

Radley Village Shop Association

Treasurer's report for the year ended 31st December 2014

The accounts for the year ended 31st December 2014 show a surplus of £16,757 (2013: £10,764). The following points are worthy of note:-

- Our turnover in 2014 was down by 4.1%. Notably sales of cigarettes and alcohol were reduced, General groceries were the most affected but we increased the sales of fruit & veg, newsprint and history club publications. By careful management of our purchases and margins, regular scrutiny of our wastage costs, we have succeeded in showing an improved gross margin.
- Our stock in hand figure has shown a reduction at the year end, which is further evidence of our attention to the product lines on offer. We have less slow moving stock.
- The gross profit margin, close to our target of 20% in 2013 has been improved upon this last year to 22%. Operating at this level of margin will ensure our continued success.
- The installation of new refrigeration equipment has resulted in lower electricity bills. Because the heat from the equipment is now discharged outside the shop, the air conditioning equipment has a lighter work load and thus a lower operating cost.

Net assets in the Balance Sheet at 31st December 2014 were £122,404 (2013: £105,647). The new refrigeration equipment, which was rejected on delivery in October 2013, was brought into the Accounts in January 2014, and a grant towards the cost of this equipment amounting to £4,730 was claimed from the Vale of White Horse District Council in July 2014.

The outstanding mortgage on the shop premises is reducing as planned. At the end of 2014 the amount owed to ICOF was £40,550 (31st December 2013: £44,909).

During 2015, we will make a further sum of £1000 available for grants to help village projects. Accordingly, with the approval of the members at this Annual General Meeting, the Village Shop will again invite applications for consideration by the Management Committee. The Committee have also decided that an appropriate use of our surplus funds would be to support the purchase of a Defibrillator to be fitted to the outside of the Village Shop. This equipment is then available for use by the community in the event of someone suffering a heart attack. In a co-operation with the Parish Council, the Committee have agreed to support the purchase of one unit, whilst the Parish Council will provide two further units in other parts of the Parish.

Whilst the reserves might be considered to be extremely healthy, we have to consider the possibility that we may need to increase our paid staff to cover losses from the volunteer base. A recruitment campaign has succeeded in bringing forward new people, but overall our volunteer base has reduced from when we started the venture. During 2014 there have been gaps in the rota which have only been filled by a number of dedicated volunteers who have given more than their fair share of their spare time to keep the shop open.

Once again, the monthly overview of our Accounts by Graham Steinsberg enabled Critchleys to carry out the examination of our books for a reduced fee. If we did not have this support, our accountancy fees would be in the region of about £2000. Accordingly, I would like to thank Critchleys formally for their services as Examiners and recommend their appointment as our Reporting Accountants for the coming year. I would also like to thank Graham Steinsberg for his continued help and support and to Joyce Huddleston and Sue Ward for their continued help with the accounting functions.

Lynda Pasquire - Treasurer – 1st May 2015