

NEWS

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Finalists revealed for this year's Food and Drink Awards

Hundreds of residents have voted in this year's St Albans and Harpenden Food and Drink Awards, and the shortlist of finalists has now been revealed.

The final list of nominees for the 2015 awards are published on the right, and now that the shortlists have been created by public vote, steering group members will visit the shortlisted venues anonymously to judge them against specific criteria for each category. Family-friendly venues for example will be visited with children, and "locally sourced" ingredients will be checked at venues claiming to use them.

The winners of each category will be revealed at the glittering Festival Awards Dinner in Sopwell House Hotel on Monday October 5. The finalist who wins the most award categories will be proclaimed the Food and Drink Champion 2015.

Clr Beric Read, portfolio holder for community engagement and localism said: "Congratulations to each of the businesses who have reached the finals of this year's St Albans and Harpenden Food and Drink Awards. Every year the quality of the food and drink scene in our district gets better so it is a fantastic achievement to have reached the



■ The 2014 Food & Drink Award for Best Local Restaurant was won by Lussmanns Fish & Grill Restaurant

finals by popular vote.

"Before we discover who has won awards, there is the Food and Drink Festival to enjoy. So I encourage everyone to get their festival brochures and prepare to try some of the appetising events and activities."

The 2015 St Albans & Harpenden Food & Drink Festival, which is supported by the *Herts Advertiser* as media partner, starts on Tuesday

September 22 and offers a fortnight of tasty events throughout the district.

■ Festival brochures are available from the Civic Centre, libraries, leisure centres, St Albans Tourist and Information Centre, Harpenden Information Point and participating venues. You can also download the brochure from the website www.enjoystalbans.com/foodanddrink

Awards finalists

- **Best Bar:** Dylan's at the Kings Arms, Mokoko Cocktail Bar & Grill, The Snug
- **Best Independent Food/Drink Shop:** BEER:shop, Buongiorno Italia, Parker & Vine
- **Best Café:** Barrissimo, Canteen, Bakehouse
- **Best Newcomer:** Craft & Cleaver, Dylan's at the Kings Arms, The Great Northern
- **Best Local Producer:** Hedges Farm Shop, Farr Brew, Redbournbury Mill
- **Best Local Restaurant:** Dylan's at the Kings Arms, Lussmanns Fish & Grill Restaurant, THOMPSON @ Darcy's
- **Best Pub:** The Boot, Dylan's at the Kings Arms, Great Northern
- **Best Takeaway:** Godfrey's Fish & Chips, Hatch, Lebanese Kitchen
- **Most Family Friendly Venue:** Inn on the Park, Nice, Relish Real Burgers
- **Kate D'Arcy Award for customer service:** Charlie Powell of Charlie's Coffee & Company, Johnny Shepherd at The Pudding Stop, Sean Hughes of Dylan's at the Kings Arms.

ST ALBANS & HARPENDEN

FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL

22 SEPT TO 5 OCTOBER 2015