

It has been a while since I last posted on our web-site and Facebook pages. I must confess I am not the most dedicated user of social media and I hope you will forgive me.

We hope very much that you, your family and friends have remained healthy and safe during these most difficult of times.

It has been one year since Edamame voluntarily closed its doors on March 15th 2020, a few days before it became compulsory for all restaurants and pubs (as well as theatres, cinemas, nightclubs and gyms) to do so. At that time we anticipated and, as it turned out rather naively, hoped for a reopening later in the summer of 2020. How wrong we were !!

This is perhaps an appropriate time to give you an update on Edamame and our hopes for a reopening later this year.

Throughout this period of extended closure we have been most fortunate to benefit from the ongoing and generous government-funded furlough scheme, various grants from Oxford City Council, and a much appreciated reduction in the rental of our premises thanks to the kind understanding of our landlords at Merton College.

My highly valued staff are all still employed by Edamame thanks to support from the furlough scheme. They regularly express their intentions to return to work at Edamame at the earliest opportunity, and Mieko and I are so thankful for their loyal support :)

Consequently I am happy to report that while Edamame has continued to make a loss as each month passes this loss has been greatly mitigated by the three sources of financial support listed above.

Whilst remaining very grateful for the many requests and suggestions from guests to offer takeout and delivery options we have declined to do so for numerous reasons.

The current government guidance states that restaurants with outdoor dining only will be allowed to open on April 12th. From May 17th indoor dining will be permitted but with various restrictions on seating arrangements. From June 21st all restrictions are due to be lifted, and in theory we will be able to "return to some kind of normal".

With this in mind my staff and I have tentatively and provisionally agreed to aim for a reopening of Edamame on Wednesday June 2nd. This is still many weeks away, and as we all know a lot can change in that time ! We will do all we can to instil in our guests the confidence to visit us inside the restaurant, and we plan to utilise many precautionary procedures to help us achieve this.

We cannot wait for the virus anxieties to subside fully so that we can fire up Edamame once more in the way we would wish - to see and chat with you, to recognise so many of you and to welcome you all into our little restaurant ! We long to serve our food to you piping hot on beautiful Japanese chinaware, and in an environment that is buzzing with warmth and friendly conversation.

So with our fingers firmly crossed for a continuing and sustained improvement in the local and national state of affairs we send you our warmest greetings, and we hope to see many of you back at Edamame in a few weeks' time !

March 17th 2021