

May 2011

The previous government kept reminding us that 'It's all about choice'. With the Pheasant we vote with our feet, right into one of the best run pubs in East Anglia. The service has always been very friendly, the beers excellently kept and choice of menus are something else. The food is always freshly cooked – no pre-heated microwaveable catering packs here – and with a variety found in few pubs elsewhere in the country.

Keep it up!

John Ashton

May 2011

Dear James and Diana

It is always a pleasure to visit The Pheasant. Whether it is for a 'quick pint' of well cellared beer or a longer visit to enjoy the company and atmosphere and maybe some excellent food. James and Diana always take the time to make their guests welcome and have a word or two during their stay. James and Diana have worked hard to benefit good causes with fundraising events and the local community with events such as the excellent Bonfire Night (standing room only; even in the car park!).

The best thing for me to say about The Pheasant in Gestingthorpe is 'go and enjoy'.

Chris Harman

May 2011

We are regular customers at the Pheasant in Gestingthorpe for the following reasons

- The food is of a very high standard providing both traditional dishes and some more unusual
- The service is extremely friendly and efficient and every customer is treated with equal respect and attention
- There is a wide variety of special events and these are very popular Early reservation is essential but the mixture of reasonable prices and excellent food is worth fighting for! The Bonfire night was well organised and we look forward to participating again next year. The Burns Night was an innovation well worth repeating
- The community is well served by the Supper Club which not only provides a good selection of dishes but gives the villagers the opportunity to be in the company of local people

We are very fortunate to have a bar and restaurant in this area of such high quality with such a friendly and efficient staff

Eileen and Peter Clayton

May 2011

The Pheasant in Gestingthorpe combines all that a good country pub needs. The building is full of character with lots of cosy nooks and crannies for a quiet drink or meal. We have also taken advantage of the fact that the room very neatly divides into three larger areas for parties or group meals as well as the ever popular village social suppers.

The meals are freshly prepared using local ingredients and there is a good seasonal selection of smoked produce from the on site smokery. The specials board is always the first place to look to see what James and the kitchen team have been working on that day.

Service is quietly efficient and both James and Diana will always come over for a chat. The waiting staff are all clearly happy to be working in the Pheasant and it does show. A smile goes an awful long way!

Full marks for the effort they have put into the Pheasant to date making it a true village hub and here's looking forward to the forthcoming every-day opening !

Peter and Pauline Hennessey"

May 2011

Our daughter recommended the Pheasant, so we gave it a try. The food was delicious and it was good to know that most of the ingredients were locally sourced. The staff were friendly and efficient and we have been back several times each time being perfect.

We have since recommended The Pheasant to others.

Barbara and John Duck

May 2011

Dear Diana & James,

As you know we usually come for a meal once a fortnight with my husband's elderly mother. She has trouble eating various foods and the staff invariable come up with an appropriate suggestion for her dinner.

We can always be sure of a very friendly welcome. In fact our drinks are getting poured as we enter. All the staff are very accommodating and helpful

I believe your menu is catering for all tastes and there is always a varied 'Special's Board'. All food is prepared from scratch and uses fresh ingredients. Some of the vegetables e.g. leave salads are grown by James' own fair hands.

Due to the 'in-house' smokery a wide variety of smoked fish, cheese, olives and even nuts are available.

There is an extensive wine list with some good New World Wines.

I think the Pheasant serves, good food, wine and draught ales/ciders in a very homely and relaxed atmosphere.

We are always looking forward to see you (especially after the dreaded Tesco shopping).

Hope everything goes to plan with your new build.

Kind regards  
Claudia Thompson

May 2011

“We are regular visitors to The Pheasant for a meal – knowing that awaiting us is always a warm welcome, good conversation, lovely food and excellent service. The menus are original and utilise the best of what is seasonal and local.

The Supper Clubs are a brilliant idea . It’s a great way of meeting new people, getting to know your neighbours, fellow villagers and have a jolly good chat to someone new over a good meal.

