



Woodgreen Community Shop Newsletter

Christmas Orders

We are taking orders for your turkeys, meat and all other items as follows:

Turkey/Meat Orders by:	Fri 4 th December
Fruit/Veg Orders by:	Fri 11 th December
Bread Orders by:	Fri 11 th December
Milk/Cream Orders by:	Fri 11 th December

Christmas Opening Times

Mon 21st December	8.00am – 6.00pm
Tues 22nd December	8.00am – 6.00pm
Wed 23rd December	8.00am – 6.00pm
Thurs 24th December	8.00am – 1.00pm
Fri 25th December	CLOSED
Sat 26th December	CLOSED
Sun 27th December	8.00am – 11.00am
Mon 28th December	8.00am – 11.00am
Tues 29th December	8.00am – 6.00pm
Wed 30th December	8.00am – 6.00pm
Thurs 31st December	8.00am – 4.00pm
Fri 1st January 2021	CLOSED
Sat 2nd January	8.00am – 5.00pm

There will be no newspapers on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Shop Rules

In order to keep our staff, volunteers and customers as safe as possible, please:

1. Do not visit the shop if you have a persistent cough or fever.
2. Wear a mask or face covering unless you have a medical exemption. Spray and wipes are available to use on baskets or your hands.
3. Do not enter if there are 3 customers in the shop, or 2 at the PO counter. Please wait outside until you are called when someone leaves.
4. Keep right as you come into the shop and travel around it in an anticlockwise direction. We've divided up the shop into 2m squares using tape. If someone is already in a square, please don't enter it until they move on.

Stay safe and thank you for your co-operation!

The Managers' bit



Christmas is looming and it will be a bit different for everyone this year. But we are trying to 'keep calm and carry on' here in the shop.

We have all our usual lovely Christmas goodies for you – cheese from Crook and Churn, Lyburn and Book and Bucket as well as turkeys from Hale Pig and Poultry and other meat from Hale and Prices. The trout pate from the New Forest Smokery is very popular this time of year, too.

We have a selection of Christmas biscuits and chocolates, including the delicious New Forest Chocolates.

We have plenty of mince pies – the regular size, miniature, as well as fresh mince pies from Cottage Loaf and even gluten free mince pies.

Don't forget all the special extras, too – the chilli jams, savoury nibbles and Toukie's fudge.

Barbara will be selling her beautiful bulbs – they make a great Christmas gift. We also have some lovely wooden candle holders and bowls, local lavender bags and a great selection of Christmas cards, wrapping paper and gift bags.

We have our wonderful Woodgreen calendars again – they make fantastic gifts and don't forget one for yourself!

We are taking orders for meat, vegetables, cheese and other dairy, so please let us know what you need.

We wish you a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year

Sue and Katy

Post Office News

Workin' 9 to 5

Stop the press! We are delighted to announce the most fabulous news if you haven't already heard. On 2nd November, Woodgreen Post Office started a trial of no longer closing at lunchtime during the week. "Working 9 to 5, what a way to make a living" as Dolly Parton sang to us in 1980. Well that's us indeed. Opening at 9, closing at 5, an all new non-stop service. As Dolly Parton also sang "9 to 5, for service and devotion". Well that's us too, we're all over that. No longer might you find yourself caught out coming when we're closed on lunch break. By dropping the lunchtime closure we're giving you an extra hour every weekday to get your items of post to us before our cut-off times. Saturday remains unchanged at 9am to 1pm.

Christmas Opening Times

Christmas Eve sees the Post Office close at 1pm. We'll then be closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Monday 28th (that's a 4-day mini-break for us), returning for business on Tues 29th December.

On New Year's Eve, the Post Office will close at 1pm. After we have waved goodbye to 2020 and welcomed in 2021 the Post Office will re open on Saturday 2nd January 2021.

Last Recommended Posting Dates

Royal Mail has published a guide "Delivering Christmas" you can pick up from us detailing all you need to know. However, since printing this guide, Royal Mail has had to bring forward by one week the last recommended posting date for New Zealand & Australia. It is now Friday 4th December NOT Friday 11th December. This is because of significant delays due to exceptionally high volume and new checks by border agencies.

International Standard (formerly Airmail) & all International Tracking and Signature services:

4 th	Fri	New Zealand & Australia
9 th	Wed	Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Middle & Far East, Central & Southern America
10 th	Thurs	Cyprus, Malta
11 th	Fri	Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic, Poland & Slovakia), Greece & Turkey
12 th	Sat	Canada, Finland, USA, Czech Republic, Italy, Poland & Sweden
16 th	Wed	Austria, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain Switzerland
18 th	Fri	France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Ireland

UK:

18 th	Fri	2nd Class, 2nd Class Signed For
21 st	Mon	1st Class, 1 st Class Signed For,
22 nd	Tues	Parcelforce Express 48
23 rd	Wed**	Special Delivery Guaranteed, Parcelforce Express 24, Express AM

** This is the very last chance to ensure your item arrives at its UK destination in time for the big day. Do you really want to cut it that fine? It's all about planning ahead this year in particular.

