



Talk about Irene.....

After spending her childhood in Ireland Irene moved to Essex where she worked at the Ford Motor Company for over thirty years. This was followed by a period with Essex Police, so if you received a speeding fine between 1999 and 2004 there is a fair chance that you are now working with the person who processed it. However it is as “The Book Queen” that Irene is best known having spent seven years managing the book room when the shop was run by Muscular Dystrophy before the foundation.

The Last Word

At the Christmas Supper bash I referred to you all as being akin to “an extended family”. These words were chosen very carefully and are reinforced almost daily. I feel honoured at having brought together a such diverse group of individuals with varied backgrounds and interests who show care and compassion towards each other.

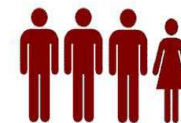
If a trouble shared is a trouble halved then surely happiness shared is happiness doubled. During this last twelve months the support and empathy shown to co-workers by others in times of difficulty, personal illness, injury and bereavement has undoubtedly eased the pain. And the good news announced by Fran Knox about her son Matt’s successful kidney and pancreas transplant certainly made my Christmas as well as hers. Remember we may appear as one person to be nothing, but collectively with kindness and consideration to just one colleague we could well become everything.

Talking Shop Issue 7

This edition of Talking Shop is well overdue, I could proffer a number of reasons why, but all would be without merit, so I’m sitting in a Marrakesh hotel room after my five day train trip tapping away at a computer keyboard.

Since the last copy quite a few records have been broken including our best ever week’s sales in excess of two thousand eight hundred pounds and the single most expensive item ever sold a Suzuki Omnichord, that’s correct, I’d never heard of one either but donated it was and it was bought on E-bay for three hundred and sixty four pounds.

Donations from the shop to the registered charity now total eighty four thousand pounds since the 1st of April 2019, hopefully this will increase to one hundred thousand pounds by the year end on the 31st of March; almost twice what I had optimistically budgeted for when putting my first thoughts on paper. This can only be put down to two things, the generosity of the village residents with their donations and the tremendous hard work of each and every one of you that volunteer here at the shop. Your time given and dedication shown really is valued and whilst most of the limelight seems to shine on me I for one know where it should be directed, so one again thank you one and all.



Mister Gees

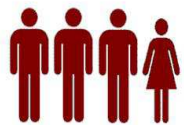
Foundation

Valerie does her very best to keep our records up to date and for this I'm most grateful. So far we have had no need to contact a next of kin following illness or injury in the shop and hopefully this will remain so but she will continue to check that nothing has changed every so often.

For my part can I once again remind everybody about the need for a clear passage from the shop, via the front and rear at all times in case of an emergency. Yes I know there are times when we are swamped by donations and I don't want to appear blind to this fact, however ignoring the legal aspect should anybody suffer because of my lapse approach to basic safety then it would far overshadow any of the good work done by the foundation to date.

Remember, in case of fire or disaster your main concern is to evacuate the building, don't stop to retrieve your handbag, shopping or coat the most important thing to get out of the shop is your backside, that's all that matters. Once outside congregate by the post office pillar box on the pavement by Spar and check that everybody who was inside is now safe. This means that if you exit via the back door make your way around the parade to the front lest it be thought that you are still inside. The emergency services and adjacent shops can be notified from a place of safety.

REMEMBER THE FIRST AND LAST THING OUT IS YOUR BUM



Mister Gees

Foundation

Registered Charity No. 1181204

Once again the Christmas supper was a great success and it has made me think that there must be the opportunity for at least one other annual "get together" perhaps in the summer; be it a garden party, a wine tasting or whatever. I'm not suggesting that the charity pays for our bun fights whenever we choose to have one but collectively arranged I can't see the minimal cost at our own expense preventing anybody from coming along and if it might just talk to me. So put on your thinking caps and scribble a note.

Talking of which, if anybody has an idea or ideas as to how The Village Group might use some of the not inconsiderable funds that it has at its disposal, approximately fifty thousand pounds at present then put that down on paper as well.

April the 26th sees the thirtieth London Marathon but after much consideration I've decided to give up my place to a more worthy and accomplished runner, Richard, No. 3 son will be taking part in what will be his fifty something plus marathon and although he is unlikely to be setting any records, excepting perhaps a personal best, it presents an opportunity to raise some extra income for the Foundation Charity.

I will get something written up for the South Woodham Focus and Facebook as well as having sponsorship forms available in the shop that customers can fill in there and then or take away in order to generate even more interest.

He is however unwilling to get extra publicity for the cause by doing a Paula Radford and taking a poo along the route.