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# THE GOOD PUB GUIDE 2010 NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS



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## NEW PUB OF THE YEAR 2010 - **Potting Shed, Crudwell, Wiltshire**

"Opened at the end of 2007 after a complete reworking by the owners of the nearby Rectory Hotel, this friendly place comes straight into the 'Guide' with a star; one of the nicest places we've come across recently. It is very much a proper country pub rather than just another pub/restaurant, with cheerful and interested young staff."

*Licensees: Jonathan Barry, Julian Muggridge and Laura Sheffield Tel: 01666 577833*

## COUNTRY PUB OF THE YEAR 2010 - **Cross Keys, Upper Chute, Wiltshire**

"George and Sonia Humphrey have made their pub a welcoming and relaxing proper country pub, with well liked unpretentious food, good drinks and a fine log fire. They have put in the single magic ingredient that makes the difference between a failing local and a thriving and profitable pub – the enthusiastic, energetic and imaginative commitment with which thousands of other landlords and landladies across the country are ensuring the survival of their pubs."

*Licensees: George and Sonia Humphrey Tel: 01264 730295*

## TOWN PUB OF THE YEAR 2010 - **Café Royal, Edinburgh, Scotland**

"In Scotland, a higher proportion of pubs have been closing than in the South. Here again, good landlords and landladies make all the difference. It's the publican that makes the difference between a tired and doomed mausoleum and a bustling success. An extreme case in point is the Café Royal in Edinburgh with its stunning listed interior where welcoming manageress Valerie Graham ensures good food and drink, helpful staff and a thriving atmosphere."

*Licensee: Valerie Graham Tel: 07734 039053*

## DINING PUB OF THE YEAR 2010 - **Cock, Hemingford Grey, Cambridgeshire**

"With the recession breathing down our necks, the appealing pricing of their imaginative set lunches makes the Cock at Hemingford Grey our national Dining Pub of the Year. Excellent, modern food served in a pretty pub with a stylishly simple spotless restaurant, an extensive wine list plus other drinks including four real ales. Service is excellent, and there's a friendly, bustling atmosphere with a good mix of locals and visitors."

*Licensees: Oliver Thain and Richard Bradley Tel: 01480 463609*

## UNSPOILT PUB OF THE YEAR 2010 - **White Lion, Barthomley, Cheshire**

"What pub designers can't buy in is the deep-down appeal of genuine character, as in hundreds of our listed pubs. From three dozen or so favourite unspoilt pubs, our choice is the White Lion. This ancient thatched tavern, delightfully unchanging, and with good value bar lunches, is run really well by its welcoming landlady Laura Condliffe. We'd agree absolutely with the reader who called this friendly unpretentious place 'The epitome of what a pub should be: completely unspoilt and welcoming'." *Licensee: Laura Condliffe Tel: 01270 882242*

## LANDLORD OF THE YEAR 2010 - **Yew Tree, Lower Wield, Hampshire**

"Tim Gray has made the Yew Tree a warm-hearted oasis. He has held down the price of his good local beer so that you save nearly 60p a pint compared with what the average pub in his county charges. 'Love, care and attention' is what Mr. Gray says makes a good pub – and he should know. It's his friendly welcome to all his customers and his hard work and enthusiasm that make this tile-hung country pub so special. Above all, he's the sort of landlord you remember as rather special."

*Licensee: Tim Gray Tel: 01256 389224*

**Continued Overleaf...INCLUDING PUB OF THE YEAR 2010**

### **BARGAIN PUB OF THE YEAR 2010 - Lewes Arms, Lewes, Sussex**

"More pubs now qualify for our Bargain Award than ever before. What works brilliantly for both pub and customers is when a pub succeeds not only in keeping prices down, but also in offering good food that's interesting as well as good value. In this appealing and unusual place, always cheerful and chatty, you're left surprised at how they can serve such good generous food at such low prices – especially in what's one of Britain's more pricey areas."

*Licensees: Abigail Mawer and Peter Dowd Tel: 01273 473152*

### **BEER PUB OF THE YEAR 2010 - Fat Cat, Norwich, Norfolk**

"A place of pilgrimage for beer lovers, and open all day, the Fat Cat is run by Colin Keatley with tremendous enthusiasm and energy, bringing happy streams of customers from far and wide to this town pub. For £2 a pint (the lowest price of any of the Norfolk main entries) he sells his own good beer brewed in a nearby sister pub, the Cidershed, and stocks a remarkable range of quickly changing real ales from around the country, has a row of pumps dispensing exotic beers from the Continent, and dozens of interesting bottled beers on sale."

*Licensee: Colin Keatley Tel: 01603 624364*

### **INN OF THE YEAR 2010 - Bear, Crickhowell, Wales**

"The very best inns give you the comfort of a decent hotel, but add the friendly informality of a thriving bar, and often a big dose of real character, making for a memorable stay. Currently top among them, backed by warm endorsements from many happy readers, the Bear in Crickhowell is Inn of the Year. This fine old inn gets top marks for its thoroughly convivial atmosphere and efficient staff."

*Licensee: Judy Hindmarsh Tel: 01873 810408*

### **WINE PUB OF THE YEAR 2010 - Yew Tree, Clifford's Mesne, Gloucestershire**

"Unusual dining pub nicely tucked away on the slopes of May Hill. A back room is charmingly laid out as an informal wine shop, with a good range that is fairly priced. It has an excellent scheme where you can have a bottle with your meal for just its shop price plus £5 which is much lower than the usual mark-up and the better the wine, the bigger the bargain. We wish more pubs used this customer-friendly pricing system." *Licensees: Mr and Mrs Philip Todd Tel: 01531 820719*

### **WHISKY PUB OF THE YEAR 2010 - Fisherman's Retreat, Ramsbottom, Lancashire**

"Bury in Lancashire – whisky capital of the world? We were surprised this year to find a pub selling over 500 whiskies – not some tavern in Scotland, but tucked away on the edge of Bury. Hervey Magnall owns it now; his father started the collection, for fun, adding a new one each week."

*Licensee: Hervey Magnall Tel: 01706 825314*

### **OWN BREW PUB OF THE YEAR 2010 - Church Inn, Uppermill, Lancashire**

"Pubs brewing their own beer offer big savings, averaging 33p a pint cheaper than comparable pubs selling branded beers. Price champion among them, selling good pints for £1.50 (for that you'd get only half a pint in Surrey) and for its fine range at some exemplary bargain prices, the Church Inn is Brew Pub of the Year. We agree with the reader who described this appealingly unconventional place as 'an absolute joy'. It's a lively good value community pub, in a great spot, with own brews from big range, lots of pets, and good food; children very welcome."

*Licensee: Julian Taylor Tel: 01457 820902*

### **BREWERY OF THE YEAR 2010 - Donnington Brewery, Gloucestershire**

"Special praise to Donnington, which actually beats the bargain prices of pubs brewing their own beer. Donnington, based at a picturesque ancient watermill, operates in Gloucestershire, not a particularly cheap area, and has some delightful pubs - no less than ten of them in this edition, including two splendid main entries." *Contact: Mr J R Arkell Tel: 01451 830603*

### **PUB OF THE YEAR 2010 - Bell & Cross, Holy Cross, Worcestershire**

"Everything at this charming place makes sure you come away feeling you've had a really special time; super food, staff with a can-do attitude, a delightful old interior and pretty garden. With its strong sense of individuality and must-come-again appeal, the Bell & Cross at Holy Cross is PUB OF THE YEAR." *Licensees: Roger and Jo Narbett PR Contact: Jo Garner 01527 888991/07717 897991*

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