Men's Club for several months it was not until quite recently that it was decided to purchase Braille writing machines for blind children.

During the past two months the club has sent four machines to a school for blind children at Dorton Seale. The cost of these machines is over £13, but as the club buy them as a presentation they are available at £4 9s.

The idea was conceived by Mr. J.T.Lewis, a railway worker who moved to Two Gates recently from Cardiff. When the first machine was bought it was displayed in the club for members to see what they had contributed towards.

Demonstration

And at the club on Friday a demonstration of the workings of the machines was given by Miss Lago of the Starr Inn, Tamworth.

A teacher who not only looks after the children's welfare but also teaches them how to write, Miss Lago said the type of machine the club had given was the best available.

Miss Bernadette Lewis presented Miss Lago with a bouquet. A vote of thanks was proposed by the chairman, Mr.R.Coffin.

There have been enquiries from other clubs in the district who seem interested in carrying out a similar service.



07/08/1958

New Club Premises

Two Gates Open New Club premises

07th August 1958 - New premises at Two Gates Working Men's Club were opened by Mr. Fred Jackson, of Glascoate on Friday last week.

The clubroom stands at the back of the original club, 75 yards from the main road. Representatives present at the opening were Mr. Cox, of Ansell's Brewery, Mr. Freeman (mineral waters), Mr. D.Cotterill (builder), and members of Wilnecote and Belgrave clubs. Mr. A.Statham (vice-chairman) presided.

Mr. Jackson, who had been the auditor since 1943, gave members a brief history of the club. The old club was originally a public-house which went by the name of "The Jolly Collier."

Mr.C.Wood proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Jackson, who went on to say that the cost of the building had been about £3,500 which had already been paid.

Mr. Wood appealed to members to support the club. He hoped to see the youth club which had started in the old premises develop into something of which Two Gates could be proud.

Mr. Dan Cotterill said that judging by the crowd of over 300 present at the opening, it would not be long before the club required an extension.

Decorations to the room were carried out by Mr. and Mrs. M Faulkner. The club stands in its own grounds of four and a half acres with access from the A5 and Dosthill road.

Furnishings were by Messrs. Lewis's of Birmingham, and curtains and fittings were carried out by Tamworth Industrial Co-operative Society, Ltd.



24/02/1962

Facelift

Facelift for Two Gates Working Men's Club

24th February 1962 - An improvement scheme at the Two Gates Working Men's Club was officially opened on Saturday last week. The impressive alterations include a new underground cellar, lounge, games room, bar and modern flat over the premises. The opening ceremony was performed by Mr. Ron Pugh marketing manager for Mitchell's and Butlers. Pictured below are Mr.R.J.Wilcox, brewery representative, Mr.L.Lakin, club chairman, Mr.T.Hawley, secretary, and Mr. and Mrs. G.Barber, the steward and stewardess.



16/11/1964

Darts and Dominoes

Two Gates darts and dominoes awards

16th November 1964 - The presentation of the cheque, which is the proceeds of the league's Hospital Cup competition was made after the final between the Prince of Wales Wilnecote and Two Gates Working Men's Club at the Two Gates Inn on Monday evening. Also pictured are Mr.W.Spencer, captain of the victorious Prince team, the chairman of the league, Mr.S.Hall, Mr. Ivan Shorthouse, the donor of the cup and the captains of the losing Two Gates sides Mr.R.Johnson (darts) and Mr.H.Manthorne (dominoes)

Pictured handing over a cheque for £27 to the Matron of Tamworth Hospital, Miss I.E.Epton, is the secretary of the Two Gates Darts and Dominoes League, Mr. Les Rowley.