Christmas Stamps 2020

This year's designs showcase the traditional nativity stained glass art adorning windows of Anglican churches across the country. They are bright, bold, colourful images reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas.



Cut-off Times

We need to prioritise getting the post ready to dispatch at these specific times. So for Royal Mail (letters, cards and small parcels both inland and international), the last acceptance time is 4pm on weekdays and 10:30am on Saturdays. For larger parcels going with Parcelforce, the last acceptance time is significantly earlier at 2:30pm on weekdays. There are no Parcelforce collections on Saturdays. So if your item/s need to leave Woodgreen and start their journey that day, you need to be with us ahead of these cut-off times to allow for queuing, processing and making payment.

Posting Advice

To ensure the safety of your items, please make sure they are packaged securely. We sell an extensive range of packaging materials in the shop including brown paper, parcel tape, 'FRAGILE' parcel tape, padded envelopes, bubble wrap, posting bags and posting boxes.

Always write the recipient's address clearly. If you are unsure of the postcode for your item, look it up at www.royalmail.com/find-a-postcode or ask us. And write a sender's name and address on the item too.

Remember: if a card or letter for the UK is larger than 240mm x 165mm x 5mm, you need to pay the *Large Letter* price. And it is recommended to have cards for international services weighed to ensure the right postage is applied.

The regulations to identify items that are prohibited from posting, known as Dangerous Goods, have been with us for many years now and you should be familiar with us asking you about the contents of your parcel. Many everyday items including perfumes, nail varnish and aerosols come under these regulations. It is important to know the contents of any packages you are posting, particularly if you are posting on behalf of someone else. We have leaflets in the shop that explain the detail or, for more information, visit: www.postoffice.co.uk/mail/what-can-i-send

Post Office News/*continued*

Local Collect

Some of you may be unaware of Royal Mail's fabulous service known as "Local Collect".

This is a great way of having your on-line shopping delivered to us for you to collect at a convenient time for you. Just look out for Local Collect as a delivery option when you shop on line. This is a free service and to find out more about it visit www.postoffice.co.uk/mail/collection-services.

Pressie Ideas

I have got to mention our amazing Gift Cards, One4All, that come in a range of delightful Christmas designs. These make the most fantastic present. You simply choose a design and how much you wish to load onto the card and we do the rest. The recipient of the gift card can then choose to redeem them in over 100 different stores including M&S, Boots, John Lewis, Argos, B&Q & Waterstones, to name a few. And they can spend some of your gift in one store and then some more of it in another and online too. So much choice. They really do offer something for everyone and are proving increasingly popular for present buying solutions.

And for a fantastic stocking filler or to pop inside a card, how about a Christmas themed National Lottery Scratchcard or two? Or a lucky dip on one of the National Lottery games and we also sell the Health Lottery?

A Message from Father Christmas himself

"The elves are making toys. The reindeer are practising their sleigh runs. And I'm busy preparing my list of who's been good this year. I will be getting my sleigh ready for the long journey on Christmas Eve and in between I will try to reply to as many of you as possible. Please send your letters to:

Santa
Santa's Grotto
Reindeerland
XM4 5HQ

P.S. It needs to be sent by 11 December and must be stamped and include your name, address and postcode so I can reply. Happy Christmas to you all...HO HO HO!"

Good Tidings of Great Joy

I have got to thank all our loyal customers and our new ones this year for your continued use and support of our Post Office. What would we do without you? We have amazing staff, excellent car parking and we are doing our best to keep you safe during your visit to us.

We are gearing up to be exceptionally busy this year. Going into the Christmas period Downton and Ringwood town centres are without post offices. We are expecting much increased demand for our Post Office services here in Woodgreen.

"A line of people awaiting their turn to be attended to" – that is the definition of a queue. We have had a fair bit of practice at queuing over recent months and in a socially distanced way too. All I ask is that you keep up that good work and be patient with us and with each other safe in the knowledge that we will be doing our best to get you all served.

Finally, may I send you, our customers and all in your households good tidings of great joy. Wishing all a peaceful festive time and a happy and healthy new year from all of us, Claudia, Devora, Ella, Sue and myself.

Nikki

Crazy Christmas Draw!

Our Christmas prize draw is now open! It costs £1 per entry. There will be lots of prizes, as usual, with the top prizes being a £100 John Lewis voucher, an Xmas food hamper (worth £50) and a decorated Xmas cake. The draw will take place in the shop on Monday 21st December at 12 noon.

Next time you're at the till, with some loose change, why not invest it wisely in the Christmas Draw!

Sue and Katy

Not any old Port In our Shop!

No, it's those brilliant Krohn Ports again. Remember our Tasting Extravaganza in April 2018 when we finished off the evening (or was it finished you off?) with a range of Krohn Ports? Mind you, our Tasting Evenings are like they say about the 60s; "if you remember them you really weren't there!"

