



## **For immediate release**

**Poppy's Tea Room, Thaxted**, was crowned the Best Tea Shop in Essex Life Magazine's first Fine Food & Drinks Awards held on 20 October 2011. The award celebrated the best of fine food, drink and customer service in Essex across 12 categories.

The gala, black tie event was held at Down Hall Country House Hotel and attended by over 200 guests.

Poppy's Tea Room was nominated by hundreds of customers who voted in support of the "wide variety of loose leaf teas, quality coffee, delicious home made cakes and scones, a great selection of light lunches and excellent customer service".

Poppy's Tea Room, which is privately owned, was founded in 2007 by a descendant of a long line of tea planters. Owner, Liza Mitchell said: "Winning the title of Best Tea Shop in Essex is a real honour. The timeless tradition of 'taking tea' is an affordable indulgence even in these economic times and is an enjoyable treat for all ages. I am truly delighted to win this award and would like to thank everyone who voted for Poppy's Tea Room, the dedicated staff, customers and suppliers. Poppy's prides itself on offering customers a quintessential English tea room experience. This includes quality loose leaf tea, lovingly homemade cakes and scones baked on the premises, light lunches, tea time treats, indulgent afternoon tea and our renowned, high level of customer care. We have lots of exciting plans for the future and look forward to building on the success of this award."

Poppy's Tea Room was in good company at the award ceremony sourcing trusted brands of quality ingredients from local suppliers, farmers and producers. The independent panel of judges scored Poppy's on taste, cost, convenience, choice and customer service.

Nestling among some of the many attractions of picturesque Thaxted, a thriving medieval market town dating back to before the Domesday Book, Poppy's is open every day except Thursday and also offers homemade cakes to order and tea related gifts. Tea parties and Indulgent Afternoon Tea for large groups is available by prior arrangement by telephoning 01371 830453.

Note to editors: Contact Liza Mitchell, Owner, Poppy's Tea Room  
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<http://www.visitessex.com/where-to-eat/food-and-drink-awards.aspx>