



Welcome to the 16th edition of the Dog's Life. As we are gradually emerging from a life of lockdowns, we thought it would be a good time to highlight some of the things we have managed to do, and also shine a spotlight on the future.



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**Already a familiar face in The Dog Inn, Nic has worked behind the bar for the past 3 years during which time she has come to love the community atmosphere in Belthorn as well as the many different characters who come in for a drink, a bite to eat and a chat, not to mention all the local canines and THAT view!**

She also loves the building itself, the character and the history. All of which perfectly sums up what The Dog Inn means to Belthorn.

Nic was originally a regular customer, visiting each

weekend to eat with her son Archie when she first moved to this neck of Lancashire from Bury.

Always a country girl at heart, Nic felt totally at home in Belthorn. Apart from her son Archie, Nic's passion is horses and her own two beauties are named Emy and Polly. Maybe we'll catch Nic cantering up Belthorn Road to work one day!

Some interesting facts about Nic...

- She loves Crime Documentaries
- Celebrity crush – Tom Hardy!

So if you haven't already met Nic, pop in and say hi. She has a smile for everyone and is excited to inject new life into our lovely community pub after a very difficult year.

We are always looking for people to join our friendly staff team - please chat to Nic if you are interested.

- She used to be a Thai Boxer
- She has ridden horses in the Rocky Mountains

# Thoughts from the Chair

**Little could we have imagined, when we entered the first lockdown on 23rd March last year that we would be under restrictions over a year later.**

But we have made it through this most difficult of years, this hardest of winters, to open the doors of The Dog Inn again.

We even managed to operate successfully for five weeks outdoors only – something that would have seemed like madness in 2019. The direction of travel nationally seems clear and we are moving towards being able to operate normally in the next few weeks and months we hope that those mainstays of Belthorn life (the kids' Halloween



party, fireworks out on the back field, carols round the Christmas tree, Christmas and New Year celebrations) will be back.

We suspect, however, that some things will have changed forever and we will take care to respond

to how our customers and community feel. The shop has grown in range and scale, our front car park is now filled with tables for outside service and many customers seem to have quite taken to table service.

And we made it through. There were hard times, tough choices, huge stresses and strains on people – but we made it through.

We can have confidence going forward that, no matter what happens in the future, this little pub on a Lancashire hill will survive and thrive because if we can survive this, we can survive anything!

## Coming Soon ...



**We hope to re-start our regular events such as Quiz Nights, Open Mic and Church Services over the next few weeks and months, as circumstances allow.**

In the meantime, we are planning a Dog Show on Monday 30th August, from 11am - 1pm, and the Village Committee will hopefully be putting on Bacon Butties and other refreshments. More details

of the Dog Show and how to enter will be available in due course on our facebook page and website.

The next Events meeting will be held on Saturday 11th September, 12.30pm. Anyone who would like to help organise events for the benefit of all in the village is invited to attend.

## OPENING HOURS

### BAR / COFFEE SHOP

MON: CLOSED

TUE: 2pm - 7pm

WED - SAT: 12pm - 11pm

SUNDAY: 12pm - 9pm

### RESTAURANT

MON & TUE: CLOSED

WED - SAT: 12pm - 9pm

SUNDAY: 12pm - 6pm

Our opening hours have been changing as the COVID-19 situation changes. We would advise that you check our website or Facebook page before travelling to the pub in case the hours have changed.



# Belthorn Academy

We are looking to recruit a **Community Governor**, particularly someone with **accountancy / finance / audit experience**. 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 performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

**If you are interested in this voluntary position, please contact Yvonne Brown, Chair of Governors, via school on 01254 55620 or [Yvonne.Brown@belthornacademy.co.uk](mailto:Yvonne.Brown@belthornacademy.co.uk)**



## SHOPPING LOCAL

During the last few months, we have increased the range of products stocked in the shop, focussing on local suppliers, as well as

**continuing with the popular bread and meat deliveries.**

It is hoped that people will continue to support the shop once we move back to the more normal operation over the next few months.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the



volunteers who gave up their free time throughout lockdown to run the community shop. Not only did they

help to bring fresh produce to the village they helped to support community cohesion and reduce the isolation that some people were feeling. Thank you to you all.



## ON DISPLAY

**We are wanting to launch art exhibitions, to be held in the Community Room upstairs.**

This would allow artistic and crafty village residents the opportunity to display (and potentially sell) their artwork/products. Anyone interested in this, please contact Yvonne ([brown70yvonne@gmail.com](mailto:brown70yvonne@gmail.com)).

# ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGE POINTS



**We have begun work with the company ChargeMyStreet, to install two electric vehicle charge points on the car park at the back of the pub.**

These will be available for customers and village residents to use while parked on the pub car park.

Once these spaces are available, we would kindly

request that village residents try to only use them outside of pub opening hours, so that the charging facilities are available for customers to use while they are in the pub.

