

## Could You Be Our Next East Knoyle Postmaster?

In 2004, East Knoyle was threatened with losing its Post Office completely when the owners of the previous site applied for change of use and closed the business. The response from the village was the Post Office Action Group which morphed into the East Knoyle Community Shop Association which built Wren's Shop to provide a home for the Post Office. It was wonderful to be able to reopen it in July 2006.

I was 'volunteered' to become the Postmistress (a long story to be told elsewhere) but it turned out to be one of the best things I have ever done. I have loved having this unique way to get to know villagers and visitors, and feel very central to the village. It has also been immensely rewarding to provide a vital service, particularly over the last two years. The past 16 years have gone very quickly and have been so enjoyable. I cannot begin to say how wonderful my time here has been and how much I have learned and been given.

However, it is now time for me to move on and, much as I would love to be able to hand the baton on to another villager, it is not up to me. Post Office Ltd have said that if anyone is interested we can put them in touch. The process would then be dealt with by Post Office Ltd. In the event that a candidate cannot be identified, POL may come to a different arrangement.

I have handed in my resignation and it looks like the last day I will be in the Post Office is 28th May (or thereabouts) This is a wonderful, but responsible, role. At present, I am contracted to open for 20 hours a week, which I have spread over 4 days, and each day an extra 45 minutes to an hour is required to manage the paperwork and safes. This work is purely for the Post Office.

My own involvement with our amazing community shop was a personal, voluntary choice. I really hope that someone can be found to take this on, if not from East Knoyle then someone who would like to work here. I would be happy to talk to anyone who is interested and put them in touch with POL.

Janeen Evans – East Knoyle Postmistress