



The Review



The Cellar Bar & Bistro

Resident Chelmsfordians will know this intimate venue as 'the wine cellar'; it is in fact the slightly renamed 'Cellar Bar and Bistro' and since being taken over by David Howes 18 months ago, it's moved from strength to strength, even being recommended on the glossy pages of Heat magazine.

Tucked away on Duke Street, you'd be forgiven for thinking of it as a place to stop for a drink or lunch time snack. But, as Park Life discovered, its restaurant has so much more to offer...

Park Life's editor Jo and I took it upon ourselves to sample the full three courses, (it's a hard job but...!) and were pleasantly surprised by a meal that was well presented with generous portions at a standard that would rival any à la carte restaurant.

I opted for the mushroom and stilton melt to start and Jo had lemon and rosemary grilled sardines. The lightly cooked, chopped mushrooms tumbled over a big, round crouton and were laced

with the unmistakable taste of stilton cheese, yum! Jo's sardines, far from having seen the inside of a tin, were fresh as can be and with an extra drenching of fresh lemon by Jo, went down a treat.



For mains, I ordered the braised lamb shank and Jo had one of the specials of monk fish wrapped in pancetta. Both were soft and tender and met by approving nods and mmm's - there's no time for talking when there's good food around! Coupled with fresh

vegetables and potatoes the Cellar Bar and Bistro essentially offers traditional English food with a gentle modern twist.

Full up at this point we decided it would be rude to refuse a mouth-watering English dessert so had a short break to digest! Jo chose the sticky toffee pudding, (which didn't last long!) and with a soft sponge and delicious sauce, quite simply described it as 'perfect!' It was a good old winter warmer for me; apple and cinnamon crumble, and on arrival it was as appealing to the eye as to my tastebuds!

With starters around £4 and a main course starting at just £6.95 you certainly get a great meal for your money. And with friendly staff (thanks Cath!) and a genuine, relaxed atmosphere, it's a place Chelmsford professionals and socialites visit again and again.

In fact, it's an environment Park Life could get quite used to.....

So, next time you're thinking of where to go for a meal, step underground and sample a menu that's guaranteed to satisfy your appetite, and your pocket.

The Cellar Bar & Bistro,
4 Duke Street, Chelmsford.
Tel 01245 350353.

Review by Laurie Binder.