



Yates and Morris: the partnership took over the pub last December

North West

Chris Yates and Andrew Morris, Shoulder of Mutton, Holcombe, Lancashire

The Shoulder of Mutton is another pub enjoying a new lease of life following the arrival of a pair of entrepreneurs. The village pub was shut when chef Chris Yates and business partner Andrew Morris took over the Enterprise Inns' business last December.

In less than a year, Yates and Morris have restored the pub's fortunes so dramatically that they are talking to Enterprise about taking on a second pub through their newly formed company Lancashire Taverns.

Food now plays a major role in the business, although wet sales still account for a major proportion of turnover.

The core customers who visit the pub besides local

villagers are a strong contingent of walkers and trippers who are attracted to the rugged countryside that surrounds Holcombe.

Yates, who trained under celebrity chef Paul Heathcote, explains: "We had a major job restoring the pub, but thanks to a quick refurbishment, we got local drinkers back in the pub and then launched a food service soon after that.

"Both Andrew and I wanted to set up our own business and the Shoulder of Mutton presented a great opportunity for us."

Locally-sourced food materials and locally-brewed cask ales are just two of the reasons the pub is now back trading on the crest of a wave.