

Open 7 days a
Week

Every day 9 - 12.30
pm

Also on week days
4 - 5 pm

The Shop

At Bromsberrow

Post Office Open

Tuesday &
Thursday

9.30 – 11.30 am

NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Always a bit sad to lose a stalwart both of the village and the shop. So it is thanks and farewell to Pam Broughton but she is only going a little way up the road to the next county. She writes . . .

“I came to Bromesberrow Heath in January 2013 from Lincolnshire with my very large flat coat retriever, Haddon. We didn’t know the area at all and were complete strangers to the village but this soon changed. Everyone was so friendly and helpful, particularly John and Carol at the then Post Office.

After the post office closed and the community shop opened, I became a member of the team of volunteers. This enabled me to widen my knowledge of the area and the residents who lived locally. There were so many happy times and the Big Brunch and Dog Shows were always successful and hugely popular event.

Sadly I lost Haddon in June 2014 – he was replaced by Ollie in October 2015 – a much loved member of the household.

Unfortunately, Covid 19 has recently meant that I and many others have had to self-isolate so volunteering has had to be curtailed. Let’s hope we can resume normal life soon.

My thanks to you all but as we are only moving into Ledbury we hope to stay in touch.”

Pam and Ollie (Broughton).

So a big welcome to Denise and Mike Morgan who after 14 years away are back with us, although they don’t do things by halves!

“Well, as it is 14 years ago since we left, we have had quite a journey to Marden in Herefordshire, back to Cornwall and now back to Bromsberrow Heath.

The last year for us has been most awful. January saw us both going down with an awful virus then with losing five loved ones in five months (two to Covid), a full knee replacement, a brush with the big C, self isolation, soul searching and a big decision made to move back. We were delighted when we saw the property in Bromsberrow Heath to rent and we know we will be very happy here.”

Best wishes Denise and Mike

SHOP SURVEY

Not surprisingly sales are substantially less than they were in May. Clearly more shopping choices are available but we wanted to see if there were specific things we could do to increase business. In particular we are aware that for those who work away from the village, the shop is effectively closed to them during the week. So if we can manage to open for longer when should that be?

We made a start on 31st October and our plan was to visit as many households as possible in Bromsberrow, Bromsberrow Heath, Dymock and Red Marley. However, given the November lockdown, that will probably not be possible (or legal) so if you haven't completed a survey please do and leave it at the Shop (or ask us to collect it). There is a copy at the end of this newsletter and on the website.

PLACING A REGULAR ORDER?

As has been previously mentioned it is very difficult to get the ordering right. It is disappointing for you when we don't have what you want, especially if you've come down especially. Equally, it is a loss for the shop if we've got in extra bread (based on the previous weekend) that doesn't sell! One solution to this is to place a regular order – you get what you want and we avoid the wastage. I've used bread as the example but the more you can pre-order or tell us what we should stock the better the deal for all!

BUILDING THE COMMUNITY

I return to my "hobby-horse" for which I make no apology since I believe the time is *now!*

Within our community we have the following "organisations" that have their own rules of operation, specific objectives and are part of a wider network:

Church
Parish Council
School
Village Hall
Village Shop

The commonality is that they are engaged in the wellbeing of the members of our community. The other things that they have in common are that they struggle to fulfil their function through shortage of volunteers and to some extent through duplication.

There is a case for pooling resources and information (subject to GDPR!) to achieve a better result and greater cohesion within the community. A feature of the Shop is that it is open every day and offers a place to meet and refresh (Covid permitting). It was interesting that during the first wave of the pandemic the Forest of Dean DC used the Shop to find out what was happening locally and to address the issues identified.

RETURN OF THE COMMUNITY LUNCHES

Last year we ran some very successful Community Lunches, which were very nutritious to mind, body and spirit! Now that we are getting our second wind/wave, Jeff is back in action again with his helpers and a trial run last week saw him providing community lunches to nineteen hungry householders across the district. - see picture of Tegwen Harrison receiving her food carrier bag.



We are planning to continue providing this service as long as we have enough support. Our next serving will be on Thursday 12th November.

The very reasonably priced menu will be:

Starter

Homemade vegetable soup

Main course – a choice of:

Homemade chicken and ham pie; or

Beef stew and dumplings with mash and seasonal vegetables

Dessert

Chocolate Brownie with clotted cream

Price:

£5.00 for two courses or £7.50 for 3 courses

Please contact the Shop if you want to order a lunch on 01531 650744 or email hello@theshopatbromsberrow.co.uk

Updated menus will be on the website every two weeks so you can decide whether or not to have a night off from cooking!



