



Your Community Freehouse News - February 2018

Welcome to the 9th edition of the Dog's Life. In this issue we look back at some of the events and highlights of 2017, and we look forward to the events we've got lined up for 2018.



## A VALENTINE'S FEAST

On Valentine's day we hosted Maria from WeFiFo who cooked a feast for her guests which by all accounts was delicious. See page 8 for more details.



# YEAR OF THE DOG

As you may know, as of Friday 16th February, it is Chinese Year of the Dog - so we thought we would really make this the year of the Dog.

As a result, we have a number of activities and events planned throughout the year, with dogs, and The Dog Inn, as the focus. The first is the open share offer, which was launched on Chinese New Year (Friday 16th February).

This new share offer gives people the chance to invest in The Dog Inn - either because

they missed it first time, or they are new to the village and want to get involved, or they want to extend their shareholding - all investments are welcome.

Full details can be found in the open share offer document which is available on the Dog Inn website: [www.thedoginnatbelthorn.net](http://www.thedoginnatbelthorn.net). We will keep you informed of the other events and activities we have planned as we go through the year.



## OPENING HOURS

### PUB

MON: 2pm - 7pm  
TUES: 5pm - 11pm  
WED: 2pm - 11pm  
THURS - SUN: 12 - 11pm

### COFFEE SHOP

MONDAY TO FRIDAY:  
2pm - 5pm

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
— YEAR OF THE DOG —

# The Restaurant and The Bar Manager

Unfortunately, we regret to announce that Lorraine and Andrew of Laineys Catering have decided not to continue with their franchise of the restaurant at The Dog Inn, in order to pursue other business interests. We know that their food was extremely popular and they received many excellent reviews during their few months with us.

We thank them for their time and effort, and look forward to announcing a new franchisee as soon as possible.

In addition, you may have noticed that Nick Brown is also no longer manager of The Dog Inn: he left us in October, again

due to personal reasons, and to concentrate on the Sir Charles Napier, another Community-owned pub in Blackburn. Since Nick left, Craig Steele (pictured left) has admirably stepped into the breach, on a part-time basis. We are currently assessing the need, or otherwise, of employing a manager.



## Fulfilling more of our aims...

In the last couple of months we have taken a few small steps to fulfilling more of our aims. Firstly, we have set up a Bridge Club, which meets every Wednesday evening at 8pm.

Anyone is welcome to join, from absolute beginners to more experienced players. A Bridge Club was one of the activities first listed as something people would be interested in when we started with steering groups about 3 years ago - before we had even bought the pub!

Secondly, a group of girls have set up their own drama club, and they performed their



very first show just before Christmas (see pg 3). The club is run by, and for, children in the village, with a token adult on the premises just to ensure "crowd control"! It is open to anyone from Year 5 upwards, and although is currently all girls, boys would be most welcome. The group wrote their

own panto, and are looking to do another production just before the summer holidays.

They currently meet every Monday, 4.00 - 5.00, upstairs in the Community Room, and attendance is free, although regular attendance is expected wherever possible.

We are still looking at activities for teenage boys, and also for the younger members of our adult community – those between 18 and 30 – who are perhaps less into bridge, karaoke, or drama! If you have any ideas about activities / clubs / events for this age group we would appreciate the input.

# Taking Centre Stage

On 22nd December, 10 girls from the village performed their very own drama production. Called "A Christmas Curse" it was written by Georgie Brown and Georgi Thorpe, with songs adapted by Georgie Brown, Georgi Thorpe and Alice Nuttall.

The exclusive performance was done to a full house in the Community room - and here's what some of the audience had to say about it.

*"A thoroughly enjoyable panto with a good story line which brought all the audience together with cheers, boos and singalong highlights. Lovely to see families from the village and beyond come together with the bonus of meeting the cast*



*and their families after. Lovely atmosphere. Already looking forward to the next one."* **John & Liz Creasey**

*"I congratulate the girls on their performance. I believe it was written, produced and performed in, if I remember*

*rightly, 6 weeks - they should be proud of themselves. I look forward to the next one. I am pleased to see a teenage group starting up in the Dog Inn and hope they carry on."* **Diane Fallon**

## A New Collaboration

We are pleased to announce a couple of joint ventures with the Civic Arts Centre, Oswaldtwistle. Like the Dog Inn, the Civic Arts Centre is Community-run, and they have offered to come to the Dog Inn to put on some events.

