



ESTABLISHED  
GOOD FRIDAY

1868

# The Bridge

## 150 Years of History

The Bridge first opened its doors as a public house on Good Friday 1868. William Wood, one of three joint owners, was the first landlord & is still, at 33 years, the longest serving.

The collection of buildings which included The Bridge and the now demolished cottages, on Tanhouse Hill, was sold to Leeds City Brewery Company in 1899. Ind Coope & Allsopp Ltd took over following the liquidation of the LCBC in 1934, with Joshua Tetley & Son Ltd running the business from 1970.

The Beer Orders of 1989 changed the pub industry in the UK, the dominant brewers began to sell their pubs. After a turbulent decade Tetley's parent company sold their remaining pub estates, in a split deal, to Bass and Punch Taverns. The latter became the free holders of The Bridge & put in place a new leasehold model. The original lease holders struggled as the local demographic changed, more local competition, restaurants & a vibrant city centre were challenging the status quo. The current owners, purchased the lease in 2002, hoping to reverse the decline.

The Bridge occupies a large site, over the decades stables, cottages & outbuildings disappeared while a bowling green became a car park. In the 80's, a knocked out supporting wall nearly caused a collapse but resulted in a well-received face lift. That was the last significant structural change until, after nearly a decade of on/off negotiations, agreement was reached in 2013 for a major, jointly funded, refurbishment.

Implemented in August 2014, these changes were a tipping point. With a wide range of ales, homemade food (especially pies), associated sports teams, award winning garden & as a community hub the Bridge bucked the trend that threatens too many pubs. Since then it has won the Yorkshire Evening Post Pub of the Year in both 2016 and 2017. The Bridge will celebrate its 150th anniversary throughout this year's Easter Weekend & looks forward to welcoming customers through the ages!



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