



STATEMENT

The Lamb & Flag (Oxford) Limited, a company wholly owned by St John's College, which operates The Lamb & Flag at St Giles, Oxford, has announced that after careful consideration, the company will close and cease operations at the public house on 31 January 2021. The public house will remain in the College's ownership and options for its future will be considered.

In March 2020 when the first lockdown was put in place, the staff were placed on the government's furlough scheme. While the public house did reopen in August 2021, it has been unable to break even.

The Lamb & Flag has been operating since at least 1566, when it was opened just south of St John's College. In 1613, the College moved the pub to its current site which is a Grade II listed building.

The Lamb & Flag (Oxford) Limited took over the management of the pub in 1997 to use the profits generated to fund scholarships for graduate students. The students on the scholarships will not be impacted by this decision and the scheme will continue for a period with funding provided directly by the College.

Steve Elston, Deputy Bursar St John's College, said: "The Lamb & Flag, like many other businesses in the hospitality industry, has been hard hit by the pandemic. Despite the best efforts of the staff and looking at every option to keep it open, the trading figures of the last 12 months have meant that the pub is not currently financially viable. Also the College as a charity is not allowed to financially support a loss-making business that is not part of its core charitable objectives. Therefore, the Directors of the Lamb & Flag (Oxford) Ltd have regrettably been obliged to close the pub. We know that it holds an important place in Oxford's history. The College would like to thank the staff of the Lamb & Flag (Oxford) Limited for their best endeavours in such challenging circumstances. The pub will remain in the College's ownership and the focus now is to work to look beyond the present situation and ensure the pub's long-term future is secured."

Notes to Editors

All enquiries should be directed to Ms Iris Burke, Bursary Manager (bursary.manager@sjc.ox.ac.uk;
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St John's College

Oxford

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Established in 1555 as a constituent college of the University of Oxford, St John's College fosters excellence in education and research and is committed to equality and diversity. It is one of the largest among Oxford Colleges and offers tuition in nearly every subject studied at the University. Today, St John's is home to approximately 390 undergraduates, 250 graduate students, 100 fellows and 25 College lecturers. A vibrant international community, it fosters intellectual rigour, creativity, and independence in its students, teachers, and researchers. The College supports a range of research activities including discussions, seminars, workshops, public lectures and visiting scholar schemes. While scholarly publication is naturally at the heart of the College's research endeavours, the Fellowship is also committed to informing policy and public debate, and to teaching that is informed by research findings.

Through the College's work on access to all aspects of its day-to-day activities, the College has due regard for its legal commitments under the Equality Act to promote equality, diversity and inclusion.