

Open Share Offer; New T-shirts; Interest Payment Update; My Fox & Goose feature with Nigel Plant; Our Volunteers; Building & Membership Sub-committees; Harvest Festival



## Fox & Goose Newsletter: Autumn 2023

*Welcome to the autumn 2023 newsletter, which means I've now been producing this missive for over a year. I hope people value the attempt to let you know what is going at the Fox & Goose over the last year, but would always welcome any feedback and indeed any help with the production of this newsletter. Part of what we're hoping to achieve with this newsletter is to encourage active involvement of our members and customers. In this issue we have details of a new volunteer sign up form and a pair of sub-committees which have been set up to help oversee different aspects of the co-operative's work. If you have the time or skills to help with any of these aspects of the Fox & Goose, please do get involved.*

*Many thanks, Chris*

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## Open Share Offer

Later this autumn we are finally hoping to launch an open share offer. This share offer will have no fixed closing date, so anybody over 16 can become a member of the Fox & Goose at any time (subject to the usual application and approval process). The minimum and maximum investment for this share offer will be £25 and these shares will be non interest bearing, though the shareholder's vote will still carry the same weight as any other shareholder. Keep an eye out in the pub and on social media for full details, or email us at [info@foxandgoose.org.uk](mailto:info@foxandgoose.org.uk) if you'd like to be added to an email list to be kept informed of this share offer.



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## New F&G T-shirts

We have some had some new Fox & Goose T-shirts printed in black, grey and a delightful purple. These are now available in various sizes from the bar for just £12.



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## CAMRA Commendation

After winning the top award last year, the Fox & Goose may not have been able to defend our CAMRA Halifax and Calderdale's Pub of the Year title this year (in truth no-one ever does), but we were still voted as Highly Commended in the 2023 awards.



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## My Fox & Goose: Nigel Plant

### When did you first come to the Fox & Goose?

I first came to the Fox & Goose in May 2014 because we were looking for somewhere in Yorkshire to live and be nearer my wife's family. It was a whole new area to me and we started looking for places on Google, and discovered that the Fox & Goose had just been made a co-operative pub. So we thought that sounds quite interesting, we'll go and have a look at Hebden Bridge, and the rest as they say is history. We moved here in May 2015, so about a year after that first visit, and then there was a share offer as some members had wanted to withdraw their shareholding, so both Helen and I became shareholders then.



### **What is special about the Fox & Goose?**

Well, it was a stark contrast to the pubs in Southampton, where we were before.

People spoke to you, which was a real novelty. We'd been going in the same pub about once a week for twenty-odd years in Southampton, and still didn't know anyone in there. Within about half an hour of coming in the Fox & Goose it felt like we were regulars here. I think the selection of beers and the quality of them has always been excellent here. When I lived in the south, I used to go to beer festivals quite regularly, but I almost don't bother now as the Fox & Goose is like a continuous rolling beer festival, so there's always something new to try. I tend to come in for three pints and I'll just try different ones every time.

### **Do you have a particular favourite memory here?**

That's a difficult one as there's been so many good nights in here. I really enjoy the monthly walks that Andy leads from the pub, especially the drink after it, as you really feel like you've earned it.

### **Has the Fox & Goose changed much since you've been coming here?**

I think the changes that have been made have been very positive. There used to be a bit of an unpleasant odour, shall we say, back in the day before they got rid of the old carpets and put the stone floor down. The expansion of the garden and the addition of a roof is a great asset, extending the season people can enjoy the outside space. I mean, for the record we've just had a downpour and the garden is still full of people.

### **How do you think the Fox & Goose could be improved?**

I think the pub should stick to its core values, and that is to be a welcoming and safe environment to people of all persuasions really. I'd like to think most people can feel safe coming in here. It's one of the few pubs anywhere that my wife feels comfortable coming into on her own, There are always friendly faces here.

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## **Our Volunteers**

The directors and staff at the Fox & Goose are forever indebted to our loyal band of volunteers for their ongoing work and help around the pub. They do a lot of important work in the garden, cleaning and collecting glasses. Lorel is now putting together a skills database to enable us to plan more mini projects for volunteers,

including basic decorating and maintenance work. If you are interested in helping out or want to offer particular skills, please contact her at [info@foxandgoose.org.uk](mailto:info@foxandgoose.org.uk) or fill in the following volunteer form.

**[VOLUNTEER SIGN UP](#)**

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## **Harvest Festival & Apple Day**

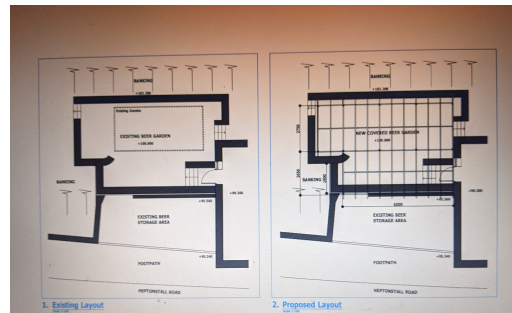
The Fox & Goose will be celebrating harvest festival from 23rd-30th October. There will be a whisky tasting night from 8pm on Friday 27th and a cider bar 4-6pm on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th from 4-6pm. Sunday 29th October is also our apple day, with cider tasting in the afternoon and an apple pie competition at 6pm. We will also have a smaller apple press than usual, so by all means bring some apples along for juicing but don't expect to go home with several demijohns worth this year!



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## Building & Membership Sub-committees

A building sub-committee has recently been set up, involving a mix of directors, shareholders and staff, and will focus on both short and long-term maintenance of the fabric of the Fox & Goose. We are aware that there are many jobs that need doing in and around the pub and the sub-committee is putting together a maintenance schedule, as well as an approved contractor list. If you have any suggestions for these, please contact us at [info@foxandgoose.org](mailto:info@foxandgoose.org).



In addition to this, we have also established a membership sub-committee to focus on the communication and links between the directors and the membership. Although lots of progress has been made with the website and this newsletter, there are still many ways we can improve our relationship with the members and enable them to be involved in the work of the co-operative. To this end, we would love to have further representation from the membership on this sub-committee; if you are interested, the time commitment is not significant, but we would greatly value your input. I would also love to share the production of this newsletter with any members

who were interested. Please contact us at [info@foxandgoose.org](mailto:info@foxandgoose.org) or speak to Chris or Beth if you can help.

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## Pub Closure - Tuesday 19th September

Please note that the Fox & Goose will be closed on Tuesday 19th September for a staff do and to allow us to do some basic redecorating of the back room.

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## 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)

**Shabbycats:** Second Sunday of the month, 8.30pm (Live music from local acoustic duo specialising in popular pub songs)

**Blues Jam:** Last Sunday of the month (Come along and enjoy our Blues Jam hosted by Paddy - sit and watch or join in)

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## 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

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