



News from Bradford on Avon, Lacock and around the county



Chamber of Commerce president Caroline Philpott and mayor John Potter at the Riverside Inn which will take its new name from Samuel Spode's painting Timbrell's Yard, inset (48765)

Town welcomes £1.5m pub refurb

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19th century painting inspired the new name of former Riverside Inn

THE Riverside Inn in Bradford on Avon, which has been empty for a year, is to get a new name after a £1.5 million refurbishment.

The inn will be renamed Timbrell's Yard, after a painting by Samuel Spode showing the car park beside the pub, and the recently refurbished St Margaret's Hall.

The building has been bought by the Draco Pub Company, whose portfolio includes Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall's River Cottage.

It is hoped the £1.5m project will be completed by the end of this year or early next year.

Rob Greacen, managing director of Draco Group, said: "We are really looking forward to restoring Timbrell's Yard and making it a busy, happy and warm inn.

"We have been delighted by how friendly and helpful everyone has been.

"Bradford on Avon is a very

special place and I hope we can make a positive contribution with our hospitality."

The inn will have 14 en-suite bedrooms, a bar, restaurant and function room.

The kitchen will be run by Tom Blake, former head chef at River Cottage.

Over the years the building has been used as a house, a club and briefly as a library, but it only became a pub in the 1980s.

Draco is looking to reinstate the period features in the building, although a 1970s games room addition will be demolished to create a courtyard.

This will be the third and largest project by the company, which has already restored two

Somerset pubs.

Caroline Philpott, president of Bradford on Avon Chamber of Commerce, said: "It is absolutely brilliant and the plans are superb.

"The chamber welcomes that sort of investment in the town. I hope Wiltshire Council pass it and things move forward as quickly as possible.

"It is a great location on the river and an ideal location for a restaurant.

"The area needs tidying up because of the number of people who use the river path."

Bradford on Avon Town Council has backed Draco's plans for a refurbishment and the project now awaits approval from Wiltshire Council.

'By restoring the inn we hope to make it a busy, happy and warm place' **Rob Greacen, MD**