



Village Shop News Update

Shop Telephone – 01295 760066



Shop opening hours: Monday 8 am – 1 pm Tuesday to Friday 8 am – 6 pm
Saturday 8.30 am – 3 pm Sunday 9 am – 12 noon

Post Office opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 9 am - 1 pm

The big news this month is that the Shop has been selected as one of five regional finalists for the Countryside Alliance Awards (aka The Rural Oscars). There were over seventeen thousand nominations this year, so the Shop has done extremely well to get this far. But we are not resting on our laurels and will be making a big push to progress to the next stage - the National Finals. This will not be easy as competition is very tough, but we have put together a strong application and will ensure that the shop is looking at its very best for the judges' visit in the Spring. If we do manage to come out on top, it will be top-hat and tails time as all regional winners will be invited to the Houses of Lords where the national winners will be announced. No pressure then!

Although sales for December were marginally down on the same month last year, the overall turnover for 2018 was the highest since the shop came into existence 15 years ago. So congratulations to everyone – volunteers, supervisors, shop committee and customers for this brilliant result.

Digby has been scratching his head wondering why some wines fly off the shelves and others just sit. Is it the label? the grape variety? the description on the tag? – who knows?. The Nande's Vinho Verde is a case in point. It is a great example of this classic Portuguese wine which usually retails at £9.95 a bottle and which we sell for £6.85 – but, for reasons unknown, it has been slow to move. So come on you white-wine quaffers – give this delightful, fresh, fruity, food-friendly wine with its tongue-tingly sparkle a try. I suspect you will soon be nipping back for a second bottle.

New goodies on the shelves this month include Growers Garden broccoli crisps, Driver's Traditional Farmhouse Pickle and a new posh pasta - Garafolo gluten-free Fusilloni. Home bakers will be delighted to hear that Wessex Mill 6-seed, mixed-grain and self-raising flours are all back in stock.

It's marmalade-making time again and we have Seville oranges back on the fruit rack. They have a very short season so, if your supplies of home-made, chunky-cut marmalade are getting low, you had better rush out and buy a bag of these bitter beauties straight away. The shop also stocks preserving sugar so you have no excuse for not getting out the jam saucepan and replenishing your preserves shelf. Don't forget to save a jar to enter in the Village Produce Show in September – though, be warned, competition is very fierce.

With Valentine's Day fast approaching, watch out for promotions on fizz and chocolates.

Please note that there will be no village news-letter and thus no shop report in March.

Happy Chinese New Year

Digby and Alison