



HISTORIC NOTTING Hill pub restored to former glory

By Rebecca Weller

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In this week's property refurbishment round-up, we spoke to operator of the Walmer Castle in Notting Hill about the historic pub's restoration while reopening's from Admiral Taverns, Inn Collection Group and Slug & Lettuce also feature.



Walmer Castle given 'new lease of life' by independent operators





Husband and wife team Jack and Poppy Greenall, who also own the Surprise in Chelsea, will welcome customers back to the Walmer Castle pub on Ledbury Road in Notting Hill on Wednesday 1 November.

Jack Greenall told *The Morning Advertiser*: "What motivates us is finding beautiful historic pubs in fantastic locations that are crying out for a refurbishment and bringing them back to their former glory.

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"Both the Walmer Castle and the Surprise are beautiful and majestic buildings, but both needed a new lease of life, and we're very proud to have done that in both locations.

"[With the Walmer Castle] we've kept the historic features of the building, but we've managed to make it a modern operation with a fantastic kitchen and bar and beautiful interiors working with designer Isabella Worsley."

However, Greenall, who has been working on projects like this for the last eight years, added restoring historic pubs can be challenging, in particular when finding the right venue and team to work with on top of rising costs.

"It's critical to find the right the right buildings to be really sure that the investment is going in the right

places.

"[The you have to find] a supportive landlord who understands what needs to be done, then it's finding good contractors. People throw around statistics like '50% uplift in costs' and they're not wrong."

Spread over three floors, the pub's main bar area, which has been transformed to a horseshoe shaped bar, is on the ground floor while the first and second levels will be used as private event spaces.

Throughout the three floors, historic maps and references of Notting Hill sit alongside antiques sourced from markets and dealers on nearby Portobello Market and Goldborne Road. Much of the furniture in the pub and private dining room has also been reclaimed.