

Welcome to the first edition of the Semley Village Stores Newsletter. We hope to publish these on a regular basis to keep our fellow villagers, customers and supporters up to date with our Community shop. First of all the history!

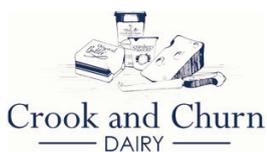
Semley lost its existing shop in the early 2000s. An off licence venture took over the site but by 2010 it was foundering, and several villagers – partly inspired by the success of Hindon, East Knoyle and Motcombe in saving their own shops, all very helpful to the venture – set out to restart the stores. With advice from the indispensable Plunkett Foundation and an enthusiastic core of supporters, almost all of whom remain on the committee, a co-operative venture was established for the benefit of the community and shares were sold to local residents for the start up capital. This was matched through a loan and a grant from Plunkett, which administered cash from the EU rural development fund. None of this would have been possible without the support of the Allfreys whose generosity included buying the building. All these sterling efforts resulted in the shop opening on St George's Day (also Shakespeare's birthday!) in 2012.

For a premises of such limited size the breadth and variety of what the shop offers is extraordinary and each newsletter will introduce various suppliers.

We begin with two excellent family enterprises:



1. **Wilton Wholefoods** was started by Martin and Wendy Rimer who bought a stall in Wilton Market in 1988. This developed into today's successful business of sourcing, mixing, blending and packing the best natural foods from all over the world. Based in Downton the business is now run by the Martin and Wendy's sons, Sol and Dan. Our shop sells a wide range of their nuts, rice, cereals, herbs, spices, seeds etc..



2. **Crook and Churn** at Farrington near Blandford was started by John and Kate Howell in 1983. They began by milking their own sheep and making sheep's milk yoghurt (hence crook and churn!). Goat's and cow's milk products followed and now they make and distribute a wide variety of excellent dairy products. They supply our shop twice a week with milk from Dorset, their own cream, yoghurts from Somerset and Devon, butter from Somerset and a variety of cheeses.

Lal our manager, is supported by a team of volunteers who make the experience of visiting the shop relaxed and ensure a warm and friendly welcome. Local residents can buy their essential shopping as well as a wide variety of household goods, stationery, fresh meats, vegetables and dairy products as well as drinks and snacks. The café offers a variety of fresh sandwiches and cakes and Semley's own coffee is fabulous! The selection of breads is remarkable with deliveries throughout the week from Taylors, Lievito, Famous Hedgehog and Panery.

Semley Village Stores is our shop and as such we depend on volunteers to ensure that we can all benefit from having a shop in the village. If anyone can spare a couple of hours a week please drop in and put your name down or email Rosie Gatherwood on rosie.catherwood@gmail.com

Happy shopping!