



Siop Llangors Shop Volunteer Newsletter

November 2025



Messages from the Manager, Jenni-Sue Freeland

Staff changes

Thanks to Jonny Demanuel for all his hard work through the summer, the extra hours were very much appreciated but his summer hours have come to an end. Thanks Jonny! Thanks also to Adam for his hard work: he finished at the end of October but has not moved too far as he is working full time in the Red Lion. Eden Quine-Taylor will be replacing Adam until the end of January and will be working the first two shifts on a Wednesday and Friday starting 5th November.

We are seeking a volunteer to join the Rota Team – a crucial role in our operations. If anyone is interested please speak to JS, Jane Brown or Rose Snowden.

Coming soon.....

InPost - we will be hosting InPost for your deliveries and parcels, a great addition to the village that will hopefully create more footfall for the shop.

Baby and toddler – every Tuesday 10.30-11.30am.

Happy Hour – 25% off all Coffee and Cake Starting Monday 3rd November 1-2pm. Funded by the Prosperity Fund to support wellbeing and social contact and build local connections.

Make your Mark Bikers Passport– to encourage footfall into the café/shop we have signed up to the Bikers Passport Scheme. This will be starting in the New Year .

Please ask JS for more info on any of the above.



Happy staff and volunteers (JS and Jane Brown above and Lawrence Duffy and Niki Jones below.) NB wearing stripes on duty is not compulsory!



Siop Llangors Shop Update – Thanks to YOU, We're Thriving!

Rose Snowden, Chair of the Management Committee

Dear Volunteers, I hope this message finds you well! As always, we want to keep you updated on how things are going in Llangors shop—and thanks to your dedication, we are doing well! Every hour you volunteer helps keep things running smoothly.

Customer Feedback

We continue to receive lovely feedback about how friendly and helpful the team is. Customers have commented on how inviting the shop feels—this is 100% thanks to you.

Volunteer Shifts

As always, we couldn't do this without you! Our rota continues to be challenging to fill each month, even more so with Jonny's summer contract coming to an end. So, if you can do an extra shift please let us know.

Looking Ahead

We continue to review the findings from our most recent customer survey to ensure we are meeting the needs and expectations of our customers. One of our key focuses is finding ways to increase footfall and to further enhance our café experience by exploring potential menu extensions.

Following a detailed review of our café service area, we have concluded that the current layout works well for the menu we presently offer. Due to health and safety considerations, we are restricted in our ability to expand the menu further without making significant changes, but will look at how to develop the café area to extend the menu.

Meet the Management Committee:

Rose Snowden, Chair
Alan Williams, Treasurer
Robert East
Colin Preece
Tony Raikes

As you can see, we are now operating with a very small Committee of just five. We need new committee members to come on board, to bring your new ideas, your passion and enthusiasm for Llangors shop. The time commitment is not too onerous: we meet once a month for two hours and any tasks are shared. If you can give some time, we are recruiting.

How are we doing ? Alan Williams, Treasurer, reviews the numbers.

With just three weeks to go before the end of our financial year, total nett sales are forecast as approximately 4% above last year but a few thousand pounds short of the budget. This means that our sales have kept pace with inflation but not really increased on last year – hopefully we can increase sales above inflation next year.

Our gross margins (the amount we charge the customer above the price paid by the shop) have been reviewed and increased slightly so that the contribution to sales is slightly higher than budgeted. We feel that the slightly higher margin is the optimum level between “keeping prices as low as possible” and “achieving a level to cover our overheads”.

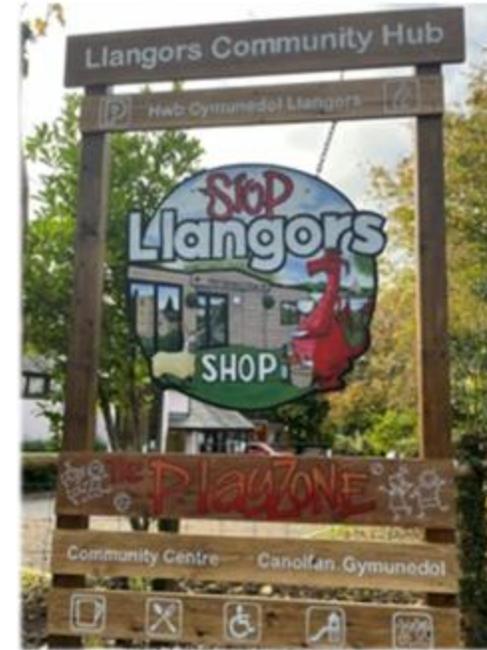
Our highest overhead by far is the payroll, where we are committed to paying the “real” living wage and providing opportunities for youngsters in the area to get work experience – three people working 9 hours each weekend. We currently employ a manager and assistant on a permanent basis, plus a temporary person. Our annual wage bill has almost doubled since 2021/22 and now takes nearly two-thirds of the contribution from sales. These figures again demonstrate that without the volunteers the shop just would not be viable.

