



pub is the hub

THE hub

News from the heart
of Pub is The Hub



Support from the ground up

Planting the seeds of success

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

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Introduction - Stretch yourself

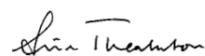
The theme for this issue is all about stretching capabilities and exploring new ideas – just as we are doing with Pub is The Hub.

We've been exploring new countries and new counties with recent launches for our unique support for rural services in Scotland and East Sussex where we have been positively embraced by the local authorities involved.

At the same time we are also working hard to further relationships with new friends and supporters with the aim of building upon our networks and you can read about some of the results later.

If that fires your imagination then take some more inspiration from the intrepid licencees – they are pushing all boundaries with projects as diverse as live theatre and community

allotments through to great initiatives such as IT training for beginners and dementia-friendly lunches. We are stretching in every direction to grow, thrive and survive. Why not support us?



*Simon Theakston DL
Chairman of Pub is The Hub and
Executive Director of T&R Theakston Ltd.*



Pubs in the pipeline for funding

The Community Services Fund has been so successful since its launch back in 2013 that Pub is The Hub has a queue of forty-four schemes now seeking funding to help kick start their ideas. This equates to requests for grants of up to £176,000 in cash terms.

Launched three years ago with initial funds from Diageo and the Government it was the first time that Pub is The Hub was able to offer modest grants of up to £4,000 to initiate diversification projects. At the time, John Longden explained: "Lots of funding and grant schemes around the country were offering amounts of more than £10,000 at a time, with a match-funding caveat and these schemes were often too daunting for licensees. The response we have had to our own scheme has just been tremendous."

In the last two years the organisation has funded 46 projects that are now complete; there are 10 projects currently in progress and there are 5 projects where funding has been approved – making 61 in total providing 27 different types of services. Those 61 projects represent grant funding by Pub is The Hub of £147k towards £382k of total project costs and will help a population of over 64k people in the surrounding areas.

Anyone interested in contributing to the Community Services Fund can send their donations to us in the office.

Hitting for six!

Two of the UK's largest pub owning companies have supported Pub is The Hub for six consecutive years and once again they have both renewed their commitment with £25k each:

Packing a Punch

Punch Taverns' donation helps to support the core cost of running the organisation that has provided advice, hands-on support and some funding.

Neil Griffiths, Chief Strategy Officer from Punch added: "Resources such as post offices, local shops and libraries are such valuable community assets and very much missed if they happen to close down. I am delighted, therefore, that through our continued support of Pub is the Hub, pubs are able to fill that void and become the heartbeat of their communities."



Neil Griffiths from Punch with John Longden

Support from the ground up



John Longden with Simon Townsend from Enterprise Inns

Enterprise Inns' donation supports the Community Services Fund to help fund grants of up to £4,000 as well as advice and hands-on support.

Chief Executive for Enterprise Inns, Simon Townsend visited Mark Gilliver at the Coach and Horses in Draycott near Derby where he is working with the community to produce a vegetable garden in four raised beds in the pub's car park that will be maintained by local groups such as the Scouts and Brownies.

Simon added "We are proud to be a founding supporter of Pub is The Hub which recognises the vitally important role that pubs play in communities across the UK. We're delighted to see the funds go towards worthwhile initiatives like the community garden in Draycott and we wish them all the best with the project. To date we have donated £140,000 to Pub is The Hub, and we are very pleased to be continuing our support."



Dionne and Cameron Reid with BBC Radio York's Georgey Spanswick and Pub is The Hub advisor, Trisha Hughes

Pub's Breakfast Show

It was beer and bacon butties all round when the New Inn at Tholthorpe just outside York became the venue for a breakfast radio show in April.

Licensees, Cameron and Dionne Reid had invited BBC Radio York's breakfast show host, Georgey Spanswick, to open their new village shop and bakery so the radio team decided to go the whole hog and do the entire show from the pub.

Cameron said: "The pub was full and it was rather chaotic but we had a lot of fun. The bakery has been more popular than we thought as we have sold out a few times. The shop has been busy too with people popping in and out. One local even did their weekly shop with us yesterday!"

Chief Executive, John Longden appeared on the show for ten minutes as well to talk about Pub is The Hub's wider work.

Thanks to our sponsors



Royally loyal at the White Horse

HRH The Prince of Wales became the proud recipient of a loyalty card for The White Horse at Upton in Norfolk earlier this year entitling him to 10% off produce from their community shop.

The Royal visit was organised to the rural community-owned pub and shop following funding from Pub is The Hub and The Prince's Countryside Fund.

