

Chinley Coop newsletter and update

June 2022



Dear Members, shareholders and supporters

We have now been open for 10 weeks and an update is probably overdue. Thank you for your patience. If you have visited the shop we hope you will agree that your community shares are being well used. Some of our headline figures are below.

- We have 101 shareholders who own £7560 of community shares
- We have 46 volunteers signed up and 38 people have done at least one shift in the shop. Each week the volunteers have donated a total of 50 hours in the shop
- On average since opening we have taken £905 per week. Our best week was £1117 and our worst week was £580. In general the trend is upwards and we hope that will continue. Our target is £1000 per week which allows us to break even sometime during our second year.

We have also enjoyed great support from our local councils and organisations.

- Councillor Ruth George donated us £500 from her councillor allocation of grant funding to purchase our bulk food dispensers
- Chinley, Buxworth and Brownside Parish Council gave us £180 to purchase food storage bins
- Derbyshire County Council have awarded us £7100 to buy refill scales, a ramp to make our shop more accessible, new flooring and energy-efficient heaters
- The Chamber of Commerce awarded £2000 for consulting support for a social media marketing campaign

We are very fortunate to have the funds to purchase the refill scales. They are vital to the success of our coop as calculating the prices is a major burden on our volunteers. We are lucky that the volunteers have persevered so far. It does help that our customers are understanding and sympathetic to the mathematical challenge. We should have the scales up and working within 3 weeks and hope you will come in to see them in action.

Our range of stock has expanded significantly. Since opening we have added chocolate covered fruit and nuts (proving very popular!) and shade grown coffee to our existing choice of beans, pulses, rice, flour, grains, pasta, cereal, oats, muesli, dried fruit & nuts, herbs & spices, syrups, cordials, oils & vinegar, biscuits, crackers, crisps, snacks and chocolate. Our choice of cleaning and body care products has widened with most of our sales now being refills or dry versions of traditionally liquid products such as shampoo bars. We also sell locally produced soaps, shampoo, cleaning and body-care products, cards, dog treats, tea towels, cakes and eggs. We are increasing our choice of gluten-free items too. There is much more in the shop than we can list so do come in and see for yourself.

Based on when people are shopping and volunteer availability we are altering our opening hours from the week beginning 27th June. Our new hours will be Monday 11-2, Wednesday 10-4, Thursday 4-7, Friday 10-4, Saturday 10-4, Sunday 11-2.

Below are a few photos of our journey since opening.

