



**SAVE
THE
BELL**



**Mortimer Community Benefit Society
News Update
November 2018**



Open Afternoon

The pub threw open its doors on 27th October with a very successful open afternoon. About 90 shareholders and supporters visited The Bell to explore the whole building, find out how much work has been completed in just six weeks, and sign up to volunteer to help with a huge range of tasks to improve the condition of the building. Committee members were on hand to answer questions and take on suggestions.



The buildings group have been working continually to plan and co-ordinate works, using both paid professionals and volunteers who are generously giving their time and advice to help us make progress.

We now have more than 50 volunteers. The buildings group have been contacting these by phone or email about specific tasks or regular workdays planned. Please **let us know** if you have offered to help and have not yet been contacted.

We have a varied task list all ready and waiting so if you want to join in you are very welcome. If you would like to get involved, please add your name and contact details to the list at St Leonard's or email themortimercbs@gmail.com



A **garden group** is taking shape, co-ordinated by Simon Kearney.

Although there is not yet much further progress in evidence in the gardens since the big clear up, behind the scenes there are consultations with garden designers and other interested parties before plans are finalised.



Then we will be calling upon all those who volunteered their efforts – probably digging, weeding and ground clearing to start with!

It has been clarified that maintenance of the hedge on the side that runs alongside the pathway leading to Green Lane Crescent is the responsibility of the Parish Council rather than the owners of The Bell, so it falls outside the boundary of the property.

Appeal for furniture

Many of the chairs in the Bell were found to be broken or beyond reasonable refurbishment and we are

now looking for up to 24 chairs for both the bar areas and for the restaurant that will help create a warm, traditional, comfortable feel in the pub. The chairs do not have to be matching, but they should be of a similar style. Below are some pictures of what we are seeking.

Do you have any odd chairs like this that you would like to donate, or sell for a small sum,

to the pub? If so, please contact Marianne Taylor
mariannebtaylor@btinternet.com





New Tenant



Many people have been asking about our **progress with finding a tenant**, and we were optimistic that we had been successful in our search, using local media and contacts. This has not yet been the case, and unfortunately we will not be able to fulfil our ambition to be open by Christmas.

We are now advertising the tenancy via local and national publications. This has drawn some early interest and discussions co-ordinated by our recruitment leads. **If we are not able to recruit publicans to take on the tenancy in the next few months, alternative contingency plans to allow the pub to open for trading in some capacity are being considered.** We recognise that it may take some time to find the right people to share our vision and be in a position to build their business.



Please keep spreading the word amongst friends, family and sharing on social media to help us find a great tenant! Thank you :-)

Share certificates

The Mortimer Community Benefit Society now has an impressive 230 shareholders, who have purchased shares with a total value of £240,000. Share certificates have been distributed to all shareholders. If you have not received your correct certificate, please contact Mike Bending (Treasurer) on 780208 or email themortimerCBS@gmail.com



Perhaps consider shares as a **novel Christmas present for family members** so they too can invest in The Bell's future!

And finally, a Party at The Bell!

We are planning to hold a party at The Bell soon to celebrate our successful purchase and have a taste of things to come in 2019. We can all raise a glass and enjoy using the pub again in its rebooted form. **Watch out for details.**

For further information and updated news, please see our website www.themortimerCBS.org