MEMBER OF THE MONTH (MOTM)

The November MOTM is Richard Mason, so congratulations to him. We are however, most appreciative that he has decided to return the £25 voucher to the Shop and we just hope that that is a wise course of action come the lockdown. Not a member - isn't it time you were?

FCN's Big 25

Many thanks to those who kindly sponsored me. Pleased to say, I collected a 'Big £50' which I have sent on to FCN.

Please remember the farmers in your thoughts and prayers. These are anxious times for us all, but to layer on top of all the issues involved in running a farm requires incredible strength in body and mind. On a trivial note, to say that my bike developed a terminal condition so I covered the distance on foot! Bike spares available on request – wheels, tyres and inners in good condition!!

THE LATEST FROM 'DOT AND MAV'

"Dot...did you put your clock back last month?"

"Yes I did Mav, I put it back on the mantelpiece after you told me what to do..."

"Yes, Dot, but did you put it back an hour....?!"

"Oh no, I didn't do that, was I meant to? I went to the Shop on Sunday morning at 9 o'clock and there was no one there, I was confused! (again)

"Oh Dot, clot...that's because it was really 8 o'clock! Never mind...try again next year!"

"Anyway, lots of nice new things in the Shop now so need to keep supporting it.

JENNY'S MONTHLY QUIZ



BROMSBERROW PARISH COUNCIL

October answer below:



$$1 \text{ Apple} = 10$$

$$1 \text{ Apple} + 4 \text{ Bananas} + 4 \text{ Bananas} = 18$$

$$4 \text{ Bananas} - 2 \text{ Coconut halves} = 2$$

$$1 \text{ Coconut} + 1 \text{ Apple} + 3 \text{ Bananas} = 14$$

November Quiz - what will replace the Question Mark?

If
 $2+1=23$
 $3+1=34$
 $4+2=26$
 $6+3=29$
then
 $7+1=?$

SHARE IF YOU
COULD FIND IT :

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR A NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

Please contact Brian Lewis on 079736 638328 if you could help us with the above vacancy.

The Parish Councillor would help with Planning Permissions engage in some of the local issues such as speeding, road safety, road cleaning, grass cutting, supervision of our quarries and perhaps contribute to our website, content, and maintenance. They would also need to help coordinate local activities, initiatives, establishing local housing needs etc.

The Parish Council only meets once every two months, to coordinate our activities.

THE SHOP – 7TH BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

The Shop had its 7th Birthday on the 3rd November so let's help to get it to its 8th Birthday.

When it was one, it had just begun!
When it was two, it was nearly new
When it was three it was hardly free!
When it was four, it did just a bit more!
When it was five, it was still alive!

When it was six and Covid arose,
With home deliveries it still didn't close!
Now we are seven – if we are clever
With your help, we'll stay open forever
and ever!!

Monica Butler
(apologies to A.A. Milne)



The Ode

*They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn;
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.*



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A Poem for Remembrance Day

"The inquisitive mind of a child"



Why are they selling poppies, Mummy?
Selling poppies in town today.
The poppies, child, are flowers of love.
For the men who marched away.

But why have they chosen a poppy, Mummy?
Why not a beautiful rose?
Because my child, men fought and died
In the fields where the poppies grow.



But why are the poppies so red, Mummy?
Why are the poppies so red?
Red is the colour of blood, my child.
The blood that our soldiers shed.

The heart of the poppy is black, Mummy.
Why does it have to be black?
Black, my child, is the symbol of grief.
For the men who never came back.

But why, Mummy are you crying so?
Your tears are giving you pain.
My tears are my fears for you my child.
For the world is forgetting again.



(Author Unknown)

INTRODUCTION

Shop takings are now 40% of what they were in May. We appreciate that in May your options were quite limited but we would like to find out what changes we could make to increase our sales. We would particularly like to know if changing our hours of opening would attract you back or increase your use.

Current Hours

Shop: 09.00 – 12.30 every day plus 16.00 – 17.00 on weekdays

Post Office: 09.30 – 11.30 Tuesday and Thursday

We would therefore ask if you could complete this survey and return to the Shop.

Your Postcode: _____

1. Do you use the Shop? If "No", could you give a reason?

2. If you use the Shop less than you did in May, could you indicate why?

3. What would encourage you to use the Shop more (new products, home delivery, new services, etc):

4. **Opening hours** (shown above);

a) Do they meet your needs? **YES/NO** (delete as appropriate)

b) If not, what should the hours be: i) Weekdays, ii) Weekends

Weekdays: _____ Saturday: _____ Sunday: _____

c) If we offered a late night opening, would you use it?

NO/YES – which evening? _____

Interested in helping with the Shop – please call Marie on 01531 650744 or

Email: hello@theshopatbromsberrow.co.uk