



# SneakySupperClub

## EAT AND MEET

Summertown Scene slipped down one Saturday to the Isis Farmhouse Pub by Iffley Lock to take a peek - and a seat - at a Sneaky Supper Club pop-up dining event. We soon discovered why this relaxed and sociable way of enjoying fine food is proving so popular.

The Sneaky Supper Club is owned and run by Max Cooper, who trained at the Leith's School of Food and Wine in London. He has a wealth of experience with both large and small caterers in Oxford and London, and restaurants including the Cherwell Boathouse in Oxford. Between supper clubs Max has recently joined the team at the recently re-launched Cotwolds restaurant 'The Kitchen at Feldon Valley' in Lower Brailles, working under Michelin starred Executive Head Chef, Darren Brown.

Working in London and Oxford, where there's so much choice of restaurants, Max came up with a dining idea with a difference. His 'Pop-up' suppers offer an alternative experience: a chance to appreciate high end cuisine in a relaxed and informal environment, conducive to active socialising among fellow diners. The Isis Farmhouse is an ideal host venue. Its location by the river, inaccessible by car, makes it a little elusive, while the pub's rustic 'shabby chic' styling and cosy atmosphere give it a secret hideaway feel.

We enjoyed a drink by the fire as other 'supper clubbers' began to arrive, with Max's brother Olly meeting and greeting everyone warmly. Once seated, we quickly got chatting to the people either side of us. Good-humoured, convivial conversation continued until it was time to leave. The food was, as expected, delicious, but the fun company contributed significantly to our enjoyment of the meal.

While we cannot claim to be connoisseurs of fine dining, what we can say is that each course had clearly been painstakingly prepared, was superbly presented and tasted every bit as good as it looked. The five-course menu is set and pre-announced for each event (special dietary needs catered for) and at £42 per head is excellent value for a meal of this calibre. Supper was served in the pub's terrace marquee, tastefully decorated, with long tables laid out banquet style. The friendly pub owners, Noreen and Adrian, are accomplished musicians and treat their dining audience to a repertoire of 'gypsy jazz' in the interludes between courses - a lively addition to the ambience of this thoroughly enjoyable evening.

If you like the idea of enjoying food of outstanding quality while engaging with friendly people and dining in a different kind of style, we have a sneaking suspicion you'll be glad this supper club is no longer a secret. Add yourself to the mailing list for future suppers at [www.sneakysupperclub.com](http://www.sneakysupperclub.com) and also follow them on social media.

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WWW.SNEAKYSUPPERCLUB.COM