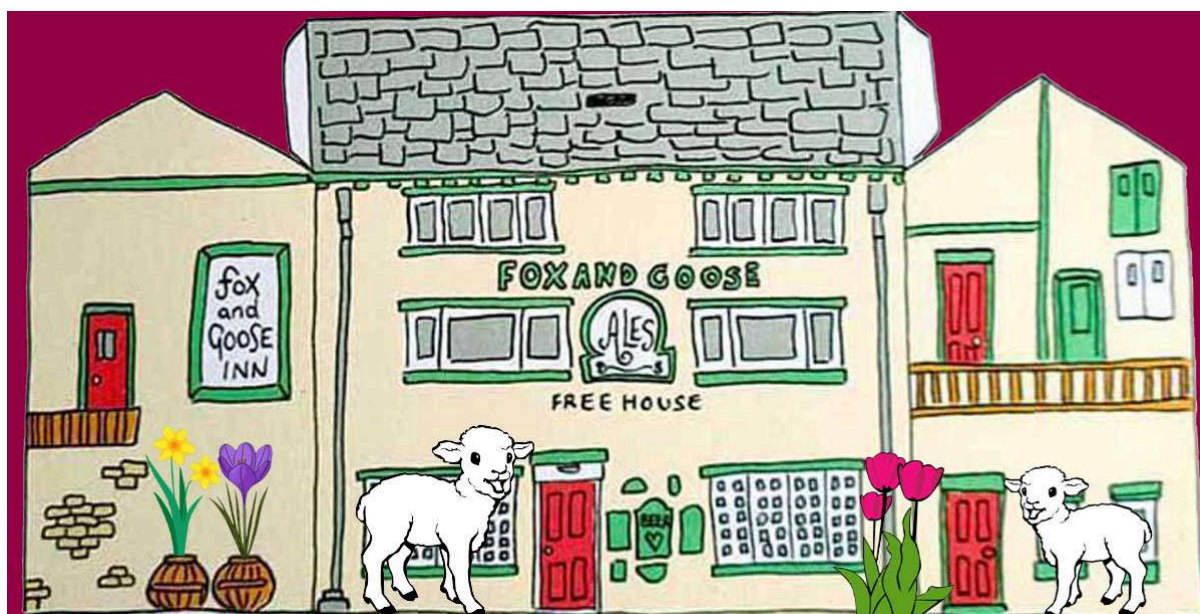

Fox & Goose Members Newsletter Spring 2024

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1 March 2024

10th Anniversary Celebration Plans, Management Plan 2025-2030, 2024 AGM, We Need Directors, Director Profile: Nick Osborne, Building Plans, Woodland & Garden Group



Fox & Goose Newsletter: Spring 2024

Welcome to a new year at the Fox & Goose. This is an exciting time as we celebrate 10 years as a community-owned pub and start work on a management plan to guide us forward for the next 5 years. It is also a daunting one as our board of directors is in flux, soon to leave me as the longest tenured member of the board, having served less than 2 years. I feel it is time to call as loudly as possible for help as only two existing directors will be staying on beyond the AGM in May. If you have any time or expertise to offer the Fox & Goose, please seriously consider joining the board as a director at this pivotal time (see [below](#) for details). As part of what will be a board composed almost entirely of new faces, any new director will help shape the immediate and longer term future of the pub. I had no previous experience, so don't let that be an obstacle; it is more important to have an interest in and deep affection for the Fox & Goose. If you have any questions you can [contact me](#) or any of the other directors.

Chris Goddard (Membership Secretary)

10th Anniversary Celebrations

As you've hopefully seen, the Fox and Goose will be marking its landmark 10th anniversary as a co-operatively-owned pub with celebrations running from 21-25 March 2024. Events – to which old and new customers are welcome – are set to include a mini beer festival showcasing beer from the pub's favourite local breweries, DJs, live music, food, and an anniversary quiz. Anniversary t-shirts, beer mats and window stickers will be available very soon, but we thought we'd take this opportunity to let you know exactly what is going on over the weekend.



Over the next 10 months, a different collaboration will be unveiled each month between the Fox & Goose and 10 local breweries, with Mallinsons revamped Co-Hopped first up and others in the pipeline. We will be inviting staff, shareholders and customers to join us in making these beers, so do let [Andrew Brown](#) know if you are interested in being involved in these collaboration brews. What better way to celebrate our 10 years in community ownership and highlight the importance of the breweries that have supported us along the way!

