

9/12/11

Brewers and customers toast sisters' 70 years at village pub

NOVEMBER was a landmark month for two sisters who have devoted their life to running a village pub.

Janet Cook and her sister, Shirley Smith, have clocked up 70 years at The Newport Inn, at Braishfield. They arrived at the pub on November 21, 1941 with parents, Alec and Elsie Cottle.

Representatives from brewers, Fuller, came bearing flowers and champagne for the sisters to mark the anniversary, there was also a gift for Shirley's husband, Rusty.

Nigel Atkinson, of Fuller's, gave a speech of thanks to the family

The next day was party day, with a drink for everyone courtesy of Fullers and hog roast given by generous customers.

The pub was decorated with bunting, flags and balloons.

"It is amazing we are still here after all these 70 years," said Janet, whose husband, Bernard Cook, was landlord of the pub for many years before his death in 2009.

"We send a big thank you to everyone who has supported the family over 70 years.

"Also a big thank you to our friends who worked so hard to make the weekend a success."



Sisters, Janet Cooke and Shirley Smith, with Shirley's husband, Rusty (far left) and Nigel Atkinson, of Fullers, at the 70th anniversary celebrations at the The Newport Inn