Old Folks Party

Two Gates W.M.C hold first Christmas Party

01st January 1965 - Two Gates W.M.C. held their first Christmas party for the old folks and widows of Two Gates before Christmas when 100 old people sat down to enjoy the turkey tea which had been provided by club members, and arranged by the club's ladies' darts team. The rooms were gaily decorated for the occasion. Each old person received a £1 note and a parcel of groceries, and had their choice of free drinks during the evening. Members raised the money for the party by competitions and a dinner service was given by the secretary raised a large sum. The efforts were so successful that they were able to present Councilor Cyril Wood, the secretary and organiser, with a cheque for £20 towards the Two Gates and Mount Pleasant new year party for old folks in January. Entertainment was provided by George Forbes and his band.

23/12/1966

Christmas Party

Two Gates W.M.C entertain O.A.P.s.

23rd December 1966 - A total of 110 old-age pensioners attended their annual Christmas party, held at Two Gates Working Men's Club. Pictured are the ladies of the committee who helped with the catering.



09/06/1967

Presentation

Presentation at Two Gates W.M.C. steward.

09th June 1967 - Our picture was taken at Two Gates Working Men's Club on the occasion of the presentation to the steward and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Rivers, who are leaving after three years' service there. They are seen in front of the picture with the club secretary, Mr. Percy Brooks, who made the presentation, which was of a dinner service. A report appeared in last week's "Herald."



11/07/1969

Blackpool

To Blackpool - with ten bob to spend.

11th July 1969 - Ten shillings money was handed to each of the boys and girls who went with their parents on a Two Gates Working Men's Club outing to Blackpool on Saturday. Not even cold and windy weather could deter the 280-strong party from having "a really good time," said vice-chairman Mr. F. Goldsworthy.



08/11/1970

Remembrance Service

Remembrance Service at Two Gates Club

08th November 1970 - In the presence of the Mayor, Mr. Eric Johnson, a short remembrance service was conducted in Two Gates W.M.Club on Sunday evening by the Rev. Stanley Morris.

Standards were dipped at the club's Memorial plaque in honour of the fallen of the last two wars.

Standard bearers were Maurice Ellison and Miss Georgina Whitehead.

Legionnaire Mr. Sidney Walters, who was recently awarded the British Legion badge for 40 years service to the legion, read the names of honour on the Roll Call, said the Legion tribute and laid wreaths.

Afterwards, members adjourned to the Club's lounge where our picture was taken of members of the Wilnecote and Two Gates Legion.



Jan 1971
W.M.C Ladies Darts
Section Annual Dinner

Jan 1971 - W.M.C. LADIES DARTS SECTION ANNUAL DINNER

Two Gates W.M.C. (Ladies Darts Section) held their 29th annual dinner at the club on Saturday, the dinner having been arranged by the Ladies Darts Committee.

The club secretary thanked the ladies for their help in the past and said a greater need for their help would be asked for when the new extensions are completed next Christmas.

This will make the club one of the most modern in the country. With a ground floor cellar, new stock room, foyer with illuminated garden at one end, new toilets, new ballroom with a garden tree planted recess. There will also be a new servery, plus a new secretary's office and a room for children.

The Ladies Darts cup was won for the fourth year by Mrs. Gladys Thompson, runner up was Mrs. Mary Brooks.

In the picture with the ladies darts section are (standing), Mr W Davies, trustee, Sec., Mr.G.Ghadwick and Chairman, Mr.J.Goldsworthy.



Jan 1972
W.M.C Ladies Darts
29th Annual Dinner

Jan 1972 - WINS LADIES' DARTS CUP FOR FIFTH YEAR

Our picture was taken at Two Gates Ladies' Darts League's 29th annual dinner at Two Gates Working Men's Club on Saturday night, where for the fifth year running, Mrs. Gladys Thompson won the cup. The runner-up was Margaret Goldsworthy. The cups were presented by Mrs. Chadwick. A bouquet was presented to Mrs. Davies, secretary of the organisation, by the steward's grandson, Trevor Dean.



16/06/1972

Extension Opens

£50,000 extension opens.

