

# Western Gazette

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## Hotel named among top 100 in nation

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A SOMERTON hotel has been named as one of the top 100 hotels in the country even though it only opened its doors for the first time a year ago.

The White Hart Hotel was included *The Sunday Times'* Ultimate 100 Hotels list, in addition to receiving the Sawday's award for Best Newcomer of the Year 2014.

The hotel also houses a popular pub, which is currently on the lookout for new apprentices to work in the kitchen and the bar.

It comes as a welcome boost to the area, which was affected by the devastating floods that hit the Somerset Levels last winter.

Rob Greacen, director of the Draco Pub Company which owns the hotel, said the news that the White Hart had been named as one of the top hotels in the country had come as a complete shock.

He said: "They just gave us a call the week beforehand.

"You don't expect anything, do you? We'd had quite a few reviewers in, we knew it was something that they would



**GREAT BOOST:** Don Turner (left) says the award will be a huge lift to Somerton and will boost business.

look at.

"There are a lot of journalists who travel around and then give their recommendations within their own publications, but we never expected that we would be named as one of the top hotels in the country."

Mr Greacen said that he believed the award could give the hotel a platform to continue to grow, and added that his push for new apprentices was part of a concerted effort to attract more local staff.

"We want to continue to grow and be a nice place for people to visit locally. Somerton's a very good town, and it deserves this.

"We're always very keen to take on apprentices. Somerton is a town with a relatively small population so it's a good way to hopefully persuade people to stay in the area."



**TOASTING SUCCESS:** Staff at the White Hart Hotel celebrate being named as one of the top 100 hotels in the country by the Sunday Times. The hotel also won the Sawday's award for Best Newcomer of the Year.

Don Turner, chairman of the Somerton Business and Trade Association, added his congratulations to the hotel, and is hopeful that the award will result in an increase in the number of visitors to Somerton.

He said: "I am absolutely delighted that the White Hart hotel has been recognised in this way.

"Being rewarded in this

manner is a great boost to Somerton and will hopefully increase its profile and bring in people who would not ordinarily come to the town.

"It's always a welcome boost to be rewarded on a national scale, and given that things haven't looked too spectacular in Somerton of late, it's been wonderful to see how the White Hart hotel has been renovated

and its presence has been fantastic.

"There's a positive vibe around Somerton and it's good to see people encouraged about both the short and long-term prospects of the town."

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