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first newsletter

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# The Holywell News

Volume 1, Issue 1

June 2013

## The clock is now ticking . . .

Phew! Where do we start?

We've now received official notification that Mr. Gale has formally notified Calderdale Council of his intention to dispose of the Holywell.

Now we must advise Calderdale of our intention to bid for the property - which we will do - and that bid has to be ready for no later than November 29th 2013.

So the clock is really ticking and we've got some hard work to do.

But we'll be ready!

If the quality and attendance of the two events we've put together so far are anything to go by - we'll be in a great position when the time comes.

And now more than ever we need your help!

As a steering committee we meet every two weeks to discuss and plan our strategy.

We successfully applied for a grant of £6720 and this funding has been very helpful.

We have had two valuations and a structural survey undertaken on The Holywell.

We have also appointed an accountant, solicitor and an architect to guide us further.

As we move forward we are required to change the 'Legal Structure' of our group and this process is under way.

We will become what's known as an 'Industrial and Provident Society' - our trading name will be 'The Holywell Community Pub Limited.' Then we will be in a position to offer 'Shares' in the business.

This allows us to open up the whole process of purchasing the building - for the community to own, run and enjoy as a



multi-function facility exactly as you want it!

We can do this! This village can have a completely unique asset - a 'Pub is the Hub' serving all the residents of Holywell Green and beyond. Similar community owned ventures in Britain are becoming renowned for their successful trading ability.

So we're working tirelessly to achieve this - and we welcome your help. Our committee meetings have an 'open-door' policy and anyone wishing to join in is most welcome.

Please ask any member of the group for more details.

## A pub, coffee-shop, youth-centre, dance-hall . . .

Fancy a drink with friends?

A nice pint of traditional *Real Ale* in front of a log fire, a chilled continental lager outside on a warm evening. A glass of fine crisp *Chardonnay* or a complex *Pinot Noir*.

Maybe a *cappuccino* or a pot of *Earl Grey* - with a newspaper, over breakfast!

We want to hear your suggestions. We want the Holywell to sit exactly where it belongs. At the social centre of the village - providing much more than just a pub. A Coffee-shop, tea-room, youth centre, mother and toddler group, reading room/library, live music venue, computer classes, free Wi-Fi - the list is endless! This is all about giving the vil-

lage a facility to engage social interaction - and maybe just make Holywell Green an even better place to live in!

Not only that but a facility actually owned by the community!

As we say around here - "Nowt wrong wi' that!"

## Brain-Teasers and a lot more at the Golf-Club . . .



So after a hectic start to the year- what better way to relax than get the whole village down to Elland Golf-Club and have a right good night out!

And on April 11th that's exactly what we did. And the results were spectacular!

Friends old and new had the chance to get together and test their knowledge in a really good quiz put together by Scott Graham.

Prior to that Peter Lassey gave an excellent presentation

on how communities throughout Britain, have undertaken similar challenges with some startling results. We also announced that three of the 'team' - Scott, Chris Judd and Martyn Foulds, have been enrolled on a training course to qualify as fully licensed future innkeepers!

The club provided a very tasty pie and peas supper and then a staggering array of donated prizes were raffled.

Support from local businesses and residents in donating the

prizes was fantastic.

Peter has listed all those that were involved on our website [www.holywellinn.co.uk](http://www.holywellinn.co.uk) and we would ask that you support them in return.

Overall the night at the Golf - Club made some £350 for group funds - thank you!

This was a real taster for what we're trying to achieve. People out together, enjoying the atmosphere and having a good time!



“... fantastic cakes!”

“... talented community”

“... come along and say hello”



## Let them eat cake . . .

And not prepared to rest on our laurels - next stop the village 'Bake-Off'!

Out went the challenge, dust-off your rolling pin, on with your best apron!

So here was a first, the inaugural Holywell-Green Bake-Off.

Cakes, Buns, Pies, Tarts, Flans - the display of dazzling delights was amazing!

Every single person who attended the church-hall on Saturday May 18th was completely overwhelmed.

With Morrison's master-baker Richard Conway and Louise Cooper from the Huddersfield Examiner as judges - tensions ran high as to who would win.

In fact we had to recruit more judges as there was just so much to taste! So thanks to Elizabeth Bailey and Heather Tomlinson for stepping in!

It really was an amazing afternoon and once again proved just how much this village enjoys having fun together.

Imagine the sort of events we can put on - such as an annual 'Bake-Off' - once we get the Holywell into community ownership.

Everybody enjoyed the day and this time £612 - was raised towards the campaign.

Brilliant!

## On the road again . . .

As part of our open-information schedule we're attending as many events as possible to put people in the picture about the campaign.

We recently attended the CAMRA weekend at Square Chapel in Halifax, where amongst others Mark and Heather Stead tirelessly handed out leaflets and information.

On June 2nd we exhibited at the Shaw Park Group Summer

Fayre and this is to be followed on Saturday June 8th by our attendance at the *Calderdale Neighbours Day* at Halifax piece Hall.

We've even arranged a space at the *Great Yorkshire Show* in July! Beverley Smith-Walsh has donated an area of her own display stand to present information about us in the *Made In Yorkshire* marquee.

And we're also running a competition to adopt a 'Strap-Line'

- a few words to sum up who we are and what we're trying to achieve.

