

Redgrave Community Society Limited



"working for the community"

September 25th 2020

Dear Member,

We are writing to update you on progress at the Cross Keys, your community pub.

Business Performance

In the last newsletter sent at the end of July we said that sales for that month were likely to be better than expected. The final figure was £14, 829 (excluding VAT), compared with £18,453 for July 2019.

We felt that this was good given COVID-19 restrictions, but were very pleasantly surprised by the figures for August; £24,793 compared with £22,631 for the same month last year.

Despite the pandemic and reduced opening hours trading had improved. Factors that helped achieve this included an excellent front of house team (staff and volunteers), better food, good weather and attractive outdoor facilities including the benches on the Knoll. The V8 Hotrods car meeting on August Bank Holiday was a particularly successful day which we plan to repeat next year.

Business for September so far has also exceeded expectations, with the first two weeks among the best we've ever seen. Sales up to Sunday 20th were £17,286.

However, as I'm sure you're aware this may not continue. Autumn and winter weather, and reduced customer confidence as a result of new restrictions, is likely to lead to a reduction in custom. The staff, committee and volunteers will continue to do as much as possible to adapt the pub to changing conditions. In the long term we believe that the increased custom and reputation built over the summer will help put the pub on a better footing.



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

Redgrave Community Society Limited is a Community Benefit Society registered by the Financial Conduct Authority (Register No. 7589)

VAT Registration Number 292 0024 34

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Audit and accounts

The management committee report and audited accounts for 2019-20 are attached to this letter. The result for the year was a small loss, a significant improvement on the previous year, the reasons for which are explained in the accounts.

Management accounts for the current financial year up to August are also attached. These show the results during lockdown and the subsequent recovery, and the grant income received. The committee has put a lot of effort into applying for grants and a total of £37,778 has been received so far from a Retail and Hospitality Grant, Mid Suffolk Council, More than a Pub Small Grant and Power to Change Emergency Fund. The Job Retention Scheme has also helped to cover wages of furloughed staff. These, together with a Bounce Back Loan, should give us some security in the coming months.

AGM

As you know we will not be able to hold a conventional meeting this year. An online meeting is possible but complex, and we need to remember that around 10% of our members do not have internet access. We are consulting with the Plunkett Foundation on the best approach to take and will inform you of this as soon as possible. In the meantime, if any shareholder is able to offer their expertise which can help us in any relevant area (or knows someone who can), please let us know.

Committee members

We currently have six committee members, some of whom have been heavily involved since the pub project started three and a half years ago. We have an urgent requirement for a new Treasurer, but other new committee members are also needed. If you feel you can make an active contribution to the committee and the community please let me know.

Other News...

- Our new Head Chef, Graeme Woracker, started work last week. He is very experienced, was head chef at The Crown in Hartest for 8 years and has also worked at various high-end venues such as the Bedford Lodge Hotel in Newmarket. We look forward to his food!
- We also have a new Bar Supervisor, Huw Pritchard. Huw has previous experience and will be working to support Heidi.
- The pub has had 11 TripAdvisor reviews since re-opening, all 5-star. We have also received very positive feedback on management of Covid precautions.

- We were recently awarded the Visit Britain 'Good to go' industry standard. This means we're following government and industry COVID-19 guidelines, have a Risk Assessment in place and processes to maintain cleanliness and social distancing.
- A 5-star Food Hygiene rating was achieved following an inspection on 6th August.

Share Offer

The Share Offer remains open and new members will be especially welcome. HMRC have just confirmed we can issue tax relief certificates to the latest round of share subscribers, which helps to make the offer more attractive and we hope to obtain similar tax relief for any new applicants.

Applications can be made by existing shareholders or entirely new ones. If you know people who have recently moved to Redgrave or neighbouring villages who might be interested, please talk to them or let us know.

If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, or anything else, please contact me at chair@redgravecommunitysociety.com.

With kind regards



STEPHEN EASON

On behalf of the Management Committee of Redgrave Community Society Limited

Stephen Eason	Chairman
Neil Smith	Vice Chairman
Julie Moore	Secretary
Andrew Dickson	
Donna Taylor	
Carolyn Ward	