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MARKETING 15% boost from ad screens

Hi Street Digital live in 250 stores Page 10 >>



LEGISLATION C-stores: we're set for alcohol register

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PRODUCT TRENDS 15% baby snacks growth missed

Update your range, stores told. Page 12 >>>

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12 ideas to inspire your future

One brilliant store, 22 great retailers and what they learned on the IAA study tour at Nisa Local Fletton in Peterborough Page 6 >>



'Symbols have their own objectives but the IAA is about you. There is no agenda, it's simply to improve your store' Page 5 **»** GOOD Simes and Casty Casty

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IAA guide

with this

issue

HERITAGE

Costcutter

Our own

label sales

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their advice

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Shaping the future of independent retail since 1889







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"I've wanted an in-store bakery, but have always been a bit nervous. Seeing Siva's successful set-up has made me re-evaluate the idea" John Green, IAA Lookbook Page 6

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Collaborating to fight the illicit trade is more important than ever Page 24



ast Wednesday, I spent an inspiring day on the Independent Achievers Academy study tour at Siva Thievanayagan's stunning Nisa Local in Peterborough. It was great to meet exciting new retailers,

Editor Chris Gamm @ChrisGammRN

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like Huddersfield Premier owner Navinder Kaur. She saw the study tour advertised in RN and came along to meet likeminded retailers and take back new ideas to her store. It was also inspiring to hear retailers buzz-

ing on the bus back from the store visit. Shrewsbury retailer Bal Ghuman told me he'd known for a while he needed a new EPoS

system integrated with PayPoint to safeguard his cash. After seeing Siva's system, he committed to taking action. "It's great to see how other people's minds work and how they do things - it's what makes me tick," he said.

You can see what Navinder, Bal and the rest of us learned in this week's special four page IAA Lookbook, starting on page 6.

Speaking at the launch, 2016 Overall Best Shop recipient Amish Shingadia and 2017 IAA ambassador Bay Bashir spoke about the importance of benchmarking their stores against core retail priciples.

Benchmarking pushes them to be better retailers, find new ways to keep improving and identify the basics that can often be easy to overlook. Amish also shared how he and his staff have identified 25 areas to work on in 2017 using the IAA's advice.

You can find your copy of the 2017 Retail Profit Guide free with this issue of RN. Use it to benchmark your store and create your own 2017 action plan. It's a powerful tool.



www.betterretailing.com/RN extensive galleries and news

bus back from

the store visit

BREAKING NEWS

Sticking to big brands helps fight 'Lidl effect'

C-stores must focus on big brands despite the "Aldi and Lidl effect" hitting sales of branded goods in supermarkets.

A senior FMCG executive told RN sales of big brands are declining as people realise they can buy cheap, high quality goods from discounters.

But retailers located near discounters told RN they can't compete on cheaper lines, so they offer big brands instead.

"You can't compete on pricing, so it's better to focus on what you do that they don't do," said Jayesh Parekh of Jay's Costcutter in Manchester.

"For example Aldi don't do Smirnoff vodka so people come here for the brand name."

Jimmy Patel of Jimmy's Store in Northampton agreed and said people always switch from own label to brands if there is a promotion on them.

More PoS for People's Projects

National Lottery retailers will receive a second round of PoS material this week to flag up a nationwide retail campaign to support The People's Projects.

The People's Projects offers a chance for the public to vote on how £3m will be spent across their favourite local projects and is being run by the Big Lottery Fund, ITV, STV and the National Lottery.

Retailers are being encouraged to speak to their customers about the competition.

All stores will receive an additional Playstation wing and a window poster, with some receiving banners, window vinyls and bunting. Registration for wholesalers comes into force on 1 April 'This helps honest traders'

Retailers ready for new alcohol fraud scheme

by Helen Lock RNreporter@newtrade.co.uk

Retailers told RN they are ready for the government's new scheme to tackle alcohol fraud, set to come into force next month.

From 1 April, retailers will be responsible for checking their wholesaler is registered with HM Revenue and Customs under the Alcohol Wholesaler Registration Scheme (AWRS). Any retailer found knowingly selling alcohol from an unregistered wholesaler could face a fine or a prison sentence.

However, retailers told RN there has been a lot of information around AWRS and they are not concerned with the change.

"We've been aware of the scheme for a few months and it's been straightforward because we mainly use a cash and carry which has done it," said Jayesh Parekh, who owns Jay's Costcutter in Manchester.

Bob Gill, who runs a Costcutter in Sunderland, said: "There's a sign up in the cash and carry saying they are registered, so we don't expect any issues with it because we only use them and they are a legitimate business."

Samantha Coldbeck, of Premier Wharfedale in Hull, said: "Legitimate retailers have always battled against shops who can sell three bottles of vodka for a tenner. This will help give honest traders a better footing in the market."

However, Shrewsbury Nisa retailer Rav Garcha said less competition between registered wholesalers has led to increased alcohol prices. "I've seen my sales margins affected. Whereas a wholesaler might have sold wine for £20 down from £30 on a promotion, now it is only reduced to £25."

The reference numbers are listed in an online directory and all wholesalers selling alcohol had to register by 31 March 2016.

Martin Race, managing director of Bestway Wholesale, said: "The AWRS will clamp down on bootleg booze and provide customers with the confidence that they are operating within the legal framework."

JTI warning: you could be next in plain packs?

Confectionery and drinks brands could be next in line to face plain packaging, JTI warned at the International Food & Drink event in London on Monday. The tobacco manufacturer hosted a stand called The Future of Brands, designed to act as a wake-up call to food and drink companies that their brands are under increasing attack of excessive regulation.



Scots to cash in with bottle recycling plan

Scottish retailers could benefit from increased revenue if they install a recycling machine through the deposit recycling system, a Coca-Cola senior exec has said.

Speaking at the NFRN's annual Scottish conference this week, Jim Fox, associate director - public affairs at Coca-Cola European Partners, urged retailers to support the deposit system.

He said research demonstrated every convenience store in Norway, Sweden and Estonia could justify having a machine within a few months of installation. Benefits included in-

creased footfall and sales. "Pressure is growing on

the Scottish parliament to introduce a similar scheme," said Mr Fox. "According to research by Coca-Cola, 63% of the public are positive about this," said Mr Fox.

The machines cost between £20,000 and £30,000 to install. Retailers who install one would receive an income under the proposed retail handling scheme for a three-year period based on the amount of space lost to the machine, the handling of stock and the cleanliness of the machine.

Paul Baxter, NFRN chief executive, recommended setting up a working party from the Scottish district to engage with Coca-Cola and the Scottish government to influence the decisionmaking process early on. • Full Scottish conference report in next week's RN.



IAA helped Bay Bashir identify social media as focus area 'It provides a new level of scrutiny'

Benchmarking essential to drive growth, says IAA

by Charlie Faulkner charlie.faulkner@newtrade.co.uk

Benchmarking your business – and not solely relying on your symbol group – is crucial to drive growth, urged retailers who have successfully worked with the Independent Achievers Academy (IAA).

Bay Bashir, of Belle Vue Convenience in Middlesbrough, has been a part of the IAA for five years and has seen his business grow as a result.

Speaking at an IAA study day in Peterborough last week, he said: "It's shown me how to increase sales in areas that were under performing. It highlights the weakest part of my store but, first and foremost, it's about improving.

"It's about getting the best advice and trying to implement that in your store."

Through using the IAA's 2016 benchmarking process, Mr Bashir identified social media as an area to focus on. He admitted he finds it "hard work" but has now passed it on to his staff. "It's key to not think you know everything and accept sometimes you need to delegate things," he said.

He believes it is vital for retailers to participate in benchmarking to improve their businesses.

"Symbols have their own objectives but the IAA is about you. There is no agenda, it's simply to improve your store and make it the best you can," said Mr Bashir.

"It's important to make sure I'm benchmarking my store and making sure it's moving forward." Last year's Overall Best Shop recipient Amish Shingadia, of Londis Caterways in Horsham, said he found information from the IAA and his symbol group complement one another. However, he said: "The IAA provides a brand new level of scrutiny which you're unable to access through your symbol group alone."

This year he plans to "out-do" his 2016 achievements and is currently seeing his store through a refit.

• IAA 2017 Retail Profit Guide free with this issue.

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damage." But Neil Jagger, Trinity Mirror's general manager and group newspaper sales director, said extensions are too frequent.

"Extensions should be for major events only, such as a General Election or sports events happening later due to time differences," he said.

Menzies defends move away from news

Menzies says its diversification into other logistics operations is "good news" for retailers.

A Financial Times article published on Saturday described Menzies' delivery business as an "overnight logistics network".

A Menzies spokesman said the company has won several long-term, national logistics contracts with high street partners during the past 18 months, including WH Smith, Card Factory and Nisbets.

"We continue to diversify into adjacent markets where we can efficiently leverage the cost of our national network," he said.

"This is good news for our customers, as the more volume we can bring into our network from the wider logistics sector, the more secure, sustainable and competitive our end-to-end supply chain capability."

Tesco cuts half of Heineken beer lines

Tesco has delisted half its Heineken products as it continues its fight against Brexit price hikes.

In response to the Dutch brewer's threat of a price increase of 6p a pint, Tesco announced it will axe half its products including Amstel, Sol, Tiger Beer and Kingfisher, as reported by the Daily Mail.

The supermarket is also now offering fewer variations of Heineken's own lager cans and bottles.

A Heineken spokesman said he would not comment on "commercial arrangements" but added: "Shoppers will continue to find a broad range of our fantastic beer and cider brands in Tesco."

Retailers want ban on cut-off extensions

Nine out of 10 retailers believe extensions to newspapers' cut-off times should be banned, an NFRN poll shows.

The survey of 300 retailers was carried out after publishers agreed a localised extension of 45 minutes in Swansea and Newport following the Wales v Ireland Rugby Six Nations match earlier this month, with 92% saying extensions should not be allowed.

Brian Murphy, NFRN head of news, said: "We want circulation departments to take this on board and warn their editorial colleagues the evidence shows a requirement for newspapers to be printed earlier, not later." But publishers said extensions are important to protect the long-term sales of a title.

"It's not all about getting decent sales on that morning," said Paul Bacon, sales and marketing manager for the i. "As an industry, we must make every effort to give the consumer what they want otherwise we

IAA helped Bay Bashir identify social media as focus area 'It provides a new level of scrutiny' Benchmarking essential to drive growth, says IAA



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Perfect store to tour

6

This year's Independent Achievers Academy launched last week at a store that optimises the retail principles that underpin the programme. **Charlie Faulkner** and **Chris Gamm** joined retailers on a study tour around the business to find out what they learned ocated on a residential street in Peterborough sits the bright and welcoming Nisa Local Fletton – the venue for the launch of this year's IAA retail study day.

Food to go and fresh are the main focus across all five of owner Siva Thievanayagan's Nisa shops, but when this 3,000sq ft store was due a major refit he decided to take things one step further, opening a bakery.

"Our bakery has a £6,000 turnover," says Siva. "We bake fresh Cuisine de France pastries, we serve breakfasts, pizzas, homemade sandwiches and have a deli which offers the option for customers to create their own lunch," he explains.

Despite the premium feel of the store – products such as San Pellegrino Pomegranate & Orange sit next to core staples – he is committed to keeping prices low.

"I like to see something different available in shops so I want to offer my customers something unique too," he says. "But it's not an affluent area so prices need to meet the needs of my customers."

Siva has introduced many elements that would be more commonly found in stores serving a more affluent demographic, but priced them at an affordable level for his customers. Freshly-made sandwiches are priced at £2.60 each, with freshly made smoothies for £2.20. "I make 50% margins on my sandwiches so why would I charge more?"

