

King Of Barley To Be Crowned At Maltings

Warminster Maltings is launching a new way for people to become more involved in the life of the historic Pound Street business which has put the town on the international map and become the most famous maltings in the world.

While working at full tilt satisfying demand for their globally-renowned malt, the company is developing a Friends of Warminster Maltings scheme to create interest and pride in its heritage.

It is hoped the friends scheme will also generate volunteers to help restore the charming old buildings and create a lasting and working memorial to one of Warminster's most famous sons - Dr. Edwin Sloper Beaven who revolutionised the cultivation of the world's oldest cereal.

Members of the barley pioneer's family are being invited to become honorary Friends of the Maltings, as are former employees and other people in the town who have championed the Maltings cause.

Barley merchant and managing director Robin Appel said: "The quality of the malt we produce here and the growing success of the many new micro breweries created in the past four years has seen business really take off here.

Atmosphere

"We are providing these new entrants to the brewing industry with the raw materials and the chance to brew the 'beers to die for' that they want. We are re-investing heavily with new cooling equipment, barley handling and malt storage facilities.

"There is something about the fabric and atmosphere of these old buildings that lets us make the best



On the germination floor at Warminster Maltings, MD Robin Appel and head maltster Chris Garratt check the barley

malt in the world, and we wanted to foster pride in the way that malt has been made on these floors for 150 years using traditional methods and skills.

"But we can't have coach loads of visitors coming here on the tourist trail, so while watching Fred Dibnah and the steam enthusiasts on the television I suddenly thought of creating Friends of the Maltings."

Codford business consultants Link4Success have helped bring the project to reality, with consultant Melanie Garratt conducting a feasibility study. "There is a lot of demand for the Maltings to open its doors from all sorts of enthusiasts, from camera clubs to Civic Trust," said Melanie.

"It really isn't practical for all sorts of health and safety reasons to run the Maltings as a visitor centre. So we want to give interested people the opportunity to become involved through the Friends scheme and create an opportunity for voluntary help and support."

A low-ceilinged, white-walled office at the Maltings is now being converted into 'The Beaven Room' and the collection has begun of paintings, photographs, books and golden awards made to the man they crowned the King of Barley.

Edwin Sloper Beaven was born in 1857, the son of a Heytesbury farmer. He said he "began observing barley in 1878 when I was initiated into the practice of buying the grain and the art of malting it."

In fields along Boreham Road, Beaven tirelessly carried out the trials on barley varieties or 'races'

that were to make him internationally famous. Countless millions of acres of barley have been grown around the world from cultures that started life in the little field off Boreham Road. Although houses were eventually built here, the memory lingers on in the name Barley Close.

It is calculated that Dr. Beaven made the land produce 20 per cent more barley an acre and when he died in November 1941 it was said of him that he was 'professionally a maltster, intellectually a searcher after exact knowledge and spiritually an idealist who revolutionised throughout the world the cultivation of its oldest cereal'.

"He was a very fine agricultural pioneer with a worldwide reputation," said Robin Appel. "We want to celebrate and preserve his memory here at the Maltings. That is another element of the Friends scheme."

Friends will receive a quarterly newsletter keeping them in touch with events and providing special features about beer produced from Warminster malt. They will also get Maltings merchandise, invitations to lectures and visits, and discount on beer and malt-related products. There will also be opportunities to help as a volunteer.

ing Cases

with 215 court cases in which
in a stretch of the A303 between

informed that the case against drivers pleading not guilty has collapsed. They must write to the Safety Camera Partnership at PO Box 1346, Chippenham, where their cases will be individually assessed.

Earlier this year in a similar case the CPS offered no evidence against 27 drivers accused of speeding at Folly Bottom on the A303 after confusion over speed limits.

The CPS has pointed out that statistics show during the period of the road works at Berwick Down no road users or construction workers were killed or seriously injured. However, during 2003 to 2004 three road workers were killed and 27 seriously injured in the course of their work on the road network.

Safety cameras help to minimise the risk faced by the workforce and the CPS is reminding motorists that it will robustly prosecute all cases on

WILTSHIRE
CRIMESTOPPERS
QUIZ
Thursday 25th August