

God bless the Old Ship and all who eat in her

The Old Ship

ONE of my favourite pubs along the river in Hammersmith is The Black Lion, with picturesque views along the Thames, great service and even better food.

And what better way is there to spend a cold and blustery Sunday than enjoying a delicious roast in front of an open fire?

But when I got to The Black Lion with my boyfriend, Matthew, we found that dozens of other people had the same idea and we were told to expect a wait of at least half an hour.

So we took a stroll a little further down the river and discovered The Old Ship, which was also offering traditional roasts and a welcoming atmosphere.

To start, we shared a selection of rustic breads with oil and olives.

The dish was perfect to whet the appetite, but a little pricey at £5.20.

Moving on to the mains, and I chose a beef roast, which came with the biggest Yorkshire pudding I've ever seen, along with a decent helping of roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

The beef was tender and dripping in delicious gravy, while the Yorkshire pudding was crispy and light – and all for a reasonable £11.45.

My mother would probably disown me if I said this was better than her Sunday roasts, so I will say, diplomatically, that this came in at a close second.

Matthew chose a West Country beef burger with cheese and bacon, served with lashings of chips on the side, for £10.40.

The burger was thick and juicy, and gone in minutes.

The staff were friendly and attentive, however, I did feel a little pushed for time as, when we arrived, we were told they needed the table back by 3pm as it had already been booked.

Looking at the dessert menu, we were tempted by several of the options – from the sticky toffee pudding with toffee sauce and vanilla ice cream (£5.20) to a fruits of the forest crumble (£5.20) – but decided to pass as we were too full from the mains.

I hope to make a return visit to The Old Ship in future – perhaps during the summer when it would be warm enough to sit at some of the outdoor tables overlooking the river.

Juliet Eysenck

THE OLD SHIP,

25 Upper Mall

Hammersmith

W5 9TD

020 8748 2589

www.oldshipw6.com

oldshipw6@youngs.co.uk