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Countryman's
COMMUNITY PUB SOCIETY

Autumn 2026 Newsletter



Welcome!

Hello and welcome to our final Countryman's Inn newsletter of the year.

The pub continues to grow and is becoming increasingly popular across the area as we celebrate success. Winning the regional and super regional CAMRA awards is a great accolade and to be now one of the final four pubs in the National Pub of the Year for 2026 is a testament to the hard work of the team, the support from shareholder investment along side an ever growing and fabulous customer base.

Thank you once again for your support. Please read on for the next 3 months activities and dates for your diaries, plus news from Dan and Katie.

Dan and Katie after receiving the CAMRA Regional Award with some of the members of the committee



Message from our tenants Dan and Katie

Firstly, we are absolutely chuffed about winning the CAMRA Regional pub of the year for Yorkshire this year and our subsequent nomination for the UK final of National Pub of the Year 2026 – we await with bated breath for the final result which is due to be announced in early January 2027.
We want to thank our hardworking team and also you, our shareholders who support us every day of the year along with all of our customers.
The award is not only about the beer and the warm welcome we offer, but also about the community feel and the vital role we play in the village.
We want to thank you for supporting us with our weekly coffee mornings, Friday lunch clubs, quiz nights and live music nights featuring local bands.

We have lots to look forward to as we approach Christmas and details are contained in this newsletter. We hope to see you either joining in with Rev Chris and Dan singing carols or enjoying one of our delicious pub meals by the roaring log fire as the nights draw in.

Happy Christmas all and we wish you a happy and healthy new year.
We look forward to continuing to serve you at your Countryman's Inn throughout the coming year.

Best wishes
Dan and Katie

Upcoming events

The monthly pub quiz generally takes place the first Sunday of the month.
Sunday Lunch menu continues to be popular with booking recommended.
A Special Christmas menu will be available from Wednesday to Sunday starting on Wednesday 2nd December and finishing on Sunday 20th December.
(**NOTE**: except Sundays all other Christmas menu bookings must be made in advance with pre orders).
Larger groups can also be catered for by contacting the pub and pre-booking.
Please watch social media and posters for more details of anything listed below.

NOVEMBER 2026
No quiz in November due to Halloween Music Quiz on 31st October
8th – Remembrance Day: Tea, Coffee and Cakes plus community "Bring a Plate".
NOTE: Kitchen Closed and Bar open as usual.
14th – Acoustic Music night with Joe Burke (soloist from Bedrock Band)
NOTE: 20-22nd – Limited Food menu available (check with pub for details)
27th – Lunch Club (last one for 2026 reconvene January 2027)

DECEMBER 2026
3rd – Coffee Morning
6th - Quiz Night
10th- Coffee Morning
12th – Seniors Christmas Lunch (cooked by Dan, Katie and team and served in the village hall)
15th – Christmas Carol Singing with Reverend Chris.
17th – Coffee Morning – last one of the year with Christmas Jumpers and seasonal music
19th - Themed food Christmas Curry Night (booking essential)
20th - Live music with local band NeRD
25th – Christmas Day open 11-2pm with strict closing to allow Katie and Dan to get home too!
27th - Big quiz of the year (booking essential)

buffet.
CLOSED 2-6th January and re-open on 7th Darts Night/match
14th – Coffee Morning
22nd - Lunch club

For more details about any of the above events check the pub's website and Facebook page.

Frequently Asked Questions

As part of our newsletter, we've decided to add a frequently asked questions feature - do feel free to send your questions. If there is a recurring theme, we will try to add them into the next publication.

Why are we advertising shares as available?
You will see from time to time that we advertise shares available in The Countryman's. Please be reassured we are not increasing the amount of shares from our initial investment when we secured the Countryman's in 2022.
People move on from the village and wish to cash in their shares or sadly shareholders pass away, which means shares have to be cashed in as part of the estate. When this happens, we advertise those shares for sale to new or existing investors.

Your management committee

At the AGM, our current chairman Rob Wyatt stepped down and was replaced by our Vice chair Chris Heap. Guy Cattell agreed to take up the position of vice chair.

The current management committee members are listed below. We tend to meet on a monthly basis. Please feel free to approach any of us with any queries, feedback or general comments.

- **Chris Heap** (chair)
- **Guy Cattell** (vice-chair)
- **Katie O'Connell** (treasurer)
- **Tom Self** (secretary)
- **Steve Akred**
- **Jonathan Heap**
- **Pol Heath**

In every newsletter, we will introduce you to individual committee members in more detail. Our current secretary is **Katie O'Connell**.



Katie moved to Hunton during the pandemic in 2021 with her husband, Tom, and their dog, Monty. After hearing about efforts to save the pub, she jokingly volunteered her services due to her love for a good spreadsheet. Five years later, she is not only still managing those spreadsheets but has also acquired the VAT and tax returns as a "lovely bonus."

Outside of work and volunteering, Katie enjoys going to the gym several times a week, exploring new dog walking routes and studying for a master's degree part-time.

Katie says -
"I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Countryman's Community Pub Society. Seeing it grow from a hopeful idea into a fully-fledged, thriving community enterprise has been incredibly rewarding. Little did I know how involved I would become so soon after moving to the village, but it has been a fantastic way to meet people and get stuck in! I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported me, the rest of the committee and our tenants in getting us to where we are today."

How to support the society

There is always an opportunity to buy shares. If you would like to buy extra shares, or know of others who would like to invest whilst also supporting our community pub, please contact us for more details, join our waiting list here or speak to Dan or Katie in the pub.

We are always looking for volunteers to join us and if you have any questions of points that you wish to raise, please contact us or speak to any committee member.

COMMUNITY PUB SOCIETY

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