



Welcome to the 3rd edition of Dog's Life. As you probably will have noticed, we successfully re-opened in the middle of November. It is still 'work in progress' but the pints are being pulled and you are all very welcome for drink and a nousey around!



THE BIG LAUNCH...

We are having an official re-opening and launch on Friday 11th December, (6.30pm for 7pm start) where there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony performed by Jim Fletcher, B.E.M and a fantastic firework display organised by Clive Carroll.

We are hoping that the press will be present and that we'll get loads of great publicity. In the meantime, it is both **your pub** and **our pub**, so **you are all very welcome!!!**

A soft-launch for the volunteers on 14th November was hugely successful, a great way to thank all those who donated their time and expertise to help with the purchase and refurbishment of the Dog Inn.

As well as the coffee shop and village shop, a few more services will be available.

Littlers, the Ribble Valley butchers who live in the village, will be running an order/delivery service from the shop, where you can phone through an order for fresh meat, which will then be delivered to the Dog Inn that evening, for collection.

The Vegetable Van will also still be visiting Wednesday mornings, 10 - 10.30am. There will also be free wifi available in both the pub & coffee shop.

Where possible, we aim to stock and use local produce, we already have beers from the Three Bees brewery being served. Also, Belthorn artist, Elspeth Thomson is selling her, hand-crafted cards in the shop.

These are really distinctive cards, great for marking that special occasion.

Initially we have limited opening hours but if you would like to hire the pub for any events outside of opening hours, please contact us either via the Pub, or email bookings@thedoginnatbelthorn.net. Outside caterers can also be arranged for events.

Open Hours:

Mon to Wed: 5pm - 11pm
Thurs: 5pm - midnight
Fri: 1pm - midnight
Sat: 12pm - midnight
Sun: 12pm - 11pm

Christmas Open Hours:

Christmas Day: 11am - 2pm
Boxing Day: 12pm - 6pm

Patrick's Coffee Shop



As well as the bar area, we have now also opened our coffee shop, opening hours at the moment are:

Coffee Shop:

Mon to Fri: 2pm - 5pm
Saturday: 10am - 12noon

However, due to the Christmas parties taking place, the Coffee shop won't be open on Saturday mornings until Saturday 19th December

Unfortunately the village shop will take a little longer to launch as it requires 'change of use' planning permission, hopefully this is due to open early in 2016.

In the meantime our team of Belthorn baristas have been getting to grips with grinding, tamping & frothing on our new coffee machine. We have chosen Exchange Coffee Company to supply us with equipment and more importantly their award winning roasted coffee beans.

Our menu has a full range of freshly ground speciality coffees, teas & children's warm or cold drinks. As the chilly nights draw in why not try our delicious Patrick's Special Hot Chocolate? A treat that is served with foamed milk, topped with marshmallows and dusted with chocolate. A small range of snacks are also available including crisps, biscuits & cakes.

To reduce costs, we are running our coffee shop (and in due course, the village shop) totally with

the help of volunteers - and whilst we have a great team of volunteers, we are always looking for more, so if you can spare any time on weekday afternoons, please contact Diane at 132 Belthorn Road.



Dates for the Diary

Big Opening

Fri 11th Dec: 6.30pm

The "Young at Heart" Over 60s Christmas Party:

Sat 12th Dec, 2pm onwards

Carols Round The Xmas Tree:

Sun 22nd Dec: 8pm

Dog Inn Quiz Nights

We have introduced a quiz night every Thursday, 8.30pm - come along and join in the fun! It costs £1 per person to enter, and the bar will be open till midnight.

A number of groups also meet regularly at the Dog Inn and would welcome new members. These include:

The History Society

3rd Monday of month, 7.30pm

The Village Committee

Mon 7th Dec: 7.30pm
(the PACT meeting takes place from 7pm). Held bi-monthly, on the 1st Monday of the month at 7.30pm.

Community Gardens

As you may know, the purchase of the pub also included the land at the back - a field of about 2 acres.

