

THE GEORGE HOTEL - THROUGH THE GENERATIONS -

“ The George Hotel Penrith – the many sided history of a Duke’s house, hotel, theatre courtroom and stage coach stop. Over 400 years of history.

Today the George Hotel in Penrith is as famed as ever and is still the place to go when in town. A lunch or coffee at The George while sitting in the window has been something that has been popular for generations. The hotel has played a primary role in community life for centuries. If you write about Penrith, it must also include the history of The George Hotel!

The George Hotel dominates Devonshire Street with its imposing sandstone façade and its traditional revolving doors. It is close to the eye catching Musgrave Monument (the tall clock tower in the middle of town) and Arnison & Sons – the oldest shop in town, a drapers and costumiers.

The hotel has been used as an auction room, and still to the present day acts as an entertainment venue and headquarters for various organisations such as the Rotary Club, Ladies Luncheon club and Inner Wheel for over 4 centuries, as well as continuing as a landmark hotel in the town of Penrith.

People have always visited the George Hotel to eat, drink and gossip, for social occasions, business and romantic breaks. ”

Background to the hotel taken from THE GEORGE by John Hurst.



MAINTAINING OUR
REPUTATION FOR QUALITY,
HOSPITALITY & SERVICE
THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES.

There are many things that have dramatically changed since The George Hotel first opened it's doors in 1597, but the traditional values and timeless elegance of our hotel continues.



OUR HISTORY

1597 - TODAY



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HOTELS

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EVERBRIGHT
HOTELS

THE GEORGE HOTEL

- A TIMELINE -

The George's history begins next door at what were numbers 19 and 20 Devonshire Street (now a shop). Formerly called The George & Dragon Inn, horse-drawn stagecoaches stopped outside on their way to London.

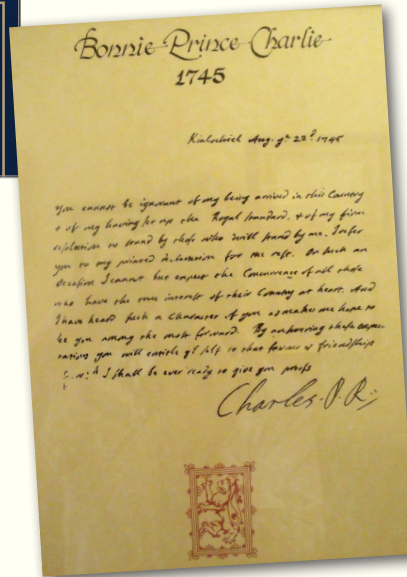


1597 One of the earliest landlords to be traced was **Stephen Slee**, succeeded in the 1600's by **Thomas Slee**, the **Jackson family** and the **Willison family**.

1688 **Cumberland & Westmorland Lieutenants and Magistrates** met here to answer questions addressed to them by **King James II** regarding penal laws against Roman Catholics.

1711 Hotel sold to **William Rawlinson**

1738 Ownership passed to **John Robinson**



1745 **Bonnie Prince Charlie** spent the night as he rode south with his Highland Army.

1775 **William How** became landlord

1792 The start of a century of ownership for **The Duke of Devonshire** who rebuilt the hotel on its present site.

1849 The George is the birthplace of our local government.

1860 **The Armstrong Family** became the Duke's tenants, and began an almost 100 year association with the hotel.

This era saw changes as four in hand and motor travel changed over. **Fred Armstrong** was quick to recognise the tourism opportunity and started trips into the Lakes. This developed into a service that linked Ullswater and the 'Steamers' to Penrith.

26 ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE GEORGE HOTEL, PENRITH, CUMBERLAND.

THIS Old Established Hotel has been greatly enlarged and entirely re-furnished. Families, Commercial Gentlemen, and Visitors will find it central and convenient, being the nearest to the Railway Station. An Omnibus meets all Trains. A Night Porter in attendance. An elegant and spacious Ladies' Coffee Room. Coaches leave the above Hotel daily for the Ullswater Steamer during the season.

R. W. ARMSTRONG, Manager.



Fred was a keen Town Council member and was involved with the controversial purchase of the **Penrith Castle ruins** for £2,000. Many townsfolk were enraged, but the Penrith Castle grounds still have public access today and a lovely communal park.

1894 The town's football club was formed – 100 years later their centenary dinner was held here.



1909 Penrith Electricity Supply Company's generator started and the hotel first installs electricity.

1951 Hotel sold to **Frank Street** – it was the single biggest transaction in the town centre for many years as it also included eight shops and other buildings in Burrowgate and Devonshire Street.

1951 **Princess Zaid of Iraq** stayed on route to Glasgow where she was launching a ship.

1956 The hotel kitchens carried out field tests on a new AGA for Aga Heat Ltd.

1962 Sold to **Dutton's Breweries Ltd**, Blackburn.

1977 Sold again for around £140,000 to **Effuryn Hotels Ltd** and run by **Thomas Niedt** and his wife for 21 years.

1998 **Lake District Hotels Ltd** owned by **the Graves family** take over ownership of the hotel to add to their portfolio of 6 hotels throughout the Lake District.

2010 The Oak Bar is transformed into the modern and vibrant Dappers Bar.

2011 **BBC Antiques Roadshow** films at the hotel.

2013 The hotel undergoes an extensive elegant ground floor refurbishment.

2014 **HRH King Charles III** visits the hotel to mark the launch of a Tourism Pilot for The Prince's Countryside Fund.

2018 The George Hotel is sold to **Everbright Hotels Ltd** who continue to nurture and run the hotel retaining its unique charm and character.

2022 **BAR 1597** was introduced to The George Hotel.

2023 Ongoing refurbishments continue with the number of rooms increasing from 35 up to 43, to date.