



pub is the hub

# THE hub

News from the heart  
of Pub is The Hub

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EXELBY GREEN DRAGON



## Pubs call time on loneliness

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AUTUMN 2019



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## Join Inn - we are 'upscaling'!

This issue of The Hub demonstrates that when like-minded people get their heads together for a common purpose they often end up creating something amazing.

Whether it's an idea such as setting up a digital hub corner in your pub, a pop-up café or a community-run shop I am sure that when you read the stories over the next few pages you will be inspired.

We are also very proud to launch our **Join Inn – Last Order for Loneliness** initiative this Autumn with help from HEINEKEN UK. The initiative aims to work out what makes each scheme so special and whether it could be scaled-up or replicated in other parts of the country. This is exactly how the 'Chatty Café' scheme was created – it's a great idea that is being shared with as many venues as possible and for very little cost.



As ever, we couldn't do any of this work without the support of the National Lottery and our wonderful sponsors – and not forgetting the fantastic teams running the pubs and their ever-supportive communities.

Keep chatting folks and 'Join Inn'!

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

## Getting chatty



**Pub is The Hub is supporting the Chatty Café scheme that asks venues to set aside a Chatter and Natter table where customers can sit if they are happy to talk to other customers. Pub is The Hub will pay the first year's membership for pubs with cafes.**

Pubs with cafés who want to get involved can make the Chatter & Natter table a part of everyday café culture, even if they only designate one table for an hour each week! Cafés taking part in the scheme find that fewer single people taking up tables and because people are chatting they are staying longer.

For just £10 per year every venue will receive a pack with an A4 plastic table sign, a poster insert, leaflets, a door/window sticker and an A4 and A3 poster. Each member receives four

e-newsletters a year and is listed on the website as a participating venue: [thechattycafescheme.co.uk](http://thechattycafescheme.co.uk)

Founder, Alex Hoskyn said: "A Chatter & Natter table creates a space for people to talk; whether it is for five minutes while you drink a brew, or an hour of good conversation. We're not trying to build friendships – just simple interactions to combat loneliness and to just maybe have a big impact on someone's day."

Nicky Harris from Pub is The Hub said: "During all the research we have been doing on loneliness, the Chatty Café Scheme came to light as a scheme that encourages people to 'chatter and natter' to each other in cafes and pubs rather than sitting alone. It is a simple but lovely idea that is easy to implement."

## Thanks to our sponsors



# Calling time on loneliness



**Inspired by the Jo Cox Loneliness Campaign, a new initiative by Pub is The Hub will help pub owners, operators, local authorities and rural community organisations to review the pub's role in helping to provide vital social spaces for local residents.**

**Join Inn – Last Orders for Loneliness** will combat loneliness and isolation through services and activities provided by rural pubs in a £100k two-year pilot programme that is being funded by HEINEKEN UK.

The programme will fund an 'Ambassador for Loneliness' who will spread the best ideas from individual pub schemes to other regions and share their success nationally through collaboration from supporting partners.

Schemes such as shops, cafés, post offices, digital hubs, libraries, community playgrounds and cinemas in rural pubs have all brought the added benefits of encouraging local residents to visit the pub, sometimes for the first time and to meet and make friends.

David Forde, Managing Director, HEINEKEN UK said: "Pubs are so often the heart of communities and can play a vital role in helping to tackle social isolation. We're thrilled to build on our long-term support for Pub is The Hub. Our partnership will kick-start community

activities and shine a light on how communities come together in, and often rely on, the Great British Pub."

John Longden, Chief Executive for Pub is The Hub added: "One of the main benefits we have discovered through our projects with rural pubs is the enormous boost to wellbeing that they provide to isolated or vulnerable people in communities. We are very grateful to HEINEKEN UK for supporting us to scale up and help to share our ideas with many more communities."

The donation underlines Heineken's commitment to creating sustainable pubs and will fund consultancy and

grants to licensees looking to diversify their businesses and brings their total contribution to this area of Pub is The Hub's work to £130,000 in the last two years.



John Longden, Chief Executive of Pub is The Hub with Lawson Mountstevens, Managing Director of Star Pubs & Bars

**"Our partnership will kick-start community activities and shine a light on how communities come together"**



## Greyhound pub's new shop opened by their oldest customer



Alistair Musgrave, Mary Stubbs, Julie Musgrave and Malcolm Harrison at the entrance to the new shop

**The Greyhound at Cotehill in Cumbria opened a village shop at the side of the pub inviting the pub's oldest customer, Mary Stubbs, to cut the official ribbon.**

Alastair and Julie Musgrave have been running the Greyhound for two years and have built a local reputation for good simple pub food which is appreciated by locals and visitors. They run regular community events for local people but realised

that the closure of the village shop meant a 12-mile round trip into Carlisle for essential items so decided to step in and take on this vital community service.

