

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 6 th December
Fruit/Veg Orders by:	Thurs 12 th December
Bread Orders by:	Thurs 12 th December
Milk/Cream Orders by:	Fri 13 th December

Christmas Opening Times

Sat 21st December	6.30am – 5.00pm
Sun 22nd December	6.30am – 11.00am
Mon 23rd December (turkey collection day)	6.30am – 7.00pm
Tues 24th December	6.30am – 1.00pm
Wed 25th December	CLOSED
Thurs 26th December	CLOSED
Fri 27th December	6.30am – 7.00pm
Sat 28th December	6.30am – 5.00pm
Sun 29th December	6.30am – 11.00am
Mon 30th December	6.30am – 7.00pm
Tues 31st December	6.30am – 4.00pm
Wed 1st January 2020	CLOSED

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

The Managers' bit

Well, it's that time of year again! We know how much you all look forward to Christmas, especially coming into our shop to stock up on all those extra special items.

This year, we have our usual lovely things including the famous New Forest Trout pate - sliced and smoked also. We will have delicious local free range turkeys from Hale Pig 'n' Poultry as well as a wide range of other meat from both Hale and Prices.

Make sure you get your orders in early. From the 1st December, we will have pigs in blankets and sausagemeat ready in the freezer. Gammon also, so buy these early for the freezer .., one less job to do at the last minute.

There will be a fine range of mince pies, Christmas cakes and chocolates. We also have the fabulous New Forest Chocolates which make a great gift - or just a treat for yourself.

For those "hard to buy for" people (we all have someone like this, don't we?) why not make them up a foodie gift basket? Olives, preserves, chutney, cheese, wine, chocs. All sure to go down well at Christmas and into gloomy January.

Ron may have retired from the committee but he will be making sure that we have a fine selection of wines for the season. Order a case at our Christmas shopping evening to get yourself a great discount.

What else do you need for the festive season? Christmas cards, wrapping, gift bags and ribbons. It will all be on sale. Note: some of our greetings cards will no longer have a cellophane wrapper as part of our continuing efforts to reduce plastic waste.

Gifts? The famous Woodgreen Calendar maybe, or potted bulbs, diaries, locally made wood products and some jingle bells and light-up pens for the children!

So now it's over to you to get planning. We are here to help in whatever way we can so don't forget to drop in and see us. We would, as always, like to thank you, our customers for your continued loyal support. Also a big thank you to all our staff, their partners and our team of volunteers for keeping our shop going.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2020.

Julie and Sue

Post Office News

Q1. Why did nobody bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay?

Q2. Why was the turkey in a band?

(Answers at the end of this article)

With the festive season fast approaching beware those awful cringeworthy Christmas cracker jokes. But before we get to the big day and all its traditions, there's a whole heap of work to be done.



This year's Christmas stamps return to the true meaning of Christmas, depicting images of the nativity story. In bright bold colours, they are determined to shine through all the commercialism that surrounds this time of year and remind us to care, to share, to give and to forgive.

This year, we are open on Christmas Eve until 1pm and then closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day at which point we will be exhausted and ready to kick back and put our feet up. We re-open for business on Friday 27th December. Likewise, on New Year's Eve, we will close at 1pm and re-open on Thursday 2nd January 2019.

Can I remind customers of the Post Office operating hours so you don't get caught out and miss us? Our times are different to the shop opening times:

Mon – Fri 9.00am – 1.00pm; 2.00pm - 5:30pm
Sat 9.00am – 1.00pm (last collection at 10.30am;
no ParcelForce collection on Saturdays).

Last Recommended Posting Dates

We have a guide "Delivering Christmas" you can pick up from the Post Office.

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

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

UK:

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

** This is your very last chance to ensure your item arrives at its destination in time for the big day.

Cut-off Times

Let's look at our cut off times for accepting post as we do need to prioritise getting the post ready to dispatch at these 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 items 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, make sure they are packaged securely. We sell an extensive range of packaging materials in the shop including brown paper, 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, ask us or look it up at www.royalmail.com/find-a-postcode. 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 some time now and you should be familiar with us asking you

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Christmas Open Evening

Once again, we will be hosting our famous Christmas Shopping evening. This year, it will be on Tuesday 3rd December from 6pm – 8pm.

