

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### CANADIAN WHO BOUGHT AN ENGLISH VILLAGE PUB TURNS YEARS OF CHAOS INTO NEW MEMOIR

A Canadian who swapped life in North America for the challenge of running an English village pub is preparing to release a memoir inspired by years of kitchen chaos, eccentric regulars, impossible chefs and one unforgettable pub dog.

Julie Harris, former landlady of the Royal Oak Inn in Handcross, West Sussex, has transformed her experiences of pub ownership into a new book, *Lies, Theft and Sh\*t on the Ceiling: a Canadian's journey to pub ownership in England*, due for release on 21 June 2026.

What began as a dream of owning a traditional English pub quickly became a front-row seat to the strange, hilarious and often unbelievable world of British village life. Over the years, Harris encountered runaway chefs, impossible customers, drunken philosophers, kitchen disasters, karaoke mayhem and a colourful cast of characters who would eventually inspire the stories in her book.

Part memoir, part cookbook and part tribute to the hospitality industry, the book captures the reality of life behind the bar, where no two days are ever the same and chaos is often just part of the job.

Drawing on real experiences from her years at the Royal Oak Inn, the book introduces readers to an unforgettable cast of characters, including larger-than-life chefs, loyal regulars, eccentric villagers, long-suffering staff and Juno, the Old English Sheepdog who became one of the pub's most recognisable and beloved customers.

"People see a pub and think it's about pulling pints," says Harris. "What they don't see are the chefs eating over bins at midnight, the maintenance disasters, the staff dramas, the customers who should probably come with warning labels, and the incredible people who somehow keep the whole thing running."

Born and raised in Canada, Harris eventually found herself taking on one of Britain's most iconic institutions: the village pub. The experience provided enough stories to fill a book and, more recently, has attracted a substantial online audience.

Ahead of publication, Harris's humorous stories and videos about life in pubs, kitchens and hospitality have generated more than one million views across Facebook and TikTok, with hospitality workers, pub landlords, chefs and food lovers sharing their own experiences in response.

The book combines these stories with recipes, illustrations and larger-than-life characters drawn from years of working in hospitality. While many names and identifying details have been changed, readers may recognise the types of people who populate every village pub: the know-

it-all at the bar, the regular who practically lives there, the chef who disappears during service, and the customer who insists they could run the business better themselves.

*Lies, Theft and Sh\*t on the Ceiling: a Canadian's journey to pub ownership in England* will be published on 21 June 2026.

For media enquiries, interviews, review copies or further information:

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### **Notes to Editors**

- *Lies, Theft and Sh\*t on the Ceiling: A Canadian's Journey to Pub Ownership in England* will be published on 21 June 2026.
- Julie Harris is a Canadian-born author, food writer and former landlady of the Royal Oak Inn in Handcross, West Sussex.
- The book combines memoir, recipes and illustrations inspired by real experiences in hospitality.
- Harris's social media content about pub life and hospitality has generated more than one million views across TikTok and Facebook.
- High-resolution images, review copies and interview opportunities are available on request.
- Juno, the Old English Sheepdog featured on the book cover and in publicity images, was a well-known fixture of the Royal Oak Inn and appears throughout the book's stories.