



# It's a Dog's LIFE in Belthorn!



Your Community Freehouse & Village News, May 2022

Welcome to the 17th issue of A Dog's Life (in Belthorn). As life in Belthorn village and at the pub returns to 'normal', we are busy planning to make up for missed fun! There's plenty to look forward to over the summer months, starting with the Queen's Jubilee...

# JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

**Would Ju'believe us if we told you we had a cracking line up for the extended Bank Holiday weekend at The Dog Inn? Well you should because we do!**

Live music, a craft fair, all things Bee related, a family fun day, food, drinks, fun and great weather too. Well we can't guarantee the weather but everything else we can!

There is something for everyone across the whole weekend starting from Thursday 2nd through to Sunday 5th June.

So put a note in your diary for our right royal celebrations and keep an eye out for everything being advertised in more detail over the next week.

We are very grateful to the National Lottery for a grant which has enabled us to hire a marquee to make this really an event to remember.

We are also grateful to Belthorn Village Committee and Belthorn Academy Primary School for their collaboration in organising these events

# A NOTE FROM MANAGER NIC

**“I’m so happy to have food and live music back at the Dog Inn! The restaurant is doing great and the atmosphere in the pub when The Craic Inn were on was brilliant.**

We’ve had a fun filled baby shower, quiz night is always popular and to see so many people having a good time or popping in for a pint or a coffee and a chat makes my job worthwhile!



With summer around the corner there is a good feeling all round! We have a wonderful line up for the Jubilee weekend, a full month of music in June, our annual dog show in August and lots of other ideas in the pipeline too so keep an eye on our social media page, there really is something for everyone to come and enjoy.”

## OPENING HOURS

### BAR / COFFEE SHOP

MON: CLOSED  
 TUE: 2pm - 8pm  
 WED - SAT: 12pm - 11pm  
 SUNDAY: 12pm - 9pm

### RESTAURANT

MON & TUE: CLOSED  
 WED - FRI: 12pm - 9pm  
 SAT: 9:30am - 9pm  
 SUN: 9:30am - 6.30pm



## A few words from Dave Hollins, Chair of the Board

**The Dog Inn bounded straight into 2022 with the same pace it left 2021 and it hasn't stopped for breath since!**

We are overjoyed to have more customers than ever before both old and new back in enjoying wonderful food, singing and dancing to live music, attending our events whilst drinking and chatting away.

Thanks to the hard work of our manager Nic, our restaurant manager Jamie, all our staff, volunteers and most importantly you, our local community, the pub is thriving once again.

We have recently had some very successful grant applications, financially the pub is doing very well and we have a whole host of wonderful things to look forward

to in the coming months.

We, as a board, our members and our loyal customers are very happy to put a difficult couple of years behind us and keep growing as a business and community hub. Thank you for all your support!

# ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGE POINTS



Two charge points were installed on our car park last year. Available for customers and village residents to us, we do kindly request that residents try to only use them outside of opening hours, so the facilities are available for customers.

‘Charge My Street’ have given us an update on the usage

of our electric vehicle (EV) charge point. Since Dec 1st to April 2nd there has been:

93 sessions / 1051.98kWh provided, giving an average 7.4kWh per day. A very large Norwegian operator suggests sites need to aim for 5kWh a day. The site has saved 9.77 tonnes of CO2 emissions since being installed.



## - ON AIR! -

Thank you Sharon Blanche for getting The Dog Inn mentioned on Zoe Ball's Radio 2 Breakfast Show in early March! It was great publicity and reached millions of listeners!

## BIG THANK YOU

A big thank you Yvonne Brown for always leading litter picking around the village.

It's an ongoing problem that we have to work together to help keep on top of. Future litter picking dates and times will be shared if you would like to help keep our village clean.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Coffee Shop volunteers Jennie Cook, Rebecca Grimshaw, Jackie Holden and Winifred Shepherd successfully completed their Level 2 Award in Food Safety and Hygiene. We want to say a huge congratulations for completing training (Community CVS Upskilling Project). Thank you to all our volunteers for continually giving your time & hard work.!



