Alan & Maureen Wray’s oral histories were recorded together, both remembering different aspects of village life. In this extract Maureen describes life in the Wheatsheaf in the 1940s.

“We came from Brotherton. We had a fish shop and my Father came to run the Wheatsheaf. Mother helped him, but she didn't like that lifestyle, she wasn't used to. I should imagine we lived there about 8 or 9 years.

Living there was quite nice, quite pleasant. It was mainly the old men that used to come in. At harvest time the Irish men came from Ireland. They came to Thompson's, Ken Thompson's in them days, and they stayed about a dozen of them, did the harvesting, then they stayed for potato picking. They used to come in, lovely people, you know.

Not many women came into the pub. We used to have a pianist, Mrs. Heseltine. She used to come from Pontefract on a Sunday night and play the piano, I can recollect that. At harvest festival, which we had every year, in the one of the big school rooms, Mr. Wray was the vicar then, he lived in vicarage up Gateforth Lane, used to come with his little basket to collect his bottle of beer and his few bits. Mr. Bosworth used to come who had the nursery up Chapel Street. He would come regular for his gin and vermouth before or after his tea/evening meal.

There was not much competition between the Red Lion and wheatsheaf as Dad was very friendly with Len Brooks, who was at the Red Lion, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks used to go to Newmarket horse racing and that's I think how dad came to get the Wheatsheaf, you know.”