



■ Above: Stroud MP David Drew and Fran Horsfall, chairwoman of the village shop committee, join the village to toast the success of the shop. Photos: Richard Besent

Ivy cuts ribbon at new shop

26/10/98

WHITESHILL: OLDEST resident Ivy Wager led villagers near Stroud as they celebrated the grand opening of their community shop.

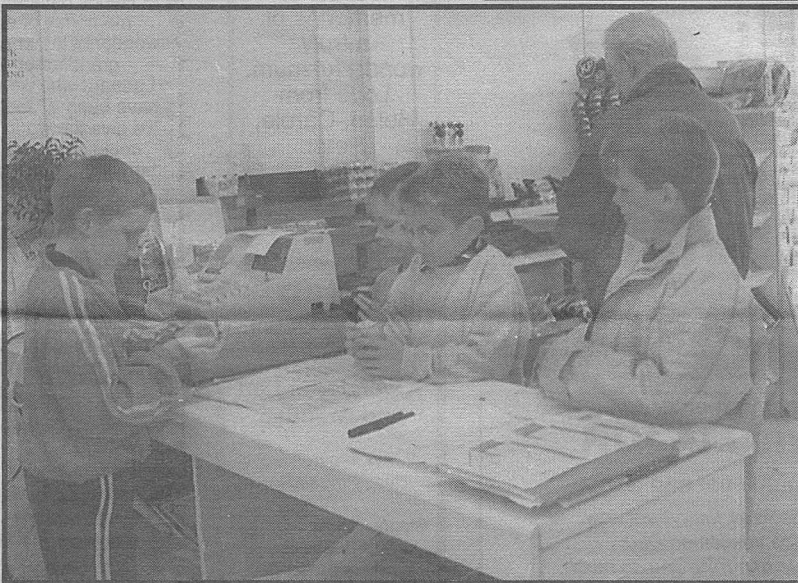
Mrs Wager (98) told families who crowded into the wooden portable building housing a grocery store and cafe at Whiteshill on Saturday how wonderful it was to have a local shop again after five years.

Mrs Wager, who cut a red ribbon and declared the store in business, said: "I hope it will be well patronised."

Stroud MP David Drew told those present: "This will be a lifeline for a lot of people. Not everyone wants to go to supermarkets and I hope even those of you who can afford to patronise them will choose to support this project."

Mr Drew recognised how hard the Ruscombe and Whiteshill Village Shop Association volunteers had worked since last year to set up the shop and he congratulated them on their efforts.

The project's supporters gained £8,000



■ Above: Its a community affair. Everyone helped at the opening of the new shop.

worth of grants towards the initiative and another £5,500 or more was raised through loans and donations.

Unpaid helpers then renovated and fitted out the shop on the Whiteshill playing field which will plough its profits back into the local community. It is also hoped the shop's coffee bar will become a popular meeting place.

A rota of volunteers is now organised to keep the community shop, the first in the Stroud area, open from 8.30am until 5.30pm six days a week and between 10am and 1pm on Sundays.

Torrential rain and gale-force winds meant the Ruscombe and Whiteshill people's party had to be moved indoors. But other celebration events went ahead.




Christm

STA

Broccoli & Stilt
Prawn Cocktail
Thai Chicken
Stuffed Mushro
Melon with Tro
Filo Prawns, or

MAI

12oz Rump Ste
Brasserie Chick
12oz Lamb Stea
Salmon Steak



every night

Ayed print workers at meeting