

Redgrave Community Society Limited



“working for the community”

1st February 2018

Dear Shareholder,

It is now two months since we purchased the Cross Keys so I wanted to update you on the progress we have made since then, particularly if you do not live in Redgrave or use a computer and are thus less likely to have heard about, or seen, our progress.

Following a month of planning, and meetings with various key people, our first party of volunteers moved in on 1st December to commence work on the refurbishment. The first job was rapidly filling two large skips with rubbish! We aimed to commence work in the upstairs accommodation first, and then work our way down. The upstairs rooms were virtually completed by Christmas, with just a new bathroom and a small kitchenette to fit out early in the new year. These have since been accomplished.

The positions of Manager and Chef were advertised on various websites at the end of November and, following a large number of applications, a shortlist was drawn up and the interview process began. We were delighted to appoint Miss Georgina Earland as Manager and Miss Naomi Miller-Howard as Chef and now look forward to them leading the Cross Keys forward as our community pub.

Shortly before Christmas we received the long-awaited good news from HMRC that they have agreed to grant us “advance assurance” for “social investment tax relief” when we can make our formal application later this year.

This will mean investors will be able to claim a reduction in their income tax equivalent to 30% of their shares or loan. This is particularly good news. We will be writing with tax certificates and more information when this is finally approved!

Due to public demand, we opened the pub on 23rd December for a one-off low-key evening. This was a wonderful opportunity for the local community to get together for a Christmas drink and to celebrate the purchase of the pub – and what a night it was! The support was overwhelming and the atmosphere jubilant, with Father Christmas and one of his elves arriving at the start of the evening for the benefit of the children, the pub transformed with festive decorations lent by kind supporters, and a variety of food being provided by generous contributors.



Registered Address: Lilac Cottage, The Street, Redgrave, Suffolk, IP22 1RY

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www.redgravecommunitysociety.com



As soon as New Year was over, the volunteers were back again and have worked tirelessly week after week as we now plough on with the refurbishment of the downstairs. Fortunately, their enthusiasm remains as steadfast as ever, and the end is now in sight. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude for all the time and effort they have put into the project.

Georgina and Naomi commenced employment on 22nd January as there is much for them to organise prior to the opening of the pub. They are full of energy, enthusiasm and bright ideas. They would particularly like to thank everyone they have met so far for the unreservedly warm welcome they have received. It is now their goal to make the Cross Keys a central hub within the community where everyone feels welcome. They wish to provide traditional high-quality home-cooked food which is sourced locally and freshly prepared. They have plans for hosting a wide variety of events with the aim of appealing to an array of interests and tastes. Over the course of time, they will be pleased to receive suggestions for other possible events. Additionally, we will look forward to welcoming both the pool and darts teams back to the Cross Keys when it re-opens.

The old signage has been removed for the time being in order to freshen it up and give it a new lease of life. We hope it won't be too long before the various signs are back in position again. The wooden post holding the large swinging sign at the front of the pub was beginning to rot at its base so is having to be replaced. However, enough good wood remained for it to be innovatively recycled as an attractive fire surround so we have been able to keep it as an integral part of the pub.

The car park is currently being re-gravelled and, thinking ahead to the warmer weather, all sorts of plans are afoot for the garden.

Finally, several of the kitchen appliances have been taken away and are currently being commercially cleaned, and the whole kitchen area is also awaiting a freshen-up. Being mainly stainless steel, this should not take too long. Thus, with the help of many, an incredible amount has been achieved over the past two months.

We are now beginning to focus on a possible opening date which we hope to be able to announce shortly. We shall then look forward to proudly welcoming you to your new community pub.

Kind regards,



NEIL SMITH

Chairman

On behalf of the Redgrave Community Society Limited Management Committee