

The Wagging Tongue!

Welcome to this third edition of 'The Wagging Tongue!' This newsletter is written for the benefit of all who know and love the Tongue Hotel, for those who have yet to have the pleasure of visiting it, for those who toil here aka *Team Tongue!*



Well it all looked rather gloomy back in April this year but we are delighted to report that here at The Tongue Hotel we managed to buck the economic downturn and have a bumper season. Mr. Hook can report (and print off graphs for those who are having difficulty in sleeping!) that our occupancy was up 12% this year and that growth was seen across all sectors food, drink and accommodation. Yeah!

This year we have seen an increase in the number of inbound tourists particularly from Northern Europe in part due to the exchange rate but also thanks to our profile and hotel rating being raised by several ground operators from overseas.

We are delighted to find that our loyal return guests remained firm despite this bleak economy, it is always a joy to see people returning, it is, in its self, a ringing endorsement of the area, the hotel, the staff and of the ongoing improvements in our services and facilities. Indeed we have received much praise

with regard to the refurbishments made throughout the public areas this spring and we thank you for all of your considered suggestions and opinions. They have been duly noted!

Much of the feedback is rightly centered around our loyal, hardworking, friendly team. They have kept up their bright smiles despite aching feet and I know they have enhanced the stay of so many guests with a cheery manner, attentive service & an attitude of *If we can - we will !!*

We are blessed at the Tongue Hotel to have a strong core of local staff members, they are very service focused, mindful of what tourism provides for the local economy and keenly aware that hospitality is as much about the personality as it is about the service!

We hope you all know that David and I are very thankful for your hard work and truly appreciative of your sense of humour and ongoing support - especially in the difficult times - so thank you!

Each year we are joined by

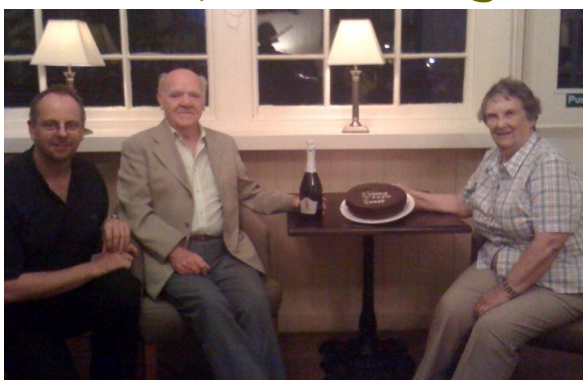
new staff members which always keeps things fresh and interesting, its especially fun to see how the newcomers will discover this truly wonderful coastline and watch as they then subsequently fall in love with its inhabitants - namely the local boys & girls! Ha Ha!

So the *silly season* may be over - the frenetic pace has now dissipated but we still have much to offer and look forward to!

Winter in Sutherland is truly spectacular, the landscape is breathtaking especially after the frost has left its sparkle! The north wind blows more than the cobwebs away and the long dark nights always draw us back to the fire. Winter gives us the perfect excuse to sip hot chocolate, to eat heartily, play games, read a book, chill out and plan for the party season ahead! So don't even think about hibernating til spring - check out the winter season events on the back page, get your diary out, your dancing shoes and sequins on - and get ready to party!

We'll See you there!

10,000 Bed Nights and Counting!!



Mr and Mrs Ross of Aberdeen

Celebrating 10,000 bed nights sold!

We may still be relative newbie's to hospitality but that's a lot of beds made, coffees poured, glassware polished, meals served, corks popped, whisky's measured and a heck of a lot of *Hello's, Goodbyes* and *What Do You Do in Winter* questions!!!

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Did you know?

