



Talk about Guess Who ?

I understand that these legs have lived in the village since 1991 having moved from the rather up market borough of Kingston—upon—Thames, where before taking up her illustrious role here in the foundation shop the owner was a doctor's receptionist.

Her time is now spent worrying about the family, including five grandchildren and when not doing this she contemplates her ideal vacation based upon the three S's ... Sea, Sunshine and Sacks, or was that last word just her posh accent?

The Last Word.....

On a more personal note, apart from the very generous birthday present to which you all subscribed and for which I thank you, one an all, together with the abundance of greetings cards, more than I have ever had before on such an occasion, December the 10th came and went with the only consolation being that I now know how nanny June feels. It's not so bad is it.

Next week, as I mentioned overleaf, I head off to Springfield in the hope of getting my knee sorted out; after that there is only my hip, brain and a couple of other minor things before I'll be firing on all cylinders again.

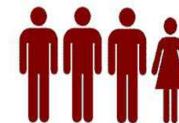
2018 has been quite an exceptional year and has given the foundation a sound base upon which it can surely build, growing from strength to strength. Once again, none of it could have been achieved without your help, something I thank the good Lord for on a daily basis.

Talking Shop Issue 4

Welcome to 2019 and may I start by quoting a number that I was beginning to believe would never come. 1181204 those seven digits will make a world of difference to Mister Gees Foundation; as a registered charity the whole ball game has changed. Amongst other things the trading company will no longer be liable for corporation tax. The fear of crossing the £1,645 average takings per week threshold where we would have lost twenty percent to the tax man has been lifted, so the sky's the limit for our sales target now. The shop has re-registered for VAT and being a charity all of our income from the sale of donated goods will be zero rated, added to this we can now reclaim all of the input tax on the rental, the electricity and anything else that carries VAT unlike before.

I can't understand quite what Mike Farrell, the solicitor, told the charity commissioners in the end that changed their minds but it was obviously something that I hadn't said in the previous nineteen months, the next step is to seek HMRC approval for gift-aid, although this in itself will necessitate some changes in the way that the shop operates it has the ability to add yet another twenty percent to our income.

All in all the year could not have had a better start.



Mister Gees

Foundation

I think that we all agree Musa and Toni in Munchies, together with the charming young waitress did us proud at our Christmas Bash, hopefully we can look forward to the summer and organize another get together then, possibly a garden party of some kind.

The first day of Christmas trading was way beyond anything that could have been predicted, it was the one and only time that sales exceeded five hundred pounds and helped give us a two thousand two hundred pound week. Consequently we have allocated space in one of the containers and will store more of the Christmas stock that gets donated in the next few weeks for later this year.

Talking of donated goods, there have been a couple of occasions in this last few months that have gone to prove that none of us has any real idea as to just how much some items are worth, there was the rolling ball time machine that had been priced up and put on the shelf for £1.50 , it sold on E-bay for one hundred and nine pounds plus postage and there is also a framed print that the artist herself has told us in an e-mail should retail for approximately five hundred pounds. Increasingly it makes even more sense to move all of the stock from the shop floor into the rear sorting areas before any of the more savvy customers sort through it and push for a price before anybody has had the chance to check it out on-line.



Mister Gees

Foundation

Registered Charity No. 1181204

Going forward it would appear that Mister Gees Foundation is still offering better value for money than most other charity shops in the area and I feel that with the VAT sales ceiling lifted there is still room for the shop to increase the profit margin made without losing this reputation, it has been done with the paperback books and the DVD's so perhaps the time has come to add another fifty pence to some of the clothing lines, the toys and also the Bric a Brac.

Yet another benefit of being a registered charity is that e-bay will no longer charge us for selling goods on their site and Paypal will reduce their costs; all this whilst Keith is getting better prices for the vinyl record sales via Discogs and Amazon, two more on-line sites.

Not having to spend such a large proportion of my time dealing with the charity mob anymore, I can perhaps start planning some of the other concepts that I had previously considered in order to generate even more money for the foundation. A longest lunch, a wine tasting or even themed evenings during the summer, who knows.

In the more immediate future, in February John Williams is heading off to New Zealand for three months visiting his brother. Currently John is the only till operator who works on a Friday afternoon, so if anybody is able to help out by either covering this position as an extra shift or swapping an existing shift from earlier in the week, please have a word with me and hopefully we can sort something out as it looks as if I may well be out of action myself for a few weeks whilst my knee is taken care of at long last.