



Welcome to the anniversary edition of the Dog's Life. In this issue we look back at the developments, achievements and events over the past 12 months, since opening our doors on the 11th December 2015.


**LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION**

## AWARDS FINALISTS

**The Dog Inn has made it to the finals in the Community Ownership Awards 2016, the only national awards programme recognising community co-operation around the UK.**

The Community Ownership Awards are run by Plunkett Foundation, the national charity supporting people to set up and run community co-operatives – businesses that are owned and run democratically by large numbers of people from within their local area, helping overcome issues ranging from isolation and loneliness to poverty. The Awards celebrate inspiring people in rural areas working together to improve their communities and to raise awareness about community ownership.

We are absolutely thrilled to be named as finalists for this prestigious award, which again shows the Dog Inn to be an inspirational example of Community Ownership. We would like to thank all our members, staff, and volunteers, whose hard work and dedication have helped us on this journey, and our customers, who have supported us, and will hopefully continue to do so as we move the business forward in the coming months.

The winners were announced at a special ceremony in London on 28th November, and although the Dog Inn was not the winner in our category we are still thrilled that we got to the final, and maybe we will be a winner in future years.

**On 4th November, Burnley's David Fishwick, from "The Bank of Dave" came to the pub with film company Ricochet, who are part of Warner Brothers.**

David is putting together a documentary, due to be shown January 2017. The documentary will be a new 1 x 60 minute programme for Channel 4 Television with the working title Dave's Guide to Spending Money.

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### Open Hours:

Daily: 12pm - 11pm

Open until 11.30pm on

Thursdays for Quiz Night

### Coffee Shop

Mon to Fri: 2pm - 5pm

Sat: 10 - 12pm

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As well as exploring where our money goes when we pay for various goods and services and whether they are worth what we pay for them, he will be meeting and talking with inspiring communities and social entrepreneurs.

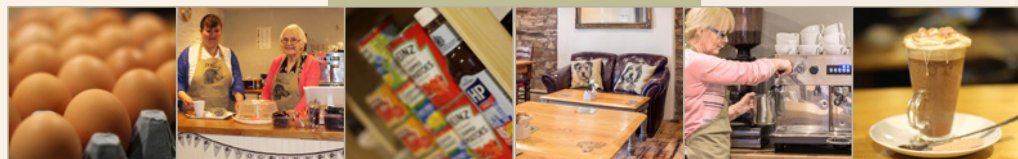
It was for this part of the programme that he came to visit The Dog Inn, in order to showcase a community owned pub that's become a successful social enterprise.

Dave and his team came along to the pub and spent a number of hours speaking to the customers, bar staff,

and board members and interviewing people regarding their experiences of the pub and how the idea for a community pub was started and developed. It was a fun and nerve-wracking day so keep your eyes open for your pub on Channel 4 in January!!

## Patrick's

VILLAGE & COFFEE SHOP



**On Saturday 19th November, we held the official opening of the Coffee Shop and the Community Shop. We were very honoured to have Malcolm Harrison, from Pub is the Hub, to officially open these elements of the business.**

Pub is the Hub are an organisation of specialist voluntary advisors for rural pubs and licensees who are thinking of broadening their range of services. They encourage good licensees, communities, pub owners, breweries, local authorities and the private sector to work together to match community priority needs with additional services which can be provided by the local pub and a good licensee. Pub is

the Hub has been extremely supportive of our community venture, and Malcolm Harrison attended many of the very first Community meetings



Patrick's Official Opening

that we had, when we were still exploring the possibility of buying the pub as a Community project.

We have also been extremely fortunate in obtaining £4000 in grant funding from Pub is the Hub, which has been used in

the development of the coffee shop and the community shop.

If you haven't been into the coffee shop for a while, you may be interested to know that we have expanded our range of food and snack items. We are now regularly open on Saturday mornings, serving breakfast items such as bacon teacakes, sausage teacakes, scrambled egg on toast, beans on toast and tinned tomatoes on toast.

During our weekday opening hours we also now offer toasted fruit bread and toasted crumpets. We have recently purchased a chiller cabinet, so have been able to increase the range of cakes on offer to include cream cakes and scones.

**Patrick's Village & Coffee Shop - Opening Times**  
Monday - Friday: 2pm - 5pm    Saturday: 10am - 12 noon

# OUR BUSY YEAR



**Our first event, part-way through the refurbishment of the bar, and before the official opening, was a Macmillan Coffee Morning, at the end of September 2015. We had a great turnout, with a lot of people interested to see how the refurbishment was progressing, and we made nearly £400 for Macmillan.**

Our official opening, by Jim Fletcher, was held on December 11th 2015, and we welcomed a large number of shareholders to this event. Everyone agreed that the

transformation within the pub was outstanding, and the bar had a much airier, more welcoming feel than before.