This season we have

- Cooked over 4,000 bacon rashers and 4,000 eggs!
 - Used over 18,000 litres of liquid petroleum gas - that's enough to fill nearly 2,800 BBQ gas cylinders!
 - Used more than 1,000 m3 (cubic metres) of water - that's enough to fill up 12,500 baths!
 - Used 80,000 kwh of electricity, that's enough power to boil a kettle for 4½ years - continuously!
 - Since April we have had 9 reviews on Tripadvisor 6 x 5 star ratings and 3 x 4 star ratings
- We now have a total score of 92 out of 100 from all 28 reviews received on the website!
- Our hotel car has covered over 13,000 miles that's over a 1,000 times around the Kyle of Tongue or a visit to see Kiersten in Oz!

Wow no wonder we're tired!



Hotel Review Scotland 2009 Awards

Breakfast Special Commendation
Bedroom Design Commendation
Hot Tip Recommendation!

Look us up! Read our review!

<http://www.hotelreviewscotland.com/>

www.tonguehotel.co.uk

Take Two Tom's ...

The Tongue Hotel was proud to welcome Chef Thomas x2 this year! Tam and Taz have done a fantastic job and we thank them fully for all their hard work and mouth watering contributions!

Tam and Taz (what a Tag Team!) have recently been ably assisted by the talented CDP chef Sharon Shearer and young Jack Swaile who entered catering college this year. Many thanks to you both too on a job well done!

David and I continue to enjoy this culinary journey, discovering, defining and constructing our ideas about the type of dining experiences we wish to offer and listening closely to what is asked of us.

Our menu's, produce choices, style of service and ethos continue to develop and as a consequence the service we offer just keeps on improving.

The north coast offers an exciting array of fresh produce from land and

sea and we have done our utmost to exploit them! Each dish on our menu has been constructed to present the best of Scottish game, meat, poultry, fish and seafood. Sweet fruit, chutneys, preserves, oatcakes and fine cheeses are locally sourced and utilized throughout our menu's.

Chef Thomas Green (Tam) has over 25 years experience, 10 years as a Head chef working in prestigious Scottish Hotels, he is cool, composed and yet passionate. He loves to use fresh, vibrant and exciting seasonal produce to create dishes that reflect the culture and country that is uniquely Scotland.

Second Chef Thomas McGovern (Taz) certainly lives up to his moniker! He is a lively, likeable character who has made firm friends up here in Tongue, he is particularly loved in the Brass Tap bar where his delicious Indian dishes are famed!

The new simple Brass Tap menu has been a real success this season.

Offering straight forward, honest pub classics at great prices without compromising on quality has been a challenge but it would seem we have struck the balance. Customer feedback has been very positive and it is reward enough to hear our regulars commenting that they have never seen the Brass Tap so busy for diners.

As winter approaches we look forward to offering our new menu's for you to enjoy. Warming broths and dishes such as slow cooked venison and juniper casserole will delight all those seek refuge from the cold. For November & December we will give our neighbours a chance to take a break from the stove as we introduce our takeaway menu.

We also have our special celebration menu's to look forward to - St Andrews Sunday Lunch, our festive menu's, Hogmanay, Burns, and even Mothers Day are already well catered for! So what are you waiting for

Book your table today!

New Menu, New Shoes!?

Like any shopaholic knows if you get a new dress then you HAVE to buy the shoes and handbag to match!

So! For our new menu and style of service the front of house areas simply HAD to have a makeover too! As part of our scheduled redevelopment all the public areas throughout the hotel were fully redecorated and refurbished. Our restaurant now seats more than 40, it has a relaxed, warm ambience and a sense of quiet grandeur.

The newly styled Falcon Bar has been well received by return guests and our local patrons, the large multi fuel stove provides a warm welcome on dreich days, cosy armchairs invite guests to rest a while, reflect on the breathtaking sights they have taken in over the day, watch the flames dance, take a dram, perhaps play a board game, enjoy some fine home baking and plan their next days adventure!

But don't think we are going to rest on our laurels - oh no - renovations are already underway in our public bar the (in)famous Brass Tap! Anytime soon we will once again have enough light to actually see each other in there! So its out with the dreary and in with something a little more contemporary and a lot more welcoming.

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Worth The Journey

Extended Opening Period!

