

Moving Towards Ownership...

- An update with news that we think all members have been waiting for: last week we signed papers for **Risdon Hosegood** to be our legal representatives for the purchase of the freehold for the land and property of the village shop and the flat above.
- These instructions followed a recent meeting and agreement with Helen, just over a year on from our first meeting back in January, 2017.
- In all of our meetings Helen has been very supportive, very straight and very fair. This meeting was no different. As with our first meeting it also had its emotional moments. We may not be there yet in terms of purchase, but we want to say a public ‘thank you’ to Helen for all her help and support.
- Thank you also to everyone who responded to our February update and ‘Open Meeting.’ The recent increase in shareholding has made a difference.
- The ‘Evening with Penelope Lively’ was a really special occasion. The capacity audience thoroughly enjoyed both Penelope’s talk and the small exhibition of Rachel Reckitt’s work put together downstairs. Almost £1,400 was raised towards the shop purchase. We are indebted to Penelope and her daughter Josephine for the gift of prints from the original woodcuts made by Rachel. The sale of these accounted for £800 of the total.
- Now that ‘Phase One’ is nearing an anticipated successful conclusion Simon, our treasurer, has made the difficult decision to step down from the management committee. As a steering group we first met in late November 2016 to explore the possibility of taking on the village shop as a community asset. For 15 months Simon has not only played a significant role in our combined effort to acquire the village shop as a community asset, but has also continued to maintain his own full-time workload. From all of us, ‘**Thank you, Simon.**’
- Our committee’s priorities now are focused on securing ownership of the property and ensuring a successful transition towards full oversight and responsibility for sound CBS oversight and management of the shop and the flat.
- John Allen has agreed to continue his support for the village shop by advising us on any specific points of shop business and by continuing with some of the essential tasks he currently carries out for the original company. This will assist with the secure transfer of business to the CBS and should also help us to build on all that is currently good about the day to day work of our village shop.
- By the time you read this the shop should have a new till and computer system - evidence of more success for the combined voluntary efforts of all involved in both the current company and our CBS.
- Finally, **thank you for your support.** Our project is all about bringing a permanent and substantial **benefit** to our **community**. Every member (over 280 so far) is of equal importance. Whether it’s coming up with bright ideas for small and big fundraising efforts, volunteering, contributing to plans for improvements, shareholding and enjoying regular village shopping, our project cannot be successful without continued widespread support.... **Thank you.**

Visit www.roadwatercommunityshop.co.uk
to download our draft strategy, share information and forms, plus our CBS Rules and more...