



Your Community Freehouse News, Spring 2024

In this edition, we celebrate a great year, and look forward to events during the coming year, as we head towards the 10th anniversary of becoming a Community-owned pub in 2025.



## CONTRACT EXTENSION AGREED

**We are pleased to announce that Jamie Evans, our restaurant operator, has recently signed a new 5-year lease for the restaurant.**

Jamie has amicably parted with Darwen Bars and Leisure, so a new lease was needed to reflect this. Also in the restaurant, we said a fond farewell to Lloyd, who had been working front of house for a number of months.

Kate has now taken the reins as restaurant manager and we're sure she will settle in well. Kate has previously worked as assistant manager at The Foundry (Feniscowles, Blackburn)

Jamie says, "The whole restaurant team would like to thank the board for this opportunity to build on what is already a very successful restaurant business in what we regard as one of the best pubs in Lancashire. We are currently enjoying record revenues and look forward to what the future holds. Of course this would not be possible without my amazing team, and our incredible customers, whose true value is beyond measure."

Recent review comments include, "The food here is absolutely amazing, and for the price, it's by far the best

pub food anywhere near or around Blackburn and Lancashire. It's now our 'GO TO' place for lunch. The staff are amazingly polite, and the atmosphere is great too..."

"There are some great Sunday roasts in restaurants around Lancashire but very rarely do you get this level of quality..."

"Absolutely fantastic Valentines night meal tonight. Worthy of a Michelin star in our opinion. Very friendly and attentive service and an all round brilliant experience. This is a real jewel in the crown of a restaurant and pub, cannot recommend it highly enough"

# A few words from the Chair

**The Dog Inn finished 2023 on a high - record monthly takings in December topping off record annual takings since the pub came into community ownership in 2015. We organised more community events and activities than we have ever done before - and we are very grateful for the people of Belthorn for supporting these community events time after time. We have signed a new contract with Jamie Evans, now as an independent operator, to continue running our popular restaurant.**

We also made significant investment in the building itself to secure its future for the



long term. We replaced the westward facing roof which was in a sorry state of repair - and embedded solar panels in the repaired roof to reduce our energy bills for the next 25 years.

We also repainted the pub and re-rendered the rear wall - thanks to Alex Sunter for his work on this. We also replaced the roof over the ladies toilet - again thanks to Paul Allen for his work on this.

We are planning 2024 in a spirit of optimism, we have a bumper programme of events planned for the next few months.

My thanks to the committee, the staff and all our volunteers for their hard work in making The Dog Inn a real community pub.

## Notes from Nic...

**After a great 2023 we head into 2024 with great optimism for another record year at The Dog Inn.**

We have a great team from the bar staff, kitchen to front of house and behind the scenes we all work together to make your visit to us one you'll enjoy and return!

We see many local faces on a daily basis but we are seeing more and more new faces at the pub, which is fantastic! We offer something for everyone whether it be a pint with friends and family, a walk with the dog, a birthday or celebration and of course

outstanding food from Jamie and the team.

We have lots to look forward to for 2024 the return of the marquee for The Euros, live music, family fun events, dog show, Easter events, Halloween and also Christmas planned already.

We aim to please and always deliver with a smile! I am very proud of what we have achieved and I thoroughly enjoy meeting all the customers who walk through the door.

Let's look forward to some good weather for 2024 keep

### OPENING HOURS

#### BAR / COFFEE SHOP

MON: CLOSED

TUE: 2pm - 8pm

WED - SAT: 12pm - 11pm

SUNDAY: 12pm - 9pm

#### RESTAURANT

MON & TUE: CLOSED

WED - SAT: 12pm - 8pm

SUN: 12pm - 6:30pm

an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming events and I look forward to seeing you all soon!

# COMMUNITY GARDENS ARE GROWING



**Over the winter a small group of volunteers have been working on the Community Gardens on the field at the back of the pub.**

3 raised beds / planters have been created, and although

these still need to be filled with compost and soil, they will provide great opportunities for growing produce both for the restaurant and for people in the village to use. Some fruit trees and daffodil bulbs have also been planted, along with some willow trees. If anyone would like the opportunity to use the raised beds, please contact admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net to

express an interest - these will be issued on a first-come, first served basis, and will be available for a nominal annual fee. We will also be looking for extra volunteers to help maintain the garden areas, also to erect a shed that we have acquired, and possibly a greenhouse in the future. In addition, we could use some compost bins and water butts if anyone has any spare!

Whilst working on the field, it has been noticed that quite a lot of dog mess is being left in this area. Whilst the management of the pub are happy for villagers to use the field with their dogs, this is on condition that all dog mess is cleared up by dog owners. Failure to clear up after dogs may result in access to the field being restricted.