## BELTHORN'S EASTER TRAIL

Belthorn's annual Easter Trail saw over 25 completed sheets handed in. Thank you to everyone who joined in with displays and for those venturing around the village spotting them.

A special mention to The Bell In Th' Thorn for a beautiful display at the top of the village and our lucky winner Toby who's winning sheet was drawn out!





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# ARTS 2 HEAL RAFFLE



**A fantastic £200 was raised for Blackburn based mental health charity Arts 2 Heal in our recent raffle.**

The raffle was in memory of Tracey Haslam, who sadly passed away earlier this year and is dearly missed.

Tracey, a regular customer in our coffee shop with her children, had previously volunteered at Belthorn Academy and previously lived in the village.

The money raised by the raffle is going to buy a ScanNCut Machine. Tracey was a very keen artist and this will be something to be used for many years to come, to help keep her legacy alive. Arts 2 Heal offer arts programmes which enable the participant to reflect on life, choices, and actions which lead to change and growth.

A big thank you to all the very generous prize donations and to everyone who bought tickets, well done to the winners!

# Meet The Regulars



On 25th April, we welcomed members of the Teatro Vivo theatre company to The Dog Inn, for a performance of their show, "The Regulars".

Produced as part of the Spot-On Lancashire Spring series, and in collaboration with Inn Crowd, the show delved into possible regulars of the past, and the

outlandish, sometimes incredible stories you hear over a pint, and featured a cameo performance from Harry, a member of our bar team!

Over 30 people joined us for this fun evening of entertainment, and we were also treated to an excellent pie supper provided by our restaurant.



## YOURS SINCERELY

In June we will be bringing another Spot-On / Inn Crowd production to the Dog Inn, which will be Will Jackson's "Yours Sincerely" on Saturday June 11th, 7pm.

In this show, Will Jackson has accidentally stolen 300-second class stamps from the Post Office. But he's making them count. He's going to write letters. From reconnecting with old friends and ex-boyfriends to run-ins with the marketing department at John Lewis, stamp collecting has never been so sexy...

Based on real-life correspondences; storytelling and lipsync cabaret collide in this queer coming-of-age comedy about the complications of 21st-century communication. Tickets are available from behind the bar, or online via <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-dog-inn-at-belthorn/t-jegqaq>

## FIRST AIDERS

Are you first aid trained? Would you be willing to be added to a list managed by the Village Committee, and be contacted in case of an emergency?

Please e-mail Tina Walker on [tnwalker@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tnwalker@hotmail.co.uk)

## NORTHWEST CHIMNEY SWEEP

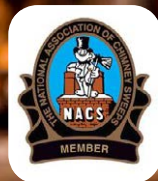
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**NO FUSS - NO MESS!**



# What's Going On?

## WEEKLY EVENTS:

### TUESDAYS

#### Coffee Morning, 10-12pm:

Come and join us for a chat and a brew. Free admission, all welcome

#### Craft & Chat, 2-4pm.

Bring some craft to do, or just come along for the chat! All welcome.

### EVERY TUESDAY - FRIDAY

#### After-School Games, from

3pm. Take shelter from the Belthorn weather & entertain the kids after school, Tuesday - Friday. We have plenty of board games and colouring equipment. Children must be accompanied.

### WEDNESDAYS

**Bridge Night, 8pm.** All standards of player welcome, from beginner to expert.

### THURSDAYS

#### Quiz Night, 8pm.

#### May 17th, 7pm

#### History Society Jubilee Party

As we never got to hold the usual Christmas parties for the last couple of years we're having a Jubilee Party instead! As with the Jubilee Party in 1977 festoon yourself with a Royal hat - prize for the best one - and there'll be games and a buffet supper.

#### Saturday 21st May, 7.30pm:

**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

#### Mon 23rd May, 7.30pm:

#### AGM

All shareholders invited to attend, in person or via zoom.

#### Thursday 2nd June, 8pm

#### Jubilee Themed Quiz Night:

#### Friday 3rd June

#### Ju-bee-lee day

Join us for all things "bee" related!

