

BOLSOVER READING GROUP
READING EXERCISE

Black Boy Pub Sign

Extract from:

Landlady removes Black Boy pub sign after warning over potential protests

by Kit Sandeman, published Friday, 12th June 2020 in Nottingham Post
<https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/local-news/landlady-removes-black-boy-pub-4220976>

A pub sign has been taken down after the landlady received warnings over possible protests.

The landlady of the Black Boy pub, in Retford, said this morning she was considering taking the sign down after she received warnings online, and a call from a local police officer.

It is understood the sign - which depicts the face of a young boy in uniform - has now been taken down.

She said upsetting people was 'the last thing she wanted to do', but that now, after having been closed for three months due to coronavirus, she may have to pay for a new sign to be made.

Louise Presley has been the landlady at the Retford pub for nine and a half years. She says her research has shown the name of the pub is thought to have come from King Charles, who was nicknamed 'black boy' by his mother because of his dark complexion.



Speaking this morning (Friday, June 12), she said: "We may have to take it down today.

"It's a shame it has to come to this. The name of the pub has got nothing to do with racism.

"I don't hold with people being prejudiced, and in the years I've been here we've never had anyone object to it.

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“We used to have, on the back of the wine list, an explanation of why the pub got its name, because a lot of people are interested in its history.

“It would be a shame to change the name. In our area we have had a lot of support, but in all honesty, we are looking at taking the sign down today because protesters might be turning up.

“We don’t want to upset anyone.

“We had the local police call yesterday to see if we were alright and check if we needed anything.

“Changing the pub sign might be what we’ve got to do. We would have to have it all painted and it’s an expense we can’t really afford at the moment.

“It’s upsetting. Not just for us but for everyone that the situation has come round to what it is.”

A spokesman for [Bassetlaw District Council](#) said: “We understand that the pub have chosen to remove the sign themselves.

“As this is a listed building the council is more than happy to help and advise the licensees in relation to any new signage for the pub.”

Susan Shaw is [a Labour councillor for the area](#), and said a debate is needed about the name and the sign before any decision is made.

She said: “It’s part of the history and you shouldn’t just be covering that up.

“I feel very sorry for the landlord, they haven’t had any business for months and now they are having to deal with this.

“But we [do need a wider debate](#), and to think about how we use this moment in history for good.

“So I think we need to be measured, and look at it calmly.

“The name doesn’t sit well with me personally, however we need a debate and we need to do some proper consultation about the mood of Bassetlaw, and I think this is a really good opportunity to do that.

“I don’t think we can just go round taking every sign down that someone might disagree with, we need to have a proper discussion and to think about the consequences.”

Retford 'Black Boy' pub sign removed over protest fears

by BBC, published Friday, 12th June 2020

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-53024299>

A landlady has taken down a pub sign over fears it may be targeted by anti-racism protesters.

Louise Presley, who runs the Black Boy pub in Retford, Nottinghamshire, said she had been made aware of people talking about targeting it online.

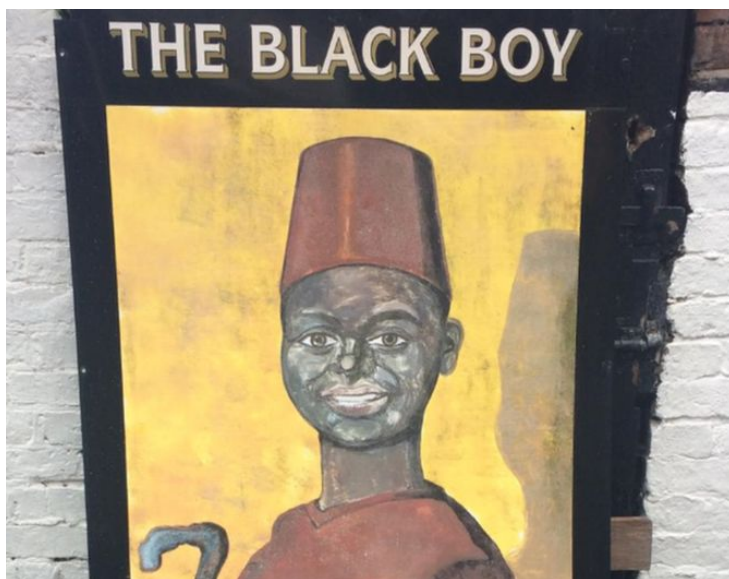
She said she removed it to avoid upsetting anyone or causing a disturbance in the town.

Mrs Presley said it was a "shame" but recognised it might be time to replace the sign.

"It's a sad day. It will be emotional for a lot of people in the town, they do not want it to come down," she said.

"But possibly it should be replaced with something more appropriate. We don't want to cause any upset."

Mrs Presley, who has run the pub for about nine years, told the [Local Democracy Reporting Service](#) the name had "nothing to do with racism".



She believes it is named after King Charles, who was given the nickname "black boy" by his mother due to his dark complexion.

A spokesman for Bassetlaw District Council offered to advise on any new signage as the pub is a listed building.

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name and the sign before any decision is made.

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"It's part of the history and you shouldn't just be covering that up," she said.

"I feel very sorry for the landlord, they haven't had any business for months and now they are having to deal with this.

"The name doesn't sit well with me personally, however we need a debate and we need to do some proper consultation about the mood of Bassetlaw, and I think this is a really good opportunity to do that."

A statue of 17th Century slave trader [Edward Colston was toppled as part of a Black Lives Matter protest](#) in Bristol on Sunday.

There have also been calls to remove the statue of imperialist Cecil Rhodes from Oriel College in Oxford, [which saw thousands of people protest](#) outside the institution on Tuesday.

A statue of Britain's wartime leader [Winston Churchill in London has been boarded up](#) because of fears it could be vandalised in future protests.

