

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 3 rd December
Fruit/Veg Orders by:	Fri 10 th December
Bread Orders by:	Fri 10 th December
Milk/Cream Orders by:	Fri 10 th December

Christmas Opening Times

Tues 21st December	8.00am – 6.00pm
Wed 22nd December	8.00am – 6.00pm
Thurs 23rd December	8.00am – 6.00pm
Fri 24th December	8.00am – 1.00pm
Sat 25th December	CLOSED
Sun 26th December	CLOSED
Mon 27th December	8.00am – 11.00am
Tues 28th December	8.00am – 11.00am
Wed 29th December	8.00am – 6.00pm
Thurs 30th December	8.00am – 6.00pm
Fri 31st December	8.00am – 4.00pm
Sat 1st January 2022	CLOSED
Sun 2nd January	8.00am – 11.00am
Mon 3rd January	8.00am – 11.00am
Tues 4th January	8.00am – 6.00pm

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. Although it is no longer compulsory, we ask you to 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 5 customers in the shop, or 2 at the PO counter. Please wait outside until you are called when someone leaves.

Stay safe and thank you for your co-operation!

The Manager's bit

It's that time of year again, how quickly the time has gone & what a year we have had.

Hopefully a more normal Christmas for us all this year? Preparations at Woodgreen Shop are under way, all is calm, all is bright. As always we have lots to offer (and let's hope that all our deliveries will be okay!).



We have lots of local produce available: trout paté, sourdough, an extensive selection of cheeses, New Forest Chocolates (made in Hale), and Summerdown Mints, made in Hampshire on their own mint farm. We are also lucky enough to sell Toukie's fudge, made in Woodgreen, which sells out so quickly.

Ron & David will be offering a great selection of wine, beer, port, and specialist locally-brewed ales. We will be having all our usual meats from Hale Pig'n'Poultry and Prices, various meats, Pigs in Blankets, Gammons, Hams. Barbara will be selling her lovely bulbs - a great Christmas gift - and we have a good selection of Christmas cards, wrapping paper, and gift cards. We have our wonderful Woodgreen calendars again, another great gift.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking our customers for their continued loyal support and a massive thank you to the committee, volunteers and staff. Undoubtedly, you have all kept the shop going.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Katy

Christmas.. is back!

We'll be holding our traditional late-night shopping evening on Tuesday December 7th from 4pm to 7pm. There'll be mulled wine and hotdogs, mince pies and nibbles, live music, and carol-singing with Hale's Angels. We'll have some special 'on the night' offers on wine and beer. And, of course, Tilly the Turkey will be there to take your final meat orders (subject to availability).

With Covid still around, we're not quite back to normal so we'll be holding most of the festivities outside in the car park – let's hope for good weather! We ask people to keep to the current shop rules (see opposite) particularly regarding numbers within the shop.

We hope to see you there!

Post Office News

Thursday Afternoon Closures

Until further notice, the post office will be closed on Thursday afternoons. Outside of the Christmas period, all other Post Office operating times remain the same and the Shop's opening hours are not affected by this change.

This decision has not been taken lightly; however due to staff shortages we need to protect the well-being of our current team and reduce our opening hours slightly. We intend to return to our normal hours as soon as staffing allows. We hope our loyal customers will understand and appreciate our current difficult situation.

Christmas Post Office Times

Christmas Eve sees the Post Office close at 1pm. We'll then be closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Monday 27th, and Tuesday 28th, returning for business on Wednesday 29th December.

On New Year's Eve, the Post Office will close at 1pm. The Post Office will re open on Tuesday 4th January 2022.

Thurs 23rd December	9.00am – 1.00pm
Fri 24th December	9.00am – 1.00pm
Sat 25th December	CLOSED
Sun 26th December	CLOSED
Mon 27th December	CLOSED
Tues 28th December	CLOSED
Wed 29th December	9.00am – 5.00pm
Thurs 30th December	9.00am – 1.00pm
Fri 31st December	9.00am – 1.00pm
Sat 1st January 2022	CLOSED
Sun 2nd January	CLOSED
Mon 3rd January	CLOSED

Last Recommended Posting Dates

International:

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

UK:

17 th	Fri	Royal Mail Bulk Mail Economy
18 th	Sat	2nd Class, 2nd Class Signed For, Royal Mail 48 [®]
21 st	Tue	1st Class, 1 st Class Signed For, Royal Mail 24 [®] ,
23 rd	Thurs	Special Delivery Guaranteed

The latest information on posting dates can be found here:
<https://www.royalmail.com/christmas>

Christmas Stamps 2021

This year's designs are a modern take on the Nativity beautifully illustrated by celebrated post-cubist artist Jorge Cocco. The stamps tell the Biblical story of the nativity from the Angel's Annunciation through the journey of the Magi and the birth of Christ.



