

# A family affair

*Meet the local family-run companies making a big impact in business*



## A heritage in hotels

*Andrew Beale, managing director of Beales Hotels*

**Describe your business...**

We are a family-run hotel business which has passed from father to son for eight generations. I believe it is the oldest family business in Hertfordshire.

**Where did it all start?**

John Beale came to London from Royston in 1769 to start a bakers business in Oxford Street. It soon expanded into Wigmore Street, and then in 1889, my great great grandfather, William Beale, opened the headquarters of Beales in Holloway Road, with restaurants, banqueting rooms and a large bakery creating the daily loaves and cakes for a network of 20 shops across North London and South Hertfordshire.

My grandfather Edward Beale bought West Lodge Park Hotel in 1945, and Hatfield Lodge Hotel in 1964. We closed the bakery side of the business down in 1969. The business today revolves around the Hertfordshire hotels.



**What's your business philosophy?**

We try to do everything in our power to ensure our guests want to return, which is really treating them with courtesy, respect and dignity.

**Why are you passionate about what you do?**

It is deeply satisfying to know that we have created cherished memories for so many wedding couples, or to know that a conference has gone well or a special anniversary party has been enjoyed by

so many people. Most of all it is the staff that drives my passion on a daily basis – seeing them evolve and grow into senior roles in the business and giving the very best of themselves.

**Describe your business's special qualities...**

The wonderful staff and the quality of the environment of the two hotels.

**Tell us about your family?**

I am very lucky to have a lovely wife Emma, and five children – Ashley, Emma, Ellie, Dominic and Annabel. I hope that one day one or more of them will want to join me in the business!

**Beales Hotels**

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