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## Fox & Goose Members Newsletter Spring 2025

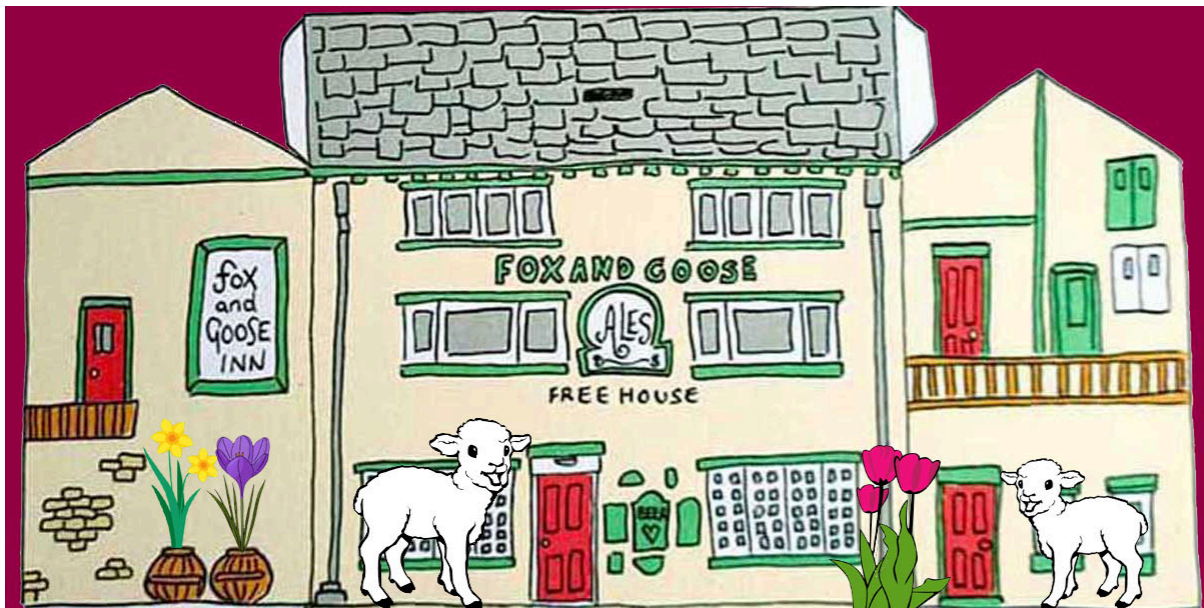
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To: info@foxandgoose.org

6 March 2025 at 16:29

AGM date, Garden extension, Notes from the Cellar, A Seasonal Quiz, Cooperative and Community Investment news, International Women's Day, Fox Trotters and more



## Fox & Goose Newsletter: Spring 2025

*Welcome to a new year at the Fox & Goose. Spring is definitely springing and like me you are probably looking forward to spending more time in the F&G beer garden, of which there is exciting news...*

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## Fox & Goose AGM - Saturday 17th May



The Fox & Goose AGM will take place on Saturday 17th May at 11am at St James' Church, Hebden Bridge. More details will follow closer to the event, but we hope that many of our shareholder members will be able to join us for this meeting.

We also invite members to submit any motions you would like to be discussed at the meeting via [info@foxandgoose.org](mailto:info@foxandgoose.org). In the past we have had these raised at the meeting, but we do need to include any business in our agenda.

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## Notes From The Cellar

An update on the Fox's beers from Andrew:

I thought we'd mark International Women's Day with some beer from one of our favourite local Breweries. Mallinsons was originally founded in Huddersfield in 2008 by Tara. Brewing duties have since been taken over by Elaine and Nick, but they continue to make great beer. I'm sure you will enjoy their US Blonde and Bitter.



We've also got a couple of casks of Wrong Sized Spacesuit. Turning Point in Knaresborough opened their doors to 60 women in the industry who helped brew this for International Women's Day. If I've got the timing right we should have it on the pumps for the official launch on Saturday.



And a keg of Beyond the Firs from Burnt Mill Brewery whose head brewer Sophie De Rond started the International Women's Brew Day

We've a couple of dark beers in the cellar to look out for. Soulless Black IPA is the latest beer brewed to celebrate RedWillow's 15th Anniversary.

