

BITEBACK

LAST week, we reviewed The Rose – a restaurant on a narrow boat, which starts from Sutton Cheney Wharf and chugs up and down the Ashby Canal.

We gave it an average three stars overall, but reader Tracy Ward e-mailed in to say we should have been more generous...

“We had already booked for Sunday lunch on the Rose at Sutton Cheney when we read the views in the Eating out guide.

We went with mixed thoughts, but have to say it was great.

A very relaxed three hours, food good and the staff were young and friendly. I’m in the pub trade and I’ve got to say the write-up wasn’t fair on a lovely afternoon out.”

Tracy Ward, Heather

■ If you want to comment on food reviews or other items in The Week, write to The Week, Leicester Mercury, St George Street, Leicester, LE1 9FQ or e-mail:

theweek@leicestermercury.co.uk



RELAXING: The Rose narrow boat

Mixed views on a night at the Yews

PICTURE: ANDREW CARPENTER / 706066-3

It sounded great on the menu, but could The Yews deliver on the plate?

GEORGE DRYDEN went to find out

In the last few years, you could say that The Yews, on the old A6, Great Glen, has had more staff and management changes than I’ve had hot dinners. Well, not quite, but you get the picture. So it was lovely to walk in one weekend evening to enjoy the kind of friendly service which this Chef & Brewer mid-market gaff has long been crying out for.

As for the food, it wasn’t terrible, but the current culinary standard could do with a sharp, upward yank of its proverbial socks in certain areas.

When you’re going to be paying £12.95 for a special, plus extra for side orders, you expect something worthy in return for your hard-earned cash.

My starter – field mushroom soufflé with wilted spinach (£4.39), was piping hot with a creamy, mousse-like texture and plenty of flavour.

My partner couldn’t resist the pancetta, tomato and red onion bruschetta on offer, (£3.89), but was disappointed that the only tomatoes were the microscopic pieces hiding in the side salad. Likewise, with the red onion, meaning the pancetta sat alone on top of the two crispy hunks of bread.



SUCCESS ON A PLATE? Diners tuck into their meals at The Yews

Deciding on the mains wasn’t easy, so I was a bit miffed when I ordered the grilled halibut steak on a bed of crushed new potatoes, topped with sautéed crayfish and drizzled with a rich lobster butter sauce, (£12.95) – displayed on the specials board – only to be told the halibut had run out and tuna would be stepping into the breach.

My partner chose the minced rump steak burger, served in a barm cake with real chips, (£7.39)

The chips were golden brown and crispy, but the burger looked and tasted processed and not steak-like as advertised. The tuna was an equal let-down. Instead of a thick, juicy hunk of fish,

seared on the outsides and slightly pink in the centre, it was thin, dry and cooked to oblivion.

Equally, I just didn’t feel that tuna was a worthy stand-in for halibut – sea bass or even haddock would have proved far more compatible with the sickly-rich sauce.

The minuscule crayfish drowning in said “drizzling” of sauce looked more like shrimps.

The much-improved dessert menu proved our salvation, with a new healthy option for me, specifically the plum and apple compote with natural yoghurt, (£4.19) which was delicious, as was the wonderfully doughy warm

strawberry muffin with Channel Island double cream, (£4.29).

If the greatly-improved service is anything to go by, it’s hopefully a sign of things to come. With any luck, the standard of food on offer will follow in the same direction. And soon.

FIVE-STAR VERDICT

THE YEWS, LONDON ROAD, GREAT GLEN
Phone: 0116 259 3369
Value ★★★
Service ★★★★★
Atmosphere ★★★★★
Food ★★
Overall ★★★

en**vision**
PLANNING OUR FUTURE

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council



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Tuesday 3 July - 2pm to 5pm
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Outside Co-Op, Bell Street, Wigston Town Centre
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Sainsburys Car Park, Glen Road, Oadby
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Tesco Car Park, South Wigston
Outside Co-Op, Bell Street, Wigston Town Centre

Also look out for our unstaffed display which will be visiting various public buildings in the Borough between 9 July and 10 August.

Full copies of the consultation documents and an online comments form can be found on our website at www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk.

For further information please contact us on 0116 288 8961 or forwardplans@oadby-wigston.gov.uk. The closing date for making comments is Friday 10 August 2007.

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