

Village Shops Newsletter - Spring 2017

News from Local Shops:



Appleton Shop Has a Re-vamp.

On 29th Feb, Appleton-with- Eaton Village shop held a meeting in the Village Hall for volunteers, local users and potential users of the shop, to come and hear all about the exiting changes happening and to make their comments on the changes. Over 100 people turned up!

The new improved shop opened on Saturday 8th April. They now have a new inside coffee area, new product ranges (including more locally produced products), increased chilled and frozen stock and a new 'Epos System'. The refit is costing around £15k, with a £6k grant from the Post Office really helping out. I bet there is a real buzz in in the village...



A New Drinks Cabinet for Hanney Community Shop.

Hanneys volunteer shop manager, Hazel Abraham, applied to the Post Office Community Branch Fund for a new drinks cabinet. As you can see it is eye catching. Cold drinks sell well to school children and cyclists.

For those shops who have a Post Office in your shop, There is still plenty of money in the Post Office Community Branch Fund which you can apply to in order to develop and improve your Post Office business. Example of improvements people have made include a tea room, improved signage, flooring, shelving lighting. Most applications are below £10,000 and sometimes £2,000 and below for outreach services, however it is possible to apply for more than this. Please see the details on the Post Office website.

<http://postofficecommunityfund.co.uk>

If you're not sure what you could use the Community Branch Fund for, you can give the **Network Transformation Helpline** a call to discuss some ideas on 0845 266 8790



News from Local Shops Continued...



Tackley Community Shop is working well with their EPOS System. They were able to obtain it through Palmer and Harvey one of their suppliers.

Wider Retail News

Tesco's Still Set to Take Over Bookers



Tesco's are still set to take over the food wholesale Booker group, even though some of their shareholders think that the £3.7bn price is too expensive. Bookers also own the Londis and Budgens convenience stores. Charles Wilson, Chief Executive Officer of Booker said: "Booker is committed to improving choice, prices and service for the independent retailers, caterers and small businesses that we are proud to serve. We believe that joining forces with Tesco offers the potential to bring major benefits to end consumers, our customers, suppliers, colleagues and shareholders." Community and Independent Shops buy a lot of stock from Bookers Cash and Carry and it will be interesting to see what the takeover/merger will mean in practice or small businesses.



Changes In The Tobacco Trade 20th May Deadline



You will have come across the standardized packaging for cigarettes already and this is a reminder that the 20th May is the deadline for selling all your old branded stock. After this date it will be illegal to sell cigarettes and tobacco in non-standardized packaging. Stock rotation is the key, make sure branded stock is in front. Also keep the price of your branded cigarettes at RRP to retain your existing sales and footfall of existing customers.



Buy your Alcohol from an Approved Alcohol Wholesaler



From 1 April 2017 if you buy alcohol to sell from a UK wholesaler, you'll need to check that the wholesaler has registered with HMRC and has an AWRS Unique Reference Number (URN).

If you are a trade buyer or wholesaler, you will be able to use an online look-up service of approved wholesalers to check that the wholesalers you buy from are registered. Please follow this link for more details: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-alcohol-wholesaler-registration-scheme-awrs>

More Help Needed for Rural Shops

Campaigners say that action is needed so that 19,128 rural shops can continue to provide essential services. Many village stores double up as the local Post Office for rural customers who would otherwise be isolated. Rural shops are often the only place where customers in their local area can get essential goods and services. More than half of rural stores (59%) operate entirely on their own, with no other retail/service businesses close by. Village shops are often at the heart of the community, with one in five store owners in rural areas having run their store for over 25 years.

"The government must ensure that all rural shops are given the right conditions to be able to trade successfully," said James Lowman from ACS- the association of convenience Stores.

Recommendations are to make sure:

- The government keeps its promise to sustain 3,000 rural post offices.
- Rural petrol stations can benefit from rural business rate relief, not just small rural convenience stores.
- High speed broadband is delivered to rural stores.

(Written by Ruralcity Media.)

If you want to read the full report, please go to

<http://www.rsonline.org.uk/services/more-help-needed-for-rural-shops>





Business Rates Relief

Business Rates Relief Changes from 1 April 2017. You'll get 100% off your business rates if you apply and qualify for rural rate relief. Please use the link below for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-business-rate-relief/overview>

Make a Fuss of your Volunteers



If you want to have a celebration during volunteers week, I have some resources that you can use. Please contact me. Tessa



This newsletter is sponsored by:



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