The Lion - Formerly The Red Lion

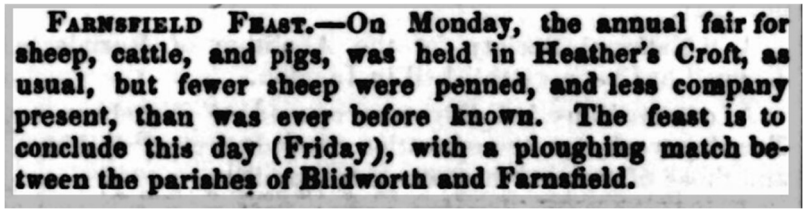
Early Farnsfield licences were awarded on application to the ecclesiastical court for the Liberty of Southwell and Scrooby where the Archbishop of York held powers usually held by the civil courts and petty sessions. Each licensee provided two sureties, one of £20 and one of £30, and agreed to prevent excessive tippling, unlawful gaming and opening during the hours of Divine Worship. William Heather (sometimes spelled Hather) was the first recorded licensee at The Red Lion in 1746. Another William Heather died in 1821 at the age of 65, leaving all his property to his wife and then to his son, William and daughter Ann. Stephen Todd, the son of a local farmer kept the pub from around 1840 until 1864.
On the 15 March 1871 the following item appeared in the Newark Advertiser:-

On Tuesday evening week a number of people assembled at the Red Lion on account of the sale of this old established inn taking place. The bidding was commenced at £200 and stopped at £275. The reserve price being £300 the inn was not publicly disposed of, we understand that it has now been sold by private contract.

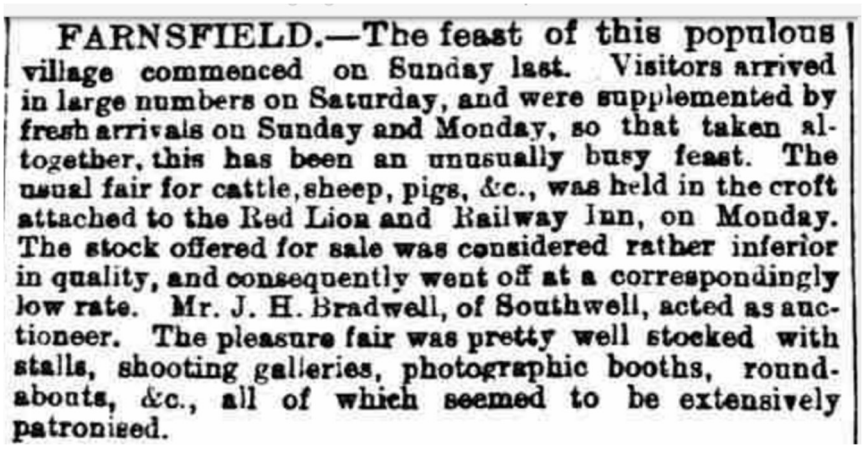
In 1874 the Red Lion caught fire on three consecutive nights, being extinguished by the vicar and a tailor on the Thursday night - on Friday it was soon extinguished - on Saturday it was so badly damaged that the walls were left in a "tottering condition" so that it had to be pulled down entirely and rebuilt.

For many years the village October feast was held in the grounds or croft surrounding the Red Lion.

The summary in the Newark and Nottinghamshire Mercury on 22nd October 1847 shows that it was once named after the family who owned and ran the inn for many years.



FARNSFIELD FEAST.—On Monday, the annual fair for sheep, cattle, and pigs, was held in Heather's Croft, as usual, but fewer sheep were penned, and less company present, than was ever before known. The feast is to conclude this day (Friday), with a ploughing match between the parishes of Blidworth and Farnsfield.



FARNSFIELD.—The feast of this populous village commenced on Sunday last. Visitors arrived in large numbers on Saturday, and were supplemented by fresh arrivals on Sunday and Monday, so that taken altogether, this has been an unusually busy feast. The usual fair for cattle, sheep, pigs, &c., was held in the croft attached to the Red Lion and Railway Inn, on Monday. The stock offered for sale was considered rather inferior in quality, and consequently went off at a correspondingly low rate. Mr. J. H. Bradwell, of Southwell, acted as auctioneer. The pleasure fair was pretty well stocked with stalls, shooting galleries, photographic booths, roundabouts, &c., all of which seemed to be extensively patronised.

After the building of the railway in 1871 The Red Lion added 'Railway Inn' to its name.

Nottinghamshire Guardian, 18th October 1878

The Red Lion was purchased by the Mansfield Brewery in 1933 for £945.

Photograph dated 1948

The Rufford Hunt outside The Red Lion

The pub was considerably altered and extended 1964 and little now remains of its 1870s profile.

Photograph dated about 1992

Renamed The Lion, it is a popular and thriving pub and restaurant attracting people from across the local area. An excellent place to stop for refreshments or a meal.