



Your Community Freehouse News - September 2020

In the last issue we highlighted some of the events that we had planned - unfortunately, Covid-19 had other ideas! It has been a stressful few months for a lot of people, and the Dog Inn is no exception, however, we would like to take this opportunity to tell you about some of the things that have been going on behind the scenes during the weeks that we were closed.



**Tripadvisor  
Travelers'  
Choice Best  
of the Best**



## INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

**With the help of the restaurant, we have been recognised as a '2020 Travelers' Choice, Best of the Best' award winner! Based on a full year of Tripadvisor reviews, we are now rated in the top 10% of hospitality businesses around the globe.**

Restaurant operators Jamie Evans & Mark Taylor have gone from strength to strength after taking over our restaurant in May 2019. In just over a year they have helped put The Dog Inn at Belthorn back on the map, and are now the number 3 restaurant in Blackburn!

Jamie Evans says, "When we took over the restaurant, our priority was to establish a reputation for excellent food at The Dog Inn and to champion the fantastic ingredients available on our doorstep, we feel we have achieved that, but there is still lots of hard work to do."

Please note if you are thinking of making a reservation with us please book in advance to avoid disappointment.

Further spotlight was then thrown on the pub as the country came out of lockdown. The Dog Inn was featured on two national

television programmes.

The first was BBC breakfast where Dave Hollings and Yvonne Brown were interviewed about the importance of the pub to the community and the fears and aspirations of re-opening.

Then a few weeks later, Craig Steele was interviewed for ITV news on the fears of any new lockdown. It is amazing that both national broadcasters chose our local community-owned pub as the pub to feature in their broadcasts.

# Thoughts from the Chair

**Well, 2020 hasn't gone quite as we expected.**

As the Covid 19 pandemic took off on 16th March the Government recommended people should not go to pubs. We responded quickly by deciding to keep The Dog open but implementing more cleaning and cancelling all events. But on 20th March the Government closed all pubs. We tried to keep the shop going but quickly realised that we did not have the systems in place to protect volunteers and customers. On 25th March we closed the shop.

The first priority of the board was to make sure that The Dog Inn was able to re-open no matter how long it was shut by the government. Within the pub trade there were early indications that pubs could be closed until October, so we planned on that basis. We reduced costs where possible, furloughed all our staff and secured a £10k grant for hospitality businesses.

We also wanted to support Jamie and Mark, two young talented chefs at the beginning of their business careers. We wanted them back. We helped them with advice and support, waived their rent while the pub was closed and agreed to split business rates so that they could get a hospitality grant.

We took the opportunity to redecorate and do some minor repairs. We had a new extension built behind the bar. We carried on with low level activity whilst closed – supporting Belthorn Buddies, wildflower planting on the field, a virtual dog show,



agreeing to host a car valeting service and a popular and successful beer giveaway on VE Day where we also raised £216 which was split between the Village Committee and the NHS.

And meanwhile we planned for re-opening. We realised that, based on government guidance, re-opening was going to be a process rather than a big bang. On 5th June we re-opened the coffee shop serving takeaways from the pub porch and Jamie and Mark started a popular takeaway food menu. A week later we re-opened the shop from the porch and the following week started a bread delivery service. We received a small grant from the Plunkett Foundation for costs in doing this.

We continued to plan for re-opening the bar on 4th July despite lack of detailed governance form the Government which was finally released on 25th June (all 42 pages of it!). All hands were to the pump to make sure that we could open on 4th July in line with Government guidance on making the pub Covid 19 safe, social distancing measures and a

track and trace system.

Beer was ordered, our staff team was reassembled (all our staff but one came back), the inside of the pub was reconfigured, the bar was closed off and cleaning systems were upgraded. We transformed the front car park into a 'beer garden' to encourage people to sit outside when possible. On 30th June we were contacted by the BBC about filming The Dog Inn and on 3rd July the pub was featured nationally on BBC Breakfast.

On 4th July, the first day we were allowed to reopen, the bar, coffee shop and shop were re-opened. And, of course, the Belthorn weather obliged by raining all day. The restaurant continued as a takeaway service for the first two weeks. But The Dog Inn had re-opened its doors to support the community of Belthorn once more.

But the Covid 19 pandemic is not over and neither are the uncertainties. On 30th July the Government announced that East Lancashire was an intervention area, placing further restrictions on how pubs could operate. We had to change our operations overnight. Rumours swirl that pubs could be closed when schools reopen and a second wave could lead to a second lockdown. We have therefore secured a £40k Bounce Back Loan which is sitting in a separate bank account to be paid back in full next year if it is not used but it is an insurance policy to make sure that, no matter what 2020 has still to throw our way, The Dog Inn will come through.

