

Spring in the Shop

The winter months are always a quiet time for the shop but now we are getting ready for springtime when more visitors use the shop.

We are also adding new lines to save you making that special journey into town. We will soon be stocking quality fresh meat sourced locally. We now keep a stock of babies' nappies as well as baby food.

Post Office

We are holding a public meeting to explain and discuss the future of the Post Office in Bishops Caundle at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 15th March in the Village Hall. Please come!

As you may know, the Post Office is currently out of action due to technical difficulties. The Post Office and BT are 'on the case'. For details about the longer term position of the Post Office please come to our meeting to hear the options we have and to voice your thoughts.

E.G.M.

The future of the Post Office in the store.

Village Hall

Tuesday, 15th March at 6:30p.m.

Get Involved

Whatever the eventual outcome of the Post Office arrangements, none of this can function without people from the community to run the store. It is after all a Community Shop.

As you know, the shop is run by 4 part time staff and a number of volunteers. We welcome our three newest volunteers, but are always looking out for more. Working a few hours in the shop is an excellent opportunity for teenagers to support the community, to help towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards and to gain experience for a reference or personal statement.

Can you join the volunteers? Even if you can only manage the odd shift every now and again, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Contact Liz Lyon on 23070, Catheryn on 23770, or call in at the store for a chat.

Easter Time

As you know, Easter is early this year and we are stocking up with Easter Eggs as well as your favourite chocolates, delicious biscuits and cakes.

You will soon be able to see our range of Easter greetings cards to celebrate this special season of the year. These will be available alongside our extensive range of greetings cards for all occasions and will suit everyone's budget.

Cash Back

The shop has a new card payment provider. We are now able to offer cash back of modest amounts if you are using a debit card to make a purchase. We have also dropped our charge on debit card transactions of under £10 until the current Post Office situation is resolved.

Your Favourite Products

If you haven't visited us recently, please drop in and look around. If we don't stock your favourite products, please let us know and we will see if we can obtain them at a reasonable price. The new lines in the shop are going well. We stock the delicious Olive's Kitchen frozen ready meals made by Sabin's of Sherborne. These contain local ingredients and are proving very popular with our customers. We also have a few nappies and baby foods for our youngest locals.

Don't forget that you can order fresh fruit and veg. for the next day.

Easter Opening Times

Store

Good Friday, 25th March 08:00 – 10:30
Saturday, 26th March 07:30 – 13:00
Easter Sunday, 27th March 08:00 – 10:30
Easter Monday, 28th March 08:00 – 10:30

Post Office (if re-opened)

Good Friday, 25th March Closed
Saturday, 26th March 10:00 – 12:00
Easter Sunday, 27th March Closed
Easter Monday, 28th March Closed

Popular Local Products

We like to support local suppliers and have a range of local items available.

The Keeper's Wife provides the shop with a variety of tasty chutneys, jams, marmalades and pickles all of which are homemade in the village. We also continue to stock Blue Vinny Cheese and chutneys produced nearby at Woodbridge Farm, honey made in the village, pure apple juice, jellies and cordials (made by the EuCAN Community Interest Project) and wine by Sherborne Castle Estate.

Children (and adults!) continue to enjoy the 'lucky dip' penny sweet bags on offer, along with our range of biscuits and cakes, which now include gluten free options. Delicious sandwiches and wraps from Fir Tree Catering are proving very popular and provide an alternative snack or lunch to the wide range of pies and pasties that are also available.

We are quite happy to review our range of products to suit if there is sufficient demand. Please tell us if you know of other products that would compliment our existing range.

Locally Made Gifts

Looking for an unusual gift? We stock 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 stock wooden gifts, such as candlesticks and bowls, made by our local wood turner, Colin.

We have a local composer whose latest orchestral CD is available to buy in the shop.

New Card Machine

Okay, so not that exciting. However, we notice that more and more customers are opting to pay using a bank card. Apparently new bank cards now being issued are "contactless". This means that the card has only to be placed near the machine to register the payment. You can pay on our new machine by this method if you so wish.

Another benefit to the shop, and hence shareholders, is that the fees charged by the new provider are lower. This will help to reduce the costs of running the shop even if by only a small amount each year. In fact the more customers who pay in this way, the lower will be the average cost per transaction.

Book Swap and Lottery

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 have a browse.

The Bonus Ball Lottery is running well. If you would like to know more about it, please drop in or contact us by 'phone or email.

Social Media

The store not only has its own web site <http://www.bishopscaundleshop.co.uk/> (where you can find a local 5-day forecast) but also a presence on Facebook and Twitter (@caundleshop). Jackie and Catheryn are taking on the role of editors and will be posting photos and items of interest for you to *Like* or *Share*. If you use social media, ask Jackie or Catheryn how you can join in.

Shareholders

You may already be a shareholder in the Community Store. If not, and you would like to be, please ask at the shop. Shares cost £5 and give you the right to vote at the AGM.

Future Plans

Our future plans include installing a small in-store bakery so that we can sell freshly baked bread, croissants, pies and other items. As soon as you can pick up a hot croissant with your Sunday papers, we will let you know! We plan to be stocking some Honeybuns gluten free cakes and brownies in time for Easter.

Thanks Again

April will be the beginning of the 5th Year as a Community Store. We are very proud of what the shop has achieved and we know that for many the store is an essential service and a social focus. Many a time friends and neighbours bump into each other at the shop and stop for a chat.

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

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!

**The store is here for you
Can you be here for the store?**

Bishops Caundle Community Store