

Fox and Fiddler voted best loved business

Written by editor

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The best-loved local business in the Eastern region is the Fox and Fiddler Public House, Colchester, as nominated by the UK public and judged by a panel of business experts, including Dragon Theo Paphitis and members of Barclays.

Holly Smart, nominator of the Eastern winner said: "I have only been drinking and eating in the Fox & Fiddler for about 3 years, however, I discovered quickly that they are a driving force behind supporting our troops in foreign lands. A large percentage of the Parachute Regiment choose to drink in the 'Fox' as it is fondly known, and they are always welcome with open arms. The Fox knows when they are away on exercise, on tour or even individuals' birthdays and they always honour any return or anniversary with some sort of celebration".

Holly continues: "Jeff and Bev Wright (the landlords) devote their time to a pub that not only is renowned locally for its fine ale, but also to a pub that supports our troops - they actively raise money for 'Help for Heroes', amongst other charities held close to the Parachute Regiment's hearts. Everyone who enters the 'Fox' instantly become very fond of Jeff and Bev and their family, especially for the home-cooked roast on a Sunday, as they take everyone into their hearts and homes. They deserve this accolade as they are far too modest to nominate themselves".

Jeff and Bev Wright have won themselves £5,000 in prize money and a free business support package from Barclays. The member of the public that nominated the business - Holly Smart, will also receive £1,000.

In choosing the winning business Simon Culling, Barclays Local Business said: 'I've been extremely impressed by the nominations, both in terms of the huge impact the local businesses are having on their local community, but also the effort of the part of the nominee in making such good quality nominations. This is an outstanding business that makes it clear that, though the economic environment is tough, our entrepreneurs have the passion and commitment to come through with flying colours, and help the community while they do it.'

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Theo Paphitis said: 'I know how hard it is to make a success of a business. What we see here today are truly remarkable people making a great positive change to the world through their business.'

Photo l-r : Bev and Jeff Wright (winners), Simon Culling, Barclays Area Manager for North Essex and Nisha Rao, Barclays Local Business Manager, Colchester

For further information on Barclays Local Business visit www.barclays.co.uk/business