

Charles Moves On

After three hectic years, Charles has decided that other community issues deserve his attention. He is leaving us with the pathway set fair having guided the Store through a time of change.

At the last committee meeting a small presentation was made to him which included pieces of the world famous Blue Vinny Cheese made locally at Woodbridge Farm and some Rioja wine from Spain. Liz Lyon has kindly stepped in as acting Chair-person until the AGM to take over the Chair's duties.

Get Involved

The operation of a Community Store has been vital to the village for almost four years now. During that period its services and range of goods have increased significantly to the point where there are very few day-to-day items you would need to travel to buy. This has been particularly valuable for less able members of the Community and for those who do not have access to private transport. Since public transport services have been cut, the value of a local store has become even greater.

The committee is always looking out for fresh ideas on how we can improve the Store and its usage. If you have new ideas, retail experience or have been involved in the running of a Community Store or similar venture, please come and talk to us. We meet once a month to discuss items regarding the store.

The Volunteers have a number of gatherings throughout the year to chat about the store and build a sense of community. If you would like to join the volunteers, even if you can only manage the odd shift every now and again, for example, when we have to cover holiday or illness, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Contact Liz Lyon on 23070 or Lynne Coombe on 23017, or call in at the store for a chat.

Easter Time

Looking forward to Easter time, we have delicious locally made Bath Bridge Easter Biscuits in packets of 4 for £1.79. We also have Aero Eggs and Cadbury's Mini and Cream Eggs.

Have a look at our range of Easter Greetings cards from 79p upwards to celebrate this special season of the year. These are available alongside our extensive range of greetings cards for all occasions and will suit everyone's budget.

New Luxury Product

We now sell Hurdlebrook Yoghurts, made from Guernsey Whole Milk. Luxurious choice of flavours includes: Blackberry & Apple, Blueberry, Strawberry & Plain. Watch the newsletters for more new lines in the coming months.

Easter Opening Times

Store

Good Friday, 3 rd April.....	08:00 – 10:30
Saturday, 4 th April.....	07:30 – 13:00
Easter Sunday, 5 th April.....	08:00 – 10:30
Easter Monday, 6 th April.....	08:00 – 10:30

Post Office

Good Friday, 3 rd April.....	Closed
Saturday, 4 th April.....	09:00 – 12:00
Easter Sunday, 5 th April.....	Closed
Easter Monday, 6 th April.....	Closed

Other Wonderful Products

Dorset Ginger a delicious cordial made here in Dorset and contains ginger root. Mix with whisky to make a warming Whisky Mac anytime of the year although especially in Spring when the cold winds can chill to the bone. Another suggestion, "Dorset Mojito", with apple juice, or add it to sparkling elderflower. It is a non-alcoholic drink on its own and a splendid aid to digestion.

Blue Vinny Cheese is made less than 2 miles away from this very shop at Mike Davies Woodbridge Farm. A Food Hero of Rick Stein, Countryfile (BBC Programme) and Local Chef Lesley Walters have all of whom have raved about the quality of the products. Mike revived the 300 year old recipe in 1980 and it is now distributed far and wide.

Our local honey producers Roy Bennett and William Bolam keep the store well supplied with honey. Either golden runny honey or set honey both tasting of local wild flower blossoms where the bees have been gathering pollen from all around their home hives.

Other items of interest include - Pure Apple juice from a Dorset orchard shared with beautiful butterflies and moths. It's one of the products created by Nigel Spring under his Community Interest Company locally based. Other lovely products in the range include blackcurrant cordial, plum cordial and a blackcurrant jelly, which is excellent with savoury or sweet items alike.

We get fresh vegetables every other day from a supplier whose quality is excellent. Meat orders can be taken for Buttlings Butcher of Ludwell. Sweet and Savoury Pies and Pasties supplied by the Southfield Family are available freshly made.

If we are not stocking the items you want please tell us.

Speciality Beverages

For those who prefer hot drinks we offer a range of Speciality Coffees from the 918 Coffee Company. Old Dorset Roast is a freshly roasted filter blend coffee full of the taste of our stunning county. It makes a great present for family and friends to remind them of their lovely holidays in Dorset. There are other flavours in the range – Decaffeinated; All Day or After Dinner and are competitively priced.

Dorset Tea is a special cuppa for the connoisseur as well as the dedicated tea drinkers. The cup of sunshine uses tea from the rainforest-alliance, where farmers are able to make a proper living, offers a real taste of tea.

Unusual Gifts

Looking for an unusual gift? We are now stocking Bayleaves Bags made in Bishops Caundle by Carol West. These bags are very attractive and no two are the same! Made from hard wearing cotton fabric these handy bags are more beautiful than a plastic carrier bag and much longer lasting.

We also carry Alice Wood Design items made locally in Holwell, just a couple of miles from this village. Alice is a noted designer who also supplies the Castle Garden Centre in Sherborne. Don't miss the lovely decorated plant pots designed by Maddie. Maddie has also been designing the Store window displays, currently, ones for Easter.

Store Lotto

The store lotto uses the bonus ball number from the national lottery to decide the winning number each week. There have been some substantial pay-outs when it's been a Roll-over or Double Roll-over week and anyone is welcome to support the shop by buying £1 numbers.

The funds are split 50/50 with the winner and the store. We have been able to purchase a Wi-Fi Hot Spot facility available on request for customers to access the internet from their own mobile devices.

Our Store on Social Media

Do take a look at the shop website: <http://www.bishopscaundleshop.co.uk/>. We try to add items of interest as and when but the winning store lottery number is displayed as soon as Liz announces the winning number via Twitter @caundleshop. Also you can see the local 5-day weather forecast on the front page. We now have over 50 "followers" on Twitter. We had a bit of a Twitter campaign in the run up to Christmas and turnover was up on the previous year. Doubtless this was nothing to do with our Twitter postings, but we like to think it might have made a small difference. If you have a Facebook account, why not join the store Group. We hope to post more items through social media. If you would like to take on a social media role for the Store, please get in touch.

And finally...

April will be the beginning of our 4th Year of activity. We are very proud of what the shop has achieved and we do know that for many we are the centre of the village where people like to chat whilst shopping.

If you are a regular shopper at the store, thank you for your continued support. It makes a huge difference to the viability of the store. Without you, the store would cease to exist.

Although the staff and volunteers are doing a great job running the shop and increasing the turnover, costs have also risen keeping our margins slim. We need your help to increase turnover. Why not challenge the shop? Bring in your last supermarket receipt and see how many equivalent items you could have bought in your community store and at what price. We would be quite happy to review our range of products to suit if there is sufficient demand. This is your shop – please use it more often.

Challenge Your Store

Using your supermarket receipt, how many equivalent items could you have bought here?

Please let us know what you can and can't find.

If you have friends and neighbours who are not in the habit of using the store, please pass on the word about our great range of products. They might be surprised at what can be bought there at very reasonable prices!