

*Our guide to the
best British pubs.
This week: **The
White Horse,
Rendham, Suffolk***

The White Horse is a small, cosy, two-room place with whitewashed exterior and a huge red pantiled roof, swooping gracefully here and there with age. The pub is in a sleepy part of Suffolk, on a minor road from Framlingham to Saxmundham.

"If dramatic and nationally important events took place in Rendham," says a local historian, "no details have yet emerged." No matter, there's plenty of important local history inside the pub. Here's a photo of a group of cyclists, circa 1920, in knickerbockers and flat caps, at the front door. And over there, a group shot of the local Home Guard contingent in 1940.

Best of all, a picture of the tense dominoes final in 1949, featuring "Mossie" Sherman, "Bristle" Nelson and "Shill" Flatman, among others. Matters are brought up to date with a series of fine drawings of individual concentration at a recent quiz night.

Customers here are almost entirely local, as are the beers. Landlord Paul Boswell is very keen on Suffolk micro-breweries and today there are offerings from the Earl Soham brewery, Mauldon's Black Adder brewery, Sudbury, and Cliff Quay brewery, Ipswich.

A couple of pints of Earl Soham Victoria Bitter, malty, with a long lingering buzz of Goldings and Fuggles hops, goes down memorably.

The menu, of hearty pub grub, lists local suppliers – a fishmonger from Lowestoft, a butcher in Sweffling, cheese from Framlingham, fruit and veg from Ipswich.

As it happens, we are there for the beer – and the skittles. Every year they host a charity match celebrating a former landlord who had the misfortune to be done over by the local magistrates in 1919 for offering a copper kettle as a prize. He took it to the Appeal Court in London – and lost. The Henry Welton Copper Kettle Challenge celebrates the man and the event.

There's an annual beer festival coming up in August, as well as a cricket match against Sweffling and a football match against the same village on New Year's Day. "A terrible sight," says one local. "Most of the lads are dreadfully hung-over before the match even kicks off."

Arthur Taylor

☉ The White Horse, Bruisyard Road, Rendham, Suffolk (01728 663497; whitehorerendham.co.uk). Open Monday to Friday from 6pm.

