

Issue 5
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Building The George

News of The George Community Pub



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Dungeons and Dragons -Two sides of a Community Pub restoration project

If you are looking to go 'down under' at The George you will be in the pub cellar below what will be one of the dining areas but 'down under' in a global sense will take you to the home of the 1957 Australian country song 'A pub with no beer'. The single reached No 3 in the UK chart in 1959. So what is the connection with The George? In early 2024 the George Management Team found that the floor to the bar and restaurant area was about to be finished without provision for the 'pythons' or conduits that house the individual supply lines from the cellar to the bar.

The unthinkable result would have been 'a pub with no beer' but fortunately, the problem was spotted in time and python access secured. It is just one of many areas in the project where the client (ie the George Team) have had to closely monitor the professionals engaged to carry out the rebuild project. A pub with no beer was thankfully avoided.



Just one of the many challenges at The George showing the cellar in its dilapidated state which will require a sump pump to keep water at bay. The steps which are largely sound require the wooden 'barrel race' to be replaced.

So where does the dragon come in? As soon as the mid C17th written reference to soldiers being billeted at The George was discovered it was clear that the name of the pub went back far beyond the representations of King Georges on the hanging sign. At the time of the fire in 2013 a painted wooden board showing George V (1865-1936) was overlaid with a print of George III (1738-1820) and in 1986 a picture shows yet another George represented.



The George in 1986 and an unidentified George on the hanging sign



2006 and it is King George V on the sign



On the night of the fire in 2013 it's both King George III and V who are feeling the heat. Painted and printed versions of George V (left) and George III (right) saved from the flames



What is certain is that the name of The George goes back well beyond the line of English kings of that name to the myths and legends of George and Dragon representing the age old conflict between light and darkness, good and evil and shown in art and iconography spanning East and West Europe and into North Africa.

The George project moves on, and help is needed.

Although there have been some delays in the overall program, restoration and rebuild is now progressing at pace with the recent completion of one of the more difficult stages of construction where the ancient timber structure is joined by the steel frame of the new build extension.

The Management Committee is now actively preparing for opening and making the detailed plans necessary for the operational phase and pub opening, this is your chance to get involved. Specifically, we would like to strengthen the Committee with two more volunteer roles that involve IT and Business Management.

Firstly, we need someone to advise us on the requirements for an integrated IT system that will help us keep connected to sales, inventory, finances, and HR, together with a document filing system for both the pub and the society etc.

For the second role we are looking for someone to advise the Committee regarding all of the issues necessary for the effective and successful management of a SME, ideally but not necessarily in the hospitality sector.

If you can give a little of your time to help or know of someone that might be interested in either of the two roles or indeed in any other way that you think you could help, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact: info@thegeorgecommunitypub.co.uk

Fun and games at the latest George pub games and quiz evening



New games were successfully introduced to our latest Games and Quiz evening held on Friday 26th April at which over 60 people attended. Tickets were £10 each which included all entertainment and hot dogs. A paid for bar was also in full swing and kept busy throughout the evening with a good supply of fine wines and a selection of beers being sold.

Many thanks to all who attended and the volunteer helpers who managed the bar, kitchen and games. On the night your generosity added a further £340 to our 'Gilding the Building' fund which aims to bring back a wish list of finishing touches that will help make the pub even more comfortable to enjoy.

Hard Hat tours

These tours have been led by senior staff from Seaman's who control the site until handover and we have now completed and indeed over subscribed the numbers for the tours agreed as part of our contract with Seaman's. Although it may be possible to arrange further general site access in the lead up to opening there is no firm agreement at this stage.

Have some fun with a monthly flutter on The George 200 Club prize draw!

Whilst the full restoration costs of the building have been found we have had to make cost saving in other areas to meet overall targets. 50% of profits from the 200 club will go towards the costs of bringing back some of the original specification such as real wooden floors and resurfacing of the beer garden.

The George 200 Club has established itself as an important income generator for the society and from just £5 per month anyone can buy up to 4 tickets to have the chance to win monthly cash prizes. Information on how you can join is available from our website:

www.wmgeorge.co.uk/200-club/

or email info@thegeorgecommunitypub.co.uk for further details

follow The George at @thegeorgewm on Instagram or Facebook for restoration updates and news of events

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