13th June 1972 -- Extensions costing £50,000 at Two Gates Working Men's Club brought praise for far sighted committee members at the official opening on Tuesday night.

The praise was voiced by guest speakers led by Tamworth's Mayor, Alderman Bill Newbury, who performed the opening ceremony by turning a key in the new entrance doors.

In a pact concert room later he congratulated club officials and committee members on going ahead with the ambitious scheme, bringing the premises up to the standards needed for the 70s.

Alderman Newbury, who was introduced by club president, Mr. John Goldsworthy said: "Tamworth is undergoing a period of considerable transformation, with new schools, shops and factories appearing.

"This transformation is nowhere more apparent than in our town's licensed clubs."

Until recently, Alderman Newbury said, some licensed clubs in the area had not kept pace with the general improvements in Tamworth. "But this club is now second to none for comfort.", he added.

Main features of the extensions designed in a modern style but using traditional materials is a 60 feet by 40 feet concert room with a full width bar, a large stage with space beneath for furniture storage, and dressing rooms with a stage door entrance for artists.

A new entrance, secretary's office and toilets are also provided.

CHILDREN'S ROOM

The original club building, opened in 1903, has been given a complete face-lift. What was the concert room has become a games room and bar, and the other rooms are now used as a lounge and children's room-- the first at Tamworth Workingmen's club.

Club membership has more than doubled over the last 10 years and the improvement scheme has brought a dramatic influx of new members over the last few weeks.

Secretary, Mr. Geoff Chadwick said "We now have over 600 paid-up members and the number is rising all the time."

At the opening ceremony, which was followed by concert entertainment, architect Mr. Dennis Gwilliam said the design of the new building had been dictated by road widening requirements for the A5 trunk road and Dosthill Road.

"We are grateful for the assistance of officers of Tamworth Borough Council, the County Planning Department and the highway authority and others who had to discuss and agree problems of road widening and layout" he said.

WORTHWHILE

Mr. Gwilliam told members and guests "It is only when you see a building occupied by a lot of people--and a lot of people enjoying themselves--that the whole project becomes really worthwhile."

He said the club could pride itself on a "first-class committee" which had done an excellent job.

Mr. Gwilliam also thanked the general contractors, George Linnecor and son (Midlands) of Wilnecote Lane, Belgrave.

Other speakers were Mr. Charles Havercroft, sales consultant to Davenport Brewery Ltd., one of the club's main suppliers, and Mr. Harry Shaw, chairman of the Warwickshire branch of the club and institute union.

Guests also included Mr. Dennis Lloyd, a director of the building company and Mr. Jim Cook, C.I.U. National Executive Officer.



The official report from the Tamworth Herald 16th June 1972

Extensions costing £40,000 at Two Gates Working Men's Club brought grants for £12,500 from the local authority members at the official opening on Tuesday night.

The project was visited by C.I.U. leaders led by Tamworth's director, Richard J. Henders, who announced the opening ceremony by handing a key to the new building.

In a speech, Richard Henders, the C.I.U. representative, said that the club was undergoing a period of considerable reconstruction, with new dining areas and bar areas, and a new entrance. The reconstruction is being completed in the new building.

Mr. Henders, who was joined by Tamworth's Mayor, Mr. Dennis Lloyd, and other guests, said that the club was undergoing a period of considerable reconstruction, with new dining areas and bar areas, and a new entrance. The reconstruction is being completed in the new building.

The original club building, which was built in 1922, was found to be in a state of disrepair and was demolished in 1968. The new building, which was built on the same site, was completed in 1971. The new building is a modern, two-story structure with a large dining area, a bar, and a new entrance. The building is a landmark in the town and is a source of pride for the club members.

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CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW PREMISES BY Geo. LINNEGOR & SON (Midlands) LTD 105/109, NEWTOWN ROW, BIRMINGHAM, 6

OFFICIAL OPENING OF TWO GATES W.M.C.

wishing them every success in the future

The vicar and stewardess—Mr. Cyril Deer and his wife, Joyce. They have been putting pints at the club for three years.

