

Hayhoe's Newsagent

High Street South, Dunstable

The Mayoress, Ann Sparrow, and I, took the opportunity to visit Yvonne Tilling at Hayhoe's (a local long standing family business in High Street South) as part of our town visit on Saturday 4th July. While particularly welcoming those businesses reopening after the relaxation of the lockdown, we also saw others who had come through this difficult and challenging period.

Yvonne Tilling's parents, Dennis and Monica Hayhoe, took over the general store in 1952. A year or so later a Post Office was incorporated. It became the longest serving sub-post office in Dunstable. Sadly, the post office was closed ten years ago at a time when many others were also forced to close.

This posed one of many challenges over the years. They diversified by opening an off-licence increasing their convenience food range.

'The latest challenge, Covid-19, has really brought the local community together. News delivery agents were classed as 'key workers' so we have been open throughout lockdown. Our customers and neighbours have been so very supportive throughout this difficult time. I would like to thank them all.'

It has been good to learn about the way in which this shop has survived, not least of all with that support from their customers.