



Village Shop News Update

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It would seem that our pleas for more help in the shop fell on fertile ground as three volunteers returned from the wilderness last month. Many thanks to them but - now that our insurers demand that there must be at least two staff on duty at any one time – we still sometimes have difficulty filling shifts so if anyone else would like to put their hand up, it would be much appreciated.

Despite all the restrictions relating to the epidemic, trade remains healthy and sales for the year to date have matched those for the same period last year when no one had heard the word 'COVID'. Many thanks to all our customers for their support.

A number of new lines have appeared on the shelves during the last month. We have just increased our range of crisps by taking on a new supplier and offer some interesting new flavours including sweet chili, black pepper and sea-salt, Lancashire sauce – or black pudding and mustard anyone? We have added to our cheese range to include Compte and Cambozola and have some interesting crackers to go with them. There are also some super 'Holy Cow' curry sauces, a range of new tapas meats and jars of orange, lemon and ginger marmalade. For those with a sweet tooth, we have cherry Genoa cake and, under the 'Dome of Happiness', some Rocky Road, Chocolate and Raspberry slices and good old Millionaire's shortbread.

Some new wines will be appearing on the shelf this month including, for those who don't favour bone-dry wines, a delicious Moscato with pineapple and sherbet flavours and a spritzzy prickle on the tongue. Chilled really well it would be perfect for the last of the warm evenings of the summer or - as it contains only 6% alcohol - even a tipple at lunchtime. For lovers of fancy gin, we now stock Whitley Neil rhubarb & ginger and blood-orange flavoured varieties. They sound rather tasty and would make great Christmas presents.

Thank you to all those members who joined the Zoom AGM on 23rd September. The Committee remains unchanged with the exception of Robin who has decided to stand down as treasurer after more than 15 years of loyal service. His skills will be greatly missed and I am sure we would all like to thank him for all the fantastic work he has done since the shop's inception. Robin's departure means that we urgently need volunteers to take on his accounting and financial management duties.

With Halloween coming up at the end of the month, some big hints have been dropped that Digby might again be co-opted into sharpening his paring knife to make some Jack-o'-lantern pumpkins. Each one takes an age – so it will be first come first served.

Digby and Alison