



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

A gradual shift in the sales of white to red wines is a sure sign that colder weather is just around the corner though we should still have a few weeks of the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness remaining before we submit to winter's icy grip.

Last month the shop held its Annual General Meeting in the church hall and there was a good turnout of members of the association. The committee was re-elected en masse though sadly Joy Grice has decided to stand down as facilities officer. Joy has done an excellent job and will be much missed though she will continue to give active support to the shop. The chairman noted that the shop celebrated its fifteenth birthday this year and, since its inauguration, has achieved a turnover of approximately two million pounds. For a tiny shop in a small village, run largely by volunteers, this is quite an achievement.

However (there is always a 'however') our insurers have recently stated that there must be at least two people on duty in the shop at all times and this has greatly increased the demands on our volunteers. I am sure that many customers are not aware of the huge amount of time and effort required to keep things running so efficiently but without the constant input of volunteers, the shop would not survive. Although we have quite a lot of people on the list, most of the work is done by a small handful of dedicated regulars who each contribute many hours of their time every week. They are happy to do so but we often face the problem of unfilled shifts and one of these saintly souls then has to be called upon to step in and give up even more of their time. So this is a plea to all villagers to step up to the plate and volunteer to help. One shift per week behind the till would be a big help and two would be a Godsend. Operating the till is not rocket science and any newbe would be mentored by Natasha, Jeanette or an experienced volunteer until they were fully confident. So come on folks - do your little bit for the community and help to keep our wonderful shop alive.

For two years running, Sulgrave Village Shop has made it through to the regional finals of the Countryside Alliance Awards. Although we have been highly commended, we have just missed being selected as best village shop in the midlands. We shall be applying again this year and will be pulling out all the stops to reach the national finals. The judges rely a great deal on nominations from the public so the more recommendations they receive, the better our chances. So please log on to <https://www.countryside-alliance.org/nominate> and nominate us for the village shop and post-office category explaining why the shop has made such a difference to your lives.

There are quite a few new lines appearing this month including some cracking new wines and some posh flavoured rye crisps from Aarne & Elsa. Most of our cheeses now come from Wychwood Fine Foods who cut and pre-pack them for us in various sizes (you can order bigger pieces if you want them) - and the shop stocks a great selection of savoury biscuits to serve with them. There are also lots of super new greetings cards on the racks maintaining the shop's reputation for having the best card selection in the region.

Happy Halloween

Digby and Alison