



Dog's LIFE

DOG
INN
BELTHORN

Your Community Freehouse News - February 2020

Welcome to the 14th edition of the Dog's Life. In this issue we take a look back at a very successful 2019, and highlight some of the upcoming events for 2020.



CARRY ON UP THE CHARTS

NATIONAL FAME!

In December 2019, we were surprised to find that the Dog Inn was listed as a case study in a Government press-release which was announcing some extra £1.15million for "The Great British Pub", in recognition of the valuable work that they do in supporting community life.

The funding is designed to enable an estimated 100 communities to either own their local pub, or benefit from new, pub-based community services and facilities. If you want to read the press-release, and the Dog Inn case study, it can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-the-great-british-pub



OPEN HOURS

PUB

MON: 2 - 7pm
TUES: 12 - 9pm
WED - SAT: 12 - 11pm
SUN: 12 - 9pm

RESTAURANT

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

COFFEE SHOP

MON - FRI: 2-5pm

Jamie and Mark took up the reins of The Dog Inn restaurant back at the end of May 2019. They hit the ground running and have not looked back since!

In just short of 8 months they have taken the Restaurant from outside the top 100 on Trip advisor and now have entered Blackburn's 'top ten' and now at number 4! An incredible achievement in such a short period of time! A constant stream of 5 star ratings on Trip Advisor reflects the menu quality, service & value and has helped push them to number 4, out of 166 establishments in Blackburn.

Our talented chefs are also offering a position to any aspiring chef to work beside them to train as an apprentice. Any interested parties should call 07773 229933.

Dates at The Dog

WEEKLY EVENTS:

Tues, 2-4pm: Crafty Giggles

Wed, 8pm: Bridge Night

Thurs, 8pm: Quiz Night

Sat 22nd Feb, 10am - 4pm:

Holistic Therapy Day. Try our amazing bespoke treatments: full body massages, back, neck and shoulders massage, Reiki, thermal ear candles, pregnancy massage, hot stones massage, reflexology. To book/info call Alison 07423 775642 (facebook "The Relaxation Practitioners"). Jewellery & Tropics Skincare also on sale - see article.

Sat 29th Feb, 1-5pm: Moggies Cat Rescue - Charity Raffle and Tombola. Come and join us for a fun afternoon in the pub where we are raising money for Moggies Cat Rescue.

Sat 29th Feb, 9pm. Live music with villager Jennie Cook. 29th February only happens once every 4 years, supposedly a romantic day when women can propose to men, so Jennie will entertain us with beautiful love songs. Free admission.

Sun 1st March, 7pm: Open Mic. Sing us a song, recite a poem or tell us a joke, our mic is yours! Or simply come along to be entertained, Free admission.

Sat 7th March, 7pm: Bingo. Evening includes 6 games of bingo (books sold in 3s for £5 or 6s for £10) plus a bonus game (flyer £1 / £2). Children welcome to play if accompanied by parents.

Tue 10th March, 7 - 7.30pm Member's Surgery: You chance to come along and chat to Board Members with your comments and suggestions.

Sat 14th March, 10am - 4pm:

Holistic Therapy Day See previous listing for details

Sun 15th March, 2.30pm

Church in the Pub: Informal church service, coffee & chat.

Tues 17th March, 7.30pm:

History Society - Film Night

"The Story of the Shed", told by co-founder & proprietor Jim Fletcher CBE. This is the history from it's boozy beginnings as... well, a shed, through to it's rebirth as The Phoenix club and it's now legendary status. With stories of old Belthorn characters and beery nights, it's a guaranteed evening of hilarity. Have a look down the back of your settee for beer tokens!

Sat 21st March, 8pm: Johnny Fluffypunk: "How I came to be where I never was."

In connection with Spot-on Lancashire & The Inn Crowd. A story about being the first punk in the village and the only trainspotter in eyeliner. About unrequited love, youth clubs, John Peel and the forgotten gods of small record shops. A one-hour, energetic solo piece fusing theatre, storytelling, comedy and even ukulele. (£8/£6 under 16). Ages 14+.

Sun 22nd March

Mother's Day Brunch in the restaurant: Booking recommended.

Wed 25th March, 7pm

Italian-themed night in the restaurant. Booking advisable

Sat 28th March, 9pm. Rihanna Gibson. Free admission, all welcome.

Sat 4th April, 7pm: Bingo. See previous listing for details.

Sun 5th April, 7pm: Open Mic. See previous date for details.

Sat 11th April, 10am - 12:

Easter Craft Morning Come along to make your own Easter Bonnet to enter in our Competition on Easter Monday! Other crafts also available.

Monday April 13th, 2pm:

Easter Egg Hunt Easter Bonnet Competition, Pace Eggs & Decorated Eggs. Lots of prizes for the winners.

