

# Myths, Murders and Mysteries

## ‘In An Alehouse...’

‘Would I were in an alehouse...

I would give all my fame for a pot of ale, and safety’

William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616)

*Ye Olde Swan, Woughton On The Green*



**Dick Turpin at Ye Olde Swan, Woughton On The Green**  
Tradition has it that Dick Turpin, the notorious 18th century highwayman, would call at Ye Olde Swan at Woughton On The Green. An apprenticed butcher turned thief, smuggler, robber and murderer, Turpin apparently found sympathy with the landlord whose inn was a safe house for such felons.

One story tells how he would pay a local blacksmith to reverse his horse's shoes so it looked like the marks went towards the crime scene, not away from it.

Others describe a ghostly figure, seen on the ancient Bury Lane nearby, supposed to be Turpin, pacing back and forth as if waiting for someone. He is clad in dark clothes leading a dark horse... although one described a cloak over a fancy waistcoat with thigh-high leather top boots!



### **The Castle Pub, Olney**

Towards the end of the last century, the landlord's wife and a customer spotted the ghostly form of a woman in black clothing, whilst another customer watched a man walk through a locked door. An exorcism was performed, but a few years later the ghostly woman was seen again. A legend says that a phantom horse and coach pass through the pub once a year, though no-one knows the exact date.