# Belthorn Academy Primary

Make an individual visit appointment in a COVID-19 secure environment to find out why Belthorn Academy is so special!



Applications for primary school Reception places for September 2021 are now open.



01254 55620

office@belthornacademy.co.uk

WE ALSO HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF 'IN-YEAR' PLACES, CONTACT US FOR INFO



# Christmas Day

AT THE DOG INN, BELTHORN  
FRIDAY 25TH DECEMBER

5 COURSES • £65 PER PERSON\* • 1PM OR 4PM SITTING

TO BOOK CALL **07773 229933**

\* CHILDREN'S MENU AVAILABLE AT £25



## Advertising Space

**Space available in the bar area to rent for small local businesses!!!**

As Lancashire's first community owned and run pub we would like to support local business by offering the display cupboard under the stairs in the bar area to rent.

The space will be available for locals to sell their products for the cost of 10% of the sales made. For further information please contact Kathryn at: [admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net](mailto:admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net)

## ALL YOU KNEAD!

**The Dog Inn has recently started bread deliveries from Chorley bakery, All You Knead.**

They deliver every Saturday to The Dog Inn and have lots of freshly baked products available on a pre-order & collection basis (collect Saturdays from 12pm).

They produce a large selection

of baked goods, including: 'real bread' made without the use of additives or preservatives, pies, pastries and confectionery. All items must be pre-ordered.

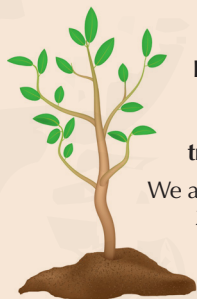
Order by messaging The Dog Inn on Facebook or by texting 07886 650982

Look out for a pricelist that was delivered with your Dog's Life.





## CALLING TREE LOVERS & HUGGERS!



Help protect YOUR environment and be involved in the legacy of tree planting in Belthorn!

We are expecting a delivery of 250 saplings at the end of November and will be looking for volunteers to help plant these saplings in the field behind the Dog

Inn. If you would like to be involved please contact Kathryn at [doginn@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:doginn@hotmail.co.uk) or watch out on our Facebook page for upcoming planting dates.

## Future Events

We currently don't know when we will be allowed to put on any events again, so all events are currently cancelled until further notice. We will try to advertise any events we have on the website and on our Facebook page, so please keep checking those.

### OPENING HOURS

#### PUB

MON: CLOSED  
TUES: 2pm - 9pm  
WED: 12pm - 9pm  
THURS - SAT: 12pm - 10pm  
SUNDAY: 12pm - 8pm

#### RESTAURANT

MON & TUE: CLOSED  
WED - SAT: 12pm - 8pm  
SUNDAY: 12pm - 8pm

Our opening hours are changing rapidly as the COVID-19 situation changes. The current opening hours as listed below but we would advise that you check our website or Facebook page before travelling to the pub in case the hours have changed.

DO YOU NEED SOMEWHERE FOR  
FRIENDS & FAMILY TO STAY WHEN  
THEY COME TO VISIT?



### Midsummer Barn Holiday Cottage could be the answer...

Located down Bank Fold Lane in Belthorn, Midsummer Barn Holiday Cottage can sleep up to 7 people, plus 2 cots. Well-behaved pets are also welcome and there is an enclosed rear garden for children and pets to take advantage of. 10% discount when you mention Dog's Life when booking.



[www.midsummerbarn.co.uk](http://www.midsummerbarn.co.uk)

E-mail: [stay@midsummerbarn.co.uk](mailto:stay@midsummerbarn.co.uk)

Phone: Yvonne on 07711 848994

## CALLING POTENTIAL ADVERTISERS

Do you have anything to sell, or  
would you like to advertise your  
business in the Dog's Life.

Issued 3 to 4 times a year, Dog's Life is distributed to all 224 homes in Belthorn, as well as some homes in Hoddlesden, Guide and Blackburn, and to all the Shareholders of the Dog Inn.

Adverts cost £20 for a full page, £10 for half a page and £5 for a quarter page.

tel 01254 433188

[admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net](mailto:admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net)



The Dog Inn at Belthorn Community Freehouse

# OUR ON-LINE DOG SHOW

As we had to shelve our plans for our now regular annual Dog Show, we decided to take it on-line.

