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# CAVERSWALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY

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## The Auctioneers Arms Community Newsletter July 2019 Edition

### Happy Anniversary – Our first 12 months

WE DID IT! - It's hard to believe that it's 12 months since we re-opened the Auctioneers Arms as a Community Owned pub on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018. We celebrated our 12 month anniversary weekend by hosting a members evening on the Friday night and held a number of family activities on the Saturday and the Sunday plus live entertainment including an open mike.

Caverswall Community Society would like to say a huge thank you to all their shareholders, customers and staff who have supported us over the past 12 months and helped us to make The Auctioneers Arms Community pub/hub the success it is today. Long may it continue.



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## AGM Annual General Meeting 2019

**Our first AGM** – Our first AGM took place on Feb 13th 2019 and was attended by over 60 members. The members were presented with information from the board of directors relating to the business which included the Chairman's annual report, full financial update, statement of accounts, the results of our customer and social impact survey and the introduction of the new Management committee. Two resolutions were proposed by the board

which included (i) the appointment of our accounts to oversee our annual accounts, (ii) for architectural plans to be drafted for the refurbishment of the kitchen and the toilets, to include better access for disabled persons. Both proposals were approved by the members and will be progressed during the current financial year. Loyalty cards have now been created and issued to our members and our members name-board has been made and will shortly be mounted in the pub/hub.

### **Message from the Chair**

Well, I took over as Chair on 1<sup>st</sup> May and I've quickly realised what big boots Brian had left for me to fill! Brian, Neil and Mark have now all stepped down from the committee but all three continue to offer us enormous amounts of support as we push on with our venture and it's very much appreciated. We have achieved so much in our first 12 months and the business has smashed our greatest expectations. Now that we are a proven sustainable proposition, I think it's time we started to focus on what we can do for our community. To this end we are looking for ideas and more importantly volunteers to grow our daytime offering. Do you fancy helping out in the Gavel? Do you have a penchant for knitting and nattering? Would you like to get involved with a toddler group? How about a chess club, golf club, fishing club? Get in touch and together we can make these and many more things happen.

We are now introducing two 'open seats' at our monthly committee meetings where shareholders can come along and listen to what is on the agenda. If you would like to attend any of our monthly meetings then please let us know at [chair@caverswallcommunitysociety.co.uk](mailto:chair@caverswallcommunitysociety.co.uk). If we have more than two people interested in coming along, then we will draw lots and invite those unsuccessful to the following meeting.

Unfortunately, our manager Marc Durose has decided to move on. Marc joined us in November last year and managed the pub through an exceptionally busy Christmas and New Year period. During his time with us he introduced a variety of guest ales, supported our new darts team and assisted us in introducing our first menus for the Gavel and our bar meals. We would like to thank Marc for all his tireless hard work and wish him, Rachel and his family all the very best for the future and we look forward to seeing them again on the other side of the bar. Terry Rogers has kindly offered to step in and help us out as the relief manager until we successfully recruit a permanent manager.

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## Our Darts Team

Congratulations to our new darts team who have been hugely successful in their first season by winning the 2018/19 Tean and District darts league. In addition to winning the league the singles merits competition was won by Ross and the doubles merits competition was won by Clark and Christian. Well done all!



The darts have become really popular in the hub and due to our success of winning the winter league, we now have two teams entered into the Summer league which means there will be a team playing at home every Monday evening. A huge thank you goes out to Barry Lovatt for organising the team on behalf of the Knox. Feel free to come along and support the team on a Monday or even try your hand at darts

yourself

## God Bless

In April our community tragically lost three enormous personalities. Ross Nicholls, Jim Powell and Rich 'Evo' Evanson

These three men couldn't have been more different from each other but all three were known and loved by us all. Our village life will have a little less character, a little less colour, a little less laughter and a little less music and all three gents will be missed immensely.

Our thoughts are with the families as they come to terms with their terrible losses and we hope they can take some comfort in knowing how much they will be missed by our community. Rest in peace gents.



