

HEART OF WESSEX LINE **FOODY TRAIL**

A report from the volunteer organisers who created the trail

A big THANK YOU to all 11 venues who made the Trail such a success. We got lots of comments, nearly all positive, and had a vote from Trailers on which restaurant should be the winner. It was close but THE WINNER is

THE INN AT FRESHFORD

We drew out a name from those who voted for the winner and FH from Bruton wins the free meal for two and bottle of wine at The Inn at Freshford.

Now for some feedback to the restaurants. Let's get the slightly bad news out of the way first. The only negative comments we had all related to the same point – background music (particularly radio) was a bit too loud.

Now to the good news, and there was plenty of that. Starting in the south, The Ferry Inn Restaurant in Weymouth came second in the vote and people loved the Dorset liver and bacon and the faggots. One couple “went in for a cup of tea and ended up with a 3 course meal as it looked so good”. “Excellent home cooked food stood out from all the chip shops”. Several comments about the friendly service.

The White Hart at Yetminster got lots of positive comments – “broccoli and stilton soup – one of my favourites”, “the whole atmosphere was marvellous” (this related to a live music night), “such a charming pub with excellent food and service”.

We don't know why but the Sun Inn in Bruton seemed to surprise most people by the quality of the food and the very reasonable prices. “A pizza to die for” and “restaurant quality food at pub prices”. One couple who live in Bruton had never visited before but said “the curry was excellent”.

A general point that covers locations from Trowbridge to Clifton – we had significant feedback from business people staying in Bristol and Bath who used the Trail to get out from their hotels and sample the local cuisine.

A lot of positive comments on Red or White in Trowbridge particularly about the shared platter for two on the starters menu. The “quality of the jus” and “the excellent value of the early bird special” also featured. Needless to say, the extensive range of reasonably priced wines came up frequently.

“Where is the waitress on the cover?” dominated comments on The Fat Fowl in Bradford-on-Avon. She had returned to Slovakia! The home made burger was popular and “the salad was fresh and crisp” was a particular comment.

“I have a big appetite but the succulent steak defeated me” referred to the range of steaks available at the Cross Guns at Avoncliffe (winner of the Rail Ale Trail rural pub award).

The Inn at Freshford had a lot of positive comments following the review of their food menu. "The plaice was tender, tasty and wholesome", "polite and attentive service", and "excellent food and service" were some of the comments. One couple told us that they got lost returning to the station but they caught their train as it was late!

The range of the freshly prepared food available at Bar One Nine in Keynsham was frequently mentioned. The baguettes were particularly popular. "The red pepper and goat's cheese tart was excellent" and "the organic wines were particularly good" were two of the comments received.

If there was an award for the most enthusiastic participant on the Trail it would go to Pizza Provencale in Clifton, we had to restock leaflets regularly! Very popular with younger Trailers who could get a meal for under £5. "Delicious home made pizzas" and "the share a pizza offer is cool for students" were frequent comments. The quality of service also featured highly. The wines were also praised for quality and price.

Finally, we had one or two comments about the train service. The one that stands out is that from a couple travelling south to Yetminster on a winter Sunday evening. It reads "the only practical train arrives at Yetminster at 18.15 leaving 45 minutes to enjoy the delights of this most attractive village in the dark (The White Hart opens at 19.00). For once we were grateful to be delayed at Yeovil for 40 minutes while we waited for the northbound train to arrive. So we sat in Yeovil in the warm and looked forward to dinner."