Chittlehamholt Community Shop
Chairman's Report 2019 – 2020

I am pleased to report another successful year for our Community shop. Despite the world standing the environment on its head, we have managed to evolve as a business in terms of system and organisation to meet the changing needs. All credit must go to the Volunteers for continuing to staff and run the shop during these difficult times, and for being flexible in accepting the changes that were necessary to comply with ever changing Government advice.

Financially, we have our Treasurer to thank for keeping us healthy, and for securing the grant that was available to small businesses to ensure that they remain viable to support the community. Also, my thanks go to the Parish Council who managed to secure us funding to cover the additional costs involved in purchasing personal protection and cleaning products necessary to keep us virus free and open. So, thanks to a small profit plus the grants received, we end the year with more healthy finances to ensure that the shop continues into the future.

This year has seen an increased level of co-operation between all the village organisations to ensure the wellbeing and safety of our most vulnerable villagers. Unlike our parliament, we have put any differences aside (if there were any) to work together to bring only positive results to all our efforts. This was very heartening to see this in action and renews my faith in human nature. Thank you to all concerned.

We have changed our constitution this year as recommended by the Plunkett Foundation (who helped us to set up the shop) to keep us up to date with current legislation and thinking. My thanks go to our Secretary who skilfully steered us through the changes, and for the excellent job in organising the AGM and Committee meetings etc.

As this will be my last Chairman's report, I feel, once again, bound to encourage more villagers to get involved with the shop as it is quite a social activity in that you get to meet most of our neighbours and other villagers (socially distanced of course) particularly at the moment when isolation features so highly in our society. I have tried my hardest to keep the business flowing and to make changes where an improvement can be made. Naturally, any success is due mainly to our wonderful team of volunteers who have stoically soldiered on to ensure that the shop adequately supports the community, and I thank them wholeheartedly. Whilst I will not be on the management committee, you will still see me in the shop from time to time as I will continue as a volunteer.

My best wishes to the new Management team and Chairperson.

(There! I have managed to write my report without using the word "Covid" !!)

Tim Baker
Retiring Chairman.

28 October 2020