

Creaton Village Shop & Post Office



October 2019

SURPRISE!!!

We're in
the
FINALS!



The countryside charity
Northamptonshire

Creaton Village Shop—Your Shop, Our Shop—has not only been nominated for the **Weetabix Local Food Hero of the Year** award, but we have reached the final! Coming out of the blue and only a year after the shop opened, this is a wonderful affirmation of the importance the shop places on local products and suppliers.

The Local Food Hero award is one of sixteen awards within The Carlsberg UK Northamptonshire Food and Drink Awards. These awards are an annual competition run by the sector for the sector and which is aimed at celebrating all that is great about local food and drink, recognising excellence within the county's dining and drinking venues and rewarding those who work so hard in the culinary sector.

Launched in the spring each year, the Awards attract hundreds of entries from restaurants, pubs, chefs, cafés and producers as well as nominations and recommendations from the public. Following seven months of judging – including mystery shopping visits, cook-offs and public voting – the competition culminates in a spectacular Awards Dinner at which the results in all categories are announced. This year the Awards Dinner takes place on 14th November.

Want to help?

Well, firstly, continue to use the shop and while you do, think about where the products come from. It is difficult to source some things locally, but where possible we use local producers, such as Joseph Morris Butchers from South Kilworth or Newlands Farm milk from Brixworth. At the moment we use 29 producers and suppliers based in Northamptonshire, 4 from Leicestershire and 2 from Warwickshire. Our aim is to continue to increase the number of products we sell that can be sourced within a 30-mile radius of Creaton. A full list is on the next page.

Secondly, if you come across something good that is locally made, that you think we could stock in the shop, let a member of the staff know.

Thank you for your continuing support—and keep your fingers crossed!

FINALIST



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

**FOOD
& DRINK
AWARDS
2019/20**

WEETABIX LOCAL FOOD HERO OF THE YEAR

Did you know?

The other finalists in Local Food Hero of the Year are:

- * New Lodge Vineyard, Earls Barton
- * Friar's Farm, Northampton
- * Shop Zero, Northampton
- * Neneview Dairy, Stanwick
- * Up The Field, Little Irchester

Local Suppliers

Northamptonshire

Brixworth Pate, Brixworth
 Carlsberg, Northampton
 Creaton Grange Ales
 Farringtons Oils, Hargrave
 Fleurfields Vineyard, Brixworth
 Gallones Ice Cream, Northampton
 I'm Real Ice Cream, Northampton
 Little Bakery of Happiness, Wellingborough
 Nene View Cheeses, Stanwick
 Newlands Farm Milk, Brixworth
 Nobby's Brewery, Thrapston
 Northamptonshire Honey
 Phipps Brewery, Northampton
 Punjaban Curry Sauces, Northampton
 Sauls, Spratton
 Saxby Cider, Farndish
 Station Farm Eggs, Finedon
 Stonyfield Wines, Blisworth
 The Olde Parlour Bakery, Chapel Brampton
 Warners Gin, Harrington
 Waterloo Cottage Farm Pies, Great Oxendon
 Weetabix, Burton Latimer

Leicestershire

Bramble Foods, Market Harborough
 Joseph Morris, Butchers – South Kilworth
 Nenettes Chocolates, North Kilworth
 Wesses Bakery, Market Harborough

Warwickshire

Drays Wholesale Wines, Rugby
 Fowlers of Earlswood (Northampton Cheeses)

Local Suppliers & Services

Troops, Brixworth
 The Workhouse, Brixworth
 KG Smith & Son, Hartwell (Coal)
 Balancourt (Pate suppliers), Cogenhoe
 Barnes (Dry Cleaning), Rushton
 B&S Supplies (Stationery), Northampton
 D&H Sign & Display Service, Creaton

Local Focus

In this edition, Local Focus turns it's eye to The Little Bakery of Happiness

Now here's a coincidence. Some members of the Creaton Save-Our-Shop campaign first came across the baking of Vicky and what is now The Little Bakery of Happiness at the Northamptonshire Food & Drink Awards a couple of years ago. They were struck by how different the very tasty crackers were that were served with the meal. Mmmm, they all agreed, "if we can ever get a community shop up and running in Creaton, then we must sell these". And they did and we do.

Here's a bit of Vicky's story:

In 2012, Vicky was diagnosed with coeliac disease and started a lifelong commitment to a gluten-free diet. Horrified at the thought of never (or rarely) being able to eat sticky doughnuts, hot sausage rolls, freshly-baked bread and mountains of cake again, she set about teaching herself to bake gluten-free with little more than fierce determination and a passion for great food.

