ISSUE

December 2017

The Radstock co-operative society

Insight

The co-operative Coleford Open Part 10pn Part

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The Coleford store

Our vision

We aim to be the best community retailer, growing the business for the future, considering co-operative principles in everything that we do.

Our values

- Self-help
- Self-responsibility
- Democracy
- Equality
- Equity
- Solidarity

Our principles

- Voluntary & open membership
- Democratic member control
- Member economic participation
- Autonomy & independence
- Education, training & information
- Co-operation amongst co-operatives
- Concern for the community

Expansion Plans continue



We officially opened our new purpose-built Warminster community store on 26th October 2017. The doors opened to a small crowd of eager, local residents who had been closely monitoring the site during the construction phase.

Customers were keen to explore what the store could offer and were complimentary regarding the extensive range of products available. The store boasts an impressive range of hot and cold food-to-go including breakfast baps, burgers, hot dogs, sweet and savoury pastries and a delicious range of freshly baked breads, rolls, baguettes etc.

There is also Costa Express machine dispensing specialist coffees such as the vanilla and caramel latte and a 'slush puppy' offering two flavours of the kid's favourite.

The store's layout has been designed to ease navigation with generous aisle widths and fixtures at the optimum height to provide shoppers easy access to the top shelves. The store is modern, spacious and light with an in-store bakery and the latest energy-efficient refrigeration and lighting. Other services offered are lottery, Pay Point, 24-hour ATM and ample car-parking.

The store occupies a corner plot with a double aspect and adjoins a 'Vets for Pets' practice incorporating a pet grooming parlour.

Our Coleford store also benefitted from further improvements to both the inside and external signage. A full instore bakery was installed and the store now offers hot and cold food to go and freshly baked pastries and breads.

Our stores

Radco Superstore Somervale Rd Radstock BA3 3RQ

Travel Department Radco Superstore

Somervale Rd Radstock BA3 3RQ

Chew Magna

15 Harford Square Chew Magna BS40 8RA

Chilcompton

Naish's Cross Chilcompton BA3 4JN

Coleford

Crossways Store Highbury Street Coleford BA3 5NJ

Farrington Gurney

Bristol Road
Farrington Gurney
Bristol
BS39 6TQ

Fosseway

32 Fosseway Westfield Midsomer Norton BA3 4AX

Frome

7-9 Westway Centre Frome BA11 1BS

Fromefield

8 Bath Road Frome BA11 2HD

Glastonbury

32-34 High Street Glastonbury BA6 9DX

Two more new additions – launching 2018

Continuing with the Society's expansion plans, two new-build stores are nearing completion and are due to launch in 2018. The first is in Taunton Road, Bridgwater on the site of a former laundry and is situated on a busy commuter route between Taunton and Bridgwater. The store shares the site with a Papa John's pizza take away and residential apartments.

The other store nearing completion is located in the Milton area of Weston-Super-Mare with a 'Vets for Pets' and an orthodontic practice as neighbours. Another great location amongst residential, retail and holiday rental accommodation which will be popular with busy parents as they embark on the daily school run.

High Street Fashions comes to Radco

You can now browse the latest trends and fashions at the Radco store following the arrival of Dorothy Perkins and Burtons Menswear to the clothing department. These recent additions offers something for the more fashion conscious. With a variety of different ranges, you'll be able to get the 'look' whether it's for partying, casual or work.



DOROTHY PERKINS

Membership

During the course of the year, we welcomed nearly 5,000 new members to the Society. The Membership Dividend Card Scheme which is promoted in all of our stores, generated a healthy number of applications from customers in our newest stores e.g Trowbridge and Warminster. Customers are keen to share in the benefits of membership through the dividend points conversion as well as being eligible to participate in the democratic processes such as voting in director elections. Our membership now stands at over 14,000.

Co-op Captures The Spirit Of Giving

Our Head Office colleagues played Father Christmas when they generously purchased a wide selection of toys and gifts to donate to the Radstock Children's Centre.

Rather than participate in the traditional office Secret Santa gift exchange, the staff decided to continue the trend from the previous four years and donate toys to the Children's Centre for distributing to families whose children would otherwise go without this Christmas. The Children's Centre is based in Radstock and provides much needed support to disadvantaged children and families who are struggling whether it be emotionally, financially or in need of general support to cope with challenging behaviour, alcohol or drugs misuse, domestic abuse etc.

This year we saw a huge amount of generosity from our staff and the gifts just kept on arriving. It's really was something to see as the toys were being placed beneath the office Christmas tree on almost a daily basis demonstrating that the spirit of giving was definitely alive and kicking at the Radstock Co-op.

It took a small army of colleagues to deliver the toys to the Centre done Santa style appropriately packed into black sacks!

Colleagues from the Centre will ensure that vulnerable children who are affected by the family environment are able to receive a welcomed present to help make the festive period a little more enjoyable.



