



Village Shop News Update

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First things first.

In September we bade farewell to Jeanette who has moved back to her homeland in the Northeast of England to be near to her family. Jeanette was universally popular and everyone in Sulgrave is very sad to see her go. We all wish her the very best for the future.

The annual general meeting of the shop was held on 21st September. There was a decent turn-out of 28 people – BUT they were all the old familiar faces. The next generation, who we urgently need to carry on with the running of the shop, were notable by their absence. There was a lengthy debate on what could be done to bring in new blood to volunteer and take on management duties but, sadly, no conclusion was reached. It is somewhat ironic that, having just received the Queen's Award for voluntary service to the community, the shop still faces an existential crisis because of a lack of community support with no immediate resolution in prospect. Of course, everyone in the area loves and praises the shop and there is little doubt that its presence substantially increases the desirability (and prices!) of properties in the village. But, as we have said many times, the shop does not run by itself and without more input from residents, its future remains in jeopardy.

All the usual agenda items were covered including the presentation of financial statements, the chairman's report, and the election of the management committee for the forthcoming year. A number of committee members made it clear that, having held their positions for many years, they would like to stand down, but they agreed to stay on until replacements could be found.

The presentation of the Queen's Award by the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, which had been scheduled for the middle of September was postponed following the announcement of the death of the Queen. The presentation has now been rescheduled for **Friday 14th October between 2.00 and 3.30pm at the Shop premises**. Refreshments will be provided, and the event will be covered by the local press - so please do turn up.

To celebrate 18 years of the shop's operation, Colin Wootton has produced a lovely little booklet (illustrated by Colin's wonderful photographs) detailing its history. It will be on sale in the shop at the cost price of £2.

Following the success on Dragon's Den by the makers of Russell & Atwell fresh chocolates, the shop is again stocking these outstanding hand-made truffles. As they contain no preservatives - and fresh cream instead of palm oil, they need to be kept cool so you will find them in the chiller.

Happy Halloween

Digby and Alison