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND TIMETABLE

THURSDAY 21st MARCH

8-10.30pm **Townfolk session**

Townfolk run regular folk sessions on the first and third Thursday of the month at the pub at 8pm. Everyone is welcome to friendly sessions of any type of music that could be described as having its roots in folk music.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1472624663003974/>

FRIDAY 22nd MARCH

4-10pm **Mini Beer Festival**

*The mini beer festival will include brews from Big Trip, Bingley, Chin Chin, Eagles Crag, Mallinsons, Nightjar, Pictish, Sunbeam and Wishbone Breweries, as well as Big Udders Orchard. It will feature the launch of this month's collaboration brew, Co-Hopped, a session pale dry-hopped with American hops and brewed by Mallinsons Brewery in Huddersfield - it is a tribute to the popular Co-operative that was brewed to celebrate our 1st anniversary back in 2015. As well as the main bar, there will be a pop-up bar in the garden open 4-10pm and **if you want to volunteer to do a short shift on this bar in exchange for a couple of pints**, please message [Andrew Brown](#) or sign up on the sheet in the pub.*

8.30-11pm **Catfish Skillet**

Catfish Skillet played for us at the very start of our co-operative journey and they, like ourselves, are still going 10 years later. They produce fast driving tunes and old timey harmonies from the Pennine Appalachia. Guitars, bass, mandolin, banjo, harmonica. We look forward to welcoming them back in another 10 years' time!

<https://www.facebook.com/catfishskillet>



SATURDAY 23rd MARCH

10.30am Andy's Walk

A 6-mile circuit onto the moors above Old Town and Pecket Well. Meet outside the pub and return for a drink mid afternoon. Bring lunch.

12-10pm - Mini Beer Festival

*The mini beer festival will include brews from Big Trip, Bingley, Chin Chin, Eagles Crag, Mallinsons, Nightjar, Pictish, Sunbeam and Wishbone Breweries, as well as Big Udders Orchard. As well as the main bar, there will be a pop-up bar in the garden open 12-10pm and **if you want to volunteer to do a short shift on this bar in exchange for a couple of pints**, please message [Andrew Brown](mailto:Andrew.Brown@kelewelefoods.co.uk) or sign up on the sheet in the pub.*

4-8pm Kelle Welle (Authentic Ghanaian Street Food)

Babs brings her incredible flavours to the Fox & Goose garden, featuring goat stew, bean fritters, jollof rice and plantain. <https://kelewelefoods.co.uk/>

4-8pm Is Is Is DJs

An afternoon of cosmic dreamy folk and ambient liquor-soaked rock with Craig and pals.



SUNDAY 24th MARCH

12-7pm Mini Beer Festival

*The mini beer festival will include brews from Big Trip, Bingley, Chin Chin, Eagles Crag, Mallinsons, Nightjar, Pictish, Sunbeam and Wishbone Breweries, as well as Big Udders Orchard. As well as the main bar, there will be a pop-up bar in the garden open 12-7pm and **if you want to volunteer to do a short shift on this bar in exchange for a couple of pints**, please message [Andrew Brown](#) or sign up on the sheet in the pub.*

3-5pm Hebden Bridge Hill Millies

The Hill Millies are a regular feature at Fox & Goose events, and will be celebrating their own 20th anniversary this year. We are delighted to welcome this colourful women's morris dancing side back to the pub.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/106447793886>

3-7pm What the Folk DJs

What the Folk DJs will present their usual worldwide smorgasbord of eclectic folk records, gathered during David (Folklore Tapes) & Nick's (Tod Only Knows) extensive worldwide wanderings...!

8-10.30pm Shabbycats

Shabbycats are a familiar sight and sound in The Fox & Goose from their regular Sunday sessions. They are an acoustic duo playing popular pub songs from the 20s/30s/40s/50s & music hall era, using a unique combination of instruments (from ukuleles and chromatic harmonica, to accordions and kazoo) to create a proper old-fashioned pub atmosphere.

<https://www.facebook.com/theshabbycats>



MONDAY 25th MARCH

8pm Anniversary Quiz

A mix of general knowledge and Fox & Goose-centric questions with Chris Goddard and Andy Carter.

Management Plan - Planning for the next 5 years

After 10 years of co-operative ownership, the original management plan for the Fox & Goose is nearing its end. This 10-year plan helped guide us from 2015 to 2025 via a series of aims

- i) Great drinks and snacks
- ii) A friendly, welcoming place
- iii) A great place to work
- iv) An attractive place
- v) Sustainable, ethical and environmental
- vi) Part of the community
- vii) Financially sustainable

Directors and staff met earlier this year to discuss and comment on these key aims and our business manager Andi Butterworth has pulled these together to form an outline basis for the next management plan, this time a 5-year plan to run from 2025 to 2030. These original aims have been updated, and a further aim of 'Co-operative and Democratic' added to reflect the importance of the pub as a cooperative. A SWOT (Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities Threats) analysis has also been incorporated into the plan.



At this point we would also like to incorporate the views of the wider membership and welcome your input to this process. We will also be offering people the chance to contribute directly at two sessions over the anniversary weekend, and will shortly be sending out more information for your direct feedback. Drop in on Saturday 23rd or Sunday 24th any time between 12-3pm to talk to us about the direction for the Fox & Goose for the next 5 years.

Director Profile: Nick Osborne

Nick has been co-opted to the Board in January and, as the newest director, we thought we'd let the membership know more about him.

What brought you to Hebden Bridge?

