

## **North Yorkshire deli Hunters of Helmsley named Britain's Best Small Shop**

Hunters of Helmsley has been named Britain's Best Small Shop at a House of Commons ceremony, having been selected from hundreds of entries by an independent panel of judges.

The North Yorkshire deli, which this year celebrates its 25th birthday, was first shortlisted in the top 20, before being named as the overall winner at an event held on 25th February. The Best Small Shops Competition was run by the All Party Parliamentary Small Shops Group and administered by the Independent Retailers Confederation.

Chris and Christine Garnett, the husband and wife team who have owned Hunters of Helmsley since 2008, attended the event and accepted the award from Simon Danczuk, MP.

The deli impressed the judges with its commitment to supporting local producers and suppliers, an innovative approach to partnerships and social media and the key role the retailer played in setting up the Helmsley in Business group, which now has 50 members working together to promote the town for the benefit of all local businesses.

Christine Garnett said: "We were delighted to make the final 20, so to be announced overall winner was just unbelievable - I don't think either of us quite took it in when they said it was us! All of the finalists were inspirational, it was great having the opportunity to meet them, and they should be very proud of their businesses. We just love what we do - we work very hard, but finding and sharing the best food and drink is our passion, and so we're very lucky. We have an excellent team working with us, and we just want to thank them for everything they do, along with thanking the wider Helmsley community. It's a great place to be based, and the business network is so supportive of each other. As far as we're concerned we're a town full of Britain's Best Small Shops!"

Simon Danczuk MP, Chairman of the All Party Small Shops Group, revealing the winner, said: "I am pleased to announced that the Hunters Of Helmsley, a deli in North Yorkshire, is the Winner of the Best Small Shop Competition 2015. Hunters of Helmsley was chosen by the judges for its local sourcing of produce, organisation of events to support their high street and their use of social media to engage customers."

Hunters of Helmsley stocks an unusually extensive range of fresh and store cupboard foods and beverages, along with gifts, kitchenware, hampers and seasonal goodies. At least 70 per cent of the products sold are sourced from within Yorkshire. The Garnetts are both from Yorkshire farming families, and believe that where and how food is made is vitally important. Chris ran a beef, sheep and arable farm on the edge of Wharfedale with his father for over 18 years and Christine's family still farm in West Yorkshire. Before buying Hunters they owned a successful fish and chip shop in Horsforth, Leeds for seven years.

More information about the competition can be found at [www.bestsmallshops.uk](http://www.bestsmallshops.uk). For further details about Hunters of Helmsley log on to: [www.huntersofhelmsley.com](http://www.huntersofhelmsley.com)

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***For further media information or photography contact:*** Shona Nutter on 07714 953919 or [shonanutter@googlemail.com](mailto:shonanutter@googlemail.com)

#### **Notes to editors**

Hunters are a renowned deli based in the picturesque village of Helmsley in North Yorkshire. It stocks an extensive range of fresh and store cupboard foods, and a wide selection of alcoholic and soft beverages, attracting customers from well beyond the region keen to take advantage of the unusually wide range of products available. Proprietors Chris and Christine Garnett have run Hunters since 2008.

The ground floor of the store, which is on Helmsley's busy Market Place, sells fresh produce, including home-cooked beef, pork and ham, a wide range of cheeses, savoury pastries, homemade ready meals, bacon, sausages, freshly made sandwiches and selected seafood. The upstairs is an 'Aladdin's Cave' of jams, chutney, pickles, tea and coffee, spices, international delicacies, individual chocolates, unusual cookery ingredients, biscuits and cakes. In the unlikely event customers can't find what they're looking for, the staff are happy to order it in.

The majority of the products on offer are sourced from within the Yorkshire region, and supporting local suppliers is a key part of Hunters' philosophy.

Speciality hampers are available all year round via the website and can be delivered across the UK, along with Hunters' own label preserves, chutneys, relishes and pates, made just outside York.

Products can be bought in store (open 8am to 5.30pm, seven days a week) or ordered via the telephone for delivery across the UK.

Hunters of Helmsley, 13 Market Place, Helmsley, North Yorkshire, YO62 5BL

[www.huntersofhelmsley.com](http://www.huntersofhelmsley.com)

Tel: 01439 771307

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