



The Holywell News

Volume 5 - Issue 4 - September 2017

SUMMERTIME AND THE LIVING IS EASY BUT OF COURSE NOT FOR US!

Yes as always we've been out and about working tirelessly to promote and progress this campaign.

August has seen us involved in another round of very important meetings, and one of the more frustrating aspects of campaigns such as these is the blunt fact that we cannot always publish the details of exactly where we are with matters.

But rest assured a very dedicated and hard working group of people are in full swing on an almost daily basis - with the simple objective of bringing community ownership of the Holywell Inn and all the associated benefits to fruition.

Five years into this campaign and the enthusiasm has never diminished. So much so that on Thursday August 24th we saw some 15 people attending the meeting at the White Swan.

Our share issue is still available and following the music festival we've seen more people taking out the monthly subscription. Don't forget you can hold more than one share!

As autumn approaches we're looking at another round of community events and as always we'd love to hear from you if you have any suggestions for us to put into action.

We're delighted that the Holywell Music Festival is growing in stature and inside this newsletter we have a report from the renowned Cropredy festival, where many of our performers attend.

With three festivals 'under our belt' we're really getting established as one of the best new festivals in the country. We have a unique way of hosting this event and our approach is gaining a solid reputation.

So thanks again to everybody who works on this campaign and as always to our share-holders and supporters. And of course we still meet every two weeks at the White Swan in Outlane.



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WE ARE NOT ALONE...

Here we have The Travellers Rest in the village of Skeebby near Richmond in North Yorkshire.

Guess what? It's unviable, it's been marketed but nobody wants to buy it. There's no longer a requirement for a pub in this village. The owner disagrees with the valuation.

Sound familiar? Of course it does!

And on Thursday August 24th we were delighted to welcome Richard Wright and Martin Booth from the Travellers campaign group to our meeting held at the White Swan.

This is a remarkably similar situation to the one we face at the Holywell. The Travellers owner has submitted several planning applications, all to no avail and in March this year faced a hearing at Richmond town hall to determine his planning appeal.

That went exactly the same way as the appeal submitted by Chris Gale regarding the Holywell - a comprehensive dismissal!

Like us the group at the Travellers are trying to negotiate with the owner regarding sensible values for the property - but sadly he refuses to do so.

We wish them well.

It's never easy and we have every sympathy with their plight. But like us, they're a very determined group of people and working extremely hard to bring about a successful conclusion to their campaign.

It was fascinating to see just how similar the claims made by the Travellers owner reflected those made by Chris Gale.

But it's a nationwide epidemic, and groups like ours and many others are changing the way local councils - and the government - are reviewing policies to prevent such claims leading to the loss of vital community facilities.

And this is the Greys pub in Brighton.



We've been contacted by the group trying to carry out the community purchase of this much loved pub.

This is the music hub of Brighton and over the years has seen amazing performances from some iconic artists.

Again we wish the group well and will assist them in any way we can. They're just starting out and well aware of the many challenges ahead.

Fascinating stuff!



CROPREDY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2017



Well as we stated earlier we've done three Holywell festivals and well aware of how much work goes into organising them!

So spare a thought for Gareth Williams and his team who've just organised the 50th Cropredy Festival!

Yes a full half century since Fairport Convention started their annual 'bash' in Oxfordshire.

So this was a very special affair and saw many Holywell friends attending.

Familiar faces were seen everywhere (well ok at the bar mainly!) but it was fantastic to see sound maestro Paul Smith, the lovely Debs, Nick and Michelle Plumhall, superb compere A J Clarke, Chris Leslie and Julian Dawson.

Also in the crowd were Bethan and Alan, Dawn and Glyn along with some 25,000 others!

Founder Fairport member Iain Matthews played a magical performance to the sell out crowd on Saturday afternoon. Iain opened our Al Stewart show back in October 2013 and did a cameo slot at our first festival two years later.

Cropredy is an amazing experience. It really is the most friendly festival in the UK - sorry the second most friendly festival!!



But well worth a visit for the few days in August.

We're getting some serious interest from some amazing performers wanting to play at our next years festival.

This is becoming our biggest event of the year and discussions are under way to consider the approach for 2018.

If you fancy getting involved don't hesitate to get in touch.

The Holywell Music Festival is a truly unique event and our 'on the road' side performances at the care homes and schools, is an aspect of the festival we have big plans for.

There is ample room for expansion with this project and we're very excited to see how we go with it next time.

Liam Merriman has discussed how he can be involved in developing this programme and naturally we're delighted that he wants to be involved.

But congratulations to Gareth and the Cropredy Team, the organisation and professionalism was again first class.

You're going to have to work hard to beat it next year!



COMING SOON ...

We're really delighted that TV doctor Sarah Jarvis has agreed to come and speak for us.

Sarah is a familiar face on the BBC One programme The One Show as well as the medical expert on BBC Radio Two's Jeremy Vine show. Dr Jarvis is also the clinical consultant for health website Patient UK. She has been the Women's Health spokesperson for the Royal College of General Practitioners and chair of the Health Care Committee of HEART UK (the cholesterol charity).

We're in the process of finalising a date, the format and a venue for Sarah's visit, and again welcome any suggestions you may have.

Once we have more details we'll obviously publish them through our usual channels.

So that's it for another month.

Time marches on and the momentum keeps growing. We suspect that many people thought we'd be a 'nine-day wonder' and would soon give up.

But it's five years since we began this campaign and we have never been more determined!

When Richard and Martin visited us from the Travellers Rest group, they were amazed at the things we've done and the impact we've had on pub campaigns up and down the country.

It's very important that we keep this up. Sometimes it can be very frustrating for us that we cannot publish details of the many things happening 'behind the scenes' but that's really just a simple fact of life!

But rest assured everything that can be done - be it fundraising, chasing grants, promoting the share issue etc. - we're doing it!

And eventually we will see the fruits of our labours.

So as always thanks to our many supporters, our professional advisors and of course all the 'team' who work so hard with this.



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