

Village Shop News Update

Shop Telephone: 01295 760 066  e-mail: svshop@hotmail.com

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

Troubling times! We have no idea what the coronavirus situation will be by the time this newsletter hits the streets - but the Shop Management Committee is already making contingency arrangements. At the time of writing, the plan is to keep the shop open for as long as possible but a few basic rules will have to be applied. To reduce the risk of transmission of the virus, only one person at a time may enter the shop and customers are asked to use debit card or account transactions rather than cash. Please wash your hands thoroughly before and after visiting the shop and avoid close contact with shop staff and other customers.

If, for whatever reason, villagers need to self-isolate, we are looking into ways to accept orders and make deliveries to their door. If you already have an account at the shop, arranging for payment of your orders will be very easy - so we would urge all villagers who think that they might wish to use this facility to set up an account at the shop if they don't already have one. We shall need volunteers to help with deliveries, so if you are prepared to lend a hand, please make contact with the shop.

The government is recommending that anyone over the age of seventy (ie a large proportion of our volunteers!) needs to self-isolate and avoid contact with other people as much as possible. As you can imagine, this has put a lot of pressure on our volunteer force so we would ask any younger members of the community who think they may be able to assist, to step up to the plate. For the time being, the shop will be closing early (5pm rather than 6pm) from Tuesday to Friday but unless we can find more volunteers prepared to lend a hand, there may have to be a further reduction in opening hours. Post Office opening times will remain unchanged.

As our aim is to serve the whole community, while the crisis persists, we may have to limit the sale of some items to one per customer. We are sure you will all understand that as we hold limited stocks, we have a duty to try to share things out as best we can.

With the impact of the epidemic likely to become more extreme, we may well need to adopt additional rules or impose further restrictions in response to the ongoing situation. We shall keep everyone informed of any such changes through notices in the shop and via 'Nextdoor'.

The epidemic has rather overshadowed everything else, but we have continued to add new lines and there are a number of exciting new products on the shelves. The new range of craft beers from Great Oakley Brewery has had rave reviews from the serious beer drinkers in the village - so do give them a try. Our packets of 'Just Biscuits' have also been very well received and can be highly recommended. Dutch Strien cheese biscuits and Annas almond and ginger thins look interesting as does a Mediterranean sundried nut roast. Two excellent new wines have just been added to the wine shelves. 'Paradise Falls' is an unusual blend of two southern Italian grape varieties - Vermentino and Fiano - which is made in Australia's Hunter Valley. If you are getting a bit bored with Pinot Grigio, Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay - give this silky, pink grapefruit and pear flavoured number a try. The other new arrival is 'Santero' Malbec - an inky dark, brooding wine from Argentina with intense aromas and rich, spicy dark stone-fruit flavours. At 13.5% alcohol it is a big hitter and is just crying out for a big, fat, juicy steak.

SVS is a lifeline to so many people and we are determined to do the very best we can to maintain our service to the community. We hope you will all do your bit and continue to give the shop your support during this stressful period. Happy Easter.

Digby and Alison