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Ilmington Shop & Café Newsletter
Thursday 5th February 2026

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Dear Everyone,

WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY SHOP AND CAFÉ FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



JOIN OUR NEW MAINTENANCE TEAM

From time to time things need fixing and replacing in the shop and café and, where possible, this is done by volunteers from the community. We want to expand our volunteer maintenance team and are looking for new volunteers. Are you great at DIY and fixing things and would you be prepared to help us? We hope to get a team of four to six volunteers so they can share the load and support each other when the small tasks come up. If you are interested in joining this much valued team please contact Michele on office@ilmingtonshop.co.uk or 01608 682838



CAN YOU HELP US APPEAL OUR RATES?

The community shop and café have been exempt from paying rates since we opened in 2015. From this April, the Government are changing the rules around rates, rateable values and exemption thresholds and it looks like we may have to pay rates for the first time. We are going to

make a formal appeal to reduce or get exemption for our rates, and would really value help from anyone in the community who has the relevant experience to help us with this appeal. If you can help us please contact our treasurer, Fiona Dakin on Fiona.dakin@mail.com



AGM ON 26TH MARCH AT 7PM

Our AGM is on Thursday 26th March 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall and we hope that lots of our members will come along. There will be wine and beer and tasty nibbles to tempt you. **Members, please put this in your diary NOW!** If you are not a member or you know family, friends, or neighbours who would like to join our cooperative, all are welcome and there's still time to apply. For as little as a £10 share you can get membership, you can participate in the AGM and have a say in the running of our Community shop and café

Download the application form [here](#) or ask for one in the shop – you have until 23rd March to sign up if you want to come to the AGM.



STOCK UP FOR A BIG WEEK OF SPORT!

If ever there was a time to visit the shop to make sure you have stocked up on drinks and snacks, then this must be it! The Six Nations starts on a Thursday evening and the Winter Olympics opens on Friday.



SALES IN JANUARY

Sales in January were pretty much exactly the same as last January and given that we have been down on sales by a few percent for the first few months of the financial year, it is great to get back up to last years level again. As ever, thanks so much for the times when you use the shop and café and support our co-operative.



THREE CHEERS FOR GOOFY!

Most of our volunteers didn't enjoy sweeping and mopping the floor at the end of the day, so last year we bought "Goofy" the floor cleaning robot. Goofy has now done over 230 floor cleans and counting. Click on your choice of the following social media links if you want to see Goofy at work in the shop.



Goofy on Facebook



Goofy on instagram

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

- Wednesday 25th February at 2pm: Knit & Natter.
- Friday 27th February 2–4pm: Angie from VASA will be in the café for Coffee & Connect. Free coffee and good advice.
- Every Wednesday, 10am: Parent and Baby. Contact the shop on 01608 682838 to join Parent and Baby WhatsApp group so you can become part of the morning meet-ups.

MARCH

- Tuesday 3rd March at 2pm it's Book Club @thecafe. This month we will be discussing A Casual Vacancy by J.K. Rowling.
- Saturday 14th March at 7pm in the Village Hall, Volunteer Social for anyone who has volunteered this year and their partners.
- Thursday 26th March at 7pm in the Village Hall, it's the Community Shop AGM – **ALL MEMBERS PLEASE COME IF YOU CAN.**



Very best wishes,
Astrid, Clare, Fiona, Mike C, Mike T and Sophie



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