**Now open for
Early Winter
Breaks**



£175 for 5 Nights!

Champagne breaks for 2 £150!

See our website for details

Check out our amazing deals.....

Winter Breaks

Luxury Champagne Weekends

Hogmanay Hooley!

Burns Night Celebrations

Early Bird Specials

See our website for details or

Telephone 01847 611206

Website:

www.tonguehotel.co.uk

Tongue Hotel Reviews ...

Look at what our guests have been talking about on tripadvisor

Had a fantastic stay at the Tongue Hotel. Great starting point for walkers in the surrounding highland area and a fantastic place to return to after a day out in the wonderful weather.

We had a great room, and enjoyed both the downstairs pub, the bar and of course the marvellous restaurant.

This was indeed my highland dream that came through. Can only be recommended for a real treat. ADK. Denmark. Oct 2009.

We spent 2 days in this hotel in August 2009. We had a superior room (#12) very spacious, comfortable with character and nice decoration. This room had a fantastic view (and a comfortable sofa in front of the window to enjoy the view of the castle). The bathroom

is large, well equipped with a large range of amenities.

The owners (a young couple) of this small hotel are very friendly and helpful and the staff is very nice. They did all their best to make our stay enjoyable. You can feel a very friendly atmosphere.

The food is good with product of high quality.

The village is quiet and charming.

We had a very good time. CG. France. Sep 2009.

We stopped here for lunch - what a pleasure. A slightly old-fashioned hotel in a wonderful position with old-fashioned notions of hospitality and value. The staff were utterly charming, the prices excellent - and I had the best smoked haddock I can remember. Scotland at its best. M. Ireland. Aug 2009.

This is a beautiful hotel. You can pay more for a better view, but even the standard rooms have lovely views.

There are thoughtful touches in the room such as mineral water, sweets and a small decanter of port (at least I think that's what it was - I didn't try it) as well as a hospitality tray. The food is wonderful, and decently priced. I had local crab and salad. The staff are knowledgeable enough to suggest the appropriate wine. And the wine list is good. The breakfast is also excellent, with a proper vegetarian option, rather than the usual mock meat type. Everything is well thought out, and it's not surprising they win awards. I loved my stay here and would go back again any time. M.E. Australia. Jul 2009.

<http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/>

Winter events 2009/10

November/December

Take Away Menu

Simple Menu - Simply Done!

£6.95

Saturday 28th November

Mexican Buffet

2 Courses £9.95

3 Courses £12.95

Plus! Tequila special offer - just £1.10 a shot!

Sunday 29th November

Monday 30th November

St Andrews Day Special Menu

Celebrate with friends and family

Enjoy 2 Courses for £9.95 or 3 Courses for £12.95

Plus! Famous Grouse special offer - just £1.10 a nip!

Monday 1st – 20th December

Christmas Menu

Enjoy a festive meal with friends and colleagues

Book your table NOW!

Lunch and Dinner Menu available

2 Courses £12.95

3 Courses £15.95

Saturday 5th December

Brass Tap Darts

Brass Tap v Smoo Cave

Saturday 19th December

Christmas Dinner and Disco

3 Course Meal and Dancing to RG's Disco

£20 per person

Limited numbers therefore booking required

Sunday 27th December

1 Gallon Draw

Raffle tickets on sale now from the Brass Tap

Thursday 31st December

Hogmanay Hooley!

3 Course Celebration Buffet and Dancing to

Blackrock Ceilidh Band

£25 per person

Limited numbers therefore booking required

Friday 1st January

First Footing Disco

Keep the party going with family and friends

Dancing to RG's Disco

Saturday 24th January

Burns Celebration

Traditional food and music by Blue Ridge

£20 per person

Limited numbers therefore booking required

Saturday 20th February

Brass Tap Darts

Brass Tap Cup

Who will be this year's champion?

Sunday 14th March

Mothers Day Lunch

With the North Coast Jazz Band

See Posters / Websites For Details