



Welcome to the 5th Dog's Life. In this issue, we provide some feedback from our 1st AGM and your comments & suggestions. We introduce our members of staff and we report on a hugely successful 'Pioneer Pubs Event' which the Dog Inn co-hosted.


BELTHORN'S OLYMPIC FUN DAY

A PIONEERING PUB

On 22 July people from 12 groups campaigning to buy their local pubs came on a Study Visit to The Dog Inn. This visit was part of a two day programme visiting 3 community owned pubs across north England. The group was given a tour and history of The Dog Inn, a buffet lunch and a chance to network at the bar or coffee shop. A seminar on raising finance for community owned pubs was delivered by our chair, Dave Hollings.

Everyone involved in this event did The Dog Inn proud. Emma and her team delivered the best of Belthorn hospitality. Thanks especially to our volunteers, Diane, Jean, Florence and Kath for their efforts.

Visit organiser Charlotte Foster said: "May I say just how much we enjoyed the visit on Friday. It really was fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed by each and everyone of us!"

"To receive such a warm welcome and such kind hospitality - it was all quite overwhelming and I have to say I felt that our time at The Dog Inn was the highlight of our tour and a great way to finish off the pioneering pub event."

The Study Visit was part of the More than a Pub Project funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and Power to Change."

On Saturday 6th August, the village committee hosted an Olympic-themed fun day at the Dog Inn, which included BBQ, Dog Show, pony rides and much, much more.

A year ago, before we had bought the pub, being able to host this sort of Community event was just a dream: but it is now a dream that has come true, and a dream that we were able to share with other groups hoping to run their own community pubs in the "More than a Pub" project.



Open Hours:

Daily: 12pm - 11pm

Open until 11.30pm on Thursdays for Quiz Night

Coffee Shop

Mon to Fri: 2pm - 5pm

Annual General Meeting

The Dog Inn (Belthorn) Ltd held its first Annual General Meeting on Wed 25th May 2016. This was well attended, with nearly 30 shareholders present.

Prior to the AGM, Andy Bain had notified the Board of his intention to step down, and we would like to thank him for all his hard work during the first year of the project, especially for all his work on the procurement side of the business.

We had two new nominations for Board members (Craig Steele and Dave Taylor), and as our rules allow us to have up to 12 Board members, we were delighted to be able to accept both onto the Board.

At a Board meeting following the AGM, the roles and responsibilities of the new Board were decided, and these are as follows:

Chair: Dave Hollings

Vice Chair: Kevin Kraushaar

Secretary: Kathryn Sharpe

Treasurer: Dave Taylor

Marketing, Refurb and HR teams were also set up.

During the AGM we asked members present for their feedback on things that the Board had done well so far, and things that we could have done better.

We also asked for suggestions for the future. We had a lot of positive feedback, with many people commenting on the friendly staff, the warm and welcoming atmosphere, the cosy coffee shop and the fantastic work done by the refurb team.

However, a few negative issues were raised, and we would now like to take this opportunity to

You said: *Our range of real ales is too small.* Our response: We are limited on the number of real ales we can sell at one time by consumption, as the real ales have a very short shelf life once opened: if we have too many casks open at once, the beer will go off resulting in wastage. However, there has been a suggestion, now that business is picking up, that we do offer a "guest ale": this will probably happen in the next few weeks and will be on a trial basis.

You said: *The coffee shop is not open long enough.* Our response: We are limited on coffee shop opening hours by the availability of volunteers. However, to help address this situation, the bar is now open from 12 noon daily, and the staff have been trained on the use of the coffee machine, etc, so that if we are short of volunteers, there is still the capacity to open the coffee shop. Opening hours of the coffee shop and the bar will continue to be reviewed.

You said: *The restaurant is taking too long.* Our response: The refurbishment team have had to concentrate their efforts on the upstairs room, as we already have bookings for this room and the grant for this expires soon. Once this is completed, work on the restaurant & kitchens can get under way.

respond to these, see below for your comments & our response.

You said: *The shop needs to be opened.* Our response: We had a significant delay on the shop due to the requirement for "change of use" planning consent. However, this has now been granted, and we are looking for help with setting up and organising the shop.

You said: *Food should be served from the coffee shop - preferably home-made.* Our response: Environmental Health Officers have told us that we cannot sell any food that is not individually packaged until we have a dedicated hand-wash basin in the coffee shop. Due to plumbing issues this has taken a while to sort out, but is now done. We will shortly be able to sell sandwiches, toasties, etc. However, we are still not permitted to sell home-made food (& cakes) if it has been made on a premises not licensed by Environmental Health. Once we get the upstairs kitchen refurbished, we may have an option to make food/bake up there to sell in the coffee shop.

You said: *The community gardens are taking too long.* Our response: We are using volunteers to help us wherever possible, and as such we work to their time-scales. We are very grateful to Terry Holden, and to Chris Nuttall for doing some ground works on the back field so that we can get moving with this area of the project.

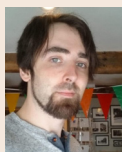
Meet our staff...



