



Village Shop News Update

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The clocks have gone back, the weather is getting colder and wetter and Covid is once again rearing its spiky head and limiting our ability to travel or meet friends - so what have we got to be cheerful about? Not a lot, but a visit to our cheery little shop - even if one might have to wait outside under an umbrella for a few minutes - surely lifts the spirits a little.

Since the last newsletter, Paul Shanley has been elected on to the Management Committee and will take over the responsibility for all the difficult tasks (collectively referred to as 'shop facilities') that everyone else tries to avoid. We are sure he will do an excellent job.

As the 25th of December is still some way away, we shall do our best to avoid using the 'C word' until the next newsletter - but the charity Christmas cards have arrived and are already on display. All of the proceeds from the sale of these cards go directly to Katherine House Hospice so we hope that the shop will be able to raise a useful sum for this wonderful charity.

New lines this month include a range of delicious Danish pastries (which will be available freshly baked or can be bought frozen to cook at home) and a cracking Garnacha from the foothills of the Moncayo massif in the Aragon region of north-eastern Spain. This punchy wine will slip down very nicely with the rich stews and casseroles that we shall soon need as winter fuel.

The new Fiddlers Lancashire Crisps have been a huge hit (the black-pudding and mustard has been our best seller) so we are hoping to have good stocks in for the end of the year.

Sadly, because of the corona virus, the Countryside Alliance has abandoned its Rural Awards scheme for 2021. This is a shame as we felt, in view of the efforts the shop had made to support the community throughout the pandemic, that we would have been well placed to be selected as a regional finalist. Never mind - we shall apply again for the 2022 awards.

The village has seen an influx of new residents of late and we hope they will all give the shop their patronage. One newcomer said that the shop was an important reason for her choosing to move to Sulgrave which was a nice pat on the back.

You are probably aware that the Post Office has just announced a doorstep collection system for parcels. Although there is a charge for this service, it will no doubt be useful for people who live some way from a Post Office or need to isolate. However, we would urge you, if possible, to continue to use our Post Office for sending your parcels as we get a small commission on all items sent. If everyone switched to doorstep collection, we would lose income and poor John the Postman would soon be in need of respite care.

After a great deal of research, a lot of cutting and pasting and a bit of swearing the new Volunteers' Handbook is now complete. Copies have been sent to all current volunteers and a hard copy is kept by the till in the shop. It aims to provide guidelines for all shop activities and detailed instructions on specifics such as till operation and opening and closing procedures. If anyone is thinking about joining our merry little band of volunteers and would like to receive a copy to see what is involved, please e-mail Alison at alisonmalewis@icloud.com.

Happy Guy Fawkes night – and don't forget to do a hedgehog search before you light your bonfire.

Digby and Alison