

# The Shop

## At Bromsberrow

### **Customer Newsletter - Summer 2025**

Welcome to our Summer 2025 newsletter.

Thank you to all our customers for supporting the shop. We hope that you find the shop beneficial and that it meets your needs. If you have suggestions for change or new products that you would like us to stock, please speak to our Manager, Marie Brain, or any of our volunteers and Committee Members. Most importantly, thank you to all our volunteers who give their time in different ways but without them, there would be no shop.

### **Volunteers Wanted**

As ever, the shop is always in need of more volunteers. Even if you can only spare an hour or two a week your help would be invaluable. There are a great many people involved in running the shop, covering a range of duties, from collecting newspapers from Ledbury in the morning, to cooking, cleaning, bookkeeping, stacking shelves, and of course, serving customers. There's bound to be something that you would be good at, and at the same time you'll get to meet lots of lovely people and feel part of a team that supports our community. It's really rewarding.

As a special incentive, we are going to offer all our volunteers 10% off their grocery bills for three months from 1<sup>st</sup> September. The only conditions are that the discount is limited to a minimum spend of £25 in one transaction and it excludes tobacco products.

### **Customer Accounts**

We offer the facility for our members to open a credit account with us, subject to a maximum credit limit of £100. We just ask that you clear your account at the end of every month.

### **Changes to The Shop's Management Committee**

At the shop's AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> May this year, two members of the Management Committee stepped down, namely Roxanne Shayle and John Turvill, who was the Chairman. The Committee elected Chris Neville to be the new Chairman. Chris has served on the committee since 2021. The Committee want to express its thanks to Roxanne and John for all their hard work and support for the shop. The Committee is also pleased to have co-opted Percy Hunt as a member. Many will know that Percy has been a long-time supporter of the shop and was the chairman for several years. Percy's experience will be invaluable.

## **AGM / Shop Accounts**

At the AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, the shop presented its End of Year Accounts for 2024. For the first time, it was able to demonstrate a year-end surplus of £7,782 with a turnover of £106,844, set against a loss in 2023 of £4,581 with a turnover of £107,493. The surplus was largely a consequence of grant funded income from the National Lottery Community Fund which gave £10,000 during 2024 towards the shop's running costs. The surplus will be carried forward into the shop's 2025 accounts.

## **2025 Grant Applications**

In 2025, the shop has obtained a further National Lottery Community grant for £15,000, which can be used for salary costs, energy bills and rent. A grant for £3,750 from Gloucestershire County Council's Thriving Communities Fund came in at the end of December 2024, which can also be used for day to day running costs.

## **The Café**

The Snug has been transformed into a café with money from The Forest of Dean District Council. New furniture and flooring have made it a more pleasant place to sit. Our coffee machine has recently been installed in the Snug - the coffee machine is self-service and can make any type of coffee that you want.

There is a 'Coffee Morning' on the first Wednesday of every month at 10.30. Everyone is welcome to come and socialise over a coffee and piece of cake.

## **Community Lunches**

We have changed the day of community lunches from Mondays to Thursdays and they are served every two weeks. You can have a two or three-course meal - £7.00 for two courses and £9.00 for three. Just book your meal in advance and you can eat it in the shop or take it away to enjoy at home.

## **Social Events**

We celebrated VE Day on 5<sup>th</sup> May with a tea party that was extremely well attended.

As we approach Autumn, we will be running social events again, including our popular pub quiz nights, the first of which will be on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September**. There will be a bar and we will be cooking baked potatoes with a choice of meat and vegetarian fillings. Teams of up to six people. Advanced booking is necessary to reserve your place and to enable us to plan the catering. If you haven't been to a quiz night before, get a few friends and neighbours together and form a team. Questions cover a wide range of general knowledge, current affairs and music. Quiz nights begin at 6.30 pm.

## **Althea's Birthday**

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, we were very pleased to be able to make the shop available to celebrate a birthday party for a special resident of Bromsberrow Heath. Althea Wills was 90. Her many friends in the village came along and brought home made cakes and treats for a lovely afternoon tea party.



Special thanks go to John and Carol Meredith who managed to get Althea to the shop without her knowing that a party awaited her. It was lovely to see the look of surprise on Althea's face when she walked in and saw everyone waiting for her.

## **Opportunities for Young People with Special Needs**

The Shop is teaming up with Pershore College to offer employment opportunities for young people with special needs. Hopefully, you will see our new helpers from September onwards.



## **6-14 September 2025**

h.Art is Herefordshire's annual art festival during which artists from all over the county exhibit their work. The shop has registered as a gallery for the period of the Festival from 6<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September. It means that we will welcome artists into our gallery space for customers to view and perhaps purchase their artwork. We anticipate a range of artists from professional to amateur craft people. We are thrilled that Lindsay Reid, the renowned wildlife artist, has already agreed to exhibit.

The shop will be open for every one of the 9 days of the festival between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm and we will be serving teas, coffees and light refreshments for visitors. Please do come along and have a browse.

## **Citizen's Advice**

Citizen's Advice (CA), formerly known as the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), has asked the shop if we can act as an outreach hub to give people in the village and surrounding areas access to its advice services. Our Management Committee Chairman, Chris Neville, is undergoing some limited training with CA to enable him to signpost people in need of support with problems such as debt or benefits. Having the shop as an advice hub means that he will have direct access to CA advisors and he will be able to refer people to CA for immediate help. We will be displaying advice literature in the shop, and you will be able to contact Chris for a confidential conversation to see whether he can refer you.

## **Newspapers**

The shop sells newspapers daily, but they must be ordered in advance on a regular basis. If you take a daily or weekly newspaper and you need to cancel the order for a holiday, for instance, please remember to give us at least one week's notice so that we can inform our supplier in Ledbury. If we don't get enough notice, it means that the shop must pay for the papers and loses money.

## **Floor painting**

You may have noticed that we have started to paint the shop floor. It is many years since it was last done, but the new paint really makes a difference. Please bear with us as we will have to paint the main shop area in stages for it to dry before we can paint the next area.

## Opening Hours

	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	9.00 to 14.00	16.00 to 17.30
Tuesday	9.00 to 14.00	16.00 to 17.30
<b>Post Office</b>	<b>9.30 to 11.30</b>	
Wednesday	9.00 to 12.30	Closed
Thursday	9.00 to 14.00	16.00 to 18.30
<b>Post Office</b>	<b>9.30 to 11.30</b>	
Friday	9.00 to 14.00	16.00 to 18.30
Saturday	9.00 to 12.30	Closed
Sunday	9.00 to 12.30	Closed