

Creaton Village Shop & Post Office



July 2020

Time To Cover Up!



You will have seen that from 24th July it will be compulsory to wear a face mask or other covering in shops. Please make sure that your face is correctly covered when you enter the shop. This rule is to help to protect you, your fellow shoppers and, of course, the valuable shop staff.

If you arrive at the shop and find that you have forgotten your mask, don't worry. Disposable masks will be available for 50p or you could purchase a hand-made fabric mask. The hand-made ones are made by local residents and raise money for the NHS. They can be washed and re-used regularly.

You may see the staff behind the counter not wearing a mask but this is approved because they are behind the screens; they will be wearing one when on the shop floor.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

CCBS Annual General Meeting

Because of the ongoing situation with Covid-19 we are unable to meet in person and have made the decision to hold the AGM via Zoom on Thursday 30th July at 7pm. The meeting is open to all members of Creaton Community Benefit Society that runs the village shop. Members should by now have received an invitation to the meeting with a voting form and instructions as to how to connect to Zoom.

If you have any questions you would like to ask at the AGM, please forward them to the Society Secretary, Jane Kimberlin, by 5pm on Monday 27th July. Jane can be contacted on email at societysecretary@creatonvillageshop.co.uk.

If you are not a member and would like to find out more, or join CCBS, please contact Jane on the email above. Membership is by the purchase of one ordinary share in the Society.

Did you know?

- Coffee is the world's 2nd largest traded commodity, only beaten by crude oil.
- Adding cream to your coffee apparently keeps it warmer 20% longer.
- In ancient Arab culture, a woman could only divorce her husband if he didn't like her coffee.
- The word espresso comes from Italian and means "expressed" or "forced out". Espresso is made by forcing very hot water under high pressure through finely ground, compacted coffee.
- Coffee beans grow on a bush. They are actually the pit of a berry, which makes them a fruit. There are two main varieties of beans, green and red.
- Beethoven was such an ardent coffee lover that he'd count 60 beans per cup before making his brew.
- There are 2 types of coffee. Arabica coffee was originally cultivated on the Arabian Peninsula, hence the name. Robusta coffee is a more hardy plant but contains double the amount of caffeine.
- According to the International Coffee Association, Europe imports more coffee than the USA.

With thanks to

<https://www.aqiboo.com/16-interesting-facts-about-coffee/>

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

Wake Up!! It's Roasting in Great Brington



Great Brington Coffee is a specialty coffee roasting business in the heart of Northamptonshire. Chief Coffee Roaster, Joe Sacarello, has a family history of over 125 years of roasting coffees in Gibraltar. Growing up he watched his father and uncle roasting coffee back in the 1960s and he has always wanted to fulfil his father's dream of building a coffee roasting business here in England.

Today he is seeing that dream come true as alongside his wife, Sarah (née Bellamy), he roasts Brazilian, Colombian, Costa Rican, Ethiopian and Guatemalan Arabica coffees. The beans are freshly roasted to order for individuals, local cafes and pubs and for Creaton Village Shop & Post Office.

The Shop has Great Brington Coffee for sale in 227g packs but it is also available in 500g and 1kg bags. Please ask in the shop for more detail and to order larger quantities.



Notes from the Chair

Ahead of the AGM, CCBS Chair, Charles Matts, reflects on the effect of the coronavirus on Creaton Village Shop - and has some exciting news!!

I am pleased to report that April and May sales figures have continued at double the level seen during the same period last year. To enable these sales, twice the stock level needs to be purchased and we are fortunate that most of our suppliers have been able to meet our increased demand. However, as experienced across the country, the supply chain has been severely disrupted. A combination of panic buying during the early stages and the inability of food manufacturers and wholesalers to react to the reduced demand for food packaged in large volumes in favour of the smaller retail size packages has meant that we have not always been able to meet our customer demand for certain items.

We have experienced three months of profitable trading without the time to invest in the infrastructure required to ensure this increased profit is sustainable. Pre-lockdown, trips to the cash and carry were once or twice a week but are currently almost daily. The inability to maintain social distancing guidelines when deliveries arrive has forced us to close the shop during the middle of each weekday. Apart from this small change in the hours, we have been able to operate as close as possible to business as usual during this crisis. It must, however, be acknowledged that we have only managed to do this with a great deal of support from our staff and volunteers.

