

**Shop Local – Think Local – Love Local**

# August News

Are you looking to learn new skills? Or maybe gain some confidence before moving on to the next stage in your life? Lucy has been volunteering with us this year and here is her account on what volunteering has been like for her. Sadly, for us, by the time you read this Lucy will no longer be volunteering but will be enjoying her summer before going to University, thank you Lucy for all your hard work and help! Good luck at University!



*"After I finished my A level exams in 2023, I decided to take a gap year before going to university. I was looking for opportunities to volunteer in my local community when I saw that the Chiddingly Village shop was looking for volunteers. I was quite anxious when I first started, I really had no idea what I was doing! The coffee machine looked really complicated and I didn't know how to use the till properly. However, I got the hang of things with the support of Sue and all the other volunteers, who have supported me over the past year. I have perfected my barista skills and can now make a great latte and cappuccino. Volunteering at the shop has really helped me understand more about customer service and developed my people skills, something I have found quite difficult up until now. What I've most enjoyed is meeting all the lovely customers who come in regularly. I will now be going to university having developed my confidence in this friendly community shop and café, and I would really recommend volunteering to other young people."*