



Village Shop News Update

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Spring is here at last and we are watching out for the first swallows of the year. Their arrival always cheers us up – which is something we need with so many dreadful things happening in the world at the moment.

We don't want to sound like a stuck record but the volunteer issue is becoming critical. As you all know we are a "Community Shop" which means that, not only do we support the local community, but we are also dependent upon the community supporting us. I am sure that many people don't realise the huge amount of work that goes into the running of the shop. While volunteering to serve at the till is important, there is a great deal more than that involved in keeping the shop operational. Stock and financial management, collection from suppliers, dealing with accountants and insurance companies etc, attending to repairs and maintenance, planning volunteer rotas and overall management by the shop committee all take a great deal of time and effort. This is all offered willingly but it is the same small band of stalwarts who provide most of the input. When active volunteers leave the village – and there has been something of an exodus of late – the pressure on the remaining core staff inevitably increases. Many of the hardest-working volunteers are getting on a bit - and they can't go on forever. We shall soon need to hand over the reins to the next generation so, unless we find some new blood, the future of the shop could be in jeopardy.

So please, if you think you can assist in any way - and especially if you have specialist skills relevant to the shop - please step forward. We all value our wonderful shop and would miss it if were gone - but please remember that it doesn't run by itself. Lecture over!

After a slow start to the year, trade appears to be picking up again and we are beginning to get closer to the turnover figures of previous years. But we do need your continued support so bear in mind what Mr Tesco says – "Every little helps".

There are lots of tasty treats on the shelves this month – Queso blanco & Lemon Drop Chili Manomasa crisps, microwave popcorn, Stag cheese straws and, lots of lovely chocolate for Easter including Tony's crispy milk chocolate wafers and the popular Summerdown mint chocolate collection. And, as always, there are some interesting new wines.

Happy Easter to all and let's hope that certain world leaders soon come to their senses.

Easter opening hours will be:

Closing at 1.00 on Good Friday (15th April)

Usual trading on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th April

Closed all day on Easter Monday (18th April).

Digby and Alison