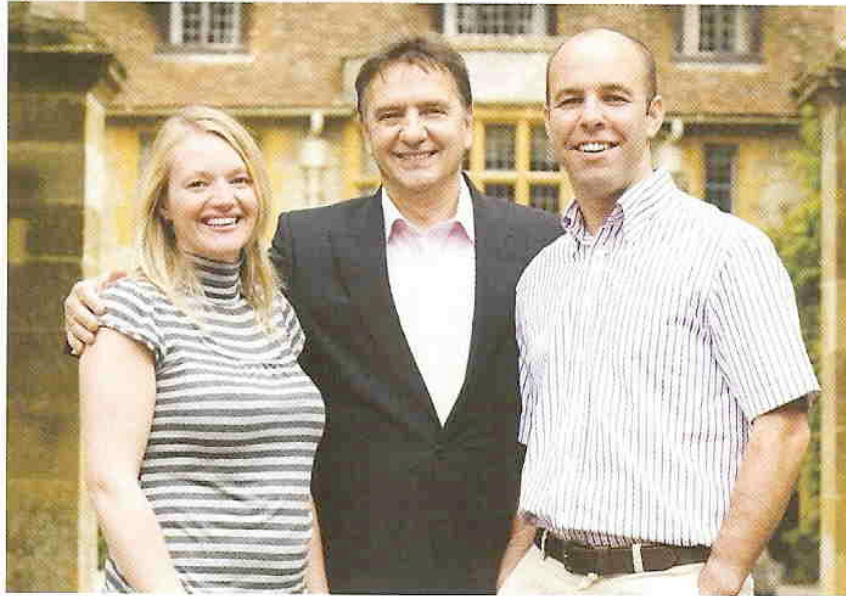


CHANCE OF A LIFETIME FOR TV SHOW WINNERS



RAYMOND WITH JANE AND JEREMY HIS TWO RESTAURANT WINNERS

BBC 2 TV's Restaurant show winners Royal Marine cook Jeremy Hooper and wife Jane, from Devon are taking over the Thatch restaurant in Thame as their prize with business partner and show host Raymond Blanc.

Work has been carried out on the 70-cover restaurant, formerly the Old Trout, which will re-open on November 5, offering an eight course gourmet menu in the dining room as promoted by the 33 year old chef in the TV show.

"There will also be gastro pub food in the main bar and Jeremy and Jane's progress is likely to feature in a future TV show," says Lee Cash, a contest judge, brought in to give guidance to the couple as they manage the new business, using his expertise as Peach Pub Company boss.

The Thatch is also near to Blanc's Le Manoir Aux Quat Saisons so he will be close at hand to give guidance and support in the venture, described by Jane, a trainee teacher, as "the opportunity of a lifetime - what we've always dreamed of doing."

Jeremy adds: "We worked hard and took the competition seriously and now intend to focus and be 100 percent driven on making our partnership with Raymond a successful one."

Raymond says: "Jeremy's background means he can cook, but as restaurateurs they also have to run front of house and make money. Over many weeks in the show they have become a driven team who are able to pass on their knowledge to staff."

The other show judges were Sarah Willingham of Tootsies and John Lederer of Le Petit Blanc, the chain where Lee gained experience in his early career at the Oxford outlet.