

September Newsletter 2008

It's official – we're making a profit!

Following a detailed stock-take at the beginning of August, the BCA Treasurer, Rob Willott, confirmed that in the four-week period to August 3 we made an operating profit of £924 against a budgeted loss of £729.

During the same accounting period, sales continued to run at 23 per cent above budget and as a result our cumulative loss has been reduced to £11,659 against a budgeted loss of £17,543. Latest weekly sales are still above budget, though they dropped slightly during the school holidays. July was expected to be a buoyant month but the autumn and winter may be less so.

Volunteers needed

Our recent stock-take took 30 person-hours, so if anyone would like to help count hundreds of items next time we have to do this, please have a word with Chris Grimes or Tim Boddington.

Outreach post office opens on schedule

The post office counter opened on September 6 and will operate on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30 – 2.30. Matt Bumfrey, the sub-postmaster in charge of Evesham Post Office, will offer the FULL SERVICES of a main post office, including cash, parcels, road tax, passports, foreign currency, benefits, bill paying, fishing licences etc etc.

The opening hours of 9.30-2.30 have been chosen to allow Matt time to collect his equipment from the Evesham branch before driving to Blockley.

However, if there is a lot of demand for an earlier opening the hours could be more flexible.

Feedback will be very

helpful. The post office number is 01386 700726.



As some members will have noticed, there were a few frustrating teething problems related to the ISDN telephone link in the first week. These hiccoughs have been overcome and cash withdrawals and other services which rely on a telephone link are running smoothly.

Post Office Ltd is guaranteeing Matt's income for the first three months, but after that it will be related to the number of transactions he does. 'My target is 200 a week and every individual transaction is carefully monitored. If certain services are not used (say car tax or currency) they could eventually be withdrawn,' says Matt. 'However, if business booms, it could be possible to extend the hours or offer an extra day. It's up to the customers.'

We are very grateful to Chris Walters for his persistence and diplomacy in securing this post office service for the village.

Free bottle of champagne

Chris Grimes has made the generous offer of a bottle of champagne to the lucky 500th person who joins the BCA. We are nearly there, so please remind friends and neighbours who have "forgotten" to fill in the application form which is probably still stuck to their fridge door. Forms may be downloaded from the website at www.blockleyshop.com or collected at the shop. They should be sent to Rob Willott at The Old Royal Oak, High Street, Blockley, with their cheque. Members will then receive a share certificate and a loyalty card.

Internet services

Free broadband access is available in the café and we have also been given two computers for general use.

Lottery

The shop has been registered for the Lottery and we are waiting for news.

Loyalty cards

The new loyalty card scheme for members of the Blockley Cooperative Association was launched in September. The development of the scheme and the production and mailing of the new cards were kindly sponsored by generous individuals at no cost to the BCA members.

The scheme works like this:

- ★ To receive your bonus points you must produce your membership card at the time of purchase whenever you receive a till receipt showing that you have spent £5 or more in the shop or café, (excluding postal services, PayPoint, cash-back and Lottery transactions).
- ★ You will earn FIVE bonus points for every complete £5 you spend on qualifying goods.
- ★ Towards the end of the first Bonus Period on 30 April 2009 we shall announce a bonus Declaration Day and confirm the rate of bonus redemption (currently expected to be not less than 5p for every 5 points).
- ★ Within 14 days of the Declaration Day (and probably sooner), you will receive Bonus Vouchers with a value based on the pre-announced redemption rate.
- ★ The Bonus Vouchers can be used to purchase more goods in the shop or café (excluding postal services, PayPoint, cash-back and Lottery transactions) – in time for summer holidays and Christmas each year.

News from the shelves

We now stock over 1000 lines and the list continues to grow. New products include organic wines, haberdashery and light bulbs, local rapeseed oil, a freezer full of Green & Black's ice cream and the only honey produced in Blockley. Fruit and veg continue to be popular, including lots of cheap and delicious produce from the allotments. Chris says that he is also happy to order fruit and special fruit and veg items for people who phone by 3pm the previous day. (01386-701411)

Chris is also delighted to say that his new freezer will soon be stocked with chips, fish fingers, pizzas and other items that have been requested. The suggestion box is checked every Sunday, so please continue to use it.

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.

BCA Management Committee Members

Chair: Margaret Bryan 01386 700500 mbryan@btinternet.com
Secretary: James Hunt 01386 701472 james.hunt@everymanlegal.com
Treasurer: Rob Willott 01386 700677 rgwillott@hotmail.com
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