I would thoroughly recommend them.”

Velda Ovenden

May 2011

My wife and I visit The Pheasant, in Gestingthorpe, regularly for supper and various events. The quality of food is exceptionally good, the ambience warm and welcoming with service that is always friendly and efficient.

It is the venue for my Investment Club to meet and discuss our investments over dinner and we are looked after by Diana, James and their staff in an exemplary manner and all members have no wish to go anywhere else. I feel the The Pheasant is a worthy contender to win this award.

Gordon & Jane Clarke

May 2011

The Pheasant was recommended to us by friends and relations, from London and the Netherlands, and we have been customers for the past three or four years. It is now our favourite place to dine, treat friends to lunch or dinner, or just to have an impromptu meal. We usually entertain at the Pheasant - in fact, all of our three offspring insist that we dine out there when they visit - and they're fussy! Some of our relatives are in the catering profession and they too are impressed. The quality of the food never lets us down (even when we try some of James' innovations, like muntjac). The service is always prompt, efficient and friendly; the ambience, homely, relaxing and traditional. We joined the Supper Club and have enjoyed the hospitality, good food, great value and social encounter that it affords.

Understanding that James and Diana are about to enter the Pheasant in the Rural Award Category of the Anglian Business Award and in the Good Food Pub Category of The Great British Pub Awards this year, we wish them every success and look forward to seeing new certificates on the wall after the obvious decisions are made.

June and Dermot Malley

May 2011

There are many pubs in North Essex who offer food but none of the quality provided by the Pheasant in Gestingthorpe. Nice surroundings, a warm welcome and an excellent menu of well cooked food. I have eaten there many times and never been dissatisfied. Long may James and Diana continue their stay in Gestingthorpe. David Garnsey

May 2011

Dear Diana & James

Thank you so much for a wonderful Easter Sunday Lunch at the Pheasant. The beef was delicious and the Baked Alaska stupendous!

With love

Rachel, Andrew, Jonathan, James & Olivia Gill

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011

James & Diana and all the Staff at the Pheasant

Thank you so much for making Saturday such a memorable day for Ann & I. Everybody seems to have enjoyed the food, venue and the company.

Very sincerely

Love

Ann & David

Hi Diana

26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011

We are back in Yorkshire once again but I just wanted to thank you and your staff for a fantastic meal on Saturday. The meal, the service and the surroundings were just right but it was those personal touches that really made the day. My mother thoroughly enjoyed herself once she had got over the shock!

Thank you once again for all your help.

Sheila Gibbon and family

26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011

We would like to thank you most sincerely for the wonderful party which you coordinated for my favourite Auntie Elsie last Saturday. Everything was perfect; lovely atmosphere, attention to detail, staff who were attentive but unobtrusive and the food which was exceptional. I wish we still lived in Halstead so that we were

closer to Gestingthorpe. Please thank all involved and may we wish you every success for the future, you really do deserve it.

Many thanks, Mary and Ivan Maskell

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2011

Hi Di and James,

Thanks for a lovely new years lunch. We all enjoyed the delicious food very much so compliments to the chef. It was great to see the Pheasant so busy and here's hoping you have a successful 2011 and all goes well with the building project.

Best wishes from Val and Rob x

The Bonfire Party organised by The Pheasant was an enormously enjoyable community occasion, bringing together numerous local people who otherwise seldom meet. Apart from a convivial atmosphere, outdoor barbeque and indoor meals, a significant sum of money was also raised for the parish Church.

The Pheasant is a superb venue for village organisations such as The Gestingthorpe History Group (who use the 'Back Room'), The Cricket Club Dinner and for 'after match refreshments' on Sunday evenings when the Cricket Club have a home game. At all these events the value of The Pheasant with its strong local ethos shines through.

