

The Royal Stag



A Potted History

There is much to be found on the internet about the history and here are some of the most interesting stories

Reputed to be the oldest house in the village dating from the 1400's it may have been an ale house in the 1500's when it was "The Five Bells". It was later "The High Flyer" and changed to "The Royal Stag" in 1796

It is said to be haunted and previous managers say there are ghosts present upstairs and have been seen in the bar.

Most famous or infamous is the ghostly handprint which appears from time to time on one window pane overlooking the church graveyard. Many regulars will testify to its presence. One story says it's the handprint of a child who died outside in the churchyard while waiting for its father on a cold night, the other story is that the child watched from outside as it's drunken father died in a fight.

A photo of the handprint was taken in 1979 and is displayed in the pub.

The broken tombstone of William Herbert is inside the pub, he may be associated with the pubs history and is claimed had a troubled life. William was born in 1638 and died in 1705. John Hebert reputed to be Williams son took over the tenancy of the pub in 1730 and lost the tenancy in 1736

It's also famous for being mentioned in Jerome K Jerome's "Three Men in a Boat" in 1889 when George and Harris tried to get a room, but all the rooms were full.

William Herschel astronomer also stayed there in 1782 when he and his family moved to Datchet from Bath.

The earliest licensees are recorded as follows:

Five Bells

1753-1762 Edmund Early / 1763 John Jones / 1764-1769 John Quick

1770-1787 Ann Quick / 1788-1791 Edmund Carter

High Flyer

1792-1793 Edmund Carter / 1794-1795 William Davies

Royal Stag

1796-1797 Edward Mathews / 1798-1812 John North Croft / 1813-1818 Leonard Addison

1819-1821 James Prior / 1822-1823 John Turfey / 1824-1828 Edmund Land

These extracts have been taken from The Royal Stag by Janet Kennish and you can find all this and more on the Datchet Village website

The Royal Stag was taken over by Windsor Pub Company in November 2008 and some restoration work has been carried out. Open for breakfasts from 10am, food is freshly prepared on the premises and now has an excellent reputation in the village for the quality and value of the food.

Real ales, real food, a real fire in the winter and a real welcome awaits you.

**ROYAL STAG HOTEL
THE GREEN - DATCHET - SL3 9JH
01753 584231**

royalstag@windsorpubco.co.uk | www.windsorpubco.co.uk