Alter Eagle 22 John Hartley, a strong porter brewed by Eagles Crag Brewery to commemorate local CAMRA legend and friend of the Fox, John Hartley who sadly died recently

Currently planning a tap take over for mid-April to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of a brewery I came across at Bradford Beer Festival. I may have got a bit carried away, but I guess that's what happens at beer festivals. I just hope you enjoy their beer as much as (I think) I did.



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## Business Management Update

The staff and management team and directors got together in December for a Christmas meal and to celebrate all things Fox and Goose. For some, this was the first time they'd met so it was great to spend some time together.

The end of the year saw Board approval of the 2025 budget, including the payment of a staff bonus and implementation of the annual wage increase. January has been really busy from a financial point of view. It's during this month that all the wage changes are implemented, the backlog of invoice processing and supplier payment after the festive season takes place, and the accounts are prepared for handover to our co-operative partner Third Sector Accounting. They will then finalise our accounts ahead of the AGM in May.

We have started to work with our HR partner, People Support Co-op to develop our HR policies, and director Hana and I are currently negotiating our new insurance agreement.

Finally we're delighted to confirm that we have been short-listed for the Social Enterprise of the Year Award (Yorkshire and the Humber) in recognition of our success as a community-owned business. Many thanks to the customers and suppliers who supported our application. The event will be attended by me, Hannah and Nick, our Treasurer.

Keep your fingers crossed for us!

Andi B





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## A Spring Seasonal Quiz

*Answers at the bottom*

1. On the equinox in March, the length of day and night are only nearly equal. The name equinox is used when day and night are actually equal. Does this occur a few days before or a few days after the Spring equinox?
2. Which flower's name is derived from that of the related asphodel but with an extra letter added at the front for which there is no agreed explanation?
3. Which allegorical painting by Botticelli features 500 different identifiable plants and several mythological figures including Venus, Cupid and Zephyr "the biting wind of March"?
4. The name of which bird is an imitation of the call of the male and was first found in English in the 13<sup>th</sup> century song 'Sumer Is Icoumen In'?
5. Boxing hares, often females fending off over-amorous males, are the source of the phrase 'Mad as a March hare'. In *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Alice attends a tea party with the March Hare and which other two characters?



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## Garden Extension

We have decided to extend the Fox & Goose beer garden, with another level being added in what is a great suntrap at the top of the existing steps.



Work will begin on this in the next few weeks, with Keith Wilson and Alistair McIlroy replicating the high quality work they produced on the lower level. On the whole it is hoped this work will take place with minimal disruption to users of the pub, but be



aware that there may be occasions when we need to close the existing garden to allow stone to be moved. Your patience is greatly appreciated.

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## Fox Trotters

Spring is definitely in the air, so it seems timely to highlight the Fox and Goose's walking group, led by Andy.



Hi, my name is Andy. I volunteered some time ago at the end of 2018 to help lead a guided walk from the pub one Saturday. Everyone enjoyed it so much and was so positive I've been taking groups out ever since. It's all about the spirit of the community owned pub, which we all love.

The Fox Trotters are a very informal and friendly walking group that meet on the first Saturday of every month at 10:30am in the Fox and Goose and everyone (including dogs) are welcome. We set off from and return to the pub walking 5 to 6 miles (although occasionally longer) on a circular route. We stop often to catch our breath, at viewpoints and places of interest. Weather permitting, we take a break for a flask of coffee and a snack if you have brought one. To date I've managed to make every route we have walked unique, and everyone enjoys discovering new pathways and places around Hebden. After the walk we all enjoy the excellent Fox beers with new friends and old. Walkers of all abilities are welcome. This is all free apart from



the beer at the end!

Originally it was just a message in the Fox on a chalk board but has since moved to the Fox Trotters WhatsApp group. We get lots of lovely photos of our adventures and I post about upcoming walks with estimated length and difficulty. I often enrol people onto the group when in the Fox or on their first walk but there are a few administrators who can add members including our own Hannah.

If you like walking, finding new routes, making new friends and of course the Fox and Goose wonderful staff and choice of excellent beers then come along.