Julie Musgrave said: "A lot of people in this village rely on lifts into town, very limited public transport or deliveries – and with a sizeable older population re-opening a village shop seemed like the right thing to do for the community."

## Last orders for a loaf of bread



Vikki Hunt and Sophie Watson in The Lodge Shop

**Vikki and Gavin Hunt opened a village shop at their pub, The Lodge at North Tuddenham in Norfolk with a grant of £3,000 from the support of the Norfolk County Council's Community Services Fund.**

Vikki and Gavin have been running The Lodge since 2007 but had always wanted to provide a shop for the village. Available through an entrance in the pub the shop also has a separate accessible entrance from the car park.

Vikki said: "The shop will save locals an 8-mile round trip to the nearest shop as well as the chance to pick up a loaf of bread up to 11pm at night!"

## Shop bell rings again with team effort

**The Bell Inn at Lower Broadheath near Worcester now boasts a shop and post office in its garden, thanks to the team effort of the Lower Broadheath community, the National Lottery, The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, The Plunkett Foundation, Ei Group and Pub is The Hub.**

Local MP Harriett Baldwin and Simon Townsend, Ei Group's Chief Executive, were on hand to officially open the shop and post office alongside pub licensees, Ian and Lyndsey Davies and the community volunteers hosting the event.

Ian Davies said: "When the community suggested re-opening a village shop and Post Office, I stepped forward straight away to offer our help at the pub."

Mark Glossop, Chairman of Lower Broadheath Community Shop Ltd, said: "We have Mums from the village with their children through to pensioners using the shop."

"Our shop volunteers, many of whom are retired, have said that their new roles have given them a sense of purpose and we also have young people gaining work experience."



Simon Townsend, Ian Davies, Harriett Baldwin MP, Lyndsey Davies and John Longden

# Norfolk pub gallops ahead with community appeal



Pat Simpson & Gilly Foulds with Clive and Sue Stockton and Terry Stork in the background

**The Horse and Groom at Tunstead officially opened its new café and games room this week as part of the pub's ongoing revival as a community hub.**

The project was devised by owner Gilly Foulds – a local resident who came out of retirement two years ago to purchase the village pub and save it from closure.

Gilly said: "The pub has seen mixed fortunes over recent years in the hands of developers and different operators but I wanted

to keep it open as an essential social hub for the village.

The idea is that these new areas will become a meeting place for younger people in the village and to help combat isolation and loneliness among our older residents too. Ultimately it will support the viability of the pub in the long term.

"I am very grateful to Pub is The Hub for their support, they have been instrumental in making this idea a possibility."

## Wiltshire pub launches free digital hub



Colin Osborne, Chairman of the local Parish Council demonstrating the new equipment with Helen Bradley from local literacy programme, Word Fest, looking on.

**The Green Dragon at Market Lavington in Wiltshire launched a free-to-use digital hub to support community well-being in the pub's function room.**

The hub comprises a laptop computer, printer, big screen TV and three hand-held tablets with free WiFi connection. They are available for anyone who needs access to services like browsing the internet, printing documents or downloading a book or newspaper.

Licensees behind the scheme, Steve and Nicky Wragg said: "The age profile of Market Lavington is of an older population and we want to help some of the local resident to get online and improve their digital skills. This new service is for those who want to book their health appointments online, speak to their family on Skype or even just print out airline tickets.

## Let the Lamarsh games begin!



Cheers! Lamarsh villagers raise a cuppa for the new café

**The community owned Lamarsh Lion at Lamarsh in Essex opened a community café and games room to broaden its appeal to local residents and visitors to the area.**

Pub is The Hub contributed towards the cost of the refurbishment with a grant from its Community Services Fund.

Chair of the The Lamarsh Lion Community Pub Limited, Robert Erith said: "These new facilities give a much-needed meeting place for local residents and the wider community to socialise."

"Ease of access into the café and games room means the space is accessible and appealing to a wide range of ages."



# Stamp of approval for pub post office

**Janette Woodhouse, who runs the Royal Oak at Bere Regis in Dorset has moved the village post office service next to the bar in her pub to ensure its long-term survival.**

As the local post mistress for the last four years she had been operating from a shop about 100 yards further up the village high street. With this service under threat Janette decided to take it under her wing by moving it lock, stock and barrel into the pub.

The Post Office in the pub also has a printing and copying service with two lap tops available for use by customers and the community. There is a large smart TV which can be used as a visual aid for local information, presentations or meetings and many customers have already started combining their visit to the Post Office with a coffee morning in the pub.



Janette Woodhouse serves a post office customer

## The day Countryfile descended



**When the Bird in Bush featured in the Christmas episode of BBC One's Countryfile, licensees Katie and Stephen found themselves sourcing Christmas trees and turkey six weeks early!**

The entire team of presenters and crew spent the day based at the pub, situated on the edge of the Northumberland National Park, and filmed a number of features about the area, including a piece about Katie Bland and Stephen Shaw's plans for the pub and their adjacent micro-brewery, The First and Last Brewery.

