

Woodgreen Community Shop Newsletter

Christmas Shopping Evening

It's back for 2022!

We are delighted to be able to hold the Woodgreen Community Shop Christmas Shopping Evening on Tuesday 6th December 5 - 7pm. Featuring tastings, on the day offers, mince pies, mulled wine, nibbles - and a guest appearance from Tilly the Turkey! There'll be live music from Roger Clements and Hales Angels.

The 2023 Woodgreen Calendar will be available with other festive gift ideas. We'll have some special 'on the night' offers on wine and beer. Please come and join Katy and the team for a couple of hours of festivities and community spirit. Bring your friends and neighbours!

We hope to see you there!

Christmas Orders

Please let us have your orders for turkeys, meat and all other items by the following dates:

Turkey (Mays)	Wed 30 th November
Meat (Mays)	Wed 7 th December
Turkey/Meat: (Hale Pig'n'Poultry)	Wed 7 th December
Bread:	Fri 2 nd December
Milk/Cream:	Fri 9 th December

Please collect your turkey and meat orders on **Friday 23rd December.**

Christmas Opening Times

Wed 21st December	8.00am – 6.00pm
Thurs 22nd December	8.00am – 6.00pm
Fri 23rd December	8.00am – 5.00pm
Sat 24th December	8.00am – 1.00pm
Sun 25th December	CLOSED
Mon 26th December	CLOSED
Tues 27th December	CLOSED
Wed 28th December	8.00am – 6.00pm
Thurs 29th December	8.00am – 6.00pm
Fri 30th December	8.00am – 6.00pm
Sat 31st December	8.00am – 1.00pm
Sun 1st January 2023	CLOSED
Mon 2nd January	CLOSED
Tues 3rd January	8.00am – 6.00pm

There will be no newspapers on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Tuesday 27th December, New Year's Day and Monday 2nd January.

The Manager's Bit

Christmas is just around the corner again! It seems to come round quicker each year. We are fully underway with our Christmas preparations - even the Christmas Tree will be arriving soon!

Turkeys and meat are available from Phil at Hale Pig and Poultry or from Glenn at Mays, both to order only, please ask for an order form. If you prefer a nut roast we have all the ingredients in our shop.

We have a great variety of cheeses available with lovely crackers and chutneys to accompany, New Forest Chocolates, Summerdown Mints, New Forest Trout Pâté and other gourmet pâté, speciality nuts and not forgetting our great range of Christmas Cards.

Please support us this Christmas and continue through the winter months. We are constantly adding to our range in the shop so I am sure each time you visit you will see something new. Please remember we also can order produce for you if you have a particular favourite item.

I would like to thank all of my team for all their loyal support, you are all very valued and appreciated. I would also like to thank our customers for using the shop - you are very appreciated also!

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Health & Happiness to you all.

Katy



Volunteers ?

As you all know, our shop depends on the time generously donated by our volunteer workforce and we are always on the look out for new recruits.

Please remember your skills need not just be serving our customers; we have a number of other tasks to be completed behind the scenes - particularly on our EPOS system - so if you're fairly IT literate we can always use your skills for a couple of hours.

There is, of course, always a need for general help: serving, checking dates on produce, and replenishing stock, so please do talk to one of our management team if you have a couple of hours a week to spare.

Thank you.

Julia

PS Coffee/tea and biscuits readily available!

Post Office News

Christmas Post Office Opening Times

Fri 23 rd December	9.00am – 5.00pm
Sat 24 th December	9.00am – 1.00pm
Sun 25 th December	CLOSED
Mon 26 th December	CLOSED
Tues 27 th December	CLOSED
Wed 28 th December	9.00am – 5.00pm
Thurs 29 th December	9.00am – 5.00pm
Fri 30 th December	9.00am – 5.00pm
Sat 31 st December	9.00am – 1.00pm
Sun 1 st January 2023	CLOSED
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Last Recommended Posting Dates

International: subject to change – check Royal Mail website www.royalmail.com/christmas

