

CAVERSWALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY



The Auctioneers Arms Community Newsletter December 2019 edition.

Hello and welcome to our Winter edition of the Auctioneers Arms community newsletter. Thanks to the continued support from our members, customers, staff and volunteers our community pub continues to grow from strength to strength. Here is a brief update on what's happened over the past 3 months and what plans we have for the future.

House of Lords - Recognition of our Success



On 14th October 2019 The Plunkett Foundation who are our professional advisors and one of our main grant providers, invited us to attend the House of Lords in Westminster as recognition of our achievement in

saving the pub and our on-going success in running the Auctioneers Arms as a community owned hub/business.

Terry Rogers and Brian Griffiths attended the event and heard speeches from key partners about the growth of the community business sector as well as hearing from representatives of successful community pubs and shops supported by the Plunkett Foundation. The Auctioneers Arms is one of only 98 community owned pubs across the whole of the UK and against the backdrop of many well publicised challenges within the pub sector it was wonderful to hear that there continues to be a 100% long-term success rate with the community pub model. (See KEY FACTS on last page)



(Terry and Brian pictured with The Rt Hon Karen Bradley Parliamentary Candidate for Staffordshire Moorlands.)

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Rugby World Cup.

During Oct & Nov 2019 we opened our doors early to those who wanted to support England through their rugby world cup campaign, breakfasts and drinks were available to those who could make it. Better luck to England next time and we look forward to showing the Rugby Six Nations in Jan/Feb next year.

Customer Loyalty Cards

When we first launched our community share offer back in April 2017 we decided to provide all our shareholders with a loyalty card to allow them to build up points for food and drinks. We have now decided to extend the loyalty card scheme to non-shareholders and regular customers as a token of our appreciation of their on-going support. To receive your loyalty card, you must first deposit £5.00 which can then be used towards your purchase. If you would like a loyalty card please speak to a member of staff.



Kids Halloween party



On 31st Oct 2019 we hosted our annual Halloween party which was a huge success and well attended. Local kids had their fun from 16:00 – 18:00hrs, there was a kiddie's disco and prizes were awarded to the best fancy dress and for the best pumpkin. Then it was the adults turn where we hosted a "Spooky Karaoke" and barman Dan mixed his very own special Halloween cocktails.

Boogie Beats

As part of our commitment to offer our facilities to local community groups we now host "Boogie-Beats" every Monday morning 10:30-11:15hrs. Boogie Beat helps develop social skills, confidence, coordination & motor skills in young children as well as literacy, numeracy and key stage skills in a fun, friendly, lively and energetic session. Each interactive session combines traditional fairy tales and nursery rhymes with a lively, active movement theme and a fun mix of singing, dancing and role play with lots of sensory. Each class is packed full of early years learning, fun and smiles!



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Other Community Groups

We would still like to encourage more community groups to use our venue throughout the week (days) and the hub can be used free of charge for any community groups who are looking for a venue to hold their meetings or classes that would add value to our local community. For further information please contact our manager or email us at info@caverswallcommunitysociety.co.uk

The Gavel



Our new daytime menu was introduced in Sept 2019 and now offers a variety of snacks and light lunches. Our chef Mitch's Sunday dinners continue to be a big hit with both locals and other customers who travel to the Auctioneers Arms especially for them. Our day time customers continue to enjoy our great range of delicious cakes to compliment our selection of coffees. Pie Night: Wednesday evenings continue to be popular where we offer delicious pies, peas chips, gravy and a pint for just £8.99!



Christmas Fayre

Christmas is fast approaching and we have received a number of enquires regarding our Christmas Fayre offer. The menu and dates have now been agreed so book early to make a reservation and avoid disappointment.



