

Mortimer CBS - November news

Dear Shareholders and Supporters of The Bell,

There is a lot to say in this bulletin, so I'll do it as numbered points for clarity:

1. Very many thanks to everyone who attended the Annual Members' Meeting by Zoom. The Minutes will follow in the next few days, but meanwhile I hope you will join me in welcoming the new members of the Management Committee: Wendy Clare (returning member), Jeff Woodfield (confirmed earlier co-opted member) and Eric Waters (new member). Hopefully next year we will all be able to meet in person and enjoy a social session afterwards!

2. Covid-19: Social-distancing and the 10pm curfew (as it applied up until the Second Lockdown). I would like to explain something that few of us, as customers, will have realised: the most popular evening eating times are between 7 and 8pm. To maintain Covid security Dom and his staff need to ensure spacing, so please do try to arrive at the time you have booked. If you book for 7.30 and arrive at 7 expecting to be served it causes 'bunching' (as it also does if you arrive late and bunch with later bookings). When it comes time to settle your bill, this bunching creates a bottleneck for the card-reading machine, meaning everyone feels they are being kept waiting and staff have an anxious time trying to get everyone completed before the curfew kicks in. The impact of the pandemic makes everyone's life more difficult and I offer this small insight into the pub's service-side in an effort to ease any frustrations. We all hope and pray for the times when we can just 'turn up and have a drink' in our local again, but until then, and assuming the pub can re-open on 2nd December and if the same curfew applies next time, your understanding of these difficulties will be greatly appreciated!

3. Lockdown No.2: the takeaways are going very well - see the menus at <https://www.thebellatypole.co.uk/takeaway.html> . As we are coming to expect

from Nick and the kitchen team, The Bell's takeaway food shows originality and quality that makes it stand out from the crowd. Keep up your excellent support – it's really appreciated by Nick and Dom.

4. The Second Share Offer: I hope you all have seen the flyer enclosed with November's 'Parishioner'. In the Church are some hard copy Application Forms for anyone who cannot download one from the website. If you have any queries at all, please get in touch either via email or by phone to one of the committee, (all our phone numbers are on the MCBS address-box in Yarpole Shop as well as on the website). We would love all our current shareholders to stretch to buying one more share for £50 if possible, and of course we particularly would like new members to join us. This will help improve the pub and maintain the membership: both are really key to its future.

5. We are starting a monthly Prize Draw for existing **and** new shareholders. To kickstart the Offer, December's prize will be THE UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE OF A GLIDER-FLIGHT FROM THE AIRFIELD AT SHOBDON!



The prize will be a trial-lesson voucher for one, to be used after Covid restrictions ease, likely next Spring/Summer, when the weather will also be better. More details can be seen at: <https://shobdongliding.co.uk/triallessons>.

6. A prize planned for a later draw is a beautiful coffee-table book of memories of the MCBS's journey. I have the privilege of access to many hundreds of photographs taken during our ownership of the pub: funny, poignant, impressive and amazingly revealing of the commitment and community spirit that abounds

in these parts. Now here's the thing: GDPR legislation means we need permission to use such pictures, but it would be a near-impossible task to write to each individual. I am therefore asking that anyone who would prefer that they, or anyone in their family, do NOT appear in such a photo-album, lets us know of this. The deadline for responding will be 30th January 2021 – but I will send out another reminder before then as I know how busy everyone gets at this time of year.

Best wishes,

Marianne Taylor

for

The Management Committee

– and fingers crossed for seeing you in the pub in December.