Pershore Times

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The Daily Telegraph Top 500 Pubs

The Masons Arms, Wadborough



Such excitement in Wadborough after the beloved village pub, The Masons Arms, has been selected for the prestigious Top 500 Pubs in England list, compiled by Will Hawkes for The Telegraph.
What an achievement for a small village pub that only re-opened in 2021 after lockdown closure.
Lydia and Simon, ably assisted by Tash and a small crew of helpers, ensure there's always a welcome.

Wadborough itself is a village of only about 80 houses and the loyal band of pub supporters are delighted to see regular non-villagers plus occasional passers-by swell the numbers. The pub provides such a friendly atmosphere, with a great range of expertly kept beers and ciders, a wine list to please all tastes, and just about every other refreshment you can imagine – alcoholic and non-alcoholic!
The menu covers all tastes with regular seasonal offerings, from summer specials to Christmas dinners and everything in between, including 'festivals' such as Mother's and Father's Days, Valentine's, Easter Sunday etc. Be sure to book for special occasions though as they soon reach capacity. Oh, and did I mention Sunday Roasts that are exquisite – but again need to be booked. Lydia wants the 'pub to be the hub' of our community, and it certainly fills that role. A village association, which includes Lydia and Simon; arranges celebrations that have included the late Queen's Jubilee and King Charles' Coronation, using the pub as the venue and focal point. The recent VE80 event brought villagers together for a poignant commemoration. Funds raised during these events have supported a wide range of causes in addition to funding the village defibrillator, which is based – where else – on the front wall of the pub. Beyond this, donations have been made to support Ukrainian refugees, MacMillan, Alzheimer's Society, mental health support, UNICEF, Royal British Legion, St Richards Hospice – the list goes on.
Regular pub-based activities include a very well supported golf society, monthly quiz nights, book clubs, bike meets and annual one-offs such as the Traitors Day and the Summer Party – all of which help create the bond so vital for a community. There's that word again – community –
The Masons Arms offers everything a great pub needs and has been recognised for this. 'The Pub's the Hub' is the greatest priority. Next up, it seems our local MP is drawing up contenders for best pub in the constituency – nothing more to say!
It's been difficult to find out how many pubs are still open in England, but it's likely to be something over 35,000. To be within the top 500 is such a brilliant achievement – big cheers to Lydia and her team. Mind you, it'll always be the Number 1 pub in Wadborough, and a quick poll of customers places it top of the county and well towards the top of that 500 list! Cheers! *John Driscoll*



"A good local pub has much in common with a church, except that a pub is warmer, and there's more conversation."

William Blake (1757 - 1827)

"There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man, by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn."

Dr. Johnson (1709 - 1784)

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