

# Rosy outlook in Jewellery Quarter

For donkey's years, the Jewellery Quarter has been standing nervously on the threshold of trendiness, wondering whether to take that next step towards becoming a vibrant, urban village in which people gather to eat, drink and make merry.

It never quite happened when those two excellent chef-patrons, Paul Gilmore and Didier Philpot, tried to make a living in the area. Their restaurants closed.

Now, though, there's an unmistakable buzz in the area and some decent eating places, not least The Vaults.

A quarter of a mile away and overlooking the landmark clock in the heart of the Jewellery Quarter, stands the Rose Villa Tavern, a splendid old pub that's recently been renovated.

Now let's not pretend it's in the same league as Messrs Gilmore or Philpot's restaurants or, for that matter, The Vaults.

It's a pub. The atmosphere is pubby. The food is pubby. But it's also rather good.

I visited on a Friday evening with my family, when the sunlight was shining through the stained glass and the bar was busy with young professionals happy to have downed tools for the weekend.

Lynn, Murray, Ewan and I shared a platter of charcuterie – some decent cured meats, nice dried tomatoes, roasted red peppers, artichokes

## Restaurant Review Rose Villa Tavern

and the like. It was enjoyable stuff that came in a generous portion.

Next for me was a meal to satisfy the hearty working-class appetite I've carried from my Erdington upbringing into my Moseley adulthood.

A very pleasant gammon steak was topped with an accurately fried egg (delightfully with two yolks). There were some pleasant fries and a pineapple kebab that caused my only grumble of the evening – it had been marinated in (I think) spiced rum which had not had its alcohol cooked off, so there was a slightly harsh flavour.

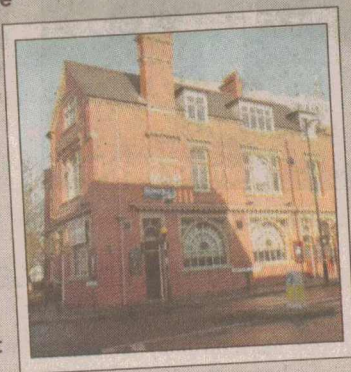
Lynn tucked into Asian spiced fishcakes, Murray into a burger and Ewan into a properly rare rump steak with garlic butter.

Neither my wife nor I had room for desserts but Murray's

chocolate brownie and Ewan's sticky toffee pudding were both home-made and well-crafted.

Our bill included beers, wine and soft drinks.

*Paul Fulford*



*A meal for four (two of three courses and two of two), including drinks, cost £83 at Rose Villa Tavern, 172 Warstone Lane, Hockley. Tel: 0121 236 7910. www.therosevillatavern.co.uk*