



THE FEATHERED NEST

The Feathered Nest, winner of The 2011 AA Pub of the Year and the inaugural Oxfordshire Restaurant Awards, has caused quite a stir given its relatively short life. B4 went to join in the fun.

Based in the beautiful village of Nether Westcote, the one downside of visiting this award winning restaurant on a cold December evening is that you miss the fabulous view over the Evenlode Valley. But that's for another day, a Sunday Lunch, an afternoon tea perhaps, mind you, I like the sound of 'a wholesome home cooked breakfast' in the Garden Room having stayed the night in one of the four individually decorated bedrooms.

We arrived for dinner at 8pm and went straight to the table in the conservatory area of the restaurant. I'd been looking forward to a pint in the inviting bar area which was alive with locals and families enjoying the fabulous food which has seen The Feathered Nest's mantelpiece cluttered with accolades.

Originally an old Malthouse, the attention to detail is incredible, the flow of The Feathered Nest is genius, and the ambience is genuine and invigorating. Owners Amanda and Tony Timmer are the perfect hosts, having engrained their hearts and souls into every Cotswold stone, every sturdy beam and a devotion to a restaurant which has infected every guest fortunate to cross the threshold of The Feathered Nest.

Tina and I enjoyed a stunning meal. We indulged in Hand Dived Scallop and Home Cured Smoked

Salmon to start and rose to Tony's challenge for our main courses by sampling the fine game on offer. Tina plumped for the Local Wild Venison and I chose the Roasted Pheasant Breast and Sausage. Both were delectable and both wonderfully filling. So incredibly filling that we had to submit and deny ourselves dessert.

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We had been well and truly spoilt and I wished, more than anything, that I had booked that room!

It's hard to see why Tony, Amanda and staff were so surprised to win the first of last year's Awards

(technically, the first of three as not only was The Feathered Nest named 'Restaurant of the Year', it was also named 'Best British Restaurant'). Tony commented at the time of receiving the Awards, "It was especially rewarding considering that we only opened our doors in early June last year! I would like to thank all of our staff without whom this would not have been possible. These awards are a reflection of their hard work and dedication to 'The Nest'.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank you, all our customers-friends, for supporting us over the last year. We now look forward to the next challenges ahead!"

Shortly after this first success, The Nest was named AA Pub of the Year (England) for 2011. The AA hospitality Awards were hosted by Sophie Raworth at the London Hilton on Park Lane in October. In front of an audience of seven hundred, Tony commented, "We are ecstatic and over the moon. There are many worthy establishments within the UK, and to be chosen to receive this prestigious award in recognition of all the hard work from our team – is truly an honour - a dream come true."

So well done to The Nest, the best by far!

www.thefeatherednestinn.co.uk