

Delicious choices at welcoming gastropub

by **David Magilton**

AFTER a walk in the countryside you tend to build up a hearty appetite and this is one of the best places to satisfy it.

The price is perhaps a bit more than you would pay at most local eateries, but after sampling the food at this welcoming gastropub, it is well worth the extra.

My wife and I went at lunchtime with a couple of friends to the pub situated just through the attractive village of Pleasington.

It is one of a handful run by award-winning chef Nigel Haworth, and his deliciously tempting, contemporary twists on traditional local favourites were a winner with the four of us.

Originally known as the Bay Horse Inn, its unusual name came about because clogs and billycock (a kind of bowler hat) were the favourite attire of a landlord who took over in the early 20th century — and somehow the idea stuck.

As soon as we walked into the attractively decorated pub we saw delicious-looking food whisk past on trays to be served at the wooden tables by friendly and efficient staff.

It operates a “take your seat, check the number of the table and go and place your order service” — that is the only similarity to the system operated by many bland chains.

There is a diverse menu catering for

most tastes and pocket, from soup and a sandwich to ribeye steak. There are vegetarian options and a children’s menu.

We started with delicious warm homemade bread and tasty dips of black and marrowfat pea with preserved cherry tomatoes, followed by stems of thick asparagus, the best I have ever tasted.

It was difficult to decide what to have from the excellent choice on the main course, but there were no complaints from the four varied meals.

The men’s choice of fish and chips and steak and kidney pudding, mash and vegetables, may sound uninspiring, but it was perfectly cooked and presented and were mouthwateringly delicious.

The women went for a ploughman platter of Lancashire cheese, York ham, Scotch egg, and homemade pickles and a selection of local seafood, which comprised smoked salmon, smoked kipper, hot smoked trout, potted Morecambe Bay shrimps, smoked mackerel pâté, pickled cucumber, beetroot relish and horseradish cream.

The food quality reflects the aim to use locally sourced produce.

We were pretty full and, although the double chocolate mousse, English summer trifle and traditional Bramley apple pie, carnation milk and custard, all sounded mouth-watering, we

plumped for a couple of scoops of home made ice cream, which slipped down a treat.

There is an extensive wine list which is not over priced and there are several half-litre options for a tenner, while there is a nice selection of beers.

Not a cheap lunch at £20 each with drinks and coffee, but worth every penny.



The Clog & Billycock

Billinge End Road
Pleasington, Blackburn
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Open: Lunch — Monday to Saturday, noon to 2pm; Sunday noon to 8.30pm
Afternoon bites — Monday to Saturday, 2pm to 5.30pm
Dinner — Monday to Friday, 6pm to 9pm; Saturday, 5.30pm to 9pm; Sunday, noon to 8.30pm

WORLD OF WINE

With Nick Nunn



Rully 2008, £7.99, Sainsbury's

Rully is a village in the Cote Chalonnaise region of Burgundy which produces almost equal amounts of red and white wine. This Grand Vin de Bourgogne is a white that is worth buying, not least because at this price it is £2 cheaper than normal. It's a classic 100 per cent Chardonnay, dry with apple and apricot tastes and a lightness (12.5 per cent alcohol) that makes it a very pleasant chilled summer drink.



Windy Peak Pinot Noir 2008, £7.99, Sainsbury's

You can get a reasonable white Burgundy like the above for £7.99, but if you want a red made with the scrumptious Pinot Noir grape for the same price you are better off going to the fairly similar climatic area around Melbourne in the Australian state of Victoria. Your cash will buy you a lovely mellow, but still light raspberry and strawberry-flavoured Pinot from the reliable De Bortoli vineyards. Great value.



VERDICT	
Food	★★★★★
Service	★★★★☆
Value for money	★★★★☆
Atmosphere	★★★★☆
Overall rating	17/20