Please enter - closing date June 30th - and the winner will receive a fabulous three course Sunday Lunch for a family of Four - including wine, at *The Old Golf House Hotel* in Outlane. So come on budding 'word-smiths' - here's your chance to come up with the winning lines and have a great Sunday afternoon out on us!

## And then along comes Al . . .

Back in March we held our second 'open-information' weekend on the car-park adjacent to the Holywell. Only this time we had the wit to take a caravan and kept somewhat warmer than when we did on the first one in January!

It was during the Sunday session that John Walsh came up with the idea that maybe his good friend Al Stewart might just do us a benefit gig.

Time for a phone call to Los Angeles . . .

"Hi Al, can you do us a benefit gig?"

"Hi John - certainly!"

Actually it was somewhat more complicated than that, but nevertheless Al agreed to it - and now as part of his October UK tour - which includes a sold-out show at the *Royal Albert Hall* in London - we're absolutely delighted to announce that Al Stewart will play the *Halifax Victoria Theatre* on Saturday October 26th in support of our campaign! This is an amazing coup for a

group such as ours and could help raise significant funds for our aims.

Al Stewart is captivating - not only as an individual, but as a songwriter and a performer. He is best known for his multi million worldwide selling hits 'Year of the Cat' 'Time Passages' and 'On the Border.'

This will be Al's first visit to the UK in three years - last performing at Glastonbury in 2010 - invited back as one of the few who actually played the first ever festival there in 1970!



**"On a morning from a Bogart movie, in a country where they turn back time . . ."**

## . . . and what a night we have in store!

Al will be joined on stage by long-standing guitar partner Dave Nachmanoff - but we've also secured the services of Mark Griffiths, bass player with Cliff Richard and the Shadows, and percussionist Roger Swallow who will team-up again with Al for the first time in over 30 years!

Opening the show is Iain Matthews - who had a worldwide No.1 hit with the Joni Mitchell song *Woodstock*.

So tell your friends and make a night of it. The *Victoria* is a beautiful traditional British theatre right in the centre of Halifax, and there are numerous bars and restaurants on the doorstep.

Tickets can be purchased directly from the theatre website [www.calderdale.gov.uk/victoria/](http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/victoria/) or call 01422 351158

All seats are £27.50 which

includes a theatre support fee of £1.

This event is attracting major media attention already and will create massive awareness of the campaign. John has spoken about it on Radio Leeds and several newspapers have run stories.

Al has put links to us on his official Facebook and website pages - so we are now being read about worldwide!

Don't miss this show!



## So where do we go from here?

Well that's where we need your help.

We operate as a steering committee - as mentioned we meet every two weeks and have an open-door policy. You are most welcome to attend and we're always actively seeking support to achieve our ultimate goal - the purchase, complete refurbishment and rebranding of the Holywell Inn. A business that will be owned by the community, for the community. Forever!

This really is for all time - passed on to all future generations - a lasting legacy!

The *Holywell Pub Company Ltd* will issue shares to members - there will be a maximum limit to the number of shares any one individual can own - but remember this will be a one-member one-vote basis. It is a totally democratic structure that has been proven many times in the UK.

For many years!

We will be governed by strict legal financial rules.

There will be an annual general meeting where a committee will be elected and members will vote on issues as necessary. All financial matters will be dealt with by our nominated accountants and members will have access to all such information.

So join in and be part of something amazing -



## Working for the community - what we do and who we are!

THE HOLYWELL  
INN ACTION  
GROUP

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

TALK TO US

JOIN IN

BE PART  
OF  
SOMETHING  
UNIQUE!

We're on the web

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

**WORKING FOR  
THE  
COMMUNITY**

We came together as a group to stop the Holywell Inn being converted into six dwellings - thus losing the last pub in the village forever. A pub that had traded for 142 years prior to the present owner closing it down.

Well we thought that just wasn't on! And we're doing well.

We stopped the planning application and then got the pub listed as a community asset. Under the Localism act (2012) the owner has now given us six-months to prepare a bid for the pub as he has formally notified Calderdale that he intends to sell it.

The fight goes on and we're not afraid of rising to the challenge!

Remember  
this?



### A Pub is the Hub!

As part of our campaign many people have worked extremely hard to get this campaign to the stage we're at now.

Numerous letters, countless telephone calls, meetings on freezing cold nights, highs and lows! Printing costs, journeys to Leeds, Richmond and almost daily to Halifax - but everybody involved just got on with it!

Hundreds of pounds of personal funds have been spent - with absolutely no question or intention of reclaiming it, that's not what this is about. We have a vision of a unique facility in the village.

The 'Holywell' Pub is the Hub.

That phrase is actually the name of an organisation helping us to achieve this vision.



They will be the people we will engage with to incorporate all the services that were proposed by the village residents at the meeting in January - and we're expecting many more suggestions to be forthcoming!

The other organisations helping us, include the *Plunkett Foundation*, a group who specialise in setting up community owned ventures.

*Locality UK* supported us with masses of advice as to how to achieve the community asset listing.

*Pro-Help West Yorkshire* have also been instrumental in providing free-of-charge professional services, such as Keith Brewster our recently acquired architect.

And the *Social Investment Business Fund* who provided the initial grant funding.

We extend our gratitude to all these organisations and individuals - and to all who have offered support - Thank you!