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# Village Shop Campaign

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Newsletter for the local community campaign to keep a shop in Rushlake Green

Issue 7

## Sold at auction!

### The Auction

As most of you who have followed the progress of the sale of the Village Shop will know, on Wednesday 8th October the Shop was sold to Andrew and Katie Wickens who live at Cowbeech and who used to run the bathroom shop in Heathfield. Of course, the new ownership is subject to the legal processes which will take another month to complete. As we said in our last newsletter, we favoured the sale of the Shop to someone eager to retain it as a shop. This has happened and we are all delighted that not only will the Post Office and the Shop continue but that it will be in the hands of local people already familiar with our community.

The Campaign Group wishes them all success and looks forward to seeing the improvements that fresh management can bring.

### The Campaign

The Campaign attracted strong response almost 300 people joining and contributing. Not a bad turn out when most of these individual memberships represented a household in the community. Loyalty knows no boundaries and people with links to the village committed themselves to membership from as far away as Scotland - (May make deliveries a challenge!)

Comments on the membership forms were constructive and complimentary!

'...I am very keen that our village shop can be kept going....'

'...the continuation of RG Village Shop and PO is of vital necessity....'

'...I think you have all done a fantastic job.....!'

We will make sure that the Wickenses are aware of the ideas and proposals that people have put forward.

### The Finances

To support the Campaign, we invited people to become members and pay £25, or £12.50 for younger members, to demonstrate the strong level of commitment from the village should the Shop not sell at auction and require us to seek outside funding. As this has not become necessary we want to honour our promise to return the payments made, less any costs incurred by the Campaign.

The vigorous drive for membership raised over £6,000. Once the ownership of the Shop has been legally transferred to the Wickenses and all the costs are in, we will return the net funds subscribed and formerly fold up the Campaign. This number will also be adjusted to reflect the people, including the Campaign Group, who are all waiving the repayment of their subscription to cover the costs.

## The Supporters

We cannot fold away this Campaign without honouring and thanking the many volunteers who have given their time, printing & paper, as well as footwear and petrol to maximise the distribution of newsletters and posters, and recruit members, to ensure the Campaign's success. These include:

### **Newsletter & Poster Distributors**

Jonathan & Shirley Austin  
John & Mary Brenchley  
Marriane Bysouth  
Don Clark  
Holly Day & Sasha Long  
Nick & Gay Gleadow  
Geraldine Hooper  
Corrie Huntley  
Patrick Ireland  
Jeni Lucas  
Michael & Margaret McCarthy  
Jim & Anne Payne  
Jeremy Pitts  
Gerry Saldanha  
Joanna Smith  
Maureen Tarry-Smith  
Ray Whittaker

### **Door to door Membership Campaigners**

Monica Adams-Acton  
Don Clark  
Ian Collett  
Nick Fagg  
Maria Hadlow  
Jamie & Catherine Fairbairn  
Ray Whitaker  
Clyde & Heather Young  
Christian Jervis Read  
Sasha Long  
Nigel & Farideh McKeeman  
Jim & Anne Payne  
Jen Pratt  
Rob Robinson  
Carole & Mike Smythe  
Proctor Taylor

### **Services & Resources provided free by:**

Chris Liddiard -	Bottom Line Design: website, campaign theme & logo (brilliant!) design
Dunn Village Hall:	Use of venue
Jack Morton Worldwide:	Colour reprographics & laminating
J C Austin:	Audio-visual support for meetings
Don Clark:	Poster signs
Colin Mitchell -	Kentish Graphics: large colour poster-board
Nick Fagg:	Legal services

## Conclusion

Come November the Campaign will end and the Shop will be in new hands which, we all hope, will see a revitalisation of the services that so many depend on.

The Campaign Group feels strongly that the communal efforts of the 'Save the Village Shop Campaign' have tapped into the strong element of village neighbourliness that underlines the people and villages in and around Rushlake Green and Warbleton.

We all feel that this has revived and renewed a greater sense of Community. Some of us would like to see if we can direct this energy to other activities in the Community. We have done it once – so we can do it again.

**But now we that have the future of the shop secured – it will only stay that way if we use it more than we have to date. Its future success must lie with us all!**

# Well done everybody!

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The campaign group: Jamie & Catherine Fairbairn; Ian Collett; Jonathan Austin; Clyde Young; Nigel & Farideh McKeeman; Andy Long; Mike Smythe; Christian Jervis Read; Monica Adams-Acton, Nick Fagg.  
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