



The Griffin, *in Danbury*

This year Alice Gillard and Gemma Haste have become joint landladies of this historic pub, situated on the brow of the long hill leading up to Danbury. They are enjoying putting their own personal stamp on The Griffin.



Constructed in the 1500s, the original building started life as a farmhouse called Peppers, not becoming The Griffin Inn until 1744. Its prime position at the top of 'Griffin Hill' meant The Griffin thrived as a coaching inn and hotel for many decades, offering rooms, stabling and, with the advent of the motor car, garaging, for travellers stopping off in Danbury.

Today, Alice, Gemma and their staff offer visitors what they describe as 'an enjoyable bar and dining

experience'. Original architectural features are still in evidence throughout the building, allied with a modern, light interior. The food is also a combination of the traditional and the more contemporary. Still on offer are the popular staples – fish and chips; sausage and champ mash, plus a range of baguettes at lunchtime, but one can also order sharing platters of tapas, and dishes such as pulled pork bruschetta, guinea fowl with roasted fennel, and a vegetarian courgette cassoulet. Everything is freshly cooked and sourced as much as possible from local suppliers.

Tucked away at the rear of the surprisingly large pub garden is The Coach House, a barn with

a private garden area, able to accommodate up to 70 people – ideal for private functions such as weddings, birthday parties and meetings.

It would be surprising if a building this age didn't boast some ghostly wanderings – on your next visit, look out for the figure of a lady baking bread who has been seen near the pub's impressive coffee machine. Another perfect combination of historic and modern.

■ **Tuesday to Saturday Midday – 11pm. Kitchen open: Tue – Sat Midday to 3pm, Tue – Thu 6pm to 9pm, Fri & Sat 6pm to 9.30pm, Sunday, Midday – 6pm. Kitchen open: Midday to 4pm. Ample parking. 64, Main Road, Danbury, Chelmsford, Essex. Tel: 01245 699024. thegriffindanbury@gmail.com, www.thegriffindanbury.com**