#### Friday 3rd June, 7:30pm:

#### Live music with Ben Krinks.

Join us to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with live music in the marquee on the field at the back of the pub. Free admission, all welcome.

#### Saturday 4th June, 1pm:

#### Craft Fair in the marquee

#### Saturday 4th June, 7:30pm:

#### Frolicking Pete and the

**Fumbling Fingers** Join us for a Ceilidh evening in the marquee on the field at the back of the pub. Free admission.

#### Sunday 5th June:

**Family fun day** in the marquee on the field at the back of the pub, to include a Great British BBQ, games and competitions.

#### Friday 10th June, 7:30pm:

#### Live music with female vocalist

**Eve India.** In the marquee on the field at the back of the Dog Inn (weather permitting). Free admission.

#### Saturday 11th June, 7pm: Live

#### drama performance with Will

#### Jackson's show Yours Sincerely.

See Page 5 for more info

#### Saturday 11th June, 7pm:

#### The Monkeymen

Enjoy the drama first, then stay for live music with local band, The Monkeymen.

#### Sunday 12th June, 3pm:

#### Live music with female

**vocalist, Poppy Holiday** in the marquee on the field at the back of the Dog Inn (weather permitting). Free admission.

#### Friday 17th June, 7.30pm

#### Live music with local artist,

**Liam Davies:** In the marquee on the field at the back of the Dog Inn (weather permitting). Free admission, all welcome.

#### Tue 21st June, 7pm:

#### Belthorn History Society

#### Visit to St. Peter's Church,

#### Darwen

The first of the History Society's trips out, a guided tour of the St. Peter's Church. We'll be meeting at the church at 7pm.

#### Friday 24th June, 7.30pm:

#### Live music with Alex LJ

"whatever the weather", in the marquee on the field at the back of the Dog Inn. Free admission.

#### Saturday 25th June, 7:30pm:

#### Live music with Contraband.

In the marquee on the field at the back of the Dog Inn (weather permitting). Free admission.

#### Saturday 9th July, 8pm: Live

#### music with Steve Farrell Band

Free admission.

#### Saturday 16th July, 8.30pm:

#### No Relation.

Live music with this popular band. Free admission.

#### July 19th - Dry Stone Walls

#### Belthorn History Society

Julie Smalley has kindly offered to give a demonstration of just what goes into the building of the beautiful Dry Stone Walls. If you fancy a go, bring gloves & suitable footwear. Meet at the end of Tower View, 7pm.

#### Monday 29th August, 2 - 4pm

#### Fun Dog Show.

**Also coming soon - Bingo, Casino night, Race night, Darts night.**





Self serve vending machine based on Elton Rd, across from Marco Polo restaurant. Stocking delicious free range eggs from our own flock of pasture raised hens. We also sell local farm produce from a refrigerated vending machine, all self serve, open everyday of the year 7am - 7pm.

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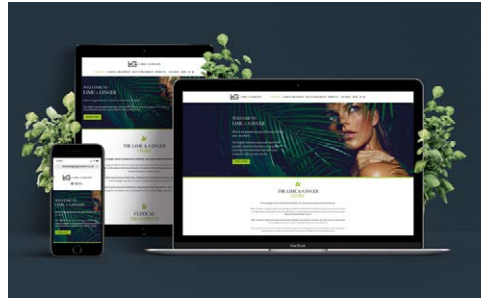


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# THE ONE WHERE MISS EGAN BECAME HEAD TEACHER AT B·E·L·T·H·O·R·N A·C·A·D·E·M·Y

**But not just for one term! Miss Egan or Mel as she happily answers to, originally from Darwen, is here for the long term. She has been a team member at Belthorn Academy and a leader of core subjects, behaviour, computing and well-being for over 10 years.**

She has taught in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and has also been a governor, so has a firm understanding of the business side to the school too. With this strong foundation in education and experience at Belthorn Academy she has taken the helm of the ship with a clear vision in her mind's eye and is ready to lead. With a friendly smile to all who meet her, you'd be hard pressed to not be impressed.

