



## Village Shop News Update

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I finished last month by saying that I hoped that our sales of kindling would have dropped off & that the new season asparagus would be in the Shop & selling well ... guess what, the kindling sales are still buoyant & not a piece of asparagus in sight! The weather continues to confuse so let's hope by the time you read this that normality (if such a thing exists when talking about our weather) has returned. Asparagus will be with us soon, so keep an eye on the notice board outside, we'll let you know.

Blood oranges are however here along with an exciting & locally produced fresh marsh mallows, direct to you from Little Street in fact; you can't get much more local than that, give them a try. Fresh flowers will be with us soon as well & if you have any particular favourites then let David know & he'll try to source them for you.

So how was March trading? Not so good as we were 5% down on the takings for March '12 but in a week when Tesco announced their first loss for decades, we're still cumulatively trading at 1.5% ahead of 2012 so the combined picture is still positive.

Our intrepid Wine Master has once again done a superb job in sourcing a range of competitively priced wines for us which are selling well. March sales were up again on February which was up on January & he has put together a piece giving us his thoughts & plans for the coming months; why leave the village when you can pick up a full bodied bargain on your door step? Many thanks again Digby.

You may remember that we took delivery of our new computer system for the Shop. Michael, Robin & David are making real progress in preparing the system for us to 'go live' on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will coincide with us accepting debit cards (not credit cards) which will add another point of convenience for those of us that emulate royalty by never having cash in our pockets when we need it; more on this next month. We'll still be operating our 'reverse credit' account system & you'll be able to top your account up by using your debit card. Training for our intrepid & willing volunteers will be provided in June well before our 'go live' date so we're getting ever closer to achieving a key objective that the Management Committee presented last year at our AGM in 2012.

Which brings me neatly onto the subject of the 2013 AGM. We've provisionally said that this will be on the evening of July 1<sup>st</sup> & we'll combine this with a social glass of wine & nibbles for all down at the Manor. Put the date in your diary, everyone's invited to come along to hear about our performance & plans for the future. It's also a great forum for listening to your ideas about products & services that you would like to see as part of our mix; your input is invaluable in equal measure to your custom.

'Mac' Macdonald

01295 760470

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John the Post's bench ... it's here for us all to use!

No more updates needed, I sat on it this evening & it looks brilliant. A fitting & constant reminder of our village friend. We'll see if 'young John' can persuade Pat to come along & see what's been achieved in his memory.