



NEWSLETTER

7th October 2019

Since the last newsletter there have been a large number of changes at our shop.

A manager, Brian Thompson, has been appointed. Brian will be working 18 hours per week and will be delighted to meet everyone when they are in the shop. The Management Board wish to thank Louisa O'Brien, Food Retail Consultant, who was contracted at the start of the project, to establish shop protocols and procedures. Thank you Louisa. We must also thank Linda, Lizzie and Hannah for all their hard work in helping to get the shop up and running.

After a lot of hard work by your Board we have been awarded a grant of £10,000 from Scottish Borders Council covering 90% of the costs incurred in the following:

- 1. Refurbishment of the flat. The flat will then be let out to a suitable tenant, the rent will help considerably with the shop finances.**
- 2. New non slip flooring throughout the shop.**
- 3. Repairs to chimney stacks.**
- 4. Repairs to flashing to rear extension, this is in a very bad state of repair.**

There has been a new extractor fan fitted to the rear of the shop and a new heater fitted to the front of the shop. Hopefully these two appliances will keep the shop at a more constant temperature.

Shop opening hours have changed. Opening time is 8.00am closing at 5.00pm apart from Saturday when it is 4.00pm and Sunday when it is 3.00pm. The extended opening hours have operated since June and have proved popular

with both locals and walkers. These hours are constantly under review and may well change as winter approaches.

There have been three new signs added, one at Cessford Motors road end, one on the front of the shop and one between the two parts of the shop. These signs promote what we sell in our shop and that we have an outreach post office service on a Monday and Thursday morning.

During the summer a video was made by the Scottish Government to celebrate Community Land Week 2019, telling the story of the how the community got together to purchase the shop and explaining the importance of the shop to the whole of the Kalewater community. You can see the video here: <https://www.communitylandscotland.org.uk/community-land-week-events/>

The garden has been completely renovated and was opened on 18th August. We now have picnic tables, new paving and gravel where locals and walkers alike can enjoy a drink and snack in comfortable surroundings. This is all accessible to wheel chairs. This work was all done by volunteers.

We must also thank the volunteers for working so hard and making everything work so well. It is never easy when so many changes are made in a short space of time but with a little effort and goodwill by everyone we are sure the shop will be a great success.

We would like to hear from anyone willing to volunteer in the shop as some extra hands would be a great help.

Board of Management

Morebattle Community Shop