

Spaxton Community Stores News

A Summary of the chairman's report to the Shareholders Annual General Meeting (held in April).

The Community store is being held up as a 'beacon shop', an exemplar for other community shops. The attractive internal fittings were funded by Magnox, and the Solar Panels partly paid for by a generous grant from Scottish Power.



49 volunteers serve behind the shop counter. Volunteers not only enjoy the task of selling goods but, just as importantly, are meeting new people and renewing old acquaintances. The shop is proving to be a community-building asset, providing a social hub for the village. We welcome new volunteers in order to maintain the high level of service currently on offer.

Financially we have seen a consistent growth in income in most months. We have over 30 suppliers. We are particularly proud of our wide range of goods from small suppliers, eight of whom live in or just outside the parish. In February 2016 we opened a Post Office Local counter, staffed by volunteers and by our part time manager, Karen Dennett. The post office income does not cover its expenses, but we happily maintain it as a service to the community. The more you use it, the better! ***The post office is open Monday to Friday 9-12 and 1-4, and Saturday 9-12.***

As part of our service to the community, we have supported seasonal events and sold tickets for Village Hall events. We have a notice board to advertise local events and services, tourist information and maps and books of local interest organised by Trish Edwards. Last, but far from least, we have our part-time manager, Karen. Her wide range of experience in retail has proved invaluable and she has provided an essential stable presence.

Supplier Focus: D J Miles Tea and Coffee

West Somerset is unusual in having its very own tea blender and supplier Miles tea and Coffee. This family business was established in 1888 and has been based at Porlock since the 1950s. Miles blend and sell over a dozen types of tea, roast a dozen ground coffees, sell over a dozen types of coffee bean, and produce instant coffees and hot chocolate. They also do a black **Fairtrade** tea, in 40 or 80 bag boxes. Every year 'Fine Food Digest' produces a publication 'Best Brands' announcing the top food and drink brands across the UK. This year the only brand in the UK to be listed in the top 5 Tea and Coffee sections was Miles Tea & Coffee.

Obviously Spaxton Community Stores can't stock the whole range of Miles products but we do have a selection of the most popular teas and coffees. The **West Country** teabags are very popular as are the stronger **Smugglers Gold**. Both are available in 40, 80 or 240 boxes, and the West Country is also sold as a loose tea. Or you might like to try the excellent **Earl Grey** tea with its hint of bergamot. We now stock the Fairtrade tea. For those who, prefer more unusual teas there is **Camomile**, and **Redbush** for the health conscious customer. Ground coffees include the light **Breakfast Blend** and the stronger **After Dinner**. Miles also do an excellent **Freeze Dried Instant** and **Decaff**, as well as a luxurious **Instant Hot Chocolate** that I can particularly recommend.



So what are you waiting for? If you haven't tried one of Miles Teas or Coffees before there is a treat in store for you. The Miles catalogue is kept beside the Miles products. If you would like to try something we don't currently stock, do ask.

Josh Schwieso, Chair Spaxton Community Stores Strategic Committee