



Well, we are back in a total lockdown and once again the Village Shop is busy trying to meet the needs of the community. While Lynne is fully back in action with the Veg Boxes every Thursday unfortunately Hilary is under orders from her family to stay at home until she has had her vaccinations. Other volunteers have stepped into the breach and we thank them for their time and effort.

**Assessing demand in the winter months we have dropped our Wednesday morning and Sunday afternoon sessions but all other days we are open from 10-11 and 3-4, with extended opening til 1 o'clock on a Thursday.**

We had a highly successful Christmas supplying turkeys and other seasonal products. We continue to extend our range of products and since the last update we have introduced a range of frozen foods from locally owned Mustard Foods. HOT OFF THE PRESS – Mustard Foods have just introduced smaller sachets with 2-3 servings. You can see the range if you come to the shop and if you let us know what you would like to try this will help us match our order to your preferences.



We also are now getting sourdough delivered from Lynwood's every Monday morning, but you will need to order in advance from Lynne, happy to supply half loaves. Also proving popular are Lynwood's ground and bean coffee packs, and we have also introduced a range of teas also from Lynwood.



Another brand new venture, in response to demand from our customers, is to reintroduce Cook Foods which we sold regularly in the past. Unfortunately, they will still not supply a

commercial order of less than £800 but we can get an order delivered free of charge. We plan to place a monthly order on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, so you need to get an order in by the last day of the previous month. Since we will be passing these orders on at cost, we will make a nominal charge of 20p per item.

We also have preserves from Aunty Caroline and products from Faringdon honey. Lynne has also added cakes and daffodils to her veg orders every Thursday.



The major event since the last update has been the retirement of Ena from the Post Office and its ultimate closure. This is obviously the end of an era and a sad loss to the Village. We did look at how we might provide the lost services through the shop, but this has proved impossible. We are selling stamps and are willing to offer cashback, when liquidity permits, and we will continue to explore ways of replacing other services, but it will not be easy. However, we are currently renting the post office space from the Parish Council with a view to making this a permanent arrangement. This extra space will allow us to further develop our product range and we would be interested to have your input, bearing in mind the need to turnover products fairly quickly to avoid waste.

As well as returning a healthy surplus in 2019-20 we have just passed the £2000 mark for our charity donations in the last 12 months - £1070 for Wear It Pink, £400 for the village playground, £400 for the Poppy Appeal and over £100 to date for Helen & Douglas House. Starting in February we will be raising money for a new bench to be placed outside the Village Centre. Please let us know if there is a local charity which you think is worthy of our support.

The Food Bank continues to operate in the Shop with Don and Moira picking up a box every two/three weeks to take to Witney where it is very gratefully received.

As you can see the Shop Committee has been very pro-active in attempting to continue to develop its role in the community and we would like to thank all our volunteers and customers for their continued and enhanced support.

# STOP PRESS



As Julie Andrews famously sang in Mary Poppins, “Feed the birds tuppence a bag.” Well times change and it might cost a little more than tuppence (0.84p in new money) but the Village Shop has just introduced bird food – seed mix, peanuts and fat balls, in response to demand from a number of customers. Baz may have got a bit carried away so the birds of Filkins are in for a real feast !

This is the first of a number of new ranges of products the Shop proposes to introduce following confirmation this week that the Parish Council has agreed to rent it the old Post Office space. Let us know what you would like to see on the shelves.

Shop Committee

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