



**Hare & Hounds (Harlton) Community Owned Pub Community Interest Company**

**Report for Harlton Annual Parish Meeting - April 2026**

The Hare & Hounds continues to operate successfully as a small pub offering drinks seven days per week and food five days per week. Following the community buyout in 2017, the premises is owned by the Community Interest Company (CIC). The CIC has 160 shareholders, nearly all of whom reside in Harlton and surrounding villages. There are six directors who are elected by the shareholders on a three-year rotation, and one co-opted director, all of whom give considerable time to ensuring the ongoing and future success of the pub.

The pub is leased to a tenant landlord, who is responsible for all operational matters in the day-to-day running of the pub, including employment of staff, selection of beers and other drinks, the menu, price-setting, cost control, health & safety, cleaning and sales & marketing.

Tom Canning has been the tenant for the past three years and this lease expires on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026. Following a number of meetings it has not been possible to agree terms for an extension to this lease. Following a detailed selection process, the tenancy has been offered to Jo Gilbert and her partner Mike Houghton. Jo is an experienced pub tenant, having been tenant at The Hoops in Barton for seven years.

The pub will close for a few days during the first week of June to enable the tenant changeover to take place, and then we expect the pub to operate in much the same way as before. There will be changes that Jo and Mike introduce to suit their way of operating, with an emphasis on welcoming all members of the community.

The CIC remains responsible for maintaining the building and the grounds. Thank you to all of the directors, and other volunteers, for their hard work over the past year.

During last autumn, the pub roof was rethatched to a high standard by Clive Dodson Thatchers Ltd. This year, the exterior of the pub is to be repainted, starting in June.

The pub garden has been maintained by a group of gardening volunteers from the village. Many thanks to all those involved for your great work on those Saturday and Sunday mornings.

There are a number of shareholders who would like to sell their shares, for reasons such as their moving away from the village. Anyone wishing to buy shares should contact the CIC's company secretary, Jenny Reavell, at [jenny@hareandhoundsharlton.co.uk](mailto:jenny@hareandhoundsharlton.co.uk).

Forthcoming events include a beer festival over the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May, and there will be a shareholder evening to welcome our new tenants on a date to be decided. Do come along and enjoy these friendly local gatherings at our very own community pub.

Patrick Phelan – Chair, Hare & Hounds (Harlton) Community Pub CIC