

THE OLD THATCHED INN WINS AYLESBURY VALE VILLAGE PUB COMPETITION 2010

- Adstock's Gastro-Pub recognised for exceptional food, service & atmosphere –

15 October 2010: The Old Thatched Inn in Adstock has today been announced the winner of Aylesbury Vale's Village Pub Competition 2010, having fought off stiff competition from 33 other pubs in the region. The gastro-pub, run by owner/manager Andrew Judge, was recognised for delivering exceptional quality food and service in a venue that offers an unparalleled atmosphere to its diners.

Councillor Pam Pearce, chairman of the competition judges, said, "We were extremely impressed by the service to customers and attention to detail. The staff really look after their customers and give them a warm welcome. The competition for the award gets tougher every year and, with 34 entries this year, we had our work cut out. Although many pubs are closing these days, those that remain are getting better and better, offering good food at reasonable prices, as well as being at the heart of their communities."

Judge comments, "We are very proud to be awarded this accolade. Delivering a really excellent dining experience is no longer about food alone. It is about providing the complete gastronomic package – food of course, but also venue and atmosphere, in addition to superb service and, in these 'recovering' economic times, at the right price!"

Judges of the Aylesbury Vale Village Pub competition also noted the Old Thatched Inn's considerable efforts to use the finest, freshest ingredients from a multitude of small specialist food producers and suppliers, preferring local and organic produce whenever possible.

Judge explains, "We feel incredibly strongly that part of our overall offering is to support our local community, and that includes our local farmers and suppliers. We have focused on procuring local and seasonal produce, ethical meat and dairy, community engagement and healthy eating for some considerable time now and are pleased that this is being recognised as an integral part of the competition."

The Aylesbury Vale Village Pub competition was launched in 1997 and aims to mark the valuable role a village pub can play both as a part of the tourism offer of the Vale of Aylesbury and as an asset to the local community. Now in its thirteenth year, the competition saw a record number of 34 pubs nominated and a standard of entry that is improving year on year.

Judge concludes, "If every Englishman's home is his castle, then every village inn is, or has the ability to be, the jewel in his crown. In many country towns and villages the most majestic building is the old pub. Inns have, throughout British and indeed worldwide history, been focal points for the community, providing a social centre for celebrations, commiserations and the passing on of important news and events. Today, more than ever before, the great gastro-pub is more than just a watering hole. How 'great' a venue each is though, is down to staying true to a set of very high criteria and standards, and a constant effort to meet customers' changing expectations of excellence."

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About The Old Thatched Inn

The Old Thatched Inn is a countryside gastro-pub, which offers its customers a unique blend of high quality dining hosted in a relaxed and comfortable environment. Situated in the picturesque village of Adstock, Buckinghamshire, The Old Thatched Inn dates back to 1702 and combines this heritage with a menu that fuses the freshest seasonal ingredients cooked with emphasis on taste, with modern presentation.

Managed by owner and ex-chef Andrew Judge and his wife Lisa, the team at the locally-celebrated Old Thatched Inn believes in casual dining and sources the finest, freshest ingredients from a multitude of small specialist food producers and suppliers, preferring local and organic produce whenever possible.

Favourites on the seasonally-changing menu include locally sourced rare-breed lamb, an extensive fish selection delivered direct from Billingsgate market, and home-made ice creams, with further specials that change daily which excite the mind and the palate. The Old Thatched Inn also boasts a wine list featuring close to 40 selections, including white, red, rosé and champagne and is one of the only gastro-pubs in the county to have five fine ales on tap along with a vast shelf selection of malt whiskies and other spirits from across the globe.

With five qualified chefs and eight full- and part-time waiting staff, the service at The Old Thatched Inn is professional, attentive and discrete. A welcoming and comfortable waiting lounge, a generous bar area seating 35 and large conservatory seating 60 people, make The Old Thatched Inn the ideal venue for both casual dining, business lunches and special events.

For more information, please contact:

Andrew Judge, The Old Thatched Inn
Main Street,
Adstock,
Buckinghamshire MK18 2JN
Tel. +44 (0)1296 712584
Email. enquiries@theoldthatchedinn.co.uk
<http://www.theoldthatchedinn.co.uk>