Ashley Cooper

### **Bonfire Party**

Whilst the weather was a little inclement, it did not dampen the high spirited party of our friends as we settled in the back room for a night of good food and an excellent display of fireworks. Needless to say, we were not disappointed. The kitchen and front of house staff worked hard to ensure we all had our piping hot meals at the same time in order that we could decamp to the car park and watch an amazing display of fireworks which seemed to last for ages. Our thanks to James and Diana for all their hard work - a good night was had by all.

### **Burns Night**

Having called in to The Pheasant by chance last year and tasted the entertainment organised by James and Diana, we were determined this year not to miss out on this superb night, so we booked a table early. On arriving at the car park, we were immediately greeted by a lone Piper playing the bagpipes and enticing us to enter the warm and welcoming bar. The menu was varied, but, when in Rome, you have to sample the Haggis, Neeps and Tatties accompanied by a wee dram, which was delicious and very filling. During our meal the Piper would squeeze out another ballad or two evoking a real sense of friendship throughout the pub. The hospitality was second to none and a jolly good night was had by Sassenachs!

Regards

Su

19<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Hi, Diana and James-

Just a word of thanks for looking after us so well for Sunday lunch on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. They were for two parts of our family which we had not seen for ages and the food and the surroundings made for a wonderful occasion on each day. Thanks again- and see you soon!

Richard and Brenda Allen.  
Bulmer

14<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Hi Diana & James

Thank you very much for the excellent lunch and service yesterday. All our members enjoyed their meal and tour of the smokery afterwards. The trip to the Bulmer Tye Brick and Tile Company was also successful. All in all a very pleasant and happy day.

Thanks again  
Peter  
Shell Pensioners Association.

21<sup>st</sup> May 2010  
Diana & James

Just a thank you for all your efforts on Saturday during my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations the food was fabulous (as always) and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.

Andy  
Gestingthorpe

April 2010

Dear James, Diana and Staff

I would like to thank you both and your staff for a lovely evening on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr Drury had a wonderful time and everyone there expressed how delicious the food was and a brilliant atmosphere you created. Once again thank you for all your hard work and support you gave me.

Best Wishes  
Didds  
De Vere Primary School –School Governors' Retirement Party  
Castle Hedingham

Jan 2010

Dear James & Diana

Just a short note to than you so much for a wonderful New Years Eve. I have received many compliments on the food and service and in particular the friendly atmosphere created by yourselves and the staff.

With very best wishes and many thanks  
Ian & Sue  
Gt. Maplestead

Sept 2008

Dear James & Diana

Thank you very much for organising the simply beautiful dinner we enjoyed last Friday. Everybody at the occasion was very enthusiastic which I am sure you appreciated.

We look forward to our next meeting.

My best wishes  
Richard Wheeler  
Chairman  
Wheeler Cellars. Colchester

Sept 2008  
James & Diana

Just a quick note to say a very big "Congratulations" for winning Best Newcomer Restaurant at the Essex Food & Drinks Awards. It just shows that all of your hard work over the last 2 years is really being noticed!. I look forward to seeing you both soon.

Best wishes  
Ben  
Rushley Green Farm  
Castle Hedingham

Nov 2007

Dear James & Diana

I would like to say a huge thankyou to you and your staff for everything you did for my birthday celebrations last Friday. Everyone has commented on the delicious food and wine, the warm homely atmosphere and the friendly and attentive staff. I had a wonderful time!

With love  
Lyn  
Gt. Maplestead

August 2007

Dear Diana & James

What a fabulous barbeque you gave us all today, we all felt thoroughly spoiled! The food was delicious, company excellent, and all in your wonderful gardens – what more could one ask for. Thank you so much for including us in your I hope first of many barbeques.

With love  
Elaine  
Gestingthorpe

August 2007

Dear Diana & James

What an excellent day you treated us all to on Sunday, delicious lunch, fine pimmis and even the weather did as it was told for once! Thank you so much for including us in your celebration, it's really the village that should be feting you – for coming here and giving us such a great place to “pop out” to> many thanks and all best wishes for many more years to come!

Lindsey and Jonathan  
Gestingthorpe