

# Bertie calls it a day

# PERSONALITY POST

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● Mr Bertie Culmer pulls one of his last pints as landlord of The Three Tuns, Fen Drayton. He retires tomorrow.

When 70-year-old Mr Bertie Culmer retires as landlord of The Three Tuns in Fen Drayton tomorrow, it won't be just his familiar face that regulars miss.

For when Bertie goes, his collection goes too.

The collection of brasses, guns, swords and other antiques has decorated the walls of the pub during the 27 years he has been there.

He has more than 100 genuine guns, and so many brasses, there's hardly an inch of spare space on the walls.

Now that he's moving to a new home at Crown Walk, St Ives, he will have to sell some of them and put some in store. But many of them will decorate the house.

With him will go one of his

favourites, a 100-year-old clock. And the pub will also lose some of its seats for some hand-carved Dutch chairs belong to Mr Culmer.

The pub itself is old. Part of it dates back to the 16th century. Mr Culmer says it has changed a lot since he arrived, and many young people are among his regulars.

'I shall miss it, but I have plenty to occupy myself for awhile. I shall still keep collecting,' he said.

The collection has attracted people from all over the country, particularly gun enthusiasts and horse brass collectors.

Mr Culmer, his wife Queenie and their children, Brian and Gillian, came to the area from pubs in Cambridge and Hertfordshire. Gillian is now a teacher, and Brian is in South Africa.

Mr Culmer started working life as a timber merchant in London before the war.

He came to The Three Tuns 'because the place lent itself to our collection. When we came there was nothing here.'

Fourteen years ago, Mr Culmer introduced an added attraction to the bar — a parrot called Scruffy, who is now off to St Ives with him.

## GOLD WATCH

Mr Culmer's brewery said their thank-you recently with a gold watch, and his regulars had their own party this week.

Today, the new landlords arrive — personnel manager Stephen Herra and his wife Maureen from Southampton. No doubt one of their first jobs will be to cover up the walls again!

The Herras will have a busy introduction to the pub. Greene King have submitted plans for alterations which include linking the old smithy — currently used as a store — with the main building. They also plan to join the small bar with the lounge, build a new cellar for real draught beer, and add toilets.

The alterations, which they hope will be finished for Christmas, are expected to cost around £20,000.