The first is a World Book Day celebration in the form of a Gruffalo-themed party for younger children. This will take place on Sunday 25th February, from 3 – 5pm in the Community Room upstairs at the Dog Inn. The cost will be £7.50, to include a two hour party, including buffet tea, a colouring competition, Gruffalo-themed



games, a full telling of the Gruffalo story, and an exclusive appearance by the Gruffalo, with a chance for the children to get their photo taken with him.

Tickets are available from the Civic Arts Centre, Oswaldtwistle, on 01254 398319. Or go

to: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/civicartscentre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/civicartscentre).

The second event we are organising is a drama workshop for our older children (ages 10 – 16). This will take place on Sunday 29th April, 2 – 6pm. The workshop will include warm-up games, script work and improvisation, leading to a short performance at the end of the day which parents can come and watch. The event will be run by staff from the Civic Arts Centre, and will cost £8 per child. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis, from The Dog Inn.





# Dates for the Diary

## WEEKLY EVENTS:

**Every Monday: 4-5pm: Drama group** for year 5 children upwards (see page 2)

**Every Tuesday, 2-4pm:**  
**Craft and Chat in the Coffee Shop**

**Every Wednesday, 8pm: Bridge Club**

**Every Thursday, 8pm: Quiz Night**

**Saturday 24th February, 9pm: A Rock & Roll Doctor's Tale** Stephen John Hartley, talking about the book and playing the album "Painting Snails", with band Weregulls and "On the Wire's" Fenny compering and DJing.

**Sunday 25th February, 3 - 5pm: Gruffalo Party** including buffet tea, themed games, a full telling of the Gruffalo story, and an appearance by the Gruffalo, with a chance for the children to get their photo taken with him. Tickets (£7.50) from Civic Arts Centre, Oswaldtwistle, on 01254 398319. Or go to: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/civicsartscentre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/civicsartscentre)

**Friday 2nd March, 2 - 4pm: Dementia Nurses Coffee Afternoon.** Join us to raise funds for this very worthy cause. Donations of cakes and biscuits also appreciated.

**Saturday 3rd March, 9pm: Live music with the ever-popular Blowjangles** with Fenny as DJ from 8pm. Free admission, all welcome.

**Sunday 11th March, 2-6pm:**  
**Open Mic:** all welcome.

**Tuesday 13th March, 7-8pm: Members Surgery:** Your chance to meet Board members with your ideas, suggestions and comments.

**Sunday 18th March, 2.30pm: Informal Church Service** in the Community Room: all welcome.

**Tuesday 20th March, 7.30pm:**  
Jennie is going to give us another of her fascinating talks in what is now becoming an anticipated annual event!

**Saturday 31st March, 9pm: Live music with The Monkeymen.** Free admission, all welcome.

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**Monday 2nd April, 2pm: Easter Egg Hunt** for the children, with lots of prizes. All welcome.

**Sunday 8th April, 2-6pm: Open Mic:** all welcome

**Tuesday 10th April, 7-8pm: Members Surgery:** Your chance to meet Board members with your ideas, suggestions and comments.

**Sunday 15th April, 2.30pm: Informal Church Service in the Community Room:** all welcome.

**Tuesday 17th April, 7.30pm: History Society meeting:** Lez Scott of Blackburn College is kindly coming to see us to talk about local history, especially that of Belthorn, Guide and The Grane.

**Saturday 28th April, 9.30pm: Live music with Mark Griffiths.** Free admission. All welcome.

**Sunday 29th April, 12 - 2pm: Dog Show.**  
More information to follow

**Sunday 29th April, 2 - 6pm: "Mad Dogs" - Youth Drama Workshop,** with actors from the Civic Theatre, Oswaldtwistle. The workshop will include warm-up games, script work and improvisation, leading to a short performance at the end of the day which parents can come and watch (free admission to the performance). Workshop is for ages 10 - 16. Reserve a place for £8 per person, the Dog Inn.

**Saturday 19th May: Royal Wedding Party**  
More details to follow.

**Saturday 30th June: 1940s day: to celebrate Armed Forces Day** - organised by the village committee. More details to follow.

