

UK'S FIRST POST OFFICE® PUB RUN

Submitted by: Edwards Harvey Ltd

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A pint of milk, loaf of bread, pension or postage stamp are not the usual items you would expect to buy in a pub but that's exactly what's on offer for customers at four Shepherd Neame Kentish village pubs, playing host to the UK's first Post Office® pub run and grocery delivery service.

Britain's oldest brewer Shepherd Neame has teamed up with the Post Office to offer a full complement of Post Office services (except Road Fund Licences) plus grocery deliveries to four 'amenity-deprived' rural villages on the North Downs near Faversham.

Sub-postmistress of Challock Post Office branch and grocery store, Angela Puxted will bring her mobile Post Office branch to villagers via each of the following four pubs once a week, supported by son Andrew:

- The Three Mariners, Oare – Monday, 10.30am to 12.30pm
- The Chequers, Doddington – Monday, 1.00 to 3.00pm
- The White Lion, Selling – Tuesday, 10.00am to midday
- The Carpenters Arms, Eastling – Tuesday, 1.00pm to 3.00pm

Says Shepherd Neame chief executive Jonathan Neame: "The pub run follows on from the success of our pioneering 'Post Office in a pub' at The Railway, Higham and demonstrates our continued commitment to the 'pub as the hub' of the community.

"We're sure that the new services will make a real difference to our customers and we plan to identify further opportunities with both the Post Office and other partners - for example, we are also currently piloting an exciting wireless broadband community network initiative in three of our pubs, in conjunction with wireless specialist Telabria"

Sean Carter from the Kent Association of Rural Retailers, which actively promotes the need for improved rural amenities, adds: "Leader+, the EC initiative for improving the quality of life and economic prosperity of rural communities, originally funded some research into the deprivation of services in rural areas of Kent.

"The findings helped clarify those communities requiring assistance. The North Downs pub run is an exemplary initiative and a first in the country."

Ends

Notes to editors:

1. Shepherd Neame has more than 370 pubs in the South East of England, the majority are in rural locations
2. A jpeg image of the mobile Post Office in action at The Chequers, Doddington is available

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