

Week St Mary Community Shop Report 2023

I am writing this on behalf of the Management Committee to thank everyone who supports the Shop and Post Office. Our aim has always been and continues to be to keep an active Shop open for the Village. We have had to work under difficult times and thanks must go to our Manager Jackie and Val. We also have many regular Volunteers who give of their time without whom we would not be able to stay open, we are blessed to have 5 Volunteers trained to run the Post Office which enables us to offer this service to the Village every day except Sunday.

We have continued to upgrade the shop and the ranges we offer, also regularly post on the Shop Facebook page which is our advertising platform.

Whilst we are always asking for more Volunteers, we would still be delighted to see more people offer just a couple of hours a week. This doesn't have to involve handling money it could be unpacking or using the pricing gun. The shop is a friendly place to work and meet people.

FINANCE SECTION FOR PARISH MEETING: - Sales in the financial year ending 28 February 2023 were £197,000, fractionally ahead of the previous year. Once again, the shop made a small operating profit. Footfall continues to be about 600 customers a week.

We try to keep prices as low as possible, particularly of daily essentials and in the last 9 months have changed several suppliers to help keep increases to a minimum.

Our overhead costs are about to increase substantially in the near future due to factors beyond our control. The 92p an hour increase in the National Living Wage will add £1,900 to our salary bill and electricity costs could increase by £3,000 per annum when our fixed price contract expires at the end of June. To help combat this we reluctantly decided to close the shop half an hour earlier to save on wages and are examining ways of reducing our electricity consumption.

We as a Committee know that this early closing may be inconvenient but was done out of necessity and it is hoped that will in some way help to alleviate the rising costs we are facing and ultimately keep the Community Shop open for you all. PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR SHOP.

Linda Cobbledick

Chair of The Management Committee