



# Kieran and Margaret call time at Madden's

By Thalia Pelligrini

**Long-established High Road pub Madden's is on the market and there are hopes that it can be sold as a going concern meaning regulars won't lose their favourite watering hole.**

After more than two decades of hard work, retirement beckons for husband and wife team Kieran and Margaret Madden, who are looking forward to winters in Lanzarote, summers in Ireland "... and golf and family in between."

## Real ale and Thai food

The couple moved to N2 in 1996. Having sold a pub in Camden they bought Welch's Real Ales in East Finchley, and Madden's was born. In the 22 years Kieran and his wife have run the pub they've watched the High Road change, but while other pubs have come and gone, theirs has enjoyed enduring success.

There was a complete refurbishment in 1999, and a few years later, in 2004, more than 500 members of the Barnet and Enfield branch of Camra voted Madden's pub of the year. This was followed by the launch of the Thai kitchen, which is still running, and a fresh facelift for the interior a couple of years ago.

However, what has best stood the test of time is Madden's welcoming atmosphere. Indeed for many years it provided a weekly meeting spot for *The Archer* team to discuss the latest local news stories. "Nine out of ten people that come in are locals," said Kieran. "We'll miss our extended family and I'll miss pub life. It's all played out in a pub, engagements, weddings, divorces and funerals."

## A special place

The couple won't be forgotten. One regular, Ashley Bond, told us: "Kieran, Margaret and their staff over the years have made this place special and they'll be missed by a great many people."

And for those who may have heard the rumour that Sainsbury's have their eye on the pub which adjoins the two vacant shops they had earmarked for a Local store, Kieran thinks not. He's hoping that the pub will

stay as such, maybe even with the name unchanged as an extra bonus. Everyone at *The Archer* wishes Kieran and Margaret a long and happy retirement.



Kieran and Margaret being presented with the Barnet Pub of the Year award by James Francis of CAMRA in 2004. Photo by Kevin Finn



England rugby fans (and one lone Aussie) outside Maddens during the 2003 World Cup (see Many Happy Memories, right). Photo by Fiona Anderson

## Bid to save historic building in face of flats plan fails

By Daphne Chamberlain

**An attempt to save Valona House, the elegant Georgian building opposite the tube station, has failed. The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has decided not to add what is thought to be East Finchley's oldest house to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.**

*The Archer* understands that the decision was based on the fact that there have been significant changes to the extension at the back of the 200-year-old building, and possible enlargement of the windows.

## Development to proceed despite objections

This means that the controversial redevelopment of the site on 12-18 High Road (the demolition of Valona House and its replacement with 21 flats



Valona House, pictured in 2005

and two parking spaces) can go ahead. Barnet Council has told us that planning permission for the four-storey building with limited access was issued to developers Safeland on 8 January.

More than 1,000 people submitted a petition to the council last year objecting to the project on the grounds of poor design, risk of traffic accidents, overdevelopment of the residential area and lack of on-site parking.

They claimed that with only two parking spaces and one

small slip road for access, cars and delivery vehicles might well have to reverse on to the High Road, close to the tube station's pedestrian crossing and with a blocked view to their left.

A council spokesperson said: "In terms of when the works will begin, this is up to the applicant. However,

pre-commencement conditions will need to be approved before this can be done. Conditions have been attached to the grant of permission in order to mitigate disturbance to residents during the demolition and construction process."

## Many happy memories of Madden's

**Regulars and former staff recall happy memories of Madden's over the years.**

**John O'Sullivan:** That pub was one of the reasons that I moved to N2 (Welch's) and lived upstairs of Madden's for about three months. I'm going to miss Kieran and Margaret and the great staff. Just hope it stays a proper local pub. For the record I've been a regular for 35 years.

**Ashley Bond:** Kieran, Margaret and their staff over the years have made this place special and they will be missed by a great many people. As for memories, too many to mention, some personal. And of course the Rugby World Cup final in 2003 when there was only one Aussie fella, who came in by accident.

**Gareth Hogan:** I worked and lived here for five years and love the place still. It's sad news for N2 but a happy retirement to the wonderful landlords.

**Amy Towers:** Some of my best memories are from this pub, my home and work for four years with some of the best people I've ever met. Kieran and Margaret never failed to look after me and treat me like family more than an employee. Half of the regulars here were even invited to my wedding and I still class a lot of them as great friends. A very well deserved retirement but Maddens and N2 won't be the same for me and many others now they have decided to sell up. Bring on the leaving party and the baby Guinness!

**Malcolm Sheppard:** I remember many fabulous sessions there from when Bob Welch owned the pub and then Kieran and Margaret taking over and keeping it special. I live in Devon now so good luck in the future and best wishes to everyone there.

**Chris Hayes:** I have spent many happy hours drinking in there over the years, many of which I am unable to remember. I also worked behind the bar for both Kieran and Margaret plus Bob before them. I hope they have a long and happy retirement.

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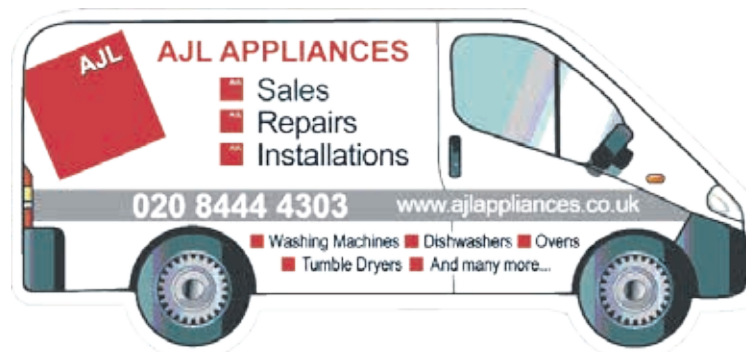
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