The plan is to develop some of this land into "community gardens" and Garry Ryan has offered to be the volunteer manager for this. We have also been awarded over 400

free trees by the Woodland Trust, which we will be planting along the bottom boundary of the field to create a wind-break and nature belt. We are hoping to get the trees planted early in the new year - watch this space, we will be needing a load of volunteers!

SOLD OUT

All the £180,000 worth of our shares have now been sold, and we have a waiting list in place for anyone who still wishes to buy shares.

Anyone who bought shares should soon be receiving their share certificate and details of the Small Enterprises Investment Scheme (SEIS).

Christmas Lights

You will remember that villager, Samantha Edwards did the Great North Run, raising money for Christmas lights for our Christmas tree in the process.

However, Hyndburn Council have now very kindly agreed to provide the lights for the tree this year, so Sam has been looking at other ways of brightening up the village for Christmas.

Unfortunately, all the ideas, such as wreaths attached to the lamp-posts, come with lots of regulations and red tape. She has been advised that it is too late to organise for this year, but she plans to take these issues up with the Council again next year, in plenty of time for Christmas 2016.

Sam has spent a little of her budget inside our pub with some gorgeous handcrafted decorations which certainly add to the Christmas sparkle.

Welcome to Shane



Unfortunately, the bar manager we originally appointed, decided not to continue in his employment at the Dog Inn - but we have been extremely fortunate to be able to recruit a replacement, Shane Gould.

"I started my passion for pub work at 16 collecting glasses in The Ship, a local pub in Reigate owned by a friend of my mum. At 18 I started working for Luminar Leisure where I worked my way up to an operations manager. I move into Mitchells & Butlers (M&B) a few years later and worked my way through three brands and 4 pubs to Assistant Manager.

I'm now very excited about my next project at the Dog Inn. I'm looking forward to having creative control of the business and not being tied down to a branded business with no control over anything.

The thought of working with the group of people we have at the Dog Inn was far too exciting for me to look away from.

It's an amazing feeling to work with people as passionate as myself for the business I'm running and to receive the support and confidence I already have from the people that have worked so hard to have the pub at the heart of their village back where it belongs - in the hands of the community of Belthorn.

I am looking forward to securing the Dog Inn as a sustainable business that will be around for many years to come."

We are all very excited to work alongside Shane who is full of ideas and enthusiasm for our Community Freehouse.

A work in progress...



Since the Macmillan coffee morning (pictured above on September 29th), the bar area has been completely transformed.

In just over 2 months the team of volunteers have achieved a fantastic result.

We would again like to thank everyone who has supported our unique venture with their time, effort and donations.

The next phase of the refurbishment should soon be underway after we all have a deserved break for Christmas, which sees The Dog Inn back at the heart of village festivities. Any further volunteers would be most welcome to join the team.



As our name would imply, the Dog Inn is a dog-friendly pub, and well-behaved (and accompanied) dogs are most welcome, but please keep them on leads and off furniture.

Accompanied children are also very welcome (until 9.30pm). Indeed, we have a selection of drinks specially for your children, including hot chocolate and milk shakes at just £2 each. There is also a selection of games and colouring activities for children to do whilst in the pub or cafe.

Quiz Night

The first quiz night at the Dog Inn was held on Thursday 3rd December. It was attended by over 64 participants, and was a great success.

Well done to "Andy's Angels" - the winning team comprising Andy, Jean, Christine, Judith, Jennie, Lucy and Alison - who scored a close 1-point win with 28 points, over the Bank Fold Wallies (Elsbeth, James and Steve). The Play-Your-Cards-Right section was not won, so the £40 prize money will roll over to next week, so it's



all to play for next Thursday. Once the Play-Your-Cards-Right prize pot gets to £500, any further entry money will go into the Pub Charity Pot, which is going to raise money for the East Lancs Hospice. A great hit was the chocolate

round, where the person who correctly shouted out the right answer got thrown a chocolate bar! If you missed it, come along on Thursdays, from 8.30pm to join in the fun - it's just £1 per person to enter!

For further information:

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The Dog Inn at Belthorn Community Freehouse