

**Yorkshire & North-east**  
**Ye Old Sun Inn, Colton, North Yorkshire**

It's a surprise to learn that one of North Yorkshire's up-and-coming gastropubs is also proving itself a hub of the community. It is difficult to know what the villagers of Colton would do without Ye Old Sun, which has become a focal point of community life since licensees Ashley and Kelly McCarthy took over four years ago.

Grateful villagers are delighted with the quality of the pub's food, which has earned the McCarthys numerous awards and accolades.

Now, the Enterprise Inns outlet is earning a reputation for its cask beers, which has encouraged many local drinkers to return to the fold.

Ashley says: "When we arrived, there were no drinkers and beer trade had almost evaporated. But we started developing the cask-ale range and slowly the drinkers began to use the pub again. We now enjoy a 70:30 dry:wet trade split — and beer sales are definitely growing."

Community events such as farmers' markets and cookery demonstrations are also binding the locals together. However, the venture that has put the pub at the centre of village life is the opening of a shop and delicatessen. The last shop in the village closed some years ago and locals were forced to embark on a four-mile round trip to reach the nearest shop.

Ashley comments: "The new shop has proved a godsend to the villagers, who now buy many of their daily requirements here. The shop and the new bar trade have engendered the real community spirit that is so important in a small village."