

Reincarnation of James Figg

OFFERING Thame a friendly new free house, The James Figg pub has opened its doors.

The former Abingdon Arms has undergone a total renovation and reopened under a new name that celebrates one of Thame's most famous sons.

Figg, who is reputed to have lived in the pub in the early 1700s, was England's first undisputed champion boxer, winning 270 bouts.

With the Mayor Jeannette Matelot Green pulling the first pint on December 3, the pub that has had £150,000 invested into it and created 15 new jobs for locals, was officially opened.

Frazer Sutherland of The Thatch in Thame will also be overseeing The James Figg, with manager Tony Lindsell behind the bar.

Frazer says: "I've long thought that what Thame needed was a simple, friendly pub with an enjoyable atmosphere where you could drop in for a drink or three, have a good night out with friends or family, and a quick bite to eat too, if you wanted. That's really what we hoped to achieve in the new-look pub."

Also fully refurbished is



Mayor Jeannette Matelot Green pulls the first pint at The James Figg

the Stables, an events space in the pub's courtyard, which will now be available for private parties, meetings and community events.

With its own bar, Wi-Fi and facilities for a DJ, it will be a great place to hold a 'do'.

Oxfordshire born and bred Tony Lindsell, the main man behind the bar, said: "I've got great plans

for the pub. I want it to be a proper local, somewhere you can come any time for a drink, find a warm welcome and a great atmosphere. Look out for our regular quiz nights and other things happening in the pub, and come in and say hello soon."

A portrait of the pub's namesake takes pride of place in the front bar. And as well as restoring the

memory of James Figg, the pub celebrates British sporting champions down the years with a series of classic photos lining the walls. There will also be the chance to see the country's current sporting heroes in action with sporting events being shown in the pub, as well as regular quiz nights for regulars who fancy being local champions themselves.