Cut-off Times

We need to get the post ready for dispatch at specific times. You need to be with us ahead of these cut-off times to allow for queuing, processing and making payment. 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.

Posting Advice

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.

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:

<https://www.postoffice.co.uk/mail/what-can-i-send>

Amazon Local Collect

When online shopping with Amazon, you can opt to have your order sent directly to your local Post Office (us!). Look out for the **Local Collect** option when reviewing your order during the checkout process.

You're free to pick up your item within an 18 day timeframe. After that, your item will be sent back to the retailer. Make sure you bring along the barcode reference number you will have received, a piece of ID and a proof of address (originals, not photocopies). This is a free service; to find out more visit: <https://www.postoffice.co.uk/mail/local-collect>.

Gift Cards

One4all Gift Cards are accepted in over 130 high street stores and restaurants nationwide, and online with participating retailers. Gamers can use a One4all Gift Card to purchase eCodes from an exciting range of gaming and entertainment brands. You simply choose a design and how much you wish to load onto the card from £10 up to £120 and we do the rest.

Comings ...

New Post Office Team

Following the departure of Nikki (see '...and Goings!', opposite) we are pleased to announce that we have recruited two new team members, and even more pleased to say they are both local ladies from our village! So we welcome Lindi Harper and Angela Vickers - they are just beginning their Post Office training so you may see them working with our usual team. Please afford them a little patience, there's a lot to learn and not helped by it being the busiest time of the year for the Post Office. They will also become familiar faces behind the shop counter too.

You may have also noticed another new face behind our counter - this is Richard who has kindly offered to step into a relief role whilst we transition to the new team. Richard has many years of Post Office experience and we are very grateful to him for supporting us and assisting with the training too! Claudia is very kindly continuing in a dual role until we are fully staffed in the Post Office again and we are very grateful for this.

Finally, we wish all our customers an enjoyable and peaceful festive season and wish you good health and happiness for 2022.

Claudia, Devora, Sue, Ella, Lindi, Angela and Richard

... and Goings!

Thank you, Sue

Sue Harris has stepped back from her current co-manager role after six years. It's not a 'goodbye' though as she will continue to support us by working some shifts in the shop.

She has also taken on the role of sourcing, purchasing, and managing the ever-popular greeting card section. Sue has

dedicated many hours to the shop, especially in the last 18 months, working above and beyond her scheduled hours to keep the shop open. For this we thank her on behalf of the whole community - her efforts have not gone unnoticed.

We hope Sue will now have more time for friends and family as well as all the village activities she is involved with, however we look forward to continuing to work with her at the shop. We will now have just one manager, Katy Dugard, who will be supported by two experienced members of our team, Claudia Carroll and Carol Pitman taking on the roles of Team Leaders; we wish them good luck!!



... and thank you, Nikki



Nikki has stepped down from her role in the Post Office. She has been the constant, smiling face of Woodgreen Post Office since it was run from a tiny cubby hole in the old shop. At a time when towns and villages are losing their Post Offices, she has been instrumental in making our Post Office an important and integral part of the Community Shop.

Julia

Crazy Christmas Draw!

Our Christmas prize draw is now open! It costs £1 per entry. There will be lots of prizes, as usual. The top prize is a £100 John Lewis voucher, 2nd prize is a £60 hamper, and third prize is champagne & chocolates.

The draw will take place in the shop on Wednesday 22nd December at 1pm.

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

Katy

Wine offers, COVID chaos and fallout!

With the virus has come chaos in the wine trade. In lockdown, pubs and restaurants closed and customers found themselves permanently at home and facing difficulties in obtaining essential supplies! More recently, supply lines have been disrupted with driver shortages and containers in the wrong places.

