

The Link

Changes in the Team for 2025

This new year brings bittersweet moments as we bid goodbye to some treasured team members while welcoming new faces to our shop family.



We have to say a heartfelt farewell to Jo and Kirstie in January February, whose dedication and support have been instrumental in navigating many changes in the shop over the past year. They will be deeply missed, and we extend our thanks for all they've done to support the shop and our village community.

We're also saying goodbye to Miron in April, who is returning to his career in outward bounds training. Miron began with us on Saturdays while he was still at school, then came back last autumn to help us through the busy Christmas season with his signature enthusiasm and can-do spirit. We wish him every success in his next adventure and thank him for his invaluable contributions.

Looking ahead, we're thrilled to welcome Silke and Tim, who joined the team in January. We're so excited about the year ahead and can't wait to share new experiences with them as we continue to grow and serve the community. Here's to fresh beginnings and a wonderful year ahead!

Wonderful workshops

The Christmas wreath-making workshop, held in the shop in December, was a fabulous festive and creative experience. Attendees enjoyed crafting their own unique wreaths

using a variety of seasonal materials, including fresh greenery, ribbons, and ornaments, under the guidance of our ever patient and inspiring teacher Ellen. There was a warm and cheerful atmosphere, filled with holiday music and camaraderie, as participants shared techniques and admired each other's creations.



Put a spring in your step

We are delighted to announce that there will be another opportunity to join one of Ellen's creative sessions, on Saturday 29th March, when you will learn how to craft a beautiful table centrepiece, full of fresh spring flowers. The flower wreath would make a lovely (and timely) Mother's Day gift, an early Easter display or simply bring a splash of colour to your home.

The workshop will start at 2.30pm and take approximately 2 hours. Bring a friend or come along and meet new people. All materials and a glass of fizz are included. The cost is £45 (£10 deposit). Pop in the shop to sign up or send us an email. These classes are popular, so get in touch soon to secure your place.



Shop window showcases

Watch out for some wonderful window displays over the next few months. Our sumptuous Valentines window should get you in the mood for love. Then, at the end of February, we will be celebrating all things local. The window will feature our wonderful fresh food suppliers, who are all based in the Cotswolds. It's great to know that by supporting the shop, you are also supporting a host of local farmers and businesses. In March, we are excited to announce a special collaboration with Longborough School. The children will be using their creative talents to bring our Easter window to life. So come on down and take a peek.



Springtime in the Garden

Exciting news! Starting April 5th, we're extending our weekend opening hours and bringing back our charming little garden café behind the shop! Last year, it became a favourite spot for villagers and visitors alike, and we can't wait to welcome you back for more delicious moments surrounded by nature.

If you have any flowers or plants to help add a splash of springtime magic to the garden, we'd love to hear from you. Your support makes all the difference, and we're so grateful



to share this wonderful space with our community. 🌿 ✨



Shop AGM

Mark your calendars! This year's Shop AGM will be held on Monday, April 28th, in the Village Hall. Stay tuned for more details in the Longborough News.

We invite you to join us to hear last year's highlights, share your thoughts, and ask the Committee any questions. Your input is invaluable, and we always love hearing from our wonderful community. See you there!

Sales Update

As a little preview to the AGM, the following graph shows how sales in 2024 compared with the previous 3 years. Our costs have gone up every year. However, we have

managed to keep prices down and our margin as low as possible over these difficult times and while we started last year by making a loss for the first 4 months, the shop and café recovered well over the summer and again over Christmas. This meant that overall, we had a profitable trading year for the first time in 4 years.

This is a testament to the incredible support from all of you. Together, we are all ensuring our shop remains at the heart of the village. Thank you, and let's keep this momentum going in 2025!

