



Newsletter No. 3

May 2026

We have several important announcements in our latest newsletter. Things are moving fast!

Over £100,000 Raised!!!

Our latest fundraising total is now £102,000, which is fantastic and very encouraging. This is the total of all pledges, donations and fundraising to date, which is even more amazing as we only launched our pledge campaign in January. Thanks to everyone who has pledged, attended one of our events or donated. However, we still have a long way to go, so we need to keep the momentum up to promote interest in buying shares in the pub and help to promote the project – so please help us spread the word.

Coffee Shop/Tea room

Another exciting development is that we are having negotiations with a tenant for a coffee shop/tearoom on the premises. Further details to be worked out, so watch this space! So, for anyone who likes cake, that's a definite reason to help us open the Railway Inn.

Tax Relief on Shares

Did you know that you can get generous tax relief on any shares purchased? Our shares qualify for 50% tax relief on the first £150,000 worth of shares and 30% thereafter. So, for every £1,000 invested in the pub, investors can claim £500 or £300 off their tax bill. That's surely a big incentive to be part of what we are trying to do.

A Date for your Diary - Share offer meeting

It's time to start gathering our pledges in and start issuing our shares. To tell you more about this important step, we are holding another open meeting at St Luke's Church, Norton Bridge on Wednesday 17th June at 7pm. We will be going through the process of how we will be issuing the shares and give you an opportunity to ask questions about the share offer or any aspect of our business plan for running the pub. You don't have to have pledged to buy shares to attend. Anyone can come along and find out what it's all about.

Steering Group members:

Sue Wardle (Chair)
David Wills (Vice-Chair)
Rachael Drinkall (Secretary)
Margaret Ainsworth Hickman
Andy Burdon
Sylvia Burdon (Treasurer)
Neil Butler
Holly Douglas
Kris Douglas (Data Protection Officer)
Fran Drinkall
Ian Willshaw

Pledge Online

You can now make your pledge online.

Go to
Railwayinn.org/pledge

or donate at:



gofundme

Our Vision - A community pub that:-

- Operates as a community hub, that provides more services than a traditional pub
- Supports local businesses and the local community
- Makes the most of its railway history and the local link with Izaak Walton
- Is welcoming to all

Meeting with the Deputy Chief Executive of Stafford Borough Council

Three members of the Steering Group met with the Deputy Chief Executive and our local councillors, Cllr Jeremy Pert and Cllr Peter Jones, to look at ways that the council can support us. It was a very productive meeting and we made important links that will prove useful going forward.

Fundraising

We have lots of fundraising activities planned for 2026, details to follow.

Ben and David's Quiz afternoon

24th May, St Luke's Church, £8

Pop-up Pub Saturday 13th June

Drinks and food van

Marquee at the Railway Inn Car Park and Field.

Needlefelting Workshop June, SOLD OUT

Ben and David's Summer Quiz and evening at home

18th July

Needlefelting Workshop Sat, 12th Sept, 10 - 3pm

Needlefelting Workshop Sat, 21st November, 10 - 3pm

Big Raffle

Look out for our big raffle. Two first class return tickets to anywhere on the Avanti network to be won as well as many other excellent prizes. Tickets £5 each

Talk on Antiques followed by valuations given by Thomas

Forrester, TV antique expert

Date and price to be arranged.

Thanks again for all your help and support.

How you can help:

- Pledge to buy shares
- Donate
- Follow on Facebook or Instagram, like and share
- Tell your family and friends
- Support our fundraising events



Timeline of events to date:

- Site visit
- Public meeting at St.Luke's
- Formation of the steering group
- Website and Facebook page creation
- Contacted Plunkett for guidance
- Questionnaire issued
- Fortnightly steering group meetings
- Communicated with MP and Councillors
- Collected questionnaire data
- Produced a business plan
- Established a legal structure
- Obtained an accurate valuation
- Obtained a dilapidation report
- Set up a Community Benefit Society
- Created a business plan
- Crowdfunded to raise funds needed to continue the project
- Public meeting to discuss pledges
- Two Quiz Fundraisers
- Bingo Fundraiser
- Meeting with Borough Council

Next steps:

- Pop-up Pub
- Share issue meeting to raise funds for purchase
- More fundraising events

Contact us by [email](mailto:contact@railwayinn.org) at contact@railwayinn.org

See our [website Railwayinn.org](http://Railwayinn.org),
or [facebook](#) page [Railway Inn Community Pub - Norton Bridge](#) for updates