Bad news for our customers? Certainly not! In fact your Shop and its canny buyers have been able to tempt you with a succession of tasty offers, invariably with great discounts to the normal price. While always ensuring your favourites have been available, we have worked tirelessly with our wine merchant to exploit the disruption to your benefit. All you have to do is look for our offers and give them a try. With Christmas just around the corner you know it makes sense.



David

Woodgreen Calendar 2022

Bill Shepley says: "Shooting the pictures for the Woodgreen Community Shop calendar is always a challenge, largely because of the deadline which isn't going to go away and an aim for the highest quality images. When Steve Morris came up with the theme 'A celebration of local trees' it seemed pretty straight forward. We are, after all, a village in the New Forest. It wasn't.

I started shooting in early March in our neighbouring village of Breamore with its thousand year old church and Yew tree. The light was right around 8.00am and the place was deserted - apart from the pheasants from the adjoining country estate.



This picture didn't get in to the calendar. It didn't meet the brief, but you can see the Breamore Yew on the January page of the 2022 calendar."

Cheese

Whatever your taste, we are sure to be able to accommodate it from the ranges of our three main suppliers: **Lyburn**, situated just a few miles away in Landford; **Crook and Churn**, based in North Dorset and trading since 1983, and **Book and Bucket**, which launched in January 2019 and is based in Cranborne.

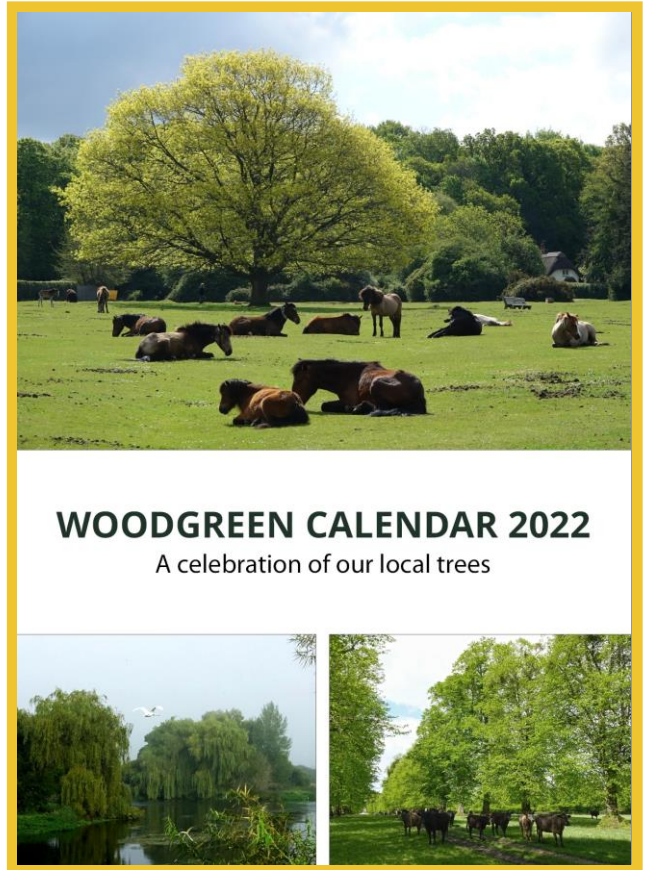
Book and Bucket makes a dozen or so cheeses including **Blyton** – a rich and creamy brie, and **Hardy's**, a Dorset Hard Cheese (very similar to a mature Manchego) with a delicious nutty sweetness. Lyburn's **Garlic and Nettle** is one of our best-selling cheeses.



Crook and Churn's **Dorset Blue Vinny** is based on a 300-year-old recipe and **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



On behalf of the Committee

The last year has certainly provided us with many and varied challenges but now it does feel that Christmas 2021 may be heading towards more usual celebrations and events - with just a few modifications.

The Committee have remained united in our quest to protect staff and customers whilst trying to retain our Community shop feel and this has not always been an easy path to navigate. We would like to thank the whole Shop and Post Office teams for their willingness to adapt to the changing circumstances - they have been amazing and have ensured we remain open as much as possible.

And huge thanks to you the customers who have supported our efforts and remained loyal to the shop throughout the year, thank you for your custom.

It feels really good to be able to hold our Christmas Shopping event this year - even though much of it will be outdoors, lets hope it's the beginning of more social events to come!

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a safe and healthy 2022.

Julia, on behalf of the Committee

Woodgreen Community Shop & Post Office

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