



## Village Shop News Update

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Our hopes that the pandemic would be on the wane as 2021 got underway were sadly misplaced and, as we write this news update (mid-January), the situation throughout the country is worse than ever. To protect our staff and volunteers, the Shop Management Committee has decided that we must be ultra-careful so, until further notice, the shop will not be open for face-to-face shopping. We have instead reverted to the order-and-collect system that was in operation earlier last year.

We appreciate that this is not as convenient as being able to pop in to do your shopping whenever you want but at least we shall still be open for trade and can continue to support the community. The members of the MC are constantly monitoring the situation so be assured that, as soon as we feel it is safe, normal service will be resumed. Any changes to the operating system will be displayed at the shop and will also be reported on Nextdoor and Facebook. We are now also on Instagram under "Sulgrave Village Shop". Please check regularly as the situation is constantly changing. We thank our customers for being so patient during these difficult times.

At the time of going to press, the procedure is that **the shop will accept telephone or written orders between 8.30am and 5pm on weekdays and from 8.30am to 3pm on Saturdays. but the shop will not be open on Sundays.** Customers will be notified by telephone as soon as their orders have been processed so that they can come and collect them. Customers are welcome to bring their order-form to the shop so their order can be put together for them while they wait outside. **The Post Office will operate every weekday from 9.00am to 1.00pm.**

**Customers must have a shop account to use the order-and-collect service and will need to be sure that their account is topped up as it will not be possible to fulfil orders on accounts that are overdrawn.** Vulnerable or elderly customers can ask to have their orders delivered to them.

Until further notice, the shop will not be baking, though frozen sausage-rolls, pasties, baguettes, croissants etc can all be purchased for cooking at home.

The shop is currently well-stocked, and we are still getting fresh-vegetable deliveries almost every day. Wine reserves are very healthy and a regularly updated list of all the wines in stock is pinned on the notice board outside the shop. The latest addition to our range is 'Mt Beautiful' - a seriously up-market New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc which usually retails at £16 a bottle and which we are selling for £9.75. You will need to hurry as stocks are limited.

The Christmas cards that we sold on behalf of Katherine House Hospice raised £563.40 for this admirable charity and we have received a letter thanking us for our efforts.

To finish on an up-beat note, Sulgrave Village Shop has just been awarded a "Rose of Northamptonshire Award" in recognition of all the hard work and dedication the shop staff and volunteers have demonstrated in supporting the community throughout the Covid pandemic. The letter from the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, the High Sheriff of Northamptonshire and Northamptonshire County Council notifying us of the award is appended to this newsletter.

Let us hope that by the time the next issue of Sulgrave News comes out, the vaccination programme will be in full swing, the epidemic will be on the decline and life will be showing signs of returning to normal.

Digby and Alison