As the IAA's study day venue, attendees take part in a tour where they're able to see the hard work that's gone behind the shop's new look.

Varied ceiling heights around the store, for example, help open up different areas, while some creative use of coloured lighting emphasises specific products – pink-tinted lighting, attendees discover, is more flattering for raw chicken than harsh white.

Elsewhere, Siva has used bespoke display units to help his products sell: "We try to make the shelves look more interesting by using things like wicker baskets and wooden crates to display fruit and vegetables."

Finding space for specialist brands in categories such as alcohol – US beer Blue Moon has found popularity – is one way Siva engages his customers, but catering for their specific needs also helps.

"We have big Polish and Italian communities in Peterborough so it's important to cater for them," says Siva, who turns over £1,000 a week on both areas.

But as always, it's the hard numbers which tell the retailers on the tour the full story: "We've grown turnover 15% to £48,000 a week since the refit, but my ambition is to get to £65,000."

It's so important to learn from other retailers, so I really appreciated the feedback and ideas I've had from everyone who visited with the IAA study tour today" _{SIVA THIEVANAYAGAN}

HIS COFFEE OFFER GIVES US CONFIDENCE IN THE CHOICE WE'VE MADE Bay

Bashir Lifestyle Express, Middlesbrough

My new coffee machine is going sit at the front of the store in the same way, so it was good to get reassurance on the location and to be able to see just how much space I need for the area.

> I love the big night in section, with snacks, pizza and ice cream merchandised within the alcohol section. The shop is well segmented into different shopper needs and the lack of false ceiling in the big night in zone creates theatre.

INFORMATION

Size 3,000sq ft

Turnover £48,000 a week

Target turnover £65,000 a week

Average basket spend £8.50

Key categories alcohol, food to go, fresh





JUICE IS A GREAT IDEA FOR OUR UPCOMING REFIT

The fresh orange juice machine

is very interesting. We're look-

ing to refit our store this year and it's something I'd like to

David Lewis

Crescent Stores

Spar, Witney

Best

e 🕤

IT SHOWS HOW A GREAT STORE IS A GREAT WORKPLACE

Amy **Panchmatia**

Mace Hexagon Stores & Post Office, Andover

I'm a sucker for working in a good shop. It must be bright, lively, clean and well stocked, like this one. The bakery and handmade pizzas are very attractive. The displays aren't too high so it creates a feeling of space and the raised till area means you can see everywhere.



Kennedy Zvenyik Nisa Local, Paddington

Br.

The store standards were great and it was good to see the basics done so well. His precision really stood out – the lighting, cleanliness, no rubbish anywhere - it was a pleasant shop to be in.

THE LABELS ON FRESH ARE A GREAT IDEA WELL EXECUTED David

Ramsey Best-one Byram Park Stores, Knottingley

The labelling for fresh and baked produce is brilliant. It's all done from the back office, customised with pictures and dates showing when something was made. This will give customers confidence a product's only been out for a day.

SALSICCIAMO CLASSIC 500G NISO

I STILL BE DE LE

£3.99



WE COULD USE OUR ORDERING SYSTEMS TO SAVE MONEY TOO

lack Patel

Londis Westholme Stores, Reading

Siva's monitoring of wastage was impressive. He uses data to make sure they are wasting as little as possible and adjusts the orders accordingly.



PIERRES



I like the floor. It is poured concrete which has been diamond polished. It looks much better than tiles and is virtually maintenance-free. If it ever needs smartening up, Siva can just get it re-polished.

10 **SYMBOL NEWS**

Costcutter acts on customer feedback

A Costcutter store has expanded its international cuisine offering as a result of a proactive approach to customer feedback.

The Costcutter Swansea University store, which is based on campus and run by the students' union, participates in regular surveys which has led to it adding Korean noodle brands, Nepalese dessert brands and Singapore sauces.

"We have a large proportion of international students who, not surprisingly, miss foods from their native countries," said Martin Caldwell, Students' Union commercial manager.

"Feedback from these surveys has been invaluable – as a direct result we have added a more extensive range of international cuisine and whole foods."

The store has also added a niche food area which includes Suma and Divine products.

Customers enjoy a Snapchat

Independent retailers who don't use apps such as Snapchat could be missing out on an opportunity to engage with shoppers.

High street brands including Lush and Sainsbury's have both used the technology to connect with their customer base.

"The ability to send customers exclusive sneak peeks, one-off filters and off-the-cuff content really appealed to us," said Nicolas Copeland, Lush's marketing director.

According to parent company Snap, 72% of its 10 million daily users send a Snapchat while shopping.



Hi Street Digital installed outward-facing screens in windows Screens are free for retailers

Digital advertising screen trial increases sales 15%

by Tim Murray RNreporter@newtrade.co.uk

A digital advertising initiative aimed at independent retailers has boosted sales of featured products by an average of 15%, while also driving footfall and basket spend.

The increases are the results of an 18-month trial conducted by Hi Street Digital, which installed outward-facing screens mounted in shop windows, used to display promotions – driving sales for both retailers and manufacturers. Raj Aggarwal, of Spar

Raj Aggarwal, of Spar Hackenthorpe in Sheffield, had the screens installed when the company first launched the trial. "It's very impactful because of the quality of the screen," he said. "The products they're advertising are good and it can only get bigger and better."

Revenue is generated by the company selling space to brands while retailers have to ensure they offer maximum availability to the product in focus. The company is also working with symbol groups.

Adverts can be adjusted according to the time of day and Hi Street Digital can respond to weather changes. One in 10 of the current stores have motion capture and retina-scanning cameras enabling Hi Street Digital to see how shoppers respond to the ads.

Jonathan Daniels, Hi Street Digital managing partner, said: "It's a bit of a no-brainer for retailers - we're giving them a £5,000 screen that increases sales, basket spend and footfall."

He told RN sales of the featured products have increased by 15%, footfall has increased by more than 4% and basket spend has seen an increase of almost 7%.

The screens are free and retailers need to have suitable window space, as well as a full convenience offering. Mr Daniels added they are looking for "premium" retailers.

Hi Street Digital's screens are in 250 retailers' windows, advertising six different products on a loop.

It aims to double its presence by the end of 2017 and further increase the number of retailers with screens to 1,000 by the end of next year, with a long-term goal of 5,000 retailers.

Deli counters offer margins of 50%

Retailers who take the plunge and implement a deli counter could enjoy 50% margins and increased footfall.

That is the advice from other retailers who have had success with a deli counter offering installed in their stores.

David Heritage, of Barns Green Village Stores in Horsham, often sees a 50% margin. "Deli is our most profitable department by far," he said.

"For the first 16 days of March, 7% of our takings came solely from the deli counter. In the summer, when campers stock up for picnic lunches, sales go through the roof. And it's great for Christmas, of course."

Wastage can be a

concern for retailers but Mr Heritage said he has found ways to minimise it. "There are lots of creative opportunities to reduce waster we'll turn

reduce waste: we'll turn stale bread into breadand-butter pudding, for example."

Siva Thievanayagan, of Nisa Local Fletton, was ahead of the trend, establishing a deli counter in his Peterborough store 15 years ago. "We've expanded it several times and recently I decided to make it as big as possible, doubling the size to six metres.

"Fresh is what people are looking for - I'd say 50% of any store should be fresh these days." ● Don't miss RN's expert guide next week NEWS & MAGS

FT sales rise highest Saturday refresh unveiled

Financial Times sales growth continues

by Jennifer Hardwick iennifer.hardwick@newtrade.co.uk

The Financial Times achieved sales growth for both its weekday and Saturday editions for the second month running in February, according to the latest figures from the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

The title's weekday edition was up 2.2% month on month compared to January, while the weekend edition was up 0.5%, after sales grew the previous month by 1% and 1.5% respectively, compared to December.

The news came as the publisher unveiled a refresh of its Saturday edition, named FT Weekend, including a redesigned front page and redesigned FT Magazine, as well as the announcement of several new regular columnists.

The title's global communications director Kristina Eriksson told RN the refresh demonstrates Financial Times' commitment to print and said the recent sales growth is just one part of the overall health of the business.

"We believe strongly in print," she said.

"Our print circulation has been profitable on its own, before advertising, since 2013."

Speaking about the refresh, which is accompanied by a marketing campaign across print, digital and social media, FT chief communications and marketing officer Darcy Keller said: "With few exceptions, people are growing more and more busy during the

"We all look forward to that weekend feeling when our time is ours – not to tune out, but to tune in."

week.

The Financial Times was the only newspaper to grow its month-on-month sales for both the weekday and Saturday editions, but sales of the Daily Star Sunday rose by 0.8% month on month in February after falling in the past two months.

The i continued its run of sales growth, achieving year-on-year growth of 1.2% for its weekday edition and 13.1% for its Saturday edition.

Overall, Sunday titles suffered the biggest falls, down 8.6% year on year, while weekday sales fell by 8.6%.

February Monday to Friday newspaper sales

	Core sales "	Monthly change	Yearly change re	Estimated etail margin (OO	Total Os) '2 sales '3
Daily Mirror	604,193	-1.1%	-11.5%	£90.5	638,193
Daily Record	148,555	-0.5%	-9.6%	£21.2	148,555
Daily Star	444,076	-0.8%	-6.9%	£32.2	444,076
The Sun	1,406,545	-3.6%	-11.9%	£156.8	1,504,380
Daily Express	367,218	-0.7%	-4.9%	£48.9	367,218
Daily Mail	1,202,922	-1.3%	-7.4%	£174.4	1,266,178
Daily Telegraph	377,383	-0.9%	-11.8%	£129.8	416,879
Financial Times	33,989	2.2%	-6.5%	£18.4	54,970
Guardian	127,482	-1.4%	-4.7%	£56.1	127,482
i	210,846	-0.6%	1.2%	£25.3	267,454
Times	322,153	-0.4%	-0.7%	£97.0	402,645
TOTAL	5,245,362	-1.7%	-8.6%	£851	5,638,030

February Saturday newspaper sales

	Core sales **	Monthly change	Yearly change i	Estimated retail margin (00	Total Os) "sales "
Daily Mirror	785,500	-2.9%	-10.3%	£177.5	819,500
Daily Record	178,676	-0.9%	-8.7%	£35.4	178,676
Daily Star	409,031	-0.4%	-7.2%	£49.4	409,031
The Sun	1,857,286	-3.0%	-9.4%	£278.2	1,955,121
Daily Express	464,402	-0.5%	-9.2%	£79.7	464,402
Daily Mail	2,007,401	-1.6%	-4.5%	£421.6	2,070,657
Daily Telegraph	555,475	-1.9%	-7.3%	£266.6	594,971
Financial Times	71,011	0.5%	-3.3%	£56.2	91,992
Guardian	289,844	-1.5%	-2.7%	£184.9	289,844
i	201,010	-0.8%	13.1%	£28.9	257,618
Times	495,883	-1.4%	4.5%	£174.8	576,375
TOTAL	7,315,519	-1.9%	-6.2%	£1,753	7,708,187

February Sunday newspaper sales

	Core sales **	Monthly change	Yearly change r	Estimated etail margin (OC	Total OS) '² sales '3
Sunday Mail	166,193	-1.2%	-10.0%	£59.3	166,193
Sunday Mirror	557,815	-2.6%	-16.4%	£164.0	591,815
People	220,540	-0.2%	-17.2%	£64.8	227,540
Daily Star Sun.	256,881	0.8%	-13.4%	£51.1	256,881
The Sun	1,259,075	-0.5%	-5.9%	£264.4	1,356,858
Sunday Express	328,801	-0.5%	-9.0%	£97.5	328,801
Sunday Post	141,690	-1.0%	-12.6%	£47.6	142,228
Mail on Sunday	1,146,536	-1.3%	-8.8%	£409.3	1,201,228
Observer	183,617	-1.1%	0.0%	£135.0	183,617
Sun. Telegraph	315,950	-1.8%	-8.2%	£143.8	349,097
Sunday Times	681,122	-0.6%	-3.4%	£357.6	765,004
TOTAL	5,258,220	-1.0%	-8.8 %	£1,794	5,569,262

*1 Core sales are newstrade sales and pre-paid subscriptions in the UK and Ireland; *2 ERM is the total income to retailers for one day's sales, calculated using margin statistics printed in RN; *3 Total sales includes bulk sales



PRODUCT TRENDS



Stay on trend to get best baby and toddler sales

by Chris Rolfe

chris.rolfe@newtrade.co.uk

Independent stores are missing out on sales of baby and toddler products by failing to stock modern formats, snacks and health-focused products, manufacturer Organix has warned.

