

SHREWTON OIL SHEIKS

Many of you will know that I started a scheme to buy domestic heating oil in bulk for the area towards the end of last year. I christened the group 'Shrewton Oil Sheiks', and the group includes Chitterne, Orcheston and Tilshead.

The more people we can get in on this group the greater will be the savings, so if you would like to join then do please contact me on ml.badham@btinternet.com or, if you do not have email, my mobile; **07920 768853**.

How the scheme works:

I email everyone and find out what oil everyone needs. I then call all the suppliers to our area and find out who will give us the best deal. I then place the order on behalf of those people who have said they need oil. If the customer does not have an account with the chosen supplier then I put the customer in contact with the supplier to set up an account. Everyone is kept informed at each stage. At the moment I carry out this exercise every 3 months; at the beginning of February, May, August, November.

Latest Update – 15 January 2010:

This is an update of the latest oil purchase made today. 27 people wanted oil and the total ordered was 22500ltrs. I called 7 suppliers and Total Butler were once again the most competitive. The price quoted was 45.43ppl but they could not guarantee delivery until 8 Feb (3 weeks). Other supplier promised delivery after 2 weeks and a couple would not quote for because by then the price might have changed. An example of other quotes were Watsons; 48.95ppl, Wessex; 56.95ppl. So although 45.43ppl is a lot more than the price last time in November, we have still done quite well compared to others. I asked why the price had gone up so much and although the price of oil has gone up the extra demand has also been a factor, or at least that was the impression I got.

The next buying time will be as at the 1st February 2010. The rhythm for this exercise is planned as at 1st September, 1st December, February, April, June and then September again and so on. Do please advertise this group to your neighbours and friends as the more people we have the better but preferably only those with access to email.

If, on the other hand, you would like about 700ltrs of home heating oil, or more, then please let me know and how much you think you will need. The 'default' instructions to the supplier will be to 'top up' but they will want a rough idea of how much is needed. I will then canvas the main providers for this area and once I have identified the cheapest source I will then order oil on your behalf. If you do not have an account with the supplier then I will get back to you by either email or phone and ask you to set up an account so that you can receive the oil. I will let everyone know the outcome of my negotiations; the name of the supplier and the price quoted. This is important as you will want to check that your bill reflects the quoted price! I will also let you know when the oil is likely to be delivered.

Those people who have an Aga may well want special oil, I am told it is Glowmax, and should let me know. It would appear that you can still be included in the group order, at the collective reduced price, but with an extra 2/3ppl to that quoted.

A statement of the obvious, sorry: Most people have tanks of about 1200ltr and will benefit most in this group. If you have a swimming pool size tank then you may well be able to negotiate a fair price on your own but still probably not as good as we can as a large group.

As always; don't keep this to yourself – tell anyone/everyone in your village; Shrewton, Chitterne, Tilshead and Orcheston.

We have 85 members but the more the better.

Best wishes and thank you for your support,

Mike Badham-Thornhill