



The Holywell News

Volume 4 - Issue 7 - December 2016

A thoroughly decent chap!

Martin Terrington Foulds 18 Dec 1960 - 21 Oct 2016

Well news really does not come any sadder than this.

Our friend and colleague Martyn Foulds died whilst flying back from California on October 21st and this has really taken some time to come to terms with.

Martyn was just 55 years old and leaves his two children and new fiancé Sally behind. Martyn and Sally actually got engaged whilst on this holiday in the USA. What this poor lady has experienced recently must be absolutely terrible.

But Martyn was never one for sorrow - he was a man full of energy and fun. But also a man full of compassion, love and generosity.

He joined the Holywell group right back at the start of this campaign, and did everything he could to assist. Even though his work meant he was out of the area much of the time, he followed everything we did with compelling interest.

Martyn actually designed the group logo that's displayed on the top of this newsletter - he also came up with the brilliant 'Hollywood to Holywell' strap line we used for the Al Stewart show back in 2013.

To describe Martyn as 'quiet' would be about as far from reality as possible! He was infectious and the most wonderful company. He compered our Dave Nachmanoff show at Elland Golf Club back in April - Dave was joined on stage that night by Anne Burghard.

As a measure of the kind of man Martyn was - Anne who only ever met him once, travelled over from Germany (where she is actually number one in the charts) to attend the funeral! She has also written a song for Martyn - it's truly beautiful.

We'll miss him terribly.

But is heaven ready for that laugh????

When the last planning application for the Holywell was refused, this is what Martyn wrote on the group Facebook page - 'John that has made my week!!!! What a result! Back of the net!!! Well done to you all for your commitment drive and energy. Brilliant!'

Fly high Fouldsy . . .



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planning appeal latest



Planning Inspectorate

So off we go again . . .

As many of you now know Mr Gale has lodged an appeal against the refusal of his planning application - 15/01442/CON - made by Calderdale Council back in March.

The reference for this appeal is 16/00048/LCF and details can be viewed under the appeals section of the Calderdale planning website.

There are 130 documents associated with this already - so all the objections you made will be available to the inspector. However you may want to add further comments and of course we would encourage you to do so.

Along with Calderdale Council we will vigorously fight this appeal and will concentrate on the four key factors of the case.

- 1. There is no need for the facility in the area**
- 2. That it is no longer a viable business**
- 3. All reasonable efforts have been made to retain the facility by investigating the possibility of setting up a community owned and managed enterprise**
- 4. There is no reasonable prospect of the business becoming viable in the future**

In Mr Gale's submission to the planning inspectorate he believes that Pubs are closing at a rapid rate. However figures from CAMRA show that such closures have slowed dramatically and the future looks brighter. There has actually been an increase in the number of openings of new modern food led pubs.

Much of this has come about through community groups such as ours listing their local pub as an 'Asset of Community Value' just as we did.

We were one of the first such listings in the UK - there's nearly 3000 now!

Mr Gale has also commented on the fact that we meet in other pubs and the local church. We have to Mr Gale - the only true pub in Holywell Green was closed down by you.

44 people in Holywell Green objected to the loss of this pub - there were 77 objections in total. Need we say more?

Point 2 is regarding the viability of the business.

This will be an interesting discussion at the planning hearing. Will Mr Gale finally produce accounts for the business whilst it was under his ownership? Or do we have to take his word for it?

Of course the Holywell was non-viable at the end - people in Holywell Green may be a bit fussy but things like heating, clean working toilets and a range of drinks to select from are usually fairly basic requirements for the average pub goer. The last landlady tried incredibly hard to achieve success but was thwarted by the owners.





Of course point 3 regarding community ownership is without doubt our strongest point of all!

Since coming together in the summer of 2012 - we have continually grown to now becoming recognised as one of the most prolific community groups in the UK.

Even as we write this newsletter another pub saving group based in Hampshire have just been in touch seeking advice. That makes three this week! We've had contact from others in Cheshire and North Yorkshire as well!

The essential difference between ourselves and Mr Gale is that we recognise that the Holywell Inn truly does have a function in this village. It will be a viable community owned and run business - we wouldn't be throwing thousands of hours of voluntary work at it otherwise.

That's why we engaged an expert business analyst to professionally compile a five year business plan. In business that's how it works. We've proved beyond any doubt that this venture is sustainable.

What holds us back is the reluctance of Mr Gale to accept the true value of this building.

He doesn't even appear to be able to decide what he paid for it! In the appeal he has stated £175,000 - his friend Jonathan Holmes claimed in a letter written in May 2015 that Mr Gale got a £45,000 discount on the advertised price of £195,000.

Fleurets the agents who sold the Holywell to Mr Gale, have told us it was actually on the Market at £180,000 at the time of purchase.

Of course the recorded figure at the Land registry is £120,000!

Mr Holmes and Mr Gale state that this is because two pubs were purchased at the same time for a total of £240,000.

Therefore are we to assume then that the British Oak in Wakefield was sold to Mr Gale for a total of £65,000?

All rather odd, the British oak was on the market at the time for £185,000 - however Mr Holmes states in his letter that it was advertised at just £90,000.

Confused? We aren't!

This pub was valued twice in March 2013 - showing it to be worth £105,000. A cash bid of £100,000 was made at the time.

In the summer of 2015 - we again contacted Mr Gale with an offer of £100,000.

Time will tell with this one!

Finally Mr Gale has to prove that there's no reasonable chance of the pub becoming viable in the future.

Again we're relishing the discussion with this one.

Mr Gale has included the statement from former landlord Martin Conway - describing his poor success when running the Holywell some eight years ago.

Mr Conway of course claims to 'turn around' poor pubs and make them great again.

Didn't happen at the Fleece in Greetland or the Crown and Anchor in Mixenden Martin - they're both now houses.

The planning hearing will be held on February 2nd 2017 - more details to follow.



who we are

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Members

John Walsh (Chair)

Chris Judd (Vice Chair)

Heather Stead (Secretary)

Beverley Smith-Walsh (Treasurer)

Mark Stead (Director)

Peter Lassey

Graham Gent

Ian Whiteley

Linda Whiteley

David Humphreys

Chris Pearson

Rob Chevalier

SOLICITORS

Julian Bond

Glaisyers Manchester

ACCOUNTANTS

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Join us...

Join us for yet another super community event in the church hall on Saturday December 10th.

There'll be the chance to make your own Christmas Wreath - and lovely people that we are you'll receive Tea/Coffee and Mince pies as part of your admission fee.

Please note we're also taking orders for wreathes - please call Beverley on 07881 661348 to reserve yours now.

This is always a really nice event and we hope you can join us.



So as Christmas approaches and we see yet another year drawing to an end - we can reflect on 12 months of very hard work by the group. We're still here and not going away anytime soon!

It's 12 months since we lost the wonderful Adela Bond - and now the devastating news about Martyn.

So we'll do this for them!

Anyway a very happy Christmas to all our readers - we truly hope you have a wonderful time.

And we couldn't close without this picture of Santa - spotted in a store in Clitheroe last year - there's something rather familiar Santa here...