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## **Reinvesting in Other Co-operative & Community Enterprises**

We are aware that, after many of you elected to forego your interest payments for 2022 so that we could reinvest them in other co-operative and community enterprises, we have had the money burning a hole in our proverbial wallet. It has taken us time to identify the right opportunities, but are pleased to announce that we have recently invested £1,000 (the original £662.10 pledged and a further £338) in a community share offer from POD. This is a new shared electric car scheme for the Upper Calder Valley and is run as a Community Benefit Society - see <https://pod-caldervalley.co.uk/>.

We also have plans to invest further money in a couple of other projects (more announcements on these soon) as we feel it is better to use some of the money we have sitting in the bank to invest in other local community benefit and co-operative projects.



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## Art and Artists

I love to see the periodically changing displays of artworks in the pub. They liven up the walls and often providing talking points.

We had Charlotte Mellor Meacham @wispaworks in January and Georgia Fitzgerald @porgspawn in February

In March, and as part of the celebration of International Women's Day (March 26<sup>th</sup>), there will be an exhibition of the work of artist and printmaker Vix Fay @v.fayprints.

Her print shown below is called 'Holding On To The Light'



We do have more planned but we have space from July onwards. Email [Hannah manager@foxandgoose.org](mailto:hannah.manager@foxandgoose.org) if you are an artist who would like to have your work hung in the Fox and Goose.

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## Events

A look back at events from the past few months...

### December



'Square Peg' played on the 28<sup>th</sup>. A country folk duo blending old-time Southern Appalachian tunes with a modern touch! They combine vocal harmony with traditional instruments such as banjos, fiddles, and guitars to give their music a rich, timeless feel. They will be back at the Fox and Goose on March 29th.

## January

A highlight was Burns night which included Whisky night/ haggis/ veggie haggis pasties and neeps and tatties plus an amazing local Piper- Martin Van Der Boon in full kilt! We raised £160 for local food group Grub Hub at this event.

## February

We welcomed a new regular Sunday evening session - 'Alistair and Helen presents' 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. Please note this is a closed session. For those that wish to join in on a session our Town Folk on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month is a lovely welcoming open session.

And notice of what's coming soon, in addition to the regular happenings

## March

**Jonny Campbell** 22<sup>nd</sup> March 7.30pm

Jonny will be performing at the F&G as part of his Pennine Way Tour, celebrating 60 years of Britain's first National Trail. He'll be walking the trail, starting on the 19th March, over nineteen days and performing seventeen shows, carrying a guitar en route. More info about his tour and the inspiration behind it here

<https://johnnycampbell.co.uk/blog/f/the-pennine-way-tour>



There will be lots of other Pennine Way events happening locally this year including an exhibition in the Town Hall in May. Should be of interest to those who enjoy a good walk before their beer (see also Fox Trotters above!).

**Square Peg** return on 29<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm

**April**

**Shannon Pearl** 5th April 8pm

A neo-folk/ witch-pop artist whose sound has been described as "*Soul moving, goose bump raising, ethereal and magical*"

**International Peening Day** 6th April 12-2pm in the garden  
Bring your scythes to sharpen!

And we are delighted to be welcoming back **The Shabby Cats** on the 2nd Sunday of the month from April 13th.

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## Regular Events & Sessions

**Quiz Night:** Every Monday from 8pm for an 8.30pm start

**Hebden Bridge Birders:** 1st Tuesday of the month, 8pm (Get together to share knowledge about birds and other wildlife spotted around Calderdale)

**Hebden Bridge Ukulele Group:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month (all welcome to join in)

**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)

**Fox Trotters Walking Group:** 1st Saturday of the month, 10.30am outside the Fox (All levels of walkers welcome. 6-8 miles with plenty of rest stops along the way – bring a packed lunch. Dogs welcome.)

**Blues Jam:** Last Sunday of the month (Come along and enjoy our Blues Jam hosted by Mike Palmer - 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, Instagram 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



Instagram



Website



1. Before 2. Daffodil. 3. La Primavera (Spring) 4. Cuckoo 5. The (Mad) Hatter and the Dormouse

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