

OPENING HOURS

**MONDAY, TUESDAY,
WEDNESDAY**
09.00 - 14.00
16.00 - 17.30 (closed Wed.)

THURSDAY & FRIDAY
09.00 - 14.00
16.00 - 18.30

The Shop

At Bromsberrow

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
09.00 - 12.30

**POST OFFICE OPEN
TUESDAY & THURSDAY**
9.30 - 11.30 am

JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER

In this Issue

Firstly, hello from John and I (John Turvill and Jackie Woodland) who have both recently joined the Committee and agreed to be Co-Chairs - we may live to regret it!

Unfortunately Jo Davidson has stepped down from the Management Committee, but will continue as a volunteer. We would all like to say a huge thank you for her hard work over the seven years that she has volunteered at the shop, three as Co-Chair. In addition, Percy Hunt has stood down as Co-Chair but will continue as Treasurer for the time being - again, we thank him for his continued hard work and support.

In this edition we have included a summary of the AGM notes and details of The Shop's plan for the future.

Notes from AGM

The AGM met on Thursday 18th May 2023 and below is a summary of what was dealt with during the meeting.

Co-Chair's report:

- Currently 54 volunteers assist in the running of The Shop.
- Events have been well attended.
- The effects of the energy crisis are ongoing and the cost of goods has increased.
- People will be asked to provide email addresses to improve communication.

Treasurers report:

- The shop continues to trade at a loss and the situation appears untenable beyond about a year due to rising overheads.

Management Committee:

- As indicated above, Jo Davidson stepped down from the Committee and Percy Hunt stated that he would stand-down as Co-Chair within two months. Four new Committee Members were voted on: John Turvill, Jackie Woodland, Tess Basher and Gary Gummer.
- Ayo Adewale, Chris Neville, Jenny Greatwood, Kirsten Westaway and Marie Brain all remain on the Committee. [Note: subsequently new Co-Chairs and other Committee roles have been filled).

Future of The Shop - see separate report below.

Your Management Committee:

Co-chairs	- John Turvill (resident of Redmarley, farmer and businessman)
	- Jackie Woodland (resident of Redmarley and a volunteer at The Shop since 2020)
Treasurer	- Percy Hunt
Secretary	- Chris Neville
Health & Safety	- Chris Neville
IT & Data Security	- Ayo Adewale
Committee	- Jenny Greatwood, Tess Basher, Gary Gummer, Kirsten Westaway, Marie Brain

Other roles carried out by non-Committee members:

Safeguarding	- Jo Davidson
Communications & Marketing	- Carol Garson

Future of the Shop

The Management Committee met on 25th May although not all Committee Members were able to attend. Therefore, there was a further meeting on the 22nd June where the election of Officers to Management Committee roles was finalised - see above. The 'Five Point Plan' below is a result of both meetings and agreement on roles:

1. Improve current shop and reduce running costs. The aim will be to identify grant funding similar to that obtained for this year and ways to reduce the existing running costs, to enable the shop to continue operating until at least December 2024, allowing time for Point 2 - Chris will lead on this group with assistance from Tess.
2. Establish a new shop in a temporary building on the previously identified plot on the business park. The aim will be for this to be smaller in footprint and to have better insulation and much better fuel economy. The building would be owned by the Shop reducing our rent to ground rent only. It is also hoped that we will be able to purchase a second-hand building (such as containers/modular building) and obtain community support to carry out the fitting out of the building. John has already produced an initial draft layout and will work with Jackie to identify costs and utility connection requirements, for example. Tess will look to identify available options for financial grants with our current aim being to look at the use of the Community Ownership Fund.
3. Finances - The Treasurer will work with Kirsten to produce figures for the first five months of the year. These figures will assist in ensuring Point 1 is achieved and assist in applying for funding for Point 2.
4. Investigate the possibility of a five-day week Post Office – Tess leading.
5. Maintain the Committee as a minimum at its current size to ensure the work above is sustainable, whilst keeping the operational side of the shop going.

