



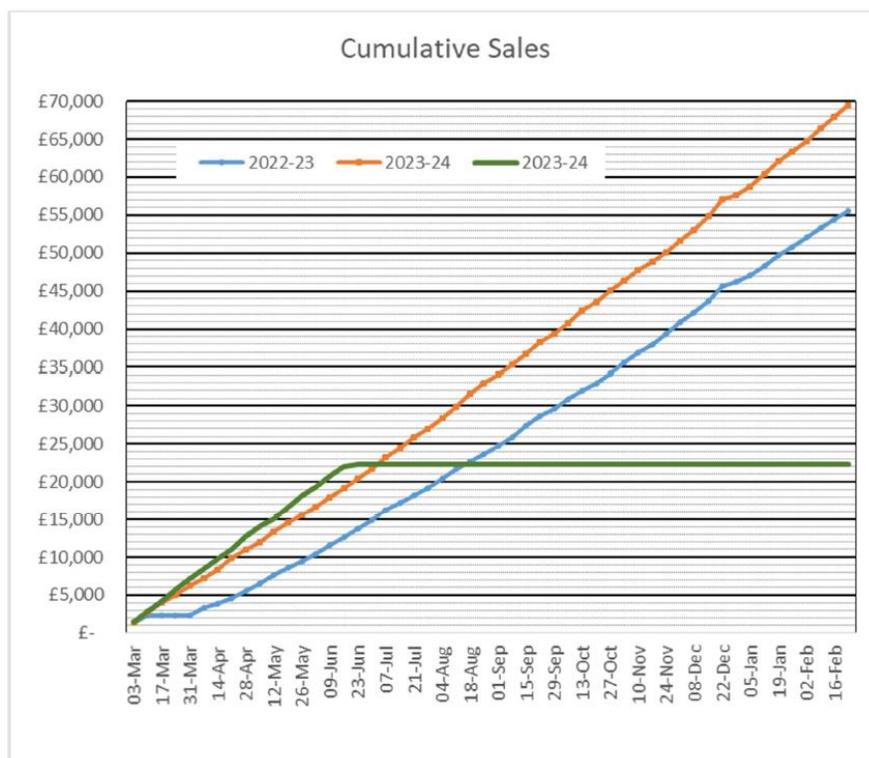
Chinley Coop newsletter – July 2024

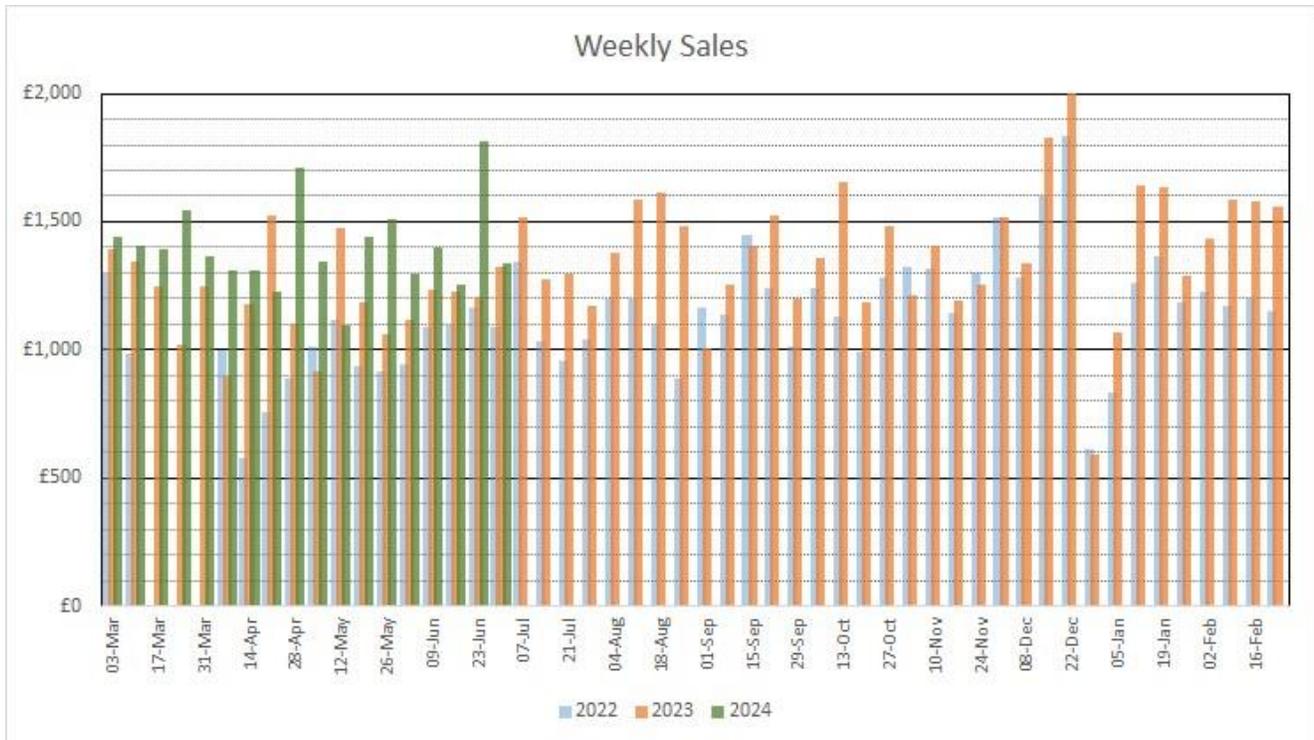
Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be at **7pm on Thursday 15th August 2024 at the WI Hall**. Our legal structure, which is Chinley Community Benefit Society, requires us to hold an annual AGM where our shareholders decide if we need to appoint an auditor (based on the treasurer's report of the accounts) and vote for the members of the management committee who are standing for re-election. After the business of the meeting (which we expect will be brief) there will be a presentation by James Pogson about **Fairtrade Tea**. James is the director of Northern Tea Merchants based in Chesterfield who supply us with Fairtrade tea and coffee. James will talk about the 'human' aspect of tea, its social effects in the communities that produce it, and the physical manufacture of tea up to the point where the tea is ready to leave Kenya ready for export to tea blending and packing companies the world over. Afterwards there will be the opportunity to taste some Northern teas and other refreshments. Everyone is welcome to attend our AGM but only shareholders (*i.e.* members) may vote).

Our sales

We have now been trading for 2 years and 3 months. In terms of weekly customer numbers and sales, we have grown consistently. This year we have not had much income from grants or shares. We have shown a small profit each year after paying our bills which are mostly stock, rent, electricity and insurance. We have a good base of loyal customers with a steady demand for ethical sustainable products. Our sales for 2024 are about 15% higher than 2023.





Our volunteers

We have a fantastic team of around 45 volunteers. Every week 16 people work a 3 hour shift in the shop. We also have volunteers who are ordering, cleaning, pricing, window dressing, refilling & stocking, implementing an electronic payment and online ordering system and looking after our finances. We always welcome new volunteers and do our best to accommodate individual needs.

Our waste reduction

Our main method of reducing waste is by providing a refill service. For example in the last 12 months we have sold 375 litres of washing up liquid saving around 40kg of plastic. Our locally produced shampoo bars saved around 11kg of plastic during the last 6 months. We also help to reduce our carbon footprint as a village - many of our customers walk to the shop plus are able to reduce how often they need to travel to get their shopping. Our empty containers are reused as often as possible and recycled as a last resort. Wherever possible we stock products made from recycled materials and in recyclable containers. However refilling is the best option for reducing packaging use.

Our suppliers

Some of our suppliers are listed below along with a brief description of why we consider them to be eco-friendly and/or ethical.

[SUMA](#) is wholefood collective and worker's cooperative established in 1977 and now based in Elland, West Yorkshire. They deliver over 7000 vegetarian, natural, responsibly sourced products to businesses and communities across the UK.