There will be lots of yummy nibbles and live festive music from Roger Clements on accordion and Michael Bosanquet on guitar/banjo.

Tom Sheldon will be here with his friends to serve up his fantastic mulled wine.

The shop will have a wide range of goodies for your Christmas table to purchase on the night. Our beautiful 2020 calendar will be on sale.

We look forward to seeing you - bring your friends and neighbours - for a couple of hours of festive community spirit with Julie, Sue, Nikki and the team.



Post Office News/*continued*

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/uk-what-can-i-send

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 online shopping delivered to us for you to collect at a convenient time. Just look out for *Local Collect* as a delivery option when you shop online. This is a free service and to find out more about it visit www.royalmail.com/chooselocalcollect.

Pressie Ideas

Once again we can offer you a range of delightful Christmas designs on our amazing Gift Cards. 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 from over 100 different stores including M&S, Primark, Debenhams, Boots, John Lewis & TKMaxx to name a few, to go spend in. And they can spend some of your gift in one store and then some more of it in another. 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 National Lottery Scratchcard or two? We actually have Christmas designs this year! Or a lucky dip on one of the National Lottery games or how about trying the Health Lottery?

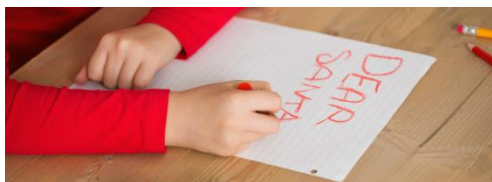
Banking Update

Post Office branches provide vital services for customers to carry out everyday banking. We are delighted that the bosses at Barclays Bank have decided to enable their customers to continue withdrawing cash from post offices beyond 8 January next year. An excellent decision. Their customers remain amongst those of 27 other banks who can withdraw cash, deposit cash and deposit cheques over the counter. The banking framework agreement is set to increase to 30 different banks in the very near future. Our Post Office - a convenient location to access cash for those extra spends at Christmas time.

So who's been naughty and who's been nice?

If you would like to write to Santa, send your letter to the North Pole using this address:

Santa
Santa's Grotto
Reindeerland
XM4 5HQ



It needs to be stamped and include your name, address and postcode so Santa can reply and so he knows exactly where you live for the busiest night of his year. He needs to receive them by 7 December, so get writing and posting and keep being good.

Festive Wishes

May I take this opportunity to thank all our loyal customers and our new ones this year for your continued use and support of our Post Office. We endeavour to give the best service we can and that together with our amazing staff, excellent car parking

and our fabulous shop surely makes us the only go to destination for all your needs this Christmas.

It sure is going to be a busy one this year. At the time of going to print, Downton has yet to get a replacement Post Office since the one on the A338 closed back in the summer. That is a lot of households needing to access an alternative post office. So we are expecting a significant increase in footfall this particular festive season. Please be understanding if we have a queue and rest assured we will be working as fast as we can to get everyone served.

Finally, it just remains for me to wish you all a very happy and peaceful festive time and a prosperous new year from all of us, Claudia, Devora, Ella and myself.

Nikki

PS And the answers to the Post Office Christmas Cracker jokes.....BECAUSE THEY WERE 2 DEER and HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WITH DRUMSTICKS

.....BOOM BOOM!!

Loyalty Cards

As many of you already know, we announced at the AGM that we have had to amend our loyalty scheme in order to help secure the future of our shop. For a number of years, this system has worked for some, but by no means for all of our customers – those with small regular spend below £10 per visit go unrewarded. We have reviewed the cost to shop, some £6k per year, and have concluded we can no longer sustain this level of reduction in our profit.

We are reminded almost weekly of the running costs for the building and the potential for major equipment replacements is always close to our heart- having recently had a lucky break with a repair to one of the refrigerator display units we know how vulnerable we could be. In addition, it has always been one of the aims of the shop to be able to support local causes and community initiatives and our current cash reserves simply do not allow this. So, the tough decision has been made to withdraw the current card scheme – some important dates for you are:

- 31st October 2019 last day cards will be issued.
- 31st January 2020 last day to receive a stamp.
- 31st July 2020 last day to redeem full cards.

