

Village Shop & Post Office



14 years

14 years of Mike and Kathy. 14 years of fun.

14 years of generosity. 14 years of building the hub.

14 years of Mike's football stories. 14 years of Kathy rolling her eyes.

14 years of huge improvements. 14 years of going that extra mile.

14 years of dressing up for Halloween. 14 years of donating to charity.

14 years of hungover Saturday mornings. 14 years of "bring in that bloody awning".

14 years of hectic Christmases. 14 years of increasingly busy throughout the year.

14 years of Mike's ball trick. 14 years of another beer (while closing).

14 years of a 'C' or a 'K'. 14 years of Only Fools and Horses.

14 years of Mike's fame. 14 years... and no divorces!

14 years of warmth. 14 years of smiles.

14 years wow. 14 years...how?

14 years we will miss your ownership.

14 years we are very happy you're staying for some more.

14 years we thank you with all that we have.

14 years of friendship—AND MANY MORE!!

A note from Mike and Kathy...

We were very humbled and overwhelmed by the gifts and the words. It has been a wonderful 14 years and thank you. We will have a party when all this is over!

We wish the new team all the very best for the future. We know they'll be fabulous with their enthusiasm and energy for the new project.



New Moulton Stores

As the spring brought good and change in the sale of the shop finally going through, the circumstances under which this happened have been nothing short of dystopian.

Hugo and Martin are now the proud owners of New Moulton Stores and their vision is exciting. Their enthusiasm is infectious as they work tirelessly behind the scenes to make it all happen. The developments (as I'm sure most of you have already seen) are well underway and the effort and speed at which they are progressing is extremely impressive.

The larger shop has made for more space in which to socially distance, a pleasant working environment, increasing customer footfall, more than double the business, double the opinions and only two complaints!

From day one of lockdown we were hugely impacted in the shop. Less customers were physically coming in which meant more deliveries for Kathy during the first months of her well-earned retirement. It meant more hours for Mike during his first months of retirement (and more stories too to keep us going while we wait on the new till system).

We have done everything possible (and succeeded) in making the hub of our village as safe as it can be during these strange times. With just a few complaints, most of the messages have been of thanks and gratitude.

It was brought to our attention that a few customers were unhappy with how we were going about Covid-19 safety precautions. However, people mightn't be aware that while doing everything we can to comply with the safety of everyone, additionally we have CCTV which we constantly watch to see if any customers are waiting outside to be served. After so many years, we know our customers well enough to work this way and credit them in having common sense to be aware and to stay safe.

There is simply no way we can man the door, mark out two metres, force masks upon entry and limit who comes in and what you buy. To start with it isn't our approach and secondly we've been running on four members of staff while being 80% busier. We aren't Tesco!

A kind customer phoned into Steve Wright in the afternoon giving us a shoutout on his show a few weeks back and we have been presented with a certificate from 'more than a shop' to thank us for all the extra we do, both giving us much needed boosts all round.

As we sit at the end of every day feeling totally exhausted, we count our blessings and remember how lucky we are.

We thank the majority. We thank our customers for keeping us on our toes (without you we wouldn't be, simple). We thank our staff. We thank Hugo and Martin for working with us and providing the space (and me an office!).

While we are on a roll with the positivity, we would like to say a huge thank you to all who have donated to our NHS bucket. On the last count the total stood at £351.31 and still the generosity continues.

I personally thank Mike and Kathy (SO VERY MUCH) for staying on when they need and deserve their "country retreat" the most, and for making my job so much easier than it would have been.

Thank you both. Harriet Mills



Shop news from Harriet Mills

As the evenings become darker and the daily news darkens with them, New Moulton Stores remains bright for many reasons. As we've said so many times this year – we are so lucky.

Lockdown 2.0 has resulted in increased business and this time we have more staff, so it is less of a case of running on empty. If we are still speaking this way when the Christmas madness is added to the mix, who knows? But for now, we just about have the energy supplies to keep on keeping on.

Talking of more staff, we are sad to lose one valuable member of the team who has helped massively during these unprecedented times. Thank you to Sue Allott and we wish you all the best with your new job.