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## Weekly Events

Since we opened back in May 2018 the hub has grown and we now have a number of regular themes and events going on throughout the week to encourage more customers to use our pub and hub: -

- Mondays – Darts night from 20:00hrs
- Tuesdays – Quiz Night from 08:45hrs
- Wednesdays – Pie Night
- Thursdays – TBC (let us know if you have any ideas)
- Fridays - Live Music (dates may vary)
- Saturdays – Live Music (dates may vary)
- Sundays – Mitch’s Sunday Roast.

We would 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. Please contact our manager or email us at [info@caverswallcommunitysociety.co.uk](mailto:info@caverswallcommunitysociety.co.uk) for further information.

A huge thank you to David and Mark Ash who have kindly spent their time making up our new hanging baskets and planters and to Jane Ash who has made-up the planters at the rear of the pub entrance. I’m sure you’ll agree that they make our pub/hub more welcoming.



Thanks also go out to Paul Hulme, Pete Tighe and Bob Fieldhouse who regularly give up their free time to do those “odd-jobs” around the hub, normally those jobs that no-else likes to do! We are always looking for volunteers to help us out so if you have any particular skill or spare time on your hands please let us know.

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## Beer garden/Play area



A number of customers have approached us with suggestions about enhancing the beer garden which is something that the Committee are keen to progress. There are a number of grant funding streams that we may be able to approach which will help to finance a project to create a more welcoming beer garden and children's play area,

one of these being the National Lottery. We have already secured £2,000 funding from Tesco towards this. In order to place a bid for the funding a full business case has to be submitted, this is something that the committee are currently working on so please bear with us. If anyone has experience in creating business cases for funding and is willing to assist us to help speed up the process please contact us on [info@caverswallcommunitysociety.co.uk](mailto:info@caverswallcommunitysociety.co.uk).

## Customer Feedback

You may have noticed that we now have a "Suggestion Box" fitted in the rear corridor. We gladly welcome and encourage all customer feedback to help us improve our customer service. Please remember that we cannot please all of the people all of the time however all suggestions are carefully considered and discussed at the monthly committee meetings and where possible actioned. We ask that anyone submitting a suggestion does so in a reasonable and respectful manner and leaves a contact email address.



## Children

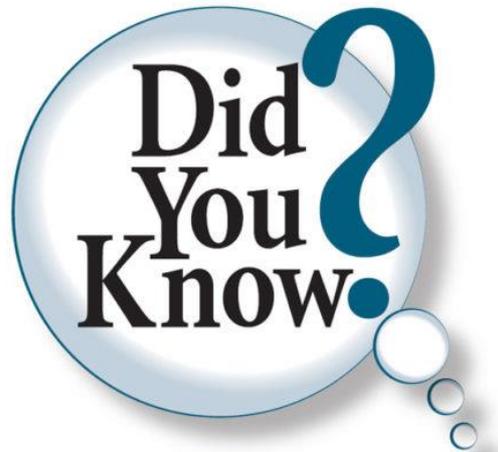
We welcome families and children into our community hub. Family gatherings are a regular feature especially on Saturday and Sunday lunch-times, school and public holidays. To ensure an enjoyable, relaxing and pleasurable experience to all our customers we respectfully ask that **parents take responsibility for and supervise their children at ALL times**. In the interest of safety of the children, our customers and staff we require children to remain seated at their parents table and NOT to run around inside the premises.



For legal reasons, children are not allowed AT the bar. Please also observe the times that children must leave the premises as the staff would not wish to cause offence by reminding parents.

## INTERESTING FACTS on Community Pubs

- Over **18** pubs closing per week in the UK owned by **pub companies** such as Enterprise Inns, Punch Taverns and Marstons
- There are now **85** Community owned pubs trading in the UK. The Auctioneers Arms is one of three in the Staffordshire Moorlands.
- **14** new community owned pubs in the UK have opened since April 2018
- **30%** growth per year of community sector owned pubs
- **100%** survival rate of community owned pub model to date
- **15,000** shareholders of Community owned pubs in the UK
- **182** is the average number of shareholders per pub
- **£337K** is the average cost of purchasing and setting up community owned pubs.
- **153** communities in the UK currently exploring the Community pub model



**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 12 months of trading, being awarded the Community Standard Mark in 2018.**

**Thanks again for all your ongoing support. Here's to the next twelve months and the next and the next. The Knocks and the Gavel are here to stay.**

