The Olde Red Lion researched by a Bedingfield pupil at Debenham High School.

When we moved into this house, The Olde Red Lion, in 1976, there was what looked like a very old dilapidated barn right next to the house but set back further from the road. This turned out to be the original house which was built in the early seventeenth century and was obviously just a big country house with a large garden, but it has a very interesting history.

The only person I know of who lived there was a man who was killed in the Irish rebellion of 1720. After that I don't know of many people who lived there, but it was inhabited in the early Edwardian times. We do not know why or who decided to build a large public house next door in the 1820's or much of it's history. Miss Flatt, a former neighbour recalled how at the time of the second world War, her brother, when he was a young man, used to go to The Olde Red Lion almost every night to talk to the American pilots which was a favourite place to 'hang out' for the Americans from the air base at Horham. A lot of them were there for a big celebration on the night before their major missions to Germany.

Miss Flatt told how her father almost banned her brother from going to The Olde Red Lion because the Americans used to start a lot of fights between themselves and the young men in the village. In fact, she remembered that the landlord at that time got so fed up with all the fights that he confiscated all the Americans pilot's flick knives, which most of them carried, and threw them all in the garden pond. The brewery was the Lacon's Brewery which was later taken over by Watneys. The house was last used as a pub in the 1960's. After that people lived there off and on but the house was really left to go to rack and ruin.

When we moved in my father repaired the original house, which had been used over the years to keep pigs in and was, as everybody thought, only worth pulling down. He decided to restore it to its original appearance and use it as a workshop.

Similarly, when restoring and decorating the old pub, he left all the original pub windows and doors and kept it as near to its original state as possible.

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The workshop was tastefully restored and converted to a dwelling in 2014/15 with a sympathetic extension to the rear.