1 st	Thurs	New Zealand & Australia
2 nd	Fri	China
5 th	Mon	Caribbean (except British Virgin Islands, Dominica and Anguilla)
7 th	Wed	Africa, Asia (except China), Central and South America, Far and Middle East
8 th	Thurs	Cyprus and Malta
9 th	Fri	Greece, Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia) and Turkey
10 th	Sat	Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Poland, Sweden, USA
12 th	Mon	Austria, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland
14 th	Wed	Belgium, France, Luxembourg

UK:

19 th	Mon	2nd Class, 2nd Class Signed For
21 st	Wed	1st Class, 1 st Class Signed For, Parcelforce Worldwide 48
22 nd	Thur	Royal Mail Special Delivery Guarantee 1pm, Parcelforce Worldwide express AM and express 24
23 rd	Fri	Special Delivery Guaranteed 1pm with Saturday Guarantee

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

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.

Christmas Stamps 2022

Royal Mail celebrates Christmas 2022 with a series of six stamps, exclusively designed by artist Katie Ponder. The images focus on the key moments from the traditional Christmas story including the journey to Bethlehem and the Magi following the star.

This year marks the first time Royal Mail has issued a fully barcoded festive stamps set – an innovative addition and a major milestone. It will also be the last time her late Majesty's silhouette will feature on a festive stamp.



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 Hub Counter

When online shopping with Amazon, you can opt to have your order sent directly to your local Post Office (us!). Look out for the **Amazon Hub** 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). If you need to return an item we now offer the Amazon Label Free Return service. If your parcel is eligible for this service you will be given this option when you complete the returns section on Amazon's website. This is a new service in addition to the existing Label free returns via Royal Mail.

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. We also sell Amazon gift cards £15 to £100.

And Finally

All the Post Office team wish you a Happy Christmas and look forward to helping you all again in 2023.

Sue, Devora, Ella, Lindi and Angie

Wine Offers, Ongoing Chaos and Great Value

A year ago we were reporting that supply chain chaos, driver shortages and containers in the wrong places were actually good news for wine drinkers with the trade desperate to sell stocks and make room for the next vintage.

The continuing good news is that, while the circumstances may be different, there are still plenty of offers available. This year we can look to the downturn in the retail trade, further distribution problems and, sadly, a war.

The net effect is that wine growers, merchants and retailers are keen to shift stocks of great quality wines and offers still abound. Two recent arrivals in the shop prove our point. An excellent white Burgundy, and a Rioja, at £5 and £4 off respectively. Both of great drinking quality: buy now for Christmas while stocks last.



It's a fast moving scene out there in the wine trade, as offers come and go and you have to be fleet of foot not to miss out! Rest assured however that your shop buyers and our local wine merchant are reviewing the wine scene on a weekly basis to bring you great tasting wines at favourable prices.

It's a very competitive field, but we are determined to give you good value. Wine prices have probably not increased as much as most of the items in your baskets and we have managed to keep most of ours at last year's prices, including the Jean-Paul range and Borsao at only £6.99.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFER:
5% discount on a case of any 6 wines!

David & Ron

Our Tremendous Team

The last 12 months has seen a real period of consolidation for our permanent staff team – no major changes for either the Post Office or Shop. The 'new' Post Office ladies who were training this time last year are fully fledged and able to fly solo now, enabling us to open all day again, Monday to Friday. They have organised themselves into a great collaborative team to keep the Post Office running smoothly and Sue has taken the helm to oversee day-to-day compliance and operations.

As you will all have noticed, Katy now has the support of Claudia and Carol as team leaders to manage the shop. This has allowed for improved management of the rota and ensures we always have an experienced team member available. Claudia and Carol have had to learn many of the back office tasks and processes as well as being behind the shop counter.

Katy
Manager



Claudia
Shop Team Leader



Carol
Shop Team Leader



Sue
PO Team Leader

One of our hidden heroes is Deanne Simmonds who, together with Gary Adams, manages all our day-to-day finances. She works closely with the shop team to ensure suppliers are paid on time, our staff are paid and that our books balance each month. It's not an easy task and so we are very grateful for Deanne's hard work – she is extremely diligent and takes great pride in her work.

Of course, our continuing success is extremely dependent on the support of the amazing volunteer team who help keep the shop ticking over every day. The reality is that we would not be able to operate without the vital hours donated to us by our volunteers – many of these hours are also behind the scenes – collating newspaper vouchers, unloading our heavy deliveries, maintaining the car park., the list is endless!

