



Village Shop News Update

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Oh Dear! We've just re-read the first paragraph of last month's Shop news-update in which we wax lyrical about barbecues, sipping wine in the garden and lovely weather. How were we to know that we were in for some of the worst May weather in living memory? At the time of writing, it is still cold and wet - but surely this can't carry on for much longer. Can it?

You will be sad to hear that Natasha, one of our two shop supervisors, will be leaving us on the 11th of June. Natasha has been working in the shop and running the Post Office for two years and has been a valuable member of our team. We shall miss her and we all wish her well.

On the 14th of May, the Shop was a stopping-off point for the "Walk for Plunkett" event organised by the Plunkett Foundation which was instrumental in the establishment of the Shop back in 2004. Paul Shanley encouraged villagers to join him and Plunkett CEO James Alcott on the walk to raise money for the foundation. At the time of writing, donations from Sulgrave are expected to be in the region of £1000.

The Shop's food-bank appeal continues to receive support from customers and has enabled the Shop to make a number of substantial contributions of food to the cause. Father Nick, who runs the project, visited the Shop in May and expressed his gratitude to everyone involved.

The new volunteers who have recently joined our merry throng have been busy learning the ropes behind the till and their input is greatly appreciated. But there is always room for more helpers, so if you have been contemplating joining the team – do make the final leap.

In view of the steady decline in the number of new Covid infections and the relaxation of the government rules on mixing, the management committee agreed that, as from 17th May, two people at a time would be allowed into the shop (though this must be at the discretion of the volunteers working in the shop at the time). Because of the very limited amount of floor space, we are not yet ready for a free-for-all but, if the threat from Covid continues to recede, we hope that normal service will soon be resumed.

We have a whole lot of new goodies on the shelves this month including 'Love Corn' corn snacks in various flavours, hand-made bread sticks, cappuccino, lemon and pistachio-filled flaky pastries, some new flavours of Minter's biscuits, dark chocolate Florentines – and a new range of freshly baked pastries including scones and bagels from Terry's Stone Cottage of Oxford. During the week we shall also be baking delicious creamy vegetable slices to go alongside the hot sausage rolls and pasties. Look out for tasters of some of the new products this month.

Despite the dismal weather we are still getting regular deliveries of fresh seasonal vegetables and summer fruits. The strawberries in particular look fantastic and seem to disappear off the shelves as soon as they arrive.

Surely the law of averages will dictate that we shall soon be bathed in sunshine and be able to enjoy a glass of chilled wine (purchased from the Shop of course) with friends and family on balmy summer evenings. Our fingers are tightly crossed that our latest weather prediction will turn out to be more accurate than our effort last month.

Finally, the shop will be open in the afternoon of Sunday 20th June for the Sulgrave Open Gardens event to catch any visitors looking for an ice-cream, a bar of chocolate or a snack (or maybe to hide from the rain). If this newsletter comes out in time, please note that the shop will be closed on Monday 31st May as it is a bank holiday.

Digby & Alison