The plans above will still require considerable work by the Committee, so any additional volunteers to join either of the two 'working groups' to work through Points 1 and 2 above will be very gratefully received.

We will also, in due course, need to raise more funds, as although the Community Ownership Fund does not require equally matched funding, it does need matching at a minimum of 20% of the cost of the project.

Volunteers

We currently have 54 active volunteers who give up their time to keep the shop going. We thought it would be good to highlight some of the different roles our volunteers do to keep the shop going:

- Serve customers
- Cook community meals
- Deliver community meals
- Organise the newspaper and milk collections rota
- Organise the newspaper deliveries
- ***Get up early to drive to Ledbury to collect the papers and fresh milk***
- Check all the stock expiry dates
- Ensure the fridges/freezers are operating at the correct temperatures
- Ad hoc cleaning duties of The Shop
- Deal with deliveries from Grocery, Fruit & Veg, Meat, and Bread & Cake wholesalers
- Keep shelves stocked
- Open the gates to the site, before Shop opening time
- Organise and help at Shop events.
- Collect cardboard for recycling
- Manage all the finances with invoices arriving daily
- Ensure we are all trained in Food Hygiene and Safety.
- Take notes at Committee Meetings
- Produce the Shop Newsletter
- Keep The Shop website up to date
- Regular tidies of The shop.
- Etc etc - I am sure we have missed loads!

The Shop would not operate without its volunteers and John and I - and I'm sure the local community - are very grateful for their selflessness but we always need more. We particularly need more people who would be able to help out on the newspaper and milk collection rota.

Could you do any of the jobs above? If your diary is busy you don't need to be available regularly - occasional help to fill gaps when people are away is just as welcome.

Customer Accounts

We continue to be grateful to our members of the Shop who run an account, allowing us to benefit from the HMRC tax relief against members total spend. We would, however, like to nudge you all to remember to pay off your account promptly at the end of each month to keep our cash flow healthy.

Community Lunches

We continue to provide community lunches fortnightly on a Monday and I would like to publicly thank Kirsten, Anne, Skye and Catherine for their hard work in keeping this service going.

The lunches can be ordered in person at the shop, over the phone (01531 650744) or by emailing hello@theshopatbromsberrow.co.uk. The meals can be ordered by anyone and are often particularly welcomed by those more vulnerable in our community, so if you know anyone who might benefit from a good home cooked meal please get in touch.

Unfortunately due to the increased cost of ingredients we have been forced to increase our prices by £1, so a main will cost £5, two courses £7 and three courses £9.

Events

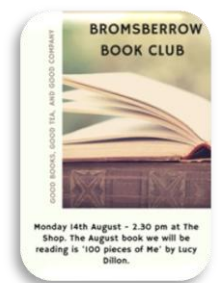
Unfortunately, we had to cancel the planned Bingo night due to insufficient numbers and we nearly postponed the Pizza Night held on Friday 30th June, but decided to go ahead with the smaller number of attendees. It was a good evening with lovely pizzas made by Kirsten.

We are not sure why the numbers attending events recently have dropped, so if you have any feedback, we would be grateful to hear it. Is it the time of year with holidays planned, the costs, or the type of event?

We are currently planning to hold a 'Wine Tasting' event (tasting wines that we sell or those available from supermarkets) in September and another 'Quiz and Curry' night in October. Further details will be available from the shop or our website once we have firmed up dates. If you have got any ideas for events that you would like to see us run, or that you would like to assist with, please drop in and have a chat or send us an email.

Diary dates

The Book club meets regularly on a Monday afternoon each month and the next meeting is on the 14th August at 2.30pm. The book for discussion is '100 pieces of Me' by Lucy Dillon (all books are available to borrow) and all are welcome - contact 01531 650293 or contact The Shop.



Volunteering

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, we have regular volunteer meetings in The Shop or you could pop in and chat to another volunteer.

The next Volunteers' Meeting will be held at 6 pm on Wednesday 9th August.