

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter from the Store Management Committee.

Improvement Grants

We have been fortunate recently with requests for funding for improvements to the store. The organisations that so generously made grants were:

Sherborne Rotary Group.....	£1000
Magna Housing	£1500
Bishops Caundle Parish Council	£500
Hall & Woodhouse Brewery	£750

These grants were made on condition that we use them to improve the Community Store. We are not allowed to use them for anything else. If you have any questions about this please ask Charles Watson.

The grants that we have received are providing new refrigeration equipment. They will enable us to increase our range of food items and make it easier to select what you are looking for.

We will be improving the range of wines on offer and we hope that you will tell us what you think. We will use some of the increased refrigeration capacity to accommodate more drinks. Please suggest what you would like us to stock.

New Shelving

New shelving was installed to increase the range of locally produced items and speciality goods. We thank Wendy's brother for obtaining and installing the shelves.

Local Products

As Christmas approaches, why not think about a Hamper of Dorset produce? We would be happy to hear what would suit you.

Here are some other ideas to challenge your taste buds. Did you know that this store carries the world famous Blue Vinny cheese made locally at Woodbridge Farm by Mike Davies and his team? We are very excited to be stockist of this excellent cheese. We will be promoting it along with other local produce once we have increased our chiller capacity. Woodbridge Farm also makes a range of chutneys, all made happily at home on the farm.

Then there is Dorset Tea, cups of sunshine using tea from the rainforest-alliance where farmers are able to make a proper living.

For Coffee drinkers we have Old Dorset Roast, a strong flavoured coffee with notes of caramel in the body and chocolate after taste. Also made by the 918 Coffee Company, we have our own Bishops Caundle

Coffee which is a medium strong coffee and every pack purchased means that 10p is donated to the Dorset Air Ambulance.

We have two wonderful Honey suppliers locally who provide us with beautiful golden honey. One type, which is set, comes from Mr Bolam in Hill View, and the other, runny honey, is produced by Roy Bennett and is called "Bishops Caundle Honey". Our two bee keepers are on hand to talk about their beehives and have been an important contact for new enthusiasts coming into the village.

Another local business we use is Sun Cottage who provides us with our Luxury Muesli, Granola & Porridge Oats as well as dried spices for all your cooking needs.

We have cooked meat supplies from Buttlings Butchers at Ludwell near Shaftesbury who supply Pasties, sausage rolls, scotch eggs and pork pies. These are all very popular with our passing drivers in need of a quick bite at lunchtime. The Southfield Family at Wincanton supply us with a range of sweet and savoury pies and pasties. These are proving increasingly popular

We stock the famous Wyke Farm Butter and selected cheddar cheese from their comprehensive range, all made just across the border in Somerset, and now exported all over the world.

Sandwiches and Snacks

We will also soon be stocking a wider range of sandwiches and snacks, looking for items especially made here in Dorset. Please tell us if you would be interested in gluten or dairy free products or if there are other lines which you would like us to consider, including vegetarian and vegan meals. Next year there will be an opportunity to taste. We are planning to have a Taster Evening early next year, so look out for more details.

Shop Flags

The flags outside have made a huge difference to the amount of passing trade business and we are frequently told "I didn't know there was a shop here until I saw the flags". They might not be to everyone's taste but this method of advertising has been so successful that we will be purchasing two slightly smaller flags for the winter. We don't want to loose them in a gale that decides to blow through the village.

Charity Event

We have recently held a superbly active Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Services which raised an impressive £160.00 in donations for the homemade cakes and freshly brewed coffee. A big thank you to everyone who was involved and to the village for their support. It was nice to see so many new faces in the shop! We plan to hold further charity events at the store.

Festive Products

As Christmas approaches we will have some lovely festive things on sale: cards, wrapping paper and small items suitable for gifts. You might find something special not available elsewhere.

Have you tried our Sherborne Estate wine? Why not think about giving it as a gift this season?

The volunteers on the till have supplies of stamps for your Christmas Cards, rather than queuing at the PO counter but if you do need to queue, have a look at our Notice Board. It is now to be found next to the PO counter. There are always lots of things happening in and around the village at this time of year and there are bound to be many local events advertised here. A donation to the charity box gives you two weeks advertising.

Book Swap

Have you joined our book swap? Only 50p a book unless you bring some to swap, then it's free. If you have puzzles or a jigsaw to donate please bring them along too.

Lottery

We now have a fully operational Lottery which uses the Bonus Ball chosen on TV each week as the prize draw. Over £600.00 so far has been awarded to the lucky winners. Why not try your Luck?

Volunteering

The Staff and Volunteers would love to welcome you as an additional volunteer. If you have some time to spare please talk to Carole. She has taken over the job of organising volunteers and encouraging other people from the village to join our happy band. Do come along to talk to her. It is important for the community store that more people come forward to join the work force. So whatever time you can spare, we would be very pleased to see you. Our thank-you get-togethers are always great fun. Our recent BBQ in September was a lovely afternoon with many of our friends coming along to sample the fare on offer. Our next one is on 5th December. Why not join up and join in?

Post Office Rescued

We are pleased on your behalf to be able to announce that the Post Office facilities are now safe thanks to the impressive work that Serena Davies has recently undertaken. The proposed changes to the layout and operation were impractical and would have resulted in closure. Serena spent many hours preparing paperwork to support the facts that this PO serves a large community in a rural area and that there are members of our community who do not have access to transport and who would be badly affected if the PO closed. It is rewarding to know that she was listened to and the services are, at least for the time being, secured as a Community PO.

The rather trite phrase "use it or lose it" was very nearly a reality last week so please do continue to use the Post Office facilities. It is most rewarding for staff and volunteers to see their hard work supported by an increase in sales from users of the PO facilities. Please do take a look around before you leave and see what catches your attention. If you don't see what you want, please ask us. We are always happy to help.

Store Web Site

Our new website is now live. The web address is www.bishopscaundleshop.co.uk as before but has been completely made over. It has lots of information on it about what the shop has to offer. Please do let us know what you think. There is a contact link to send us an email which we can now receive in the shop.

Notice Board

As well as the traditional community notice board in the store, there are also on-line "for sale" and "wanted" sections on the web site. Either email your entry to the link provided or pass a note over the counter - a bit slower but it will still get there.

Wi-Fi Hot Spot

There is now a public access point in the store if you have a wireless internet device. It is free to use the store's broadband link. You just need to get the access code from whoever is serving.

And Finally...

Please do support your community store. It is the efforts and custom of local people who keep the store going and ensure that it is available for everyone.

Please don't wait too long before you pop in to see us again.

Thank you for your custom,

*Bishops Caundle Community Store
Management Committee.*