

**AVEBURY'S SHOPS, THE RED LION, AND THE NATIONAL TRUST'S FACILITIES:
WHEN WILL THEY OPEN?**

Many non-essential shops re-opened on 15 June in response to the easing of government restrictions. All these shops have to follow detailed guidance designed to minimise the risk of COVID-19 infection to staff and shoppers alike. That may mean limiting the number of people inside the shop at any one time, providing screens around tills, masks, and hand sanitisers, and introducing other measures. No effort is being spared by shops to respect the need to protect their customers and staff.

Avebury's community shop has remained open. Thanks to the hard work of its managers and volunteers, it has provided an incredible service to the village and wider community beyond. We owe them our thanks. But the shop was able to do this only because it respected the guidance in force.

Avebury has three other shops, a pub, a restaurant, and a take-away outlet. They have been closed throughout the lockdown. The owners of Elements of Avebury and the Henge Shop would like to open as soon as possible but have agreed not to do so before the Summer Solstice. We are grateful to them for this further financial sacrifice.

Both shops aim to open their doors for the first time on Monday 22 June initially with reduced hours, probably between 10am and 4pm, as staff familiarise themselves with the latest guidance. The National Trust shop is likely to open soon afterwards in line with the charity's advice centrally. The prime minister has chosen 4 July as the date on which the hospitality sector can re-open. The managements of the Red Lion and the National Trust food and beverage outlets are considering whether they will be able to bring in new arrangements in time for them to open from Monday 6 July. A key consideration is whether the requirement for social distancing is decreased from the current two metres. We expect an announcement by the government during the course of the next few days.

The National Trust hopes to open its main visitor car park from 6 July as long as ways can be found of allowing users to walk to and from the village in conformity with whatever social

distancing requirements are then in place. At the same time the Trust will provide toilet facilities. It will do so either by means of temporary portaloos or the existing toilets depending on which prove most suitable for social distancing and enhanced hygiene measures.

We believe that this approach represents the best way to re-open Avebury's businesses and to bring commercial life back into the village. The safety of staff and customers, whether they come from the village or outside, has been and will remain uppermost in mind. We hope that you will share our confidence – and express it by making purchases in these shops or having a drink in the pub or café whenever you can!

Donna Byatt (Elements of Avebury)
Ryan Rawal (The Red Lion)
Stephen Stacey (Avebury Parish Council)
Eva Stützenberger (National Trust)
Philippe and Dominique Ullens (The Henge Shop)

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