

DAKIN ESTATES NEWS

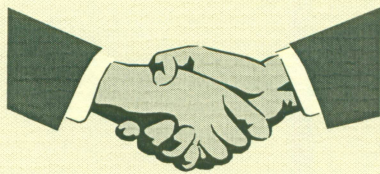
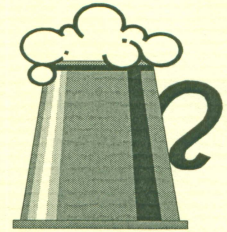
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*** FREE BEER! ***

Now that we again have your undivided attention, ND and JD's last Newsletter for site staff and regular subbies aroused considerable comment. Despite this, we have decided to do another!!



HANDOVER OF SOVEREIGNTY GOES SMOOTHLY...

But not in Iraq! In Dullingham, where following victory in a planning appeal, possession of the farmyard at Tilbrook Farm was handed over by the Baldwin Family (a prominent local clan!).

The occasion was marked by clan elder Ken Baldwin (KB) trooping over to Nick's house with his entourage (Mrs KB and daughter Susan) and enjoying a glass of champagne with ND and The Young Master Thomas in the rather splendid newly refurbished double height dining room (KB—"We used to have a tin bath in that corner")

KB also recalled how, in his youth the house had had running water but only one tap and that piped direct to a nearby pond! He also recalled how the two old metal bells kicking around during building works had been the customer bell at a hatch in the wall of the farmhouse kitchen where his mother sold dairy products.

Following champagne KB and entourage were given a tour of the house which Mrs KB and daughter (who had not visited during renovation) pronounced vastly improved. Following the tour, KB sank into a comfortable armchair and pronounced himself so well satisfied with the restored house that he was minded to move back in!!

Later in the day JD visited the farmyard on a tour of inspection and was horrified to notice (for the first time) Thomas's circular horsewalker going slowly round and round in the middle distance. On being told it was only a horse walker going round he breathed a sigh of relief having thought it was a sewage works that he had not previously noticed!

All credit, by the way, to our colleague and ally The Young Master Thomas for introducing and brokering this desirable site.

SITE NEWS

Work on Dullingham will commence during the late Summer and ND looks forward to seeing everyone back there (kettle on?) The plan is to do the single storey unit first with the black barn second. Doubtless KB living next door and having known the yard all his life will continue to take a keen interest and remains a welcome visitor. Please would all endeavour to keep disruption and noise (inc. radios) to a minimum when working in his garden.

SHELFORD

Work continues apace and we have been asked to look at Mr Funston's other barn which is now in hand.



HOUSING MARKETS

No predictions here except that hopefully the market will slowly cool as interest rates rise (but not too far!). However, one can always rely on the popular press to stir things up. A recent Daily Express headline used "HOUSE PRICES—DON'T PANIC!", (just the sort of headline guaranteed to do just that!), and then went on to follow with an article about the Nationwide's prediction that there would be no slump in house prices. In similar vein the magazine This Is London leads its article with the headline "40% of economists expect house prices to fall" ER... surely this meant that 60% didn't? However by happy chance, both Dakin Estates current sites are in prime locations and neither bought at the silly prices being bid by some developers on the open market so hopefully we are as well placed as any to ride out any uncertainty ahead in the housing market.

