

COOKS COFFEE COMPANY & ESQUIRES COFFEE

Setting new standards for sustainability and
community engagement.



DEAR FRANCHISEES

As we approach the end of another dynamic quarter, we're pleased to share key milestones and achievements from Cooks Coffee Company and Esquires Coffee, highlighting our continued commitment to environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices.

We believe that strong performance can go hand-in-hand with a clear sense of purpose, creating lasting value for our communities and the wider world. Our mission to expand sustainable coffee culture is gathering pace with 93 stores open as of late May, we remain firmly on track to achieve our goal of 300 stores across the UK and Ireland by 2034.

We enter the new financial year with confidence, strong momentum and a clear vision for sustainable, quality-driven growth. ●

ESQUIRES COFFEE IRELAND WINS ORGANIC COFFEE SHOP ENTERPRISE 2025

We're proud to share that for the second year in a row, Esquires Coffee Ireland has been recognised as a **winner in the Irish Enterprise Awards by EU Business News**.



Brendan Duigenan, Managing Director Esquires Coffee Ireland and Barry Gardner, General Manager Esquires Coffee Ireland

This achievement shows our continued commitment to sustainability, quality and ethical business practices. We remain dedicated to delivering exceptional organic coffee experiences while prioritising environmental responsibility and social impact. ●

SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION: ESQUIRES COFFEE WINS “BEST ETHICAL COFFEE ENTERPRISE”

We're thrilled to announce that Esquires Coffee in Caerphilly, Wales, has been named the **“Best Ethical Coffee Enterprise”** at the Welsh SME News Awards. This recognition highlights our consistent dedication to sustainability and ethical practices.

Operated by franchise owners **Julie and John McIlhiney**, this café truly shows what we believe in: delivering high-quality coffee experiences with a conscience.



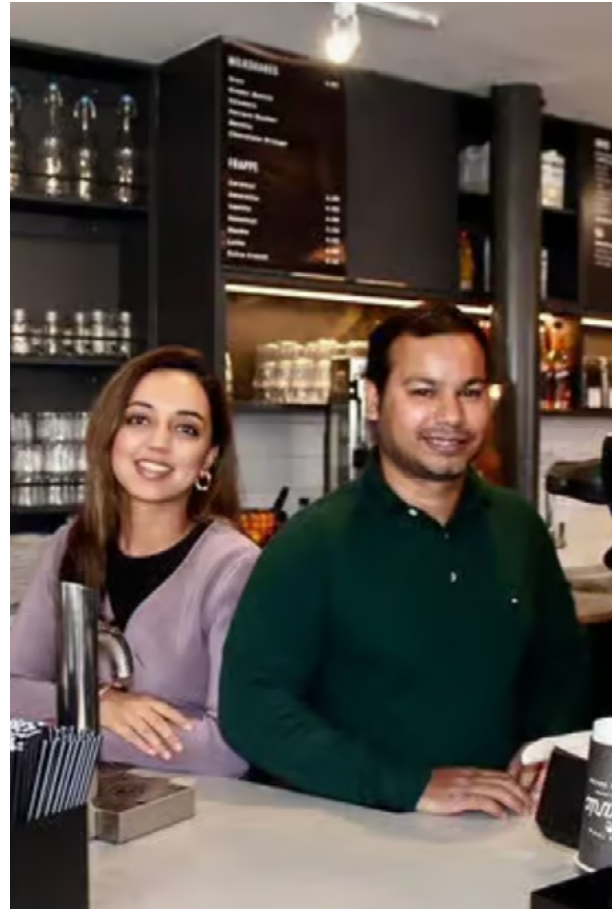
Keith Jackson, Julie McIlhiney and John McIlhiney

Executive Chairman, **Keith Jackson**, highlighted, “Julie and John McIlhiney truly embody Esquires’ values, setting a benchmark for ethical business practices and sustainability. This award is a testament to their exceptional commitment.” ●

SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH AND REDUCING ISOLATION FOR THE DEAF COMMUNITY

Esquires Coffee in Northampton is proud to support **Northampton Deaf Coffee**, a monthly gathering focused on improving mental well-being and reducing isolation for deaf individuals.

Established in 2015 by four founders, this group has been a lifeline for many, helping them to build confidence, self-esteem and social connections. Hosted on the first Saturday of every month at Esquires Coffee Northampton in the town centre, this meet-up provides a welcoming space for the deaf community and hearing individuals invested in learning British Sign Language (BSL).



Halima and Zofur Ali, owners of Esquires Coffee Northampton

“This group helps break down barriers, build friendships and support mental well-being. For many, it’s the only opportunity to connect with others in a relaxed environment.”

Fahad Hussain, one of the founders of the group



Founders of Deaf Coffee Northampton

Despite challenges post-pandemic, the group continues to draw attendees, with participants travelling from as far as London to join.

Beyond the coffee meet-ups, they also organise events like picnics, bowling and themed celebrations, creating more chances for shared experiences and fun. ●

COFFEE MORNINGS AT ESQUIRES COFFEE LUTON

The coffee mornings offer the opportunity for the local community to speak to experts about any queries or concerns they may have about a friend, loved one, or even themselves when it comes to dementia.

The opening event saw The Mall's Marketing Manager, Lavinia Douglass, and Deputy Mayor of Luton Councillor Raja, conduct a speech regarding the importance of these events and the impact they are likely to have on the surrounding community in Luton. ●



Coffee Morning with Alzheimer's Society at Esquires Coffee Luton

“We’d like to express thanks to our host Esquires Coffee for their hospitality. This is a safe space where people can feel comfortable to attend these sessions in moments of what might be real vulnerability.”

Lavinia Douglass, Marketing Manager at The Mall Luton

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DRIVING FOOTFALL

Our cafés across the UK and Ireland drive footfall and build loyalty by hosting regular **mum and toddler groups**. These gatherings provide mothers a dedicated space to meet, share experiences and support one another, directly increasing customer visits and contributing to our consistent growth. ●



Esquires Coffee Corby Weldon Park

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN IRELAND

At Cooks, building strong community relationships is part of how we operate. Our cafés are open, welcoming places where people feel at ease and part of the local routine. We aim to create an environment where customers enjoy good coffee and a friendly atmosphere.

In **Carrigaline**, weekly **knitting groups** run in-store and are open to all abilities. They've become a regular fixture, giving people time and space to work on projects and chat informally. **Irish language meet-ups** offer a similar format, providing a relaxed setting to use the language and keep it in everyday life.



Weekly knitting group in Esquires Coffee Carrigaline



Irish language meet-up group in Esquires Coffee Carrigaline

Beyond creating community hubs, we also support causes beyond the café. The team at **Esquires Tallaght** took part in the **Hell and Back 8km race**, a tough endurance event involving steep climbs, deep mud, cold water and challenging obstacle courses. It's known as one of Ireland's most demanding physical events, requiring stamina, determination, and teamwork. Their goal was to raise funds for the **Laura Lynn Foundation**, Ireland's only children's hospice, which provides specialist care and support to children with life-limiting conditions and their families.



Esquires Coffee Tallaght participating in Hell and Back 8km race

The event tested participants physically and mentally, but the commitment to the charity kept the team focused from start to finish. Crossing the finish line was a significant achievement, made even more meaningful by knowing their efforts would help support the foundation's work.

Our dedication to sustainability, ethical business and social impact is strengthened by these initiatives. By supporting local communities in practical and meaningful ways, we help create a more connected, compassionate and resilient society. ●