

#### OPENING HOURS

MONDAY, TUESDAY,  
WEDNESDAY  
09.00 - 14.00  
16.00 - 17.30

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

### APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

#### Co-Chairs View (Jo Davidson)

It's been a busy few weeks in the Shop since our last newsletter. Like all retailers, we've had some challenges getting hold of all the supplies our customers want and people are having to spend less. We, too, have been hit by energy price rises, along with planned rent rises and the various waves of Covid, which hit our volunteer and customer base.

A particularly new challenge is a change in the way Bookers, our main supplier, does business. They will now only deliver when we have a minimum spend of £1000 (excluding tobacco and alcohol) and charge a delivery fee for the privilege. We've explored the idea of a volunteer rota to pick up the Bookers order but once you factor in fuel and insurance costs, it makes more sense and better use of scarce volunteer time to pay the delivery charge. Therefore, we will be ordering less frequently so as we adjust to this, please bear with us if we don't have what you want - please make sure we know what that is, as we want to stock what our customers need!

To offset this doom and gloom though, we continue to be supported by existing customers and we have an increasing number of new customers, drawn by the Artists' Gallery, the café and by word of mouth. Our community meals continue to do a roaring trade once a fortnight and Kirsty and Marie are looking at how to expand what we offer. It's going to be a tougher few months financially, but it will be worth it to see the developing community relationships and hear how the shop is a lifeline for so many people.

#### Co-Chair – Finance & Business (Percy Hunt)

A key step in developing the cafe activity and events is to free Kirsty from her bookkeeping role and let her use her creativity in our kitchen. To achieve this, I have taken on a greater responsibility for feeding/managing our Sage accounting system. It is a very steep learning curve (I originally typed leaning!) and definitely a work in progress - a much larger task than when I was last involved pre-Covid!

In that age gone-by, we took advantage of the Health Check offered by Plunkett and this identified a number of key objectives for our development. These have all now been achieved, although to recruit more volunteers is a continual battle. Plunkett now offers a Business Appraisal Tool (on-line) that builds on their previous experience, so that once we have answered all the questions, a report is quickly produced, rating our performance and identifying areas for improvement. We hope to be able to share this report with our members at the AGM and it will be a key document for the new Committee to get their teeth into.

The next AGM is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 7.00pm for drinks and light refreshments - 7.30 start at the Shop. Everyone is welcome – your support and ideas keep the Shop and Community Hub flourishing.

#### Shop Local

A reminder to all - you can save on increasingly expensive fuel costs by using our Shop on your doorstep. Get all your everyday essentials with a friendly smile and a chat at no extra cost!

## **French Night**

It may have been nearly freezing temperatures outside, but it was warm inside the Shop at our pop up French night on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Kirsty, Anne and Moira produced a truly delicious French bistro meal with Cassoulet, Coq au Vin, Goats cheese tarts, Baguettes, Tarte au Pommes and Crème Brûlée. We had a great turn out from the villages and everyone had a good time. Thanks to our community meals stock, we could box up some meals for people who were unwell and couldn't attend on the night. Other lucky customers were able to buy extra portions the following day!

Thanks to all the volunteers who made this happen, before, during and after the event, and thanks to everyone in the community who came and enjoyed themselves. C'est magnifique!



## **Upcoming Events**

We are able to commit to regular community events now that our café is able to open again. Next diary dates are:

Community Big Breakfast - Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Italian Night - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May - 7.00 pm - 10.30 pm

Details will be advertised on our Facebook and Instagram pages, on our website plus posters in the Shop. Pre-booking is essential, so for more information and to book your place, email [hello@theshopatbromsberrow](mailto:hello@theshopatbromsberrow), ring 01531 650744 or drop into the Shop.

## **Creative Workshops**

Thanks to Minty Fogden, one of our resident artists, we ran three Workshops in the February half-term. They were great fun and some stunning artwork was produced by children and adults. We'll be running more, so even if you've not touched a paintbrush since school, have a go at it.



## **Bromesberrow Village Hall News**

To mark the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 11, we will be planting a tree for 'The Queen's Green Canopy' at the village hall on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April (St George's Day) between 11.00 am and 12 noon.



The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Committee will be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm. Everyone from the village is welcome to come along and we are particularly keen to hear from any younger members of the community. The current Committee is very small and no longer able to host any significant events at the Hall, so if any of you would like to join the Committee to help with such events, you would be very welcome.

## **Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration 4<sup>th</sup> June (Percy Hunt)**

At present nothing has been arranged. Neither the Village Hall Committee, nor the Shop Management Committee, has the capacity to tackle this. I view this as a Village Initiative and it does require a small team from across the village to get things moving; so if there is a desire to celebrate the Queen's 70 years of duty and devotion, they need to say so. I think we all have experience of daunting tasks that suddenly melt and give great enjoyment once a team gets motivated. In the first instance, please contact Jo or Percy with a view to creating a team and having a gathering.

## **Book Club**

The book club was formed very recently and so far we have read three books. We are a small group at the moment and meet once a month on a Monday afternoon in The Snug at The Shop. We indulge in a good chat about the book, drink tea and munch the odd biscuit or two! It's a very friendly group and all are welcome. We meet at 2.30 pm for about an hour or so and the next meeting will be on the 25th of April when we will be discussing 'The Hoarder' by Jess Kidd. Our May book is by Ann Tyler – 'A Spool of Blue Thread'. We get our books from the library and they are reading sets recommended by them. They have an extensive list of books and the choice is varied. If you would like to join us, please contact Jackie on 01531 890385.



## **News Update on the Artists Gallery and H.Art**

In November 2021, we launched our gallery for local artists with the hope that it would create another reason for people to visit the shop and add to its financial and long-term stability. We have taken another step forward by registering with Herefordshire's Art Festival: 'h. Art,' a 9-day festival from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September. During the festival, art lovers take the opportunity to visit listed galleries and venues. We will increase our opening hours and offer light meals and refreshments to encourage as many visitors as possible. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for h.Art and there are 129 venues and more than 400 separate artists involved.

We would like to thank the trustees of the D G Albright Charitable Trust who very kindly agreed to pay the cost of registering with h.Art on our behalf. You can read about h.Art and see The Shop's pages by searching for 'Herefordshire Art Week' online.

## **Refugee Support**

The Shop has reconnected with the Ledbury Refugee Support. We will be doing occasional collections for items which are specifically requested. The first of these is a call out for any acrylic wool which people might have so please bring it to the Shop where there is a collection box in 'The Snug'.

If anyone likes knitting, there are details of the 'Yarnstormers' Group' posted at the Shop. We are also in discussion about running a knitting group for both beginners and experienced knitters so watch out for further news.

Contact Jo on 07748 901120 for any further information or to offer help.



We are still in need of multiple volunteer shop assistants to help customers identify and purchase the products they require. Sales assistant duties include selling, restocking and merchandising. The goal is to provide a high class customer service and to ensure that The Shop can serve the local community in the best way possible. Put simply, volunteers are the lifeblood of community enterprises like ours and their value is enormous. Without volunteers we would not exist as we do not have the resources to employ paid staff to cover all the hours that we need to be open.

Here at the The Shop, we are no exception. We have found that a vibrant volunteer workforce brings The Shop to life as many of our volunteers care passionately about the cause they are engaged in and convey that passion to current and potential shop users. Strong volunteer teams share the workload and enable enterprises like ours to build their capacity to operate and develop for the Community.

Any help in The Shop would be much appreciated as we want to continue making improvements allowing us to support our community. Please contact The Shop on 01531 650744 or pop in and have a chat, or have a look at our website where we have more detailed information on becoming a volunteer.