Tue 14th April, 7 - 7.30pm

Member's Surgery: See previous listing for details.

Sun 19th April, 2.30pm

Church in the Pub: Informal church service, coffee & chat.

Tues 21st April, 7.30pm:

History Society - The Foundation Stone. Recently re-discovered, Jennie will be telling us the tale of the Belthorn and Yate Bank Independent Chapel School foundation stone, laid in 1876, lost after the demolition of the school and amazingly recently located and returned to the village in 2019!

Sun 3rd May, 2pm: Traditional

May Day Parade: Starting at the bottom of the village and finishing at the Dog Inn.

Sat 9th May, 9pm: Night

Swingers. Live music with this popular band. Free admission.

Tue 12th May, 7 - 7.30pm

Member's Surgery: See previous listing for details.

Sun 17th May, 2.30pm

Church in the Pub: Informal church service, coffee & chat.

Mon 18th May, AGM Annual meeting for shareholders.

Sat 30th May, 9pm:

Monkeymen. Live music with this popular local band. Free admission.



LOOKING BACK AT 2019

We had another busy year in 2019 as we continue to host a large number of wide ranging events - here's a quick summary of the year:

51 QUIZ NIGHTS

Including special nights such as 'men v women' & Burns Night.



8 CHURCH SERVICES

In the Community Room, including 'Harvest' & 'Carols round the tree'



4 CHARITY EVENTS

Raising money for Alzheimers Society, Macmillan, Cancer Research & Admiral Nurses / Dementia UK



10 FREE MUSIC EVENTS

A variety of fantastic live solo acts & band, plus Open Mic sessions



4 FREE FAMILY EVENTS

Easter egg hunt, May Day parade, firework display.



3 ANNUAL EVENTS

Our now obligatory Dog Show, the children's & the over 60s Christmas Party.



+ COMMUNITY

History society, craft & chat, youth drama club, bridge nights, bingo nights & more



4 DRAMA/ARTS EVENTS

Including youth drama club performances & events by Spot-On Lancashire



3 CHILDREN'S PARTIES

Storytime parties, plus a Halloween craft party morning.



TAKING CARE OF "ME"

In the autumn of 2019 we hosted our first ever "holistic therapy day".

Held in the Community room upstairs, and run by The Relaxation Practitioners, these days offered village residents (and others) the chance to benefit from various complimentary therapies, including reiki, thermal ear candles, full body massage, reflexology, back, neck and shoulders massage, pregnancy massage and hot stones massage, all delivered by qualified and insured therapists who are members of the Federation of holistic therapists.

The first session proved very popular, and The Relaxation Practitioners are hoping to hold a session every month. The next ones planned are Sat 22nd February and Sat 14th March, 10am - 4pm.

To book or for more info, call Alison: 07423 775642

Also on the day we have:

SAT 22ND FEB, 10-4PM
'HIPANDRA' JEWELLERY
 Beautiful Handmade Jewellery & Accessories.
www.hipandra.co.uk

'TROPIC SKIN CARE'
 'Green Beauty' - Skin Care Products & Makeup.
 Come along & sample the numerous products that Tropic' have to offer.
 Mini pampers available.
www.tropicskincare.com/judithwinstanley



Towards the end of 2019, the Village Committee began hosting Bingo nights at the Dog Inn. These have proved very popular, and will hopefully take place at least once every month.

At the moment our resident quiz-master, Steve Horrocks, is taking charge, but we are looking for other volunteers to help with the running of this event – especially if it is going to be held every couple of weeks.

Evenings include 6 games of bingo (books sold in 3s for £5 or 6s for £10) plus a bonus game (flyer £1 / £2). Hot drinks are available for purchase and children are welcome to play if accompanied by parents. The next bingo night is scheduled for Sat 15th February, 7pm.

If you would like to help us organise and run these very successful evenings, please contact Stephen Horrocks, or any board member, or any village committee member.

– Belthorn Academy –

We are looking to recruit a Community Governor. The main role of a Governor is to contribute to the work of the governing board in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the school by:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation & pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

If you are potentially interested in this voluntary position, please contact Yvonne Brown, Chair of Governors, via school on 01254 55620 or Yvonne.Brown@belthornacademy.co.uk



CHRISTMAS SWITCH-ON

Saturday 30th November saw our village pub welcome over 100 visitors to our festive spectacular. Stalls included cupcakes, jewellery, cards, gifts, wreaths, jams, chocolate and pet treats!

The tombola proved to be very popular, and colourful crafts were enjoyed by the children.

Mulled wine was sipped, laughter met the flickering flames of the woodburner and a warm, festive atmosphere filled the air.

