

CAMRA PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE USE

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SAVE THE SUN!

CAMRA have kicked-off a campaign to save a nationally important pub. The Sun Inn at Leintwardine in north Herefordshire is one of the very last ‘parlour’ pubs in the UK and is considered by many to be the best example of an unspoiled simple village pub in England.

The two-bar, 200-year old Grade-II listed inn is temporarily being run by villagers after the death of the landlady, Florence ‘Floss’ Lane. Prior to her death on the 13th June, she was Britain’s oldest landlady and ran the Sun Inn continuously for 74 years. She received extensive obituaries in *The Times* and *Daily Telegraph* newspapers.

It is the wish of the owners and the villagers that it continues as a pub, but it is now feared that the Sun Inn may be bought by a property developer at an auction due to be held near Leominster on the 27th August - despite there being interest from at least one group who wish to buy it and run it as a pub.

Mark Haslam for Herefordshire CAMRA explains:

“It is our view that the guide price of up to £300,000 for the auction would not stand reasonable price comparison with other freehold pubs recently sold in and around Herefordshire, and therefore the view taken is that this sale is being pitched towards property development. This is very worrying as we know that there is at least one party interested in buying the Sun Inn to run it as a pub as it is. The fear is that such people will be outbid at the auction.”

CAMRA have vowed to vigorously contest any planning application that might be forthcoming to develop the pub site - should a property speculator frustrate others by upping the bidding price. Mark Haslam adds:

“CAMRA has an excellent track record in fighting planning applications to redevelop pubs in Herefordshire. We are confident we would have strong grounds for having an objection upheld, but we would prefer to avoid having to take this action.”

It is hoped that the pub will ultimately be sold to a buyer who wants to run it as such.

A campaign website has been set up at: www.savethesun.org.uk

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Editors notes:

The auction is due to be held at the Luctonians Sports Club, Kingsland, near Leominster, Herefordshire at 6.30pm on Thursday 27th August 2009.

Auction sales particulars at: http://www.bill-jackson.co.uk/auctions_view.asp?asid=1&aid=232