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Tulchan



69 The Bell Aldworth, Berkshire

Why it makes the grade

You don't have to like cricket to enjoy a visit to The Bell, but it helps. A gate at the bottom of the quaint garden leads to the outfield of the village cricket pitch, where locals assemble on match days to hold barbecues, quaff pub beer, support their team and barrack the opposition.

Signature fare

To say that rolls are the only food is to do them an injustice: these are warm, crusty, locally made rolls filled with traditional favourites such as ham, cheese, crab, salt beef and stilton. Simple but delicious and all for around the price of a pint. Beers, too, are a local delicacy, with most coming from the west Berkshire brewery in nearby Yattendon.

We love the landlady because ...

She is unashamedly old-fashioned. Mobile phones are banned.

Meet the locals

Cricketers, spectators and lovers of tradition.



The Bell

Pub trivia

A certain Guardian journalist, while playing cricket for the Observer team, once ordered a roll at the bar, gave his name and shuffled off to join his team mates in the garden. When the roll was ready, the barmaid brought it into the garden and shouted: "Bradman, order for Bradman." Cue much team-mate hilarity. **BT**



Open Tue-Sat 11am-3pm, 6-11pm, Sun 12-3pm, 7-10.30pm, closed Mon - Food as opening - Bell Lane, RG8 9SE - 01635 578272

70 The Cricket Inn Totley, South Yorkshire

Why it makes the grade

Sitting at the base of a long, low hill on the fringe of the Peak District, even when it rains you can admire the brooding view. If the weather is nice the hills are friendlier, and can be enjoyed from the large beer garden.

Signature fare

With ribs marinated in molasses, orange juice, spices and inky St Petersburg stout, traditional Yorkshire fishcakes and head chef Jack's soft-centred scotch eggs, you need to come hungry.

We love the landlord because ...

This joint venture between the Thornbridge brewery and Sheffield chef Richard Smith makes the vibe and fare of the traditional English boozier seem fresh, new and exciting.

Meet the locals

Nearby Dore is to Sheffield what Alderley Edge is to Manchester, making this the place to find Championship footballers.

Pub trivia

The secret to making a soft-centred scotch egg: boil to take the shell off, then cook it again once inside its meat casing. **PB**



Open Mon-Sun 11am-11pm - Food Mon-Fri 12-2.30pm, 5-9pm, Sat 12-9.30pm, Sun 12-8pm - Enterprise Inns - Just off the A621, S17 3AZ - 0114-236 5256

NECK MILLON, ZAK WATERS

