

BATHFORD VILLAGE SHOP – MAY 2007

ON MAY 5th WE CELEBRATE OUR FIRST BIRTHDAY

And It's All Thanks to You!

Bathford Village Shop celebrates one year of successful trading on 5 May. There have been many highlights in the past year – but perhaps the main source of relief and pride is the fact that, one year on, not only are we open but we're flourishing. The idea of a shop that serves all the community and that is a 'hub' for the village has remained intact and is reflected in our wide range of goods, our commitment to local sourcing and our ordering and delivery service. The 'hub' idea is well illustrated by the popularity of the small coffee area. At the same time, the challenge of becoming a successful business has also been pursued. Turnover has exceeded original projections by over 25%, the number of product lines has increased to approximately 2000 and over 3.5 thousand hours of volunteer time have been clocked up by the community members who staff the shop.

This success is in no small part down to our tireless and enthusiastic manager Paul Faulkner together with an equally tireless management committee and our solid base of volunteers. Yet we recognise that these efforts would have been in vain without the overwhelming local support that has been the highlight of the year. From the early weeks in May 2006, when customers patiently stood in line with full baskets whilst volunteers got to grips with our complicated till, to July 2006 when our 200+ co-operative members had the chance to elect their management committee, through to the Autumn when harvest donations from the local allotments poured in, the support and goodwill from the community and local organisations has been second to none and it is with a very big *thank-you* to you all that we embark on our second year of trading.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

As we move into that second year, the focus will be on consolidating and developing. Our hope is to become self-sufficient without the need to rely on external funding and undertake as much fundraising. We wish to continue to develop our service to the community and sustain the project. Significant energy and effort has been invested by the committee and the shop manager in the past year and, in April we set about recruiting a part-time assistant manager who would lend a general hand, as well as help to support and develop our volunteers.

SHOP OPENING HOURS

The volunteer support has enabled opening hours to be extended during the year to **7.30am – 6.00pm weekdays, 7.30am – 5.30pm Saturdays** and **8.00am – 12.30pm on Sundays.**

SHOP CONTACT DETAILS

Bathford Village Shop , 54 Bathford Hill , Bathford. Bath BA1 7SN

Manager: Paul Faulkner

Tel (01225) 859186

BEFA AND THE SHOP ONLINE

Don't forget that you can now find some background and general information about BEFA and the Village Shop under "Local Organisations" on the Parish Council's Webpages. Have a look at

<http://www.bathford.net/befa.php>

and

<http://www.bathford.net/shop.php>

to find recent newsletters, general stock and service information as well as details on how to join BEFA or how to become a volunteer in the shop.

LOUISE DANIELS & MARGARET GEARTY