

Village Shop News Update

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No sooner do we report on the state of play at the shop than the rules change and our fine words are out of date. So if Boris comes up with yet more new directives between the time of writing and this issue of Sulgrave News hitting the streets – please bear with us.

The latest regulation about customers having to wear facemasks when entering a shop will, of course, impact upon us but, as always, I am sure the shop will cope. For customers that do not have their own facemask, we shall have some for sale at a nominal price at the shop door, though, if possible, please bring your own.

Since the easing of regulations, the shop and Post Office have been extremely busy and our volunteers and staff have really been burning the calories. Yet again we would like to ask those volunteers who followed lock-down advice and stayed at home during the peak of the crisis, to consider returning to duty – you would be extremely welcome. The shop now has Perspex screens in front of both the shop and Post Office tills - and plastic face visors can be issued to any volunteer who offers to serve. Please come back, we need you!

Although we are still operating a system of one customer in the shop at a time, this has not impacted on sales and for the past month the shop has been buzzing. Thanks to the genius of our volunteer handy-man Clive Nicholls and the display skills of our supervisors, the shop is looking fantastic and many customers have commentated on how good it looks and how lucky we are to have such a brilliant shop on our doorstep. Lucky indeed!

The move to a daily collection of fruit and vegetables by our volunteers means that all our produce is super-fresh and this has met with wide-spread approval. The fresh strawberries have been particularly appreciated and just fly off the shelves.

The epidemic appears not to have impacted on our wine consumption and the sight of Digby pushing a wheel-barrow piled high with wine to restock the shelves has become almost a daily event in the village. We try to ring the changes on the wine front and this month there will be some new toothsome and great value Spanish reds which would make a perfect choice to accompany a barbecue - to which end we now have bags of charcoal back in stock.

Some new lines this month are a tasty looking range of Farmhouse Biscuits, Nevis Sultana cake, two flavours of Olinas seeded toasts for cheese or dips and some fancy crisp flavours. How does 'smoked pheasant and wild mushroom' grab you?

After disappointing weather throughout July, let's hope that the sunshine returns in August. The seventh of August is International Beer Day so do take advantage of our splendid range of locally brewed beers to celebrate the event.

Digby and Alison