

CHAIRS REPORT

Twenty thirteen has been a momentous year for Bamford and for the Anglers Rest.

Following the registration of the Bamford Community Society as a community co-operative in August 2012 we set out to acquire the Anglers Rest for the benefit of the village.

Between then and now we have:

- Secured Asset of Community Value status for the pub, an acknowledgement of its importance as a community facility.
- Conducted a successful share offer, raising in excess of £260,000 from over 300 members.
- Successfully won the contract to deliver Post Office services in Bamford.
- Completed the purchase of the Anglers Rest, and, with the help of an army of hard working volunteers, brought the pub space, kitchen, staff accommodation and outside areas up to a standard to enable re-opening just one week after taking ownership.
- Further volunteer work has been ongoing since then and has enabled the refurbishment and opening of a new daytime cafe in a previously under-used part of the building.
- Contractors for the Post Office have also been busy creating the areas needed to house the sorting office and post office counter.
- Food service has started up again, with both hot and cold food now available, including a popular Sunday carvery.

As you will be aware, the journey has not always been smooth. There have been moments when it seemed like the project would fall at the final hurdle. However, with the support of our members, our MP, local councillors and other politicians, co-operative support organisations and the local and national media we have overcome these challenges to successfully achieve our vision to develop:

“More than a pub: A community hub”

Since taking ownership of the Anglers we have been overwhelmed by the numbers and skills of local volunteers who have been involved in the huge array of tasks needed to get the building ready for opening. These include plastering, painting, sanding tables and floors, strimming the grounds, fitting kitchens, doing joinery, tiling, making curtains, as well as giving the place a good clean and tidy!

We have also been helped by a number of businesses, including DLA Piper, Mailboxes Etc Sheffield, Cleaner Carpets, Henry Boot and Networks, each of whom have provided their products, services, expertise and equipment free of charge, for which we are grateful. We have also benefitted from the support of a number of organisations including Business in the Community, Co-Operatives UK, Pub is the Hub and the Plunkett Foundation, and we would like to pass on our thanks to each of them for their help and advice.

The village has shown what a community can achieve when it works together and the board would like to extend our thanks to *everyone* who has played a part, no matter how large or small, in bringing our community hub into reality.