The maker of infant products, including rice cakes, carrot sticks, gingerbread men and herb puffs, told RN the latest 12 weeks' data show a 15% increase in value sales of snacks, making this the fastest-growing area within the baby and toddler food market.

However, convenience retailers' ranges are still heavily concentrated on jarred baby food, sales of which are declining by 10% year on year.

"Demand from parents is increasing for on-the-go and out-of-home snacks, which work particularly well within convenience as their formats make them ideal impulse purchases, with wide age-range appeal and versatility," said Chris Braich, customer marketing controller at Organix.

"Space should be reduced for jars in favour of faster-selling lines such as pouches, snacks and fruit pots. Retailers also need to back the right pack formats in baby food, focusing on pouches and meal tray formats."

Mr Braich said Organix had been working with symbol groups such as Nisa, Palmer & Harvey, Costcutter, Spar and Budgens to improve ranges and help retailers capitalise on growth opportunities in the category.

"We've seen demand for snacks and on-the-go baby food increase. Parents are looking for these kinds of products, from brands like Ella's Kitchen and Organix, and we now order them twice a week," said Budgens of Mortimer manager Jason Bushnell. "We're planning to dual-site them with other on-the-go snacks for adults to encourage parents to pick up more of them."

Industry Profile – p21

Strong interest in no-alcohol Heineken

Retailers have been advised to offer more choice to tap into the alcoholfree market as Heineken launches its first nonalcoholic beer.

Backed by a £2.5m marketing campaign, Heineken 0.0 is available in packs of four 330ml bottles at £3.25, or as six 330ml cans selling at £4.50 each.

Steve Walters, an area manager of five Nisa stores in Peterborough, said non-alcoholic beer is a product requested by customers.

"We sell Becks Blue beer and get through about one case a week. "It's not flying off the shelf, but it is giving people an option," said Mr Walters. "There's probably not much brand loyalty so Heineken's success will depend on how they market it. We would be interested in trialling Heineken 0.0."

According to research conducted by market researcher Davis McKerr, while 50% of people now say they moderate their alcohol consumption

 a figure that is growing every year – only 47% of shoppers are satisfied with the existing beer offering in the UK market.

Terry Caton, who runs a Londis in Chesterfield, said he offers alcohol-free options to give his customers more choice.

Lucozade Energy's two new flavours

Lucozade Ribena Suntory is launching two further Lucozade Energy flavours this summer, in a bid to drive sales during the warm weather.

The variants, Blackcurrant Bliss and Pineapple Punch, will be available in 380ml £1 pricemarked packs, exclusively to the independent market from 27 March.

"We know how important our brand is for the wholesale route to market, which is why we're offering these flavours exclusively," said Mark Steratt, head of market, strategy and planning at Lucozade Ribena Suntory. "They give a real point of difference from the multiples."

Retailers will also have access to a range of PoS material including barkers, wobblers and counter-top units. "The demand for impulsive chilled drink purchases at its highest between April and August," added Mr Steratt.

Lifestyle trends add popularity

Lifestyle trends such as veganism are driving sales of previously less popular products, data from the Office of National Statistics has revealed.

Non-dairy milk, such as soya, rice and oat milk, are being added to the ONS's inflation basket for the first time, reflecting the increase in the popularity of dairy-free diets, with the rise of campaigns such as "Veganuary".

Terry Caton, of a Londis in Chesterfield, said: "We make sure free-from items are visible in the store and let customers know they can order in gluten-free bread."





BRAND SNAPSHOT



Irn Bru national rollout

AG Barr has rolled out Irn Bru Xtra nationwide – a new flavour variant containing no sugar – following its initial launch in Scotland last August.



Grace and flavour

Grace Foods UK is celebrating its 10th anniversary with marketing activity and a drive to promote its latest product – Carolina Reaper Chilli Sauce.



Refresh for 9BAR

9BAR is unveiling a new logo and packaging for its new bars. 9NINE is available in variants including Carob, and Apricot & Strawberry.



Ready-to-drink Jameson

Jameson Irish whiskey has launched a ready-to-drink can, designed for the premium market, in Classic Cola and Ginger & Lime variants.



Trek gets chunky

Natural Balance Foods has launched Trek Chunks, a protein-rich snack range. The 60g packs contain 12g of protein, no added sugar or syrups.



PET for Britvic Drench Britvic will launch a single-serve 500ml PET bottle for sparkling variants of its juice drink brand, Drench, later this month.



Mel back with Boddies

Boddingtons will rekindle its partnership with Melanie Sykes, who will appear in a new summer campaign – 20 years since the original adverts.



Rebel Kitchen expands

Rebel Kitchen has extended its Organic Coconut Water range with a 750ml pack, joining its 250ml and 473ml formats.



Smurfs join Haribo Haribo has unveiled packs to celebrate the release of the latest Smurfs film, The Lost Village, with a sweet and sour cherry flavour sharing bag.



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WHAT'S NEW



Coconut Company

The Coconut Company's organic amino sauces are available in three flavours. With a blend of coconut sugar, garlic and ginger they can be used as a glaze, for grilling or stir-fry sauces. **RRP** £4.99

Contact 0203 5823222





Algy's Norfolk Popcorn is available in Hot & Salty, Hot Chilli and Lightly Salted flavours. Each is made using home-grown rapeseed oil, available in snack and sharing-sized bags. RRP 70p-90p (20-25g), £1.65-£1.85 (70-90g) Contact 01362 683893 / info@algysfarmshop.co.uk



Just Bake Happy

Just Bake Happy's Little Prints Biscuit Kit is designed for children and can make eight biscuits with edible decorations. This kit includes dolly mixture and hundreds and thousands. **RRP** £3.99

Contact 01765 689274



Real Good Ketchup

Shortlisted for the Free From Food Awards 2017, Real Good's no added sugar tomato ketchup is vegan-friendly and made with Mediterranean tomatoes and all natural ingredients. RRP £2.39 (315g)

Contact 07753 278872 / hello@realgoodketchup.com



Salcombe Brew

Offering three products – decaf, Union Street and Sunny Cover – Salcombe Brew's coffees are available as beans, ground coffee, infusible coffee bags and Nespresso-compatible pods. RRP £5 (10 bags), £5.75 (200g ground), £9.60 (32 pods) Contact 07738 569779



Yarty Cordials

Yarty Cordials doesn't use concentrate in any of its products. They are handmade and each bottle of its cordials takes a week to infuse, while its fruit vinegars take up to six months. RRP £4 (250ml cordial), £7 (250ml fruit vinegar) Contact info@yartycordials.co.uk

Dave Songer
 dave.songer@newtrade.co.uk
 020 7689 3358



The Smokey Carter

The Smokey Carter is a BBQ rub, sauce, chutney and chilli jam producer. Its Chipotle & Bourbon BBQ Sauce has won a gold star at the Great Taste awards and is ideal for burgers and pulled pork. **RRP** £3.80

Contact 07736 033118 / info@thesmokeycarter.com



Ace Tea London

Ace Tea London's products can be drunk hot, iced or used in cocktails. Its blends include Hot Ginger Green Tea, Royal Mint and Lady Rose and all contain either black or green tea. **RRP** £4.99.

Contact www.acetealondon.com

Snacks

Snacks are this week's focus, including a skin-on crisp and a spicy Indian-inspired lentil snack that pairs up nicely with beer



FOE

Yorkshire Crisps

These hand-cooked crisps use potatoes grown on the Yorkshire Wolds. Available in 10 flavours, each is seasoned with 100% natural ingredients and are gluten-free. RRP £2.35 (100g drum)

Contact headfryer@yorkshirecrisps.co.uk



Karkli

Made with lentils, Karkli are gluten-free and vegan and are available in Classic, Coriander and Fiery Ghost Naga varieties. **RRP** £1.69

Contact 01909 511248 / hello@chompon karkli.com



Savoursmiths

Made with potatoes harvested from its own British farm, Savoursmiths skinon potato crisps are available in four flavours including Truffle & Rosemary and Parmesan & Port. RRP £1.50 (40g) Contact 07901990228 / colette@savoursmiths. com

Johnny Padam

Raynville Superstore, Leeds

It's a process of trial and error with this kind of product. I see them and I try them, speak to customers about them and see what happens. Sometimes they don't work, but Karkli are really good.

Profit checker Ice cream

TWISTER 80ml Price distribution %



Analysis

As our graph shows, almost 60% of retailers stick to the RRP when pricing Twister, one of the best-selling products in the ice cream category.

Barely 15% go above RRP - and just over 10% of them stick to the similarly round price point of £1.10. This suggests that even small price changes can have a noticeable impact on customer purchasing decisions.

The reasons for this are outlined

by Kent retailer Liz Entwistle. "You've only got limited freezer space so you stick to well-known brands that you can be sure will sell. This makes it easy for customers to compare prices between shops."

Price checker

PRODUCT
Magnum Classic 110ml
Magnum White 110ml
Magnum
Double Chocolate 88ml
Calippo
Orange 105ml
Twister
80ml
Feast 90ml
Euro Shopper Classic
Choc Ice Cream 80g
Cadbury
Flake 99 125ml
Magnum Mint
100ml
Euro Shopper Classic
White Ice Cream 80g
Solero
Exotic 90ml
Orange Pop-Up 110ml

How we drive our profit

Darren Craig

STORE Today's Extra Spencer Road **LOCATION** Derry SIZE 1,000sq ft TYPE parade of shops in residential area

TOP TIP

Keep prices reasonable on single ice creams as it is easy to compare prices between stores



We've just moved our ice cream freezer to the front of the store as the spring sun has started to shine. A lot of the ice cream we sell is in multipacks, because our customers like the value they offer. We also sell a lot of a local brand, Morelli's, which comes in tubs. Large formats are more likely to sell in the winter too, which helps. As we make a good margin in those areas, we can afford to offer good prices on our impulse ice cream, sticking to RRP or even going below - we sell Twister for 80p, for example.

Natalie Lightfoot

STORE Solo Convenience Londis **LOCATION** Glasgow SIZE 900sq ft **TYPE** main road

TOP TIP

Stick to RRP manufacturers have chosen that price for a reason . – unless there's a specific reason to price differently



We've started to see sales creep up, and though in Scotland spring always starts a little later than in the rest of the UK. We generally go by RRP unless it's something we know is in demand. All our Magnums are priced at RRP, for example, but we charge 5p extra for ice pops - Mr Freezers and so on - as kids aren't as price-sensitive. We also charge £1.25 for Twister, a little over the RRP. There is a bit of competition on our street but there aren't that many places and people don't tend to go shopping around for ice cream - if they want one, they'll just pick it up.