The remaining overheads (electricity, maintenance, insurance, licensing, consumables, cleaning, credit card commission, wastage) are all under control and in line with the budget. We have received donations from the Xmas Ball, Castle Quiz and Raffles of just under £1,000 in the year.

We have a stock take at the end of October which hopefully will ratify our book figure of about one and a half to two weeks of stock. We still have the share issue money which is earmarked for replacement equipment / expansion.

So, with the nett effect of all of these I am very optimistic that we will show a very small profit this year – compared to the very small loss of last year.

All in all a pretty healthy picture finance wise. ...



Our recently improved car park entrance and signage is looking fantastic in the autumn colours.





Volunteer Voice:

Roger Reese

After thirty-five years of a career in education I have come full circle. I am once again a Paper Boy, a job I first did whilst a sixth form student trying to earn some much-needed currency. Now I do it for purely altruistic reasons (or perhaps not entirely). I have always enjoyed reading a daily paper and when the shop was planned I had always thought that it should have daily newspapers which would save me driving into town. Fortunately my thoughts were shared by quite a few others.

I also feel that if I wanted something strongly enough and volunteering was the only way to achieve it I should be prepared to do something about it. I am now part of a small team of dedicated Newspaper Boys under the leadership of Robert East.

The job involves collecting the papers from Talgarth early in the morning, ensuring the papers have the correct recipient names on them and getting them to our shop for opening time. The system is not complicated but doing it seven days a week, including Bank Holidays requires consistency and a willingness to cover for each other.

Our community shop would not exist without so many enthusiastic volunteers who are willing to give their support to, what is, a fantastic community asset. We all benefit, and by being part of the newspaper team I, and our team, are making a modest but valuable contribution. Now, where did I put that paper?

A Supplier Profile to give you a buzz...



Blaenau Gwent Apiary

Founded by Alan and Lisa Bevan, the Blaenau Gwent Apiary focuses on sustainability, bee health, and high-quality honey, promoting the benefits of local honey and supporting small businesses. We have stocked their honey for several years.

Lisa Bevan, Co-founder, tells us more...

We are a family run business specialising in honey bees and have been passionate about beekeeping for over 14 years. We have over 500 hundred bee hives that are positioned on over 30 different farms to help the pollination of their land .

Our hives are in Blaenau Gwent, Gilwern, Raglan, Usk, Hereford, Forest of Dean, Abergavenny, Crickhowell, Talybont and Langors. We supply the Langors community shop with our honey from the two farms that are in Langors not too far from the shop. Local honey straight from a beehive is excellent for many allergies and is also full of live enzymes and anti oxidants which are natural and great for the body. We produce different types of honey from different flowers that our bees are pollinating such as Borage, Heather and Wildflower. We also infuse our lovely honey with ginger, turmeric, chilli, and produce beeswax scented candles and lip balms made from our beeswax. Everything is natural!



Volunteer Voice: Sian Evans

For those that don't know me I was born and raised in Llangors over 60 years ago...My parents John and Mair Hamer were involved in many aspects of village life and the community.

Growing up we had 2 shops and a butchers in the village AND a bus service twice a day to take us into Brecon!

My teenage years were spent working at Lakeside for Wendy and Garnet Davies and later alongside Rita (who makes our delicious cakes) and for Anner College. After leaving home, the next 30 odd years were spent raising a family, living overseas but nearly always coming back to Llangors for holidays.



When it was time to retire, it was not a difficult decision to come back home. We moved to Bwlch in the middle of Covid which proved to be a difficult time to establish ourselves in the community. With the passing of my mother earlier this year the time was right for me to get involved and join the friendly, amazing group of volunteers who run the community shop.

I look forward to my shifts and being challenged to make a vanilla milkshake! Chatting to the customers and visitors who pop in, I'm now beginning to feel I finally belong back in the area... I suppose that's what you call the circle of life.

**Siop
Llangors
Shop**

VOLUNTEERING VACANCY
URGENT

WE HAVE AN OPENING FOR A
ROTA TEAM MEMBER

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT JS IN THE SHOP
OR EMAIL
SECRETARY@LLANGORSSHOP.CO.UK

Phone: 01874202190 email: shopmanager@shopllangorsshop.co.uk

Dates for your (busy) Diaries....

Volunteers Get Together

Weds 26th November 6pm to 7.30pm

Llangasty Village Hall

All our Volunteers and their partners are welcome – please RSVP to secretary@llangorsshop.co.uk or add your name to the sheet in the office.

Training

(All staff & volunteers)

H & S, Fire safety, Manual Handling, Basic First Aid & Food Hygiene

The training will be delivered on Saturday 15th and Saturday 22nd November from 10-12.30. You will only need to attend one of the sessions. Please put your name down for one of the sessions on the sign-up sheet in the office.

This Volunteer Newsletter is produced twice a year by Jane Brown who welcomes suggestions and items for the Spring issue (jagawthrope@btinternet.com). Thanks to everyone who contributed and to Mark Kerr for many of the photographs.