A view of the new concert room and stage from the full-width bar



OFFICIAL OPENING OF TWO GATES W.M.C.



The steward and stewardess—Mr. Cyril Dean and his wife, Joyce. They have been pulling pints at the club for three years.

22/12/1972

Yuletide Party

Yuletide party for senior members

22nd December 1972 -- A successful Yuletide party of festive eating, drinking and dancing was enjoyed by 130 senior members of the Two Gates Working Men's Club. A Christmas gift for each member and entertainment by a group, singers and a comedian helped to provide a successful evening for all.

31/03/1983

Ladies Darts

Freindly group that's right on target!

31st March 1983 - FRIENDLY GROUP THAT'S RIGHT ON TARGET!

When it comes to the game of darts the ladies of Two Gates Working Men's Club are really on target.

Their Wednesday night team is the oldest section of the club.

It was formed some 40 years ago and attracts almost 30 players each week.

Members of the team don't belong to any league, but prefer to play friendly matches among themselves.

At the end of the year a cup is awarded to the player with the highest number of wins. It's currently held by team captain Audrey Ball.

Secretary Pat Grylls said: "We play for about an hour-and-half every Wednesday. The matches are played in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

"We like to think the game appeals to ladies of all ages. Our youngest member is only 18 and we've got some who are well into their seventies.

"We also do all the catering for any functions at the club throughout the year".



05/06/1991

**Big smiles from the Two Gates stars
Annual Fishing Presentation**

05th June 1991 -- Two Gates Angling Club have just celebrated another fine season in the water.

The club had a well-attended presentation night at their home (Two Gates WMC) and all who attended enjoyed the atmosphere and friendliness of the event.

Our picture below features some of those who took prizes home and here is a brief list of who won what from the club this time round.

Roy Cornish:- He won the Rose Bowl, the annual event and Aggregate Trophy.

John Strong:- He won the first bye contest.

Ern Cornish:- He won the second bye contest.

Vic cattell:- He won the fur and feather.

Steve Kelsall:- He won Best Roach award.

H Kelsell:- He took the Sportsman Trophy.

S Strong:- The youngest member of the club took the "prized" wooden spoon!.



17/04/1992

**Plenty of smiles for the Two Gates fishermen
Annual Fishing Presentation**

17th April 1992 -- Two Gates WMC fishing section held their annual presentation night and dance on Saturday.

There was a full house of fishermen and "fishermen's friends" and the prize-file read thus.

J McCarthy:- First Bye

S Kelsall:- Second Bye

R Cornish:- Annual

J Prince:- Rose Bowl

S Kelsall:- Fur & Feather

V Cattell:- Best Roach

J Prince / C Evans :- Pairs Competition

J McCarthy:- Aggregate

B Tyler:- Sportsman

D Phillips:- Wooden Spoon



05/11/1992

**Sparkling - and safe
Two Gates Bonfire Night**

05th November 1992 -- Firework fun...Organisers prepare to entertain locals who flocked to one of the town's many organised displays at Two Gates WMC.



03/04/1992

Local boxers meet the two great old boxers

Two great old boxers

03rd April 1992 -- Tamworth ABS's latest show brought together stars of the past and present. For Two Gates WMC event of Friday showcased a number of bright young local favorites and also welcomed two great old boxers of the past. They were Bert Strong (a runner up in a British title fight) and Tommy Pardoe who was a British champion as long ago as 1929. The two old fighters are pictured by John Walker alongside three of Tamworth's young hopefuls - Mark Barlow, Justin Owen and Ian Robinson.



