



## Village Shop News Update

Shop Telephone: 01295 760 066  e-mail: [svshop@hotmail.com](mailto:svshop@hotmail.com)

Unfortunately, events got ahead of us last month and by the time Sulgrave News came out, the shop report was already out of date. The Covid-19 epidemic lock-down hit us without warning and we were forced into taking rapid action. The options were to close the shop completely or try to come up with an arrangement whereby we could avoid face-to-face contact between sales staff and customers but somehow still function. As so many members of the community depend upon the shop, the shop management committee opted to try to keep things running.

After a period of trial and error, we have put in place a system which seems to be working pretty well. Between 9am to 4pm from Tuesday to Friday and on Saturday from 9am to midday, customers with shop accounts can place orders over the phone or complete an order-form which they can collect from the box outside the shop and post through the door. When their orders have been put together, they get a call to come and collect or, for vulnerable customers, we can arrange for home delivery by a volunteer.

While the lock-down lasts, the Post Office will open only on Monday mornings from 10am to midday for the collection of pensions, sale of postage stamps and cash transactions. We cannot accept parcels and none of the other usual Post Office services will be available until further notice.

A great deal of time and effort has gone into creating a workable system. The management committee has been holding regular on-line meetings to fine-tune the operation and our staff and volunteers have been working very hard to keep things running efficiently. Special thanks are due to everyone who has gone the extra mile during these very difficult times.

Many of our suppliers have been struggling to meet demands so, inevitably, we don't always have the full range of stock that we normally carry. Flour has been in very short supply and our range of wines is much reduced but we are managing to complete most orders and our customers seem pleased with the service we have been able to provide. Although we are unable to bake while the lock-down lasts, you can still order frozen items from our usual 'bake-off' range of pasties, croissants, baguettes etc and bake them yourself at home. As customers can no longer enter the shop, it is difficult to peruse our range of greetings cards - but you can peak through the window and I am sure, if you ask nicely, whoever is on duty will spin the stands for you to choose the cards that take your fancy.

Zoe McCrow has been doing an excellent job of updating shop news on 'Nextdoor' so do keep an eye on this site and on 'Facebook' for the latest shop and Post Office information.

The observant amongst you may have noticed that the shop sign at the end of Magpie Road had been missing for some time as it got blown off and damaged in the gales earlier in the year. It has now been repaired and given some TLC and is back in its rightful place. Many thanks to Ian Cherry, Clive Nicholls and Andy Miller for helping Digby with the restoration.

To end on a cheerful note, the weather has been wonderful, the swallows are back and we now have Wykham Farm asparagus in the shop again - so spring really has arrived. Let's hope that village life will be showing signs of returning to normal by the time the next issue of Sulgrave News comes out.

Digby and Alison