



APRIL 2026 NEWS UPDATE FOR CBS MEMBERS

Spring is finally here, and in keeping with the brighter weather, the shop and café have been spruced up with a new coat of paint. Hopefully you have noticed how fresh and clean it all looks. We appreciate your tolerance for the disturbance caused during the week the painting was happening, and most importantly thank the staff and volunteers for coping so well with the extra work entailed in clearing up each day so that we could provide service (more or less) as usual.

Volunteer tea



As promised, the volunteer tea went ahead in February, with delicious food provided by Jen's Pantry. It was a chance for people to connect as, although they all work for the shop or café, their different shifts mean there is little opportunity to meet and talk. Once again Jennifer Duke, Deputy Lieutenant for Somerset, came to support us and expressed her appreciation for the work that volunteers do to make community enterprises, such as our shop, the success they are. She spoke of visiting other

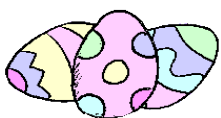
community enterprises in Somerset which are often struggling through difficulties recruiting volunteers, whereas Roadwater continues to thrive.



Somerset community shops meeting

Two of us from the Management Committee attended the fourth meeting of the Somerset Community shops group, this time in Seavington St Mary. Once again, it was a great opportunity for sharing good ideas and solutions to common problems. A particular point discussed was the idea of joint ordering from the bigger suppliers in order to get a better deal. A representative from Plunkett was there to give us some updates on potential legislative changes that could affect community businesses and how we can review our society rules in order to remain up to date and fully compliant with the law.

Easter Egg hunt



On Easter Monday (6 April) we are organising an Easter Egg hunt on the recreation ground. Children can collect a trail sheet with clues from the shop from 10.00 am and enjoy the thrill of the hunt, returning to the shop to collect their prize when they have found the ten tokens. Meanwhile parents can retire to the coffee shop to relax and enjoy a coffee.

Promoting our Green credentials

Don't forget you can do your bit towards reducing the mountains of plastic waste we produce by using the shop milk refill service. We have regular deliveries of milk (whole and semi-skimmed) from Trewithen Dairy in Cornwall, and you can check the expiry date on the front of the dispenser. It is easy to use, but please ask staff for help if you are unsure. Note it is also cheaper, at 70p per half-litre (Tesco 85p in plastic bottles). A one-litre refill is £1.10 and if you buy two it is £1.90, whereas the milk in plastic bottles is £1.25 for 1 litre and £2.00 for a 2-litre bottle.

Also, please don't forget to use the household cleaning Fill products. Again, help is available if you find the dispensers too stiff, and we can provide used containers if you don't have your own. We will be reviewing the range offered, so please let us know if you have any suggestions for additional products. And by the way, the scouring powder in the big tin is very effective, although you may not have noticed it. Ask staff for a mini-jar to fill as a free trial and there are instructions for use.

We would also love to offer some dried food refills, but currently don't have the storage capacity. We will continue to review the situation. Turnover in order to retain freshness would also be an issue.



Hopefully you have seen the new range of cards in the display rack down at the café end. These are from a new supplier and provide a full range of attractive cards with and without targeted messages (see photo). We also have an increased range of gifts, so do pop in if you are stuck for ideas – you will find them near the entrance (see photo of a sample tea towel below).

Finally, once again we would like to say a huge thank-you to all the staff and volunteers who put so much into making the shop the success it is. We always need more volunteers to help in either the shop or the café, so if you are interested, please contact us on cbsroadwater@gmail.com or speak to someone in the shop or café.



Opening hours over the holiday period

Good Friday: Post office closed; shop and café normal hours

Saturday: Normal hours

Easter Sunday: Shop 10.00 am to 1.00 pm; café and PO closed

Easter Monday: Shop 9.00 am to 4.00 pm; PO closed; Café 9.00 am to 2.30 pm

Bruce, Mary, Cherry, Tony, Di, Karl, Sheila and Helen