[SESI](#) provide sustainable detergents with low impact on the planet. They work to keep up with important issues such as farming, human rights, animal rights, food justice, forestry protection, personal health and the impact of our way of life on the environment.

[Northern Tea Merchants](#) – tea blenders, tea bag manufacturers, coffee roasters and specialist contract packers of teas, coffees, cocoa, super foods and chocolate located in Chesterfield. Northern tea are licensed Fairtrade importers and pack both non-organic and organic products.

[Bird and Wild coffee](#) – organic, shade-grown coffee helps to preserve native tree coverage offering suitable migratory bird habitat. All coffee is certified as Bird Friendly and Shade-Grown by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Centre plus 6% of sales is donated to the RSPB. Coffee is roast in the country of origin reducing shipping weight and supporting the local economy.

[Who Gives a Crap](#) - make eco-friendly toilet paper, tissues and paper towels without using any trees and donate 50% of profits to charity partners so they can build toilets and improve sanitation in developing countries. Who gives a crap products are manufactured in China. For recycled paper products using UK recycled paper and made in the UK see our [Ecoleaf](#) range.

Brambles of the High Peak – home-made jams and chutneys locally made in Chapel-en-le-Frith

Cakes from Home – fresh-baked in Chinley and available from Thursday evening until sold out

[Day Zero](#) organic fruit and veg boxes – supplied by Day Zero, a zero waste shop in Buxton

Designed for the Planet – shampoo, conditioner and washing up bars hand-produced in Chinley

[Happy Valley Honey](#) - located in Bollington with over a 100 colonies of worker bees pollinating British crops and harvesting nectar from the surrounding towns and villages. The honey is sustainably sourced, direct from the bees and is cold extracted then coarsely filtered. It is never blended or pasteurised.

[Jill Kerr](#) linocuts – handmade unpackaged cards and tea towels based on Chinley artist Jill Kerr's linocut prints. Cards are unpackaged and printed on recycled paper.

Wayside Eggs - laid by free-range Cream Legbar hens in the Wash, Chinley (seasonal).

Our community involvement

Andrea has been running regular Tuesday morning sessions for two students from Peak School. These sessions are going really well and the students are happy to receive customers. If you are around from 10-11.30 on a Tuesday please pop in and see the students at work.

We have hosted a student from the NL and a work experience student from Chapel school.

We had a post-Christmas party for all our volunteers, shareholders, regular customers and supporters.

We sold calendars for Friends of Chinley Park and took donations for the new community centre fund raiser. We donated prizes to local fund raising events.

Thank you

Finally thank you to everyone for all you do for our community shop. It goes without saying that the shop cannot continue to thrive without everyone's support and help. We hope that our core values listed below inspire you to continue to support us.

A reminder of our core values

We would like Chinley Coop to be a friendly place where it's easy for locals to shop with minimal waste and our suppliers have been carefully selected to be trustworthy, sustainable and ethical.

Our not for profit Co-operative shop (Co-op) is set up and run by local members for our surrounding communities to help us live sustainably and ethically at a fair price. We use the words "fair price" to convey the idea that we make no profit, we only mark up our products as much as we need to pay our rent and bills. Many of our products are cheaper compared to the equivalent quality of product elsewhere (as a consequence of bulk buying and our low mark-up). Nonetheless there is a cost to protecting the environment and treating workers well, but you can be certain that Chinley Coop is not adding to that cost. Many of the products making up a healthy diet – grains, cereals, rice, beans, pulses - are inexpensive compared with meat and dairy or processed foods so increasing consumption of these types of food can substantially reduce your food bill.

Using ethical and eco-friendly products benefits the poorest people in our world and protects our shared environment. People living in countries with low income economies are most affected by global warming and environmental degradation. Through the products we sell we hope to help reduce child labour, worker exploitation and slave labour, packaging and single plastic use, our carbon footprint and fossil fuel usage, contamination of water supplies, deforestation and improve air quality locally and globally.