

Locals fight to save Coldplay's favourite pub

X ty x yx yx yxy xy xy xy xy xy xy Xxy xy yx yx yx yx yx yx yxy



STAR VENUE: The Ring O' Bells pub in Somerset has played host to top acts



By **Nick Craven** and **Eugene Costello**

A PUB where Kylie Minogue has hosted the quiz night and Coldplay entertained regulars faces being forced out of business, its landlord has claimed.

The Ring O' Bells in the Somerset village of Compton Martin has battled through both lockdowns to serve food and beer to their customers, delivering orders in an old Citroen 2CV van.

But music industry mogul turned landlord Miles Leonard has been dealt a further blow after the brewery that owns the pub claimed it wasn't a 'viable' business and more than doubled the rent.

Mr Leonard, 53, a former chairman of Warner Brothers Records who held charity gigs at the pub featuring acts including Coldplay, the Stereophonics and Duran Duran, said: 'When we took over, the pub looked very tired as though it was stuck in the late Seventies. It needed some love, some care and some passion to bring it back to a place that felt welcoming again.'

He does not believe that the Butcombe Brewing Company, part of the Channel Islands-based Liberation Group, is 'listening to or engaging with our community', adding: 'We have comedy nights, quizzes and



KICKER: Xyt yxt yxt xyt yxt xyt xy xyt

music. We've had Kylie twice. She said it was the first time she'd performed on a carpet rather than a stage and the first time she has hosted a pub quiz.'

He added: 'Contrary to what Butcombe have stated publicly, we are profitable. Even if we weren't, how would putting our rent up by 130 per cent make us more profitable?'

Last night, a spokesman for Butcombe said: 'We have made every effort to support the operators of the Ring O' Bells over the past few years. Ultimately, Butcombe has to ensure all properties owned by the company are viable so they can continue to serve communities in a sustainable way. It was decided to bring the pub into the managed estate to protect its future.'

The Mail on Sunday is urging readers to buy food and drink from pubs that are offering takeaway services during the second lockdown.

...but you can pick up a pint at the post office

A BOOK of stamps, a packet of Manila envelopes and a pint of beer please! A post office in South-West London has transformed itself into a makeshift lockdown pub.

With the lockdown of bars and pubs – including the Old Fields public house just yards away – the owners of Southfields Food and Wine are selling pints of draught beer.

'We've been open for three weeks and the beer is selling very well. It's been especially busy at the weekends,' the owner said when The Mail on Sunday visited last week.

Pulled from two pumps behind the counter, a pint of Wimbledon Common lager, priced at £3.95, is cheaper than most pubs. But there is no

By **Jonathan Bucks**

chance of propping up the counter to drink it.

Under strict licensing laws, customers cannot consume the beer inside the store.

Covid-19 rules say that 'businesses can continue to provide alcohol for consumption off the premises' that 'must be pre-ordered and must be collected without entering the premises'.

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government said: 'Enforcement of these rules is a matter for the local council and police.'



“JUST A BIT UNCOMFORTABLE”

JUST SPEAK TO YOUR GP

If you've had **tummy trouble** such as **bloating, diarrhoea** or **discomfort for three weeks or more**, it could be a sign of cancer. It's probably nothing serious, but finding cancer early makes it more treatable.

Your NHS is here to see you, safely.

Clear on cancer help us help you