



## 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

We are very sad to report that, following the awful robbery we suffered in March, Jackie, who was man-handled during the raid, has decided that she cannot continue as shop supervisor and has handed in her resignation. We are all terribly sorry to lose her as she did an excellent job and was very well-liked by everyone - but we fully understand her feelings and wish her the very best for the future. We are currently in the process of installing hi-tech internal and external CCTV cameras which will provide 24-hour video coverage of the shop and the road outside.

Jeannette Smith, who left us to stay with her son and daughter-in-law in Australia a couple of years ago, is now back home and has agreed to return to the shop to help with front-of-house and Post Office duties on a part-time basis. Welcome back Jeanette.

Jackie's resignation will inevitably put a strain on the operation of the shop so we would like to ask all our regular volunteers to sign up for as many shifts as they can manage until we have sorted out new staffing arrangements. We would also like to encourage anyone who has been toying with the idea of joining our merry band of volunteers to stop hesitating and step forward. You will be made very welcome.

A judge for The Countryside Alliance Awards visited us on 12 April and, thanks to the effort put in by everyone, the Shop and Post Office looked fantastic. Special thanks to Clive who had refurbished his wonderful fruit & veg display trolley and given the front door a lick of paint. The judge spoke to volunteers and customers and seemed very impressed with our little operation so we hope that we have pressed all the right buttons. The judges will now deliberate and an announcement as to which village shop has been selected to go through to the national finals will be made before the end of May.

We have also put ourselves forward for the annual Post Office Retail Awards and will find out next month whether we have made it through to the next round.

The annual stock-take was undertaken at the end of March so many thanks to everyone who helped with this rather tedious task. Stock-management is currently being rationalised so keeping tabs on stock, sales and orders will soon be more streamlined. The shop has just had a new till and card reader installed and new computer for the back office is on the way.

Our recommendation for the excellent Nande's Vinho Verde was noted by customers and sales have jumped. Sadly, our supplier has now run out and we are down to the last couple of cases so fans had better grab a few bottles while they last. A couple of other wines on which we have had good feedback are the Ayuva Rioja at £6.95 (rrp £8.95) and the Domaine de Bourg Neuf Saumur (a classic French chenin blanc) also at £6.95. We have also added the excellent Boonaburra Australian Cabernet-Shiraz and Chardonnay to the shelves in readiness for the forthcoming barbecue season.

The freezer is now well stocked with prawns and other fishy delights and the cake basket is again full. We also have a wonderful selection of English and French cheeses to titillate your palates.

Fingers crossed for a balmy Spring.

Digby and Alison