Colin Grazier



Two Gates born war hero who's heroic efforts changed the course of history
Our local newspaper the Tamworth Herald ran a campaign to bring world wide attention to the events of 30th October 1942 and to let the world know about the heroic efforts of Tamworth born Colin Grazier and his two colleagues. The Herald's wonderful campaign won them, quite rightly, the United Kingdom's Campaign of the Year Award 2000 and enough funds were raised to provide a permanent memorial to our war hero. The Tamworth Heritage Trust applauds the efforts of the Tamworth Herald and the Colin Grazier Memorial Committee and is proud to include this very important subject on the website.

An attack by a British destroyer on a German U-boat in the Eastern Mediterranean in October 1942 altered the course of the entire war, and Two Gates born Colin Grazier, along with Lieutenant Tony Fasson and Naafi canteen assistant Tommy Brown, wrote themselves into history. Because of their efforts, the capture of secret German Enigma coding material from U-559, enabled Bletchley Park's codebreakers to crack a new Enigma system introduced to cover a maximum U-boat offensive. Indeed Winston

Churchill hailed the work of Bletchley Park as 'The secret weapon that won the war.'

After ten critical months with no U-boat signals intelligence available, this was the crucial factor in defeating Hitler's Atlantic U-boat wolf packs before they could starve Britain into defeat in the winter of 1942-3. Had it been possible to release the facts of her triumph at the time, the name of HMS Petard would surely have ranked alongside that of Nelson's Victory in the annals of British history. Because of the top secrecy about Ultra messages that lasted nearly

four decades, the Petard's achievement remained unknown, her fame unrecognized.



On the night of 30th October 1942 a Sunderland Flying Boat reported that it was in visual contact with a submarine heading in a westerly direction and then a long battle ensued between HMS Petard and the U-559. It was imperative that they forced the submarine to surface. Eventually the stricken sub appeared in HMS Petard's search-lights, after the crew of the German U boat had been evacuated and placed under arrest, the captain of HMS Petard asked for volunteers to go and search the damaged submarine and this is when Lt. Fasson from Jedburgh, Scotland

said that he would go aboard. He stripped off his clothes and jumped into the freezing cold sea. Colin Grazier also volunteered and followed him across. The two men were then joined by 16 year old canteen assistant Tommy Brown, and they began the task of searching the rapidly sinking sub for any vital information. The two senior men, Fasson and Grazier went into the submarine and passed all the information they could get their hands on to the young Brown who was waiting on the conning tower. Suddenly the submarine lurched and slipped beneath the waves, taking Grazier and Fasson to their final resting place. But not before they had passed the vital information that enabled Bletchley Park to crack the Nazi's secret code. Although the brave Tommy survived, he was tragically killed along with his sister in a house fire three years later at his home in North Shields in February 1945.



Colin Grazier and Tony Fasson were later recommended for posthumous awards of the Victoria Cross but the Admiralty, concerned this might draw unwanted attention from German Intelligence, instead ordered posthumous awards of the George Cross, the highest civilian award for bravery. Tommy Brown was awarded the George Medal. Because of the Official Secrets Act, their mission remained a secret for 30 years. Colin Grazier and his two comrades helped save hundreds of thousands of tons of shipping from torpedoing and of course no-one can estimate the countless lives their actions saved. Their deeds that day paved the way for the build up of forces for the Normandy Invasions.

Bletchley Park was arguably the most successful intelligence operation in world history, the top secret workplace of the remarkable people who cracked Germany's vaunted Enigma Code. Almost to the end of the war, the Germans had firm faith in the Enigma ciphering machine, but in fact the codebreakers were deciphering nearly 4,000 German transmissions daily by 1942. It is now recognized that Colin Grazier, Lt. Fasson

and Tommy Brown's efforts shortened World War II by at least 12 months.



The Wall Dedicated to Colin Grazier



FOR THOSE KILLED IN ACTION 1939-1945
P/55X25550 ABLE SEAMAN C GRAZIER, G C H M S RETARD
955724 GNR J H MOLD R A
968632 GNR DVR F GRICE, A/T REG R A
4198936 CPL S CARTER, I/R W F