

A New Village Shop For Ascott



Residents of Ascott-under-Wychwood are rarely seen out and about these days without clutching some kind of official looking document or talking in code. Some of you may be forgiven for thinking a new cult has emerged and life in rural Oxfordshire will never be the same again. The Village Shop is the project that has the inhabitants so excited. The shop will be situated at the end of Cooks Row, currently being built on the High Street in the village, a few metres up from the old shop run by Mrs. Cook. The shop is to be owned and run by the community to provide a friendly service to all the village, visitors and passing trade. It is to be operated as an Industrial and Provident Society, the Ascott under Wychwood Village Shop Association Ltd, with a salaried part-time manager, volunteer staff and foundation and management committees. The development is scheduled for completion in September and it is hoped that the fitting out and stocking of the shop will be completed in time for opening in November.

The total budget for this ambitious project is £130,000, over half of which will come from substantial grants plus a £30,000 mortgage. The target for fundraising is £20,000, which includes the sale of shares, donations and business sponsorship. Detailed business plans have been drawn up, enabling us to apply for grants and a mortgage. We have the full support of the parish council, and West Oxfordshire District Council, which operates Leader Plus, the anticipated source of a large grant

As well as selling share options and making applications for grants the village still needs to raise considerable funds to enable the project to get off the ground.

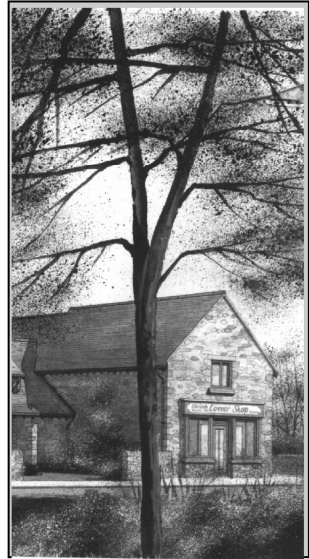
The Ascott under Wychwood Village Charity will handle donations, which qualify for gift aid and receive any profits that the shop may make. If you would like to support the project by purchasing a £10 share, making a donation, providing sponsorship at a fundraising event or offering your help or expertise – or you just want to find out more, please contact the chairman John Cull 01993 831621 or secretary, Sue Richards 01993 830122. Keep up to date with the shop's progress and find out about forthcoming fundraising events on our website – www.ascott-under-wychwood.org.uk/~shop/

As part of the fund raising initiative a local Fun Run is taking place on Sunday 14th September. The route will be approximately 6km for adults and slightly shorter for children. The Run will start and finish at the playing fields in Ascott. There will be races at the playing fields for children under 8. Runners in Fancy Dress will be very much appreciated and sponsor forms will be provided in entry packs. All proceeds will go directly to the shop fund.

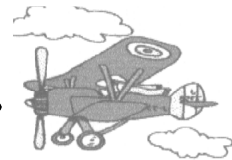
Entry forms can be found on the website at www.ascott-under-wychwood.org.uk/-shop , in local schools, Wychwood Library and Chipping Norton Leisure Centre. Otherwise entrants can sign up on the morning of the race itself. Entry fees of £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for children will apply.

The day is not just for the runners! A BBQ will be fired up for those family members not running and Sponsors of the event include, Wychwood Business Services, Mac Power, Michael Gully, Burford House Hotel and Nicholls (Banbury) Ltd. Winners trophies donated by Windrush Valley School.

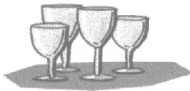
So be reassured that it is still safe to pass through the village with the only risk that FUNRUNCOM will want cash and to see The soles of many pairs of running shoes.



SAVE ON YOUR AIR FARE
Who needs the New York Plaza?
Come for BRUNCH at
THE TIDDY HALL, ASCOTT
Sunday 31st August
10am – noon



Tickets £6, or £8 to include a glass of Bucks Fizz
From
Kathy Pearce 830058
Sandy Markwell 831870



**Mature retailer wanted for
exciting new village shop opportunity at Ascott**

This is a part-time role with full responsibility for operations and profitability. The shop will open towards the end of 2003 with the successful applicant in the post by the autumn

The position would ideally suit someone looking to lead a community enterprise without the commitment of full-time work

For an informal discussion about the job and reward package;
contact John Cull 01993 831621 or e-mail johncull@wowmatters.com