We had a fantastic response, with nearly 150 entries, one from as far afield as Sheffield. We are incredibly grateful to Dave Taylor from Hatchwells Products for supplying the dog treats as prizes.

We hope you all enjoyed the experience, and we look forward to seeing some of the dogs again next year when we host a "real" Dog Show!



**LUTHER**  
MOST HANDSOME



**AJ AND DIESEL**  
CHILD'S BEST FRIEND



**BENNO**  
CUTEST PUPPY



**LOLA**  
BEST TRICK



**HARRY**  
FANCY DRESS



**LOLA**  
WAGGIEST TAIL



**COCO**  
PRETTIEST BITCH

## YOUR STORIES - LOCALLY BREWED!

The Dog Inn has been working closely with the Inn Crowd to create an on-line theatre piece called "Locally Brewed".

Following a request for interesting stories about the village and its residents, the writer, Adam Hughes, has been in contact with a number of residents to get more information about their stories, in order to turn these into



monologues. The stories will be presented as audio dramas as well as articles in a mocked-up local newspaper, which will be handed out in the pub as well as delivered to

individuals' homes.

In these surreal and ever-changing times we live in, we hope that this project will celebrate our brilliant pub, its amazing visitors and our fantastic community.

We hope that this project will be finished soon, so look out for these stories in the next few weeks.

# CK ARCHITECTURAL QS & DESIGN

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## SERVICES

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QS Services:

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## GET IN TOUCH

Connor Kennedy  
Architectural Designer  
07714450834  
[connor.kennedy1998@gmail.com](mailto:connor.kennedy1998@gmail.com)





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**NUTTALLS MILK DELIVERIES**



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FRESH LOCAL MILK, MILKSHAKES  
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TO YOUR DOOR IN ALL WEATHER**

**SUZANNE: 07742 648709 / 01254 261742**  
**[nuttallsmilkdeliveries@btinternet.com](mailto:nuttallsmilkdeliveries@btinternet.com)**

# BOARD MEMBERS

The current board members are now as follows:

**Dave Hollings (Chair)**

**Stephen Horrocks (Vice-Chair)**

**Kathryn Sharpe (Secretary)**

**Craig Steele (Manager)**

**Clive Carroll**

**Chris Banks (Strategic Treasurer)**

**Yvonne Brown**

**Nicky Ashworth**

We are always looking for new Board members to join us in running the Dog Inn. We would like to offer all members the opportunity to nominate themselves or another member to work on the management committee.

We are particularly looking for someone with an interest in becoming Treasurer, but anyone interested in any role is welcome. If you would like to nominate yourself or another member, please forward your nomination with a brief

summary of the skills and commitment that can be offered to [doginn@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:doginn@hotmail.co.uk) before the 30th Sept 2020.

## THE AGM

**The AGM this year was due to be held in May, but lock-down meant we had to postpone.**

The Financial Conduct Authority have authorised us to postpone until October, but as it doesn't look likely that we will be able to hold a physical AGM by then, we have decided that this year's AGM will be a virtual affair. It will be held on Mon 19th Oct, 7.30pm, via Zoom. Log in details will be supplied to all investors.

If any of our members are unable to participate in on-line meetings, they will be able to attend a members surgery on 8th October at 7pm at the Dog Inn or submit comments or questions via email prior to the meeting. Minutes from the meeting will be distributed to all investors in a timely manner. Unfortunately, this is the only legal and practical way to hold the Annual Members Meeting at this moment in time.

## JOHN HEFFERNAN

**It is with great sadness that we announce that John Heffernan died recently.**

John had been a member of the Board and our Treasurer for a number of years before resigning earlier this year due to ill health. He contributed greatly to the running of the pub and will be missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts and condolences at this sad time are with his family and friends.



**LAMB FOR YOUR FREEZER**

OUR LAMBS ARE BORN AND RAISED IN BELTHORN, AND ARE A TRADITIONAL BRITISH BREED.

Fresh lamb available soon. We also have frozen lamb available throughout the year - from single joints & chops, to half / whole lambs (butchered & bagged) to go in your freezer.

For more info or if you would like to order please contact Yvonne on 07711 848994 or e-mail: [brown70yvonne@gmail.com](mailto:brown70yvonne@gmail.com)

The management committee is a working committee and every member will be expected to take on a role. The committee meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month.

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



 @Dog Inn Belthorn  
The Dog Inn at Belthorn Community Freehouse