

## From city suits to wellie boots – pub owners are part of the community

WHEN Nikki and Mark Hutchison decided to escape the London hustle and bustle, they had little idea it would lead to buying a country pub on Mendip.

Now into their fourth year of running the Horse and Jockey at Binegar, the couple and their two children say they have absolutely no regrets.

Both Nikki and Mark had high pressure jobs, commuting daily from their home in the North West London suburbs to the city. Their original plan had been to buy a bed and breakfast in the Forest of Dean but that fell through and then they were told about the pub – it was love at first sight.

The couple have been determined to maintain the “Jockey” as a traditional village pub, welcoming locals and visitors to the quirky and intimate cider bar or the main bar and restaurant. Any changes have been kept to a minimum – new furniture in the restaurant and a general tidy-up, for example – but the quality of the food and drink on offer is as good as ever. That includes the famous pub pizzas, a favourite for many years.

Nikki said: “Our food is all about being honest, homemade, good quality – and good value, especially our Sunday roasts.”

The couple and their team at the Horse and Jockey are also keen supporters of village life, organising or hosting many events, including the recent Binegar Bonkers Barrow Race,



**Nikki and Mark Hutchison in the famous cider bar**

organised by the Binegar and Gurney Slade fundraising group, which raised £800 for the Mendip School, where one of the couple’s children is a pupil.

Nikki added: “We’ve been made to feel very welcome in Binegar and we are proud to be part of the community. We weren’t sure what it would be like relocating to Somerset from London, but it’s been the best decision for us all.”

## The Horse & Jockey

*Nikki, Mark, their family and the team welcome you to a rare little jewel on the beautiful Mendip Hills in the village of Binegar.*

**Restaurant opening times:**  
Monday-Saturday: Midday to 2pm and 6pm to 9pm  
Sunday: Midday to 3pm

**Bar opening times:**  
Monday-Thursday: midday to 3pm and 6pm to closing  
Friday: midday-3pm and 5pm to closing  
Saturday and Sunday: midday to closing

*Dating from the 18th Century, the Horse and Jockey offers a cosy cider bar, main bar and restaurant where we serve traditional home-made meals, deep pan pizzas and a popular Sunday roast.*

Whether it’s for a quick drink and a catch up with friends or to relax over a lovely meal, the welcome will always be warm with a very friendly atmosphere.

Now in our fourth year, we’re delighted to be part of the community. We’ve just helped to raise £800 for The Mendip School!



Follow us on Facebook for all our news and events, including live music

**The Horse and Jockey, Binegar Lane, Binegar, Radstock BA3 4UH.  
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