



## Happy New Year to all our Customers,

One of our new Years resolutions is to send out newsletters every couple of months so we can keep you up to date on what we are up to and any new ventures we are undertaking.

Thank you to all of you who used us to provide your Christmas dinners and buffet celebrations. We enjoyed providing your celebration meals and the feedback you gave us was fantastic so we are pleased and encouraged that you enjoyed it too. We intend to broaden our Christmas offerings next year to include hampers, Christmas cakes and other food items.

## The story so far

The last four years have seen us steadily grow as a business and as we expand we have begun to divide the business into specific areas.

We continue to work throughout Greater Manchester and beyond.

Our outside catering continues to offer hot and cold food options - everything from buffets, formal meals, barbecues and picnics for corporate events and family celebrations.

This year has seen us provide catering for a record number of weddings in many diverse venues.

In addition to catering we are now offering complete room dressing and table decorations.

---

Our children's complete party packages continue to be a real help to busy parents and we continue to enjoy providing fun quality traditional and themed parties with all food provided.

We have also worked on providing other children activities and holiday clubs which is an area we intend to develop this year

It also been a good year for family celebrations providing everything from afternoon tea for a diamond wedding to buffet food for christenings and baby showers.

---

Our celebration cakes have seen a surge in demand this year and we have employed additional equally talented team members to continue to grow this side of our business. Our Facebook and Instagram pages hold many pictures of our cakes- all beautifully hand made that not only look good but taste delicious.

---

We are in the process of designing our new website which will be up and running by the end of this month. You will be easily able to access all our menus but we will always be happy to provide bespoke menus that exactly fit your requirements. Will keep you posted and in the meantime please contact us for any information you require. We are always happy to visit you at home or your workplace to discuss your requirements.

## Plans for this year

At the end of January we are set to expand further with additional storage and kitchen space. In addition to our base at The Castle we will have Kitchen and storage space at Makro (now part of Bookers) on the A57 between Eccles and Irlam.

In return for this space we will be opening a Big Top café to serve all the wholesale customers who use Makro. We will be providing breakfasts, light lunches and something delicious for the afternoon. We will also be able to

show case our celebration cakes and offer sample of our various food items

If you have a Makro card come and see us from the 29th January. We will be open 7 days a week and there will be space for business meetings.

## Your custom

Your custom helps to support a community venture and provide employment for others. Big Top was formed as a company to provide delicious handmade food for all our customers but also to facilitate community space in an area of Eccles that continues to have its share of unemployment, child poverty, antisocial behaviour and family breakdown.

Ten years ago we bought our house and five years ago we found not far from us an old Cooperative shop in this area which we restored into Kitchens for Big Top, a community hall for local use and offices which are shared by like-minded businesses, social enterprises and charities.

The hall is used by various local groups as diverse as Kids Club, a Play and Stay group for children with special educational needs and a place for a local Cheerleading group to rehearse. Big Top also provides work experience and in addition to our core team provides employment opportunities for those who need a second or third chance at employment.

## Big Top and Community Connections

We have always wanted to be a business that does more than tick the Corporate, Social Responsibility (CSR) box but plays its part with other groups and agencies in transforming a neighbourhood.

(You can see our social value report in more detail on our website.)

Our extra space at Makro will mean we can move much of our Big Top equipment so The Castle can develop further as a local community centre

We also hope that with more kitchen space we will be able to provide local families with a place to learn to cook together and we have future plans to grow food together.

Without your loyal custom we would not be able to realise these plans.

## Our mission statement is

- A business committed to building family and community
- To serve our customers with excellence, exceeding their expectations
- To build ongoing relationships based on integrity and trust.
- To treat our employees with dignity and respect recognising they are our greatest asset.
- To respect our suppliers ensuring we recognise the importance of their role in providing our needs to ensure we build a strong business.
- To demonstrate a culture of servant hearted leadership and an environment of trust.
- To commit to placing our business(es) in communities where prospects are limited where we can offer time, expertise and finance, serving alongside other businesses and organisations to offer dignity and bring hope into our communities.
- To make profit that can be used to ensure the company leaves a lasting legacy that will continue to provide employment and impact communities for the generations to follow.

We look forward to 2018 and all that it will bring for you our customers, for our Big Top team and watching development of the business and The Castle Community Centre

**Dave, Judy and The Big Top Team**