

# Creaton Village Shop & Post Office



March 2022

## On to the next stage for Creaton Village Shop

Three and a half years on and Creaton Village Shop has taken a big step, on to the next stage in its place to supply the needs of the local communities. This step can be encapsulated in the appointment of Duncan Steward as Manager. Duncan has many ideas about how to take the business forward but has no intention of bringing about major changes that would stop the shop being Your Shop Our Shop.

"The shop has settled in" says Duncan "and it is ready to go on to the next stage. My job is to help in its organic growth".

Duncan and his wife Nicky live in Riseley where until a year ago they ran the village shop for 20 years. In fact shopkeeping has been in the family for some time as Duncan's parents ran the shop for the previous 30 years, and his grandparents for 30 years before that! It makes you feel that you are in safe hands.

Duncan sees that there are things that need fine tuning and that we shall be seeing the results of these tweaks over the next few months. Customers will certainly benefit from what Duncan calls 'getting the flow right'. "The way the items are organised in relation to how customers walk round the store is very important" he says.

There will also be changes behind the scenes. The EPOS system - the method of managing stock, knowing what you have, what you are about to run out of, and so on - will be brought up to date.

After 20 years of running a business with his wife, taking on a store with 3 paid members of staff and 50 volunteers is a tad different. "Communication is important so that everybody knows what there is to be done and how to do it" explains Duncan "and I am working with Claire [Volunteer Director] to pro-



duce a handbook of best practice for all staff."

Whilst looking at the fresh fruit and vegetable and discussing the tension between buying local, part of the shop's ethos, and buying for quality and value, Duncan says that "Local suppliers are important as is the quality. It's all about getting the balance right."

On the rare occasions when he isn't working for the shop, either in Creaton, or at the cash and carry, or at home on the computer, Duncan likes to do a spot of fishing. "I like the peace and quiet" he says, "I've even caught an 8lb Rainbow in Ravensthorpe Reservoir!"

Well, Duncan also sounds like a good catch for the shop. Welcome



# Helping Ukraine

The shop has been approached by a number of volunteers asking if we can obtain basic foodstuffs and other needed items from cash-and-carry so that they can then donate them to the Ukraine War appeal. We are, of course, more than delighted to help.

If you would like to donate that would be wonderful. We will be buying in £25 amounts so donations of £25, £50, £75 or even £100 would be greatly appreciated. The shop will then buy at cost and you can pay in the shop the next time you come into store. Because we are touched by the plight of the people of Ukraine, on your behalf, the Society has agreed to fund £50 of supplies.



Kate (left) and Alison, loaded up with donations bound for Ukrainian refugees

**MAD-AID**

This initiative is being spear-headed by Alison Cave and Kate de Vries and, as you would expect, they have checked out the credentials of the charity. They have contacted [MAD-AID.org.uk](http://MAD-AID.org.uk) who are a UK-based charity helping Ukrainian refugees in Moldova. Moldova have committed to help a large number of refugees and are struggling financially. Initially donations will go to Ukrainian refugees in Moldova, then hopefully to Ukraine when circumstances change. Alison and Kate are coordinating donations to go to the Greek Orthodox Church in St. Crispin's, Northampton.

## What you can give

Below is a list of items required, so if you have anything you would like to give either in addition to or instead of your donation please deliver them to Alison Cave, Greenbank, High Street, Creton or Kate

- Baby milk formula
- Dried baby food/pouches
- Pampers all sizes
- Baby wipes and nappy sacks
- Feminine hygiene products
- Slippers/slipper socks
- Adults - non perishable food, such as rice, pasta, couscous, porridge oats, muesli, biscuits
- Children - non perishable food such as baby rice, rusks, small bags of sweets (eg Haribo)

Alternatively, you can donate cash at Creton Village Shop (in £25 chunks please) and all funds will be used to purchase a selection of the above items. Many thanks in advance for your support for Ukraine.



