

A helping hand to expand



PROJECT

Lambert, Leonard & May at the Ancient Briton (Whitchurch)

SUPPORTED THROUGH

Redundant Building Grant Scheme

FUNDING RECEIVED

£40,000

Caroline Cattle, RBG Programme Manager and Owen Atkinson, Practice Partner

A vet's practice specialising in farm animals has been given a big helping hand to expand. And the staff are raising a glass to celebrate – because they have re-located to a former pub.

Lambert, Leonard & May Farm Veterinary Surgeons moved the five miles from Broomhall, Cheshire, to the former Ancient Briton in Old Woodhouses, near Whitchurch, Shropshire, in June 2008.

The 17th century pub closed in 2006 because of flagging custom. But it is enjoying a new lease of life as the HQ of the thriving veterinary practice after a £190,000 refurbishment carried out with the help of a £40,000 Redundant Building Grant.

The partnership, which employs 14 vets and 12 support staff, hopes the move will create even

more jobs in the next few years by boosting its client base. Lambert, Leonard & May was established in 1999 and provides a full range of services to farmers in Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire.

The new premises include offices, training/meeting room, laboratory and retail outlet.

Some original features of the building's former role have been retained including a bar counter and beer hand pump for when the practice arranges hospitality for farmers at educational meetings.

Owen Atkinson, a managing partner with Lambert, Leonard & May, said: "RBG grant support has been phenomenally useful in making this move possible and helping our focus on delivering best value to our clients."

"Basically, we are a community-based farm animal practice which is serving the local community in a similar way to the pub.

"Investing in our own premises will help us to offer the best quality service to our farm clients at the most reasonable price.

"It is more cost-effective for a business our size to own and manage our own premises rather than continue to rent buildings."

Caroline Cattle, Redundant Building Grant programme manager for Shropshire, said: "This is exactly the kind of innovative project that we are looking to support through the RBG scheme.

"This old pub has now been brought back into use, but has also helped to attract some high-value added jobs to Shropshire."

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