

Seasons Greetings

Roadwater Village Community Shop Limited



December 2018

Santa has completed the Christmas tree countdown, the first carols have been sung, panto is imminent, Advent Windows are going up day by day and our local artists have filled their shop display with Christmas greetings cards.

May we extend Season's Greetings to you all from everyone here.



Shop staff with Christmas goodies

It has been a very busy Autumn for staff and volunteers. We have two new members of staff, who have just completed the initial stages of training for post office assistants. We welcome to the shop floor Debbie and Lynne, both already well-known in the village.

There have been changes to staff hours and this new routine takes a while to settle so please bear with us. With Steve's help, Sarah is running essential safety training for all staff and volunteers this month, while Nancy, as volunteer duty co-ordinator, has worked to recruit the extra support required for the busy December period.



Chocolates and cards



The management committee also remains busy. Our CBS has now been trading from July 1st which has enabled us to apply to HMRC for Social Investment Tax Relief forms. We will forward these forms to those members who requested them as part of their CBS share application, as soon as they are received.

We are continuing the fundraising effort for next year's development and refurbishment of the shop. This development effort was given approval by 93% of respondents in our survey, with 94% saying that they supported the idea of an extension to house a café area as a new 'community hub' for the village and local area.

Furthermore, we have enjoyed the most positive response after our first meeting with the board of Somerset Small Enterprise Fund. We will be appearing before them again at County Hall, Taunton, on Friday, January 18th. We have been told that a decision will follow immediately after the morning's presentations. We expect to know the outcome during the following week.

Before our final presentation to SSEF **we would like to invite you along to the village hall on Wednesday, 9th January 2019 at 7 pm**, to hear the case we are making for this social investment, which includes a 5-year loan, from SSEF. In addition to SSEF we are also applying to a range of other local and national funding bodies, each of which has its own processes and boards of directors to persuade.





Smith Roberts Associates, our architects for building plans, have been kept busy with local consultation, liaising with shop staff and members of the committee, overseeing a topographical survey of the forecourt and a full measured survey of the shop, ahead of drafting final plans for Exmoor National Park, (including plans for the installation of solar pv panels which Exmoor Trust have approved for funding – our thanks to them!) Our plans will be going forward within the next week, having been through pre-planning consideration.



Meanwhile the amazing work in the shop continues and is appreciated by our customers. Encouragingly, 90% of our development survey respondents said 'Yes' to the question 'Can you imagine doing more of your shopping at Roadwater Shop in the future?' We think that we are already seeing an increase in the number of customer visits which suggests that shoppers are happy with the great local service provided by our staff and volunteers.

To everyone who shops with us, thank you, and we hope that you will continue to help us to make improvements to the services we provide.

If you have ideas for improvements we can make, or ways in which we can help local people who may be unwell or experiencing difficulty getting to the shop, please let us know.

As a community benefit society, we have two priorities:

- The first is to ensure that we provide a service which is a benefit to everyone who lives in our community;
- The second is to ensure that the business remains viable so that it is able to continue to provide this benefit for all.



Your shopping and support, *plus* your ideas and suggestions are absolutely essential to our Society's success and to the success of our future plans.

From everyone on the committee, staff and volunteers, we wish you all good health, friendship, plus an offer of whatever support the shop and post office service can provide you with throughout the winter.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and, to all members, thank you for bringing the village shop into community ownership as a facility that is now 'locked' for good as a community asset.



For our survey results go to www.roadwatercommunityshop.co.uk Under the Development tab there are two documents, one for Yes/No analysis, and the other for comments received.

You can also follow the shop on www.facebook.com/shophubexmoor

