We won't burden you with all the details of our journey through the pandemic. We are all painfully aware of how rough those times were for absolutely everybody. Suffice to say, we closed when we had to lock down, we opened when we were allowed to open, we socially distanced, took daily LFT's, adhered to the curfews, the noise restrictions, served curries rather than scotch eggs, installed hand sanitising/signing in stations and table ordering apps, wore masks and read the ever-changing covid guidelines and obeyed them. Even though our capacity under covid restrictions was reduced by around 70%, we hosted live music every week we were allowed. Trading at such a reduced capacity meant we were unable to make any money and sadly, as we had not been in business for a full year prior to the pandemic, we were unable to access a lot of financial support that was available for the industry.

So here we are...2022. Thankfully the worst seems to have passed. The trading restrictions have lifted and the world, finally, feels like it is returning to some sense of normality.

We are 2 years into our business and due to completely unforeseeable and unavoidable circumstances beyond our control, we have barely got off the ground! Whilst trade had been steadily improving, last month it started to be inconsistent. We have busy days / weeks, but also some that are quiet. As we head towards the school Summer Holidays and the world busies itself, catching up with 2 years worth of barbecue’s, get-togethers, holidays, arena gigs, theatre trips & festivals etc, trade is unlikely to stabilise.

The projects, events and marketing that had to be put on the back burner due to the pandemic, has meant that we have been unable to maximise our weekly revenue, enabling us to not rely so heavily on the weekend trade for our survival. So, we find ourselves in a precarious position. For every quiet week, every week we don't manage to hit our baseline, we start to accrue a debt. We now have absolutely no money in reserves and having had a few quiet periods over the last couple of months, we are starting to worry that perhaps our elation from our fledgling business surviving the pandemic was a little premature.

For us to survive, we urgently need cashflow, which is why we have launched this campaign. We need money to make it through the bumpy summer months trade, get us back into the black and be able to launch the projects (such as regular midweek events, a targeted marketing campaign and our in-house escape room) that will generate more income for now and the future. We need to raise £5k to survive, realistically we will need closer to £10k to make it through the summer, finish all our projects and actually start to thrive. Raising the money will be a mammoth task and as well as launching this fundraiser, we have also planned various fundraising events to take place over the next 6 weeks (The Crooked Crow Musical, The Big Fat Quiz of The Crow, The Crow Tournaments, Crow Fest).

To have jumped so many hurdles it seems unthinkable to not finish the race when we can see the finish line in sight. We have fought so hard. We have had to adapt. We have had to endure. And despite it all, we still have hope, but we desperately need your help.

We have built an absolutely epic venue, which is now more than just a spiritual home for us and our team, it is a platform for awesome new music, access to live music for the community, a proper stage for weekend rock gods, a safe space for the weird and wonderful, a welcoming environment for the lonely, a dancefloor for the rhythmically challenged, a super cool, super friendly, super inclusive, super bloomin' brilliant, independent, events bar in little old Leighton Buzzard and we absolutely love it!!!