

## History of The Lamplighters Pub

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*The Lamplighters* by the riverside was originally called 'Lamplighters Hall', and as far as is known is the only Inn in the country to bear this uncommon name. First



mention of the Lamplighters comes in the Bristol Journal of 17<sup>th</sup> December 1768 when



offered to let as 'The Public House at Passage Leaze opposite Pill, commonly called 'Lamplighters Hall'. The next mention was in 1772 when the property was up for sale, and described as 'sometime estate of Joseph Swetnam, Tinman of Small Street, Bristol, deceased'. It is thought that Joseph Swetnam was probably the son of James Swetnam a Tinman who traded at the Three Ship Lanterns and was the first tradesman to use an engraved bill head on his

invoices. Joseph Swetnam must have been a prosperous businessman, because at one period he was contracted to light several of the Bristol Parishes by means of oil-lamps, and out of the profits he built himself a splendid house in the country 'in full view of the picturesque beauties of Pill' which he appropriately named 'Lamplighters Hall'.

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### Isaac Taylor marked 'Lamplighters Hall' on the map he surveyed in 1777

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Isaac Taylor marked Lamplighters Hall on the map he surveyed in 1777, and subsequently the Inn became a favourite resort of pleasure parties. On 12 June 1794 the Bristol Gazette reports that the annual dinner of the Bristol Sailing Society (founded 1785) was held at Lamplighters Hall and made a loyal fete to commemorate



renovation removing all the original internal ground and 1<sup>st</sup> floors and walls and replacing them with the current layout inspired by ‘The House The Jack Built’ public house on St Johns Lane, Bedminster, now The Engineers Arms. The Lamplighters has, for more than 250 years, played a significant part in the history of the Parish and must have been well known to seamen from all over the world who visited this hostelry during long periods of anchorage in Hungroad.