## CHRISTMAS CHEERS!



**We had a hugely successful Christmas and New Year Period, with December 2024 showing record sales figures. We are also very grateful to Jamie and the restaurant who gave a free Christmas Day meal to two Ukrainian refugees.**

Misha and Elena Khazhinskaya, who are both deaf, come from Kharkiv near the front line in the Ukraine-Russia war. Their family got their grandma, Elena, to safety first and she arrived in Huddlesden in autumn 2022 where she now lives with a deaf British lady.

Misha joined his wife in November and they were delighted to be able to have their Christmas dinner together just the two of them at The Dog Inn, having been separated for such a long time.



**With the on-going cost of living crisis, we are once again operating as a Warm Welcome Space.** We welcome anyone to come to the pub and enjoy the warmth of our wood-burning stove, free Wi-Fi, and free instant tea / coffee. This operates throughout our opening hours.



# - THANKS TO PAUL -

We are very grateful to our neighbour, Paul Allen, for managing to find some time in his busy roofing schedule to carry out some essential repair work on the roof of the ladies' toilets at the back of the building.

This roof hadn't been maintained for a long time, and was very leaky, allowing water to ingress in to the toilets and storage areas. The winter had been the final 'straw' for the lower part of our rear roof and required urgent attention.

Paul stripped the old roof, exposing the true extent of damage & age of the structure. New batons, new felt & old slate replaced!

We can now progress with our plans to re-develop the ladies' toilet



## WORLD BOOK DAY TREATS



The Dog Inn joined in on World Book Day by offering a free Patrick's Hot Chocolate to any child who came into the coffee shop dressed as their favourite book character.

We welcome any parents and children after the school day and have a selection of books and games for the children to play with. We are also planning to open the coffee shop on Friday mornings, from 8.45 - 10.30, starting on Friday 19th April, to give parents a chance to meet after the school drop-off for a brew and a chat. Villagers will also be welcome at this time.

# Diane hangs up her apron!

Having volunteered in the coffee shop since it first opened, Diane Fallon has recently decided to hang up her apron, and just visit the coffee shop from the customer side of the serving counter.

We would like to thank Diane, and all our other volunteers, for all the hours of their time that they have given, and their dedication and enthusiasm for the coffee shop. Diane - we will all miss you, but we hope to keep seeing you as a regular customer for years to come!



## A BIG welcome to Heather!



**Heather Carling is taking on the task of supervising and promoting the coffee shop. She is looking at boosting Patrick's coffee shop and would like your input into the shop, the coffee shop and what is sold.**

What would you like to see in the shop? Tea bags, coffee, sugar, rice, pasta, baked beans, store cupboard essentials? Fresh food?

Milk, bread, butter, eggs, jams, honey (local supply of course)?

And for the coffee shop? Tea, fruit and herbal teas, coffees and hot chocolate?

But what about a snack to go with your beverage? Pies, sausage rolls, a slice of cake, some biscuits or cookies? How about a range of chocolate bars as well as a selection of fresh fruit and healthy options?

It's your shop and coffee shop, so let us know what you want, and she will try to accommodate where possible. Please email Heather at: [hevs@mail.com](mailto:hevs@mail.com).

Heather has launched a new facebook page specifically for Patrick's Coffee Shop, [www.facebook.com/groups/428068289719539](https://www.facebook.com/groups/428068289719539)

**Would you like to become part of the team at Lancashire's first community owned pub?**

Opening hours for the Coffee Shop are currently Tue-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.

If anyone would like to volunteer for the coffee shop, please contact Yvonne Brown ([admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net](mailto:admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net)), Nic (via the pub) or Heather ([hevs@gmail.com](mailto:hevs@gmail.com)).



# FREE FUNCTION ROOM

**CHILDREN'S PARTIES, BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS, MEETINGS  
FUNERAL RECEPTIONS & OTHER OCCASIONS**

Hold your event with us at The Dog Inn, Belthorn. We have a function room and restaurant area which are available to hire exclusively for any occasion you may want to celebrate - 7 days a week! We also have a bar area available for bands, artists or even karaoke.

Get in touch with our bar manager Nic to discuss your needs. Nic can even help organise your event, hire the entertainment, arrange hot & cold buffets or even a sit down meal in our fabulous restaurant.  
Call Nic on 07765 125275 for more information

61 Belthorn Rd, Belthorn,  
Blackburn, BB1 2NN



[www.thedoginnatbelthorn.net](http://www.thedoginnatbelthorn.net)





## WEEKLY EVENTS

### EVERY TUESDAY - FRIDAY

#### **After-School Games, from 3pm.**

Entertain the kids after school, Tues - Fri. We've 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

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

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

#### **Quiz Night, 8pm.**

### FRIDAYS

#### **Happy Hours**

From 5pm - 7pm. £1 off all pints  
| Gin & Tonic £3 |  
Wine & Prosecco £12 a bottle!

#### **Tuesday 26th March, 7.45pm**

#### **England vs Belgium**

Join us to watch this friendly as England build up to the Euros, live on our big screen.

