

The Sparsholt Annual Parish Meeting - 18 April 2018 : Report from The Sparsholt Village Shop

Once again the Sparsholt Village Shop has, in this last year, played a full role in the life of our village. The Committee is delighted to report that in addition to things actually being bought there and the postal and financial services offered by the post office being used by many, the shop continues to sit at the centre of the social and emotional life of Sparsholt – people come and chat, catch up, hear about fellow villagers who might need a hand or a visit and often undertake to provide that help and support.

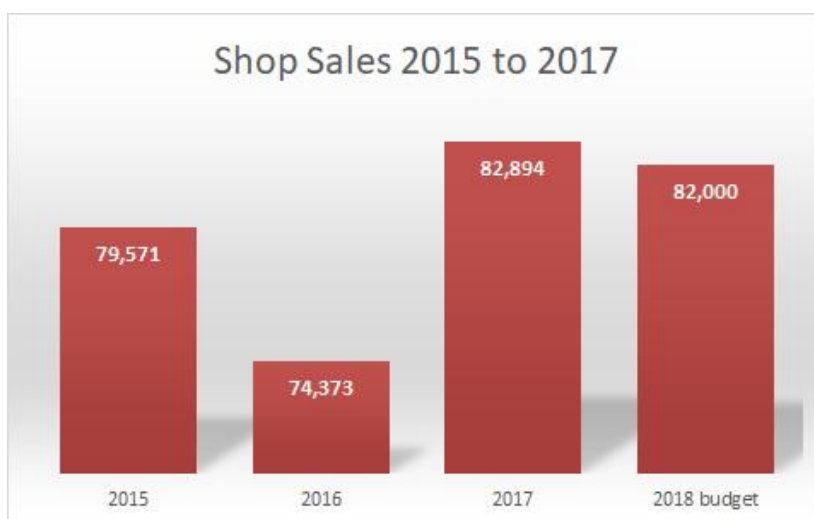
A Real Team Effort

In addition to our small core team comprising the shop manager, Janette Davies and the post mistress, Fiona Beckett, and also Liz West, Viv Marriott and Hilary Nutbeam, the shop continues to be supported by more than 50 volunteers. These volunteers give up their time and energy and are essential in keeping things running in a whole range of ways including fetching and carrying dry cleaning, sandwiches, cakes, moving cardboard and also administration. Some of them do also actually serve in the shop but simply put, the shop could not exist without them.

There is always, though, room for more volunteers. The efforts, though, made by these 50 people do show how important the shop is considered to be and how the huge commitment the volunteers make makes it work and how rewarding they find it. If you're not involved in the shop, you might like to consider it – do speak to Janette !

The Numbers

2017 has been a better year financially and we reported a surplus at the recent AGM, which is great news. This is primarily due to some new fresh food products (provided by volunteers) and some large donations from supportive villagers who responded generously to the concerns raised at last year's AGM. Our 2017 sales figures were :



Donations have been very important to us and we are grateful for :

- £400 from the Church from funds raised at the Village Fete.

- The many donations from the village towards renovating the phone box including one of £200.
- £1850 from the Post Office Community Fund which bought new fridges and refurbished units.

Overall, the surplus in 2017 was £3487.

Funding Raising

Fundraising continues to play an important part in the financial wellbeing of the shop. The Bangers and Bingo evening in November raised an impressive sum of almost £2000 and a very good time was had by all. The Christmas trees and Christmas Fayre continue to be firm favourites and were very well supported and made real contributions to our fundraising efforts in 2017. We look forward to some cracking events that villagers will enjoy and that will help raise income for the shop, in 2018

Thank you again to all those who have supported the shop in 2017 and we look forward to your continued support in 2018.

Alastair Barron
Shop Committee Chairman