

MUSTARD SEED AGM 2020
Friday 13th November 2020 (zoomed)
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**NEW HAMPERS RECORD –
 NEW WAREHOUSE – NEW
 LEASE – NEW STOCK!**

This time last year, we were ruminating over our very comprehensive 2019 investigations into “The Plum Tree” café possibilities. With the benefit of covid hindsight, perhaps it’s a good thing that we chose to be cautious.

Yes – it’s most certainly been a year of two halves. There have also been many positives, perhaps the most significant is the resilience and flexibility shown by so many of our wonderful volunteers.

Thank you to you: our amazing team!

NEW WAREHOUSE: We also have Katie & Peter Foot’s generosity to thank for the **new warehousing arrangements** (their garage!) - which have been in place for almost a year now, and are working remarkably well.

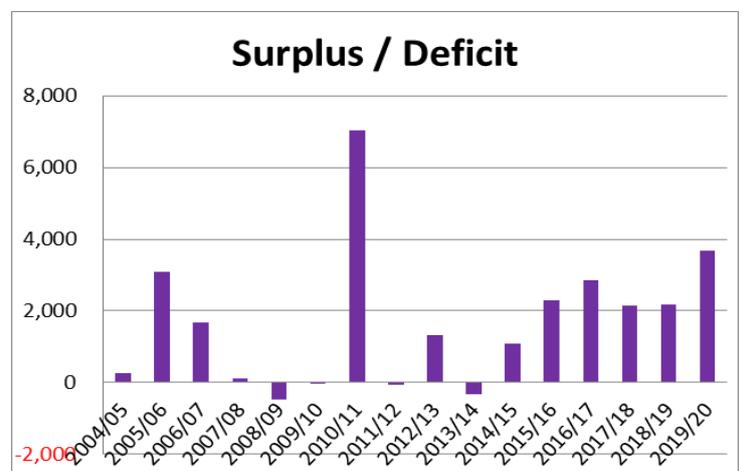
NEW LEASE: **The new lease** (on the same very favourable terms as we were on previously) was signed just before lockdown. Thank you to our landlord John Loosemore, and to John Beaumont for guiding us so efficiently through the fine print. At this point, it’s appropriate to mention the damp in the back area of the shop. The landlord has now agreed to take action to remedy this.

NEW STOCK: Also just before lockdown, Katie and Karen really pushed the boat out in loading up **with new stock** (at very favourable discount) from a range of fair trade suppliers.

NEW RECORD: Also of note; the income from **Christmas Hampers** end 2019 - at more than £2200 to the Mustard Seed - also set a new record! Many thanks to Karen.



Some of the colourful new stock!



SMALL BUSINESS GRANT

Early on in lockdown, we were successful in our application for the 10K grant offered to all businesses who also qualify for small-business-rate relief. This has given us the reassurance that we can continue to pay our fixed costs, even when our income from sales has been significantly compromised.

THANKS

Special thanks go to our joint managers Katie and Karen; our unflappable treasurer Lois; Mairead - who manages all the weekly takings in her quietly efficient way AND juggles the monthly rotas with consummate skill.

We also thank Malcolm and Val from the Lighthouse Bookshop in Highworth for their unstinting support, helped by Keith at this end.

We thank the Committee, representing the Churches Together.

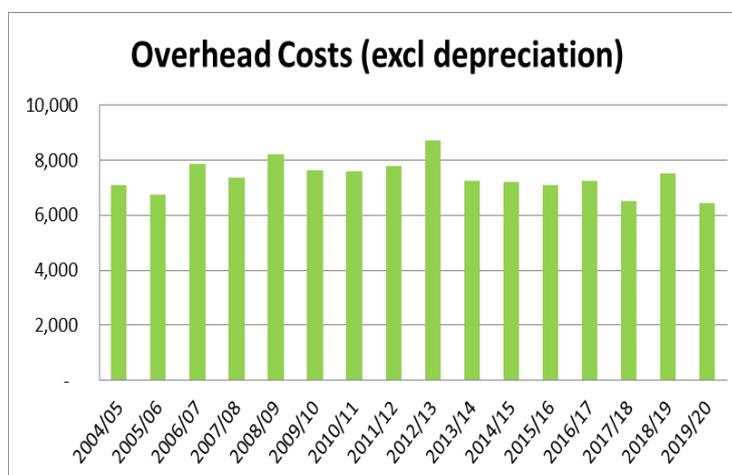
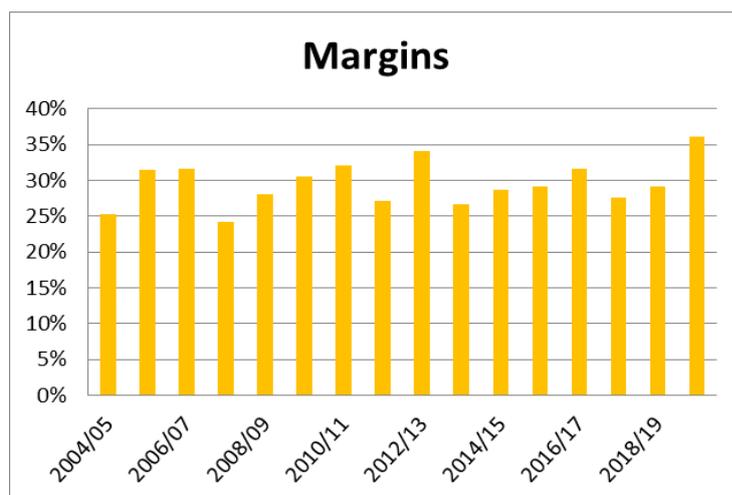
And we also get support from the wider community, for which we are very grateful.

We have our annual accounts fully audited by Alder Demain Akers free of charge. Thank you.

On behalf of the committee, our warmest thanks go out to all those volunteers and members of the community who support us in so many ways.

And last but not least, we also warmly thank our loyal shoppers.

As always, the team of volunteers need your constant support and prayers.



Sjoerd Vogt
Chairman, The Mustard Seed
November 2020