Emma (Manager), age 36. I have lived in nearby Waterside for 12 years. Until taking a permanent position at the Dog Inn I worked as an antique dealer. I found out about the Dog Inn through Dave Hollings and volunteered myself for a shift having worked in a bar before - you've not been able to get rid of me since! I feel proud & blessed to be part of the Dog Inn. The constant commitment of the volunteers and how the community comes together inspires me everyday.



Lucy, age 38. Married to Mark for 14 years, I have 3 children. I moved to Oswaldtwistle from London 18 years ago and now work at a primary school in Accrington as a Teaching Assistant. I adore every minute, it's like having 28 extra children of your own! I have been at the Dog Inn since it re-opened and love interacting with the customers and the community.



Corey, age 25. I live with my partner, and my 2 sons, Evan (5) & Oliver (8 months). I have worked at the Dog Inn since Jan 2016. It's safe to say that I love the pub, the community and my job. I also promote, teach and take part in professional

wrestling, mainly a group called RWL which is the one I run. I pride myself on my ability to talk to anyone and everyone. Barman by day, spandex-wearing 'warrior' by night, but a family man all the time.



Sammie, age 18. I have lived in the village all my life and my grandparents lived here too. I love working at the Dog Inn, there is never a dull moment. I'm currently awaiting my exam results in Psychology, Law & Media, I hope to follow the route of psychology in a future career.



Chantelle: I started work at The Dog Inn last January as the cleaner, I work every morning and love the 'pub smell' that I get when I walk through the door! The cleaning itself gives me good exercise and I love the walk to the pub, come rain or

shine (or even snow!) I also work as an intermediary alongside the Court & Police to help them communicate with deaf clients whose language level is considerably low. At home I have 4 beautiful children and my husband Dave.



Dates for the Diary

20th August
Live Band - Knotted

Mon 22nd August, 7.30pm
The Village Committee Meeting
Preceded at 7pm by PACT (Police and Community Together) meeting.

Friday 26th August 8pm
Live Recording session with Jennie Cook

Sat 10th September, 11am (Church Event) Planting seeds, growing friends. Planting bulbs around the village.

Monday 12th September, 6pm
Family Games Night. Join in with Jenga, Scrabble, Dominoes, Connect 4, etc or bring your own. Games donations appreciated!

Sunday 18th September, 2.30pm
Harvest Service, (feat. Brass Band)

Sat 24th September, 8pm
Howard Haigh, Classical Guitarist
Tickets: £4-£7 from the bar / 01254 433188

Sat 1st October, 11am - 1pm
Macmillan Coffee Morning. Join us to raise funds for this worthwhile cause: donations of cakes & biscuits gratefully appreciated.

Sat 19th November, 9pm.
Live Band - Lowriderz. Superb rock covers band, playing 60s, 70s, 80s & 90s.

Members' Surgery: 2nd Monday of the month, 7-8pm. For shareholders to share their comments & suggestions.

Open Mic: 2nd Sunday of the month, 2-6pm. Everyone welcome!

Quiz Nights: Every Thurs night, 8pm. Come along and join in the fun!

Knit & Knatter: Every Tues, 2-4pm

The History Society
3rd Monday of the month, 7.30pm

Football: Village footballers play 6-a-side at DW sports every Tues 7-8pm & enjoy drinks afterwards. Contact 07411 054389

Darts & Dominoes

We are looking for keen players to come and play in local Thwaites leagues. Speak to a member of staff if you're interested.

Charity Events

As you may be aware, we have organised some coffee mornings, to raise money for various charities.

Our first one, the Macmillan Coffee Morning, back in September 2015 during the middle of the refurbishment of the bar and coffee shop, managed to raise £400.

Since then, we have also hosted an Admiral Nurses coffee morning, which raised over £150. We also have various charity boxes: one for "Only Foals & Horses" which has raised over £20, and another for The East Lancs Hospice, which has raised £80. Also a collection in memory of Jim Fletcher, who opened The Dog Inn in Nov 2015, but sadly lost his battle with cancer in May 2016, has raised over £150.

Produce Wanted

With our Food Hygiene training due to be completed next month, we're looking to speak to people who wish to sell their produce through our shop. Offerings must be food hygiene compliant.

Anyone interested in this please email: admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net and supply details of your produce you would like to sell in our shop.



Enjoying a quick refreshment break at Holden's Ice Creams

THE BELTHORN HOP

The Belthorn Hop Bike Ride took place on 2nd July. The weather was kind to us and actually didn't rain!

14 riders took part in the 24 mile round trip, which started at The Dog Inn and took in the sights of Tockholes, Belmont and Edgworth. We even managed an ice-cream stop at Holden's Ice-Cream in Edgworth - who now supply ice-creams to the Dog Inn.

We had a great time with some laughs along the way. It all ended with some heart warming food in The Dog Inn which managed to raise £75 for the village committee.

A great time was had by all, and we're definitely going to organise more rides in the future. Many thanks also to Garry Ryan for following us around in the van to provide help and support where necessary - he was great!

THANK MOO!

We'd like to thank village dairy farmer, Andy Nuttall, for supplying free milk to our coffee shop since Nov 2015. His milk is available for delivery throughout Belthorn & now also available to buy from the Dog Inn.