

Wilstone Community Shop

Run by the community, for the community

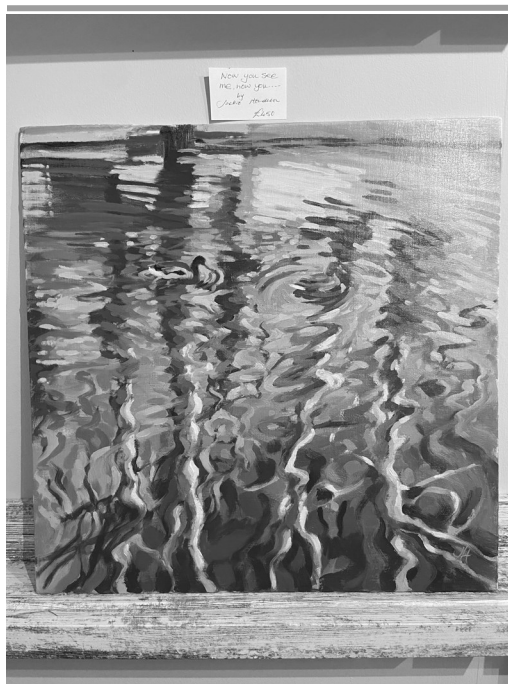
We aim to serve the Community by:

Tel: 01442 –891167

- keeping prices fair
- Offering a wide range of goods and services
- Stocking home-made and local produce
- Being a place where people like to shop and volunteers like to work



2021 in review



Now you see me, now you ...
By Jackie Henderson

Extract from the Chairman's Report at this year's Annual Members' Meeting

Well 2021 certainly started off much as 2020 ended, in lockdown! Once again we were back to opening for just 3 hours a day with a core group of volunteers. Our thanks to everyone who contributed over this time, having that solid support enabled us to keep open and continue to offer a vital service to our local community not just in goods but in social support at such a stressful time. Ali has continued to do an amazing job in ensuring we met all the COVID guidance, adapting swiftly as changes occurred – and there certainly were many! – Whilst at the same time keeping the shop stocked when she couldn't tell from week to week what would be available. Thankfully, as the year progressed life did become easier and we moved back to normal opening hours. Product availability remained unpredictable and currently we are also facing serious price increases, so shopping around for the best deals is even more important. A big thank you as always to all of our volunteers, you have once again been amazing. Last year was a really big one for us, coping with the issues thrown up by the pandemic, fund raising for the shop redevelopment, and then the big one, the redevelopment itself, has involved a huge number of people in so many different ways. We are so, so proud of you all and what has been achieved.

One difficult decision was to cease newspaper deliveries at the end of October. We had been faced with the need to recruit someone to this role 3 times in just over a year. The situation was becoming increasingly stressful and there was also a constant need to have people prepared to fill delivery gaps when they occurred so in the end ceasing deliveries became the sensible thing to. But on a more positive note it has been lovely seeing so many of our newspaper customers on a more regular basis when they come in to pick up their papers. We are confident that, overall, taking this decision has proved to be a good one keeping us in contact with our customers and more aware of arising issues.

Being a volunteer is such a rewarding thing to do. I have found it particularly so in the last two years, as being busy and feeling of use has made a real difference. We are always delighted to welcome new volunteers; it doesn't always mean serving in the shop, working behind the scenes is just as vital.

But of course the main event for us last year was finally achieving our goal of securing the long term future of the shop for the village...Most definitely something we can all be very proud of. We now have a lovely new shop and security into the future, something definitely worth applauding. You'll hear more about the finances from Jonathan & Doug but in the end, thanks to some very generous grants from local benefactors and some amazing discounts from the suppliers we used, we were able to come in well under budget. This has left us with a fighting fund which will definitely aid us as we face the next challenging period with inflation and price increases certainly adding to our costs.

We were able to finish the year on a very positive note by once again being able to host a Christmas Dinner for some of the more mature members of our community.

Looking to the future we are now turning our attention to the last piece of work to be done, tidying up and making the best use we can of our outside space. It's not big but we hope to make it as attractive and usable as we can. We are also hoping to use the new space created in the shop to provide even more of a social hub for villagers as soon as the pandemic allows. Other than that, for the time being, we are focused on dealing with all that the current economic climate and the, hopefully, tail end of the pandemic throws at us. **To read the full piece go to our website at www.wilstonecommunityshop.org.uk**

Mothering Sunday - 27 March



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