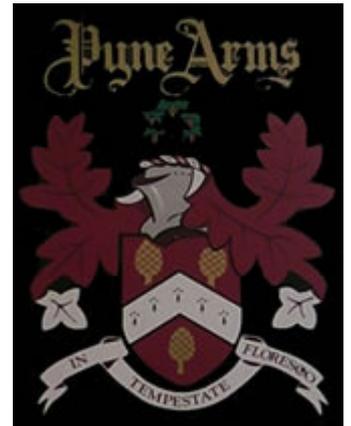


FACTS ABOUT - THE PYNE ARMS

The original building was owned by the Pyne family who resided in the Manor House by the side of the Church and was typical of the many small rambling farmhouses that are to be found in this area. It had the large, flagstone floored farmhouse kitchen as well as the obligatory shippen. When the farm was sold, probably in the mid nineteenth century, the building became the East Down Post Office. It continued to function as such until 1945 when the Post Office finally closed. For 5 years the building stood empty and villagers had to walk to Arlington for their letters.



In 1950 an enterprising ex-hotelier, Mr. W.E. Ashton, identified the need for an inn in this vicinity. At the time, locals were having to walk nearly 5 miles for their ale, either to Blackmore Gate or the New Inn at Muddiford. Mr. Ashton, who was also a master builder, ably converted the farmhouse shell, with the help of local builders J.B. Hill, into the basis of the public house we know today. The farmhouse kitchen became a bar and the erstwhile shippen, the oldest part of the building, became a skittle alley and games room. The building originally provided three bedrooms as accommodation to cater for the increasing trade from motorists touring the area.

As the building originally belonged to the Pyne family, it was at the request of the squire of the manor that the Pyne family crest was hung outside the inn. The then squire was the 95 year old Mrs Pyne, being the matriarchal family head, who was still residing at the time in the manor house.

The Pyne Arms was for many years an extremely successful public house, while owned by Mr and Mrs Kempf, where it was necessary to queue outside in order to get a table! Unfortunately the then owner (Mr Kempf) had a serious motor accident and as a result the pub was sold to a Mr Spear from Barnstaple. Mr Spear ran the pub with several tenants for some years, and in September 2012 it was sold again. The pub has undergone substantial refurbishment and reopened for business at the end of September 2012. Amy and Ellis, the new owners, have substantial hospitality experience and used to be the chefs at the successful restaurants at The Rock, Georgeham and at the Instow Arms.