

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter from the Store Management Committee.

Goodbyes

We expressed our enormous gratitude to Serena at the AGM. Without her, the shop would certainly not be here today. We wish her every success in whatever new role she takes on.

Our Treasurer, Wendy Staffiere decided, for health reasons, to hand over her role after keeping the books very efficiently for the past year and a half.

New Manager

We are delighted to welcome our new Manager, Catheryn Sheppard, who started at the end of August. Many of you will already have met her. You are most likely to find her in the shop on Monday and Thursday mornings and Friday afternoons – do come in and introduce yourself to her. Some of her work will be done at home and she will inevitably have to visit suppliers and attend meetings so she may not always be in the shop during her working hours.

Her first day was spent visiting other Community Shops with some of the committee members to gather ideas and, though it is not intended to change the shop in any radical way, she has several exciting ideas, which we hope to be able to implement over the coming months to improve the shop for you.

New Shop Assistant

Paula Wilder has been a regular customer since the Community Shop was set up so we are also delighted to welcome her as a part-time member of staff. She will start off by working alongside Dawn on Wednesday afternoons.

New Treasurer

We are most grateful to Dee Hobbs for stepping in to cope with the mountain of admin. This is a complex role and is absolutely vital for the running of the shop.

Other news from behind the counter

The Committee would like to thank all the volunteers who took on extra shifts in the shop or additional roles for the time after Serena left the shop. Without this help and the hard work put in by Dawn and Jackie, we would not have been able to keep the shop open for our normal hours throughout the summer.

The Post Office

Our Post Office received a last minute reprieve! Many of you may have seen the recent coverage in the press and television about the difficulties of running a sub-post office. Jackie Feltham has decided to continue working in the shop rather than pursuing her original plan of taking over the role of sub-postmistress. Right up till a week before Serena was due to finish, it looked as though we would be forced to have a temporary break in service. The Committee was given the choice of two options. The first would have meant the staff and volunteers having to run the Post Office on a voluntary basis during the full opening hours of the shop - the shop and Committee would have been financially liable for any errors made. After consultation with some of our experienced volunteers, it was unanimously agreed that this would not be acceptable.

The other option on offer was that of a 'hosted' service where someone from another Post Office would come for one session a week to run the service, as in Kings Stag. This was considered to be the more acceptable option, though it would, regrettably, mean a great reduction in hours. Fortunately, James Baker was available to cover the service on a temporary basis until the Post Office decides on the future of their service in Bishops Caundle. They do not intend to leave us without a Post Office facility. We will keep you informed as soon as we hear of their plans for the future but we expect that the current temporary provision will continue for at least several weeks.

The Post Office opening hours remain the same for the time being (9–12 Mon–Wed and 10–12 Thurs–Sat)

The Management Committee

The Management Committee currently comprises 8 members:

Chair	Liz Lyon
Vice-chair	Peter Blundell
Secretary	Lynne Coombe
Shop Representative	Dawn Loveless
Treasurer	Dee Hobbs
Other members:	Carole Blundell
	Jon Coombe
	Pete Hobbs

Volunteering

The Staff and Volunteers would love to welcome you as an additional volunteer. We had the usual summer gathering on 19th August where we enjoyed a barbecue and Pimms in spite of the adverse weather conditions! Everyone had a chance to meet Catheryn and her two children, and chat with the other volunteers.

As always, we are looking for new volunteers. If you have an hour or two to spare, either regularly or on an occasional basis, we would love to hear from you. While we would always welcome additional volunteers to serve customers, we also need volunteers who are happy to do one or more of the following jobs: restocking shelves, dusting, cleaning the windows, tending the patio pots and flower beds in front of the shop or delivering newsletters.

For volunteers who are happy to work behind the counter, the shift times are 10-1, 1-3 and 3-5. We do have a few vacant spaces, currently covered by people taking on a second shift. If you would like to offer your services, please contact Catheryn or one of the Committee.

Shop Christmas Dinner

Here is the advanced notice that we shall again be organising a Christmas dinner for volunteers and staff at the White Hart, Bishops Caundle (just been rated number two in this area by Trip Advisor - *ed. Note, this is a really big achievement*). Please keep Friday 4th December evening free.

Product Requests

We really do want your suggestions for developing the lines we stock – pop a note into the suggestions box, mention your ideas to whoever is serving and they will pass it on or send us an email. Please make sure that you leave your name and contact details so we can get back to you. Whether it is a request for freshly baked bread, frozen mince or a different brand of baked beans or loo roll, we would like to hear it, though we cannot guarantee to be able to stock everything requested.

Don't forget that you can order fruit and vegetables in advance. We are hoping to extend this facility to include other perishable products such as meat.

Macmillan Charity Event

We are going to hold another *Coffee Morning* for Macmillan Cancer Services which last year raised an impressive £160.00 in donations for the homemade cakes and freshly brewed coffee. Please make a note of the date, Saturday 26th September.

Local Producers

We would like to thank everyone who donates their surplus garden produce to the shop. It is lovely to be able to offer this to our customers, who really value being able to buy fresh, locally grown fruit and vegetables. Please keep it coming.

Professional Advice

Over the past six months we have received valuable advice from the following organisations: The Plunkett Foundation, Dorset Community Action and the Rural Shops Alliance. We are very grateful to them for their guidance and will be implementing most of their recommendations.

Book Swap

The readers of the village keep our book swap stocked with a regular turnover of reading material and provide a much-valued service. Come in and check it out.

Contact Us

Apart from the telephone, you can contact us via the web site: www.bishopscaundleshop.co.uk where there is an email link, or email the shop directly using the bishopscaundleshop@gmail.com address.

And Finally...

To all our customers, both regular and occasional, we hope you enjoy visiting the store and can find the things you want.

Thank you for your custom,

*Bishops Caundle Community Store
Management Committee.*