



BRETFORTON COMMUNITY SHOP

SHOP TALK *October 2020*

Welcome to the latest issue of SHOP TALK – a round-up of news about your shop. Find out what's new, what's on, how to keep in touch and how you can help ensure the Shop is a great asset for our community.

Supporting you in challenging times

Well what a year we are all having! It was great to be able to support so many of you during lockdown and beyond. In fact, the Shop had its busiest week *ever* in the early weeks. It's at times like this we all appreciate having a Shop in the village.

We're proud to report that we never ran out of loo roll and had a range of groceries like pasta, tinned tomatoes, flour and even hand-sanitiser when most shops didn't. We'd be really grateful if you could support the Shop whenever you can, so it continues to be here when the village needs it.

We're millionaires (well, sort of!)

We've hit another milestone during the crisis too, reaching £1m of sales during the lifetime of the Shop so far. Thanks to all our customers who've supported us over the years and helped us get there.

A massive thank you from us - and Her Majesty!

The Shop has had to react quickly and make some major changes during the Covid pandemic. We lost most of our loyal volunteers who had to self-isolate. And we had to set up a system for taking and delivering orders from scratch, going from zero to eighty deliveries a week. We'd like to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers, new and old, who stepped up and helped provide a vital service for the village. THANK YOU!

It's not just us who recognises the amazing contribution our volunteers have made. We were surprised and delighted to receive a letter from Her Majesty's Representative, the Lord-Lieutenant of Worcestershire, who said: *"The innovation, collaboration, courage and selflessness shown by so many across the County during the COVID-19 pandemic has been truly inspirational and uplifting. As Her Majesty The Queen's representative, I would like to thank you for the wonderful contribution you have made to the County during these extraordinary and challenging times"*.

Keeping you safe

The safety and wellbeing of our customers, volunteers and staff is of the utmost importance. If you haven't been in the Shop recently, we'd like to reassure you that we've implemented a comprehensive range of safety measures. These include a limit on the number of people in the Shop at any one time, application of hand-sanitiser on entry, a one-way route round the Shop, provision of face-masks & face shields, a Perspex screen in front of the till, and an intensified cleaning schedule. We also carry out regular risk assessments to make sure we're meeting all necessary criteria to keep you safe.

Our Annual Members' Meeting Zoomed by

Thanks to everyone who attended our Annual Members' Meeting which went digital. We had a good number of attendees and a record number of votes. The Shop is doing OK but needs to grow sales more to remain viable & successful in the long-run.

What's in-store this autumn

We've got some great new products in stock this autumn, including:

- * Rana's fresh pasta, 2 varieties, ideal for a quick & tasty meal
- * Macneil's delicious smoked salmon & hot-smoked mackerel
- * Fresh humous as well as Ardennes & Brussels pates, perfect for lunch
- * A range of well-priced ready meals including cottage pie, chilli & lasagne
- * Handmade plain & garlic naan breads for an authentic curry night in

Open all hours

Well, not quite... but we are delighted to be back to full opening hours. They are:

Monday - Friday: 8am – 6pm

Saturday: 8am – 5pm

Sunday: 9am – 1pm

Bretforton needs you!

Now we've extended our hours but haven't yet been able to welcome back all our regular volunteers, we're urgently in need of help. If you have any spare time, however much or little, please do get in touch, we'd love to hear from you. Volunteering's a great way to meet people and has also been shown to benefit mental & physical health, important in these times of trouble and anxiety.

Taking Orders

As well as general groceries, we stock:

- * Fresh bread, milk, fruit & veg (deliveries daily except Sunday)
- * Outdoor Pig pork pies, meat pies & sausage rolls (delivered on Tuesdays)
- * High quality meat (delivered fresh on Saturdays to order)
- * Local handmade cakes
- * French bread & pastries every Saturday morning

We're delighted to take your one-off or regular orders for any of our stocked items. Have a chat with our team if you would like to order. And if we're missing anything you'd like us to stock, just let us know. We'll do our best to get it in for you.