

Suffolk celebrates fine fare

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THE best of Suffolk food and drink - whether dining out or eating at home - was celebrated yesterday at the 2007 EADT Suffolk Food & Drink Awards.

More than 100 guests from across the food, drink and hospitality sectors attended the lunchtime ceremony at The West Wing at Ickworth House, near Bury St Edmunds, with the presentation ceremony accompanied by a meal with a strong Suffolk theme.

The awards, being staged for the second time by EADT Suffolk magazine and again with the support of Southwold-based Adnams plc as overall sponsor, were this year expanded to a total of eight categories, to recognise the hard work and commitment that goes into producing, sourcing and supplying the fine food and drink available across the county.

In the eating-out categories, the Best Restaurant title this year went to The Leaping Hare at Wyken Hall, Stanton, the **Best Dining Pub** accolade was won by **The Swan at Monks Eleigh** and the Best Tea/Coffee Shop category was won by the National Trust at Dunwich.

In the retail sector, Peakhill Farm Organics from Saxmundham was named Best Farm Shop, Lawsons Delicatessen in Aldeburgh won the Best Delicatessen category and Rolfes of Walsh-le-Willows took the Best Butcher award.

In the producer categories, the Marybelle/Suffolk Meadow business from Rendham won the Best Dairy Produce award and The Cake Shop in Woodbridge was named Best Baker.

The awards presentations were compered by Mark David of The Cooking Experience, based in Hadleigh. The full results were:

Best Restaurant (sponsored by Christie & Co): Winner - The Leaping Hare at Wyken Hall, Stanton, near Bury St Edmunds; Runners-up - The Blyth, Southwold, and The Orangery, Bedford Lodge Hotel, Newmarket.

Best Dining Pub (sponsored by The West Wing, Ickworth): Winner - The Swan, Monks Eleigh; Runners-up - Anchor Inn, Nayland, and the Westleton Crown, Westleton.

Best Farm Shop (sponsored by Southwold Pier): Winner - Peakhill Farm Organics, Saxmundham; Runners-up - Longwood Farm Shop, Tuddenham St Mary, and Ufford Produce & Provision Co, Ufford.

Best Delicatessen (sponsored by Copella): Winner - Lawsons Delicatessen, Aldeburgh; Runners-up - Leo's Deli, Framlingham and Ipswich, and Eat Anglia, Earl Soham.

Best Tea/Coffee Shop (sponsored by Laurence Homes): Winner - The National Trust, Dunwich Heath; Runners-up - The Granary Tea Shop, Snape Maltings, and The Meare Shop & Tearooms, Thorpeness.

Best Butcher (sponsored by Tastes of Anglia): Winner - Rolfes of Walsham, Walsham-le-Willows; Runners-up - Orford Butchers Shop, Orford, and G Debman Family Butchers, Ipswich.

Best Dairy Produce (sponsored by Waitrose Sudbury): Winner - Marybelle & Suffolk Meadow, Rendham; Runners-up - Alder Carr Farm, Creeting St Mary, and Suffolk Farmhouse Cheeses, Coddennham.

Best Baker (sponsored by Anglia Kitchens): Winner - The Cake Shop, Woodbridge; Runners-up - Bread, Suffolk Food Hall, Wherstead, and Irenes Patisserie, Ipswich.