In 2013, The Happy Little Cake Company was born, baking cakes, cupcakes, muffins and more for local customers in and around Northampton. In 2014, her Marathon Maker Muffins were a double



finalist in the Carlsberg UK Northamptonshire Food and Drink Awards and at the beginning of 2015, Most Marvellous Baking was launched as a platform to sell the Great Taste Awards winning gluten-free flour blend and the British Pie Awards winning pies and multi award-winning snacks

Until this summer all this came out of her modest home kitchen. A new home for the business was found in early 2019, which has enabled Vicky to increase her wholesale production and also open a small walk-in craft bakery-patisserie in the Nene Court Shopping Village, at the Embankment in Wellingborough.

Creaton Village Shop currently stocks crackers, dippers, muesli, granola and pies—all gluten free and all local!

Yes, it is time to plan for Christmas!

As much as you would rather not think about it, Christmas is not that far away. At Creaton Village Shop we believe that it is important that we—and you—take a little time to think about what might be available. Here are a few of our plans—do they fit in with yours?

Pre-Christmas wine tasting

Following last year's successful wine tasting, Drays of Rugby return for the evening of Wednesday 13th November. They will be bringing some new wines for us to taste and order for Christmas. Tasting will start at 6:30pm and is open to everyone.

Meat and turkeys for Christmas

You can pre-order your Christmas meat requirements with us. Supplied by Joseph Morris, who provide our regular meat and pork pies. Orders will be delivered to Creaton Village Shop for collection, so that you don't have to go them. The final delivery will, hopefully, be on Christmas Eve, but please check in the shop when you order.

Pre order other Christmas requirements

In addition to the turkey and meat, why not to pre-order other things you will need over the Christmas period? You can order cheese, cream, bread—in fact anything that you think you will need and want to be sure that you get it. Talk to our counter staff for help.

Make your own hamper

Last year's hampers proved very popular. This year we have gone one stage further and you can make up your own hamper of Creaton Village Shop products, by choosing what goes in them. We shall have baskets available and can help you work out what you can fit in. Talk to the staff about what we have available.

Joseph Morris

The business was established between the two world wars by Joseph Morris, the present proprietor's father, in 1930 and is now in its third generation.

Animal welfare is a priority for Joseph Morris. All livestock is sourced from local farms, a practice that not only supports the local farming community but also ensures uniformity of quality. Travelling distances being short, stress for the animals is minimised.

Awareness of customer requirements sees Joseph Morris continually upgrading the service that they provide. Most recently they have opened a kitchen where they make their own pork pies, sausage rolls, patés & haslet. These new lines complement their established range of home-cooked hams, roast pork, beef & turkey.



THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



Once again it has come around to that time of year for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Last year, in the centenary of the end of the First World War, Spratton and Creaton raised £2719.31.

This year, the poppies will be available in the shop from Saturday 26th October.

Creaton Community Benefit Society

At the recent Management Committee meeting, the directors were delighted to learn that the shop is a finalist in the Weetabix Local Food Hero of the Year award.

Attention was also given to what is now referred to as 'future-proofing' the Society. One of the objectives is to increase the membership of CCBS. People who are not already members may not realise that they can easily become part of the Society by purchasing a one-off share for £20.

Membership is open to anyone aged 16 or over, irrespective of where they live. This share entitles the holder to have a say in the running of the organisation, to vote at the AGM, and become a director.

As to this latter point, succession planning is very important in ensuring the continuity of the Society and thus of the shop. The Management Committee will be pleased to hear from members who are interested in joining them, now or in the future.

To become a member of Creaton Community Benefit Society, please contact Jane Kimberlin, the Society Secretary. Jane's email address is below:

secretary@creatonvillageshop.co.uk

Creaton Community
Benefit Society Ltd

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

Phone: 01604 328877
Email: shop@creatonvillageshop.co.uk
Web: www.creatonvillageshop.co.uk
Facebook: Creaton Village Shop
Twitter: CreatonVillageShop
Instagram: creatonvillageshop

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

Opening Times

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

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

Volunteers Needed

**Are you looking for an opportunity to
get out, meet people and help others?**

Why not try volunteering at Creaton Village Shop?

At the time of writing there are 31 people who regularly help serve in the shop as volunteers, working alongside Sue, Bev and Andy. This may sound a good number but it is not enough. Ideally we need about 40 names on the books to easily cover a week. At the moment, some people are doing several shifts a week in order to help keep the shop open.

The shifts are 2 hours long with the exception of the end-of-day (usually an hour and a half), and at the weekend the shifts are approximately two and a half hours. The job is easy to pick up and the till is straightforward, quick to learn, and there is lots of help to get you going.

The shop needs to have two members of staff on at the same time, one for the Post Office and one for the shop. As a community shop, Creaton Village Shop does not have the resources to offer paid employment to both, and we rely very much on the goodwill of volunteers.

So, if you can spare a couple of hours a week, please get in touch with Patsy our volunteer director, at volunteers@creatonvillageshop.co.uk, or speak to the volunteer in the shop. You can opt to do a regular session or you may prefer to fill in where needed, when you can.

This is Your Shop – Our Shop. Please help keep it that way.



Did you know the Post Office holds Euros and Dollars? Other currencies can be ordered.