

Michael & Pat Lergos

Businesses are so Important to Local Communities

One of the most impressive aspects of small business is when you witness the love and care the owners put into their work and then express it to their customers. Tucked away in Padstow is the wonderful couple, Michael and Pat Lergos, who run The Wild Rooster bbq chicken shop.

Vasils Vasilas recently interviewed Michael and Pat at their shop and he cannot hide just how much he enjoyed the interview, 'In all time I was at The Wild Rooster, Michael and Pat never stopped smiling and laughing; their work may have challenges, such as the long hours, but they really enjoy what they do... And they have the old fashioned Greek hospitality where I felt so welcomed...And they make such a great team together!'

Michael and Pat's story is so interesting. Michael was an electrician who did some work for Chris Stratilas, who ran Padstow's bbq chicken shop in the 1990s, and asked if Chris had any work for his wife, Pat, who was taking a break from her work as an administrative clerk. Pat's break from her work went beyond Chris' ownership, as Bob and Carol took over the shop and Pat works with her new employers for the next eight years. In a strange twist of fate, Bob and Carol sell the shop... and it is Pat and Michael who buy it! So, Pat works for two employers and ends up owning the business!

Pat and Michael have changed much in the shop over the years because customers just want the shop the way it is; they become so familiar to it that they do not want any changes.

What is amazing to see is how businesses and communities grow together. As Pat points out, 'So many families grow and move out of the area; when they visit the area again, they still drop by to say hello. It just shows the strong relationship we have built with the local community. Customers say to us, "Pat and Michael, it seems like you have always been here..." We feel part of people's lives and they are part of our lives too.'

Such mutual respect and care for one another, in this case, between Pat and Michael and the Padstow community, is what truly builds strong communities...

