



The Holywell Community Pub Ltd.

The Holywell News



Volume 2 Issue 4

September 2014

Welcome to our monthly newsletter

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- Events
- Competition news

Website

www.holywellinn.co.uk

Facebook

Save the Holywell Inn Group

e-mail

theholwellinn@hotmail.com

Telephone
07741 172494

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We're going to be busy!

So as the summer begins to draw to an end, we see the Holywell Group working as hard as ever to organise and host community events that appeal to a variety of local people.

Two of our most popular shows - both highly successful last year - are being repeated this month.

First of all we host the 'Garden Produce Show' on Saturday September 6th commencing at 2.00 pm in the church hall.

This is a great opportunity to show off your skills in any of our three categories - Vegetables, Fruit or Home Produce - and there's a fantastic competition for the younger ones - Create a flower or vegetable from recycled materials.

Entry forms and further details are available from our website www.holywellinn.co.uk and of course we look forward to seeing you on the day.

As we do two weeks later when we welcome back TV celebrity Tim Hogarth - to host our second 'Antiques Valuation Day'.

This was a remarkable event last year and Tim ended up staying way longer than first expected!

This show gives you the opportunity to bring along those antiques and collectables that you've always been curious about - and receive an expert valuation from Tim!

And as we found out last year - Tim is prepared to put his money where his mouth is - you may be lucky enough to get him to purchase your items.

Again further details are available on our website.

Both events will see our now famous tea coffee and cake stand in full swing!

There will also be a raffle at each show - so come along and have a great time.

Holywell Green's Community Dream
GARDEN PRODUCE SHOW

Bring & Buy Plant Stall
Tea, Coffee & Cakes
Children's Activities

Show Classes Include:
FRUIT
VEGETABLES
PRESERVES
MAKE A FLOWER OR VEGETABLE FROM RECYCLED MATERIAL (For Kids)

Fee 50p Per Entry
CHILDREN FREE

6th September
2.00pm
Holywell Green
United Reformed Church

entry details available from
Fletchers Fish & Chips, James Street, Holywell Green
or online at www.holywellinn.co.uk

Kindly Sponsored by **Armitage's** Home & Garden

Holywell Green's Community Dream
ANTIQUES VALUATION AFTERNOON

with TV Antiques Celebrity
Tim Hogarth

Saturday 20th September
Holywell Green United Reformed Church

Bring your antiques along for a valuation and have Tim tell you all about them. He may even offer to buy!

Specialising in Silver, Gold and pottery -plus any other interesting pieces.

Tea, Coffee & Cakes Available

A small donation of £2 per item is payable all of which will go to the Holywell Inn Community Pub fund.

DOORS OPEN AT 1.15 - TIM WILL BE THERE UNTIL 3.30

I've been asked many times . . .

And by many people - "Why are you doing this? What's it all about? What's in it for you?"

Well the answer to all three is simple. I grew up in pubs, my whole social life has been determined by the people I've met in pubs. I first met my wife through going out to a local pub. And my working life has been all about pubs.

And the traditional British pub is something we should be proud of - I personally think that the decline in this fantastic institution has been a disgrace that should never have been allowed.

Fortunately steps are now being taken that may see some end to all this - and I'm proud of the efforts that our group has made in helping to bring about these changes. But the work is relentless and extremely demanding.

So let me explain in detail why I'm personally involved - what it's all about - and what's in it for me!

In August 2012 I was lying on a sun-bed in Juan Les Pins on the French Riviera immersed in a book about Australia. I was starting to plan another major trip back to this wonderful country - actually my homeland - when my wife Beverley said to me "when we get back can you write a letter about the Holywell."

Being more interested right then in Opera Houses and Cross-Continent trains - I mumbled "yeah ok - why though what's going on?" Bev explained that a second planning application had been placed seeking a change of use to six dwellings. I actually laughed and said "Six dwellings in the Holywell - who's kidding who?"

Going back to my book though - I began to feel uneasy. The Holywell is the only pub in the village - if it were lost that would be a travesty. I knew it had declined over the years - no investment, little maintenance, but there was still support for it - and with some appropriate management and community involvement this could be a sure fire winner.

So I wrote my letter - as did numerous others - and eventually a group of people became passionate about saving this pub. We were desperately annoyed by the tactics being employed by the owner and his associates in their efforts to gain planning permission for a change of use.

Our determination to prevent this was helped by carrying out detailed research and obtaining assistance from a number of national organisations. And being completely honest from day one.

But we got a shock - Calderdale Council were recommending that the Planning application should be permitted. Now we really had a problem.

On December 11th we attended a planning committee meeting to put our case forward as to why the application should be rejected. I stood up and did all I could in the allocated five minutes - and then it was the owners turn. But he'd gone! So we thought fantastic, now this will surely be rejected. But it wasn't - the council deferred the decision to give the owner the opportunity to give his reasons. You can imagine how we felt!

Not deterred - we were to attend the next meeting on January 8th 2013 - but in the meantime we had begun to get the pub listed as an *Asset of Community Value* in line with the localism act.

We did this - the very first organisation in Calderdale - and decided that it was time for a village meeting . . .

So our work began - and the first fledgling steering committee meetings commenced. And by the way we stopped the planning application - and the one that followed!



Between 1982 & 2012
we lost 18,367 pubs
in the UK.

We are determined that this
will not be the case in
Holywell Green



In 1998 the MMC issued their report and recommendations for the future of British pubs and brewing.

It then became law that breweries would no longer be able to operate more than 2000 pubs - at the time more than half of all pubs in Britain were owned by just six breweries. Bass operated nearly 13000.

However no restriction was placed on non-brewery ownership - and this led to the birth of Pubco's - Enterprise Inns, Punch Taverns and Admiral Taverns being the most well known.

