

# The Lord Nelson pub in Dover reopens after £330,000 investment with new landlord Chris Bichard

By Chris Britcher  
cbritcher@thekmgroun.co.uk

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An historic riverside pub has undergone a £330,000 transformation.

The Lord Nelson in Dover has reopened after a four-month refurbishment programme which saw the removal of its conservatory and the revamp of its terrace overlooking the River Dour.



<img

Licensee of the pub, Chris Bichard"/>Licensee of the pub, Chris Bichard

In addition, part of the rear bar areas of the pub, which dates back to 1805, has been turned into a new kitchen, toilets moved and a new dining area created.

The Shepherd Neame site has views up to Dover Castle, and sits alongside the St James' Retail and Leisure Park.

The exterior has also been painted and a bespoke swing sign created. When the weather's fine, additional tables and seating will be set out at the front.

It has been overseen by new licensee Chris Bichard, who is running the business with his wife Karen.

Mr Bichard, who lives in Hempstead, is the founder of South East Coachworks in Faversham. His other business ventures have included an external catering firm called Wild Food.



The Lord Nelson has undergone a £330,000 refurb

He said: "I was looking for a new business opportunity and started looking at Dover as it is a really up and coming town. When I saw that the Lord Nelson was available, it seemed ideal. I know Shepherd Neame well and could see that the site had lots of potential due to its location next to the river and also to the new retail park.

"Our aim is to create a friendly, relaxed bar with a great food and drink offer, where everyone feels welcome."

Shepherd Neame chief executive Jonathan Neame said: "With the exciting regeneration of Dover currently under way, we thought it was the perfect time to invest in bringing the Lord Nelson back to life. Our team has done a great job bringing out the character and personality of the building. We are confident that it will prove a popular drinking and dining destination."

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- Chamber Comment wrote:

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The Tide Is Turning

The refurbishment of The Lord Nelson is another sign of the increasing commercial interest in the growth and expansion of Dover. LGPs £53 million investment in the St James Centre, Shepherd Neames characteristically sensitive upgrade of a nearby pub and CGIs plans for creating a cultural hub at Western Heights all show that there is much more to Dover than a castle and a port.

Tourism is a key element in our economy right across the East Kent coastal business community. Of course, we need to attract more of the 11 million visitors who pass through Britains busiest passenger port and encourage them to stay longer. Tourists are great customers; they come here, they spend their money and they go away again.

The Open will return to Sandwich next July and it is incumbent on all of us, workers, residents and employers alike, to make our temporary guests feel at home so that they will return again and again. This will not only stimulate employment and inward investment, but it will create an enduring legacy from the worlds top golf championship from which we will all benefit.

David Foley  
Dover District Chamber of Commerce