

2006 Pub of the Year

Old Poets' Corner - Ashover *by Andrea Waterhouse*



Jackie and Kim Beresford with the latest award for the Old Poets' Corner.

Within what seems a small space of time, the Old Poets' Corner at Ashover has scooped its highest accolade to date by being crowned Chesterfield & District CAMRA's Pub of the Year for 2006. Kim & Jackie Beresford have only been at the pub since June 2004 and have already won Winter Pub of the Season twice. It seems to me a natural progression that they should have built on that success to win the Pub of the Year Award, too.

After being voted Winter Pub of the Season for 2005, the pub was automatically entered into a strongly fought six-way contest for our area's Pub of the Year title.

So, let's take a look at why people chose the Old Poets' Corner:

- Consistently good choice of Real Ales: Kim is proud to say he always makes sure there are at least six beers on at any one time. These vary in style and taste, are always in good condition and often come from local breweries.
- Atmosphere: The Poets has become a busy centre for the community of Ashover and its visitors. There is always something happening, including quizzes, poetry nights, live music and the draw of a roaring fire in winter.
- Good Service with a Smile: Kim, Jackie and their staff are always friendly and try to make the time to chat even during busy times. Top-ups are given without asking and you are guaranteed a warm welcome, whether you have been there many times or are making your first visit.
- A Good Mix of Customers: The Poets seems to attract a diverse crowd. Whenever we have visited there has been a range of ages and types – from local church bellringers to ramblers!
- Supporting CAMRA: This is one of the main reasons Kim & Jackie are winners with CAMRA members. The Old Poets hosts regular beer festivals, promotes beer from local breweries, sells Real Cider and bottled World Beers, takes part in promotions (Mild and Cider months, for example) and always has CAMRA leaflets, poster and magazines on display.

Kim & Jackie have done a great job and we wish them every success in the future. They aren't resting on their laurels either, with new developments such as B&B accommodation (10% discount for CAMRA members) and, in the near future, a function room available for hire. They also have some exciting plans for a micro-brewery at the pub.

The Old Poets' Corner now goes forward to the Derbyshire Pub of the Year competition and I'm sure they will do Chesterfield & District proud!