

#### OPENING HOURS

**MONDAY & TUESDAY:**  
09.00 - 14.00 16.00 - 17.30

**WEDNESDAY:** 09.00 - 14.00

**THURSDAY & 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**

### FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

#### In this issue

Firstly, a huge thank you to all our volunteers, supporters and customers - without you, there would be no shop. But a special thank you to the volunteers and to Marie our Manager, for your unending hard work and dedication which allows The Shop to continue supporting your community.

In this edition we have included a few short articles from some of our customers and supporters to highlight the variety of local support The Shop provides.

Your Management Committee continues to work behind the scenes and meets monthly to ensure that The Shop is able to continue operating successfully. In addition, we continue to look for a more suitable long-term location for The Shop. After last year's AGM, we reported on our 5-point plan, however, some points have had to be revised due to them not being feasible (an update is below).

We have a good pool of volunteers but we always need more as we regularly struggle to fill the gaps in the rota of volunteers. If you could help, even occasionally, or know someone that you might be able to recruit, please come forward.

We also need customers to keep supporting us. We are in a "Use it or lose it situation"!

#### Future of The Shop

We previously reported that we had a 5-point plan for the future. Below is an update on our progress and changes to the plan.

- 1) **Improve current shop and reduce running costs.** We have successfully bid for another lottery grant, which will enable us to cover our utility and salary costs until December 2024. We have also tidied up The Shop to enable customers to use the Snug for meetings, community meals and for coffee/tea and snacks. We have plans to re-decorate later in the year once the warmer weather allows.
- 2) **Establish a new shop in a temporary building on the previously identified plot on the business park.** Over the last few months, it has become increasingly apparent that this option is not viable. Some of the main reasons being the reduction in safe parking for customers due to the increase in other business park tenants' activities and the lack of appropriate outside space. We are now actively trying to identify other suitable locations for a permanent move of The Shop.
- 3) **Finances** – with the lottery grant we are holding our heads above water, but with increased rent, utility costs in a large unsuitable building, plus cost-of-living costs affecting customer purchases, we need a more sustainable shop, hence point 2 above.
- 4) **Investigate the possibility of a five-day week Post Office (PO)** – this will not be feasible mainly due to the set-up costs and the need for a trained PO operator to be on site whenever the PO would be open. As we operate with many volunteers, the training costs and rota implications would make providing this service unachievable.
- 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.** Currently we have a good level of support on the Committee, but more assistance is always needed and, as we move forward, we are likely to need more help especially if we successfully identify a new shop location as we will need to obtain substantial funding from grants, fundraising etc.

## Reports from supporters

### Community Lunches and support to local customers - Celia Greatwood

“As a customer of The Shop for over a year, I am writing to compliment them all for their excellent service, not only to me but some of my friends. We are warmly welcomed, usually by name, and helped with our purchases, taking our baskets out to our cars. Thankfully the Post Office, open twice a week, is so helpful to our locals, especially the elderly.



Another kind service is the fortnightly lunch on Mondays - lovely choices of three courses, if desired! Over the year, these meals have been brought to us at home by kind volunteers, with a cheery chat at the door. Lately we have been invited to share our meal together in “the Snug” if we wish. It has been good to meet with new people in the village.”

We continue to provide community lunches fortnightly on Monday's and we would like to publicly thank Kirsten and Anne, alongside the delivery team, 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](mailto: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. Current costs are £7 for 2 courses or £9 for three.

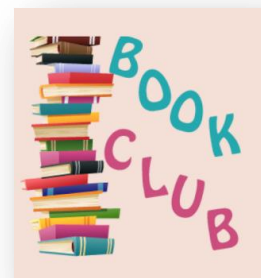
### Book Club – Carol Meredith

Our Group meets every month on Mondays at 2:30pm in The Shop.

We get together to discuss one book per month, which everyone reads (or not if they hate it!). This often leads to wide discussions of other authors, titles and recommendations. It is not 'literary' or 'exclusive', and monthly titles vary greatly in interest, style and plot. Members do not have to obtain their own copies, as Herefordshire Libraries provide them all.

If you love books and like meeting people for a friendly discussion, think about joining us (cuppas and biscuits 'included'). Give Carol a ring on 01531 650293 if you would like to know more.

