

Sparsholt APM Shop Report

Report from Sparsholt Village Shop and Post Office – 2024 Parish Meeting

On behalf of the Shop and Post Office's Management Committee and so on behalf of the village, remembering that our shop owned by the shareholders in the village, I am delighted to report that the shop continues to thrive and continues to focus on serving the village as a key part of our social structure and our way of life.

Janette and Fiona and their amazing team, the vast majority of whom are volunteers, work hard to sell a wide range of good and healthy products and produce, much of which is locally sourced (have you tried sour dough Saturdays ?) and also to provide accessible and convenient post office services and to do all that in a friendly, helpful and price conscious way.

So thank you to Janette and Fiona certainly but our ability to do this more broadly is in no small way due to the support of the village. So thank you to anyone who volunteers in any capacity. Some people serve in the shop, some take cardboard away, some go the cash and carry, some go to the fruit and veg wholesaler, some do book keeping and accounts, some make sandwiches and soups, some serve on your Committee – all in all several 10s of people who do all manner of things and who give of their time and energy to enable your shop to be what it is. It is literally a case of 'We could not do it without you !'

I should also, though, thank you, the village, our shoppers ! Whilst we welcome all our customers, and actually we do quite well from passing trade or workmen in the village, our core business is from the village. So, thank you for your custom, your ideas, your loyalty, your chat, your updates on village life – we do a roaring trade in keeping an eye out for people who need a hand in some way ! We are always keen to attract new and more custom so please keep coming, and indeed encourage others to come as well.

So we are in a good place – financially stable, quite literally at the heart of the village and absolutely village focused but we are always looking for ways to improve our ability to continue be a great village shop so if you have a few hours you would like to give to the shop in some way, to volunteer in some way or if you have a great idea of how we could improve or make a change or two, please let Janette or me know. No one has a monopoly on good ideas and we would welcome yours.

Take care and see you in the shop.

Alastair Barron
Chairman pf the Shop Management Committee
