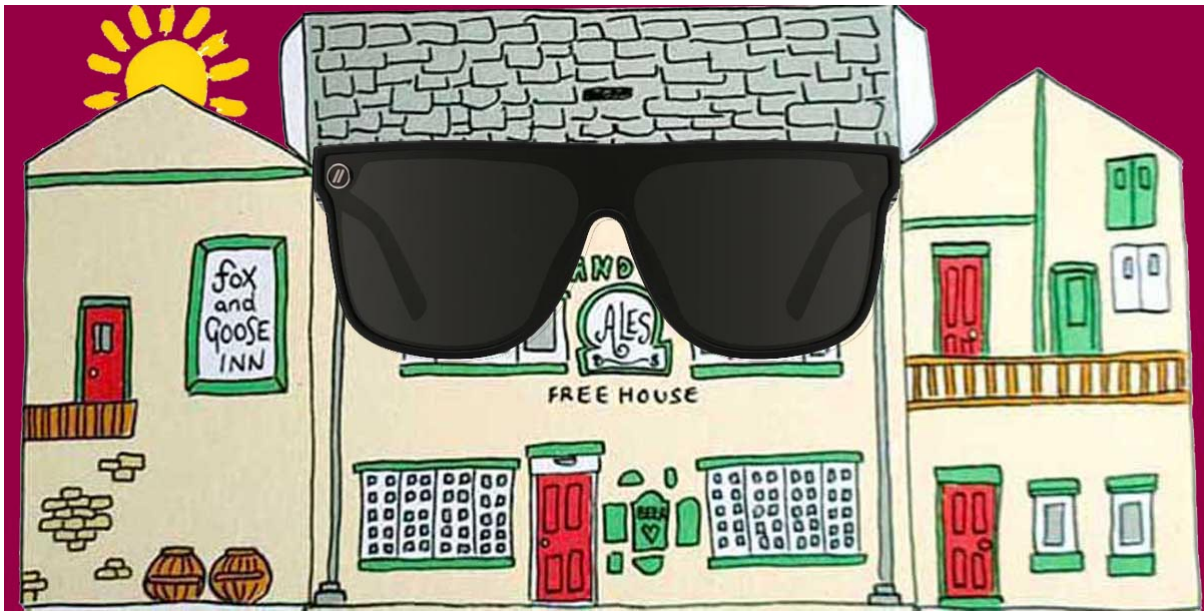


AGM Recap; Introducing new Directors; My Fox & Goose feature with Liz Gill; Drew Marsh's Retirement; Hebden Bridge Folk Roots Festival



## Fox & Goose Newsletter: Summer 2023

---

### **Fox & Goose AGM Recap**

It was very encouraging to see a packed meeting for our annual general meeting at St James' Church on 13th May. These meetings are an opportunity for the Board of Directors to share information about the co-operative and the pub with shareholder members and for members to hold the Board to account. Each Director, the Pub Manager and the Business Manager reported to members on performance in 2022, as well as giving some updates for 2023 to date, with plenty of opportunities for questions throughout. We were pleased to welcome three new Directors onto the Board (more information below) and thanked Allen Keep, Andy Carter and Nigel Plant, who resigned from the Board.

#### **Beth Fylan**

I want to contribute to the continued success of the pub that I have been a customer of for 17 years. I would like to consolidate its reputation as a community-focused pub that is inclusive of all communities and which supports its staff to enjoy their work and feel valued. I also want to learn more about co-operatives, how they run, and how co-operatives benefit society. I can see the benefit in growing and diversifying Fox & Goose membership, whilst emphasising its current role as a friendly and inclusive place.

## **Steve Holland**

Having been a shareholder since the



initial share offer I am incredibly proud of all that the Fox & Goose has achieved. It has emerged as a vibrant successful operation despite having faced the most severe challenges imaginable. Hannah Thurman has built a real team of extremely competent, customer focused staff that are a credit to the pub. I would like to contribute any useful experience I gained in forty years of management within criminal justice to support their efforts, particularly to develop the involvement and scope of the team of volunteers who give up so much of their time. I'd like to explore how the Fox & Goose can truly become a Community Pub and know that Hannah has similar aspirations.

## **Lorel Young**

I have been a regular at the Fox & Goose for about seven years. I am passionate about it and its continued success. I have helped in the past with the garden and with volunteers, but would now like to step up and take the opportunity to become a Director to offer more support with community engagement, volunteers and supporting Hannah Thurman as the Fox & Goose manager.



---

## My Fox & Goose: Liz Gill

**I understand you were brought up just 100m from the Fox & Goose?**

I was born in Bridge Lanes and my grandfather had a plumbers' shop at no 83. It was a completely vibrant, lively end of Hebden Bridge here. There was High Street, which had two to three streets of houses and there was a pedestrian area opposite with shops – there was a decorators' shop, a greengrocer's, a



lodging house for all the Irish navvies that worked around here, then there was a corner shop, a fish & chip shop and a pie & peas shop, and a pub called the Bull, which was a bit rough and where all the navvies went. As you went further down there was the Co-op butcher's and the Co-op grocer's and upholstery. There was big population of people living around here and a lot of work in the large Co-op mill.