Well, we have brought back a selection of Krohn Ports for you this Christmas and what's more, at the same price as two years ago: the rich & full Ruby Port at £9.99, the fruity & elegant barrel aged Tawny at £10.99 (lovely served just chilled), a rich & smooth Late Bottled vintage 2013 for £12.99; and finally, in an attractive wooden box, one of the famous Krohn Colheitas.

This year, we have chosen the 1999 Colheitas which is a perfect example of the exceptional quality produced from their flagship Douro property. We can let you have it for £23.99. Why shop anywhere else for your Port this Christmas?



And another scoop!

Destined for some of the better restaurants in France & the UK but now finding its way to our shelves, we have a fine white wine from Southern Burgundy, next to Pouilly Fuissé. The 'Domaine de la Creuze Noir Saint-Veran' normally retails for at least £18.99. Thanks to the quick reactions of Graham (our wine merchant) in securing some cases, we can offer this at the brilliant price of £13.99. Not to miss out, some of you may wish to pre-order.

Finally, do I need to remind you that we have gained the well-deserved reputation for being able to offer the most attractive range of really drinkable wines in the £6.99 to £7.99 price bracket for miles around. Stay local and enjoy responsibly!!

Ron

Woodgreen Calendar 2021

For the dawning of the new Millennium, Woodgreen embarked on an ambitious project to document and photograph all of the village's houses and residents. The result was the Woodgreen Millennium Album. It was a hugely impressive achievement. Along with other archive material, the album was stored away in the Village Hall and, in the two decades since, it has been largely forgotten.

In a year when the activities of everyone, including calendar creators, have been seriously restricted, we thought this would make a great theme for our 2021 Calendar. What have been the big changes in the last two decades? As always, people have moved into and out of the village, children have grown up and, sadly, some much loved residents have passed away. The rest of us have clearly aged, with the evidence there for all to see! We hope you enjoy this peek into the past and apologise profusely for exposing any weathering you may have suffered in the intervening years!

Steve

Cheese

Whatever your taste, we are sure to be able to accommodate it, so look no further for stocking your Christmas cheeseboard. Three of our main suppliers are **Crook and Churn**, based in North Dorset and trading since 1983; **Book and Bucket**, which launched in January 2019 and is based in Cranborne and **Lyburn**, situated just a few miles away in Landford.

Book and Bucket makes a dozen or so cheeses including **Blyton** – a rich and creamy brie, made using 100% cow's milk and with wonderful mushroom notes - and **Hardy's** – a Dorset Hard Cheese (very similar to a mature Manchego) aged for around 9 months which gives it a delicious nutty sweetness. They also make **Smokey Burns**, a Dorset Oak Smoked Halloumi, cold-smoked for 15 hours over oak chips that are dampened down with scrumpy cider.



Lyburn's **Garlic and Nettle** is one of our best-selling cheeses. It's a really well balanced cheese with ingredients including chives, parsley, paprika and horseradish, and nettle, giving the cheese a touch of colour. **Old Winchester** is reminiscent of an old Gouda and has a distinct nuttiness in flavour, which can be used as a table cheese but also as a vegetarian replacement for a hard Italian cheese. **Stoney Cross**, named after the old WW2 airfield, is a young cheese, similar to a French Tomme de Savoie and is creamy, buttery in texture with sweet flavours and a distinctly earthy finish.

Crook and Churn's **Dorset Blue Vinny** is made at Woodbridge Farm in Sturminster Newton. 'Blue Vinny' was once made in every farmhouse in Dorset until production stopped during WW2 but Woodbridge Farm resurrected a 300-year-old recipe and has been making it for over 40 years. **Applewood**, is a traditional farmhouse Cheddar with a delicate smoky flavour and a lovely smooth texture, finished with a dusting of paprika.

The majority of the cheeses sold are suitable for vegetarians. We also have an excellent supply of goat's and sheep's cheese, including **Rosary** – a mild and creamy fresh cheese made from pasteurised goat's milk.

Alix



Woodgreen Calendar 2021



Twenty Years On - Then and Now Delving into the Woodgreen Millennium Album



On behalf of the Committee

Without wishing to be too dramatic – what a year!

All of us on the Committee would like to thank our loyal customers for their continued support of the shop and Post Office throughout 2020. We have been through some tough times and had to make difficult decisions on reducing opening hours, not to mention limiting our sales of flour and loo rolls! As I write this, we are in lockdown No.2 and we now find ourselves preparing for Woodgreen Shop Christmas a little differently – no shopping evening, hot sausages, mulled wine or carol singers but we will still try to celebrate with our fantastic raffle and lots of Christmas food and gifts available to buy.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all our team – staff and volunteers – you remain the backbone of our continued success in such challenging times.

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a safe and healthy 2021

Julia, on behalf of the Committee

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