However, it's not all doom and gloom! We are working hard on a new programme of targeted reductions and special offers which everyone can benefit from - no matter what the spend. We would like to be able to do this across a wide range of products to appeal to as many customers as possible. We are hoping to get some of our suppliers on board too so they can offer us promotions.

This is a 'work in progress' - please watch this space for more news in the coming months and a huge thank you for your continued support and understanding!

Julia

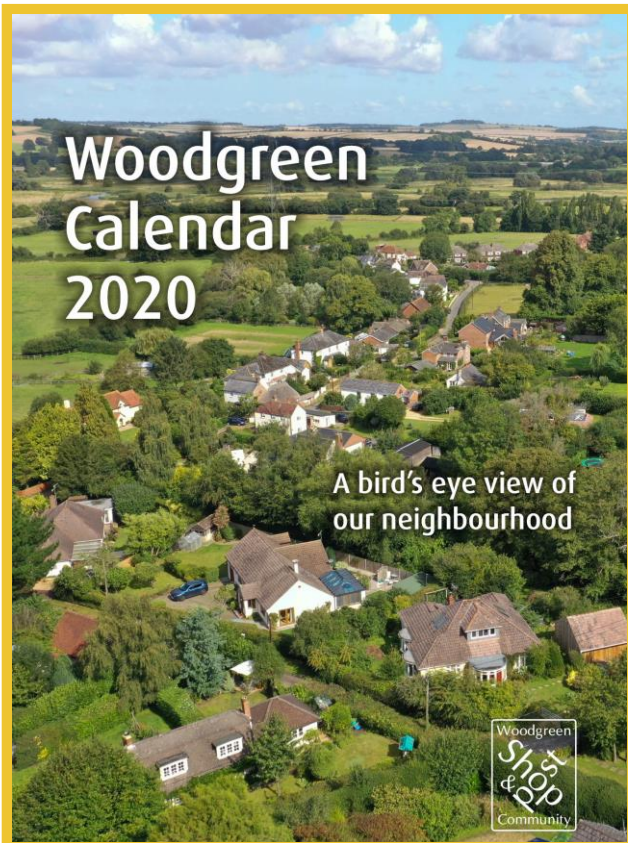
PS Look out for special offers at our Christmas Shopping Evening on Tuesday 3rd December (6-8pm)!

Woodgreen Calendar 2020

The 2020 Woodgreen calendar is now on sale. We've scaled new heights this year - 167 feet (51 metres) to be precise, just for the cover photo! For a few weeks this summer, Bill Shepley had a sophisticated drone to play with and it's enabled him to get some unusual and beautiful views of the village and surrounding area.

It's a challenging and stressful task coming up with something new and interesting for the shop calendar each year and Bill has decided to step down from his role as artistic director. His photographic skills have provided us with some fantastic and memorable calendars over the years and we will miss his ideas, talent and dedication.

Steve



Cheese!

Not only do we have our lovely local cheeses such as Dorset Blue, I.O.W Blue, and Lyburn but we also have Manchego, Godminster, Charcoal cheddar and a new range of local sheeps milk cheese from Book and Bucket. Add some fresh dates and nuts and you have a fabulous cheeseboard to finish your meal and all bought from your local shop. What could be easier!



Julie

Under New Management!

If you were unable to attend the recent Shop AGM you may not have realised that we have had a change of management at the very top...

After joining the WCSA Committee in 2008, and serving as Chairman since 2012, Ron Trevaskis has finally decided to hang up his honorary shop pinny. During this time, Ron managed the planning and building of the new shop and, since its opening, has overseen its growth to what we enjoy today.



Our new Chair is Julia Harding, who has already served on the committee for the past year. Julia says she is very much looking forward to carrying on the great work of recent years, building on the excellent foundations already in place, and is particularly pleased that Ron will still be seen driving the van to Ringwood to restock the shelves with his excellent choice of wines and beers.

For her part, Julia is determined to learn as much as possible about the day-to-day running of the shop and she can be seen serving customers on a Tuesday morning, proudly donning that shop pinny of course!

David

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 Friday 20th December.

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

Julie

Woodgreen Community Shop & Post Office

Hale Road
Woodgreen
Hampshire
SP6 2AJ

Note: we've got a new email address!

Telephone: 01725 512467
Email: office@woodgreenshop.org
www.woodgreencommunityshop.org

www.facebook.com/WoodgreenCommunityShop