We hope that this will help as we all look to become more sustainable in the future.

## ECO-LUTION

**We are planning on creating an Eco-group, where people can meet to discuss ideas for environmentally-sustainable living.**

This might be swapping ideas on how to reduce the amount of plastic we use, or setting up a rota to go to the refill shop in Darwen to reduce car miles.

There may be the option to do some growing of vegetables etc in plots on the field at the back of the pub, or to do group litter-picks through the village.

There is a plan for a junior group as well. If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact Yvonne via email: [brown70yvonne@gmail.com](mailto:brown70yvonne@gmail.com) and we will get it set up.

## TREE-PLANTING

**240 saplings were donated to the pub by the Woodland Trust for planting on the pub field adjoining the carpark.**

Villagers were invited to come along and plant a sapling: Wild Rose, Hazel, Crab Apple to name just a few.

Some people chose to plant one in memory of someone or to commemorate a special event. Donations were made to the Woodland Trust and a total of £35 was raised.

Thank you to everyone who came and planted a tree and thank you for your donations.



## VILLAGE COMMITTEE

**The village committee would like to invite all village residents to their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 17th August. The committee is always looking for more members to help organise events and raise funds to benefit all those in the village.**

Please just come along if you are want to know more about what the village committee does, or if you are interested in becoming a member.



# BELTHORN'S EASTER TRAIL

Following on from the successful Halloween Trail, we ran an Easter Trail.

Villagers came together to create some fantastic displays, and over 50 completed leaflets

were handed back in at the pub.

Even when the usual events such as the Halloween Party and the Easter Egg Hunt in the pub can go ahead again,

we would like to continue with these trail events, as they proved so popular. If anyone would like to help organise any of these, please get in touch.



# SPRINKLING CHRISTMAS CHEER



**We collaborated with Belthorn Academy Primary School and the Village Committee in distributing Christmas Roast Dinners to some of our more senior residents.**

The pub was very pleased to be able to offer free

drinks to accompany the meal that had been sponsored by UKInsulations and prepared by the kitchen staff at the school.

Village committee members helped with the distribution of the meals, which were greatly appreciated by all.



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**[nuttallsmilkdeliveries@btinternet.com](mailto:nuttallsmilkdeliveries@btinternet.com)**



# OUR EURO<sup>+</sup> JOURNEY

**We have been delighted to have been able to put our large marquee to further good use as a fan-zone during the European Football Championships.**

Over the course of the tournament we screened all

of the England games, both inside the pub and on a large screen inside the marquee. Alongside some great football drink & food promotions, it proved to be extremely popular with our regulars, one of our younger customers

confirmed: "I love going up into the pub with my dad to watch the England matches. He always drags me up the hill to watch the match and talk to people." From George (aged 11).

Despite the final result not going England's way, it was a fabulous way to spend the summer evenings, as the community, young and old, came together to support the national team. Fingers crossed the World Cup will be just as memorable for us.

The marquee has proved invaluable during the restrictions; providing a dry and safe place to drink and dine. We are expecting it to be taken down very shortly (at the time of print). We will be continuing to serve food outside for those who prefer to dine al fresco!

**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



# BOARD MEMBERS

The current board members are now as follows:

Dave Hollings (Chair)

Stephen Horrocks (Vice-Chair)

Kathryn Sharpe (Secretary)

Craig Steele

Clive Carroll

Chris Banks (Strategic Treasurer)

Yvonne Brown

Nicky Ashworth

We are looking for new Board members to join us in running the Dog Inn.

Anyone interested, especially in the role of Treasurer, is invited to apply. Please contact the Secretary, Kathryn Sharpe, on [admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net](mailto:admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net)

## MEMBER'S SURGERY

Member's Surgery is now operating again - 2nd Tuesday every month at the new time of 6.30 - 7pm

## THE AGM

Following the delay to the easing of restrictions, we consulted with our shareholders about whether to hold a virtual AGM via zoom, or to wait until restrictions are (hopefully) eased and hold a face-to-face AGM in September.

The most popular option was a face-to-face AGM in September, so we now plan to hold our AGM on Tuesday 6th September. Formal notification will be sent out in due course.

## SHARE OFFER

As you all should know, the Dog Inn is community-owned, with people purchasing shares from a minimum of £250 up to £20000 in value.

As people come and leave the village, the demand for shares continually changes; we would like to offer new residents the chance to own shares in our successful community pub!

We are therefore setting up a waiting list; so if you are interested in purchasing shares in the pub, please email our Secretary, Kathryn Sharpe, at [admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net](mailto:admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net) to add your name to the current waiting list. Shares will then be sold as and when they become available.



**WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA**

Don't forget to check 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](http://www.facebook.com/dogcommunityactiongroup) which is also regularly updated.

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