

26 April 2009



The Bildeston Crown gets Silver in national Tourism awards

The Bildeston Crown flew the flag for Suffolk in the annual tourism BAFTAs – the **National Enjoy England Awards for Excellence 2009**, organised by VisitEngland. The hotel was the only finalist from Suffolk in these national awards in which the winners were announced at a ceremony at the National Railway Museum in York on Thursday 23 April.

The path to Silver started last October when the hotel picked up both the Tourism in Suffolk Award for best small hotel and then only weeks later won the same category for East of England Regional Enjoy England Awards for Excellence which put The Bildeston Crown forward to the national heats for the wider category of hotel.

In February owner James Buckle and management couple Chris and Hayley Lee learnt that they had been short listed to the final three for the Hotel category alongside East Lodge in Derbyshire and Gidleigh Park in Devon.

Missing out on the Gold on the night to Gidleigh Park owner James Buckle was disappointed but still jubilant that the hotel had done so well. “When my mother and I bought The Bildeston Crown and refurbished it, we could never have imagined that we would find ourselves selected as one of three hotels to represent the best in the country only just over 5 years later. Credit must go to Hayley and Chris Lee who have managed The Bildeston Crown over these years and have helped transform a dream into a reality.”

Manager Hayley Lee was also in optimistic mood. “Gold would have been good but just being here at the awards ceremony celebrating the best of British tourism has been a real career high.”

Hayley’s husband and The Bildeston Crown Chef Chris Lee agrees. “It has been a superb year for us and although gold would have been the icing on the cake, we are proud to have come this far. I am personally delighted that all three finalists have great accommodation but that they really stand because of the style and quality of the food they serve. Gidleigh Park is a worthy winner and with two Michelin Stars it most certainly sets a standard for The Bildeston Crown to aspire to.”

The 15 categories for the 2009 awards were: access for all tourism award, hotel of the year, self-catering holiday of the year, bed & breakfast of the year, caravan park of the year, tourist Information centre (TIC) of the year, large attraction of the year (over 100,000 visitors), small attraction of the year (under 100,000 visitors), tourism website of the year, the meet England business tourism award, outstanding customer service award, taste of England, sustainable tourism award, tourism experience of the year and travel journalist of the year.

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For further information or copies of photos, contact:
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EDITORS NOTES

The **Enjoy England Awards for Excellence 2009** celebrate the best of English tourism and are in their 20th year. They promote healthy industry competition and high standards, helping to ensure England's place as a world-class destination.

- There are **fifteen different categories**, from visitor attractions and hotels to self-catering accommodation and caravan parks. Entries are submitted to the regional tourism partners and then short-listed to the national finals, culminating in the Awards ceremony in April. **In addition, there is the national Outstanding Contribution to Tourism Award and a Travelmail Best Day Out Award**
- Previously the England Marketing Advisory Board, VisitEngland is legally the English Tourist Board, whose marketing activities are implemented by VisitBritain's England marketing division through its Enjoy England and Meet England campaigns.
- VisitBritain is responsible for promoting Britain as a world-class tourist destination and for developing England's visitor economy through enjoyEngland campaigns and initiatives.

The Bildeston Crown is situated in the heart of the village of Bildeston, Suffolk
It has 12 luxury double/twin bedrooms, an 80-seater restaurant and 2 private dining rooms.

Summary of Facilities

- 12 En suite double/twin rooms; 1 single
- Room on first floor, accessible by lift, suitable for disabled access
- 80 seater restaurant with flexibility for private dining for 38
- 2 private dining/meeting rooms with external courtyards
- 2 bar areas
- Lounge area
- Exterior courtyard seats 30 and the bar patio seats 20
- Functions for up to 120
- Wedding license for one of the meeting rooms

Other Awards

- **Winner Small Hotel - East of England Enjoy England Awards for Excellence 2008**
- **"Best Small Suffolk Hotel" – Tourism in Suffolk Awards 2008**
- **September 2007 - AA Three Rosettes**
- **September 2007** – Chef Chris Lee named by The Good Food Guide joint winner of the Up-and-coming chefs award for the whole country
- **September 2008 – AA Three Red Stars**

Current Deals (April 2009)

3-2-1 May Bank Holidays

For both May bank holidays we are happy to offer the following special rate

3 nights; 2 dinners; 1 price

Any three nights (Friday - Monday), bed and breakfast, dinner* on two nights (one to be Sunday) - £425 per couple sharing a room

(* excluding Tasting Menu)

The Crown Set

Three Courses £18.00;

Available Monday to Saturday Lunch and Monday -- Thursday Dinner

More choice... Two options per course

Dishes change regularly and are chosen to reflect seasonality and availability of produce

Spring Sundays**Weekend Deal:**

Book a Friday and Saturday night throughout April and May, and stay Sunday night (bed & breakfast) free.

Or

Solo Sunday:

Dinner Bed & Breakfast (Sunday menu) from £120 per couple sharing twin or double room (price dependent on room selected)

Midweek Madness

Book any two nights Sunday – Wednesday and stay a third night free.

www.thebildestoncrowne.com

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