



*The latest news and updates from Kirkoswald Community Shop*

## Our First Annual Members' Meeting



Back in November 2022 (it seems a long time ago now!) we held our first Annual Members' Meeting in the village hall. We were thrilled that the meeting, which was followed by a celebration of the shop's successful first year trading, was so well attended.

Shareholders heard from me (the Chair of the Management Committee) and from our treasurer Charlie Shepherd. Charlie presented our first-ever trading accounts to June 2022 and forecasts for this and next year. He explained that "despite making a small profit in the first year, the forecasts are based on maintaining the same volume of sales at the same markup. Costs are based on current expectations. There are potential risks but we have reserves to easily cover any final outcome." Our year-end is in June and so we shall report back to members at our next Members Meeting after our annual accounts have been subject to a report prepared by an auditor.

**Ruth Anderson**

## Winter Warmers

Between January and March, we opened our doors as a 'Warm Spot'. We joined a network of community organisations that welcomed anybody wishing to get away from the winter's chill and enjoy a free hot drink and Wi-Fi on our premises. We provided this service three afternoons per week and we are grateful for over £400 of funding from the Cumbria Community Foundation to enable us to offer this service to our local community.



## Staffing Update

Around Christmas time we bid a fond farewell to our manager Karen, we thank her for her hard work in the shop's first 18 months of trading.

We were very pleased to have had interest from existing staff and volunteers who wanted to step forward to help more with managing the shop. Such a commitment from a dedicated team is heartwarming.

We would like to introduce you to Nadine Wohlgemuth (previously assistant manager pictured right) and Lynne Dukes (previously a volunteer) who are now our joint managers.



Nadine and Lynne came into post at the start of the year and the new system is proving very effective at providing cover for management tasks and helping volunteers during the 57 hours the shop is open.

## Economic Challenges

The shop has not been immune to the inflationary pressures affecting everyone and, as a small shop, we have limited purchasing power.

Over the last few months, we have witnessed and had to adapt to meet various hiccups, including frequent - sometimes weekly price rises of some foods, the cessation of trading of key suppliers (different businesses supplying eggs, milk, cream and butter) and a reduction in the range supplied by our popular meat products producer.

We have had to seek new suppliers, adapt our business model and generally be fleet-footed to meet all these challenges! Over the winter months as inflation hit the headlines, we witnessed a reduction in sales which we hope will be reversed over summer trading.

Since Easter, there has been a noticeable upturn in visitors to the area, many of whom pay a visit to the shop and are often particularly keen on the local produce we stock.

We are increasing our marketing to both those who live locally and visitors staying in the area to encourage as many new customers as possible.



Kirkoswald Community Shop



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