

Creaton Village Shop & Post Office



April 2020



How are you doing?

I expect that you have by now often heard that these are strange and troubling times. And certainly they are. It is wonderful though to see how small communities like ours can pull together, to help each other out whilst at the same time maintaining the necessary precautions and not putting friends and neighbours at risk.

You will have also noticed that there are changes in the shop. In line with Government advice, and in order to enact it appropriately, no more than two customers are allowed in the shop at any one time, and if both those customers require the same till, then that may be reduced to one.

We have also introduced a lunchtime closure of 1 hour to allow vital tasks to be carried out without risk to staff or customers. Generally though, the shop is still open, still providing service to the community.

Keep in touch

- See what's happening by visiting www.creatonvillageshop.co.uk
- Like us on Facebook to get up-to-the-minute news
- Tell us what you think on Twitter: @creatonshop
- Send us your pictures via Instagram: creatonvillageshop

Did you know?

- Many people get out of the habit of shopping locally and are surprised by the range of local products available.
- Supermarkets would like us to think that local shops are expensive. However, add in travel, parking costs and your time, and the overall cost is often much higher.
- Local, independent shops create a distinctive shopping experience and stock a variety of different products.
- Local, independent shops keep traditional local produce alive.
- Local, independent shops respond more quickly to the needs of local customers, stocking products to meet the changing needs of the population.
- Evidence from numerous surveys shows people receive better customer care and service in local shops. Traders survive by their reputation and repeat business - so shopping local means that you get a higher standard of service.
- People do not like losing shops and services in small towns and villages but they do not equate this to where they spend their money. Local shops will only survive if customers spend locally.

Keeping the Community Fed



Creton Village Shop will deliver to people self-isolating, aided by the wonderful group of volunteers from Help Creton. The shop would not function without the staff and the band of volunteers ready to serve our customers.

Before the pandemic, the shop had a pool of about 30 people who could be called upon to help out and serve when necessary. Now, due to the virus, this number is down to ten. Shopworkers who keep going to help their community are as much in the front-line as other key workers with the exception of those on the medical front line.

However it is just as important that the guidelines are respected by all: staff, volunteers and customers, and that minimum distances are adhered to, that hands are repeatedly washed and that if you are unwell, you stay at home—and we will bring your groceries to you.

Keeping the shop stocked is much harder now. As soon as things come in, out they go out again. Time was when the trip to the cash and carry was a sedate weekly affair and Simon and Sue would return with a car laden with goods and then a handful of people would be put to work to fill the shelves.

Now, these trips happen several times a week and are timed to coincide with the temporary lunchtime closure so that the shelves can be stocked whilst the Post Office staff are changing over.

Even these trips are not easy as small shops all over the country are experiencing problems getting what they need for their customers. The Plunkett Foundation, an organization which helps community shops and pubs get organised, have been talking to the major cash & carry suppliers to try and sort this problem, so that shops like ours can provide the things that the big supermarkets often cannot.



Village at forefront of post office fight



■ MP Philip Hollobone with villagers launch National Post Office Week at Creaton

CE picture 070219SL1

Merrick Baker-Bates is doing what we are all doing at the moment, going through those things we have put away over the years and wondering why? Merrick came across the above from the Chronicle & Echo which he shared with us.

The article dates from February 2007 when Creaton Post Office, then on the High Street, was chosen as the launching pad for National Post Office Week. This was a campaign that highlighted the Government consultation on the future of Post Offices, and encouraged people to fight for the local service. The picture features many Creaton residents, including David and Sylvia Winter, a very bushy-bearded Stan Perrins, then Chair of the Creaton Parish Council, and local MP Philip Hollobone.

Even then the importance of local shops and post offices needed to be shouted about. Gladys Gillett was reported as saying she relied on the shop for "pretty well everything" and Cathy Perrins said that she used it most days. Hillary Worton from Hollowell said that she went every morning to buy milk, otherwise it would have meant a drive to Kingsthorpe. Some things never change. Support your local shop!

Post it Notes



Sue (left), one of our Post Office staff, sent this picture through from the Postal Workers Facebook page. It shows a sorting office somewhere in the country and the number of parcels waiting to be sent out to the lucky recipients. You only need to glance over the counter at our Village Shop & Post Office during the afternoon and see the number of bags sent from Creaton.

Postal workers are just as vulnerable as the rest of us and yet they still carry out their job professionally. They may have to put your parcels on your doorstep, ring the bell and then stand away, but the Mail keeps coming. Spare a thought for all those who get the post to us.



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
Web: www.creatonvillageshop.co.uk
Facebook: Creaton Village Shop
Twitter: CreatonVillageShop
Instagram: creatonvillageshop

Opening Times during the Covid-19 crisis

Mon: 7:30am-12:30pm
1:30pm-6:00pm
Tue: 7:30am-12:30pm
1:30pm-6:00pm
Wed: 7:30am-12:30pm
1:30pm-6:00pm
Thu: 7:30am-12:30pm
1:30pm-6:00pm
Fri: 7:30am-12:30pm
1:30pm-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.



LEADER Programme
North & West
Northamptonshire



THE PRINCE'S COUNTRYSIDE FUND

Supported by
The Community Business Trade Up Programme



power to change



school for social entrepreneurs



Northamptonshire Community Foundation
Giving back to our county



NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDED

KEEP SAFE AND CARRY ON

Volunteers ^{always} Needed

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

We are always looking for people to help keep Creaton Village Shop running smoothly and in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, this is even more crucial so that the shop can be kept open.

If you are between 14 and 70 and can spare two hours a week to serve in the shop and help ease the pressure on the current group of **10** volunteers, then please get in touch with Patsy by emailing volunteers@creatonvillageshop.co.uk, or ask in the shop for an application form.

As always, we say a huge



to all the staff and volunteers, those we see in the shop and those behind the scenes, who all make Creaton Village Shop & Post Office the success that it is.



This is Dave. He brings his fish van to Creaton Village Shop on Thursday mornings. He looks very pleased, and so are our customers. Go and see what all the fin is about.

Delivery Service

Did you know that you can have a home delivery if you prefer?

With thanks to our friends at HelpCreaton (below) we can bring your shopping to you.

Call the shop on 07789 828423.



CREATON'S COVID19 RESPONSE

LOOKING FOR SUPPORT

Do you need support?
Are you looking for support to help those self isolating?
Are you willing to volunteer to help others?

EMAIL: HELPCREATON@GMAIL.COM
PHONE: 07943595829

If you are looking for support or willing to provide your time as a volunteer during these difficult times, please get in touch.

Did you know the Post Office holds euros and dollars? Other currencies can be ordered.