

Wanted- more volunteers for the village shop

Over the last few months those of you who use the village shop will have probably met Liz Tomlinson – our heroic shop coordinator who has done so much to set up the shop and all the systems that have helped to make it work so efficiently. Liz is now stepping down from this role in preparation for her move to Wiltshire later in the year.

She assures us that she will not leave us in the lurch and indeed wants to continue as a volunteer in the shop until she actually leaves, so she will be around for some while so we can continue to pick her brains!

As the shop has developed many of the jobs are shared around the existing group of volunteers and committee members. These involve ordering, collecting or pricing and putting away new stock- the committee and the subgroups continue to do the backroom jobs of stock planning, accounts, premises and marketing and Barbara McKenzie continues to do her sterling work in coordinating the volunteer rota and keeping in touch with the volunteers.

That is all great but Liz and the committee feel that there is still a need for someone to act as the coordinator for the shop- a much less demanding job now that many of the systems are in place and the tasks are being shared but a vital one all the same. The task is not easy to define and, as Liz has found, it changes over time but put simply we need someone to:

- To take the lead on developing the shop over the next year or so, with the support and backing of the committee and in line with the principles on which the shop has been set up.
- To attend the committee meetings to provide a link with the committee and to discuss matters of policy and practical issues.
- To be the point of contact to the outside world – the person who people can make contact with, who can deal with enquiries or can refer issues to the relevant committee or subgroups.
- To be available regularly (daily?) to go into the shop to check that things are working well- to ensure that mail is dealt with, that the folders under the counter are kept up to date and tidy.

We think that with all the support and help that others are offering this role could take just an hour or so a day.

Eventually we look forward to a day when we can pay a part time wage to the coordinator but we are not at that stage at the moment so we are looking for a volunteer who might like to take on this role. So if you think you are interested and would like to discuss it more please contact me on 01886 821197 or at [liz.cousins2@virgin.net](mailto:liz.cousins2@virgin.net)

- We are also always keen to hear of more people who want to help staff the shop on a regular or occasional basis.
- We are also looking for more people to help as part of the marketing group- we feel that there may be more people in the village who might have some skills talent and most importantly a bit of time to join our enthusiastic marketing group- again offers, suggestions or ideas please.
- If, on the other hand you know someone who is a wiz with administration then we need them too! Chris Roberts does a fantastic job with all the finance and accounts but would like help- any thoughts?

Liz Cousins  
On behalf of the Shop Committee