

Let's hear it for *The Hoop*

For nearly 500 years visitors have been stepping through the door of The Hoop alehouse in Stock, in search of food, drink, company and conviviality.

And in the 21st century, nothing has changed. A warm, welcoming and buzzy atmosphere greets pub-goers entering the cosy bar. Original timber beams and roaring fires hark back to the pub's long history, but there is nothing old-fashioned about the professional and friendly service on offer today, overseen by tenant-managers Michelle and Phil Utz.

Having met while both were working at the renowned London hotel, The Lanesborough, the couple took over the tenancy of this Stock landmark eleven years ago. Now, with a staff of thirty, including four full-time and two part-time chefs, their expertise in hospitality and catering has made The Hoop a local to be proud of.

Michelle says: 'The whole team takes great pride in our AA rosette, which is awarded for achieving standards that stand out in the local area, featuring food prepared with care, understanding and skill, using good quality ingredients.' There is no need to book a table when eating in the pub. Serving



food seven days a week, lunchtime and evenings, the menu ranges from sandwiches, such as pastrami, onion and cheese on toasted sourdough or a hot salt beef bagel, to delicious main meals.

A shortcrust 'Pie of the Day' is always on offer and the classic 'Toad in the Hoop' is a firm favourite. Sausages and steaks are supplied by Holts of Witham and all produce is locally sourced where possible. Puds such as a treacle tart or chocolate fondant round off the well-thought out menu. Daily specials are also on offer and The Hoop Sunday lunch is a Stock institution.

Local real ales, New Hall wines and excellent coffee from Mac & Me in Writtle complement the food perfectly.

In addition to pub dining, The

Hoop serves à la carte lunch and dinner in the first floor Oakroom restaurant. Booking is required.

Between lunch and dinner the pub is open for friends to meet for a drink and a chat. The pub also holds many theme events, such as curry nights and BYO wine evenings. A local choir will sing carols in the garden on the evening of 8th December.

**The Hoop, High Street, Stock,
CM4 9BD. Tel: 01277 841137
www.thehoop.co.uk.**

Parking available in Stock Village hall car park in Common Road. Disabled access.