

The Bell at Yarpole - opening on the 1st August!

Dear Shareholder,

As you have almost certainly heard by now, Dom and Nick are officially installed as The Bell's new tenants. The contract was signed at 4.30pm on Friday 10th July, and David Cheshire took some lovely photographs. The committee is indebted to him for the many occasions on which he and his camera have recorded the Bell's journey under community ownership, so thank you for that, David.



The new tenancy is for 5 years, and both Nick and Dom are looking forward to making Yarpole their home and to building up a sustainable business for the long term. Many of you already know that they have planted a vegetable and herb garden and fruit trees and bushes, as the menu will include as much home-grown produce as possible.

There have been many improvements to the pub's catering facilities in recent weeks: the pot-wash room has been re-tiled and re-plumbed, and the layout re-organised so that it is more functional. The commercial dishwasher proved to be unrepairable, and a new one has been installed. The outhouse that contained the old walk-in cold room has been transformed: new floor, fully-sealed door, new wiring, and a new coating on the internal walls so that they can be washed. Into this hygienic environment we have installed a brand new cold room - gloriously large, white and clean. (You do not want to know about what lurked in the joints of the old

one!) The work has been shared by members of the committee and the tenants, with specific elements by the relevant professionals.



The catering kitchen has been cleaned to within an inch of its life by Nick and Dom and their untiring families. Everything was dismantled down to the last nut-and-bolt, scrubbed, polished and re-assembled. When the registered company came to clean the extraction ducting (a legal requirement for the 2-foot diameter silver tube on the roof of the kitchen) they claimed that the internal extraction canopy and its grilles must be 'brand new' as they couldn't believe the standard that had been achieved. Our respect goes to the families for this impressive feat.

In the accommodation upstairs, we have arranged for a small but functional kitchen to be installed, and there is an ongoing programme of maintenance to the exterior window frames and guttering.



Over the next two weeks, Nick and Dom will be moving in to the flat and getting ready for re-opening the pub on 1st August. The Covid-19 situation poses a big challenge to all hospitality businesses but The Bell is luckier than many other pubs in having a lot of outdoor space. The pub will still need support from all of us to help establish a viable future, and the committee hopes that you will feel confident in the safety measures that will be in place. We very much look forward to seeing you all again in our lovely community-owned pub!

Covid-19 safety precautions mean that the number of customers at The Bell at any one time will be carefully managed.

An online booking system is being set up that will synchronise with the pub's reservations diary; *look out for details to be circulated next week.*

For anyone who prefers not to use online booking, it will still be possible to use the telephone: staff will respond to enquiries by viewing the same digital system, meaning no overlaps!