

## Bentley Stores 2021 report for Annual Parish Meeting 6th May 2021

Our recent receipt of "The Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk Award" from Clare Euston, HM Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk and Bridget McIntyre MBE, High Sheriff of Suffolk, recognises the tremendous contribution from all our volunteers to keep this important village facility open 7 days a week throughout 2020 and 2021



Since 23rd March 2020 Lockdown until 5th May 2021 our 54 volunteers have served 17,809 Customers in the shop, one or two at a time as covered by Government COVID regulations. We remained a safe place to shop and to meet friends in and around the car park while queuing, in fact a social magnet!

Our highest days sales were at the beginning when we sold 360 items for £554.28 in one single day, a very busy day!

During lockdown our volunteers took the opportunity to build a wonderful long porch to allow queuing in the rain! And more recently a new outdoor Vegetable Box.

We must not forget those volunteers who buy all the products at a time when normal supplies, availability and prices varied so much, just think of the Toilet Roll shortage! We sold 998 individual toilet rolls and we never ran out! Logistically this was an impressive achievement considering they purchased some 63,036 items!

Financially the shop is in a healthy position but because of our determination to keep our prices at reasonable levels we found 2020 very challenging!

We would welcome anyone who would like to help our shop in any way possible in the future, just pop in and talk to a volunteer or email: [info@bentleystores.co.uk](mailto:info@bentleystores.co.uk)

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Shop hours will continue as 9 to 1.30 weekdays and 9 to 12 noon weekends and bank holidays. (We only close on 25 and 26th December, 1st January and Easter Sunday).

We are Community Interest Company, 100% volunteer run, so all our benefits are real village community benefits.

Thank you for your support.

Bob Feltwell on behalf of all our volunteers.