Katie said: "The programme undoubtedly gave us a huge boost to visitor numbers, not only for us but for the beautiful area and other businesses around us."



## Dragon deli delights



Becci Baker dishes up deli delights

**Community-owned pub, the Green Dragon at Exelby near Bedale has opened its brand-new delicatessen shop and café - the latest development since the Green Dragon was taken over by the community in December 2018. Both will serve the rural Dales community as well as catering for tourists and visitors to the area.**

Tenants, Tom and Becci Baker (featured on our front cover) employing three more local people dedicated to the café and shop and the new facilities save locals an 8-mile round trip to Bedale.

Tom Baker said: "Becci and I were excited to move to a country pub and had lots of ideas to share with the community. The shop and café have really extended our appeal to new people and villagers who don't traditionally use the pub. We have a group that use the café every Tuesday morning now to meet up."

# Live pub theatre awarded national funding



**Inn Crowd, the live theatre in pubs initiative started in 2016, has been awarded £525,000 funding from Arts Council England to cover the next four years up to August 2022.**

Inn Crowd is a partnership project with Pub is The Hub from Applause Rural Touring, Creative Arts East and the National Centre for Writing and supports rural pubs throughout the South East and East of England to host exciting and inspiring live theatre performances in their pubs, reaching the non-traditional arts audiences.

The funding will enable 330 live national touring dates working with Applause Rural Touring in Kent and Sussex and Creative Arts East in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

Over 40% of the dates will take place outside the South East region partnering up with:

- Carn to Cove for Devon and Cornwall
- Artsreach for Dorset
- Take Art for Somerset
- Live and Local for Warwickshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire
- Spot On for Lancashire
- Arts Alive for Shropshire and Herefordshire

Dawn Badland, Director of Applause Rural Touring said, "Arts Council England's support to enable us to further develop Inn Crowd as a national model will be very

welcome across the rural touring sector as a whole and shows their recognition of this ambitious and unique partnership programme."

For further information and details about 'what's on' in pubs go to [www.inncrowd.org.uk](http://www.inncrowd.org.uk)





## New guide supports rural survival



The Prince's Countryside Fund – a charity founded by HRH The Prince of Wales to help the British countryside to flourish – has launched their Village Survival

Guide, a vibrant manual filled with tips and advice on how to build a strong community.

This colourful guide is an entertaining collection of case histories, checklists and practical advice, which will enable those living in the countryside to utilise the talents available in their own communities, and benefit from the examples of many others to tackle some of their own challenges.

Available in hard copy to buy, or to download for free, the Village Survival Guide features contributions from more than 40 local groups across the UK, as well

as from experts and organisations such as ACRE, the Plunkett Foundation, and Pub is The Hub.

The guide includes case studies from Pub is The Hub projects, the Angler's Rest in Bamford, Derbyshire and the Bird in Bush in Elsdon in Northumberland.

Claire Saunders, Director of The Prince's Countryside Fund said: "Over the past nine years, the Fund has distributed more than £10 million in grant funding, to hundreds of inspiring community groups and charities.

We realised that what people had learned from these successful projects could help to inspire others to take the initiative and transform their local community; the projects run by these groups deliver essential services at a local level, often making up for shortfalls in other provisions."

The guide is available to purchase in hard copy or download for free from [www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/VSG](http://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/VSG)

## Professional body honours Chief Executive

The Royal Institute for Chartered Surveyors (RICS) honoured the Chief Executive of Pub is The Hub in an initiative to celebrate its 150th anniversary year.

John Longden was selected for the Pride in the Profession campaign for his work with Pub is The Hub to showcase the significant and positive impact surveyors have made to society.

His work with not-for-profit Pub is The Hub has seen it grow from a one-man-band to a national organisation with a growing team of largely voluntary, field-based advisors and supporters.

John said: "You cannot stand still in this business or with rural services. You have got to try to help good licensees and their communities to make a real difference in society."

In 2014, John was awarded an OBE in the New Year's honours list for voluntary services to rural communities in the UK.

## HRH pops in for a pint and a game of darts

HRH The Prince of Wales paid a visit to the community-owned pub, The Fleece Inn at Hillesley in Gloucestershire to highlight the importance of having great pubs within rural communities.

Licensee, Karen McGeoch said: "The visit was fantastic for us, the pub and the community.



HRH joins the locals at The Fleece Inn for a pre-Christmas drink

His Royal Highness was very relaxed and seemed to really enjoy himself, having some great banter with the locals. He even offered a local cider maker the chance to visit his own private orchard and had a lovely chat with the village's oldest resident, Margaret Plummer."

## 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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