# UKRAINE CRISIS DONATIONS

**MAD AID UK** is collecting household goods to send to the Ukrainian people affected by the war. All donations will be delivered to the refugees in Moldova and those sheltering in safety bunkers in the Ukraine. The village's recent response to the cause has been phenomenal. **We thank you for your kindness and support.**

MAD AID charity workers in Moldova send news that the refugees would benefit from the following goods which have now become a major priority:

- Baby milk formula
- Dried baby food/pouches
- Disposable nappies - all sizes
- Baby wipes and nappy sacks
- Feminine hygiene products
- Adults - non-perishable food, e.g. rice, pasta, couscous, porridge oats, muesli, biscuits
- Children - non-perishable food, e.g. baby rice, rusks, small bags of sweets e.g. Haribo
- Slippers/slipper socks



If you can donate any of the above items, please deliver them to:

**Alison Cave, Greenbank, High Street, Creton**  
**Kate de Vries, High Point, 20 The Green, Creton**

Alternatively, Creton Shop is accepting donations of £25/£50/£75/£100 with which they will purchase said goods from their cash and carry. £1000 has already been spent on behalf of customer donors and was delivered to Saint Neophytos Church, St Crispin's Drive, Duston, Northampton, NN5 4UN, where donations to the charity are also accepted.



**FINAL DATE FOR DONATIONS—31ST MARCH**



For further information on MAD AID & to donate



**SCAN HERE**

Or visit [www.mad-aid.org.uk](http://www.mad-aid.org.uk)



## Creaton Village Shop & Post Office

Keeping a shop and a Post Office in the heart of the community

Creaton Village Shop & Post Office  
2a Welford Road  
Creaton  
Northampton  
NN6 8NH

Phone: 01604 328877  
Email: [shop@creatonvillageshop.co.uk](mailto:shop@creatonvillageshop.co.uk)  
Web: [www.creatonvillageshop.co.uk](http://www.creatonvillageshop.co.uk)  
Facebook: Creaton Village Shop  
Twitter: CreatonVillageShop  
Instagram: creatonvillageshop

## Opening Times during the Covid-19 crisis

Mon: 7:30am-6:00pm  
Tue: 7:30am-6:00pm  
Wed: 7:30am-6:00pm  
Thu: 7:30am-6:00pm  
Fri: 7:30am-6:00pm  
Sat: 8am-12noon  
Sun: 8am-12noon

**When the shop is open, the Post Office is open.**

Creaton Village Shop is run by Creaton Community Benefit Society Ltd (CCBS) on behalf of the local community. CCBS is grateful for the support from the organisations listed below.



Supported by  
The Community Business Trade Up Programme



# Your Shop Really Does Need You!

It was a busy time for the shop in 2021 as we served the needs of the local community and beyond. Our group of volunteers have stepped up time and again to meet the new challenges with smiling commitment.



The list of tasks that they undertake is long; it's more than standing behind the till. Whether it is helping customers, opening or closing the shop, putting away stock, checking lottery wins, baking fresh bread or pastries or cleaning shelves it is done with great goodwill. We have also undertaken special events to support the community during lockdowns when we served

children learning at home drinks and pasties when they walked to the shop during their exercise periods, and delivered pastries with a smile to people living on their own.

The range of people who volunteer is wide. Men and women, working and retired, youthful and 'vintage', we are a varied lot. However, we are united in our determination to make the shop viable and successful and work hard to that end.

Working in two-hour shifts, we commit the time that we are able. There is no pressure to work at the same time every week nor commit beyond what is convenient to the lives we lead. But we really need more people to join us and wonder if that person is you.

### So why would you join the team?

Firstly, it's fun. You would be working with lovely people. You would be learning new skills and having the chance to use your existing ones. You will get to know your neighbours and people that you are quite sad that you are unlikely to meet again. You would have full training and soon recognise that there is nothing to feel concerned about. You would be supported by the regular Post Office staff and our manager Duncan who will always be there to help and advise.

Secondly, there is a real sense of doing something that matters. It's not just that a village shop is convenient, it's an important part of community life. We deliver to those that can't get out and we go the extra mile to source the products that are asked for by you, the customer. The post office is a one stop shop for many of the needs of modern living and the shop is a hub for communication.

Please, please consider if you could join the team. Two hours a week is usually in the gift of most of us and the reward of feeling part of something important is very real. If you feel you would like to know more please don't hesitate to contact me for a chat at [clairemorrell1@gmail.com](mailto:clairemorrell1@gmail.com).

You won't regret it!

**Going away for Easter?** Get your travel currency before you leave from our Post Office. We hold €€ Euros €€ and \$\$ US Dollars \$\$ on-site and all other currencies can be ordered!