



Village Shop News Update

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Our hopes that “it will all be over by the autumn” appear to have been premature and, as we head towards the autumn equinox, we still find ourselves bound by the regulations on social distancing and the wearing of facemasks. A very small number of customers have been just a little grumpy when asked by staff to wear a face mask on entering the shop but please be aware that this is a government directive and we are obliged by law to comply. If you get to the shop and find you have left your mask behind, you can buy one at the shop door for 50p (which is what the shop pays for them).

At the risk of sounding like a stuck record, can we once again appeal for more volunteers to lend a hand. It is becoming increasingly difficult to fill shifts behind the till – and with our supervisors due for leave - the shop may struggle to stay open every day unless a few more people offer to help out. We are in the process of creating a very simple, illustrated instruction manual for till operators and, when it is finalised, we would be happy to give a copy to anyone considering signing up to be a volunteer.

When the lockdown began, the Management Committee decided that all purchases should be paid for by debit card as this would minimise the chances of virus transmission. While we still prefer card transactions, we do now accept cash - though the best and easiest way to make a purchase is to charge it to your own private shop account. This benefits the shop as we avoid having to pay card charges. Setting up your own account is very simple so, if you are a regular shop-user, do consider signing up (application forms can be picked up in the shop). For those customers who do hold an account, please remember to check regularly that it is topped up as the system does not allow us to complete a sale if the account is overdrawn.

It is pleasing to report that, despite all the rules and regulations we have had to impose, the shop is still doing well and trade has been as brisk as ever. Compliments from customers continue to flow in and I think we should all be proud of the fact that we have been able to provide such a high standard of service throughout these difficult times.

The need for a little consolation during the lock-down has resulted in a boom in wine sales and it is sometimes difficult to keep up with the demand. We have a number of new lines on the shelves including a delicious pink Cava which would make a wonderful garden tippie – if the weather gods see fit to smile upon us this autumn.

Additions to our stock this month include new yoghurts, Fromage Frais, some different cheeses and, for you home bakers, dried yeast is back on the shelves. We also have a new range of very attractive wrapping paper and gift bags.

The Shop Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 23rd September at 7.30 pm. Because of the restrictions on large assemblies, it will have to be held on-line via Zoom. An invitation together with a Zoom link will be sent out to members nearer the date.

Please note that the Shop and Post Office will be closed all day on the Summer Bank Holiday – Monday 31 August.

Digby and Alison