

# Night out for a bar lamb



**SPIBY** the sheep isn't one of the herd. She prefers the company of people — and the occasional sympathetic dog.

So after a hard day's grazing in Wheatley churchyard, what could be better than an evening in the local — the White Hart — and a pat on the back from landlady Aileen Parker?

Off she goes with her owners, civil servant Alistair — that's him on the floor — and Mary Mackay.

The Mackays used to farm, and have cared for Spiby, now 12, since she was a two - day - old orphan lamb.

The Herdwick sheep — it's a hardy Lake District breed — was brought up with dogs and shows no interest in others of her kind. "She has her fleece sheared once a year, but really she thinks she's a dog," said Mr Mackay.

By now the pub's hosts, Aileen and Harry Parker, hardly raise an eyebrow when Spiby enters on a dog lead.

But didn't you ever consider — er — eating her, I asked her owners as tactfully as possible. The Mackays were shocked. "We never eat friends," they said.

And Spiby? She made no comment but looked a little well, sheepish . . .

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Aileen and Harry Parker behind the bar with Alistair Mackay and Spiby