

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.

Despite the challenge of increasing costs, there was a healthy increase in turnover during the year. At the time of writing we are glad to say that we have seen a rise in our sales year on year, which we hope shows that the shop is serving the community and providing a range of goods which people want to buy. We are also proud that we are able to make a contribution to the community from any profit we make.

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. As well as many tried and trusted lines, we have also been able to introduce new products such as take away sandwiches and wraps, and the very popular gourmet sausage rolls.

The shop celebrated its 10th birthday in the past year, the occasion marked by a get together of shop volunteers and supporters past and present, at which in particular the contribution of those involved in the earliest plans for the shop was remembered. Our anniversary received coverage in the local press and on BBC Radio and the BBC News website.

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. We urgently need more people to join the team to guarantee we can continue to serve the community. 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.

Finally we are pleased to see so many local organisations making use of our new community noticeboard. We hope it's a helpful addition.

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

Lynne Gannon
Chair Marhamchurch Village Shop Committee