Her passion for the progress and development of the school is unmistakable when talking to her as she sits sat relaxed, by her desk, glancing out of the window from time to time. Her eyes are alight and her smile wide as she excitedly describes how she feels about becoming head, what it means to her and what she hopes to achieve. Staff pop their heads in to ask quick questions or say hi, this is a welcoming environment, fast paced but alive with opportunity. Moving into her third term now, Mel is most comfortable leading from the back, empowering



her team and all the children to thrive, for others to rightfully take credit for their hard work and success. She and all her staff are devoted to the children, she is present on every corridor, in class, in assembly and often at the school gate. The Belthorn Academy headship is not just a career, it's where her heart is and she really is 'Lighting the Sparks' of all who are lucky enough to be enrolled into the first ever full Reception intake later this year.

One of her many goals is to have the school be more of an interconnecting part of Belthorn village, rather than a school that just happens to be within a village. She encourages villagers to come and see for themselves, just what happens once the school bell rings in the morning, to catch a glimpse into the outstanding teaching

both curriculum and non-curriculum-based subjects, to see what a colourful, bright, fun place the school is, and to see each child learning, growing and reaching for the stars.

When asked what she loves about Belthorn, Mel replied 'I love how invested everyone is in their village, the great sense of community. I want everyone to feel like our school is a part of that, this is your school too.'

So, feel proud of this our wonderful school lead by a passionate, enthusiastic, involved head teacher who hopes to set

Belthorn Academy apart from the rest whilst giving our children more than just a basic education.

Interesting facts about Miss Egan...

She loves to travel and takes a trip with her fiancé every year to somewhere new in the world – 'because even as adults we never stop learning about the world around us'

She has a very healthy obsession with the TV sitcom 'Friends' and loves to throw a quote or two about the school for fun – hence the headline for this article!

She loves to express her creative side by designing cards and wedding stationery, drawing inspiration from her own wedding later this year!

Good luck Mel, you have our support!



# SNA



New album 'Factism' released June 2022

recorded at DSM Studios, Darwin

tracks produced by Paul Stuart Davies, Steven Kenyon and Peter Hook



@somenoware



# PROTECT BELTHORN / GUIDE GREENBELT

**Blackburn & Darwen Council are attempting to release 94 acres of greenbelt land in Belthorn / Guide to develop as an industrial site.**

This land is moorland containing peat and is home to an abundance of wildlife and ground nesting birds including lapwings (red listed at risk of extinction), curlew, oyster catchers, snipe, heron, owls, soots, hare, deer and more.

Once this moorland is destroyed it cannot be replaced, its loss will have a massive impact on future generations.

Over 300 objections have been raised by the local community and the Council have refused to alter their plans despite the

strong feeling of local people against this development. Please help continue our fight by signing our petition (link on [www.protectourgreenbelt.co.uk](http://www.protectourgreenbelt.co.uk)). Paper copy available in The Dog Inn.

**COMPETITION!! We are holding a photography competition to raise awareness of wildlife in the area. 12 photographs will feature in a calendar, to be sold to help to pay for legal representation at the next consultation (due Sept 22) Vouchers awarded to winners (open to all ages).**

Email your photos of wildlife/flora in the area to [protectourgreenbelt@yahoo.com](mailto:protectourgreenbelt@yahoo.com) before 31.08.22.

## THERE'S A NEW CHEF ON THE HILL!



**December 2021 saw the hobs fire back up and the cutlery start to clink in the Dog in Restaurant as new operator Jamie and his team moved in to get our taste buds tingling once again.**

From Brunch to Sunday Lunch and all manner of cheese pies and chips in between, we are overjoyed to welcome diners from near and far back to Belthorn.

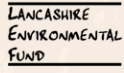
With a brand-new menu about to launch and the weather getting warmer, there's no better time to meet up with family and friends to enjoy those amazing views with a drink and a bite to eat.

Weekly special offers, such as 2 for 1 on 'classic pub meals' and an easy booking system, all you have to do is decide what to wear!



Recent protest march from Belthorn to Blackburn

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



The Dog Inn at Belthorn Community Freehouse



@Dog Inn Belthorn