HRH spent nearly an hour at the White Horse meeting the volunteers who run the shop and many organisations linked to the pub such as the local knitting club, walking club

and history club. Then he got behind the bar and pulled two pints of local beer before chatting to pub regulars and members of the committee.

Peter Crook, one of the White Horse Trust Directors commented: "When we set up the loyalty card scheme we kept card no.1 to one side just in case we ever had a VIP visitor. I was delighted to be able to give it to His Royal Highness today. Now, whenever he is visiting – perhaps with his grandchildren who live close by – he can pop in and use his card for discount!"



HRH The Prince of Wales receives his White Horse loyalty card



Power to the people

Power to Change and the Department for Communities and Local Government launched a £3.62 million, two-year Community Pub Business Support programme in March for communities who want to take on pub ownership or management.

The scheme offers a comprehensive package of business development support, advice and loan and grant funding and aims to support 80 community-owned pubs to open over two years. It offers a flexible package of support including access to an advice line, events, workshops, peer-to-peer study visits, and business development advice. It will also offer flexible bursary awards to fund very early stage activity, such as community consultation work, and a grant and loan package.

Pub is The Hub has been asked to provide professional advice to the working group. To find out more about the programme please call the programme advice line on 01993 810730 or visit www.plunkett.co.uk/more-than-a-pub

BII buddies for community group support

Pub is The Hub has teamed up with the BII to offer a bespoke membership package to community groups looking to buy or operate their own local pub.

The package from the BII includes: a year's free membership with all the benefits that entails (free legal helpline, buying group, online support tools etc.); free online pre-entry awareness training (PEAT) for one

member of the group and support from the pool of ex-BII Licensees of the Year who will act as mentors for the group.

Letters and information packs have been sent to over a dozen groups who have made progress with their local pub in the past 12 months and a trial mentoring exercise is already in progress.



Scottish Advisor, Gordon Izatt with licensee Sarah McClean and John Longden

£30k funding boost for Scottish pubs

In January our rural services projects initiative was launched in partnership with Scottish Borders Council where it was announced that Scottish Government would also back the scheme with a £30,000 funding boost.

Over 60 pub operators, suppliers and local authority representatives attended the launch event in Lauder which began with a video announcement from Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and Environment, about the funding. He said: "Pubs are often at the heart of rural communities and in some places are the only outlet left in the village. This scheme is a great way for businesses, the public sector and communities to work together to provide

viable local services which contribute to the social fabric and economy of rural Scotland."

Also speaking at the event was Stuart Bell, portfolio holder for Economic Development at Scottish Borders Council who talked about the fragile structure of communities and that pubs can be the glue that holds them together. He urged rural communities to: "Make your pub the hub. This is a pilot – go out and grab it."

Sarah McClean (featured in the main picture), a licensee from The Plough in Leitholm near Coldstream was at the event and could be one of the first pubs to take part in a diversification scheme in this new initiative. She welcomed the attention being paid to the Borders region and was impressed with the range of ideas and support available.

The launch was made possible by the generous support of Diageo in Scotland and the Prince's Countryside Fund.

New skills and services for East Sussex

At the other end of the UK a similar scheme to help rural pubs in East Sussex was launched in April in partnership with Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council led by Anthony Miller, chair of the South East hub.

"Pubs in rural areas such as Wealden are often the focal point for the community," said Councillor Roy Galley, Cabinet Member for Economic Development at Wealden District Council. "By linking up with Pub is The Hub to offer something beyond food and drink, at which they excel, publicans will bring in extra customers whilst also strengthening their role at the centre of their communities."

Right: Nigel Hannam and Cllr Roy Galley from Wealden District Council with John Longden





Terry Stork, Liz & Chris Shore and Margaret Stone

The Bell rings for essential and life-saving services

Chris and Liz Shore's vision for their rural pub was brought to life when Norfolk County Councillor Margaret Stone opened their new café and shop at The Bell at Wortwell.

When they took over the running of the nineteenth century pub in September 2014, Chris and Liz were aware of the lack of amenities in the village so they decided to change the underused pool room at the pub into a shop and café area. This they have

achieved by replacing the pool table with shop facilities offering local food supplies and essential items and providing more comfortable furniture for the café. At the same time they engaged the whole community to assist in buying a defibrillator for use by the village also sited at the pub.

With advice from Terry Stork at Pub is The Hub; the help of a grant from the Community Services Fund of £1,750 from Norfolk County Council; and the community's own money-

raising efforts they have now achieved their aims to provide Wortwell villagers with essential new life enhancing and life-saving services for the community.

