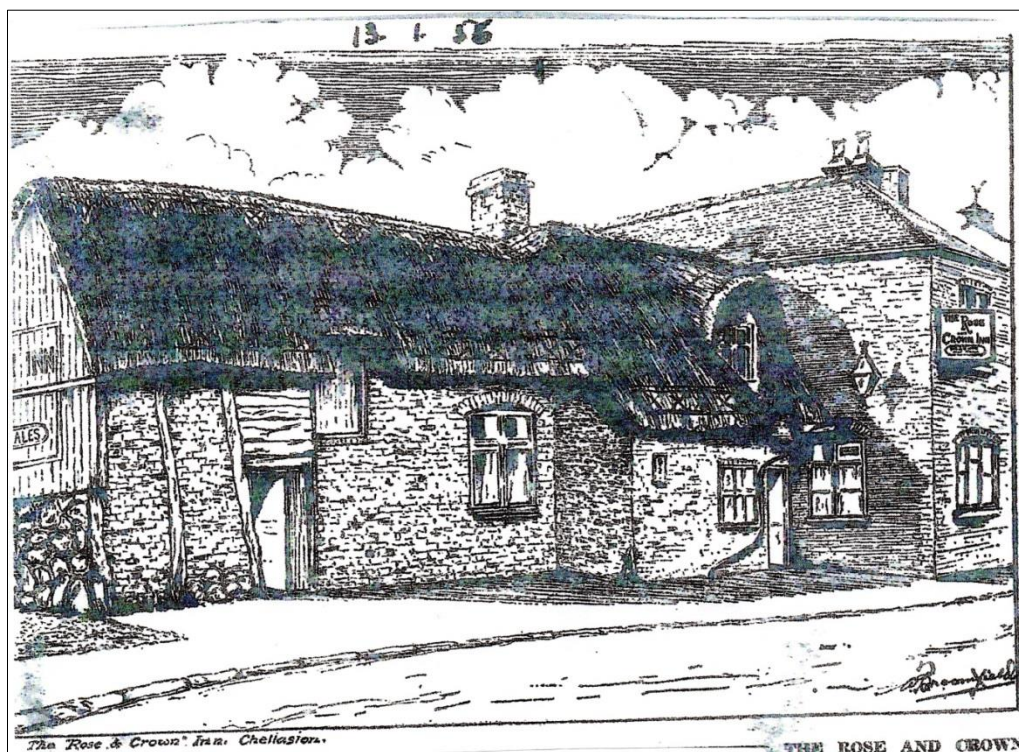


The Rose and Crown, Chellaston.

It has long been thought by some that the Rose and Crown has a pre-18th century origin. In the Enclosure Act of 1804 it was described as “an ancient homestead”. A sketch drawn by Mr. W. Broomfield of Alvaston, which appeared in the Derby Evening Telegraph on 13.1.1956, may well reveal an Early Modern (E.M.) origin i.e. a date of the Tudor/ Stuart period (1550-1650). The following comments are based upon the sketch below, which recently came to light.



Referencing this well-drawn sketch, the following points occur:

- The protruding structure to the far right is clearly of later date. It is an addition of the 19th century. Its addition could well have resulted in the destruction of cottages linked to the Corner Pin/New Inn. These were certainly of 16th century origin, as the cruck feature which remains attached to the Corner Pin has been dendro-dated at c.1530 (c.f. Barbara Hutton’s survey of the Corner Pin in “Historic Derbyshire Farmhouses”).
- Thatched roofs were widespread in the E.M. period, but much less prevalent from the late 17th century. They were a notorious fire hazard and insurance was made difficult.
- In general the structure appears to be an agricultural dwelling, perhaps of a Longhouse construction. This would be a hall–house structure with no upper floor. Such a building would have a cross passage. The door to the left would be suitable for this with a small animal byre to the left and living quarters to the right. Living, working, cooking etc would all be done in the right hand area. Long houses of this nature are more associated with upland areas; they are rarer and therefore more interesting when they appear in lowland areas.
- A halled house of the E.M. period would have a low, narrow door and very few small, glassless windows. The door to the left is absolutely typical. The windows are clearly of a much later date as is the upper floor indicated by the window above the right-hand door (the doorway and porch may well also be later additions).

- Key dating features are:
 - i. The close-studded end wall panel (to the left). Studs are uprights, usually oak, which are infilled with wattle and daub. Close-studding is more typical of the early to mid-16th century, when oak was more freely available.
 - ii. To the left of the door(the byre area) is broad studding. This is typical of the later 16th and 17th centuries, when oak had to be used more sparingly.
 - iii. Wattle and daub was later replaced by brickwork (as can be seen in the illustration), which was safer. To the left, beneath the “Ales” sign, stonework can be seen. Low stonework of this type, usually sandstone or gritstone in this area, is typical for an animal byre. A proper stone wall would prevent animals kicking their way through the wattle and daub. It is not simply an “infill”.
 - iv. There is a chimney on the far side (right) of the structure. Chimneys do not appear in halled/ longhouses much before the later half of the 16th century. Only when upper floors/bedrooms appear are they found necessary. A central open fire and a smoke-hole in the thatch would have sufficed. When chimneys appear in existing houses, they were almost always placed at the end of buildings rather than the centre. They were much easier to construct there.

This invaluable detailed drawing may well indicate that the old Rose and Crown was an E. M. building. It was probably contiguous with the cruck cottages between the Rose and Crown and the Corner Pin, which we know to have a date of c1530. Later additions and alterations always make dating less clear. A starting date of 1530 could be about right. Having seen the sketch, Joan and John D’Arcy of Derbyshire Archaeological Society are both of the same opinion.

Investigation of the attic is difficult, but there is a tie-beam which does not seem to have been machine-cut (see photograph below). It is massive and could well be a re-used timber of E.M. date. Careful investigation of the building could possibly reveal more.



The cross-beam appears to be un-machined. Note contrast with the machined ones.

Finally, to the left of the entrance from the carpark is a late building attached to the Rose and Crown. This was probably a former outbuilding. It contains a considerable length - approx. 12ft - of stone walling, which is not "rubble". It could indicate a much earlier outbuilding, probably for animals?



Stonework remaining today

The sketch shows us that the old Rose and Crown could have a Tudor-Stuart origin, making it the second-oldest building in Chellaston, after St. Peters Church. Careful examination of the existing structure may possibly reveal more of its E.M. origins. It is vital that its structure, although now altered, is treated with respect and affection and preserved for future generations to enjoy. We have so little left of the village of Chellaston.

Supermarkets have their place but Lidl should consider their obligations to communities by absolutely not building on such sensitive sites. The Rose and Crown, with an imaginative restoration programme, led by a sympathetic architect could continue to be a major part of Chellaston life. Lidl could easily site in West Chellaston or on the new development taking shape off Swarkestone Rd.

M.R.Appleby