The usual lockdown purchases have repeated themselves and thankfully the stockpiling never took off so the wholesalers are able to keep us supplied.

We've also added a range of beautiful, handpicked flowers which not only take away the sadness of no tables outside, but they've gone down brilliantly with all of our customers. Christmas trees will also be available from the shop this year and the usual Hams, Turkeys, Meat, Veg and everything else in between can be ordered with us. You needn't leave the village! The order book quickly reached double digits and continues to grow daily.

Thank you.

COVID restrictions continue to force us to adapt at the shop and Hugo has been busy making a one-way system for the Post Office pre-empting how crowded we will get during the run up to Christmas with increased footfall. There will be plenty of signs to direct you all, but from now on the entrance to the Post Office is up the side of the building and through the door on the left. This will leave plenty of queuing space alongside Mike's shrine and other useful snippets of information through what used to be our storeroom. You will not be able to enter the shop through the normal entrance and go to the Post Office. This entrance is shop only to eliminate congestion in times where we must stay apart for everyone's safety.

For updates and shop news follow us on Facebook and Instagram @newmoultonstores.



Talented Writer in our midst



Ok, enough about the shop, I can't wait any longer to tell you all that my debut novel, **Dear Brannagh**, is **OUT NOW**. Copies are available from Amazon, Waterstones and WHSmiths online, and we will also stock copies at New Moulton Stores.

Vanity aside, the support I have already had for this venture has been nothing short of incredible. I put up a manual pre-order list because I was so oblivious as to how the publishing process works and got in there before Amazon. I expected no more than 30 orders. The total is already nearing 200. I am utterly overwhelmed and cannot thank you all enough.

While Mike struggles to hand over the limelight momentarily, his chatty ways have gained me a few extra pre-orders and I am so appreciative. Fiction involves a personal taste and not one size fits all so I am sure not everybody who has signed up will love my book. I've even had people put their name down who admittedly don't read but they have done it to support me and for that I am so grateful.

Mike frequently uses the phrase 'the power of this shop' and I back him fully. Without the shop I wouldn't have this support. Without the shop I couldn't have had as many proof-readers, editors and contacts for advice before I sent my first manuscript out. Without the shop I wouldn't have even had the confidence to put my writing out there in the first place.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Harriet

Village Shop & Post Office



It has been over 365 days of living through a global pandemic and here we are all still going. Each week as Saturday afternoon approaches we skip to the finish line. We are so thankful to you our customers and colleagues as we work through this together.

Little did we know when Boris put us into our first national lockdown on 23-3-20 that we'd still be in one a year on. The screens remain, the masks are still on and occasionally we are putting jam in rolls instead of ham because of muffled speech! I didn't realise how much we lip read.

365 days

In that time we've done well over 365 deliveries, welcomed more than 365 coffee breaks from our newly pushed back machine (cracking job Hugo and Alan) and sold more than 365 copies of Dear Brannagh. Thank you.

With your generosity we have raised much more than £365 for our various charities that include The Hedgehog Hospital, St Nicholas Hospice, Macmillan Cancer, Isleham Horse and Pony Rescue, East Anglian Air Ambulance and our very own "Improving Moulton" - wow there are almost 365 of those!

It marks almost 365 days of our new owners. 365 days in which the shop has got bigger, the kitchen has got bigger and busier, the garden has got greener and the goats have moved...

On that note we would like to say a huge shout out of thanks to Poppy James for caring for wee Harriet and Kathy (the goats) as we prepare their new home for the summer. Thank you for the fantastic job you are doing with them and the remarkable understanding and connection you have with all the animals you take under your wing.

As the restrictions ease we are looking forward to being able to use the table and chairs outside the shop so that more of you can enjoy breakfast, brunch, lunch and an afternoon cuppa in our beautiful village. We also welcome the warmer weather, the sunshine and the colours of summer that make our village such a lovely place to be. In reality the impact of the pandemic will lead to many feeling more comfortable at home rather than travelling abroad. We welcome you all.

The past year certainly hasn't been easy for anyone but we remain grateful for all the loyal support and patient understanding, abiding by the rules and helping us help you.

Stay Safe

Harriet Mills