AVERAGE

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RETAIL

PRICE^{*}

£1.83

£1.84

£1.88

£1.05

£1.06

£1.06

60p

£1.70

£1.86

60p

£1.32

50p

BOOKER

RRP

£1.80

£1.80

£1.90

£1.00

£1.00

£1.00

60p

£1.69

£1.80

60p

60p

£1.25

Data supplied by

RETAILER

LOCAL C-STORE IN MODERN GLASGOW

£1.80

£1.80

£1.90

£110

£1.69

50p

C

SUBURB

RETAILER

NEWSAGENT AND C-STORE IN LAKE DISTRICT VILLAGE

£1.80

£1.80

£1.90

£1.00

£1.60

£1.80

£1.25

2

RETAILER

LEEDS SUBURBAN POST OFFICE AND STORE

£1.80

£1.80

£1.90

£1.00

£1.00

£1.00

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RFTATI FR

BUSY STORE CLOSE TO STATION IN LARGE NORTH

4

FAST TOWN

£1.70

£1.70

£1.00

£1.10

£1.00

£1.60

£1.70

£1.30

RETAILER

HIGH STREET C-STORE IN ESSEX COASTAL TOWN

£1.85

£1.89

£1.99

£1.19

£1.20

£1.10

£1.69

RETAILER

6

C-STORE IN RESIDENTIAL AREA OF CAMBRIDGE

£1.85

£1.85

£2.00

£1.10

£1.20

£1.00

£1.95

£1.80

Charlie Faulkner

charlie.faulkner@newtrade.co.uk
 020 7689 3357

MY LOCAL HERO

Retailers reveal the most profitable produce on their doorsteps

Matt Carson

Williams Supermarket, Somerton

Beerd Beers Islay Whiskycask aged Imperial Stout



Where did you discover it?

Local ales and ciders are a big part of our store – we've got nearly 100 local ales in stock at the moment. We've worked with a brewery called Bath Ales for several years, and through them have established a relationship with their sister brewery Beerd, which is producing some interesting stuff. Recently we spotted these ales which are stored and brewed in Islay whisky casks for up to two years, giving them some of the whisky flavour, and decided to give them a go.

Who buys it?

For this kind of non-traditional beer, it tends to be younger drinkers with a passion for beer. Craft beer is a big thing in this area. A lot of modern craft beer drinkers are like mature wine drinkers – they have a passion for beer and like to learn about it, about hops and yeasts and so on. So it's these customers who spot something like whisky-cask-aged ale and want to try it.

Why is it so successful?

It's a premium, higher-end product and we've only sold a handful of bottles so far. But then it usually takes a few weeks for word to get around about something new.

John Parkinson

STORE Broadway Premier News **LOCATION** Penrhyn Bay, Llandudno, Wales **SIZE** 800sq ft **TYPE** residential

TOP TIP

Keep it tidy and keep it full – they're the two basic tenets. Your ice cream has to look good and it can't look empty



About this time of year, we put the freezer out and start keeping it stocked. During the winter months we sell tubs, and it's mainly Happy Shopper rather than the expensive ones. It's a better price for customers and they're happy to have this rather than luxury ice cream. It's the same with lollies, we tend to go for Euro Shopper and Happy Shopper rather than big brand names. Kids have no real price sense at all, apart from ice creams. A Magnum is about £1.80, but it's 75p to 90p for the Euro Shopper version, it's the same sort of weight and it's really good quality.

Liz Entwhistle

STORE St Michael's Post Office & Stores **LOCATION** Kent **SIZE** 1,500sq ft **TYPE** residential

* from a sample of 3,500 stores

TOP TIP

Locally-sourced ice cream is always popular and makes an excellent premium option



Normally with ice cream we stick to RRP, with margins of 28% to 33%. We sell Twister at the RRP of £1, for example, but sometimes we can go a little above - we sell Magnum White at £1.89 which gives us a slightly higher margin of 33.4%. We have another convenience store just a few yards away from us on the same road so we can't be silly with pricing. We sell a lot of Magnums to teenagers and a lot of Mini Milks, Calippos and Fabs to the kids. We've got a local ice cream made in Ashford and sell lots of tubs of that to the adults.

$\mathbf{20}$ YOUR NE

Mother's Day stand is a hit

A retailer in Wiltshire has achieved strong sales thanks to a special Mother's Day display, ahead of this Sunday's celebrations.

Rose Jinks, manager of Budgens Marlborough, said she had seen a 10% uplift in sales of Isla Negra wines after including them in the display.

"So far sales have gone really well," she said. "We sold out of 24 copies of the Bridget Jones DVD really quickly and also ordered in more teddies at the start of this week."



Partworks sales up 50% with new display

A Dublin retailer has grown his partworks sales a further 25% year on year, after reporting an initial 25% increase in January.

Joe Sweeney, of News Centre, said his sales are now running 50% up year on year after he switched them to a more prominent display in his store.

"The new display seems to be encouraging people to continue collecting," he said.

"It's when products go full price you see the real benefit and if customers are sticking with the collection this is what generates bigger figures."



Mirror goes for gold at Cheltenham races

The Daily Mirror boosted sales last week with extra coverage for the Cheltenham Festival. Figures show the title is on track to have sold more than 100,000 more than an average week, after promoting to London racegoers at Paddington Station and offering incentives to retailers in Cheltenham for the best window displays. Debbie Sartoris, who heads up the Mirror's racing team, said: "It's good to go 'old school' at Paddington and in the Cheltenham area itself - it's all about the sales numbers." The coverage included a free £5 bet every day with StanJames.com, as well as a 32-page pullout on Tuesday containing top tips and 12-page pullouts on Wednesday and Thursday. Friday's edition included a sweepstake kit for the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

544 retailers transferred to different depots 'It has been very frustrating' **Closure of Smiths' depot** results in late deliveries

by Jennifer Hardwick jennifer.hardwick@newtrade.co.uk

Retailers suffered late newspaper deliveries last week following the closure of Smiths News' Northampton distribution centre.

The closure, which was implemented from last Monday, meant 144 retailers were transferred to the wholesaler's Peterborough distribution centre and 400 to its Milton Keynes centre.

"It has been a very frustrating week," said Matthew Croft, of Crofts Stores

in Silverstone, Northamptonshire.

"On Monday I also had a new driver on my route who did not know the area, which is crazy to have at the same time as moving my distribution centre. He did the entire route in reverse because he followed the instructions of his sat-nav my papers were more than an hour and a half late.

'When I called the helpline they said they couldn't get anyone to answer in Milton Keynes. I think for there to be problems and no-one available to

speak to about it is poor." Vijay Patel, of Higham News in Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, said his copies of The Times, The Sun, Daily Mail and Daily Telegraph were "extremely late" on Saturday.

"I hope wholesalers will be good enough to refund delivery charges and compensate for lost sales. But I am not holding my breath that any circulation manager or Smiths senior manager would bother to reply," he said.

Brian Murphy, the NFRN's head of news, said: "We will do what we can to protect members in the area and of course we have been in frequent communication with Smiths to ensure they minimise disruption."

A Smiths' spokeswoman said there were some "unexpected difficulties" in the first week after the Northampton centre closure.

"Our operational teams are focused on improving this performance quickly," she added.

Own-use bags see thefts increase by 5%

A retailer has seen a 5% increase in theft since the 5p plastic bag charge was implemented six months ago, with more people using their own plastic bags to sneak items out of his store.

Kamlesh Patel, of Londis Manor Park, said it was always normal for his

older customers to bring in their own plastic bags but, since the charge was implemented in October, his younger customers are bringing in their own bags for the first time.

You're in two minds about whether they will come to the counter," said Mr Patel. "They fill up the bags and walk out.

"We've seen a 5% increase in theft since the charge was brought in. We now have extra staff on, there's always somebody on the shop floor and I keep an eye on the CCTV for anything suspicious." Mr Patel plans to bring

in wheeled shopping bas-

kets which will be available all around the store.

"We always try and offer something a bit different, and it's a talking point," he said. "We want to encourage customers to use the baskets and I'm considering bringing in children's mini trolleys as well."

Industry ProfileOrganixBrands

Formats such as pouches, trays, finger foods and snacks are key growth areas for the baby and toddler market, but does your range reflect this? Organix's customer marketing controller Chris Braitch explains how independent stores can meet the needs of today's parents

RN What are the main sales opportunities for independent retailers in the baby and toddler snacks market?

CB Snacking is the fastest-growing area within baby food. The latest 12 weeks' sales data shows value sales were up 15%, driven by increased awareness of the benefits of healthier snacking for kids and adults. Demand from parents is therefore increasing for on-the-go and out-of-home snacks. Snacks work well within convenience because their formats make them ideal impulse purchases, with wide age-range appeal and versatility. Outside of snacking, retailers also need to stock the right formats in baby food, focusing on pouches and meal trays rather than traditional jars and boxed cereals.

RN What does an ideal range in a convenience store look like?

CB Jar baby food continues to decline - by 10% year on year - but is still the most over-represented area within convenience. Space for jars should be reduced in favour of faster-selling lines such as pouches and snacks. Fruit pots are also a great value option because they meet a range of needs, from baby weaning to desserts and snacks for toddlers. It's critical to make the fixture easy to shop, so group by major food group (wet food, cereals, snacks). Within those, parents are then looking for the right product age/stage for their child. The most expandable and impulsive food group is snacks, so it's important to display these at eye-level.

RN Which products in your range should retailers consider stocking? CB Organix is growing 27% year on

year within convenience and eight out of the top 10 finger foods and snacks are from us. C-stores can build an efficient range of baby and toddler snacks easily from the UK top 20 baby food rankings. Organix Apple Rice Cakes and Organix Carrot Sticks meet most baby snacking needs. Goodies Raspberry and Apple Soft Oaty bars, Goodies Mini Gingerbread Men and Goodies Cheese & Herb Puffs are all great additions to a toddler snack range.

RN What are consumers looking for from this category in convenience? CB Health is a big focus. We're seeing increasing awareness among parents of healthy eating and the ingredients in the food they buy. It's never been more important for c-store owners to stock an accessible and balanced range on the baby fixture, but also to treat infant snacks as an impulse category and use secondary locations such as

queues and checkouts. Another key factor is flavour. It's important to have

** Company CV **

Company Organix Brands

Customer marketing controller Chris Braitch **Profile** Organix is the UK's leading brand of finger foods and toddler snacks and provides a wide range of foods. As reassurance to parents, the range comes with the Organix No Junk Promise – which means they are made with the best organic ingredients and contain nothing unnecessary. **Latest news** Organix launched a trade portal in December to provide retailers and independents direct access to its wide range of finger foods and toddler snacks.

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a food range that balances both sweet and savoury variants.

RN How are you working in the independent market to help retailers get this ideal range in place?

(B We've done a lot of work with symbol groups such as Nisa, Palmer & Harvey, Costcutter, Spar and Budgens to improve their ranges and help them capitalise on the growth opportunity in baby food, where infant finger foods and toddler snacks attract more shoppers and are the faster-selling lines.

RN You launched an online trade portal in December. Tell us about that.

CB We're excited about this launch. It means independents can now buy directly from Organix, making us accessible to everyone. The portal stocks our full range, plus there is free UK delivery for orders over £50.

RN What can retailers expect to see from Organix this year?

CB Our main focus is healthier snacking for kids. All our product innovation and communication will concentrate on getting this healthier message out and ensuring we have the right pack formats and flavours in place for changing shopper missions and trends.

YOUR VIEWS

YOUR LETTERS

Wholesalers need to take a tougher approach to late deliveries

At present my morning delivery of newspapers is way beyond a joke due to the lateness in supplying my wholesaler, or bunched deliveries still resulting in lateness.