Chris Shore said: "We wanted to provide a resource for the village that meant people didn't have to catch a bus or travel by car to get to the nearest shop – and while the pub is open, so are these new services."

Dementia-friendly lunches in Norfolk



The Chequers at Feltwell in Norfolk has opened the doors for regular 'dementia-friendly' pub lunches for dementia sufferers to attend with their carers, family and friends.

The aim of the lunches is to provide the welcoming atmosphere of a pub that is fully accessible and neutral in décor. Dementia awareness training is available but not compulsory.

Having heard of the dementia friendly scheme the owner of The Chequers, Jeremy Holmes, felt it would benefit the Feltwell community and the surrounding areas to provide a regular dementia friendly lunch. They now take place on the first Wednesday of each month and will include a two-course meal for a set price followed by table top activities for those that would like to participate.

Gemma Liczbinski, Development Worker for Adult Social Services at Norfolk County Council said: "The idea behind the dementia-friendly pub lunches is to support and empower individuals to regain part of their lives that is missing to maximise their wellbeing. Many couples living with dementia find it difficult to have enjoyable social outings together and most breaks from the home are to a day centre or dementia café. Whilst both offer brilliant respite neither were providing the couple with time together in an informal relaxed way.

"The pubs we are working with have shown great support for the scheme; a willingness to look into dementia awareness training and to hold information on Alzheimer's Society and Age UK to provide further support where needed."

Any other pubs who want to join the scheme can contact us for more information.

All the world's a stage

Even rural pubs in Norfolk!

The Old King's Head at Brockdish, the Chequers at Feltwell and the Pleasure Boat at Hickling have served up live theatrical performances in each bar courtesy of Creative Arts East.

Oscar Wilde's story, Lord Arthur Savile's Crime, is a gripping tale of love, honour, duty, fortune-telling and murder and was performed as a one-man show by Rocket Theatre in February across the unusual locations.

Meanwhile, another production, Can You Dig It? was performed at The Crown Inn at Banningham, The Mermaid Inn at Elsing and The Pavilion at Hindringham during March and featured comedy songs about growing your own vegetables and a virtuoso performance on a cucumber trumpet!

Terry Stork, Advisor for Pub is The Hub commented: "We've been delighted to work with Karen and the team from Creative Arts East to set up these live productions in rural community pubs. Nothing beats live performance for excitement, so bringing them into the heart of local communities was a real treat for locals who can't always get out to venues in major towns and cities."



Delivering a first class service

Villagers in the Norfolk village of Eaton can now visit their local pub for a pint – and to post parcels – at the Cellar House, in Eaton Street.

It comes after residents voted overwhelmingly in support of the project, following news that their local postmaster would retire, forcing closure of the local branch – and it was publican Victoria MacDonald's initial interest in taking on the local Post Office that helped her win the national prize at Enterprise Inns' 2015 Community Heroes Awards.

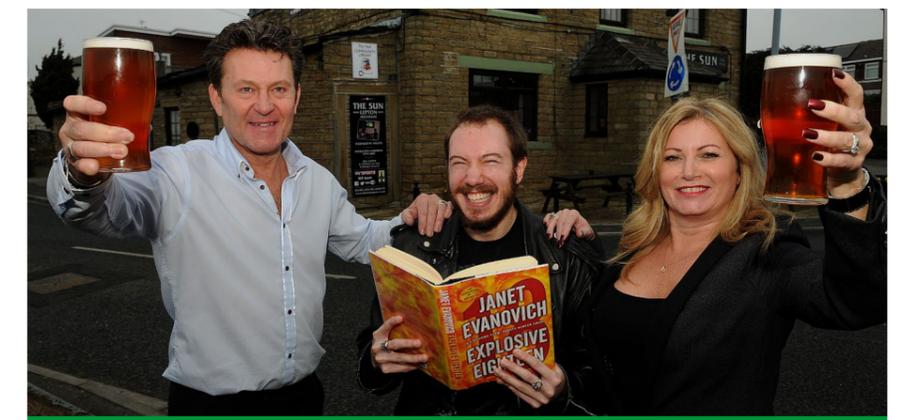
She said: "We're so pleased to have taken on what is ultimately an invaluable service in the community. Our local branch officially closed the day before ours opened, so nobody went a day without a post office.



