



THE CHESTNUT TREE

THE PAST

Peter and Rachel having run the pub for eleven years put in a Planning Application to provide additional accommodation on the site.

Unfortunately, the Planners rejected their application and Peter and Rachel decided to vacate.

Myself, Paul Mower, purchased the pub in December 2023 and recruited Mark and Joanna (both with impeccable CVs in the hospitality trade) to run the pub. To cut a long story short, due to vastly increased costs, together with the burden of the wage roll being too high for the level of turnover, Mark and Joanna also decided to vacate as well. An indication of the lack of business was that one Sunday in September there was only one cover for Sunday lunch. The good news is that the pub has been left in very good order with a full complement of staff.

GOING FORWARD

I believe passionately in the pub, and I will personally be covering the rent until June 2025. Sam Smith, the chef, has also decided to support the venture so much so that he will be living on the premises and working full time. Together with Harry, Lucy, myself and my wife all functions of running the pub smoothly are now in place and we look forward to your custom in the future. The pub will continue to be open every day with quality food being served from Wednesday through to Sunday. The full range of drinks

including cask ales, craft beers, fine wines and craft gins is available. We also now have TNT Sports for live rugby including the Gallagher Premiership and the Autumn Internationals. The pub is a registered Asset of Community Value, which is one of the reasons I purchased it, but unfortunately without increased support of the village, it may not survive. I'd welcome any comments, and my phone number is 07795 848716 and e-mail scurryltd@gmail.com.

LET'S SCURRY AROUND

Scurry Ltd, the owners of The Chestnut Tree, are pleased to promote and act as main sponsors of a minibus, initially to transport customers to and from the pub serving primarily West Wrating, Weston Colville and West Wickham.

The approach undertaken is to introduce a community funding scheme whereby individuals contributing £5 a month will receive a 10% discount on any meals at the pub. The money raised will be spent solely on running the minibus service. If there is sufficient support, then the service can be expanded to possibly taking people to Saffron Walden/Newmarket on market days, etc.

Given there are roughly 1500 souls in the three parishes I am sure that together we can make this venture a success.

Please do come in the pub to pick up a membership form, alternatively e-mail scurryltd@gmail.com.