HOTV update: the last leg

Heart of the Village was set up as a Community Benefit Society to buy the Royal Oak, incorporate the shop, and make sure that Stoke St Gregory does not lose its heart. We are well on course to do this.

Thanks to many generous investors, we have raised £155,000 in community shares in just six months. We need a last big push to reach the £200K target within the next few weeks (a condition of our grant offers), which with your help we can do.

If we can then unlock £250K worth of grants and loans by the end of March, we can go ahead and buy the pub. Even better, once we—that is you, the community—own the building, we become eligible for many more grants.

We already have 190+ members/shareholders. There are about 730 adults in Stoke St Gregory. If anyone who hasn’t already invested were able to invest £100, that would raise £54K and take us well past our target.

But any form of support is very welcome—we don’t just want your money, but to make HOTV more representative: owned by the community, run for the community!

It’s easy to invest: download a form from the website or ask for one in the shop. (Existing investors can buy more shares on the same form, if they are willing to invest more in the light of the progress made).

Investments are tax-deductible: they qualify for up to 30% Social Investment Tax Relief and could eventually earn interest.

We are not aiming just to preserve the Royal Oak as it is—we are looking to refresh it as a lively hub with a shop and a café for everyone, and to build on the history of the Village Stores with even more local produce at lower prices.

Present and future inhabitants of Stoke St Gregory will thank you for grabbing this chance to help keep the village the lively place it has always been. Please do what you can to help—and thank you for your support!
If you have questions on buying shares or business sponsorship, contact John Davison:  
johndavison52@gmail.com  07836 327926

Application forms can be collected from the Village Stores or downloaded from the Documents section of the HOTV web pages.
Full information is always available on

hotvssg.org

Volunteers

The Village Stores is being temporarily operated by Ian and Karen from the Shop-in-a-Box near the Village Hall, but they will cease trading on March 31st. HOTV will then continue to run it as a community shop until we are able to transfer into the Royal Oak.

The intention was always to operate the shop with volunteers under a paid manager. Ian and Karen will be training volunteers from January to March, after which the community takes over.

Other villages, including North Curry, have told us that volunteering is a very positive experience, bringing benefits to those on both sides of the counter.

The more volunteers we have, the easier it will be to share the work around. We would value your contribution even if you can only offer an hour or two a week.

Please contact Contact Marilyn Clarke if you would like to help, or have any questions on volunteering:  
clarkemarilyn@icloud.com  07760 757947