

[From Bob King, vice chairman St Tudy Community Shop Management Committee]

## St Tudy Community Shop named regional finalist in top awards

St Tudy Community Shop has made it to the finals in the Community Ownership Awards 2016, the only national awards programme recognising community co-operation around the UK.

St Tudy Community Shop and Post Office has been trading since 2011 after the sole existing retail outlet in the village closed as it was no longer a viable independent business. Fundraising and grants successfully resulted in a brand new building opening the following year, which we now need to expand due to the increase in trade. It is hoped to extend the building to provide a community hub with a coffee shop and library in order to continue widening the services we can offer. Volunteers cheerfully run the shop and post office on a weekly rota basis with a shop manager.

The Community Ownership Awards are run by Plunkett Foundation, the national charity supporting people to set up and run community co-operatives – businesses that are owned and run democratically by large numbers of people from within their local area – to help overcome issues ranging from isolation and loneliness to poverty.

Shop manager Karen Roberts said “I am delighted with this recognition for our thriving shop which serves our village and the surrounding area, and the success of which is largely due to the dedication and enthusiasm of our wonderful band of volunteers.”

St Tudy Community Shop will now compete with two other finalists to be crowned the best community owned co-operative in the South West of England by an expert judging panel. The winners will be announced at a special ceremony in London on Monday 28 November.

For information:

About the Community Ownership Awards 2016:

The Community Ownership Awards are about celebrating the most inspiring examples of people in rural areas working together to improve their communities. They are designed to help communities celebrate their own success and learn from each other, and to raise awareness about the co-operative model and community ownership to a wider audience. For more information visit the Awards website at: [www.communityownershipawards.com](http://www.communityownershipawards.com)