Merriment was had by all before the afternoon concluded outside with an eagerly anticipated visit by the main man, Father Christmas, who arrived (twice!) aboard a twinkling milk float and gave out glow sticks for the excitable little faces gazing on. Chilly faces chanted down 10 to 1 before the towering Christmas tree came alive with a multicoloured coat glowing down on the happy crowd below. A wonderful way to welcome Christmas to Belthorn!



CHATTING BY CANDLELIGHT

Back in early January, the village suffered a power cut as the power company rectified a fault.

This left nearly the whole village, including the pub, without power for a number of hours. Service continued

as usual in the bar, with customers enjoying the candlelit ambience – so much so that when the lights did come back on again, the customers asked the staff to switch them off again!

Unfortunately, the restaurant could not operate, and had to cancel all bookings for that evening. We are extremely grateful to Craig Gibson who connected up a generator so that the fridges and freezers in the kitchen could remain cold.

Patrick's

TEA & COFFEE SHOP



Patrick's Coffee Shop at The Dog Inn is looking for volunteers

Would you like to become part of the team at Lancashire's first community owned pub? Volunteering is a great way to meet people, be part of a community & make new friends.

Opening hours for the Coffee Shop are currently Mon-Fri, 2-5pm, but hours are flexible to suit. You can volunteer once a week or once a month, work one hour a week or as many as you want! Full training on the tills and coffee machine will be provided and you can always work alongside someone if you prefer.

Volunteering can contribute to Duke of Edinburgh awards and help gain experience for a CV. We accept young people, from age 14 & up - they will always have supervision.

Please contact Diane for further details or to express an interest. Tel: 01254 698540 or email dianefallon27@yahoo.co.uk

Are you interested in learning more about farming and country activities? Are you aged 10-26? Do you want to make new friends and learn new skills?



Young Farmers could be for you!

You don't need to be involved in farming to be a Young Farmer - just someone who appreciates the countryside & enjoys rural life. Your local club is the Turton Branch, they meet Wednesday evenings, at the Barlow Institute, Edgworth. They hold regular meetings, and also numerous visits to other farms and other places of interest.

Contact Hannah on 07969 040991 for more info or visit: www.facebook.com/Turtonyfc

SPECIAL MENUS AT THE RESTAURANT

After the success of their sell out Tapas Night and New Year's Eve event, the restaurant have a couple more special menus planned. First up is a Mother's Day menu - further details released soon.

On 25th March they are having an Italian night. Expect Prosecco on arrival, 7 courses of classic Italian dishes, homemade desert and a mini & mighty espresso!



Nibbles

Olives, Ciabatta, Anchovy Butter

Pasta Course

Lobster Ravioli, Bisque sauce

Bread Course

Tuscan Bruschetta

Cheese Course

Heirloom Tomato, Buffalo Mozzarella, Basil

Meat Course

Beef Braciolo, Napoli Sauce

Fish Course

Grilled Sardines, Caper & Fennel Flower Vinaigrette

Dessert

Nono's Tiramisu,



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LIMITED SHARES AVAILABLE

We have had a steady interest in our shares after our availability announcement back in November 2019. As well as existing members, who have increased their shares, we have also welcomed some new shareholders.

The number of shares available is always fluctuating. This happens for a number of reasons, and is to be expected as people move out of the village, or their circumstances change. At the time of print we have a limited amount available.

If no shares are available, there is a waiting list for when they do become available. This offer is on a first come, first served basis.

We are in a good financial position and last year agreed a 3% interest payment on members' shares for the 2nd year running. Last year we have also funded numerous building refurbishments and invested in new equipment. Investment in the building will be continued into 2020.

Shares are £1 each, with a minimum investment of £250, and a maximum investment to new investors of £5,000.

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.

Welcome to Nicky Ashworth

We would like to welcome Nicky Ashworth as a new co-opted member of the Board.

Nicky helped to organise the Halloween craft morning and the extremely successful Christmas Fair, and has come on to the board to help with future events. She lives in the village with her husband and three children.

The current board members are as follows: Dave Hollings (Chair), Stephen Horrocks (Vice-Chair), Kathryn Sharpe (Secretary), John Heffernan (Treasurer), Craig Steele (Manager), Clive Carroll, Chris Banks, Yvonne Brown and Nicky Ashworth.

On 3rd January, 2020, we held a special evening in the pub to thank our staff and volunteers for all their efforts. We have a great staff team, and we are also extremely grateful to a large number of people who continually give their time to help with a number of varied tasks at the Dog Inn. Our volunteers are too numerous to mention but are all greatly appreciated.

Thanks are due...

Chris Nuttall and Heather Nuttall have recently stepped down from the Board. We thank them both for their contributions, especially, in Chris's case, in regard to the field at the back of the pub. We hope we will continue to see you in the pub as regular customers.

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