



Newsletter No. 4

July 2026

You can now buy shares in the Railway Inn Community Pub Limited

Share Offer

Our share offer is now open! After hitting the mighty total of over £100,000 in pledges to buy shares in the pub, we launched our share offer and accompanying business plan for the Railway Inn Community Pub Limited, at St Luke's Church Hall, Norton Bridge on 17th June.

This means that if you have pledged to buy shares you can now go to **www.railwayinn.org** where you will be able to make your payment. You can also pay by cheque – details are on the website. You will then be issued with an acknowledgement of payment. We urge you to make your payments as soon as you are able as we are exploring funding opportunities that may rely on matching what we have already raised.

You don't have to have pledged to buy shares – they are open to anyone, including businesses, families or groups. Shares are £1, with a minimum purchase of 250.

Share certificates will only be issued once we have raised sufficient capital and purchased the pub. Our share offer will be open for 12 months, and if, by that time we are unlikely to be able to purchase the pub, your money will be refunded in full.

To see our Share Offer Document, Business plan and Summary Share Presentation go to our website.

You can donate at:



gofundme

Don't forget about the Tax Relief

Generous tax relief is available on the shares you purchase. Our shares qualify for 50% tax relief on the first £250,000 worth of shares. So, for every £1,000 invested in the pub, investors can claim £500 off their tax bill. For investors over the £250,000 limit it's 30%. That's surely a big incentive to be part of what we are trying to do.

Big Raffle – Amazing Prizes

We have already raised over £1,000 running our Big Raffle, so thank you to everyone who has bought tickets. There are 10 amazing prizes to be won including two first class return tickets to anywhere on the Avanti Network. To get your tickets visit the St Luke's Community Drop in on Thursday mornings, or they can be purchased via our website. The draw will be on 18th July at the Al Fresco Quiz and Garden Get Together on 18th July.



Al Fresco Quiz and Summer BBQ

Tables are still available for the Quiz and Get together on 18th July. Quiz tables (up to 5 people) are £8 and include a BBQ. For those who would just prefer to get together for the BBQ and a drink afterwards (please bring your own drinks) the cost will be £6, arriving at 6pm.

This promises to be a lovely afternoon and evening and will include the Big Raffle Draw at 9pm. **Not to be missed!**

Pop Up Pub – proof that Norton Bridge needs its pub back

What an afternoon we had!

Thanks so much to everyone who supported our pop-up pub on the Railway Event Field on 13th June. At its height we estimate that about 150 people attended and we almost sold out of the beer, lager and cider. There are so many people to thank, but a special mention must be to Nui from Thai to Go for the great food, Martin Peet of the Ecclian for the loan of the bar and to our sponsors, AHS Engineering, Eccleshall Chippy and Nine Lives IT. So many other people helped too – with setting up and dismantling the marquees, general firefighting – we nearly ran out of glasses at one point - and with telling all their friends and family. We raised over £1,000 in beer sales and over £700 in raffle and tombola tickets which was fantastic. We hope that everyone who came went away with renewed conviction that we need to get the pub into community ownership, which we can only do if people purchase shares.



Busy afternoon



Setting up

Coming Soon....

Original Oil Painting of the Railway Inn

To help with our fundraising, talented local artist Tony Pugh has painted an original painting of the Railway Inn, depicting it at the turn of the 20th Century, set in a bustling Norton Bridge. We will be selling 250 limited edition prints, signed and numbered by the artist.

Watch this space!

Needle Felting Workshop

Thanks to Marg for once again donating the proceeds of the last Needle Felting Workshop to the pub fund. An incredible £305 was raised. Future workshops will be held on
12th September 10 to 3pm - Foxgloves and Bee Scene
21st November 10 to 3pm - Staffordshire Woodland Scene



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
- Pop-up Pub
- Share issue meeting to raise funds for purchase
- Meeting with our MP

Visit to the Railway Inn by Leigh Ingham, MP for Stafford, Eccleshall and The Villages

On a very hot day on 26th June, Leigh and two members of her team (at Leigh's request) visited the Railway Inn. Sue Wardle (Chair) and Ian Willshaw from the Railway Inn committee met her and showed her the current state of the pub and outlined our plans for it. Leigh has been keen to support us from the start of the campaign and was well informed about some possible upcoming opportunities (Community Right to Buy Fund and the Queen Elizabeth Trust) and will champion our case. She has already raised the issue in the House of Commons, highlighting the role that community pubs can play in rural life and what the government can do to support them.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/929904532772309>



Our plans for the pub....

All of these images are realistic impressions of what can be achieved if we purchase the pub. It really is possible.



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

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