Christmas Fayre Dates

- 5th, 6th 7th, 12th, 13th & 14th Dec: 5PM-8PM
- 8th, 15th 22nd & 23rd Dec: 12PM-3PM

CHRISTMAS FAYRE MENU

STARTER

Broccoli & Stilton Soup with Ciabatta Bread
Duck Liver & Port Pate with Toasted Ciabatta & Mixed Leaf Salad
Prawn Clar Martini (prawn cocktail served with a shot of prosecco)

MAIN

Hand Carved Roast Turkey, Stuffing & Figs in Blankets
Hand Carved Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding
Mushroom & Cranberry Wellington (v)
Oven Roasted Salmon Fillet with a White Wine & Dill Cream
All Served With Roast Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables

DESSERT

Christmas Pudding with Brandy Cream
New York Cheesecake
Raspberry & Chocolate Torte (VE)

1 Course £9.95, 2 Course £13.95, 3 Course £15.95

Festive Menu is available on the following dates:

5th, 6th, 7th, 12th, 13th, 14th December, booking times between 5pm- 8pm

8th, 15th, 22nd and 23rd December, booking times between 12pm-3pm

A non-refundable deposit of £5 per person will be required to secure your reservation. Pre-orders must be received 5 days prior to reservation date.

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Registered Office; 1A The Green, Caverswall, Staffordshire, ST11-9EQ

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Christmas opening times

- Christmas Eve: Drinks 10:30 to 23:00hrs, food 12:00 – 17:00hrs
- Christmas Day: Drinks only, 11:30 to 14:30hrs.
- Boxing Day: Drinks 11:00 to 23:00hrs and food 11:45 to 14:30hrs. (Bar Baps available during the evening)
- New years Eve: Drinks 10:00 to 16:00hrs and food 11:45 to 14:30hrs. NOTE the pub closes at 16:00hrs and re-opens at 19:00hrs for ticket only NYE party. Live band and DJ and buffet. Tickets are £7 each.
- New years day, Drinks 11:00 to 23:00hrs & Food 13:00 – 19:00hrs. Menu TBC (possibly pie & drink deal)



Events



Regular events and live entertainment are advertised on our Face Book page, notice boards and on our TVs in the bar and Gavel. Upcoming seasonal events during the next quarter include the following and will be confirmed at a later date: -

- Limestone Brewery Tour, Stone: Friday 6th Dec 2019 18:00hrs to 23:00hrs (see Dan the bar-man)
- Kids film night - Thursday 12th Dec @ 16:30hrs
- Breakfast with Santa: Sat 21st Dec 2019 @ 09:00hrs
- Choir Singing at The Knox – 22nd Dec 2019 @ 18:00hrs
- New Year's Eve Disco/Buffer. Tue 31st Dec, (*Tickets only*)
- Burns Night - January 2019 (Date TBC)
- Tapas and Tarot Night- January 2019 (Date TBC)
- Valentines Evening – February 2019 (Date TBC)

Please contact a member of staff for bookings and further information

Manager update.

Naturally, there has been much speculation regarding the Managers position at our Pub and Hub. After a lengthy period of discussions, the Management Committee are delighted to announce that Terry Rogers has agreed to continue in his role as our Manager for a 12 month period commencing on December 1st 2019. This will ensure we have ongoing continuity in our business and Terry's great experience and commitment will be with us to drive our venture forward for the year ahead. I hope you will all join us in congratulating Terry and we all look forward to working with him again.

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Kitchen refurbishment: Business Case

At our last AGM the proposal to refurbish the kitchen area and improve access to the toilets for disabled persons was approved by our members. Initial research has identified that there are a number of funding streams available to us as a Community Benefit Society which will greatly assist us with the financing of this project. In order to access these funding streams a robust business case must be produced. One of our members has volunteered his spare time to work on the business case but due to its complexity some assistance will be required for our bid to be successful. If anyone has experience of producing such business cases and is willing to assist with this please contact us on info@caverswallcommunitysociety.co.uk



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Our volunteers



We have a number of regular volunteers who give up their spare time to undertake minor repairs, general maintenance, redecoration and odd jobs around the pub. Many thanks go out to Rob Fieldhouse, Graham Miller and Peter Tighe (AKA the Last of The summer Wine crew) and to Paul Hulme for their ongoing commitment and support.

