

4. Hindon Village Stores

The AGM for the shop will take place on 6th June, and it is at that meeting that a detailed analysis of the previous financial year will be given. All shareholders (known as members) are invited to attend.

After 2-3 years of turbulence, it is probably a good thing that the report, this year, is somewhat simpler, and you will be pleased to hear, shorter! The shop has had a good year under its new management team of Debbie and Tony. Staffing has been stable, and our team of volunteers has built up once again. Tonight is a chance to thank publicly, not only the hard-working staff team in the shop, and the Post Office, but also all those volunteers who give of their time both in the shop, but also in many other ways.

As our aim is to give a service to the village, and not specifically maximise profit, it is always a challenging balancing act to build up reserves to maintain or replace aging equipment, or facilities, without entering the realms of tax. This is why our business model includes a limited number of fund-raising events. Once again, I would like to thank Graham and Jane Hall, and all their helpers, for the excellent quiz night that they recently arranged to help with the costs of some refurbishment on the front of the shop. If it ever stops raining, we would hope to get this work underway in the next month or two.

May I also specifically thank the Parish Council for their annual grant which is put to similar use.

As has been said many times, the shop in a community such as ours has value over and above being simply a retail outlet. That is why we, as a Management Committee, feel justified in our business model to include fund raising events, and receiving a small grant from the Parish Council.

Finally, and without wishing to bore you by reiterating my annual plea may I take this opportunity to say that we are always looking for volunteers. It is not necessary to commit to a fixed shift. There are always openings for relief shifts, or to help in other ways. If you feel that you could help, please contact Debbie. And may I, as always, encourage you all to use the shop, and the Post Office.