Regular events have since been introduced and have proven to be extremely popular. These include the weekly quiz nights on Thursdays from 8pm, and Open Mic sessions, on the second Sunday of every month. Music has proved to be very successful at the Dog Inn, and we have had a number of bands performing live over the last year, including "Knotted", "Lowrider", "Blowjangles"

and "The Monkey Men". In a slightly different vein, our first formal function in the converted community rooms upstairs was a fantastic Spanish guitar evening with Howard Haigh, as part of the Spot-On Lancashire Touring Arts programme. We hope to bring you more events from the Spot-On programme in the months to come.

Other events that have been introduced on a more regular basis include the "Knit and Natter" sessions on Tuesday afternoons, and occasional

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# "BACK AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY"



family games nights when families can come together to play scrabble, jenga, connect 4, dominoes and other fun games.

True to our promise to be of service to the Community, we have also hosted a number of community-run events during the last twelve months. These started off with the traditional Carols around the Christmas Tree, and have also included a Children's Christmas Party,

an Easter Party, and an Olympic Fun Day. This year we will again be hosting the Children's Christmas Party, the Over 60's Party, and Carols Round the Christmas Tree. Other regular events which have been taking place throughout the year include the Village Committee meetings, meetings of the History Society, and we have recently started informal church services on the third Sunday of each month in the

Community room upstairs, to which all are welcome. We also paid tribute to Jim Fletcher, who passed away in the spring, by holding his wake in the pub - a fitting tribute to such a well-loved, community-minded man, who had honoured us by opening the pub just a few months before his death.

We have had visits from a number of other groups from around the country who are in the process

of buying their own community pubs, or are hoping to be able to buy their own community pubs. The first event was the "Pioneer Pubs event" organised by the Plunkett Foundation, where we were able to showcase what we had done in the Dog Inn, and help other groups on their journey to owning their own community pub. As a result of this event, a second group, from the Plough Inn, Covernham, Norfolk, came

in October to also look at what we have done, and to discuss some of the finer points of the process with board members.

One of the first changes we made in the pub was the introduction of Patrick's Coffee Shop. This has proved to be extremely popular with the families in the village, and also attracts custom from the parents on the afternoon school run. Patrick's Special Hot

Chocolate is a firm favourite with the children, especially in the winter months, with Holden's ice-cream being preferred when the weather is warmer. The coffee shop is now in the process of expanding to provide hot snacks, such as bacon sandwiches, fruit toast, crumpets and pastries, and we are also developing the offering in the village shop. Eggs, from local farmer Andy Nuttal, are proving to be very popular, and we



also now stock a range of other items including milk, bread, pasta and pasta sauces, tins, tea, sugar and the Lancashire Telegraph. Call in to take a look at what is on offer, as we are continually expanding our range. We are extremely grateful to our loyal band of volunteers, who run the coffee shop in an extremely professional and friendly manner, and without whom we wouldn't be able to open the coffee shop.

As you may have noticed, the refurbishment of the upstairs community rooms took a little while longer than had at first been anticipated: this was largely due to the constraints of trying to conduct

refurbishment work with the pub open and full of customers. However, if you get a chance to attend a function upstairs, we think you will agree that the room makes an excellent addition to what the pub has to offer, and will suit a wide variety of uses. We are once again extremely grateful to the refurb team for all their hard work and dedication in undertaking such a fantastic transformation.

Following on from the upstairs work, refurbishment has now begun on the kitchens and restaurant. The plan is to complete the required work, and to then look for a franchisee to run the restaurant on our behalf. More information

will follow about this in due course.

Last but not least, you may have noticed a large amount of work taking place on the field at the back of the pub. Earlier in the year, we had a tree-planting day, when over 400 trees were planted along the lower boundary. Since then, a new fence has been erected around the car park, and tonnes of soil have been brought in to level off the area, in preparation for the creation of the community gardens in the near future. Thanks go to all those involved in this area.

THE DOG  
INN  
BELTHORN

## Dates for the Diary

**Sat 3rd December, 2-4pm:**  
Children's Christmas Party, organised by the Village Committee.

**Sat 10th December, 7.30 - 11.30pm**  
1st Anniversary Celebrations. There will be food, music, and a chance to check out the changes to the pub since we opened in December 2016. All are welcome.

**Sunday 11th December, 2 - 6.30pm**  
Open Mic: all welcome

**Sat 17th December, 2 - 5pm**  
Over 60's Christmas Party, organised by the village committee.

**Sunday 18th December, 8pm**  
Carols round the Christmas Tree: come and join us for traditional carols round the Christmas tree, with mulled wine and mince pies.

