

The Bell Inn

News Update Sep 2018



We are delighted to report that The Mortimer Community Benefit Society was successful in its final bid to purchase The Bell Inn. An offer of £275,000 was accepted on 28th August and the sale completed two weeks later on 13th September 2018. **The pub was due to have been sold at auction just two days later.**

The decision to make the final bid for the property was made following careful consideration by the management committee after generous interest free loans were offered by local individuals and the Yarpole Community Shop Association in addition to the community share purchases. It was agreed that the Society now had sufficient funds to be able to purchase the property and fund initial renovation and operational costs, as laid out in the Business Plan.

“Share sales of over £224,000 from over 200 share-holders were achieved in just a month. This is an outstanding achievement from our small but highly motivated and generous community.”

If you were waiting to see how the shares and purchase progressed before making your decision, **we hope you will be encouraged to join the other members and buy your share in the pub that will remain a pub in the heart of the community.** Further share purchases will reduce our dependence on loans to fully fund the purchase. We are working within tight budgets to make necessary improvements to the building before handing over to the new tenants when they are appointed.

Meanwhile, work has started on the property and grounds. A team of around 50 people, led by Richard Fletcher, achieved a transformation in just three hours on Saturday 15th September, and revealed the beauty of The Bell again. **Many thanks to all involved;** the teamwork was impressive.

There are many tasks required to bring the property up to the required standards for trading and tenancy. These are being carefully planned and costed, and we will be asking for practical help in numerous ways, so everyone will be able to get involved and make a contribution.

Many ideas and proposals have been put forward regarding future significant and costly alterations and development of the buildings and land. **None of these will be carried out before clear information and costed plans are presented to the shareholders, and a proper consultation process is carried out.**

The events have been reported in local, regional and national media this month including: The Hereford Times, Shropshire Star, i news, Daily Express, BBC Radio Hereford and Worcester and BBC TV Midlands Today who featured the pub, shop and café in their show on 14th September. Thanks to everyone who turned out for the filming.

Please contact us by email: themortimerCBS@gmail.com or speak to any of the committee members if you would like to offer help or have any questions or concerns. Our contact details are on the board at St Leonard's or on the website: www.themortimerCBS.org . There is also a message box in St Leonard's.

We are actively seeking PUBLICAN TENANTS for the business through various channels. For more information please contact Marianne Taylor on mariannebtaylor@btinternet.com

Look out for details of our first Mortimer CBS social event in The Bell to celebrate our achievement at the end of October.