We moved up from Reading in 2000. It was a very different environment. I work from home and my father-in-law was up here, he was running the Arvon writing centre at Lumb Bank. We came up to visit him several times and found it a wonderful place to be, so made the decision to move up, and haven't looked back since.

And how long have you been coming to the Fox & Goose?

The Fox & Goose has been my local for the last 24 years, ever since I moved up to Hebden Bridge. Well actually I was a bit of a Stubbing Wharf man when I first moved up as we had kids and it was a better place to take kids into than the Fox was in those days. But then I started



gravitating towards the Fox as it was my sort of scruffy pub – it was a beer drinking pub rather than a restaurant pub. Later I would take my daughter in every other Friday and play cards and have a drink, so she became a regular for a time too. Nowadays I do try to make the quiz night regularly and am often part of the Hot Toddies team.

How has the pub changed in that time?

It has changed a lot, but only in good ways I think. It's a much more attractive place to drink now, the consistency of the beer is better than it was and the beer garden makes it a lot more spacious. There's fewer dogs too – it was dog heaven back then, but sometimes too much so.

How have you ended up getting involved as a director at the Fox & Goose?

When it became a co-op, I was very supportive of that and involved right from the beginning as a shareholder. I've long wanted to be a director, but I had a job where I did a lot of travelling abroad and didn't think I could give it the time that it deserved. That side of the work is winding down now, so I'm able to commit a lot more now.

What is your work?

I'm an engineer, electronic and software engineer, and have my own engineering company with a partner. We manufacture scientific testing equipment and sell it all around the world. It's niche stuff, but it has taken me to a lot of places, selling and maintaining the equipment. But Covid did for us as we couldn't travel to the places we needed to for a year and a half, so it wasn't so much a conscious decision to wind down the business.

What are your interests outside of work?

Well, I'm a keen runner. I've never joined any of the local clubs, partly because I've been away so much and partly because I don't see it as a competitive thing. It's just a fitness thing, so I try to do a marathon each year, but I never see that as a race, it just motivates me to keep fit as doing 26 miles if you're not fit is a painful experience. I have done the Haworth Hobble too, but mostly road races – I'm never doing that again!

I also like world cinema. I watch a lot of Japanese and Korean films via a DVD subscription service. I like the work of Kore-eda, he has a lot of domestic based dramas – I love that sort of thing and I do like the idea of a second screen at the Picture House so they can show these sorts of films more.

What is your tippie of choice?

I prefer the lighter and hoppier beers, which is a lot of the beers that are produced at the moment. I don't necessarily have any particular favourites though as I like to try new beers every time I go in the Fox.

Pub Update

We have had some great music at the Fox & Goose in January and February, including Cornish singer songwriter Susie Lewis and an Imbolc celebration with Thorn Wych and What the Folk DJs, as well as impromptu sessions from Catfish Skillet and Outside the Box.

Burns Night was a real success, with odes to various haggis (supplied by Woodheads of Hebden Bridge) performed by Andy Grant and piped in by local musician Ian and followed by music from Marc and Fran. Neeps & tatties and vegan haggis pasties were supplied by Will at Pennine Pasties and plenty a dram of whisky was downed.

We have also had some lovely artwork from Mr Gordo (Weird Walks), including a drawing workshop which was a great success. The current exhibition is by Stephen

Littlewood, and we will be having a joint exhibition from artists that have exhibited over the last 10 years as part of our 10th Anniversary celebration.

Building Plans

We are aware that plenty of work needs to be done on the building of the Fox & Goose, and so have formed a building sub-committee, which recently met for the first time to set out plans for 2024. New lighting has recently been fitted in the snug and music room and the carpet on the stairs is due to be replaced in the next few weeks. Other planned work contained in the draft 2024 Budget includes refurbishing the ground floor toilets (finally...!) and installing new external doors to the beer cellar.



Woodland & Garden Group

In addition to the above building group, we are also setting up a group to look after the garden and woodland and plan for its longer term future. There is much that can be done in terms of extending the garden upwards and using the structures we have on site, as well as coming up with a plan for the woodland, but we haven't had time as a Board to focus on these aspects.



We hope a dedicated group will be able to deliver this, so any interested parties should message info@foxandgoose.org or speak to a Director in the pub.

On Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th February we also held a couple of volunteer days, where we cleared out parts of the garden and tidied up the woodland area beyond. Matting was put down above the wall to stop the nettles coming back, bushes were pruned back

and the fir tree taken down. New plants have been potted and placed around the garden, including two plants at the top of the wall that will trail down. The plants we have chosen are not going to be an instant show, we have chosen indigenous plants, that will smell good and attract bees and butterflies. Bulbs have also been planted on the bank on the right as you exit the garden to the woodland and some in pots around the garden. Again some of these may not come to life this year, but will next year and every year there after. Thanks you so much to all those who gave their time over the weekend.

Regular Events & Sessions

Quiz Night: Every Monday from 8.30pm

Poetry Writing Group: Every Tuesday 2.15-4.15pm

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 Mike Palmer - sit and watch or join in)