



## August 2023 News Update for CBS Members

The summer holidays are passing with increased speed and it's hoped that the children are enjoying plenty of summer fun despite the varied weather we've been having. At least the rain is keeping the flowers fresh and colourful. The many plants in the shop garden have made a wonderful show, thanks to our devoted gardening team.



In keeping with the season, you may have noticed the new and well stocked ice cream freezer just inside the shop, a replacement for the old and inefficient model we had before and a source of temptation for children, grandchildren and all of us! We have also replaced big chest freezer in the shop (the one in the corner by the upright freezers) and the drinks chiller, which regularly leaked water all over the floor. These are all modern, energy efficient models, therefore should help reduce our electricity consumption, in keeping with our aim of minimising our environmental impact as well as reducing overhead costs. So far, we have weathered the surge in prices quite well, maintaining modest profitability.

This is largely due to our loyal customers' continued support of the shop and café, and the fact that holiday visitors have been glad to use a local service. Our fixed electricity tariff, which ends in November this year, has also been a great help. We therefore felt comfortable to invest in this much needed new equipment and to increase the wages of our dedicated staff.

As reported in our last newsletter, we have initiated a community grant scheme, the latest award being to the Roadwater Players for equipment. It is great that we can support them in providing the excellent entertainment that we all enjoy and acknowledge the enormous amount of hard work they put in entails. This brings the total to four awards this year, the other recipients being the community car scheme, the youth cricket club and Luxborough gym. We hope to offer another round in the autumn, if finances allow. Details will be available later if we feel able to do this.

New developments in the Post Office service are the availability of travel cards and initiation of an Amazon return service, which means you can conveniently drop off any items to be returned to Amazon and they will be safely recorded and collected. Some of you may be aware that Camelot will no longer be running the National Lottery nor will it be linked to the Post Office as it is at present. A company called Allwyn will be taking over the franchise and we have been in

correspondence with them about the handover which is planned for the end of January 2024. We anticipate that this service will continue smoothly.

Our cafe has continued to be well patronised, both by local residents and visitors. The new seating arrangement has proved a huge success, more convenient and much appreciated by both customers and staff. The loyalty cards are also well used with an average of 38 cards exchanged for free drinks each month.



Our coffee and cake offer is very popular along with other favourites, especially croissants on a Sunday.

Talking of food, we were delighted to be invited to participate in the Somerset Food Trail in July (<https://www.somersetfoodtrail.org/>). This celebrates the best, most sustainably produced local food and is the first of its kind; as a countywide event focused specifically on more nature-friendly farmers and artisan producers, who are leading the transition to regenerative, 'agroecological' farming, to cut emissions, restore wildlife and produce better, tastier, more nourishing food.



Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm in the village hall. Further details will be sent out nearer the time, but meanwhile, two of the Committee members are coming to the end of their three years. They may wish to stand again, but there is the opportunity for others to come forward to generate an election. If you think you have useful skills to offer and would like to be involved, please contact us on [cbsroadwater@gmail.com](mailto:cbsroadwater@gmail.com) or talk to a committee member. More details will be available later.

Once again, many thanks to staff, volunteers and customers for all your hard work and support,

*Mary, Cherry, Simon, Di, Karl, Sheila, Claire and Bruce*