

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY

09.00 - 14.00
16.00 - 18.30

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

09.00 - 12.30

The Shop

At Bromsberrow

POST OFFICE OPEN

TUESDAY & THURSDAY

9.30 - 11.30 am

JUNE/JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER

In the last issue, we suggested that perhaps a monthly newsletter was too frequent. Most of the replies we got thought that bi-monthly was sufficient – so that is what we'll do! However, we will be flexible and should we get events that can't wait we'll publish a special edition. It was pleasing that there was appreciation for the newsletter and as you might expect those new to the village found the most benefit.

URGENT APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

As we go through Summer and our band of volunteers go on holiday, we urgently need volunteers to hold the fort until their return. If you feel you would be able to help us keep the Shop running, please contact Marie at the Shop.

OWNED BY OUR MEMBERS!

The Shop is owned by our Members or Shareholders. At the AGM, they elect the Management Committee who are responsible for running the business between Annual Meetings. If you are not a Member, for the minimum cost of £1 you can buy a share and participate in the management of our operation. Currently, we are registered as an Industrial and Provident Society, which is a dated concept, and we will shortly be asking our Members to approve the updating of the rules that we operate under so that we become a Community Benefit Society which is more in keeping with how we operate. That said, our brief has been, and will continue to be, to operate the Shop for the benefit of the community. Any surplus funds are used to improve and develop the Shop.

The new rules are not greatly changed but the most relevant change is in the Objects of the Society ("The Shop") which captures the change mentioned above. Our current rules state:-

"The Objects of the Society are, in accordance with its Purpose:

9.2.1 to carry on the business of dealing in, producing, creating, supplying and providing, property, goods and services of all kinds; and

9.2.2 to engage, as principals or agents, in any other business, trade, industry or activity which seems to the Society directly or indirectly conducive to carrying out the above objects.

Apart from being an example of "expert legalese" it doesn't have a community feel.

Under the new rules we are asked to spell out how we will benefit our community. **Draft 1** is included below. Do you feel that it is adequate? How would you improve it, please let me or any member of the Management Committee know.

The objectives of the Society shall be to carry on business for the benefit of the community by:

Running a general store and café which serves the rural communities of Bromsberrow and the surrounding population. We have visiting post office facilities and act as a social and community hub providing and adapting our services to the needs of the local population (most recently those who are isolated or shielding). We provide deliveries and regular Community Lunches are held – these have been replaced by “lunches at home” during Covid-19 restrictions. When able, we will provide a programme of Social Events and are a centre for cyclists (30 mile radius) and walkers.

The space at the rear of the shop is being developed to provide space for small businesses and to allow local artists to display and sell their work.

The day to day shop is managed by a part time Shop Manager with an assistant. All other activities, including the management committee, social hub activities, the daily manning of the shop, and raising of funds, maintaining a website and the production of a regular newsletter are achieved by community volunteers who gain benefit from their experience.

We will circulate the relevant documentation to our Members to get their comments and suggestions so that we can gain their approval to the changes at the AGM – we hope to fix a date in the next three months.

Should you wish to become a Member, there is a prospectus on the website providing the relevant details, or if you contact me I'll send you a copy.

OTHER SHOP HAPPENINGS

- a) “Coming together!” The kitchen redevelopment is complete. The changed layout (due to discoveries from when we started) is also complete and we are now able to work in a more practical layout.
- b) In a similar vein we have finished the outside improvements with the addition of a stable bike rack and pagoda.
- c) Volunteers' Meeting on the 4th June. The changing restrictions on gatherings had made it difficult to get together and thank all our volunteers. We made a start with this meeting and thanks go to all those who did the necessary preparations. One thing that it achieved was to allow those who were able to attend to meet other volunteers that they don't normally, e.g. those who volunteer on Mondays were able to meet the other days of the week!
- d) We held our first event at the shop recently – a ‘Tapas evening’ – which everyone enjoyed. Food was excellent and company convivial. We are hopeful this is the start of many gatherings and will keep you all updated as to when the next event is planned – these events will also be published on our website.
- e) Our next event is a Pizza evening on Friday 16th July at 6.30pm. Cost is £10.00 per person, which includes pizza and a drink from our licensed bar. Tickets are limited due to Covid restrictions and will no doubt prove to be popular, so please contact the shop if you are interested to get your name down!
- f) Finances – Our concerns as we started this year were, not surprisingly, could we achieve our predicted sales in what are very uncertain times and could we recover the margin on sales which fell so sharply last year? Well the good news is “Yes” and “Yes” and we plan to demonstrate that with our half year accounts. Our turnover is on target and our margin has recovered to 23% with more work to do.