The current owner of the Holywell purchased it from Admiral Taverns - following a long period of very obvious neglect and lack of investment.

We aim to change all that!

And become an exemplar organisation throughout the UK!

Our chairman gives us his thoughts . . .



John Walsh is 57 and was born in Cooma NSW Australia.

His family eventually settled in Elland & John has been married to Beverley for 20 years.

He has worked in the Leisure Industry for almost 40 years - running his own company Oakwood Leisure for the last 25.

But John has always been passionate about the things he believes in - so much so that on witnessing his dad's dreadful experiences with Dementia, John was compelled to write a book on the subject.

Thus followed '*Who will sing the old songs?*' a critically acclaimed account of the appalling impact the disease has on both the individual and their families.

Never written for financial or personal gain it was nevertheless a 'nice' feeling to be in the top 100 books in the Amazon biography chart for some time.

In 'non - Holywell' time John enjoys playing golf, watching Halifax Town and trying to get the better of Tom Fagus in Chicago on Facebook.

(Tom's a huge Holywell supporter!)

So our first ever village meeting took place on January 4th 2013 in the church hall. Obviously we had no idea what to expect - but it was fantastic when some 90 local people came out to talk about the venture.

But the big shock was just how many residents were so concerned about the lack of community facilities and services available in Holywell Green. So our vision of the 'Pub at the hub' was born - we could have this amazing concept of a successfully trading pub, financing all the community requirements of the village.

Almost two years later we're still working as hard as ever to achieve this. This has been a roller coaster - both for me personally and the group as individuals. We've held numerous meetings and hosted over twenty events. We've raised money through grants, raffles, donations and community shows. Our 'diary' is full - our passion and drive is relentless. And every day is different - we will achieve this. I wouldn't be here otherwise!

So yes I for one fully believe we will eventually buy the Holywell from Mr Gale.

And I can assure anybody reading this - and I'm also sure that I speak for the whole of the steering committee when I say it - not one person involved is doing this for any kind of self gain, everybody is just totally committed to trying make Holywell Green simply an even better place to live.

I spoke at Bradley Hall a few months ago, and used the expression that a small group of local residents are working "their absolute socks off!" to achieve this. And they are - believe me they are!

I've seen some of our members out in all weathers - selling raffle tickets, delivering flyers, promoting events etc. All giving up their time to further the campaign. We're also far from stupid - we know a very small number of people have criticised us for doing this. I fail to understand why.

Many years ago I was visiting my brother in New Zealand and he owned four restaurants in the town. Every night we would go to one of them for a meal. However one particular night he explained that we would be much later in dining - explaining that there was a meeting at the school about its future role in the community. On asking if he intended going he looked at me rather odd and then simply explained - they're our kids the whole town's going. The following week it was a council meeting - yep the whole town's going - we want to be involved with local affairs. That's how a community should exist - everybody being involved and taking interest in their neighbours and the quality of local life.

There's still an enormous amount of work to be done before we achieve our aims. But be assured when we eventually get the business up and running - there'll be no committee hullabaloo, no razzamatuzz, no back slapping! We aren't doing it for that.

It's been an amazing campaign to be involved in. I'm delighted that I suggested the Al Stewart show at the Victoria Theatre - and will never forget the Caz & Kenny shows in the Duke of York!

I was both daunted and somewhat overwhelmed to be asked to speak in Westminster - but the experience will stay with me forever. I just know we can change life for the better for many people.

My mum would have loved the ideas we have for this pub! She knew more than most just how good it is to both have friends - and somewhere to socialise!

The work goes on and Australia is still there - I wrote that first letter and keep a copy on my laptop - along with the further 500+ documents I've subsequently written in connection with the campaign!



The Holywell Community Pub Ltd.

WHO WE ARE

Committee members:

John Walsh (Chair)
Chris Judd (Vice-Chair)
Eileen McAlonan (Secretary)
Beverley Smith-Walsh (Treas.)

Peter Lassey
Martyn Foulds
Mark Stead
Heather Stead
Graham Gent
Ian Whiteley
David Humphreys
Julian Bond
Louella Ramsden
Mick Ramsden
Corinne Ramsden

Sub-committee (Funding)
John, Chris, Peter, Martyn & Mark

Sub-Committee - Events
Beverley, Eileen, Heather, Graham & Ian

Website:
www.holywellinn.co.uk

Facebook:
Save The Holywell Inn Group

e-mail:
thehollywellinn@hotmail.com

Telephone:
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The Holywell Green Community Dream

Our Cropredy report!



Well for three fabulous nights we had the most amazing time at the *Fairport Convention Cropredy Festival* where great friend of the Holywell campaign Al Stewart absolutely blew the sell out crowd away!

With local hero (Sheila won't be coming home) Dave Nachmanoff at his side - Al performed an amazing set including all his best known songs and of course finished with *Year of the Cat*.

He then joined us for Curry and wine in the caravan and wanted to be brought up to speed with the campaign.

Several shows are planned in the UK next year and we'll publish the dates as soon as their official.



And finally - how nice is this?



We'd like to say a huge thank you to Steve Lloyd who - completely out of the blue - just popped in to Bev's showroom and dropped off a beautiful box of wine along with a writing set.

Steve asked that we raffle the items and keep all proceeds towards the campaign.

And these are mighty impressive wines!

There's a 2009 White Burgundy, a classic Cava and complex Bordeaux.

So look out for these items at our forthcoming events and once again thanks Steve.

As a footnote we always welcome any donations or gifts - no matter how large or small - and extend our most sincere gratitude to all the people who have contributed so far.

These kind of things make the campaign feel really worthwhile.

See you at the shows!

