

BULL CHARGES AHEAD AFTER MAKING ITS MARK IN DERBYSHIRE VILLAGE

24 May 2008

A Weekend of celebrations is in full swing at the Bull's Head in Repton, where landlord Richard Pope and his staff are marking one year since the near-derelict pub was reopened.

A year on, his faith looks justified. The Bull's Head is superb, a pub with an emphasis on food where you can go for a drink without feeling uncomfortable.

The 18th-century building mixes traditional and modern features seamlessly and the people of Repton have embraced the pub.

"In terms of customers, we've won more than I expected and found a market which wasn't being catered for in the village.

"I was deliberately targeting a market different to what was already being offered, so we don't have a big TV screen, a pool table or a jukebox."

He does have an upstairs dining room, a cosy bar with nooks and crannies, a marvellous terrace outside - and a ready supply of ideas.

At Christmas, a 40-piece brass band played on the terrace and a snow machine was brought in to make it a white Christmas. At Easter, all of Derbyshire's microbreweries were represented at a beer festival.

"One of my main objectives was to become a central part of the village," says Richard. "The fact that we get christenings, weddings and funerals from the village suggests we've been accepted.

For details of this weekend's celebrations, visit www.thebullsheadrepton.co.uk