

**UPDATE – JUNE 12, 2021**

We are pleased that we have overcome most of the challenges we faced during the settling-in period and are now working to deliver on the main objectives contained in our Social Enterprise Plan.

We reported in our last bulletin that we had made our formal application to take over the Post Office branch, and we are now glad to confirm that our application has been accepted. The official Date of Transfer will be fixed in accordance with the internal Post Office processes, including on-site attendance of an officer for final audit and training purposes. In the meantime our Post Office counter will continue to operate as at present. The Post Office are keen for us to promote the full range of services available, and we’ll have more to say on this in due course.

Many of you will have noticed the introduction of our first volunteers working alongside the staff. This is an important step forward in our business plan and it will also enable us to adapt our shop hours to cater to the anticipated increased summer trade. We extend our thanks to this first group of volunteers, but also repeat our call to others who are willing to offer some of their time as we need more people in order to develop a robust roster to call upon.

We will continue to review both our pricing and selection of stock. We have seen an encouraging initial response to the first of the changes that we have made, and this will remain an important and ongoing focus for the management team.

The initial urgent repairs to the roof and chimney have been completed. We will soon be in a position to submit our planning application for the internal and external refurbishment and refit of the shop. The anticipated time that this process will take, along with a desire to minimise disruption to the shop during the busier tourist season, means that the decant of the shop to temporary premises for the duration of the work will not occur until the end of summer/beginning of autumn at the earliest. Please bear with us as we work to make the shop the best it can be for all of us.

Finally, Janice Gillies’s last day as shop manager will be Sunday June 13. We want once again to thank Janice not only for her service, but also her invaluable assistance as the shop has transitioned to community ownership. We are delighted that Janice has agreed to continue to be available to us as we move forward and develop our new management arrangements. There will be a small, informal presentation to her on the shop doorstep at 12.45 p.m. on Sunday.

**SUPPORT YOUR SHOP – SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY!**