You may have noticed our new outdoor seating area? It was decided to re-locate the original outdoor seating area as it is now exposed to the sun for longer periods and will hopefully attract more passing customers. This work has been undertaken by a number of volunteers and special thanks must go out to David, Mark and Jane Ash for all their hard work in making the area safer and more attractive to our customers.

Communications

All our committee members are volunteers and receive no financial remuneration for the continuous hard work that they undertake in their spare time, and they endeavour to keep their customers and shareholders informed as much as possible.



The committee endeavour to meet bi-monthly to discuss the strategic direction of the business and to ensure that the business is sustainable and meets the investment targets set out in the original 3-year business plan strategy. They are also there to support the manager who is responsible for the day to day running of the business.

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To give our shareholders the opportunity to discuss elements of the business with committee members we now hold monthly surgeries in The Gavel and offer two open chairs at our bi-monthly committee meetings. We also have a secure, password protected members section on our website where minutes from committee meetings and surgeries are accessible alongside AGM information. In addition to the above the chairman can be contacted directly via email on chair@caverswallcommunitysociety.co.uk

Finally, on behalf of Caverswall Community Society we would like to wish all our members, our customers our staff, our volunteers and their families a merry Christmas and a very happy & prosperous new year!



Auctioneers Arms Caverswall



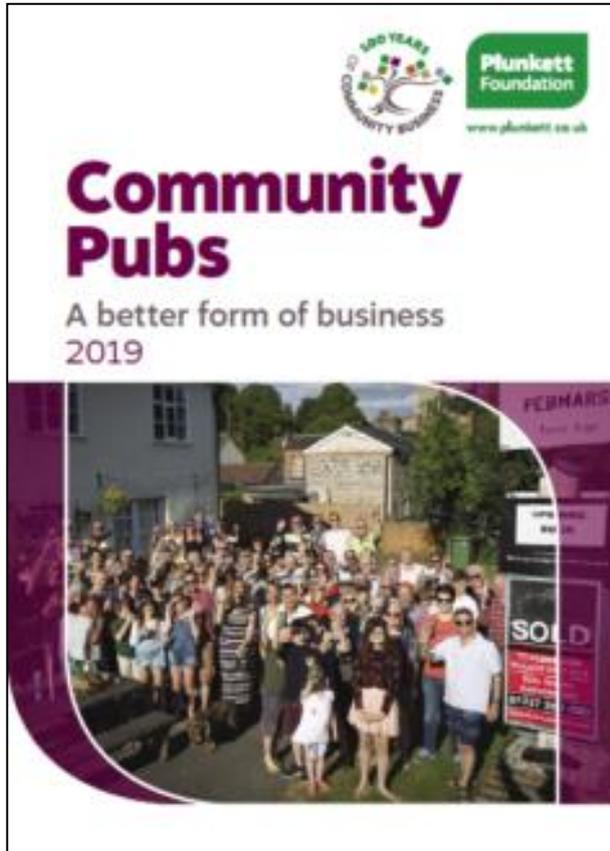
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www.theauctioneersarms.co.uk

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Appendix (i)



FACTS on Community Owned Pubs; 2018/19

- The community pub sector grew by **13%** with **11** new pubs opening in the past 12 months
 - The amount raised by all 11 newly opened community pubs (including the Auctioneers Arms) was approximately £3.5 million
 - **95** community owned pubs in total were trading across the UK at the end Of 2018
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- The average cost of purchasing a community pub during 2018 was **£337,300**. The Auctioneers Arms was purchased for £261,500.
 - **Over half** of the capital required for the start-up costs for community pubs across the **UK** is sourced from community shares. One third of capital raised for the Auctioneers Arms was sourced from community shares, the remainder of funding was sourced from grants and loans.
 - All known community owned pubs continue to successfully trade maintaining a 100% survival rate.

“The Auctioneers Arms community pub business plan has been referred to nationally as one of the best Community Pub business models in the UK and recognised as one of the highest performing in the first 18 months of trading, being awarded the Community Standard Mark in 2018.”