I start receiving customers into my shop from 4.30am. These customers are all factory workers or opencast miners. When there are no newspapers for them to buy they leave very disgruntled. They do not buy a paper throughout the day, so this is lost sales for everyone. These are the types of people you should be looking after, not the people who might just buy a paper to read about sport once in a while.

As for extensions to cut-off times, this is a disgrace. I start my HND as soon as the papers come in. This takes me three hours to complete – that is, if the papers are in at a reasonable time. If not, I start catching all the traffic and then by 8am I'll catch schoolchildren being dropped off, again more time added I urge all wholesalers to refuse to accept any paper if it is past their cut off time. No more reruns, no late deliveries and no more extensions Gerald Thomas to my day. You might not think it's a problem but to me, a small newsagent, it's a massive problem.

For example, tomorrow I have one member of staff who starts at 4.30am and finishes at 9am. I work the rest of the day by myself. He will still have to start at 4.30am to sort out all the inserts which are received on a pre-run, but now he can't finish until I get back to the shop.

Who is going to pay for his overtime? If I had more notice I could have given him time off earlier in the week, but no, I found out this morning.

What I urge all the wholesalers to do is to refuse to accept any paper if it is past their cut-off time. No more re-runs, no late deliveries and no more extensions. If you are true to your words – that you care about retail – then you will do something about it. Or is it true that you do not care about retail and we are only here to support your advertisers? **Gerald Thomas**

Geraid Thomas Arcade News Ammanford

■ Christmas Radio Times' £6.4m RSV

I was surprised to read Time Inc's claim that What's On TV was the biggest-selling weekly TV listing magazine during the Christmas period "in terms of RSV for the 10th year running" (*RN*, *17 March*), as Radio Times' Christmas issue once again dominated the Christmas TV listings sector, generating a retail sales value of £6.4m, over £4m more than the next biggest title and £2m more than Times Inc's TV titles combined.

Radio Times would like to thank retailers for their continued support in delivering this fantastic RSV performance.

Richard Campbell Publisher, Radio Times

A spokesperson for Timc Inc said:

"What's On TV sustained the top spot in the weekly TV value sector which comprises of What's On TV and TV Choice and not the market as a whole. Radio Times sits with the premium sector."

I learned so much at IAA study tour

I would like to take this opportunity to say it was a pleasure meeting the RN team at the IAA Event in Peterborough. I took so much away with me and I would definitely attend future events. I am also looking forward to working with the team to make improvements on my store and using bench mark effectively.

Narinder Kaur

Premier Singh's Convience Store, Huddersfield

YOUR SAY Do you stock any own label products which sell better than the branded version?



Bob Sykes

Denmore Premier Food Store, Rhyl, North Wales Euro Shopper products sell brilliantly. The shop isn't in a very affluent area so people look for value. Having said that, a lot of people who are better off still buy them because they are mostly very good products. The Euro Shopper sports drinks sell better than Lucozade and things like toilet roll sell better too. But there are certain things, like baked beans, where people just want to buy Heinz.

Ben Dyer

Debbens News, Waterlooville, Hampshire

For us it just seems to totally depend on what the customer wants – sometimes that's price and sometimes it's the product. Some people are more cost-conscious but with ketchup, for example, if they want to buy Heinz they will make a cost sacrifice elsewhere. Despite difficult times, it's not something I've noticed change too much because I think for some people they want the brand and that's it.

Vic Grewal

Simply Fresh, Thames Ditton, Surrey We don't stock any own brand products because our customers don't want them. When we opened we realised the locals are only interested in the big brands so we've just never stocked own brand. If our customers want to see the big names in the shop then we have to go with that, so that's all we have available.



referendum be bad for business?

NEXT WEEK'S QUESTION

Has the growth in popularity of the discounters benefited your own label sales?



I'M DETERMINED TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING MAILS

I receive 14 copies of the Daily Mail every day, but one morning last week I noticed every copy was missing.

It was far too early to have sold out, so I asked my staff and they said they'd only sold a few copies.

So I checked my CCTV and got a surprise. I see a man pick up a copy, pay for it, then return to the newspaper display and hover suspiciously. When no other customers were looking, he picked up the remaining nine copies and ran out.

I suspect it may have been another retailer who either hadn't got enough copies from his wholesaler or who wanted to sell newspapers without having an account with



a wholesaler. My wife had to go

out and buy nine copies from another store as I didn't want to let down my regular customers.

I have a good relationship with my local police force, so I will send the CCTV footage to them and hopefully they recognise the man. I'm good with faces so I will look out for him. But I thought others should be aware, too, as people will steal anything nowadays.

Bhadresh Patel Londis Plummers News Barking

100 ARS AGO

The Sheffield Telegraph poked fun at Neville Chamberlain this week for suggesting an economy in labour could be to print rival newspapers on one, rather than two, print presses

VIEW FROM THE COUNTER

with Mike Brown

When I was in London for the district vice president's seminar a couple of weeks ago I bumped into Wayne Harrand, sales director of NFRN Commercial.

I was interested in purchasing a slush machine and Wayne processed the deal the next day. That was on a Thursday and by Monday the Snowshock machine was delivered. How's that for speedy service?

It has been brilliant – we've sold nearly 200 slushes of various sizes in four days – and it was still officially winter. The staff are complaining I have created another monster but the shop is noticeably busier with a real buzz.

Another idea working well, gleaned from the pages of RN, is making bespoke gifts for special occasions such as Mother's Day. After a recent meeting at the NFRN office in Durham I went to Hancocks, the confectionery wholesaler, and bought a selection of Victorian jars which we have filled with traditional sweets. Today, Saturday, I have sold one with millions in, but four others where customers have chosen their own sweets – an option which is proving the most popular.

I am writing this piece on International Women's Day, waiting for my youngest daughter who, at 15years old, is giving an interview about women's football on BBC Radio Tees. Her team, Teesside, are through to the semi-final of the FA Elite U16 Girls Youth Cup away against Millwall. On the way they have beaten Sheffield, Durham Wildcats and Sunderland. If they win, the final will either be Arsenal or Liverpool at St George's Park in May. Come on girls.

YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA COMMENTS THIS WEEK contact us facebook.com/ThisisRN



Amish Shingadia: People are lining up to work for my business after recognition as Overall Best Shop! People are core to success **#IAA17**

Tom Mulready @TomMulready



Bay Bashir: Your shop will be changing everyday. Make sure you benchmark so it's moving forward & not standing still **#IAA17 @IAAcademy**

betterRetailing @betterRetailing

I went on to a website which said I could be paying less in rates. Got the quote through –paying more.

James Wilkinson @pybjamar

The pressure is on with 11 days till opening! We are incredibly lucky to have such an amazing team working on the redevelopment Connolly Spar @connollyspars

Our cheese counter at Peasmarsh is all topped up for the weekend and looks amazing. I'll fetch the crackers and grapes....

Jempson's ______ @jempsonsstores



RN INTERVIEW

While retailers adjust to plain packaging and gear up for pack size restrictions to come into force on 20 May, the tobacco industry is bracing itself for a rise in illicit trading as a result. According to Imperial Tobacco's anti-illicit trade manager Peter Nelson, there is now an even greater need for collaboration between retailers, manufacturers and law enforcement agencies to tackle it. **Chris Rolfe** reports

Peter Nelson

llicit trading is big business in the UK. Figures from the Tobacco Manufacturers Association show one in three smokers purchase illegal tobacco from 'non-shop sources' such as pubs, car boot sales and market stalls, while illicit tobacco purchases cost UK shops around £3.4bn in lost revenue in 2014-2015.

Peter Nelson, anti-illicit trade manager at Imperial Tobacco, says illicit traders are becoming ever more prevalent and sophisticated.

"The professionals are moving in. We've seen systems where hydraulics are built into floors or stairs. Then there are metal doors that look like fire doors which have illicit tobacco stored in the middle," he says. "In

Peter Nelson's goal is to facilitate prosecutions of illicit traders one shop in Cheltenham, the retailer had a numbered chequerboard on his counter (pictured right). The counter was monitored by camera in a separate flat above, and when the retailer wanted illicit stock, he threw dice on a certain number on the board to indicate how many of which brand was being bought. The products were delivered down a chute to the back of the gantry."

The list goes on. Mr Nelson adds that recently-discovered tactics include counterfeited Fed Ex vans used to disguise illegal deliveries, while hiding places include illicit stock in margarine boxes at the back of chillers, in sewers, children's play houses and boxes of champagne flutes.

"These are not just people taking a chance and making £20 a day. The quality of the villains is going up. Look at the profits involved – a container load alone is worth £1.1m."

Evidence from Australia has convinced him that more is yet to come under the new UK laws. "Illicit trading has gone through the roof in Australia since plain packaging was introduced - we've seen a

20% increase since 2012," he says. "Australia has taught me to expect the unexpected; Jin Ling is an illicit white, for example, but now Australia has plain packaging it is being packaged to look like any other plain pack. And while we haven't seen any counterfeit plain packs in the UK yet, I wouldn't be surprised if the machines are



These are not just people taking a chance and making £20 a day. Look at the profits involved – a container load alone is worth £1.1m

The Suspect It? Report It! campaign educated retailers about illicit trading





already rigged up and ready to go."

All this makes the work being done to educate retailers about the problem and supply law enforcement agencies with intelligence about illicit trading all the more vital.

Mr Nelson says Imperial's three-year-old Suspect It? Report It! campaign is one such initiative designed to create a situation where retailers are confident to share information so law enforcement can take appropriate action. Posters and a website have been created to provide education on illicit trading and Imperial recently joined forces with the NFRN to distribute packs to around 50,000 stores.

"Intelligence is the key to successful enforcement," he says. "Retailers have an intimate know-ledge of what's going on in their communities and high streets."

Good information that retailers can supply, he says, begins with honesty. If you only know "the shop down the road is doing something", say so, but if you know when supplies are delivered because you've seen the deliveries being made, even better.

In the latest stage of the campaign, Imperial has teamed up with the Federation of Wholesale Distributors to launch a poster highlighting the impact of illicit trade on sales.

"We had feedback from Parfetts in Manchester that GV sales had been dropping off substantially, but following some raids in the locality they saw a spike in sales. Retailers have said they've seen a massive impact too - one told us their tobacco takings had gone up by £900 a week after a raid, another by £1,500."

The other major part of Imperial's anti-illicit work is supplying

Interview by Chris Rolfe
 email chris.rolfe@newtrade.co.uk

tel 020 7689 3362



intelligence on illicit trading, identifying counterfeit products and providing training to trading standards and HMRC. This has never been so important, says Mr Nelson, at a time when trading standards budgets have been cut by around 45% in two years. Not every team is happy to work with a tobacco company, he admits, but results can be achieved by those that do.

Here, he addresses one of the main complaints made by retailers - that success stories are rarely shared.

"That's the point we have to get across - there are tangible results, but people often make a report on Thursday and expect there'll be a result by Monday. It can take years."

An investigation that began in March 2015 has resulted in a recent prosecution of a tab house in Durham as an example, he says. Goods and a substantial amount of cash were recovered and sentencing is now imminent.

The Suspect It? Report It! website carries a stream of such stories covering successful prosecutions to prove the value of providing information.

Once a prosecution is made, further consequences for illicit traders include the removal of Imperial's in-store support, such as its own gantries, sales reps and reward schemes. Information will also be shared with other companies such as Camelot to allow them to consider similar action.

Looking to the future, two further measures will be integral to the fight against illegal tobacco.

One is the development of the



New posters highlight the consequences of illegal trading



voluntary "Codentify" code that tracks individual products and outers through every stage of the worldwide supply chain.

