

Press Release



17 November 2015

LORD ILIFFE OF YATTENDON OFFICIALLY OPENS MAJOR NEW-LOOK YATTENDON POST OFFICE & STORE AT VILLAGE CELEBRATION

- **Post Office returns to The Square, Yattendon after major refurb**
- **Work took five months**
- **New Postmaster – Edward Iliffe, son of Lord Iliffe of Yattendon**
- **Same range of Post Office® services available**
- **Extended opening hours**

There was great cause for celebration in Yattendon with the official opening of Yattendon Post Office and Village Store by Lord Iliffe of Yattendon “cutting the ribbon”.

Edward Iliffe, son of Lord Iliffe, was appointed Postmaster last year. He immediately embarked on major plans with his Post Office and store manager Andy Milford, to modernise and to extend the premises.

The comprehensive work took five months. To mark the completion of the work villagers were invited to a soiree (17 November) after the store closed for the evening. Refreshments and food was served from a marquee beside the shop.

To minimise disruption of services to the village during the work, the Post Office and store operated from The Old Brewery Shop, Yattendon, which is also owned by Yattendon Estates.

The project involved structural work to remove walls and to double the size of the retail area by remodelling the building. The interior of the Village shop and Post Office was completely gutted.

Due to Listed building status, careful planning was required to up-date the Post Office and store, but to ensure it remained in keeping with the area, both inside and out. Careful attention was also paid to the shopfitting to the style of counters, shelving and cabinets.

David Slack, Managing Director of Yattendon Estates, said: “A huge amount of effort and money went into getting this project right. The Post Office and store are the lynchpin of our estate, so it was very important to get it right. The premises are now light and airy, with a much improved shop and longer opening hours. Villagers have declared that the new store and Post Office are fantastic. They are highly complementary. One customer, who has lived

in the village since she was six summed it up by saying the branch now looks modern, but nothing has been done to spoil what you would expect in a traditional country store.”

“The retail area has more than doubled in size so we can greatly increase the range of produce and products that we sell. There is something for everybody. We can cater for regular customers who want to buy a few cans of food at supermarket prices to people coming from London for a weekend break, who want something a little special. This is a one stop shop for everyone. There is now a community information screen to let customers know what is going on in the village as well as a pinboard noticeboard to combine both modern and traditional.”

The stores new opening hours are Monday to Saturday: 7.30am – 6pm; Sunday: 8am – noon. The Post Office will be open Monday to Friday: 9am – 5.30pm and Saturday: 9am – 12.30pm – this is longer opening hours than before.

Ends

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Details of the newly refurbished branch:

<p>Yattendon Post Office branch Village Stores The Square Thatcham RG18 0UE</p> <p> Opening times</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>Monday to Friday</td><td>09:00 – 17:30</td></tr><tr><td>Sat</td><td>09:00 – 12:30</td></tr></table>	Monday to Friday	09:00 – 17:30	Sat	09:00 – 12:30	<p> Services The same range of services will continue to be available. Customers can still collect benefits in cash using our everyday banking services or Post Office card account.</p> <p> Access and facilities The premises will have level access with a wide door. Internally, there will be a hearing loop and space for a wheelchair.</p>
Monday to Friday	09:00 – 17:30				
Sat	09:00 – 12:30				