**What are your first recollections of the Fox & Goose?**

Well, I never actually came in here because it was more of a man's pub. My mother never went to the pub – I mean she didn't have any objection to pubs – but respectable working class women didn't really go to pubs, though they might go to a lounge bar or somewhere nice when they were on holiday. But my father and my grandfather and my uncle (who lived a few doors away) went to the Fox & Goose after work. When I was a teenager and started going out, I went to pubs on the tops and pubs that had music or dancing, or down to Halifax. I'd never have dreamt of coming in here. By

then though Hebden Bridge was a bit of a dump and I couldn't wait to get out of it. Industry was in decline and as I got older there were no opportunities here. As a child I remember them knocking down High Street, and this great big wrecking ball swinging into all these houses.

### **So, when did you first visit the pub?**

So I didn't set foot in the Fox & Goose until I heard it was threatened with closure. But I thought this is the pub of my ancestors, my family have a historic stake here and I don't want it to go. This was a big thing in their lives and I didn't want it to disappear, or for Hebden to become just trendy food places. So I came and loved it because it was a real pub, and decided that I'd become a shareholder. I bought some shares for myself and my son, and persuaded my friend in Liverpool to buy some shares. And everybody who I've brought here loves it.

### **How often do you visit the pub?**

I now live in Highgate in North London, but I still come up every 6 weeks or so to my house in Pecket, and I always come to the Fox & Goose because there's always something going on. That's what I like about it. That was the first time I've done the quiz on Monday, but I've been to a poetry reading here and an apple festival.

### **What's your favourite experience in the Fox & Goose?**

I loved the apple pressing day because that was three generations of my family in here. My daughter and son-in-law came up and so I brought my grandchildren in here. We sat outside and the kids got involved in the apple pressing, we did some cheese tasting and there was very delicious chutney for sale, so it was quite special.

### **Is there any way the pub could be improved?**

Well, I don't think there is really, I just think it's really great. I like all these little rooms so that you have intimacy if you've got a little group of you, I like the terrace and garden, I like the fact that it is very welcoming to dogs. I don't have a dog myself, but I have socialised dogs for deaf people in the past and I remember early on when I came in, there was a dog lying across the room and someone saying 'The people move here, the dogs stay where they are'. I like the artwork, that it's always a gallery of something, and that it feels very much part of the community. And I like the fact that it's not in thrall to food, because in a lot of pubs nowadays if you're not eating you're not quite welcome. A lot of pubs are just restaurants now, but this is an old-

fashioned pub where you can just come in, have a drink, and talk around a coal fire.



---

## **Drew Marsh's Retirement**

On 1<sup>st</sup> May Drew Marsh retired from his role as cellar person at the Fox & Goose. Drew has been heavily involved from the outset, since the idea for the Fox & Goose to become a community-owned pub was first discussed. He helped develop the original business plan and did a stint as a Director, before joining the staff team in 2017 as cellar person. Drew has been instrumental in making sure the Fox & Goose offers an excellent range of beers and lagers - if you've ever seen the tiny cellar where the cask beers are kept, you'll realise that it's no mean feat to keep the beers in such great condition! The Fox & Goose's CAMRA awards and continued appearance in the Good Beer Guide are testament to the quality of the beers and ciders. Indeed the latest of these, Cider Pub of the Year 2023, has just been awarded to the Fox & Goose by Halifax & Calderdale CAMRA Branch. Drew's expertise will be greatly missed, but you'll still hopefully see him propping up the other side of the bar.



We're really pleased to say that Andrew Brown, an existing staff member with a passion for beer, has now taken on the role of cellar person.

*"I intend to adopt an open approach to encourage customer participation. I enjoy working behind the bar and will carry on doing so, allowing me to take onboard feedback to ensure that everyone – regulars, locals and visitors alike – has the best possible experience at the Fox and Goose".*

Both Drew and Andrew were involved in brewing the recent collaboration beer 'Riding the Fox'. A tasty and refreshing 2.9% session pale, it was brewed in collaboration with Wishbone Brewery in Keighley and has proved very popular. It is hoped there will be more of these unique collaboration brews at the Fox & Goose in future.

---

## **Hebden Bridge Folk Roots Festival**

Hebden Folk Roots Festival is back and taking place on June 9th, 10th and 11th and as ever the Fox & Goose will be playing host to events as one of the venues for the festival. On Saturday 10th June, we host an evening of Radical Folk starting at 5pm with Wychbury, Joe Solo, and Lucy Huzzard & Hazel Thompson. There will also be the usual informal jam sessions at the

pub and the wider festival brings a wonderful mix of artists, dancers, storytellers and musicians from all over the world. There are programmes in the pub and more info at [www.hebdenfolkroots.org](http://www.hebdenfolkroots.org).



## Regular Events & Sessions

**Quiz Night:** Every Monday from 8.30pm

**Hebden Bridge Birders:** 1st Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm (Get together to share knowledge about birds and other wildlife spotted around Calderdale)

**Town Folk:** 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month, 8pm (Bring along an instrument and join in, or just turn up to listen)

**Pennine Piperholics:** 2nd Thursday of the month, 8pm

**Irish Session:** Last Thursday of the month, 8pm (Open session with Marc and Fran)

**Blues Jam:** Last Sunday of the month (Come along and enjoy our Blues

Jam hosted by Paddy - sit and watch or join in)

---

## Keep in touch on social media

This newsletter comes out quarterly, but remember you can keep up to date with what's happening at the Fox & Goose via Facebook, Twitter and the website. If you're not already a shareholder, you can also subscribe to receive our regular newsletters via email - just contact [info@foxandgoose.org](mailto:info@foxandgoose.org)



Facebook

Twitter

Website

Newsletter production by Chris Goddard with template design by Jon Kedwards. Cover sketch by Katch Skinner.

Copyright © 2022, The Fox & Goose Inn, All rights reserved.