Board Update – Finance Matters

So far in the 2014/18 trading year sales are above budget and 11.1% above last year. On a like for like basis (excluding Trowbridge and Warminster), the sales growth is 4.4%.

In its second year of trading, the Fromefield store has shown double digit percentage growth, as have Chilcompton, Peasedown and Farrington.

The installation of the new EPOS system has contributed to the sales growth by providing better and more timely data visibility. Whilst it has been challenging to implement such a major technological change across the society, the expected benefits are beginning to be seen.

In October, we opened a new store at Warminster and look forward to further expanding our geographical range by the addition of Weston-Super-Mare and Bridgwater before the end of the financial year.

Our non-retail segments are performing well this year so far. The Non Trading Property continues to provide a solid income stream. During the year, the empty offices above the Chew Magna store were converted into two flats — a two bed and a one bed. Both are now let.

As was predicted last year, the farm has benefitted from the rise in gate milk prices and is contributing at a higher level than last year.

Our published accounts for the year ended February 2017 were once again awarded the "Fair Tax" accolade, demonstrating the society's commitment to the co-operative principles.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish all our members, colleagues and their families a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

150 YEARS

1868 - 2018

The Society celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2018. The Society is planning a number of activities and events to mark this momentous mile stone in its history and to kick things of there was a 'draw' to identify which decade each store would be focusing their own celebratory themes on.

The draw was held a la 'FA Cup' style with Vicki Przytocki and Ann Sillwood drawing numbered balls to determine which decade each store or department would be allocated.

150th Year Celebrations



Information regarding the activities will be posted on our website early 2018.

In the Community

The Society supported many community groups and events during the last six months including funding the Miners Reunion luncheon at the Radstock Museum, installed a Food Bank collection box at the Peasedown St John store and provided refreshments to the Somerset Valley Walking Group Festival and the Radstock and Westfield the Big Local 'Round About Radstock Art Trail' to name but a few. We were also proud of our achievement at being awarded the Gold Award for our efforts in the Radstock in Bloom competition.



Our Christmas activities helped to sprinkle some of the magic of the Christmas with the Children's Colouring competition, letters to Santa and a visit to the Grotto.

Our stores

Paulton

Hill Court High Street Paulton BS39 7QG

Peasedown St John

66 Bath Road Peasedown St John BA2 8DT

Shepton Mallet

Charlton Crossroads Whitstone Road Shepton Mallet BA4 5PT

Street

84-86 West End Street BA16 OLP

Timsbury

North Road Timsbury BA2 0JH

Trowbridge

1 Huntingfield Ashton Road Trowbridge BA14 6GP

Warminster

36 Victoria Road Warminster BA12 8HF

Westfield

1 Elm Tree Avenue Westfield Radstock BA3 3SX

Our Farm

Manor Farm Hardington Nr Frome BA11 2RE

Calendar of events

Saturday 19th May 2018 **150th Gala Awards Celebration Evening** Bath Pavilion

Wednesday 13th June 2018 **Annual General Meeting**Radstock Working Men's Club

Our work in the Community

Members voted to support the Midsomer Norton and Radstock Silver Band and YMCA Mendip as their chosen charities for the year.

Midsomer Norton and Radstock Silver Band was formed in 1980 by Angela Lowe using instruments from the old Radstock Silver Band, money held in trust by the former Midsomer Norton Band and grants from the local council. The first meeting attracted just fourteen members. Since then, the band has grown both in terms of its size and in its musical talent and reputation. A donation of £1,100 was presented to the band's chairperson, Trevor Curtis who said that the money was most welcome and would be used to purchase instruments.



Midsomer Norton and Radstock Silver Band Cheque presentation 🔺



YMCA Mendip Cheque presentation ▲

The Society also presented YMCA Mendip with a cheque for £1,100. YMCA Mendip has been operating from Wells since 1892 and now delivers and supports a wide range of services, mostly for young people, across the whole of Mendip.

Following the discovery of the theft of the Coleford store's defibrillator equipment funded by the Rotary Club, the Society was quick to respond. The Society, which values the importance of this vital piece of kit which can help to save lives of local, community residents agreed to donate £500 towards the cost of a replacement defibrillator.



The Society also donated £200 to Paulton Junior School as a contribution towards a community defibrillator.



- ▲ Paulton Store with pupils from Paulton School
- The Coleford store defibrillator



Colleagues' Fundraising and **Giving**

We are also incredibly proud of our colleagues fund raising efforts which help to generate income for many deserving causes. We raised over £2,000 for Children in Need, £615 for Comic Relief, £400 for the Bristo Children's Hospital Grand Appeal and £2,485 for the Poppy Appeal. We also appreciate the generosity of ou customers who were kind enough to support our efforts by donating loose change at the checkouts prompted by our colleagues' dress-down days!



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