We are extremely fortunate to secure the support of all our local team – be they paid staff or volunteers and I am sure all our customers are grateful for the contribution they make to the smooth running of the shop. And not forgetting the hours donated to the business by the Committee - it truly is a 'Community' success and we should all take a pride in our Shop.

Julia

Woodgreen Calendar 2023

Our 2023 calendar is a celebration of gardening and nature and, in particular, Hale and Woodgreen Horticultural Society which celebrates its centenary next year. It was formed in 1923 by Beatrice & Ada Davies who were employed by the owners of Breamore House to “beautify” the gardens. The ladies feature in one of the village hall murals which depicts either the 1932 or 1933 flower show.

The Society runs a full programme of activities each year including talks by award-winning professional gardeners, a plant sale in Woodgreen Village Hall and its annual show in July. There are also Open Garden events, generally in May for Hale gardens and, a few weeks later in June, for Woodgreen gardens. These events have raised thousands of pounds for a variety of local charities. In 2022, a joint open garden event in July raised £2000 for the DEC Ukraine charity.

Bill, Steve & David

Helping with your 5-A-Day!

There’s always a new challenge round the corner at the moment and lately we’ve concentrated on our green grocery range.

We’ve been working hard with our supplier to improve the quality and prices of our fruit, vegetable and salad offerings as well as utilising our additional refrigerated display capacity to store a wider range of produce. We hope you agree that it’s making a great difference to our green grocery quality and prices!



And don’t forget: if there’s something specific you’d like please let us know - we can usually order for next day delivery (except for Wednesdays)!

Alix

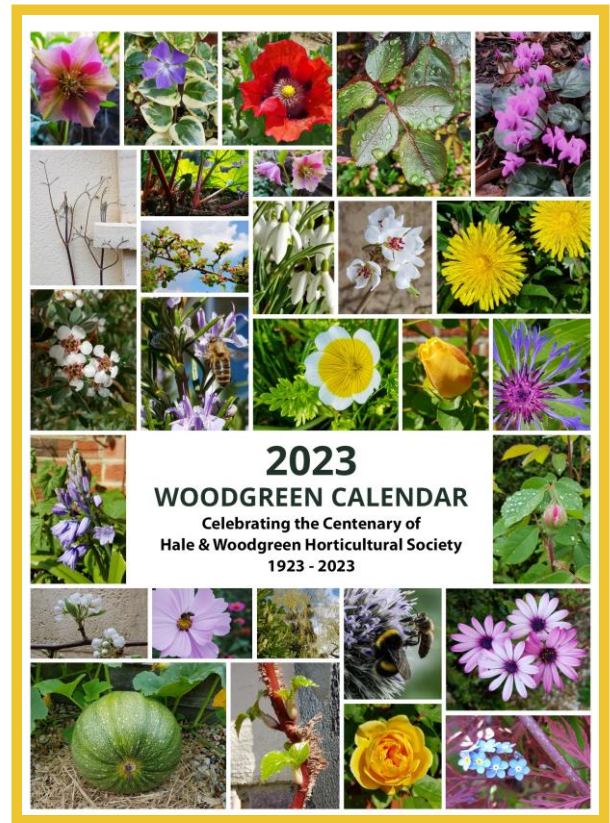
Crazy Christmas Draw!

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 a £50 hamper, and 3rd prize champagne & chocolates.

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

The draw will take place in the shop on Wednesday 21st December at 1pm.

Katy



On behalf of the Committee

After two difficult Covid-affected years we now have a different set of challenges to face for the shop: to maintain our turnover during this period of rising costs for us all.

The Committee are working hard with the management team to try to maintain a positive feel for the shop. We have been concentrating on improving our produce displays with better refrigeration for produce. Our next project is underway to refurbish the coffee area with a coffee bar and new seating. Additionally, we continue to work with our suppliers to buy more effectively where possible. It is also important for us to continue using local supply, when practical, so they too can survive the rising cost challenges and be here for us in the future.

We know everyone is facing the same financial pressure and we are hugely grateful for the continued support received from our local customer base – thank you all for your custom throughout the last 12 months.

We look forward to continuing to serve our Community in 2023 and we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Julia, on behalf of the Committee

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