

Morning, Noon & Night

The Market St Café



For those of you who are familiar with the Market St Café, Yealmpton, you'll already know what a popular place it is for breakfast, lunch or for getting together with friends over coffee (something I can now justify as 'work' as the café has wireless internet connection).

Infact, I've often said that the only thing that could make the Café more perfect in my opinion would be if it were to open for dinner.

You can imagine how delighted I was then when owner Lesley Tugwell called to invite me along to the first of her 'starters and pudding' evenings.

We arrived at the café on a lovely warm summers evening – there were already people sitting outside drinking the bottles of wine they had brought with them (every table had a bottle opener on it so the 'bring your own wine' was flowing easily).

In true 'Lesley' style, we were greeted with a smile and shown to our table (no matter how many pots, pans or plates Lesley is juggling, she's always has time to say hello, another reason why the café is so popular).

We opened our wine and started to look at the menu. The whole idea behind the 'starters and puddings' evening is that you can choose however many dishes you



want to try (all of which are under £5) – mix them up, share them or keep them all to yourself, the choice is yours!

There were 11 different starters to choose from and 7 puddings – we were told to just put a tick next to our choice and Lesley and her team would do the rest!

I had to physically stop my husband ticking everything and we eventually agreed on the Hors D'ouvres for 2 with Olives and cheese straws, the Country Pate and Toast, the 5 Spice Duck Salad and the Hand Made Thai Fishcakes.

The smells coming from the kitchen were gorgeous – from where we were sat inside the café, we could see people walking past and being drawn towards the door .

The Hors D'ouvres arrived and we tucked into a lovely dish of mixed olives and freshly baked cheese straws (which were definitely contributing to the lovely smell coming from the oven).

Next to arrive was the Country Pate and Toast and the 5 Spice Duck Salad. The combination of flavours in the duck salad was simply stunning – the aromatic Chinese 5

spice was complimented perfectly by beansprouts and mango. There was a generous portion of duck which meant I had no choice but to share it with my husband (although I reminded him that as I was driving, he was single handedly polishing off our bottle of wine so it was only fair I should have more of the duck – womens logic, don't you just love it!)

I didn't think anything could tickle my taste buds more than the duck salad, but the Hand Made Thai Fishcakes managed to get them tingling again.

Pleasantly full, we sat back and relaxed. Those who had been sat outside now came inside the café to eat and the atmosphere was fun and cheery. Most of the diners knew those on other tables so it felt like a real family.

After a while we chose our 'puddings' I decided upon the individual Strawberry Pavlova and Tim went for the Sticky Toffee Pudding AND the cheeseboard.

The Strawberry Pavlova was fantastic – the meringue was perfect and the strawberries sweet and juicy. Tim tucked into the sticky toffee pudding and was the quietest he'd been all night (possibly regretting ordering the cheeseboard as well as a pudding). I got a small taste of the toffee pudding and could understand why it had stopped Tim in his tracks, it was gooey, runny and extremely naughty).

So, with the cheeseboard still to go, would Tim make it through? It was touch and go there for a while but we were in no rush and soon found ourselves chatting to other customers, comparing notes on what we'd had. We all had one thing in common though – a love for the Market St Café and a respect for Lesley who pulls it all together day in and day out. How she manages to open morning noon and now night, serve up fabulous food and still have a smile on her face is beyond me – whatever she has for breakfast I'll be ordering on my next visit!



Market St Cafe, Yealmpton
880550
 Call or pop into the cafe to enquire when the next 'starters & puddings' evening will take place.
 Open for breakfast, light lunches and
 takeaway
 Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm
 Saturday 9.30am-1pm

