

OIL SYNDICATE REPORT 2018

The Oil Syndicate was again successful in 2017, but the discount is now dropping from the 3 pence per litre that used to be the norm. It is getting harder and harder to get the lower prices. But it is still worth doing, even at a 2.5 ppl discount, the minimum fill of 500 litres is £12.50 cheaper than the full price.

The February 2018 purchase was one that I will happily forget, landing as it did bang on target with the 'Beast from the East'. This caused a lack of sleep for me the night before the order day, and when it came to contacting the suppliers, most of them either did not answer the 'phone, or played a 'Busy' recording. Delivery dates of those who did answer were quoted in weeks. I myself was one of the people in the village running very low on oil, so had a vested interest in getting a supply.

The oil refineries were also running low, so everyone had the same problem. UKAY Fuels were again the successful supplier, being the fastest as well as the cheapest. Even Goff were quoting delivery in terms of a fortnight, and they are normally the fastest.

However, one good thing to come out of this is that we now have a new e-mail emergency supplier, usually able to come out (from Shoeburyness!) at very short notice. They also have emergency top-up bags, of 100 litres and above, and can deliver these to get somebody over a sudden empty tank. They charge for the service, but in emergency, what is it worth to not run out of oil?

This company, Fuels247, will be included in the bidding for the next Syndicate order in July.

The reselling company Boilerjuice, after several attempts to join as a potential supplier, did not bother to respond to contact attempts even before The Beast hit, so they are once again relegated to the non-quoting supplier list. They have had several chances, always failing to respond just when it is important.

The next order will be in July, probably nearer the middle of the month rather than at the end. As always, details will be published in the Parish Magazine.

David Sloan