



Dog's LIFE

DOG
INN
BELTHORN

Your Community Freehouse News - July 2019

Welcome to the 13th edition of the Dog's Life. In this issue we have many reasons to celebrate; Awards nominations, a national launch event and our new restaurant operators, Jamie and Mark, and their phenomenal success over their first few weeks of operation.



MORE THAN A PUB

On 19th June around 50 people from across England with an interest in communities saving their pubs gathered at The Dog Inn.

They were in Belthorn for the launch of the second phase of More than A Pub, a £2.2 million programme from the Plunkett Foundation to support communities in England aiming to save their pubs.

And they chose to launch this national programme not in Birmingham or London or Manchester, but in Belthorn. All were impressed with The Dog Inn, what the community has achieved and the great Lancashire hospitality by our staff, volunteers and the restaurant.



We think that there isn't a phrase which describes the Dog Inn better than "More than a Pub" - as you will be well aware, The Dog Inn is, amongst other things, a coffee shop, a restaurant, a village hall and a church.

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OPENING HOURS

PUB

MON: 2 - 7pm
TUES - SUN: 12 - 11pm

RESTAURANT

MON & TUES: Closed
WED - FRI: 12pm - 9pm
SAT: 10am - 9.30pm
SUN: 10am - 6pm

COFFEE SHOP

MON - FRI: 2-5pm

RESTAURANT SUCCESS

Following the departure of the previous restaurant operators, our new chefs Jamie and Mark began serving food at the end of May.

Their food has been exceptionally well received so far – here are what a few diners have had to say about their experiences:

“New chefs fantastic.

Combination of traditional and a modern twist. Very vegetarian friendly also, even some vegan dishes. I had beetroot salad with fried Lancashire cheese, tapenade, and viola garnish. Main was fried haloumi.” (June 2019);

“We booked last minute after reading in the local news about the new restaurant. We were pleasantly surprised and had a really good mid-week meal. The service was excellent, the meals; buffalo wings (to share) the beef burger and the mutton shoulder were all beautifully cooked and really tasty. We shared a sticky toffee pudding which was wonderful. All in all, a lovely meal, in a beautiful setting with the best views right across to the Irish Sea. It was our first visit and we will return soon with our daughter, who is excited to choose from the newly launched vegan menu.”

The chefs have worked very hard creating a menu with suitable choices for everyone, and copies of the latest menu can be found within this newsletter.



Proper Pie. Proper Chips



**Sunday Roast. 2 courses
£14.50, 3 courses £17**



Delicious Starters



**Outstanding Specials
with Local Produce**



Mid Week Dishes - £6.50

Dates at The Dog

WEEKLY EVENTS:

Mondays: 4-5pm: Drama group for year 5 children upwards (Term Time only)

Tuesdays, 1-4pm: Crafty Giggles - upstairs in the Community Room

Tuesdays, 8pm: Darts & Dominoes

Wednesdays, 8pm: Bridge Night

Thursdays, 8pm: Quiz Night

Fridays, 2 - 3.15pm: Parent & Toddler group in the Community Room (Term Time only)

Sun 4th August, 3 - 5pm: "Moana" - themed children's party and storytime upstairs in the Community Room. Tickets £4 per child.

Tues 13th August, 7-7.30pm: **Member's Surgery** Your chance to meet with Board members with your ideas, suggestions and comments.

Saturday 24th August: Restaurant closed from 12 - 5pm for a private party.

Friday 30th August, 9pm: Live music with "Keep It Covered" A Rock and Blues band - a bit like folk music but louder! Free admission, all welcome.

Tues 10th September, 7pm - 7.30pm: Member's Surgery Your chance to meet with Board members with your ideas, suggestions and comments.

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

Sat 28th September, 9pm: **CJAY: Live music.** CJay plays a mix of covers from the 60s to modern day along with some of his own songs written about people, places and experiences with a personal meaning. In a review of a live show, Louder Than War wrote, "He tells tales and recites memories that linger". Free admission, all welcome.

Sunday 6th October, 2-4pm: **"Smartest Giant in Town"** Themed children's party and storytime, upstairs in the Community Room. Tickets £3 per child

Tues 8th October, 7pm - 7.30pm: Member's Surgery Your chance to meet with Board members with your ideas, suggestions and comments.

Sun 20th October, 2.30pm **Informal Church Service** in the Community Room: all welcome.

Sunday October 20th - Wednesday October 30th: Restaurant Closed

Sat 2nd Nov 9pm: 'Live music with Chip Butty Man With Many Hats' Free admission, all welcome.

Tues 12th November, 7pm - 7.30pm: Member's Surgery Your chance to meet with Board members with your ideas, suggestions and comments.

Sun 17th November, 2.30pm **Informal Church Service** in the Community Room: all welcome.

Saturday 30th November, 9pm. Live music with the Bandits. Free admission, all welcome.

Sunday 1st December, 2-4pm: **'Gruffalo's Child'** Themed children's party and storytime, upstairs in the Community Room. Tickets £4 per child

Sat 7th December, 2-4pm: **Children's Christmas Party:** organised by the village committee.

Tuesday 10th December, 7 - 7.30pm: Member's Surgery: Your chance to meet with Board members with your ideas, suggestions and comments.

Sat 14th December, 2 - 6pm: **Over 60's Christmas Party:** organised by the Village Committee.

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

New Year's Eve: Tuesday 31st December, 9pm - late: Live music with Mark Griffiths.

Award Shortlist

We were very surprised in early June to find out that we had been nominated, and shortlisted, for a national Rural Touring Award 2019, for the category of Volunteer Promotor or Promoting Group of the Year.

This nomination is connected to our work hosting various arts and drama productions in connection with Spot-on

Lancashire and the Inn Crowd. The winners were announced at an awards ceremony in Bangor in early July, which Yvonne Brown attended on our behalf. Unfortunately we didn't win, but we were astounded to have been shortlisted to the final three, and intend to build on this success by hosting more arts productions in the future.



SHARES AVAILABLE NOW

Some of our original shareholders have recently sold their shares back to the pub. This happens for a number of reasons, it is to be expected as people move out of the village, or circumstances change.

As a result, there are now a number of shares available for purchase, if anyone is interested in supporting the pub. Last year we were able to pay all shareholders a 3% interest

payment, and we hope to be in a similar financial position this year. Shares are £1 each, with a minimum investment of £250, and a maximum of £25k. We do accept a group of people clubbing together to buy £250 of shares, but there will only be one vote at any meeting for such groups. At all meetings, it is a case of one member, one vote, and the number of shares held does not change this.

Our Field

As some people may be aware we submitted a Pre-Planning Application to Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council about possible developments for community use on the field behind The Dog Inn.

We were advised to list all possible developments that might happen in the future, even if they were speculative at this stage, so the Council could give a view.

We have now had a response from the Council's Planning Department. Most of what we had suggested would not be allowed in any case because the land is greenbelt. We have also been listening to what some of you have fed back to us. As a result the board has decided that we would plan to do the following:-

- Spray the land to rid it of all the weeds, including ragwort. Ragwort is a poisonous weed and we have a legal duty to do this.
- Rotivate the land for seeding and planting.
- Seed the field mostly for grass but also to plant some wild flowers to create a meadow which will be a habitat for local wildlife
- Leave the field open for the community to use on an informal basis.

We think that the landscaped field as meadow will both look more attractive and will be more of a community asset than the previous state of the field.

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LANCASHIRE
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The Dog Inn at Belthorn Community Freehouse



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