NEW STOCK AT THE SHOP

Beautiful coloured doorknob handles in stock to go with our Frenchic paint – now stocking colour matching spoons to make sure it is the shade you want. Don't forget our superb range of perennial and annual plants are still in stock.



GROWING AT BROMESBERROW ST MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL



It started with a conversation between Mrs Hankins, Miss Thornley and Bromesberrow Friends' Group about how we could offer more to our children in these restricted times of COVID. Thus, the idea of a Garden Club began to take shape. Once sown, it wasn't long before this small seed of an idea germinated as offers of help and resources quickly came in from parents, grandparents, family and friends.



The first steps were a couple of work parties during the Easter holidays when parents cleared land, built raised beds (with wood donated from Bradfords in Ledbury), compost bays, and storage spaces, and filled the beds with compost heavily discounted from Bromesberrow Sand and Gravel. We offered two Garden Club sessions each week and had ten children sign up to each, which was a fantastic start. Each week, we got our hands dirty planting seeds and potting on seedlings generously donated by parents, grandparents, relatives, neighbours, work clients etc. Everybody has been so generous in supporting this small growing club.



Week by week, the children have watched the growing of their work into sprouting seeds, into small seedlings, into taller plants, into widening crops until finally, this week, each child has been able to take a small bag of salad leaves home to share and taste. Our daughter would normally turn her nose up at salad leaves but because she was a part of growing these, she happily tasted and enjoyed and finished up her greens, which is a major part of what a garden and growing club should be about.... Engaging children in finding out about where their food comes from, discovering what it takes to grow food and being involved in growing it... and then to enjoy, with pride, the eating of it.





We also thought about the wider environment and how insects are an important part of growing food, whether they are pollinators or predators of pests, and so we roped off a strip of the school field and created a 'No Mow' zone. The children designed signs to explain this strip and already it is alive with 26 different species of wildflowers and grasses... and these have attracted a variety of insects, including quite a few of the all-important ladybird larvae, which will feast on those pesky aphids. Watch this space!



This is just the start of what we hope will be a thriving Garden and Growing Club, with opportunities next year for more children to get stuck into growing their food and watching the garden and themselves grow and develop. We have been so fortunate in having huge support from parents, relatives, friends and neighbours, as well as local businesses in the generous giving of time, expertise, resources and opportunities. And of course, we have had the absolute pleasure of working with a happy, enthusiastic and eager group of children in each session. Thank you all so much.

SCHOOL GOVERNOR VACANCY

A village school is part of the heart and future of a community. Our staff and parents are working to involve our school in partnership with the fantastic Community Hub forming at the village shop and for my part I would dearly like to use the skills of local people to enhance our Board of Governors. Have you ever thought about becoming a School Governor? But, you might say, it's just meetings isn't it? Don't worry, you don't need to be an expert on education - just an expert on pitching in. Of course, we hold meetings, but the main way our governors support the school and themselves receive a great level of satisfaction and sense of achievement is by working hands on with children and parents around the school. We have recently spent a couple of afternoons working with our lovely PTA building some raised beds and wooden compost bins. Parents and Governors will be meeting with children in an afterschool gardening club to support all the fantastic learning they do in the classroom.

There are always lots of practical projects like this to get involved in – our PTA is committed to help maintain the school environment by meeting every few weeks to do some weeding, design and plant up a quiet space in the garden, build a water feature, paint a shed or two....so we will always be grateful for practical skills. If you have time during the school day there are ways to work alongside teachers too. We welcome Governors to come in and listen to children read, talk to them about what they do at school and maybe show them a particular skill – how to keep bees, how to build a bird house... talk about travelling to interesting places around the world.

As for those meetings - the programme is not too demanding. We meet at school in the early evening around six times across the school year to analyse school data, look at budgets, school policies and the curriculum. We discuss issues as equals with the Head and Staff Governors, welcoming different areas of expertise of everyone around the table to help Bromsberrow St Mary's give children the best education possible.

As we are a Church of England school, all staff and Governors work to generally uphold Christian values within school life. Alongside parent and Staff Governors we appoint Foundation Governors, whose application is ratified by the Diocese. We can give you further information on different Governor posts when you get in touch. If you would like to offer some practical support - and some friendly critical analysis - to help a fantastic team of teachers provide our children with the best start in life and to develop the school into a place which gives children great memories, please take some time to think about how fulfilling acting as a School Governor at St Mary's could be. For more information phone our Chair of Governors, Mel Orgee on 01531 632403, or contact the school on 01531 650430 and speak to Elaine, our Clerk of Governors and School Business Manager. Learning doesn't just come from teachers in the classroom – children who meet and learn from a wide range of adults in different roles become strong members of a strong community like Bromsberrow Heath.