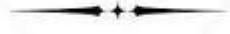


# **Sutton Mandeville**



## **“THE CRIBBAGE HUT”**

### **NEW HOTEL OPENED AT SUTTON MANDEVILLE**

#### **THE FUTURE OF WAYSIDE INNS**

Travellers on the Salisbury-Shaftesbury road, and especially those interested in ancient buildings, will perhaps regret the passing of the old coaching inn known as the Cribbage Hut at Sutton Mandeville. It's long career terminated on Thursday, when the license was transferred from the old stone building to new and finely equipped premises situated on an adjacent site. Fortunately, Messrs Eldridge, Pope & Co. Ltd., are resolved to save as much of the historic inn as possible. Probably part will have to be demolished to allow widening of the road, but nothing will be removed unless it is absolutely essential.

The Cribbage Hut is said to have derived its name from soldiers of long ago resorting to the place for card games. It seems to be agreed that there has been an inn on the site for some 600 years, although the present premises are not as old as that. An alternative theory concerning the derivation of the name is that it was the meeting place for neighbouring squires, ostensibly to play cribbage, but really to hatch plots for the Jacobite cause. It is referred to as a great haunt for smugglers, who about 1800, used to bring kegs of spirits over the Downs.

On the occasion, which might almost be regarded as historic, of the transfer of the licence from the old Hut to the new, Messrs. Eldridge, Pope & Co , Ltd entertained prominent residents of the district, members of the West Wilts Licensed Victuallers' Association, and representatives of companies concerned in the erection of the hotel at luncheon.

Mr W. H. Creech (solicitor for the company), submitted the toast of “Messes Eldridge, Pope & Co., Ltd.” He said that no firm in the country enjoyed a higher reputation. He was pleased to see Mr Philip Pope in the chair, because although young he possessed all the attributes which had made the company such a success. The work had been splendidly carried out, and all present would wish the proprietors and the landlord every prosperity.

Mr. P. W. R. Pope, responding said the brewery trade was aiming to improve the houses so that refreshments could be obtained under ideal conditions. The new Cribbage Hut had been adapted to serve the needs of local residents, but it was essentially an hotel for the travelling public.

#### **THE MODERN OUTLOOK**

Proposing "Success to the New Cribbage Hut," Mr. D. Combes said he had been connected with the parish of Sutton Mandeville for many years. He had known the licensee for a long time, and he wished him every success. The hotel was perfectly situated for the convenience of through traffic from London to the West. He was very gratified that the old name of the Cribbage Hut was to continue. Local residents were sorry that the old inn was to be dismantled, but they were sufficiently modern to realise that it was better to have an up-to-date hotel.

Mr. A. T. Spencer (the licensee) and Mr. P. Warren, of Yeovil, the architect replied.

An interesting summary of the history of the old Cribbage Hut was given by Mr. S. S. Waller, district representative of the Company in the western area. He proposed the toast of "The Licensed Victuallers' Association" and said that with the growth of road traffic, wayside inns would regain the pace they held prior to the establishment of railway services.

Mr. H. G. Thomas, chairman of the West Wilts Licensed Victuallers' Association, and Mr W. Pearce, secretary replied.

The toast of "The Press" was submitted by Mr. M. S. Waters.

The hotel was formally opened by Mr Philip Pope, and to commemorate the occasion the licensee, Mr Spencer, presented him with a silver tankard.

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