Pub is The Hub advisor Terry Stork with Victoria MacDonald

"In its new location, visitors benefit from longer opening hours, in addition to improved parking, on-site toilets and baby-changing facilities. What's more, they can grab a drink and a bite, too."

The bulk of the project has been funded by the Post Office, in partnership with Pub is The Hub.



Carl Brayshaw, Nick Stead (author) and Donna Brayshaw raising a glass in celebration.

Local author opens pub library

Huddersfield author, Nick Stead, opened a new community library in at The Sun in Lepton on Friday following the decision to close the village's main library.

The community library has been set up in the pub with the support of Huddersfield District Committee and by the rural pubs organisation, Pub is The Hub.

Carl and Donna Brayshaw, who have owned and run The Sun at Lepton for over five years have used the grants to convert an area in the pub's snug with new shelving for over 600 books, more comfortable seating and two computer terminals offering access to the internet. The couple have worked hard since taking on the pub to turn around its reputation.

Donna said: "We soon realised that we didn't only need to give The Sun a facelift – we

needed to change its heart, so that is what we are working hard to do. Our idea for the library was to give something back to the community and, like every village pub, to be at the very heart of it.

"We are determined to have the best village pub in Yorkshire and giving back such an important asset is all part of the pub's new story."

Huddersfield-born author Nick Stead who will officially open the library published 'Hybrid' the first of a horror series about a werewolf last summer and is a member of the Huddersfield Author's Circle. Donna added: "We were thrilled to have a local author to open our community library and hope that the books inspire other potential writers as well as giving hours of enjoyment to readers and visitors to the pub."

Pubs with computer chips on the menu

The Old Inn pub at Mullion is offering chips, computer chips that is, on their menu in a ground-breaking digital inclusion strategy for Cornwall.

The Digital Champion project funded by Cornwall Council and in partnership with Cornwall Rural Community Charity (CRCC) supports a range of organisations to share their IT skills with others. Since the start of the project in June 2015, over 60 Digital Champions have been identified across Cornwall.

At one of the first pubs to trial the initiative, the Old Inn at Mullion, Jay Chapman and Jane Morgan from Cornwall Rural Community Charity have organised courses for local residents to improve their computer skills and gain the confidence to use the computer to

enhance their everyday life.

Sara Liddle, licensee at The Old Inn said: "It's great that we can provide training for what are essential life skills these days in an environment that is local, warm and friendly. It doesn't feel as daunting as going to a classroom to learn. Secondly, it's a great way to use a space like a pub during the day or on quieter evenings, so it helps to level out trade for rural pubs like mine."

Reg Clarke, the South West Advisor for Pub is The Hub added: "When pubs increasingly have good wifi, this is a fantastic mutually beneficial initiative for the pub and its community. When Government information about benefits and other services go online by 2020, people will need these essential skills."



Beryl Jones, Pietro Piras, Jay Chapman (organiser), Landlady Sarah Liddle, Cilla Harvey and Jane Morgan (organiser)

Keeping communities connected

At the Stafford Arms in Bagnall in North Staffordshire, the Bagnall Parish Action Group has a designated computer and access to the internet in a unique project to keep the group connected.

Set up several years ago, the Bagnall Parish Action Group comprises over fifty local people who help to raise money for projects that will improve their community wellbeing and village surroundings. Pub is The Hub has funded the cost of the computer for just under £700 from their Community Services Fund and for those members who cannot access the internet, the Stafford Arms computer is available at any time for their use.

Stafford Arms owner, Lisa Sutton-Murphy said: "it is a totally dedicated resource for them to use whenever they need to purchase anything online; check on price comparison websites; access key information from the local council or health services or just chat with other members of the group.

Right: Pauline Hughes is served a coffee while she browses

Get the lowdown at Hightown

The Hightown Hotel at Hightown village near Crosby in Lancashire has launched free computer training with a Community Services Fund grant of £1,800.

The funding has paid for six mini tablet devices each with the aim of teaching beginners and improves the basics of internet browsing, shopping online safely, using Skype or Facetime and learning about social media to stay connected with friends and family.

A local volunteer, Janie Seal runs the five-week programme at The Hightown within a room set aside as a community centre, the idea of licensee Geoff Miller and local

resident Diane Lamont.

Diane, a volunteer at the community centre said: "Feedback from regular visitors highlighted a need for basic computer skills and we are thrilled that Pub is The Hub has been able to support us with the funds to buy the equipment."



Right: The Hightown computer club



Get in touch

To make an enquiry, find out more about our work or to chat through an idea, please contact Sam Hope, in the Pub is The Hub office:

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