Next meeting is Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2:30pm in The Shop.



### Neighbourhood Watch – John Meredith



As there seems to be renewed interest in Neighbourhood Watch, we will have a meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in The Shop. We will have two important speakers at the meeting.

## Plants from The Shop and Gardening in February – Annette

At long last Spring flowers and bulbs in my garden are emerging. Below is some inspiration for all the wonderful colours potentially available in your garden in the spring.



Bulbs – Winter Aconite, Snowdrops, Crocus Tommasinianus, and Cyclamen Coum.



Shrubs – Hamamelis Diane (red), Hamamelis Mollis (yellow), Daphne Jacqueline Postill (with its wonderful scent), Camellias (various – St Ewe is in flower now),



Clematis Winter Beauty and Clematis napaulensis.



Perennials – Erica Carnea Springwood (white) and Erica Carnea Natalie, Sarococca Hooeriana Var. Digyna (also with a wonderful scent) plus various primroses

I will soon be bringing in some Hellebores and Spring bulbs for sale to help cheer up the entrance to The Shop



## **Parish Council News**



Bromsberrow Parish Council consists of four Councillors:

Chairman	- Robin Launders
Deputy Chairman	- Chris Neville
Councillor	- John Stephens
Councillor	- Roxanne Shayle

We have three vacant seats to bring the Council up to its full complement, so if you are interested in becoming a Councillor, please make contact through the Council's website: <https://bromsberrowpc.co.uk>

We also have a vacancy for a part-time Parish Council Clerk (4 hours per week). Please see our website for more information and how to apply.

We would like to see closer co-operation between The Shop and the Council. We plan to start by asking to put a Council noticeboard outside The Shop. Currently, the official noticeboard is in the bus shelter, but far more people use The Shop than catch the bus. We would also like to offer 'Councillor Surgeries' from The Shop later this year, to give residents the opportunity to speak to their Councillors directly and to raise any issues or concerns they may have. Look out for dates on the new noticeboard when it arrives!

What has your Parish Council done since the elections in May 2023?

- Made 8 complaints to GCC (Gloucestershire County Council) about the Quarry
- Supported the new War Memorial silhouette statues
- Returned the 30mph speed limit sign to Bromsberrow Heath
- Ensured dangerous and overgrown hedges have been removed or cut back
- Ensured road markings are improved
- New 30mph repeater signs cleaned and replaced
- Arranged a village litter-pick / tidy-up
- Maintained the village defibrillators
- Commented on planning applications of concern to residents
- Helped to report pot holes

What does the Parish Council want to do in the near future but needs the support of the community now?

- A new children's playground
- Better provision for school parking
- Create noticeboards in the village
- Support the village shop developments
- Publicise and signpost village footpaths
- Make better biodiversity choices in the village

Are you interested in the biodiversity of the village? Would you like to become the village's 'Ecology Champion'? The Council has to have regard to biodiversity as part of its considerations; if you would like to help us, please get in touch.

## 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. A further benefit is that for those who pay by card, it reduces the number of card transactions which is a slight gain.

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.

## Events

We have had three successful events since the last newsletter, two quizzes and a wine tasting. These events are usually fully subscribed (especially Chris' quizzes) and provide a good opportunity to top up The Shop funds.

We plan to restart events in March once The Shop is warm enough for an evening event - hopefully another quiz from Chris. The December quiz was a tad chilly, especially for those that braved the outdoor toilet!



## Fresh Vegetables (and eggs!) – Jenny Greatwood

The Shop has a wide variety of fresh fruit and vegetables delivered almost everyday but as a person living on my own, I do appreciate being able to buy exactly what I want. I can buy just one onion or two leeks and two satsumas, so avoiding waste having to buy pack quantities in most supermarkets!

Also, in case you haven't noticed, we have got our wonderful big eggs back! Most are double yolked and are our best seller, they're too big for Tesco!!



## 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.

## New local business

# YOUNIQUE Dressmaking

- Made to measure•alterations
- repairs•soft furnishings

Ceri Donaldson  
07815422286

Offering home visits and delivery across the three counties from our studio based in Dymock

contact@yunique-dressmaking.com

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