**Tues 20th December, 7.30pm**  
History Society Christmas Party

**Tues 29th December, 7 - 10pm**  
Live Broadcast with Stephen Lowe from BBC Radio Lancashire

**New Year's Eve Party, 9pm - 2am.**  
Jacob's Join and music. All welcome.

**Members' Surgery:**  
**2nd Tuesday of month, 7-8pm**  
A chance for shareholders to come and speak to members of the Board with their comments and suggestions.

**Quiz Nights: Every Thursday, 8pm**  
Come along and join in the fun!

**Knit & Knatter: Tuesday afternoons, 2-4pm.**  
Come along for crafting activity, or just for a natter.

**Football Team:** Village footballers play 6-a-side at DW sports every Tuesday evening, 7 - 8pm, and then return to the Dog Inn for drinks afterwards. For more information on the football, please speak to Garry Ryan (07411054389)



## HALLOWEEN, FIREWORKS & FUN

**On Saturday 29th October, the Dog Inn hosted a halloween party for the children in the village. Over thirty children attended, and they were entertained with apple bobbing, pass the parcel, musical bumps and "pin the spider on the cobweb".**

There were some fantastic fancy dress outfits, and the prizes for the best ones went to Demi Hoyle and to werewolf Leo Ashurst.

The fun continued into the evening with an adult's fancy dress party which was well attended and included some fantastic outfits. Even our illustrious chair was seen riding his ultra modern high tech Broom!

The bar staff looked fantastic, as always, decked out in their Halloween outfits (though we're led to believe Lucy can be seen dressed like that most of

the time!!!) The evenings entertainment was provided by Dawn and her Karaoke Disco, not the first time she's performed for the Dog Inn. She had an uncanny knack of persuading and helping the most reluctant of patrons to have go !!!

We followed this with a firework display on November 12th. The display was organised by the Village Committee, on the field at the back of the Dog Inn, and the fireworks were very generously provided by Paul Carroll.

Unfortunately, insurance issues meant we were not able to have a bonfire this year, but we will look at possible ways of getting round this in future years. However, it didn't put people off, and we had a great turnout to watch a spectacular firework display.

# MEDIA INTEREST

**Following the announcement that we were finalists in the Rural Community-Owned Business Awards, there was a lot of media interest in the pub.**

An article appeared in the Lancashire Telegraph on 29th October 2016, showcasing the pub and the achievements of everyone involved.

One of our Directors, Yvonne Brown, also did a live interview with the Graham Liver morning show on BBC Radio Lancashire on Friday 23rd October, which again highlighted the work done so far on the pub by all involved. The video of this interview now has over 15,000 online views!

We hope you managed to catch some of the media coverage of the pub over the last few months.



## Christmas Open Hours:

**Christmas Eve**  
12 noon - 12.30am

**Christmas Day**  
12 noon - 3pm

**Boxing Day**  
12 noon - 6pm

## YOU ARE INVITED...

To our 1st anniversary celebrations, on Saturday December 10th, 7.30pm - 11.30. There will be food, music, and a chance to check out the changes to the pub since we opened in December 2016. All are welcome.

## TOTS TO TEENS

We are looking at ways of providing activities for toddlers and teenagers (separately, not combined!). If anyone is interested in attending or helping to run either a toddler group, or a "youth club", or if anyone has any other ideas for activities for either of these groups of people, please get in touch.

## COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

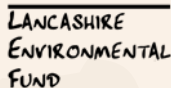
There is a community notice board in the porch area of the pub, where locals can advertise items for sale, or services offered. Please take a look at this board when you go into the pub, and don't forget to use it to advertise your unwanted items.

## COFFEE SHOP VOLUNTEERS

We are always looking for more volunteers to help out in the coffee shop, either on a regular or an ad-hoc basis. If you would like to be part of the team that serve in the coffee shop, please get in touch. Full training on the tills and on the coffee machine will be provided. Teenagers over the age of 14 are also most welcome to volunteer in the coffee shop.

## WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

Don't forget to check out our website, [www.thedoginnatbelthorn.net](http://www.thedoginnatbelthorn.net) for all the latest information on events, opening hours, and other developments. We also have a facebook page, [www.facebook.com/dogcommunityactiongroup](https://www.facebook.com/dogcommunityactiongroup) which is also regularly updated.



The Dog Inn at Belthorn Community Freehouse



@Dog Inn Belthorn

tel 01254 433188  
[www.thedoginnatbelthorn.net](http://www.thedoginnatbelthorn.net)  
[admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net](mailto:admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net)