



Review in the 2008 edition of the Good Pub Guide.

CHICKSGROVE

ST9729 MAP 2

Compasses ★

From A30 5½ miles W of B3089 junction, take lane on N side signposted Sutton Mandeville, Sutton Row, then first left fork (small signs point the way to the pub, in Lower Chicks Grove; look out for the car park); SP3 6NB

WILTSHIRE DINING PUB OF THE YEAR

Delightfully unchanging ancient thatched house with top-notch innovative food, genuine welcome, and splendid bedrooms – an excellent all-rounder

'A cracking pub,' says one reader this year, and who could disagree? It manages to exceed the expectations raised by the beautiful exterior, and stands out for its warm welcome, excellent food, and sparkling bedrooms, all refurbished this year. The bar has old bottles and jugs hanging from beams above the roughly timbered counter, farm tools and traps on the partly stripped stone walls, and high-backed wooden settles forming snug booths around tables on the mainly flagstoned floor. Bass, Chicks Grove Churl (brewed for the pub by Wadworths), Wadworths 6X and a guest like Hidden Potential on handpump, several wines by the glass, and nine malt whiskies. The landlord and his family are very friendly, and they're happy to see children and dogs too. The quiet garden, terraces and flagstoned farm courtyard are very pleasant places to sit, and this really is a smashing place to stay, with lovely surrounding walks and plenty to do in the area.

Ⓜ Super bar food might include lunchtime filled loaves and ploughman's, scallops on a crab risotto with saffron sauce, duck, pheasant and pigeon terrine with port and onion chutney, slow-roasted shoulder of lamb with red wine and mint jus, goose breast on roasted baby vegetables with grape compote, roasted vegetable wellington, brill fillet with scallops and chive sauce, and puddings such as cranberry and lime panna cotta or pecan and treacle pie with clotted cream. Starters/Snacks: £5.00 to £7.00. Main Courses: £8.00 to £18.00. Puddings: £4.50 to £6.00

Free house ~ Licensee Alan Stoneham ~ Real ale ~ Bar food (not Sun evenings or Mon exc bank hols) ~ (01722) 714318 ~ Children welcome ~ Dogs welcome ~ Open 12-3, 6-11; 12-3, 7-10.30 Sun; closed 25 and 26 Dec ~ Bedrooms: £65S(£65B)/£85S(£90B)

Recommended by Mike Dean, Lis Wingate Gray, Bill and Jessica Ritson, Helen and Brian Edgeley, Andrew Hollingshead, Mr and Mrs Draper, Bob and Margaret Holder, Richard May, Mrs J H S Lang, Tony and Jill Radnor, Nick Lawless, Mr and Mrs A J Hudson, Froggye, John Robertson, Ingrid Baxter, Mike and Linda Hudson, Andy and Claire Barker, Colin and Janet Roe

Our website www.goodguides.co.uk now includes a click-through to a little map for each pub.