"It gives the industry confidence in the supply chain, and more assurance to retailers that the products they source from wholesale are genuine," says Mr Nelson of a system that is being tested on EUTPD-compliant packs, as well as products such as watches, beer and champagne. Counterfeit codes have already been identified on five tobacco brands, and counterfeit codes on plain packaging are expected imminently.

The other is the launch of a govern-ment review into sanctions on illicit tobacco – something Mr Nelson hopes manufacturers, trade bodies and retailers will submit to.

"A couple in the Forest of Dean were running a tab house and the judge ordered them to surrender £100,000, but £70,000 cash was found in the house during the raid and they had £30,000 in a bank account. If you take that into account that represents over £1m lost tobacco revenue for retailers in the area. That's the scale we're talking about. If all you do is slap someone on the wrist, where's the penalty?"

Whether it is education, reporting illicit trading, supporting enforcement authorities or submitting to the government's consultation, the aim is the same, concludes Mr Nelson.

"This is a big shared problem for retailers, government, the industry and society alike. Let's try to understand it and if anyone can contribute to resolving it, we have a duty to do that."



A gantry is removed from a store owner convicted of trading illegally



ACADEMY IN ACTION



Staff Development

The IAA's **Chris Dillon** joined P&G's Shelagh Clark to visit Sue Nithyanandan's Costcutter in Epsom to identify how to motivate her staff.



Name:	Sue Nithyanandan
Shop:	Costcutter Epsom
Location:	Epsom, Surrey
Size:	3,000sq ft
Staff:	Six full-time, eight part-time

The Independent Achievers Academy is a learning and development programme. Academy in Action shows how retailers like you are working with our partners to use the Academy's advice to increase sales and profits



ue Nithyanandan and her husband Nithy opened the shop in 2010. The shop has a large range that entices shoppers from the local neighbourhood and competes with the nearby multiples.

Despite being seven years old the shop still looks brand new. It is clean and orderly and benefits from new LED lights that were installed a month ago. Sue keeps things fresh by moving areas around and recently found a new place for the coffee machine, which increased sales to more than 100 cups a day.

Due to the shop's expansive selection, Sue has already empowered her staff to look after the displays of specific areas of her shop. They are tasked with making sure the fixtures are fully stocked and are encouraged to recommend new products.

Her staff receive training on agerelated sales and tills when they first join and are encouraged to upsell and recommend other items.

Sue's Challenge

We work well as a team but we struggle to find time to get everyone together to bond as a team.



SUE SAYS

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I've found it really hard to know what we can do with our staff to help with team building given that we're a small business. I'm really optimistic about working with the IAA and taking on P&G's advice as we're always looking for something new. I've been struggling with how to motivate my staff more so hopefully I'll get a lot of great ideas to move forward.

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IAA ADVICE

Have correct paperwork so staff know what's expected

Although Sue's staff are motivated and know what they are supposed to do, they do not have job descriptions that are written down. "It's a small business, we go with the flow," she says. Shelagh agrees that forcing staff to adhere to a set description would be the wrong move, but comes up with a way around it. "Get your staff to write their own job descriptions as then you'll learn tasks they do that you might not be aware of. When someone writes their own job description, they tend to write their favourite tasks at the top," she says. Sue says she's surprised that this approach could work for a small business and agrees to give it a try.



Action: Ask staff to write their own job descriptions to see things from their perspective

Regularly review staff performance and provide feedback

Sue encourages staff to upsell and take charge of specific areas but doesn't plan to make sure they meet expectations. Shelagh recommends Sue shares five priorities for her team each month so they'll understand the businesses direction. "We've read in the trade press that people don't like to wait long to be served. We always have people on the shop floor and a bell that checkout staff can ring if it gets busy but it's not seen as priority," Sue explains. Shelagh says arranging monthly one-to-ones will allow Sue to regularly engage staff. "If you praise someone for doing well, you'll find they keep getting better. Giving new responsibilities energises staff to perform better."

Reward and recognise staff to get the best out of them

As the shop's opening hours are 7am-10pm, there is rarely a time when all the staff are free at once. The shop closes early for a Christmas meal but Sue recognises the need to do more. "Getting your team together is important as this allows socialisation and creates a team dynamic," says Shelagh. She suggests Sue splits her workforce into two teams. "Make a competition out of scouting other shops in the area, such as challenging them to find the strangest item or giving a prize to the team that gets round the shop fastest." Sue agrees. "We find that our customers say our fresh bread is better than Waitrose's, maybe we could find more things we can be better at this way."

PARTNER ADVICE

It sounds like Sue has a great team and they've already taken on a lot of responsibilities. Getting them to write their job descriptions will be enlightening and will help new hires understand expectations. The oneto-one meetings will be great for people looking to take on extra challenges. Staff development is important because convenience shops are at the heart of their communities, so staff need to be happy in what they do.

Shelagh Clark Convenience Channel Strategy Manage Procter & Gamble



BENCHMARK

& save your progress at betterRetailing.com/IAA

Tick all that you see evidence of

Having correct paperwork so staff know what's expected

- Do you have rotas to assign staff to
- general tasks around the shop?
- Are basic processes like temperature checks, cashing up etc. documented?
- Do all staff have up-to-date job descriptions
- which your staff buy into?

Training and inductions to ensure staff can fulfil their roles

- Do you teach staff the importance of
- things like body language and upselling?
- Do you train staff on your range, bestselling
- products, and customer profiles?
- Do you have an induction plan covering H&S, age-restricted sales, and food hygiene?

Rewarding and recognising staff to get the best out of them

- Do you watch staff so you can notice things they do well and praise them?
- Do you have a process to reward staff for
- great performance or customer service?
- Do you encourage staff to come up with
- ideas and introduce the best ones

Reviewing and developing staff to fulfil their potential

- Do you review staff performance and
- provide feedback every six months?
- Do you have development plans in place for staff so they learn new skills?
- Do you invest in professional training like NVQs so staff can progress their career?

Day to day processes to ensure smooth operations

- Are your rotas planned with four days' notice for staff?
- Do you cross-train staff so you have cover
- in periods of absence?
- Do you have daily check-ins and handovers between shifts?

What's working and things to fix

Your action plan

- Review this week's benchmarks in your shop, then save your answers at betterretailing.com/IAA
- Go to betterretailing.com/Academy-in-Action to see more of Sue's shop
- Call the events team on O2O 7689 O6OO (Option 3) to find out how you can take part in a future visit

one-to-one meetings with staff so Sue can share her priorities



Run staff competitions to help them understand your business'

Action: strengths

Action: Arrange monthly

CRAFT ALCOHOL

The craft beer market has grown by almost a third in the past four years, and the trend has spread to other key alcohol sectors such as spirits and cider. Dave Songer speaks to the industry to find out where the market is headed

Benefits of a great USP

TREND 2



BEING UNIQUE CAN MEAN LOOKING FÜRTHER AFIELD

With craft alcohol, looking further afield and selling hard-to-find products from across the world can help turn your store into a destination. Besos de Oro, a vegan alternative to Baileys, or Robenbah and Palm, two Belgian beers have recently been added to Molson Coors' distribution list.

Yet international flavours can also be found on your doorstep. Devon distiller Cosmo Caddy began making Italian-spirit grappa four years ago. He was the first producer of the spirit in the UK. "No one else was doing it. There's a good opportunity for retailers – we're producing three times as much as when we started," he says.

Supplier tip Craft alcohol can be a good way to link sales with other products. One of the best ways to enjoy grappa, for instance, is with coffee so we're looking at pairing up with a coffee roaster.

Cosmo Caddy Owner, Devon Distillery



Retailers should start thinking about including basic beer descriptions to demystify the sector

TREND 3

THE THIRST FOR UNUSUAL FLAVOURS

The rapidly changing tastes of consumers can make it difficult to keep up, but an imaginative selection of beers, ciders or spirits will draw in the diverse range of customers this category can bring, brewers and distillers suggest.

Margins are often higher too. Scottish flavoured beer producer Fallen Brewery makes coffee, chilli, salted caramel and biscuitflavoured beers and promises "minimum returns of 35%".

This brewer also highlights a common view held by niche suppliers that working with independent retailers is preferable to supermarkets. "Multiples can't react as quickly. People want to try lots of beers, lots of flavours and independent retailers are the only outlet for those kinds of breweries," says owner Paul Fallen.

Supplier tip

Brewery

Retailers new to the craft beer market should do their research. Craft beer drinkers are pretty savvy now and they want to drink beer from the best breweries in the country, **Paul Fallen** and that extends to Owner, Fallen flavours as well.

REND

28

BIG BREWERS MOVE INTO CRAFT

The huge rise in craft ale sales is no secret to major manufacturers - Heineken announced in February that it will enter the fray with the introduction of two craft-style products. Both beers enter the market in May including, a Bavarianstyle Pilsner and an American-style IPA under the Maltsmiths brand.

Sam Fielding, Heineken's new beers brand unit director, recommends introducing craft products like this in a way that welcomes those new to the category. "Retailers should start thinking about including basic beer descriptions to demystify the sector - whether there are two or 10 products on offer, it will help shoppers pick between them," he says.

Sam Fielding

director, Heineken

MALTSMITH

Supplier tip

If you want to maximise the potential you should appeal to the beer-curious as well New beers brand unit as the savvy. Retailers' ranges should include key beer styles: IPAs, pale ales and lagers with local and imported varieties.



MALTSMITHS



TREND 4

THE FASHION FOR CANS OVER BOTTLES

Flavour changes and brewing techniques aren't the only developments in craft ale: formats are changing too. Long a major part of the US beer market, 330ml cans are now a favoured format for a growing number of UK brewers too.

Brewery Tiny Rebel, from Newport in Wales, moved over its range after finding cans kept the beer fresher than bottles.

Founder Gazz Williams says retailers benefits from the switch too. "A big advantage for retailers of cans is they're lighter to transport and take up less space on the shelf," he says.

Supplier tip

Retailers should stock cans with distinctive designs that can really catch shoppers' eyes. The branding shows them off well and they look great on the shelves.

TREND 5

IRIO

THE CRAZE FOR GIN CONTINUES

Gin has become hugely popular in the UK - 40 million bottles of the spirit were sold in 2016 pushing sales above £1bn for the first time. Specialist brands such as Elephant Gin and Warner Edwards Elderflower - with exciting bottle designs, interesting flavours and interesting stories behind them make gin one of the big beneficiaries of the trend for at-home cocktail drinking.

Gazz Williams

Owner, Tiny

Rebel brewery

Curio, a craft distiller from Cornwall with UK-wide distribution, says loyalty is also key to the spirit's success. "Customers are loyal to gin and will keep coming back to it," says the distillery's owner, Rubina Tyler-Street. "A strength of craft gin is its provenance and innovation."

Supplier tip It's important to have a good

section of gins, and to display them in a way that shows them off. Use social media to talk about your range; it's a great way to create a following.

Rubina Tyler-Street Owner, Curio

Craft ciders are slightly more expensive but that doesn't put our customers

off

TREND 6

GLUTEN-FREE ALCOHOL HAS ARRIVED

Gluten-free is big business in the UK and it's not just restricted to food. Today there are more than 250 gluten-free beers available, including varieties from major manufacturers such as Peroni and Carlsberg. This figure is up from around six four years ago, according to the brewer Green's. Green's has produced glutenfree beer since 1988 and now has a range that includes an india pale ale, a pilsner and a tripel ale among others - all of which are brewed in Belgium. David Ware, the brewery's director, says gluten-free is here to stay: "Gluten-free is not a fad. Lifestyle coeliacs make up 15% of the market,"



Retailer viewpoint

Richard Williams

any questions - some of them and Black Cow vodka, which is

Retailer tip

Supplier tip

Keep the range tight but have a mix of beer and lager and site them with free-from food. Beer aisles are often avoided by those looking to reduce gluten, so putting them with freefrom food is likely to boost sales.

