

BLOCKLEY VILLAGE SHOP & CAFÉ

Newsletter 23rd May 2008

OPENING SCHEDULE

Well, we successfully opened for trading on Mon 21st April - on schedule and on budget! Special thanks are owed to our shop manager Chris Grimes, the project manager Toby Jones and all the refit volunteers for this impressive achievement.

I am sure you will agree that the Old Coach House has been transformed into a vibrant village social centre and the whole venture is a credit to our community.

GRAND OPENING FESTIVAL

The Grand May Day Opening Festival on Saturday May 3rd was a huge success with over 500 people attending. Dudley Sutton (Tinker from the BBC's Lovejoy) officially opened the shop and crowned the May Queen. This was followed by a traditional village fete including Morris dancers, a balloon race, stalls and games.



Jessica Stamp and Kamikaze Union demonstrating just a fraction of the breadth and depth of the talent in our community.

PRODUCT RANGE/SUGGESTIONS

We are currently carrying about 70% of the planned range of products and services and are planning to be at, or close to, 100% by August.

As a start-up business we are having to set-up new accounts and relationships with a variety of suppliers. These are time consuming negotiations and Chris Grimes is having to fit these around the extensive hours he is working in the café/shop.

The café menu will be expanded in the next few weeks, a range of fine wines is in stock and ready meals will be available from around the 23rd May. The first of the stationery range is now in place with the beginnings of a range of household hardware goods and the range of grocery goods will continue to expand.

The enthusiasm and interest everyone has shown in the venture has been inspiring and your comments and suggestions are always greatly appreciated. However, it is very difficult for Chris Grimes and the BCA Committee to keep track of your feedback if it is given verbally and in-passing during other conversations.

Therefore we would urge all members to use the suggestion box in the Café (Chris reads all suggestions every Sunday afternoon) or to contact the Chair of the BCA Retail Group Tim Boddington on 01386 701666 or via email at timboddington@aol.com

MEMBERS' LOYALTY SCHEME

THE MORE YOU SPEND, THE BIGGER YOUR BONUS! AN OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT FROM SUPPORTING YOUR VERY OWN COMMUNITY SHOP

As promised we have now finalised the rules for our *first* Members' Loyalty Scheme. We expect to start the scheme in pilot form for an initial period ending on 31 October 2008.

We plan to eventually record your points electronically but in the meantime this is how it will work:

- You will receive a permanent plastic membership card which shows your membership number and contains a space for you to add your signature.
- You will also receive a Loyalty Card which will be stamped every time you receive a till receipt showing you have spent £5 or more in the shop or café, (excluding postal services, PayPoint, cashback and Lottery transactions).
- You will earn FIVE bonus points for every complete £5 you spend on qualifying goods.
- At the end of the first Bonus Period we shall announce a Declaration Day and confirm the rate of bonus redemption (expected to be not less than 5p for every 5 points).
- On or after the Declaration Day, you will be able to exchange your loyalty card(s) for Bonus Vouchers.
- The Bonus Vouchers can be used to purchase more goods in the shop or café (excluding postal services, PayPoint, cashback and Lottery transactions)
- In addition to enjoying the benefits of your Bonus Vouchers every six months, you will also be entitled to participate in specially organised members' events and to purchase goods from time to time on concessionary members' terms.

WATCH OUT FOR FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS ON MEMBERS' BENEFITS

LOTTERY

Camelot are resisting our attempts to get them to move the current lottery terminal into our new shop. They currently operate over 27,500 terminals which is above their statutory requirement and they are simply not interested in supplying us with a terminal. Our local MP is working with us to put pressure on Camelot and the battle is not yet lost, but Camelot is proving to be so intransigent that we cannot say yet when and if a lottery terminal will be installed.

PAYPOINT

We now have a PayPoint terminal which can be used to pay a range of domestic bills including gas, electricity and TV licence. It can also be used for drawing up to £50 cash-back when purchasing goods from the shop. The shop makes a small commission on all PayPoint transactions so please use this service as much as you can.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Blockley Cooperative Association Annual General Meeting will take place at 14.00 on Sunday 15th June in St George's Hall, the formal notice of the AGM is attached to this newsletter. One of the most important functions of the AGM will be to elect a new BCA Management Committee. In brief the agenda will be:-

Introduction

Various Statutory/Legal items (see formal notice of AGM)

Presentation by outgoing Chairman of BCA (Chris Jury)

Questions from floor to outgoing committee

COFFEE BREAK and Collection of ballot papers

Report by Chris Grimes

Questions from the floor to Chris Grimes

Election Results Announced/New Committee Appointed & AOB

Members will receive a numbered ballot paper on arriving at the AGM and registering their attendance. The ballot papers will carry the names of all the nominated candidates for the Management Committee. All members attending the AGM can vote 'for' or 'against' each candidate. The 15 candidates with the most 'for' votes (after taking away any 'against' votes) will be elected.

We will need 10 'tellers' who will count the votes during the second half of the meeting. If you are willing to help with that task please contact Chris Jury leaving your name, telephone number and availability on 07850 651803 or email him at chris.jury@btinternet.com

NOMINATIONS: Under the BCA rules any member may nominate any member for election to the Management Committee and such nominations must reach the secretary by 8 June 2008, being 7 days before the date of the Meeting. (Please send nominations to the BCA Secretary, James Hunt, 01386 701472 james.hunt@everymanlegal.com, or in writing addressed to James via Chris Grimes at the shop.)

Currently 10 members of the outgoing committee are standing for re-election,

assuming they get elected, this leaves 5 places on the Management Committee. These places do not *have* to be filled but we are eager for the committee to represent the broadest cross-section of the community and have access to all the relevant skills and talents our community undoubtedly possesses. So we would urge anyone interested in the long-term survival of the venture to consider standing for the committee which currently meets once a month.

CO-OP MEMBERSHIP

The Co-op now has over 470 members including representatives of all parts of the parish and many weekenders. Nonetheless we would like to see a membership in excess of 500 and are particularly keen to welcome new Co-op members from Springfield and Winterway. To be admitted to membership, and therefore attend the AGM and vote, new members must get their application form and £10 to Rob Willot by June 6 2008.

Please encourage all your friends and neighbours to join the BCA and make a donation.

THE POST OFFICE

We have received a Letter of Intent from Post Office Limited confirming our 15- hour outreach service for Blockley to be run from 09.00-14.00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. During the hours the outreach is not open we will also continue to sell stamps.

We are currently negotiating with Moreton PO for the continuation of the 4.45 daily parcel collection from Blockley - they are firmly resisting committing to this. Even if we are successful in changing their position outside our outreach PO hours we will not be able to accept overseas, registered or special delivery parcels.

The outreach service cannot begin in our shop until the main post office has been officially closed. The date for this has not yet been announced but we are told it will be in the second half of June 2008. Until then Blockley post office will continue to be run full time by Ben Coley in the old premises.

KEEPING THE BCA MEMBERSHIP LIST UP TO DATE

Would all members please keep us informed of any change of address, email address or other relevant details so we can keep our records up to date. Please drop a note or email to David Brown at Oates End, High Street, Blockley (davebrown2@aol.com) making clear what has changed.

THE BLOCKLEY COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LIMITED (An Industrial and Provident Society with registered number 30225R) Registered office: The Old Coach House, Post Office Square, Blockley, Gloucestershire GL56 9BB Telephone: 01386 701411 VAT registration number: 923 4992 03

