

Acts relating to inns, public houses etc 1690-1900

1690 An Act

Distilling trade thrown open to all (abolition of the monopoly of Worshipful Company of Distillers and other royal patentees)

Private citizen required merely to put up notice in public place informing the public he/she intended to set up a still. After 10 days free to distill gin or other spirits without licence.

This Act and others which raised the tax on beer aimed at encouraging distilling from English grown corn

1729 Act for the restraining..

Excise duty of 5s on a gallon of gin and other compounded spirits introduced £20 licence required by retailers in order to sell spirits

Street selling of spirits prohibited

1733 (above Act repealed because ineffective. Gin sold under new names eg Parliamentary Brandy)

1736 An Act.

Preamble: "The drinking of spiritous liquors or strong waters is becoming very common, especially among the people of lower or inferior rank, the constant and excessive use thereof tends greatly to the destruction of their health, rendering them unfit for labour and business, debauching their morale, and inciting them to perpetuate all manner of vices

Persons wishing to retail spirits in quantities of less than 2 gallons at a time are required to take licence ... cost of £50 Also ... must pay a duty on each gallon sold.

Licences are to be restricted to licensees of victualling houses

Informers against those contravening the law to receive a moiety of the fine

1743 (initial drop in consumption, but riots and false informations made the Act a failure and repealed)

1737 An Act (10 George II c17)

Retailers of British wines, mead etc (technically known as 'sweets') to be drunk on the premises, to be licensed victuallers

1751 An Act for the more effectually restraining the retailing of distilled Spirituous Liquors (24 George II c40)

Distillers prohibited from selling by retail

Retailers of spirits to be drunk on premises to be licensed victuallers

No debt under 20s for spirituous liquors contracted at one time to be recoverable by law

Retailers taking a pledge for liquors to be fined 40s - moiety of fine to be paid to informer, other moiety to the parish

Owner of pledge, or pawn, may recover the pledge or value thereof as if never pledged

1744 An Act

Licence for retailers of liquors (ale and beer) to be restricted to one house only

Licensees not to be grocers, chandlers, distillers etc

1752 An Act

Separate licence required for premises with music or dancing

1753 An Act for regulating the manner of licensing alehouses ... for the more easy convicting persons selling ale and other liquors without licence (26 George II c31)

Upon granting licences by Justices to keep an alehouse, inn, victualling house and sell beer, ale and other liquors by retail every such person shall enter into a recognizance to His Majesty in the sum of £10 with two sufficient sureties each of £5 or one of £10 under the usual conditions for maintenance of good order and rule..

And for the better prevention of disorder in alehouses etc be it further enacted that no licence to keep the same shall be granted to any person not licensed the year preceding unless such person produce at the General Meeting of the Justices in September a certificate under the hands of the parson, vicar or curate, or major part of the churchwardens and overseers, or else 3 or 4 reputable and substantial householders or inhabitants of the parish or place where such an alehouse is to be .. that such a person is of good fame and sober life and conversation

Licence to be granted at Special Session on 20th September or within 20 days after, for one year

The recognizances to be kept by the clerk of peace together with a register recording these

1787 Royal Proclamation sent to every magistrate

... swarms of petty pothouses haunts of idleness, seminaries of crime ...

Magistrates urged to rule against

cockfighting on licensed premises

tippling during divine services

harbouring of vagrants

breaking of gaming laws

Constables incited to be more diligent in their supervision of alehouses Magistrates, churchwardens etc asked to take greater care when signing certificates of good conduct

1792 An Act to amend (32 Geo. III c59)

Retailers of all wines which are to be drunk on the premises to be licenced victuallers

Justices to have sp,e jurisdiction over wine sellers as over ale sellers.

1825 An Act to

Cost of spirit licence for small alehouses drastically reduced, £5. 5s to £2 2s

1828 An Act to regulate the granting of licences to keeper of...(9 Geo IV c61)

Full public house licence recognised as the only one which authorised a victualler to sell excisable liquor by retail

A financial bond or recognizance for good behaviour no longer required.

Brewstre sessions in country to be from 20th August – n14th September (Middlesex and Surrey in march)

Can adjourn meeting – to be held within one month.

Special sessions to be held for transferring licences

Application for new licence on transfer – notice to be given

Fees: 1s to Petty Constable; 6s 6d to clerk of Justices (7s 6d total)

1828 An Act to enable certain hotel keepers to be licenced to keep hotels as common inns, alehouses (9 Geo IV c46)

1830 Beerhouse Act - An Act to permit the general sale of beer and cider by retail in England 11 Geo IV & Will I c64)

... for the better supplying the public with beer in England, to give better facilities for the sale thereof than are at present afforded by licences to keepers of inns, alehouses and victualling houses.

Any person, being a householder, who shall be desirous of selling beer etc to apply for and to obtain an Excise Licence for that purpose

Licence duty of £2 2s

2 people to act as sureties (excluding another licensee)

Register of licences to be kept by Excise Office, open to inspection by magistrates

Licensed persons shall put up descriptive hoard

Licence to be renewed annually

Penalties imposed for adulterating beer

Retail beer houses shall not be open before before 4am nor after 10pm, nor on Sundays between 10am and 1pm, and 3pm to 5pm

1834 Beerhouse Amendnent Act

distinguished between on-sale and off-sale licences:	on licence	£3 3s
	off licence	£1 1s

certificate of good behaviour required for .on licences, signed by 6 rate payers of parish etc

1848 Limitation of opening hours Act

public houses not to be open between midnight on Saturday and 12.30pm on Sunday

1860 Refreshment Houses Act (23&24 Victoria c27)

created new class of drinking place - the restaurant with wine licence and off-licence for wine to grocers' and other retail shops

1869 Wine and Beerhouse Act (32&33 Victoria c27)

wineshops and beerhouses brought under magisterial control

new licensees had to obtain certificate from Justices before obtaining the excise licence

refusal to renew a licence, however, limited in the case of then existing beershops eg to disorderly houses,

UNSUITABLE PREMISES

1872 Licensing Act

a consolidating Act

justices licences required for all beerhouses (including pre-1869 houses), inns, alehouses, public houses

discretionary closing houses

introduction of inspectors and inspections - appointed from, and responsible to, the local police

1874

introduction of statutory, fixed closing hours for all inns, beershops etc

1879 Habitual Drunkards Act

required a number of retreats to be set up; the drunkard paying for treatment

1886 Act

prohibited the sale of liquor on premises to children

1898 Drunkards Act

criminal inebriates could be committed to reformatories