

A Christmas Carol

The spirit of Christmas Past

October 2021 and The Bell was closed and once again faced an uncertain future.

However, with the help of a few volunteers and the massive support of the local community, we managed to open for events and social nights through the winter and spring. This allowed us to tick over and begin the process of finding our great community pub the tenant that it so richly deserved. We were fortunate to receive an application from Iain Dixon in early '22 and his vision and ideas for the Bell excited the MCBS and so we leap forward to....

The spirit of Christmas Present

Less than six months after Iain got the keys, The Bell now has a wonderful fresh new look. The old brown carpets and dark tables have given way to beautiful new flooring in the restaurant, light and airy fixtures and decor in both rooms and a refurbished bar and front of house area. In the background, and with the regular rent coming in, a refreshed MCBS Committee has been able to start paying down some of the generous loans that made the purchase of the pub possible in the first place, and to budget for the ongoing improvement of the building. All this is fine, but it needs to be matched by what the pub has to offer. Fortunately, it hits the target there as well. An exquisite and ever-changing à la carte menu is getting the pub and the chefs spoken about in glowing terms, alongside a more traditional bar menu for those times you want something lighter but no less tasty (all sourced from the freshest local ingredients). Combine that with an extensive drinks menu and The Bell is a winner all round. New customers and locals visit on a regular basis and their reviews tell you all you need to know.

The spirit of Christmases yet to come

It's clear that Iain and his team want to establish The Bell as the outstanding place to visit in this part of the world, and much more is planned over the next 12 months.

A newly landscaped beer garden alongside an outdoor bar and kitchen for those summer evenings and weekends, improvements to the Cider Barn to make it a go to venue for family and other functions, as well as putting on regular pub events.

Look out for the Craft Lunches in 2023, where local Artisan tradespeople will present workshops to allow you to learn something new and interesting.

Themed menus and tasting evenings, the monthly Sunday Quiz nights and some occasional live music all mean that you need to keep an eye on the website and social media platforms to see what is on offer.

Thank you for all your support in the past, present and yet to come and on behalf of all involved with The Bell and MCBS.

As Scrooge famously once said:

"I think I shall visit The Bell at Yarpole for a fine Sunday Luncheon" *

Merry Christmas and a happy new year

*at least I think that's what he said



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