

In celebration of our Local Stores

Milton Post Office & Stores

On August 8th 1983 John and Edna Naish took over the Post Office and shop in Milton-under-Wychwood and on August 8th 2003, John was presented with a Certificate and Badge, by Post Office Ltd., in recognition of twenty years service. John and Edna take up the story.



Changes in store

Over these years we have tried to respond to market changes and customer needs. We have seen the advent of large supermarkets and many products have had to make way for our current lines including flowers for every occasion, newspapers and magazines, greeting cards and stationery, sweets, ice cream, fresh baked bread, rolls and pies, fresh sandwiches and now a 'Hanco' cash dispenser.

Use it or lose it

Change is inevitable but is now more relevant than ever in the Post Office section of our business.

A misunderstanding has arisen between the Government and our customers who collect Allowances, Pensions and Benefits at the counter; as a result business has been lost to High Street Banks. Many small Post Offices are suffering in the same way, resulting in lost revenue to us. If this trend continues, small Post Offices will be lost forever, severely affecting rural life. Please come and talk to us if you would like more information about Direct Payments or any other issue. Remember that Post Offices now provide banking services free of charge for many customers, including Lloyds TSB, Barclays, Co-op. Smile, Cahoot and Alliance & Leicester. The old cliché "Use it or Lose it" has never been more apt. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the past twenty years and long may you continue to do so.

John & Edna Naish

Costcutter, Shipton

No sliding doors, posh tills or brand new equipment - forget a refit - when was the last time this store saw a lick of paint? Regular customers know only too well the welcoming creak of the door that cries out for a drop of oil. So what makes Costcutter so popular - cheap prices, quality produce or the best



baked bread in the county? We hope that it is our friendly welcome and helpful staff that bring customers to our store.

A warm welcome

Keith, Jean, Mandy and I have been running your local convenience store for ten years. Rather

than just a shop, Shipton House Stores is the hub of the village, promoting community spirit and providing a place to meet and talk to old friends.

We offer a free delivery service to the surrounding area, providing a vital link and social contact for the old and infirm; a friendly face and a chance to chat are important to the housebound. We are a pick-up point for prescriptions from the Surgery, a vital service for those without transport.

Service above and beyond

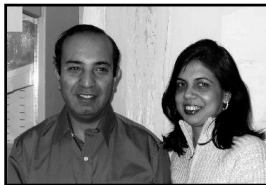
Customers use local shops for convenience, but it is more than that if

the shop owners treat them as a friend. There is nothing I enjoy more than a chat with the customers as they pass through, many have become friends and my evenings are spent talking about football, politics, local issues and the odd bit of gossip thrown in as a bonus! So why is Costcutter so popular? I believe it is because we all enjoy what we are doing. Our shop may not be ultra- modern; we sometimes get things wrong, but if you want to shop in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere - Costcutter is the store for you.

Rob Schofield

Shipton Post Office

Latest arrivals on the shop scene in the Wychwoods are Bob and Anita Mirpuri, who took over the Shipton Post Office in November 2002. They have been involved in retail business in London for many years. Looking for a better environment in which to live, work and raise their two children, Manoj, age 14 and Manisha, age 9, they took the decision to move to the country, and Shipton Post Office seemed to be exactly what they were searching for.



chilled, ready meals - a popular line in this fast-food age. As part of the national Spar promotions they are able to provide 'Buy one, get one free' offers, which change every three weeks and also their own 'local' offers, like wine-tasting days. Look out for a special event planned for the autumn.

Old Favourites

They continue to deliver papers over a wide area, sell National Lottery tickets and offer all the usual Post Office services. Anita has taken on the role of Post Mistress, along with the familiar face of Sheila Dixon. Bob says that he is in charge of everything else - a daunting task that starts at 4:30 am when he gets up to start the papers!

With Manoj and Manisha at local schools, the family have quickly settled into their new life. We welcome them to the village and wish them every success in their new venture.

Major Refit

The first thing they did was to link with Spar, who seemed to offer the best value and product mix, and a major refit of the store was quickly underway. This has resulted in a much brighter, airier layout, allowing customers to browse amongst the well-stocked shelves. They have extended the off-licence, fresh fruit and vegetables are delivered three times a week and there is a bigger selection of