CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF SHOPPING LOCAL

*Candover Valley Community Store, a thriving business, vibrant community hub and champion of local shopping, celebrates 5 years of growth*

**Preston Candover, Hampshire:** The Candover Valley Community Store is proud to celebrate its 5th birthday on 10 June 2024. Over the last five years, the

community-run store and post office has grown into a successful business and a

vibrant hub for valley residents who value being able to shop locally. The store is popular with passing commuters and tradespeople, as well as cyclists and walkers who stop for refreshment in beautiful rural surroundings.

Turnover is expected to exceed half a million pounds in the current financial year.

*“We are delighted that our community store has become so much more than the shop and post office we opened five years ago,”* said Jane Laws, chair of the Candover Valley Community Store committee. *“It has become a true community hub where you can buy groceries and post parcels and also see friendly faces. The coffee area and decking*

*overlooking the tennis courts and vineyard has become a place to meet and have a chat, which is so important where rural isolation can be a problem. We have a great team of staff, youth workers and volunteers and we all enjoy working together to help our customers and give something back to our community.”*

Five years of achievements in five years of trading:

* **A bank of up to 40 tireless volunteers** keeps the store open and well maintained seven days a week, 363 days of the year. The volunteers work in shifts alongside experienced manager, Garry Green and a team of four paid part-time duty managers. Garry has been at the helm since 2019, skillfully steering it through the Covid era, ensuring that nothing ever ran out,

including toilet rolls, flour and eggs!

* **Supporting local businesses** is at the heart of the Candover Valley Store’s ethos. It is proud to be a member of Hampshire Fare and to stock local

products such as Moon Roast coffee, ChalkStream trout, Hampshire Cheese Company cheeses, Hydes Cyder and Summerdown mints, as well as sparkling wines from Hattingley Valley, The Grange and Candover Brook. Other items from smaller producers in the valley, like Bradley Orchard jams, jellies and apple juice, Tim’s honey and Max’s preserves are best sellers.

* **Reinvesting in the community.**  The Candover Valley Store has

established a community fund to help support local organisations and

improve the places and spaces that matter to members of the community.

* **Fresh fruit and flowers in season.** In an initiative begun last year, a group of gardening volunteers are using an available plot in Preston Candover to grow flowers, vegetables and herbs for the store. Freshly picked, the

seasonally available produce boasts zero food miles!

* **Providing paid work for young people** in a rural area where

opportunities are limited. Young people, employed to cover the weekend shifts, gain valuable work experience. The youth workers have all said how interacting with colleagues and customers has improved their confidence and social skills.

Find out more on [www.cvcs.org.uk](http://www.cvcs.org.uk/)

ENDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 24/05/24

Christie Page

Candover Valley Community Store

07795011146

hello@cvcs.org.uk