



Village Shop News Update

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Oh dear – it has not been a good month. The first sad news is that Anne Allan will be stepping down as co-supervisor of the Shop at the end of April. Anne has been a brilliant addition to the Shop staff and has improved shop operation enormously. She will be hugely missed. The committee will be recruiting to find a replacement in the near future.

As you will all undoubtedly be aware, the Shop was broken into yet again in the early hours of Saturday 5th February. The shop was ram-raided with a stolen vehicle and the thieves tried to remove the Post Office safe. Thankfully, they were unsuccessful, only getting away with the shop till containing just over £100, but caused a great deal of damage to the door frame and the shop interior.

As was the case in the past, the incident has imposed a huge amount of extra work on the committee and volunteers. The responders on the committee were alerted to the break-in at 1.15 a.m. and spent much of the rest of the night on site dealing with the police and CID. Anne, Jeanette, Gordon and a number of volunteers spent all of the following morning cleaning up the mess and Clive has spent many hours repairing the damage in order to make the shop secure until we can get a specialist to fit a new door frame. Thanks to the efforts of staff and volunteers, the shop was up and running again within 24 hours.

This was the third attempt to steal from the Post Office (two burglaries and one daylight armed robbery) in the last three years, so the committee now needs to decide what is the best way forward.

Despite the setbacks, the Shop continues to serve the community. The shelves are full, fresh fruit and vegetables arrive almost every day and Digby has to top up the wine shelves with embarrassing frequency. As you know we like to ring the changes with wine so do keep your eye on the shelves for new lines over the next few weeks.

Colin Russell's lovely Sulgrave honey is back on the shelves and we have a good stock of the fabulous Te Souka Moroccan spices and sauces – so please support our home grown producers.

Don't forget that it is Mothering Sunday on 27th March when you can be sure that there will be good stocks of fizz and chocolates on the shelves.

Digby and Alison