



PRESS RELEASE

16/03/2020

To all our customers.

These are extraordinary times.

This afternoon HM Government told us to avoid all non-essential social contact with special mention for restaurants, pubs, bars and clubs. This presents our restaurant business with a dichotomy.

If everyone decides to follow this advice to the letter then our restaurants are finished and we will have to close because no one will eat at our tables. Jobs will be lost. Not just the people who work for us but all the supplier jobs down the line.

We buy our food and drink from local suppliers and our team is made up of local people. They have mortgages and rents to pay and families to support. They are your neighbours, your friends, the parents waiting with you at the school gates or the people in the queue at the supermarket. These people are part of our local Thanet family and during times such as these we have a responsibility to look after them.

So what do we do? Do we close immediately, lay everyone off and go bust with all the misery that this entails, or do we remain open and go against the advice of the government? It is a balance of duties.

And so we have decided to leave the ultimate decision to you, our customer.

For the time being our doors will remain open. We will honour those bookings we have. We will ask our staff to come in to work if they wish. If you, our customers feel that this is the right thing to do, then you will visit us.

If you feel that this is not appropriate, then you will not visit us.

It is your choice.

We understand there are risks involved and so in addition to following rigorous cleaning protocols, the extra actions we are taking include:

1. Having wider spacing between our tables.
2. Opening our doors and windows whenever possible.
3. Offering a separate private dining area for families.

Elbow bumps and good wishes

James Thomas