Brewery

TREND 7

ARTISANAL LEADS THE WAY FOR CIDER

One of the main attractions of craft products for consumers is their provenance and few drinks have such a rich history in the UK as cider. One such UK cider producer with provenance, and a story, that customers look for is Kentish Pip in Littlebourne near Canterbury. Its managing director, Sam Mount, a fourth-generation apple grower who has experience of organising music festivals and events, says craft cider presents a great opportunity for retailers. "You can charge a premium because some will pay it. We've seen an 80% increase in sales from last year and have had very good growth since we started five years ago."

Supplier tip

Set up a tasting session with the supplier you intend to use. Some of the best retailers we work with get us to come and do that, which helps them learn from the product and see why it is different.

> Sam Mount Managing director, Kentish Pip



OWN LABEI



Enhance your offer

Across the industry, the days of own label being a poor relation to the rest of a store's range is well and truly over. **Chris Rolfe** and **Tom Gockelen-Kozlowski** talk to stores utilising own label in very different ways

ou only have to look at Spar's list of own label bestsellers to get a sense of how far this part of the market has come. There was a time when no-frills essentials such as sugar and baked beans would have been dominant. Now, fresh produce such as Spar's unsmoked back bacon (number one), uncooked chicken breasts (number two) and even fresh cream (number 10) make it into the company's bestselling own label list alongside the more expected toilet roll and 250ml energy drink.

Yet Spar is by no means the only group where wider market trends are helping to transform the own label market.

Nisa's Heritage range promises "everything from pantry essentials to gourmet treats" and boasts a website that provides regularly-updated recipes and product information, cementing the Heritage brand at the heart of Nisa's offer. Landmark, meanwhile, has developed its value-focused Lifestyle brand, embracing the widespread trend for £1 pricemarks across everything from sharing bags to cleaning products. Its range includes £1 peanut butter, hot chocolate and a range of £1 jams, alongside 25p juices, £2.99 nappies and 69p cooking salt.

But if own brand ranges are now playing a broader, more sophisticated set of roles in retailers' stores, it is only because the stores they are stocked in are becoming equally as advanced. This week we speak to three retailers to learn how they are using own brand to enhance their stores' offers.



I stock as many Lifestyle products as possible – I wish they made more



Sweet potato chips are one of a number of healthier products the company has launched **Bay Bashir** Lifestyle Express Belle Vue Convenience, Middlesbrough



OWN LABEL: Lifestyle

MY OWN LABEL STRATEGY: I stock as many Lifestyle products as possible – I wish they made more. We do soft drinks, coffee, tea, groceries, household goods and display them all around the shop, in promotions bays, and with double-facings for soft drinks in the chiller. The margins are at least 30% and they sell well, so they're great products for us, and I ask Lifestyle Express to put their new products on my promotions leaflets to shout about them to customers.

MY TOP THREE OWN LABEL PRODUCTS:



MY TOP OWN LABEL TIP:

We sell sports, energy and fizzy drinks in the LSV range. I doubleface them in the chiller to make them more eye-catching and put these own labels by brands like Red Bull to give customers choice.

Great products, great prices, great margins



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STOCK UP AT YOUR LOCAL LANDMARK WHOLESALE MEMBER DEPOT

For more details contact your local Landmark Wholesale Depot or to find your nearest depot, visit www.landmarkwholesale.co.uk

Check your local Landmark Wholesale Members PLOF and in depot signage for details of local member pricing

Abra Wholesale Blakemore Wholesale East End Foods (Plc) EDA Quality Foods First Choice Wholesale Ltd Gilsons Wholesale Cash & Carry JW Gray Hi Line Hyperama Cash & Carry Jones Food Solutions AG Parfett & Sons Ltd Sutherland Bros Ltd Time Wholesale Services TRS Cash & Carry Ltd United Wholesale Grocers



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OWN LABEL UPDATE What are four of the country's biggest wholesalers and symbol groups doing to innovate their own brand ranges?

LANDMARK WHOLESALE

Landmark

Own brand soft drinks are a particular area of focus for Landmark, with the range of sports, energy and carbonated drinks falling under the LSV brand. To add to its offering, the company has now launched a range of vitamin-enriched flavoured waters too. The range provides retailers with an introductory margin of 40%.



Spar

With annual sales of more than £300m, Spar's own label range includes frozen, chilled and ambient products as well as a large range of wines. The company has recently been focusing on removing salt and sugar from its entire range including a 10% reduction in sugar from the Spar-branded soft drinks range. The company has also launched healthy fruit and nuts ranges.



Nisa

Offering more than 800 products, Nisa's Heritage range is growing fast and the company offers dairy and convenience products, including everything from chilled pizzas to a widening range of cheeses. The company operates a "good, better, best" system with subbrands Heritage Pantry, Heritage and Heritage Gourmet available through the company.



Costcutter

The company's Independent brand covers everything from everyday products such as cola and cheese to specialist and trade ranges including hand-cooked Thai sweet chilli crisps. The range is available in pricemarked and nonpricemarked formats, with pricemarked available due to the increasing use of them by mainstream brand suppliers.

Asmat Saleem Costcutter Kelty,

Fife

OWN LABEL: Independent MY OWN LABEL STRATEGY: Customers tend to go for branded products over own label, but if you can get

them to try the products they'll often see that there isn't much difference. That's what has happened with a number of customers with the 950g bags of Independent frozen chips - people can't tell the difference between them and McCains. It would be great to get more support with getting customers to try own label products and it's something which I have asked for.

MY TOP THREE OWN LABEL PRODUCTS:

- Independent soft drinks 2l three for £1.20
- Independent frozen chips 950g - £1
- Independent ready meals (including chicken korma and rice, spaghetti bolognaise and lasagne) Two for £4

MY TOP OWN LABEL TIP: Try a range of own label products out and see which ones work for you. Some of them offer great margins, some of them don't. Some of them are as good as the branded version and some of them aren't.





High-end products are

transforming the role own label plays

Euro Shopper is now

available for Londis

and Budgens retailers



heavily on these brands, it's important for us to stock them

Beans

ked Beans



OWN LABEL: Happy Shopper and Euro Shopper **MY OWN LABEL STRATEGY:** The aim of our store is to be an upmarket independent food hall and supermarket, but also to offer a balanced range of stock full of good, better and best options. We used to stock Budgens' own label but since Booker took Budgens on, we've got Happy Shopper and Euro Shopper instead. Not everyone wants high-end products, so while we don't focus heavily on these brands, it's important for us to stock them.

MY TOP THREE OWN LABEL PRODUCTS:



Household produce loo roll, kitchen towels

Tinned produce beans, tomatoes, carrots, peas



100g blocks of Euro Shopper milk chocolate, hazelnut, fruit and nut



MY TOP OWN LABEL TIP: We have three shelves of Happy Shopper crisps, with 10 flavours on a two for £1 deal. This is one section we are careful not to sell out of because the rate of sale is so high.



JOIN US NOW FOR A Nisa 2017

THE RELATIONSHIP WITH NISA IS ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC. I'M REALLY PLEASED WITH THE ADVICE WE'VE BEEN GIVEN

"On both ends of the road outside us there's a big housing estate. But there are also around 2,000 houses around that as well, so it's a big area and that's largely where our customer base comes from, as well as the lunchtime trade from the police headquarters which is behind us. They have a limited lunch offering there, so we cater for them.

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We have a food to go section in store. We're currently making close to 500 rolls, baguettes and sandwiches a day, which tend to clear out by two or three in the afternoon. There's most definitely a demand for that.

The relationship with Nisa is absolutely fantastic. I'm really pleased with the advice we've been given. It's certainly increased trade for me over the last 18 months. They also recommended a Costa Coffee machine, which we've had installed in the last four months, and I've been delighted with how well that's taken off."



NISA LOCAL

To find out why joining Nisa is as easy as 1-2-3 visit **www.join-nisa.co.uk**



THIS WEEK IN MAGAZINES



Trending now...

SALES SUCCESS IS SWEET FOR NEW GIRLS' MAG

This launch, targeted at girls aged between six and 10, promises to be a big hit with its recipe of collectables and all things 'cute'

COLLECTABLES, shopping and "all things cute" are the three leading topics for DC Thompson's new magazine aimed at girls aged between six and 10. The 36-page monthly magazine will cover all of the latest trends for girls and is set to be covermounted with different stationery and accessories in each issue. Inside, puzzles and crafts will sit alongside current play-ground crazes such as the most popular collectables on the market. The launch issue comes with an unlock tool for online game Animal Jam, free Shopkins trading cards, and a set of three fruit-flavoured lip-glosses.





On sale 29 March Price £3.99 Frequency four-weekly Distributor Marketforce Display with Shopkins, My Little Pony, Animals and You

Round up



Jennifer Hardwick Magazines reporter jennifer.hardwick@newtrade.co.uk

DIGITAL DETOXING WITH A GOOD READ

The Easter holidays aren't far away so your customers' thoughts may be starting to turn to trips abroad.

For a lot of people, this is the time of year when extra reading material is required for long journeys, days round the pool or that school end-of-term break.

As the availability of wifi in hotels around the world increases, the sight of holidaygoers scrolling on their phones has been more common, but for many the idea of switching off from the real world is still an important part of going away.

With awareness of the stress caused by too much screen time rising all the time, the annual break from reality should be one of the most important times for people to put their tech detox plans into practice.

One distributor mentioned to me people are less likely to pick up as many magazines as before when they're getting ready to fly, but still it is often the time when a former reader who may have lapsed is more likely to return to their favourite titles.

This week, I visited a store which relies on business travellers coming in ahead of trips away, who still like to pick up big stacks of titles for their journeys.

Staff there make the most of people who wander in looking for inspiration and use their knowledge of their titles to tell customers about others they might enjoy, and about newcomers which have arrived on the shelves since their last visit.

People who come into a store with the aim of finding as many ways as possible to pass a long period of time are always going to be some of your most profitable visitors, so if you have the chance to intercept imminent holiday-makers as they browse your shelves, it's a great time to make suggestions.



The top-selling Su-doku title through independents PLEASE STOCK & DISPLAY ISSUE 4



THIS WEEK IN MAGAZINES



THE COUNTRYMAN

The Countryman magazine is celebrating its 90th anniversary in April with a souvenir edition that includes a free copy of the magazine's first-ever title, published in 1927. The special edition contains articles from celebrities David Bellamy, Kate Humble and Chris Packham, as well as a congratulatory message from HM the Queen. Publisher Warners Group is expecting a sales uplift of 50%.



TOPPS MATCH EXTRA TRADING CARD GAME

Following the January transfer window, collectors can boost their squads ahead of the countdown to the season's grand finale and celebrate the stories of the season so far. Starter packs include a binder, game mat, collector guide and a packet of cards. Packets of nine trading cards cost £1, multipacks of five packets are £5 and tins are £5.99.



TES

CAKE INTERNATIONAL

The TES has undergone a rebrand for this week's issue, boasting a new front page de-

Cake International is the official magazine of the cake show of the same name, dedicated entirely to the art of cake decorating. The April issue focuses on Easter treats with special designs by renowned cake artists and 13 tutorials for readers to choose from to create their own masterpieces. The issue also offers readers two for one on tickets to the Cake International show, which takes place in April.

sign. Content remains the same, with a continued

focus on equipping teachers with the tools they

need to progress in their career. Features include

teachers' union, Geoff Barton. The title generates

annual revenue of more than £500,000, accord-

an interview with the new leader of the head-



PECIN

On sale out now

Frequency monthly Price £3.90

Distributor Direct **Display with** Country Life, BBC Countryfile,

Landscape

On sale out now

Price £4.99

Frequency annual

Distributor direct

Display with Premier

Fifa 365 Trading Cards

League sticker collection.

