

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

FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Co-Chairs view

2021 was another year shaped by the pandemic. The Shop felt like old hands at it, as we went in and out of various lockdowns again. Through the help of so many people, we have continued trading and have managed to have better supplies than some of the bigger supermarkets at times. That said, we too have experienced some issues being able to get hold of certain goods - icing sugar being the latest shortage!

Priority areas for development 2022

For 2022 we are trying to consolidate what we do and use our energies wisely. We are focusing on two priorities - being as efficient as we can be and being a welcoming place to be. What this means in reality, is keeping on top of the prices we pay and the prices we charge you so that we can be as cost effective as possible. We, like everyone else, are going to be facing a huge spike in our energy prices, so we are also exploring the potential of renewable energy.

To continue to develop our focus as a Community Hub, we are going to be sorting out the heating and lighting at the back of the shop and expanding the cafe offerings and opening hours. You will see from this newsletter that we have several events coming up and we want to build on the success of our fortnightly community lunches by being able to offer cooked food at other times. Kirsty Westaway will be developing this aspect for us. Work has also started on producing a written procedure on how we manage events with a view to making the organising more streamline, learning from past experience and capturing knowledge. If successful, we can apply the same methodology to other processes and hopefully this will enable us to become more efficient. We would welcome your views/comments/compliments on what we do well - let us know if and where we can improve!

Upcoming Events

Hold the date!! Saturday 2nd April in the evening - the next pop up pub/bistro night - more information to follow in due course.



A popular line in The Shop is the Spread Your Wings Bird Food. We were very sorry to hear recently that they were having a few problems with one of their specially adapted vehicles which had broken down, so we are hoping to run a village 'Bingo Night' to help raise funds to get the vehicle back on the road again. More information will be available once discussions have been finalised so watch out for the 'Bingo Night' announcement - should be a fun evening.

And last, but not least, 2022 is very important year of celebration for the PLATINUM JUBILEE!! Events will be held to celebrate this special occasion - further information to follow - but we are open to all ideas so please do contact us with any suggestions.



Workshops

Araminta Fogden will be holding another three workshops at The Shop – details below. She has also included a Workshop for children during the school holidays.



The first workshop will be on Saturday 19th February, 10am - 2pm - beginners 'Paint a Flower Pot'. Paint a terracotta flower pot with gorgeous toadstools, ferns and stars - cost £30, which includes all materials, cake and refreshments. Second workshop on the 24th February, 10am-12pm - Kids Workshop 'Paint a Flower Pot'. Paint a terracotta flower pot with gorgeous toadstools, ferns and stars - cost £24, which includes all materials, cake and refreshments. A good way to keep the kids occupied during half-term!! And, the final workshop on Saturday 26th February, 10am-3pm - beginners 'Paint a Beautiful Barn Owl'. Cost £60 which includes all materials, lunch and refreshments. Still some spaces left but they are limited so for more information on any of these courses and to book, please call The Shop on 01531 650744.

A fairly new artist, Jeff Lowes, has now joined us and some of his work is on show at The shop. We also have a new acrylic and textile artist - Pippa Bramham. Both amazing artists so come down and see some of their work at The Shop or visit our website and click on the Artists' Section.

The 'Big Breakfast'

Our first 'Big Breakfast for some time proved to be a huge success - so watch out for the next one being advertised.

An Interesting Article from Moira Bennion, (supplier of eggs to The Shop)

I have supplied Free Range Eggs to The Shop since it opened. My husband and I farm near Dymock and most of our land is planted with wheat, oil seed rape, grass and cider apple orchards. We also have 18,000 Free Range hens who have 36 acres of grass planted with trees and a large henhouse with their feed, water, nestboxes and scratch area. The latter has plenty of shavings and hay for them to peck around in and various enrichment is placed to provide entertainment: hay nets, barrels of grit, pecking items, sand baths plus other ad hoc items such as logs.

Avian Influenza this winter has been extremely contagious and widespread, meaning unfortunately, since November 2021 all hens and poultry must be housed BY LAW. Ducks and geese on ponds may be kept in netted enclosures - this Law applies to everyone who keep birds, whether one pet hen or many thousands of hens. It is absolutely heartbreaking to be caught up in an outbreak; farming is hard and relatively lonely work at the best of times, so coping with Avian Influenza has been very challenging for many people.

To date in 2021-2022, a total of 1,778,300 birds have been culled, of which 890,000 have been free range hens, so whilst housing helps, it also necessitates increased levels of bio-security. Strict clothing and footwear disinfecting at the entrances plus disinfecting of essential vehicles visiting the shed i.e. the egg or feed lorry is essential. All other vehicles are prohibited and visitors are kept to the bare minimum.

As with most industries, farming has to comply with many regulations and we are audited regularly, both on the whole farm and also separately by egg inspectors. So apart from Red Tractor Assurance, who audit the farm as a whole, I receive inspections by APHA (Animal & Plant Health), RSPCA, Freedom Food, DEFRA, Lion Code and Tesco Integra (the latter is via Noble Foods who pack my eggs to send to Tesco as 'Happy Egg' so is part of their own supply chain monitoring). Testing for Salmonella has to be done every 91 days; failure to submit these to the laboratory in time, or indeed a failure (non-compliance) in any area of bird welfare, hygiene and record keeping, means a potential cessation of membership. Losing just one Membership means that all others would be suspended so no egg sales.

The strictness of these regulations is good and helps the Free Range industry confidently reassure the consumer that the British Free Range Egg is safe and that British farmers are doing the best job possible. Hopefully, my hens will stay safe, fit and healthy. Please enjoy their eggs!

Neighbourhood Watch

There has been an episode of oil being stolen from a storage tank in the village so we all need to be particularly vigilant at the moment. Please be aware of any strange vehicles going around the village.



Remembrance Sunday (a late article but one we feel will be of interest!)

Over 50 people gave their time to attend both the church and the service around the memorial on Remembrance Sunday, 14th November, to pay their respects to the 16 young men from our village who gave their lives in both World Wars. It was very encouraging to see parents bring young children to both services. The 'Two Minutes silence' is barely enough time to remember them.

Thanks go to the Rev. Andrew Perry for leading the services and to the Church Warden, Mr Nick Winter, for reading the Roll of Honour.

Thanks also go to Mr Percy Hunt, Co - Chairman of the Community Shop, and Mr Maurice Lock of the 11th Hussars for laying the wreaths.

Another 'thank you' to David and Jennie Slaughter for their continued support in allowing the PA system to be set up in their garden, the use of their electricity and for operating the system - this was supplied by Smithsound of Ledbury.

Finally a 'thank you' to Mrs Georgina Jones for her work at the church and to Mr Colin Willis for playing the organ.

(Thanks must also go to John Stephens for the big part he played, behind the scenes, in arranging the Remembrance Service).

VOLUNTEES STILL NEEDED!!

WHY VOLUNTEERS ARE IMPORTANT TO US

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.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER - MAKE A DIFFERENCE

