



## December 2023 News Update for CBS Members



As Christmas is almost upon us again, we hope you have seen the wonderful display of festive goods in the shop to put you in the right mood – I am told that Jen’s Pantry mince pies are The Best, especially those with crumble topping! Vouchers of £5 and £10 are also available as practical Christmas gifts, please ask staff in the shop for details. Just beside the Christmas display you will also see a beautiful

hamper of local goodies, the prize for a raffle in aid of the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance. For just £1 you can enter your name into a square to give you a number for the draw on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, a chance to win this lovely treat.



Apart from Christmas day, when we are closed all day, we will be opening every day over the Christmas/ New Year period, though for limited hours, as shown at the end of this newsletter and on the website [here](#). There are also notices in the shop, so you know when you can stock up on essentials you have unexpectedly run out of. The café will also be open daily apart from Christmas day, Boxing day and New Year’s day for a cup of coffee and a nibble if you need to escape the mayhem at home.



In November our afternoon tea social event for volunteers was a great success, thanks to Jen’s Pantry for providing a wonderful spread of tempting sweet and savoury items. It was a lovely chance to meet and chat and around 50 volunteers did just that. This event is a small token of our huge appreciation of all that volunteers do, in myriad ways, to keep the

shop and café running, often adjusting their shifts at the last minute when something unforeseen happens.



More good news and good publicity came in the form of an article in the recent edition of the magazine Somerset Life, in which we are mentioned as Plastic free Business Champions for Exmoor National Park. You can see a copy of the article by Simone Stanbrooke-Byrne on our website [here](#), or buy the magazine. Simone

explains how Exmoor became the first national park to achieve the status of a plastic free community, with the help of local business partners such as ourselves, and features a number of these, including our shop and café. With the current focus on the urgent need to address climate change, it feels like a special achievement to be part of such a worthy enterprise.

*We are the*  
**PLASTIC-FREE  
CHAMPIONS!**

Last year, Exmoor became the first UK National Park to achieve the status of plastic-free community.

**SIMONE STANBROOK-BYRNE** learns how this has been achieved

Another couple of recent changes, which you may have noticed, one being the new log-store and newspaper stand outside the shop, which I think you will agree looks much tidier and will keep the logs dry. The other is a new signpost to the shop at the end of Station Road, which is intended to encourage walkers on the Coleridge Way to visit us. We are also preparing for the change in Lottery franchise as Camelot will no longer be managing this and the Post Office will no longer be involved. A company called Allwyn will take over from January. We are told this will make no difference to users and you will be able to purchase Lottery tickets and scratch cards in the same way as before.

Once again, we are pleased to have been able to award a community grant to the youth club to enable them to include more activities for the growing number of youngsters who attend. Provided finances allow, we hope to continue offering grants to local projects that meet our criteria for social impact in the community. Next year there will be only one round, probably in September, with publicity well in advance.

Unfortunately, the recent persistent and heavy rain has led to rainwater coming through the skylights in the shop intermittently. Further investigation has identified places where the seal has come away and flashing has lifted, so this needs to be addressed urgently before there is further damage. Scaffolding has therefore been booked for 7<sup>th</sup> December to enable a roofer to do the work. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but the shop will remain open as normal.

Once again, many thanks to staff, volunteers and customers for all your hard work and support, wishing you all a happy Christmas and may 2024 bring good things for all (heaven knows, the world needs that!)

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

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Here are the opening times for the shop, café and Post Office over the Christmas and New Year period.

|                         | <b>Shop</b>    | <b>Café</b>    | <b>Post Office</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Christmas Eve (Sun)     | 9:00—2:00      | 9:00—1:00      | Closed             |
| Christmas Day (Mon)     | Closed         | Closed         | Closed             |
| Boxing Day (Tues)       | 10:00—12:00    | Closed         | Closed             |
| Wed 27 – Fri 29 Dec     | 8:00—5:30      | 10:00—2:00     | 9:00—4:30          |
| Saturday 30 Dec         | 8:00—5:30      | 10:00—2:00     | 9:00—12:30         |
| New Year's Eve (Sun)    | 9:00—2:00      | 10:00—2:00     | Closed             |
| New Year's Day (Mon)    | 10:00—2:00     | Closed         | Closed             |
| From Tue 2 January 2024 | Normal Opening | Normal Opening | Normal Opening     |