



Simpsons Tavern statement on our forced closure

We are heartbroken to announce that Simpsons Tavern, London's oldest Chophouse, has been forced to close through the cynical actions of our landlord and their agents:

Tavor Holdings Ltd (Landlord Incorporated in Bermuda)

<https://offshoreleaks.icij.org/nodes/82019555>

Hartnell Taylor Cook Ltd (Agent)

<https://htc.uk.com/commitment/>

Memery Crystal (Solicitors)

<https://www.memerycrystal.com/> ref LAB /T0494 0006

We remain shocked and dumbfounded by the callous and unnecessary actions they have chosen. Rent has been paid for this quarter to December 2022, bookings taken, and crackers delivered

Their actions are displacing a professional workforce who have been dedicated to the values and traditions of a historic icon at the Heart of the City of London for decades and removed without care or forethought a standard in City life that has stood for Centuries.

We have sat on this site since 1757. We have survived Fires, World Wars, an industrial revolution, a plague (or pandemic as you may call it) and a mini budget for 265 years

The tables elbows rest on, in our booths, are from the underwriting room of Lloyds 2nd room and were soaked in its ink and now the Claret from generations of Brokers, underwriters, and agents, we are woven into the City's DNA

We have been here before the U.S. of A was born

We have been frequented by Charles Dickens and countless others whom to this day have bragging contests to claim who has been coming the longest (it's no longer Dickens)

We are not though, just sentimentalists. We are pragmatic:

If you have been recently, I challenge you to state that the business is failing or insolvent. Indeed, my heart has swelled with pride to see and feel the life of the city return. The booths have been alive again and queues forming in the bars. It is a fallacy to present that Simpsons is unable to go forward, a lie told by the agents to extort unfair rent and service charges for periods we, through no fault of our own, had to close during Lock down. Most Landlords have practically allowed for relief and a reasonable horizon for repayment. We too have presented what we believe to be fair to the Landlord, fully expecting them to respond with either reasonable counter or acceptance. They have not responded except with a demand for the service charge whilst the business was closed and then full repayment of all arrears

We had believed that we were in the middle of meaningful negotiations in good faith. We now believe (and had previously feared on learning their plan to sell the freehold) this action shows that the Landlord had been using this period of negotiation to deceive and run the clock out on the government arbitration process and then cynically seize the property.

They have placed the freehold for sale and rather than sell with a settled successful tenant they see the value of the freehold improved with vacant possession

Good faith has now been lost and although we are desperate to return to work and service the Landlord is now refusing to come to the table

Whilst we are bitterly disappointed by the wronghead approach by the Landlords agents and the divisive actions they are taking, we are seeking to resolve this fairly. Willing to come to the table at any point. We remain on the end of the phone. Its not like I do not have time on my hands currently.

Save Our Simpsons

We are working hard to avoid the permanent closure of Simpsons Tavern, but need you help

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/save-our-simpsons-tavern>

We have been faithfully serving up British dining history by the slice, pound or gram since 1757.

For 265 years we have stood, undaunted by fire, flood, world wars, plague (or pandemic – you choose) and even Liz Truss's premiership. Today though we have been forced into closure by the actions of a cynical landlord. Carelessly removing a city institution that has been a part of its DNA

Our locks have been changed; our lights turned out. The team displaced with stock spoiling in the fridges as the Landlord refuses to engage, seemingly determined to deliberately close the business and remove from the City of London a landmark. A centuries old venue who has placed host to generations of the market

The timing of this could not be worse, this period is critical to our revenues. We have already lost £10,000's in the weeks waiting for engagement, but also material damage to our reputation and our customers faith in bookings. We are seeing people cancel significant events at Christmas, understandably, but these cancellations will be difficult to replace and further starve revenue from the business

We are reaching out via Crowdfunder in the hope that we can generate revenue to ensure the survival of a standard in City life and support the team being displaced.

Our sector survives on hard work, slim margins, and the generosity of our customers. I would love to say I am writing this from the beach club of my Yacht, but Simpsons Tavern is unable to turn a profit significant enough for us to offer shares or bonds. On a good year, we wash our face, an exceptional year a spritz of aftershave, but the overwhelming majority we return a minimal loss. We cannot take this matter to market for funding as our sector is too high risk for banks

This is what the Landlord is deliberately leveraging. We are solvent and able to pay rent going forward and indeed contribute to the debt formed through Covid

closure. They have decided though not to look at a horizon of payment for debt, but demand all and force a liquidity issue (Given time I can pay debt, given no time I cannot)

We were closed longer than others as the City was slow to return post Covid. Working from home meant our clientele had no need to return to their offices and we spent months trying to trade through on dramatically depleted revenues, knowing or maybe hoping the City would return to life at some point and we would be there to welcome them all back. This debt is now being demanded without relief by the landlord.

We want to compensate our team for loss of earnings too, as what goes for the business, goes for the team as one does not exist without the other.

The Winter and critically Christmas is the period we are able to earn something that could support us through the quiet Summer

We are attempting to fund the team through this closure to ensure when we reopen, the team is ready to go. This is naturally draining what little resource we have, and we hope to be able to utilise some of the generosity and goodwill to support them. Simpsons Tavern has always been lucky with and generous to its staff, and in turn has seen team members give their professional lifetimes to the business. We have only just seen the departure of Jean and Sadly the passing of Maureen. They had been with the business for 43 and 42 years respectively. Coming in everyday with a smile and warm welcome for all. Jimmy in the Kitchen insists he has been here since 1758

It would be a tragedy to see this unique part of the City of London and indeed this nations history turn off the lights forever

I fear, without the support there is no road back for this historic institution. The venue and stories soaked into its walls will be lost. Once we leave, we take it all and the shell that held us, may come to market, but it will never be the same again. Another part of heritage and shared history snuffed out.

Gone will be a venue whose customers previously bragged about who had been coming the longest or ate the most Stewed Cheese and whose secrets were always kept!

I hate to beg, I am a professional who is good at their job, but the odds without support are too high, so please, I ask you

Save Our Simpsons

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/save-our-simpsons-tavern>

Please share this document freely and forward it along to anyone you feel should be aware of this circumstance

Thank you in advance