

The Shaven Crown – a Retrospective

In the last issue, we said 'Hello' to Phil and Evelyn Roberts, the new owners of the Shaven Crown, as they introduced their plans for the future. Here Phil Mehrtens and his family look back over their ten years as owners and say their own 'Goodbye'.

Our son Phil purchased The Shaven Crown Hotel about ten years ago and worked constantly until it began to affect his health. While he has been custodian of this beautiful, historic, listed building, which he loved, he created a large modern, industrial kitchen, changing the old kitchen into a dining room/restaurant, and altered the bar so that customers could access the restaurant without having to go outside. He also renovated some of the bedrooms and bathrooms, laid new carpets, extended central heating to the Great Hall and made the entrance into the hotel much warmer. Externally he upgraded the car park and created a terrace.

A Valued Team

Phil employed excellent staff over the years, in particular Steve, who was manager (and a trained chef), Jimmy the chef and Christine the housekeeper, who all stayed with him until the end. He valued and trusted them. They were very supportive and loyal. I would like to say a big 'thank you' to them. There were also many girls and boys who worked on a casual basis while they were at school, or college. I saw them grow in ability and confidence, some of them starting with washing-up in the kitchen, then serving at tables and working behind



the bar when they were old enough. They were absolute stars. As were all the regulars who used the bar and created a lively and friendly atmosphere. They will, I am sure, remain friends. Last I must mention Alan (Spud) who helped Philip a great deal towards the end of his ownership.

Phil met him overseas and Spud turned out to be a local boy!

Now Time for Family Life

There were lots of special events including suppers, murder mystery evenings and quiz nights. Now however, Philip, his wife Debbie, daughter Anna and baby son Leon have the opportunity to live a family life without worrying about the hotel.

My husband John and I are extremely proud of him and the support of our two daughters and their families throughout. Philip took a leap of faith to run a hotel in the Cotswolds. I know how I felt when the hotel was sold and I can believe that it was like a bereavement to Philip having to let it go but it was also a huge relief when the hotel was sold.

Phil and Evelyn Roberts are the new owners and the custodians of this beautiful building. I sincerely wish them every success.

Valerie Mehrtens