

Masons Arms 2016/17

We are pleased to report another strong year of trading, this past year has brought fresh challenges for us and many small businesses, not least the effect of the Brexit decision and the National Living Wage. Whilst there is a growing popularity in eating out there is a decline in the number of chefs and front of house staff, many citing long unsociable hours as their reasoning. We continue to work closely with Petroc, Barnstaple encouraging young people into our industry.

The fibre optic broadband is going to make a huge difference to our business, many of our bookings come in online and we do use social media to engage with our customers. Our program of monthly masterclasses run at full capacity, well supported by local customers.

We continue to support the Knowstone and Rose Ash Gardening Club and have also provided many meals before the film presentation in the village hall throughout the Autumn, Winter and early Spring months. We are planning to host a Cream Tea here in the late summer to help raise money for the community and helpers will be required on this day! The Two Moors Way also continues to bring people to us, the holiday cottages and the local B&Bs.

Parking remains a problem, all of our staff need to drive here so many times our car park is almost full before we open often prompting the comment "I thought you were busy with all those cars outside"! Speaking of cars, we will host a lunch for Ferrari again this summer so any "petrol heads" should pop down and see the most amazing array of deluxe sports cars.

We always have an ample supply of empty boxes and bottles so if anyone ever needs any please let us know! Mark has spent the winter writing a cookery book which will be out in October and will once again raise our profile.

We look forward to a busy summer and shall celebrate completing 12 years here in June (they said it would never last!)

Mark & Sarah Dodson