



## **CHEERS! WORK STARTS ON MAJOR REFURBISHMENT OF HISTORIC LYMPSTONE PUB**

Work is starting on a £250,000 refurbishment of a historic 17<sup>th</sup> - century Lympstone pub. The investment at The Saddlers on Exmouth Road is being undertaken by Heineken-owned Star Pubs & Bars and the pub's operator, local residents Keith and Lindsay Webb. It will create four new jobs.

If lockdown easing proceeds as scheduled, The Saddlers – which dates back to 1624 – will unveil its new look when pubs reopen in England on 17th May.

The revamp will upgrade the much-loved local throughout, making it more comfortable whilst retaining its traditional character and features such as a log-burning fire place. To keep up with demand for The Saddlers' popular carvery, a vaulted dining area with room for 40 diners will be built to expand the existing restaurant seating, complete with a new carvery unit. The room will open onto its own south-facing patio and have screens dividing tables to give diners privacy.

The bar and its cosy snug will also receive a makeover and will serve a great range of cask and craft ales, cocktails, wines and gins. The project will install BT Sports and three TV screens so that Exeter Chief home and away games and other sporting events can be shown. Other improvements include new ladies' toilets, the addition of a disabled access WC and a kitchen refit.

Work to the outside will add new lighting, signage and planters for The Saddlers' award-winning floral displays as well as carefully renovating and repainting the exterior. The large garden, which is a magnet during the summer, will benefit from new furniture along with extra equipment for the two children's play areas.

Keith and Lindsay took over The Saddlers in 2015 when it was closed and had fallen on hard times. Since then, he has put it back on the map as an outstanding traditional pub known for its top quality carvery, stunning garden and warm welcome-

Says Keith: "The Saddlers has become really busy in recent years. The new extension will enable us to make room for all and ensure The Saddlers is in prime condition for customers when we open the doors again."

Adds licensee Tim Brooks, who has run the pub on Keith's behalf for the last five years: "It has been devastating to have to close for so long. Regulars are desperate for the pub to reopen. We can't thank them enough for all their messages of support throughout lockdown. We're looking forward to welcoming them back and unveiling their new-look pub."

Comments (name), (title) for Star Pubs & Bars: "The Saddlers has gone from strength to strength with Keith and Tim at the helm. They do a brilliant job, and we're delighted to be supporting them with this investment. The new dining area and the transformation of the bar will allow the pub to cater for all occasion and give customers a fantastic experience whether they want to enjoy a good meal out or a drink and a chat in the bar. We'll be going flat out to finish the work in time for May."