

# THE VILLAGE SHOP MARHAMCHURCH

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Our Vision continues to be an integral and indispensable part of Marhamchurch village life, providing a hub of friendly service, activity, and community for the benefit of all.

There was a healthy increase in turnover over the year. Costs, however, continue to increase with the additional challenge of an inflation rate of 8.5% over the year so we continue to be cautious, monitoring margins to ensure overheads are covered.

At the same time we are very conscious of the impact of the cost of living increases. Our shop manager Mike O'Connor keeps a close eye on prices, margins, and stock levels and has maintained good monthly sales without losing the identity of the shop as a vital community asset. Customers are often surprised to find that some of our lines are cheaper than in Bude.

We continue to be proud of our local suppliers who enable us to stock a good level of produce with a low carbon footprint. As an example, our Saturday deliveries of sourdough bread and croissants from Electric Bakery are particularly popular.

In addition to Mike we employ two further part time staff ( Fiona Hodges, shop supervisor and Susie Butler, our cleaner) who all give more hours to their work than they are paid for and our thanks go to them all for their essential contribution to the shop.

We obviously could not operate without our enthusiastic team of volunteers who often go above and beyond to keep the shop open. As always, more volunteers are required to help to take some of the load from those that cover multiple shifts and, in particular, to cover when sickness and holidays occur. We would love to hear from you if you think that you could help. No experience is required - just pop in and ask for an application form.

We are also in need of a "premises manager" to oversee various DIY jobs that come up. If you could help please do get in touch !

The shop is run by a management committee made up entirely of volunteers, whose only reward is to see the shop go from strength to strength as part of the community.

As we move forward sustainability seems to be key for many organisations at present and Geraldine, one of our committee members, has met with our local group. A representative has visited the shop and made some achievable recommendations, largely regarding reduction in energy used, especially in the summer months. Where possible, we will endeavour to supply quality local produce, with the minimum of food miles.

We always welcome any ideas and suggestions and would like to take this chance to thank all of you who support your community shop.

Chris Edwards

Chair Marhamchurch Village Shop Committee