When we wrote the business plan, we stated our intention to offer a home delivery service for those who have difficulty visiting the shop. Yet, despite several reminders of this offer, we had very few requests to do so before Covid-19 arrived. When the lockdown was announced, a group of volunteers was assembled to offer help to those who were self-isolating or generally needed some support for whatever reason. The **HelpCreaton-Volunteering** group has provided valuable assistance to the shop by delivering shopping to our customers' doors in Creaton and surrounding villages. Some of these volunteers are already shop volunteers, many are not. We thank them all for the fantastic service they willingly give to our community.

The Management Committee does not take it for granted that once the Covid-19 restrictions are completely removed and life returns to something like normal that our customers will continue to support us at the same level. Neither can we assume that our staff and volunteers will continue to do the extra required to keep the shop going. The challenge we have given ourselves is to ensure that we can at least retain a significant proportion of the increased sales in a manageable way. This means being able to provide the items our customers want as efficiently as possible.

I am pleased to announce that we are currently planning to provide additional storage facilities to enable us to do this. We are also intending to provide a small increase in the retail area, enabling a greater variety of produce to be sold. I hope to provide a further update at our AGM.



HIGHGATE HOUSE IS RE-OPENING!

We are excited to offer a new all day menu including:
Breakfast | Brunch | Lunch | Afternoon Tea | Dinner

Come on in and explore our extensive grounds, Bar, Restaurant
& Sports Lounge.

HAPPY HOUR 5.30PM – 6.30PM

SEE OUR MENUS & BOOK:
WWW.SUNDIALGROUP.COM/ALL-DAY-DINING

HIGHGATE HOUSE, GROOMS LANE, CREATON, NORTHAMPTON. NN6 8NN
01604 505505 | highgate@sundialgroup.com

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**

Volunteers ^{always} Needed

Thank You To Our Young Volunteers!

Those of you who come into the shop at weekends will recognise the faces of young volunteers Adam and Daniel whose willingness to help on Saturday and Sunday mornings has meant that service has continued as normal over the recent difficult times.

We currently have around 5 young volunteers who offer their time to the village shop, although one or two of them have not been able to help out during the peak of the Covid-19 crisis from March till early July.

Recently, Ollie has joined the team, and covers occasional sessions when it's been a struggle to find cover for given shifts. We are looking forward to seeing Lottie again, and hope too that Alexia will be able to rejoin the team in the coming weeks.

All these young faces brighten the shop up, and the speed at which they learn the till and routines puts us "oldies" to shame. For young volunteers, the knowledge that experience in a retail environment is a positive attribute to include on their Personal Statements for university applications is a plus. And those who are pursuing the goals of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards are pleased to use their volunteering experience to tick one of the important boxes.

Customers and management team alike very much appreciate the input and energy of the youngest members in the team.

Thank you all so much!

Any youngsters, aged 14 or over, who would like to know more can contact Patsy Hollingum via email: volunteers@creatonvillageshop.co.uk. We can tell you more about the work, or put you in touch with another young person who can advise you, if you prefer.

Finding it difficult to get all the groceries you need?

We've got two options to help:

Pre-Order for Collection

PRE ORDER

We know it can be frustrating to make a shopping trip only to find that some of the items you want are out of stock. To minimise the chances of this happening, you can call us to pre-order your shopping, then collect it when you're ready. Just call us on **07789 828423** and we'll do the rest!



FREE Home Delivery

Are you too busy working, or stuck at home, or stuck in the traffic? Let us help take a bit of the stress out of your life by bringing your shopping to you. We offer free home delivery to Creaton and the surrounding villages, just call us on **07789 828423** to place your order

"It's like Aladdin's Cave!"

In a newly published video of Creaton Village Shop & Post Office, one customer remarked that it was amazing what you can find. "It's like Aladdin's Cave" said Cottesbrooke resident Derek Daw in one of two new videos to appear on YouTube.

This video, shot for CCBS by Jonathan Harris, includes several customers giving their verdict on the shop and its services.

The other video is a tour of the shop to help those people stuck at home who want to see what delights line the shelves. Many of those locked down recently have found the video a great help when planning their order for the FREE home delivery.

To find these new videos, go to YouTube and search for Creaton Village Shop. You can also follow the links from Facebook and the website.



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