

Yorkshire & North-east
Ye Old Sun Inn, Colton, North Yorkshire

Fine, locally-produced food is at the heart of the dining offer that greets customers at Ye Old Sun Inn. Licensees Ashley and Kelly McCarthy produce almost every dish coming out of their kitchens from raw materials sourced from local suppliers.

This local touch has helped the McCarthys develop their business at the North Yorkshire pub to culinary standards that have made it one of the best-known food venues in this part of the county.

Kelly and Ashley believe in offering honest, home-cooked food, supplemented by dishes for those with more adventurous tastes. It has taken four years of hard work to develop the pub, which they took over in 2004 on an Enterprise Inns' lease. In that time, the pub has won a string of national and local awards.

The McCarthys believe in ringing the changes and both the lunch and à la carte menus are changed on a regular basis. Customers are encouraged not just to eat at the pub, but take an active role in spin-off food events such as farmers' markets, wine-tastings and cookery demos.

They can even take produce away, thanks to the opening of an adjoining shop and delicatessen, which also provides an essential commodity service for villagers.

To sustain the success of their pub-food venture, Ashley and Kelly have been careful to retain the venue as a village local. Ashley has worked hard to develop the cask-ale side of the business and has won back local drinkers, who deserted it when the previous licensees were in charge. He says: "Good food is what we are best known for, but we feel it's essential that we never lose the traditional pub atmosphere."