#### **Saturday 30th March, 2pm:**

#### **Easter Bonnet Making**

Organised in conjunction with the Village Committee. Easter crafting | Tickets £2 per child

#### **Saturday 30th March, 7:30pm:**

#### **Bekki's Bingo**

Bekki will be back to call the numbers again for our popular bingo evening, in her own inimitable way. Cash prizes. Fundraising for **Protect our Greenbelt** (Raffle will be drawn on the night) Please call 07727 150511 to let us know you are coming to help with table planning.

#### **Monday 1st April, 2pm**

#### **Easter Egg Hunt**

Organised in conjunction with the Village Committee. Easter Bonnet Competition, Pace Eggs & Decorated Eggs. Prizes for the winners.

#### **Tuesday 16th April, 7pm**

#### **History Society meeting: Oh What A Life!**

Barbara Peters has kindly agreed to come along and give the Society a talk. With a title like that, it is sure to be interesting. Guests and new members always welcome.

#### **Monday 6th May, 11am**

#### **May Day Parade**

A village tradition, the parade will work its way through the village, finishing at the Dog Inn. Organised in conjunction with the Village Committee.

#### **Monday 13th May, 7pm**

#### **Annual General Meeting**

All shareholders are invited to attend the AGM, which will be held in the restaurant. A buffet will be provided. Your chance to receive the Annual Accounts, reports from the Chair and the Treasurer, and to ask any questions you might have to the Management Committee. Only shareholders may attend.

#### **Sat 18th May, 7pm**

#### **Whisky Tasting Evening**

Join us on World Whisky Day for a whisky tasting experience, hosted by Morgan McDermott from Spirit of Yorkshire Whisky. The evening includes 5 drams of different whisky, and a meal in our restaurant. You'll also get £10 to be put towards a bottle of whisky if you'd like to purchase on the night. £30 each from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-dog-inn-at-belthorn](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-dog-inn-at-belthorn)

#### **Tuesday 21st May, 7pm**

#### **History Society Meeting: Blackpool Wakes Weeks.**

The Wakes Weeks were such an important part of life in these Lancashire mill towns, and Blackpool was the place to go! As well as speaking on the subject, Jennie will be bringing some items from her amazing collection to look at. Guests and new members always welcome.

#### **14th June – 14th July:**

#### **European Football Championships.**

We will have a marquee erected at the front of the pub. Join us to watch the games live. Lots of other events will be organised throughout the 4 weeks of the tournament – keep an eye on our Facebook page for further details.

#### **Sunday 27th October**

#### **Kid's Halloween Party**

Organised in conjunction with the Village Committee. Details to be confirmed.

#### **Mon 4th November**

#### **Firework display**

Organised in conjunction with village committee. Details to be confirmed.

#### **Saturday 7th December**

#### **Children's Christmas Party**

Organised in conjunction with village committee. Details to be confirmed.

#### **Sunday 15th December:**

#### **Over 60s Christmas Party**

Organised in conjunction with village committee. Details to be confirmed.

# THIS YEAR'S AGM

The AGM will be held on **Monday 13th May, 7pm in the restaurant at the Dog Inn. All shareholders are invited.**

Prior to this AGM we would like to offer all shareholders the opportunity to nominate themselves, or another shareholder to work on the management committee.

Please forward your nomination with a brief summary of the skills and level of commitment that

you can offer to: admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net or by post to: The Secretary, The Dog Inn, 61 Belthorn Rd, Belthorn, Lancs. BB1 2NN before Mon 22nd April 2024.

In addition, shares are currently still available to purchase: if you would like to purchase any shares, please contact: admin@thedoginnatbelthorn.net for an application form, or pick one up behind the bar.

## 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.

## NEW BAR SNACK MENU ON OFFER

The restaurant has recently launched a bar snack menu which offers fabulous small plates to snack on from just **£3.50**.

During Happy Hours (every Friday, 5-7pm) you can take advantage to mix and match dishes with the great offer of 3 for £15!



### BAR SNACK MENU

- Halloumi Fries & Sweet Chilli Sauce - £7.50**
- Salt & Pepper Chicken Bites - £8**  
Soy & sesame dip
- Breaded Chicken Strips - £7**  
BBQ sauce
- Spicy Buffalo Chicken Wings - £8**  
Blue cheese mayo
- Buffalo Cauliflower Bites - £7 (VE)**  
Blue cheese mayo
- Chipotle Bean Chilli Dirty Fries - £7 (VE/GF)**
- Truffle & Parmesan Fries - £8.50**
- Salt 'n' Pepper Chips - £5**  
Sesame & spring onion
- Cheese & Bacon Garlic Bread - £8**
- Onion Rings - £3.50 (VE)**
- Battered Haddock Goujons - £8**  
Tartar sauce

**HAPPY HOURS OFFER**  
**3 DISHES for £15!**

The Dog's Life is written, designed & distributed by a team of Belthorn volunteers.  
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