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West Dorset Campaign for Real Ale Press Release.

Pub of the Year 2022.

West Dorset Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) are proud to announce that “The Ropemakers “ in Bridport is the winner of this year’s West Dorset CAMRA pub of the year 2022 award. The pub is run by Palmers licencees John & Geraldine Baker who are now in their 15th year of running the town centre high st pub.

The pub is a superb example of a friendly all-ages pub, all are made welcome and there is a real community feel to the pub as soon as you walk through the door. Various groups, clubs and activities take place in the Ropemakers from Dog Walking clubs, Cheese nights, Quiz nights and live music from a broad range of musicians and groups on the circuit.

The layout of the pubs interior is very deceptive as it is divided into numerous themed areas and stretches quite a distance out from the high st to Rope Walks with a rear partially covered courtyard entrance. The bar has a long bulkhead with cast iron columns taken from the old Eldridge Pope brewery of Dorchester. The full selection of Palmers beers are served alongside any seasonal specials. The interior is atmospherically lit and the walls adorned with bric-a-brac that includes Tilly lamps, fishing knots and crabbing pots, historical pictures of Bridport and old adverts of local businesses alongside Palmers memorabilia. A diverse menu is served that caters for all taste.

On hearing of winning the award which was presented on the stage at the recent Dorchester Beerex by CAMRA press & publicity officer Rich Gabe, John and Geraldine said” We are delighted to have been chosen as West Dorset CAMRA Pub of the Year for 2022. This is a wonderful reward for us and our fantastic staff and loyal customers. We have just completed 14 years at The Ropemakers and still love it! We see the Ropemakers as very much a community pub, catering for coffee drinkers, diners, quizzers, and music lovers and of course Real Ale drinkers and have been pleased to be in the Good Beer Guide for the last 8 years. Speaking on behalf of West Dorset CAMRA Rich Gabe said” John and Geraldine thoroughly deserve this award; they are passionate about Real Ale, the pub and take a genuine interest in their customers and staff, who they regard as friends. This is the first time that a Palmers pub has won this award and long overdue for the Ropemakers.”

The pub was independently judged by a group of West Dorset CAMRA volunteer judges and beat off stiff competition from various other nominated pubs. The pub will now go forward into the CAMRA Wessex regional finals. Well done John & Geraldine and good luck going forward.



Photo. Rich Gabe of West Dorset CAMRA presents Geraldine and John Baker their West Dorset Pub of the year award.