

SHOP TALK

CHapel STORES
— EST. 2023 —

East Boldre Community Stores Limited

Issue 10 - October 2023

<https://www.eastboldrecommunitystores.com>

Opening for Business - 19th Jan 2024

In our last issue we reported the issues we were facing around our Post Office retaining its protected community status. Thanks to the perseverance of Mike Hawker and the proactive support of Sir Julian Lewis MP we are pleased that this has now been satisfactorily resolved. The Post Office transfer process has fixed timescales and those initial delays in agreeing terms have determined the date we will open for business.

We would like to thank Ian Evans for working with us during these recent Post Office delays. He has been keen to retire for some time but has put his own plans on hold to ensure continuity of the shop and Post Office services in East Boldre. Needless to say, we are all pleased to finally have a firm opening date we can now work to.

Funding Update



Made possible with

Heritage Fund

Thanks to players of the National Lottery

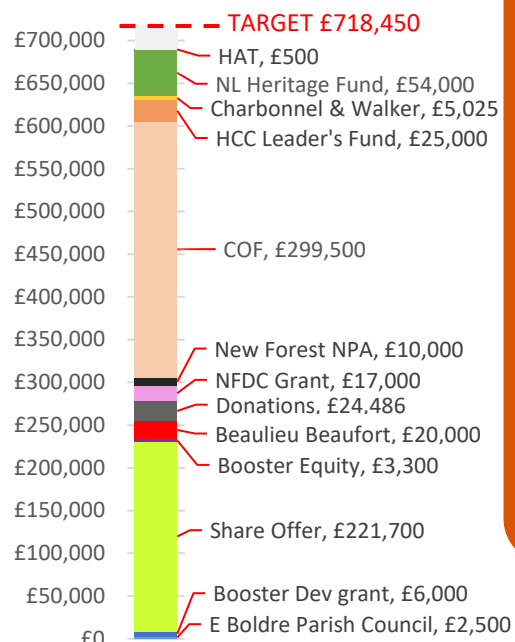
National Lottery Heritage Fund Award

We are pleased to say our application for £54,000 was successful.

Part of this covers the kitchen and the external works to the chapel to address the penetrating damp. This includes replacing the eroded stone cills on the front façade, exterior paint work, new guttering and localised repointing.

The other part will cover our heritage activities that aim to research and commemorate the chapel's history as our village's first church. This includes a gravestone recording activity, led by professional archaeologists, that will involve local people in using modern imaging techniques to reveal the eroded inscriptions on the 52 gravestones we have on site.

Funding Status



IN SUMMARY

Target - £718,450

Raised - £690,000

Needed - £28,450

We have raised 96% of the total funds needed.

80% of grant applications have been successful, an exceptional success rate.

HELP – Funds Still Needed

We still need to raise **£28,450** to buy the shop shelving and energy efficient chillers. We planned to cover these costs from two specific funds:

- Our application for £25,000 to the Princes Countryside Fund was shortlisted but it was unsuccessful as they prioritised projects in more deprived areas.
- The Charles Burnett Memorial Fund supports local community projects but Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Fund, who administer their grants, do not accept applications from Community Benefit Societies.

We have cut costs where we can but issues encountered during building works at the 200-year-old chapel have absorbed our contingency budget and pushed our budget up from £715,000 to £718,450.

Despite extensive research, we have been unable to find other funding sources for our chillers and shelving that would enable us to hold to our January opening date.

Therefore, we are launching a

Crowdfunding Appeal

Please help us to raise this final



£28,450



Opens 10am Saturday 28/10/23 for 6 weeks.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/east-boldre-community-stores-the-final-step>

Your support would be much appreciated

Product and Supplier Selection

We are very pleased to welcome two new volunteers to the team, Malvena Stuart-Taylor and Simon Ricketts. They have strengthened our activities to select our suppliers and the products we will stock.

We are keen to ensure that we stock products at a range of price levels so we are benchmarking other shops' prices for key groceries.

This will provide a framework for our supplier negotiations. Obviously, we do not have the buying power of Tesco but we will work to ensure we have a competitive offering compared to other convenience stores.

A Special Thank You To....

Michael Donaldson – who is acting in a professional capacity as our contract administrator pro-bono.

Lynn Clark – who has committed a substantial amount of her time recently to design and co-ordinate our signage.

Annie Penn – who, with her brother Roger, is restoring the original stone sign we uncovered at the chapel.

Also, to everyone who has helped out at our Painting Parties and helped us save over £3,000, THANK YOU!

Open Morning, 10 – 11:30am, 4th Nov

Come and see the completed interior of the chapel and chat to us about our plans.

Recruitment

We are now recruiting both staff and volunteers for our business and you can find more information about how to apply on our website, www.eastboldrecommunitystores.com/recruitment.

Paid Staff

We are looking to fill three paid positions. Each role is for 20 hours a week to cover our extended opening hours compared to the existing shop and will include some weekend working and holiday cover.



Rebecca
Gabzdyl



Mike
Hawker



Judith
Richardson



Nick
Thompson



Alison
Moore-Gwyn



David
Moore-Gwyn



See our website for
more information

Building Works Update

Thanks to the Tuakana team internal works are largely completed barring final snagging and we are very pleased with the results.



We recently had to take the decision to strip the old paint from the chapel's walls as it is not in good enough condition to paint over. We have absorbed most of this cost but this was responsible for pushing our overall budget up to £718,450.

The exterior of the building will be completed in the next week (weather permitting) and then Rob Keffen's team will be back on site to install the French drain around the chapel (under archaeological supervision) and complete the car park.

Annual Members' Meeting – 18th Nov

Invitations have been sent to our shareholders who have the opportunity to stand for election to our management committee. Members can apply to stand for election at:

www.eastboldrecommunitystores.com/amm23.

Application deadline - 6th November 23.

