

SEEE

WOW – Week of Webinars

The Power of Community Businesses

Be Inspired!



# This webinar will help you to

- Better understand community business
- Appreciate the importance of involving people
- Gain an insight into the art of crowdfunding

*and as we go, please post questions in the chat column & Robert & Alex will try to answer them!*

# Introducing Robert & Alex

Robert is an experienced social entrepreneur, charity Trustee and published author. As a Quaker, he is motivated to challenge inequality.

Alex is new to Norfolk, passionate about pubs and believes community business is tough, rewarding and has a future packed with potential. Consultancy / finance background with experience in social investment.

# The Walled Garden Community Shop

<http://thewalledgardenshop.co.uk/>

@wallgardenshop



- Little Plumstead
- Official opening 17 Oct
- Started with a question
- Unique partnership
- Community led
- Community shares
- Raised £250k
- Modular built shop & cafe

# The Walled Garden Community Shop

<http://thewalledgardenshop.co.uk/>

@wallgardenshop



- Following Plunkett template
- Many stakeholders involved
- Local suppliers -
  - But shop also sells fags & booze
- Restoring the garden
- Work experience for guys in the Broadland Clinic
- A place to meet, eat, share

Life's all about cake!

# The Walled Garden Community Shop

<http://thewalledgardenshop.co.uk/>

@wallgardenshop



Lessons learned along the way

1. You can't push volunteers
2. Confront people's fears
3. Expect the unexpected
4. Do what works rather than try to reinvent wheels!
5. Make time to help others learn from your success





# The White Swan Gressenhall.

*A Great Pub. A Greater Community.*



“Our Vision is to make The Swan a community owned pub, renewing its role at the heart of the village. Meeting our community’s needs today and ready to adapt to serve generations to come.”



[www.saveourswan.co.uk](http://www.saveourswan.co.uk)



[@SaveOurSwan](https://www.instagram.com/SaveOurSwan)



[@SaveOurSwan](https://twitter.com/SaveOurSwan)



[SaveOurSwanInGressenhall](https://www.facebook.com/SaveOurSwanInGressenhall)





# The White Swan Gressenhall.

*A Great Pub. A Greater Community.*



[www.saveourswan.co.uk](http://www.saveourswan.co.uk)



[@SaveOurSwan](https://www.instagram.com/SaveOurSwan)



[@SaveOurSwan](https://twitter.com/SaveOurSwan)



[SaveOurSwanInGressenhall](https://www.facebook.com/SaveOurSwanInGressenhall)





# The White Swan Gressenhall.

## *A Great Pub. A Greater Community.*

1. It's hard work!
2. Pull in the experts at the right moment
3. Be bold talking about money – no matter how uncomfortable it feels
4. Come flying out the blocks – momentum is key
5. Communication is everything

[\\*Link to full blog article](#)



Part of the team that has worked to save the White Swan pub at Gressenhall. From left, Rosie Begg, Pamela Neil, Mary Turner-Jones, Jane Robertson, Alex Begg and Ryan Seymour.

PHOTO: BRITANNY WICKHAM

### 'Save our pub' campaign helped community beat the coronavirus blues

The campaign to save a village's only pub from permanent closure has brought its community together through the coronavirus pandemic.

And now the team behind the bid to save the White Swan at Gressenhall are hoping that by this time next year they will be able raise a toast to the fully restored and reopened pub, after it has sat empty since July 2018.

Mary Turner-Jones, from the Save Our Swan campaign, said: "The excitement of something to come has really kept us going, and this has been a year in which we've desperately needed some hope."

"If there was a pub in the village again it would make a huge difference to so many people."

STUART ANDERSON

was involved in the bid

and a half how everyone has come together and wanted to get behind this."

The Gressenhall Community Enterprise (GCE) group has raised the £200,000 they needed, which, combined with a £500,000 grant from the Plunkett Foundation will allow them to buy the pub from current owner, Alexander Simpson.

Alex Begg, GCE chairman, said: "With a fair wind and barring unforeseen delays, we'd hope to open the building by mid-November, get going on the works early in the new year with a view to reopening by August."

born in Gressenhall and after living away for some decades returned and now directs the village's strong choir.

She said: "Whether it was a hunt on the green, or the bowls club, it was always a real outcrop. At one time we had six pubs in the village but now we're down to one so we have to save it."

Mr Begg has only lived in the village for two years but has known the pub for longer as his partner, Rosie, lived there prior to that.

He said: "It's an idyllic village but the pub was the missing jewel in the crown. It will be really good to have that as something we can enjoy for years to come."

The plans include employing a manager, chef, bar and kitchen



[www.saveourswan.co.uk](http://www.saveourswan.co.uk)



[@SaveOurSwan](#)



[@SaveOurSwan](#)



[SaveOurSwanInGressenhall](#)

# To find out more . .

- Plunkett Foundation <https://plunkett.co.uk>
- Coops UK <https://www.uk.coop/>
- Power to Change <https://www.powertochange.org.uk/>
- Robert's website <http://www.robertashton.co.uk/>
- Crowdfunder UK <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk>
- SEEE <https://see.co.uk/>
- Good Finance <https://www.goodfinance.org.uk/>