

SHOP TALK

CHAPEL STORES
— EST. 2023 —

East Boldre Community Stores Limited (EBCS)

Issue 11 - November 2024

<https://www.eastboldrecommunitystores.com>

The first 8 months

Since our opening in February trade has been in line or slightly above our forecasts. We saw the anticipated peak over the summer months due to the additional fruit farm workers and tourists in the village. The winter months ahead will be more challenging and your continued support through this period is crucial.

Feedback has generally been very positive. Local produce sells very well with local strawberries our best-selling product since we opened. It has been a period of learning and refining our processes, suppliers and product range.

Christmas is Coming...

Christmas is around the corner and we'll be providing a little festive cheer with some wonderful seasonal products. From festive wines and spirits, seasonal treats and last-minute gifts. Christmas cards already in store.

Stir-up Sunday

24th November

A centuries old tradition when families get together to make their Christmas puddings on the last Sunday before advent so they have time to mature.

It is a great excuse to gather the family and get ready for Christmas together.

You will find all of the quality ingredients you need at Chapel Stores so there is no excuse not to create an indulgent pudding of your own!



CHRISTMAS

ART & CRAFT FAIR

7th - 15th December
Sale of local arts and crafts in the vestry.
Great ideas for Christmas gifts

For more about our Christmas plans including East Boldre's first Christmas Show organised by 15-year-old Chapel Stores' volunteer Archie Kitcher, please visit our website.



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What's On At A Glance

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| 13 th Nov – 5 th Dec | St Barbe 'Art of the River' Vestry |
| 19 th Nov, 6:30pm | Imaging Heritage – Revealing History (talk at the Village Hall) |
| 7 th – 15 th Dec | Craft Fair - Vestry |
| 14 th Dec | E. Boldre Christmas Show (Village Hall) |
| Thursdays 2pm | Weekly Cafe - Vestry |

Annual Members Meeting

Our AMM was held in September and the minutes are on our website for members who could not attend. A warm welcome to the EBCS members who were elected by our shareholder to join the committee.



Davina Downes



Jack Gabzdyl



Kevin House



Anna Rostand



Sarah Thompson

Our Brilliant Volunteers

We rely on a loyal and capable team of volunteers to cover many of the activities alongside our paid staff (baking bread, making sandwiches, the Thursday café, cleaning, mowing the lawn, fixing the gate etc).

THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!

The shop offers a variety of volunteering roles and the opportunity to get to know some of the great people already involved.

To join our volunteer team please email us (see below).

chapelstores2023@gmail.com

Community Business Award

We are delighted that Rebecca Gabzdyl won the National Community Contribution Award. She worked tirelessly for 6 years spearheading the project to establish a community shop and Post Office in the village. The £250 prize was given to Chapel Stores.



Our Invaluable Staff

Huge thanks must go to our team of paid staff – Ian, Val and Sarah who provide such friendly and efficient customer service. Their knowledge of our customers and the shop and Post Office systems is invaluable.

We are also pleased to welcome Amy Bromby to the team. Amy has prior experience in retail but initially will work alongside our other paid staff to understand the workings of the Post Office and other nuances of our shop.



Ian has completed the planned six month handover and his knowledge and expertise have proved vital on many occasions. He has kindly agreed to stay on until December to train Amy and cover staff absences.

Sarah Lomax has been promoted to senior assistant.

The Chapel's Exterior Paint

Some people have commented on the problems we have with the exterior paint on the chapel walls. This has been addressed with our contractors and the paint supplier and the building will be repainted with a new mineral based paint in the spring at no additional cost to us.

Community Survey

Our ongoing survey will provide very useful insights into what is working well and where we can improve.

**YOUR FEEDBACK
MATTERS!**

It is available to complete online and paper copies are available at the shop. Your honest feedback is very welcome.



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East Boldre's First Royal Visit

HRH Prince Richard the Duke of Gloucester visited Chapel Stores on the 2nd October to recognise and celebrate the huge community effort it has taken over the last six years to establish the community shop and Post Office in East Boldre.

Representatives from key groups who contributed to the success of the project to create Chapel Stores were presented to His Royal Highness. He congratulated everyone involved and commented on the importance of such local projects in building community cohesion and retaining local services. As a former architect, he clearly grasped the challenges faced in restoring the 200-year-old chapel.

Thanks to all who made this such a relaxed & happy event.



Heritage Project Update

Of the £704,000 raised to acquire the chapel and carry out the works to create Chapel Stores, we were awarded £54,000 by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. £24,000 was awarded specifically for heritage related activities.

Recording and researching the 56 gravestones on site is now largely complete. Dr James Miles of Archeovision will be giving a talk, 'Imaging Heritage – Revealing History' on the work carried out and the remarkable results at the Village Hall on the 19th November at 6:30pm.

Tickets are £3 each from ticket source or contact Rebecca (gabzdyl@btinternet.com) for more information.



Drop in to the vestry to see the latest St Barbe touring exhibition that is organised as part of this project.

The graveyard interpretation panels will soon be installed, providing an insight to its history and a visible record of the people buried there.

The book about the history of the chapel and retail in the village is due for publication before Christmas. The exhibition panels for the vestry are progressing too.

Our thanks to our heritage project partners and the National Lottery players.



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