

PRESS RELEASE



All at ease with a new squad at the Old Sergeant

6 June, 2011 – Garratt Lane, Wandsworth: The Old Sergeant in Wandsworth's Garratt Lane is marching towards a revival in traditional pub values, following the arrival of award-winning tenants Lee & Keris De Villiers last month.

“As soon as we saw this historic pub we knew that we could help the local neighbourhood to create the meeting place they deserve,” says Lee De Villiers, who along with wife Keris and Under Manager Bronwyn Cooper – all originally from South Africa – will host an official relaunch on June 15. “We’ve already completed the installation of a new beer garden for the Summer and doubled the number of real ale hand pumps to six, and the reaction from our loyal customers suggests that we’re doing the right thing.

“We simply want to make this pub a welcoming place for everybody to meet, drink and have a chat in this lively part of London close to the King George Park and just along the road from the revamped Southside shopping centre in the heart of Wandsworth,” he adds.

As well as the re-upholstering of all stool tops and the addition of seasonal carpeting on the former saloon bar side for the Winter, future plans include a complete refurbishment of the upstairs Function Room, which following negotiations with the Youngs family is to be renamed the John Young Room.

This honours the Chairman of the family-owned company operating Britain's oldest brewing site in continuous operation until the relocation of the Wandsworth Ram Brewery to the Eagle Brewery in Bedford, following the formation of the Wells & Young's Brewing Company in

2006.

In addition to hosting themed food & drink specials each night, the Old Sergeant is bringing back Quiz Night on the first Monday of every month from October, along with live big-screen Premiership football, European and Six Nation rugby from Sky TV plus regular Movie Nights in the John Young Room.

Lee De Villiers has been championing the cause of friendly pubs serving quality food and real ales in a traditional community setting long before the current upsurge in demand from customers, and earned several industry and consumer awards while manager at the popular Nightingale pub in Balham over the previous seven years.

The Old Sergeant is situated close to Wandsworth town centre on Garratt Lane, which in the 18th and 19th centuries was an important exit route to the south, and has since become one of the most vibrant retail, leisure and residential roads in the Borough.

The pub is known to have existed under the same name in 1785, when a John Nash held the licence. It was later owned by Earl Spencer, and then purchased by Henry Young in 1857 and became tied to the Young's Brewery. The frontage has changed little over the years, and the doors of the old coach-house can still be seen at the right of the building.

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