

“Our Community Hub”



A VOLUNTEER'S STORY.

Are you a morning person? Charlotte Sundquist is not! But she still welcomes the opportunity to fulfil her turn at volunteering at the shop as it gives her mornings purpose. As well as helping in the shop Charlotte also serves for the café and makes home deliveries of groceries. Truly an all-round contribution

COMMUNITY MATTERS



Thanks to Nicola and Jonathan Coate for the gift of willow hide for the cafe and pub garden. It's great for the kids and they love it. Its already sprouting leaves. It really adds character to the garden and reminds us of our village's history and heritage.

Cribbage: Did you know there is a cribbage group at the RO. If you have played the game or would like to learn, just come to the Royal Oak on Thursday at 7pm.

The garden at the RO has turned out to be an unanticipated asset. Fenced off and badly overgrown with brambles and laurel when we purchased the building, it has been transformed thanks to considerable effort by many volunteers. Come and have a coffee or tea and enjoy it.

VOLUNTEERS = SUCCESS

Our community hub (shop, café, pub, social areas) relies on volunteer help. If you would like to volunteer or find out more, then please let us know. We need:

- Customer service
- General Duties (order prep, shelf-filling, cleaning)
- Table Service
- Cleaning

THIS MONTH

The Kitchen is nearing completion. It will be used for a snack service during the day and a meals service (including take away) during the evenings when the Pub is open, however finishing the kitchen is the least of our challenges. As you will have probably read in the national press finding a chef/cook is likely to be the biggest hurdle to overcome. Any help in finding a suitable candidate will be appreciated, meanwhile our search continues.

IN THE PIPELINE

When the rules are finally modified to permit free movement indoors, we will be giving consideration to extending opening hours for the Pub. If you have a view on what hours should be considered, please talk to Phil (the Bar Manager).

Planning permission has been requested to install solar PV cells on the roof of the 'function' room. This will help reduce our electricity cost which was £700 last month.

NEXT TIME...

Next time we will look at the role of young people in our project and explore how we can better cater for their needs.

We are fortunate to have our community hub – something we can all contribute to. If you have an idea of what we can do better, or a service that could be provided to the community or any questions then please don't hesitate to contact us either, online contact@hotvssg.org or phone Graham Gleed on 01823 490407 or use the **suggestions box** in the shop!



Money Matters

Our HOTV project has been a fully-fledged business now for over a year. Our first year of trading has been a strong start. We have achieved a lot!

In the year April 2020 to April 2021, we had total sales of £268,281. We spent £179,616 on stock, which left us with a £88,665 gross profit from which we paid our running costs, including utilities, maintenance on the building, loans and salaries. This left us with a net profit of £374 for the year.

We broke even which is a tremendous success Particularly as we did not open the shop in the Royal Oak until November. Our budget prediction for shop sales was £184K, actual was greater than a 40% increase.

While Covid undoubtedly made some initial contribution, the fact that sales have continued to rise even after non-essential retail reopened is a credit to the effort made by Carolyn and JO.

May Sales

MAY 2021	Total Sales	Total spent on Stock	Estimated Running Costs	Estimated Net Profit
SHOP	£24,666	£18,428	£9,500	Break Even
CAFÉ	£944			
PUB	£3,461	£1,000		

Shop Sales by Category for May (£)

Chilled & Fresh Foods	6908.38
Grocery	4146.31
Cigarettes & Tobacco	3382.71
Bread & Cakes	3114.78
Off Licence	2113.34
News & Magazines	1875.89
Misc	1112.52
Confectionery	710.11
Non-Food Paper &	692.87
Frozen Foods	406.56
Household	186.95
Health Beauty & Baby	9.87

Community Benefit Plan

As part of our application for funds from the Plunkett Foundation we were required to create a Community Benefit Plan. This outlined the ways in which our venture would benefit the community which is the primary purpose of HOTV. We are not required to make a profit, breakeven is fine, but we must be seen to benefit the community. Of the things we committed to do most can be described as having moved forward. Topics such as the café becoming a social centre; providing a meeting place for local groups have all been successfully implemented but the one area that remains to be addressed is a space for young people. Engaging with young people who are volunteering in the shop reinforces that this is an important part of our plan. Over the coming weeks it is intended to start to explore ways in which this can be addressed by engaging with those who will hopefully benefit.

An additional topic which was not in our original plan, but which has clear community benefit is the possibility of providing hot school meals from the Kitchen of the Royal Oak. There are many obstacles to overcome but preliminary discussions have already been held to define the requirements in terms of cost, quantity, and dietary requirements. The opportunity to use locally sourced produce is also a big plus. This will not be a short-term programme, with the earliest implementation likely to be January 2021. If you would be willing to help with this or have an experience that is relevant, please contact the school office or any of the Management Committee of HOTV.

And Finally.....

On the corner of the Royal Oak by the shop entrance there is some historical graffiti of several initials scratched into the brickwork which were hidden under the render. Take a look and try to guess who it was!