**Saturday 30th June, 9.30pm: Live music with local band, Lowriderz.** Free admission. All welcome..

# NORTHWEST CHIMNEY SWEEP

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Phone: Yvonne on 07711 848994

## CALLING POTENTIAL ADVERTISERS

**Do you have anything to sell, or  
would you like to advertise your  
business in the Dog's Life.**

Produced three to four times per year,  
Dog's Life goes out to all Dog Inn  
shareholders, as well as all village  
residents.

Adverts cost £20 for a full page, £10 for  
half a page and £5 for a quarter page.  
Please contact us for further details.

tel 01254 433188

[admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net](mailto:admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net)



The Dog Inn at Belthorn Community Freehouse

## Belthorn Academy Primary

Places available in Reception, and also  
in the Pre-School for 3 & 4yr olds.

Please call in and see us,  
or contact Mrs Banyard:  
tel: 01254 55620

e-mail: [sbm@belthornacademy.co.uk](mailto:sbm@belthornacademy.co.uk)





# Patrick's

## TEA & COFFEE SHOP



### - WHAT'S ON -

#### AFTER SCHOOL TREATS EVERYDAY 2-5PM

Don't forget we have a selection of delicious cakes, biscuits, cold & hot drinks, tuck shop sweets, & ice cream. The after-school winter favourite is Patrick's special hot chocolate, served with cream & plenty of marshmallows. Watch out for our specials, we will be offering a different hot chocolate special every week!

#### CRAFT & CHAT EVERY TUESDAY FROM 2PM

Do you like papercraft or to knit, stitch, crochet, draw or make things? Bring your craft along & join us in Patricks tea and coffee shop for a creative afternoon.

#### FRESHLY MADE SANDWICHES THURSDAY & FRIDAYS

Every Thursday and Friday we have a selection of freshly made sandwiches.



### CHARITY COFFEE AFTERNOON

FRIDAY 2ND MARCH 2018, 2-4PM



**Everyone loves a cup of tea, sweet treat and a good old natter – don't they!** So why not call in to our coffee shop, have a cuppa and enjoy your favourite bakes with family, friends and colleagues, while helping our specialist dementia nurses support more families facing dementia. Admiral nurses work with dementia sufferers and their families, offering specialist one to one support, expert advice and practical solutions to the problems they experience. Their support is invaluable and more nurses are needed. All proceeds from cakes & biscuits will be donated to the charity. **Donations of cakes & biscuits would be most welcome.**



#### VOLUNTEERS

A huge thank you to all of the volunteers who have worked in the coffee shop over the past two years since opening, all their hard work and time is very much appreciated. If you are interested in helping out by volunteering, learning barista skills and becoming part of our friendly team, please don't hesitate to contact us via Facebook or email [admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net](mailto:admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net) or call in.

# Maria's 'WeFiFo' Pop-Up

On 14th February, Maria Grieco, from WeFiFo, hosted a Valentine's Pop-up feast in the restaurant. WeFiFo (short for We Find Food) is the new social eating craze, which provides people with their own real-life "Come Dine with Me" experience.

Our event was attended by over 20 people, who were treated to a fantastic spread of tapas and Mediterranean food. The seating was arranged in large communal tables and the food was put in large dishes to be shared, meaning that people could try anything that they wanted, and have as much, or as little, of each dish as they



desired. The evening was a great success, and as a result, Maria is planning two more such events - this time in aid of charity. The first one will be on Saturday 10th March, 7.30pm, where £10 from each ticket sale will

be donated to the newly formed junior section of the **Blackburn and Darwen Brass Band**. This will help the junior section to pay for instruments, uniforms and music. Tickets are £22 per person, and can be booked on-line at [www.wefifo.com/event/784782854467630](http://www.wefifo.com/event/784782854467630).

The second charity event will be on Saturday 24th March, 7.30pm, and will be in aid of the **Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)**. Tickets are also £22 and can also be booked on-line at [www.wefifo.com](http://www.wefifo.com).



## LAMB FOR YOUR FREEZER

OUR LAMBS ARE BORN AND RAISED IN BELTHORN, AND ARE A TRADITIONAL BRITISH BREED.

We have frozen lamb available throughout the year - from single joints and chops, to half / whole lambs (butchered and bagged) to go in your freezer.



For more info or if you would like to order please contact Yvonne on 07711 848994 or e-mail: [brown70yvonne@gmail.com](mailto:brown70yvonne@gmail.com)



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