On sale out now Frequency weekly Price £3.20 Distributor Seymour Display with Education Today, The Educator



WOMAN'S WEEKLY HEALTHY LIVING

ing to distributor Seymour.

The April issue from the Woman's Weekly Living Series is dedicated to Healthy Living. Features include solutions to beat bloating this season, the superfoods to keep readers feeling younger, and Judi Dench on her battle with failing eyesight. On sale out now Frequency monthly Price £1.99 Distributor Marketforce Display with Woman's Weekly, Woman's Own, Woman



Bestsellers Sport

	Title	On sale date	In stock
1	Angling Times	28/03	
2	British Homing World	31/03	
3	Angler's Mail	28/03	
4	The Countryman's Weekly	29/03	
5	Match of the Day	28/03	
6	Shooting Times & Country	29/03	
7	Boxing News	30/03	
8	Match	28/03	
9	Kick	12/04	
10	Cycling	30/03	
11	Carp Talk	28/03	
12	Four Four Two	05/04	
13	Sea Angler	06/04	
14	Rugby Leaguer & League Expre	SS 27/03	
15	Sporting Gun	04/04	
16	Improve Your Coarse Fishing	11/04	
17	Carpworld	07/04	
18	Match Fishing	31/03	
19	Advanced Pole Fishing	07/04	
20	Racing Pigeon	30/03	
Dat	a from independent stores supplied by	SmithsN	ews



SPECIA



NUM NOMS CUTENESS STICKER COLLECTION

This new collection of stickers from Topps is scented and features characters from the colourful Num Noms series. There are more than 200 stickers to collect, including shiny ones, and the album which comes with the starter pack also contains fun activities for fans to complete. Extra packets of cards are priced at 50p.

On sale out now Frequency one shot Price £2.99 **Distributor** direct **Display with Disney Princess Trading Card** Game, Shopkins Sparkle Sticker Collection

AUTOCAR

This week's Autocar has a preview of the upcoming F1 season and publisher Haymarket expects there to be 15% increase in sales as well as a 15% RSV rise. There is also a comparison between three top cars - the BMW 5 Series, Jaguar XF and Mercedes E-Class - a test-drive report of the new Audi RSV and an investigation into companies claiming to buy your car. Autocar is the number one RSV-generating title in motoring and ranks 46 in independents.

On sale out now **Frequency** weekly Price £3.80 **Distributor** Frontline **Display with BBC Top** Gear, What Car?



pane

TAKE A BREAK'S COLLECTIONS

RETRO JAPANESE

Aiming to cater to the growing popularity

of classic Japanese cars, Retro Japanese maga-

zine features cars from popular brands such as Toy-

ota, Honda and Nissan, that made their mark in the

1970s and 1980s. The title launched in June last year

The spring edition will be bagged with a book about

the Mazda MX-5 worth £5.99, and the magazine will

and 33% of its sales are through independent retailers.

Take a Break's Codebreakers, Criss Cross, Crossword, and Wordsearch collections offer readers the chance to win £3,000. These four titles cover four of the seven main puzzles sub-categories and are designed to be displayed together. Publisher Bauer Xcel Media recommends displaying them with other Take a Break to maximise sales.

On sale out now Frequency monthly Price £2.30 **Distributor** Frontline **Display with Take a Crossword and Take a** Puzzle



PECIA

On sale out now **Frequency** quarterly Price £5.99 **Distributor** Seymour **Display with Classic Car** Weekly, Classic Cars Magazine



INCREDIBLE HULKS

be on sale for an increased price of £5.99.

SPECIA This month's edition of Incredible Hulks contains three new stories. One sees The Hulk sent back in time by the Celestials to battle the legendary Devil Dinosaur, another follows She-Hulk as she takes a tour inside her own mind and ends up battling herself, and the third story sees The Maestro recruits some new warriors - the Evil Avengers.

On sale out now **Frequency** monthly Price £3.99 **Distributor** Marketforce **Display with** Avengers Universe

Retailer viewpoint Graham Walker Walkers News,

Norfolk

e are fairly consistent in what we sell. Recently, we haven't seen any trends up or down or a move towards a particular magazine. We sell all the stan-

dard weeklies and beyond that we try to tailor it towards the demographics of our customer base. As we are in Norfolk farming is quite big, so that means we make sure we've got all the tractor magazines, plus hunting and fishing are popular, so we cater to that.

We also advertise the fact we can order in any magazine for customers if they are looking around and can't find what they want - we do quite a healthy business with this. We don't charge customers for the service, we only ask

Top tip

I'd recommend making

an effort to order in for

customers, they'll

appreciate it and come

back, even if it's just

a one-off.

they collect it before the next issue comes out so we don't lose out. Anything that we can get hold of we will order in.

This has been great for building lovalty because customers come in to fetch their magazines, so they might buy something else and we do

notice the difference - we're one of the few independents in the area offering this service. We'll usually have 50 to 60 magazines a week saved for customers.

In terms of visibility we just make sure anything we want to draw attention to is at eye-level or next to popular magazines, for example, if there's a new partwork out. I've noticed people don't tend to look around for what they want.

We haven't had many challenges; the only thing is it's important to efficiently manage magazines. You need to keep note of what is being bought and if something hasn't sold for two months or so, delete it. Also, if you're selling out, make sure you stock more next time - that's the key.



HIS WEEK GAZINES

No Pts

13 40 **11.99**

64 100 **8.99**

12 100 **8.99**

7 60 **5.99**

32 70 **14.99**

32 60 **9.99**

41 60 **19.99**

84 104 **7.99**

94 120 **8.99** 210 200 3.99

81 80 **9.99**

94 95 **10.99**

£

Partworks

Amercom UK Ships of War

DeAgostini Build the Ford Mustang

My Animal Farm

Zippo Collection

Eaglemoss

Build A Solar System

Marvel Fact Files

Military Watches

Star Trek Ships

Doctor Who Figurines

Build your own R2-D2

Jazz at 33 and third RPM

Star Wars Helmet Coll'n

Enhancing your mind, body, spirit 12 120 3.99

Simply Stylish Knitting 65 90 3.99

The Beatles Vinyl Collection 3 23 9.99

DC Comics Graphic Novel 42 60 9.99

Title

Title	No	Pts	£
Hachette			
Art of Crochet	83	120	2.99
Art of Cross Stitch	13	90	2.99
Art of Knitting	114	90	2.99
Art of Quilting	65	90	3.99
Art Therapy	106	120	2.99
Art Therapy 50 Mindful Patterns	13	80	4.99
Assassins Creed: the			
official collection	3	80	9.99
Build the U96	135	150	5.99
Dr Who Complete History	41	80	9.99
Draw The Marvel Way	33	100	4.99
Judge Dredd Mega Collection	ı 58	80	9.99
Marvel's Mightiest Heroes	85	100	9.99
Transformers GN Collection	ı 7	80	9.99
Warhammer	15	80	9.99
RBA Collectables			
Real Life Bugs & Insects	31	60	0.99
Panini			
F1 Collection	26	60	9.99

Collectables	5				
Title	Starter	Cards	Title	Starter	
Panini			Topps		
Disney Princess			Disney Princess		
Sticker Collection	2.99	0.50	Trading Card Game	4.99	
Doctor Strange			Shopkins Sparkle Sticker		
Trading Card Collection	4.99	1.00	Collection	2.99	
Fantastic Beasts and When	reto		UEFA Champions League Off	icial	
Find Them Sticker Collecti	on 2.99	0.50	Sticker Collection 2016/17	2.99	
FIFA 365 Sticker Collection	n 2.99	0.50	Premier League		
FIFA 365 Trading Cards	4.99	1.00	Sticker collection	1.99	
Football 2017 collection	2.99	0.50	Star Wars Force Attax	4.99	
Frozen Northern Lights Sti	icker		Star Wars Rogue One	4.99	
Collection	2.99	0.50	Star Wars Rogue One		
Moana sticker collect	ion 3.99	0.50	Sticker Collection	2.99	
Paw Patrol 'A Year of			Trolls Trading Card Gam	e 4.99	
Adventures' Stickers	2.99	0.50	Trolls Sticker Collection	2.99	
My Little Pony	2.99	0.50	WWE Slam Attax Takeover	4.99	
Peppa Pig Around the Wo	orld 2.99	0.50	Match Attax 2016/17	4.99	
Beauty & the Beast					
Sticker Collection	2.99	0.50			
Magic Box			Title	No	Pts
-		0.50	DeAgostini		
Zomlings Series 5 Star Monsters			-		
Star Monsters		1.00	Magiki Mermaids Frogs & Co		

Newspapers

Daily newspapers price/margin pence/margin %					
Sun	50p	11.15p	22.3%		
Mirror	70p	14.98p	21.4%		
Mirror (Scotland)	75p	16.05p	21.4%		
Daily Record	65p	14.3p	22%		
Daily Star	30p	7.26p	24.2%		
Daily Mail	65p	14.5p	22.31%		
Express	55p	13.31p	24.2%		
Express (Scotland)	50p	12.10p	24.2%		
Telegraph	£1.60	34.4p	21.5%		
Times	£1.40	30.1p	21.5%		
FT	£2.70	54p	20%		
Guardian	£2	44p	22%		
i	50p	12p	24%		
i (N. Ireland)	50p	12.5p	25%		
Racing Post	£2.30	54.Op	23.48%		
Herald (Scotland)	£1.30	29.90p	23%		
Scotsman	£1.50	33.75p	22.5%		

Saturday newspapers Sun 70p 14.98p 21.4% Mirror £1.10 22.6p 20.6% Mirror (Scotland) £1.10 22.6p 20.6% Daily Record 90p 19.8p 22% 50p Daily Star 12.085p 24.17% Daily Mail 21% £1 21p Express 17.152p 21.44% 80p Express (Scotland) 80p 18p 22.5% Telegraph £2 48p 24% Times £1.50 35.25p 23.5% FT £3.50 79.1p 22.6% Guardian 22% £2.90 63.8p i Saturday 14.4p 24% 60p i (N. Ireland) 25% 60p 15p Racing Post £2.60 61p 23.46% Herald (Scotland) £1.70 39.1p 23%

£1.95 43.88p

22.5%

Sunday newspapers

Sunday newspe	ipers		
Sun	£1	21p	21%
Sunday Mirror	£1.40	29.40p	21%
People	£1.40	29.40p	21%
Star Sunday	90p	19.89p	22.10%
Sunday Sport	£1	24.3p	24.3%
Mail on Sunday	£1.70	35.70p	21%
Sunday Mail	£1.70	35.70p	21%
Sunday Telegraph	£2	45.50p	22.75%
Sunday Times	£2.50	52.50p	21%
Observer	£3	73.50p	22%
Scotland on Sunday	£1.70	39.95p	23%
Racing Post	£2.60	61p	23.46%
Sunday Herald (Scotland)	£1.70	35.7p	21%
Sunday Express	£1.40	29.65p	21.18%
Sunday Post	£1.60	33.6p	21%



Scotsman

jennifer.hardwick@newtrade.co.uk

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*RRP of Sovereign Blue King Size and Superkings 20s and B&H Blue King Size and Superkings 20s packs as of 8th March 2017. You are at all times free to price as you choose.



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