



CEPL12 Report to Town Council

Date 25.04.24

We really do make a difference!

It's hard to believe that we're nearly at the end of April, the longer days and occasional glimpse of the sun means that there is a glimmer of hope that spring is finally here.

Once again, it's been a busy month for CEPL12, with much to celebrate.

Our DV group commemorated the eight anniversary of our café earlier this month, we had a birthday celebration, with cake, to mark the occasion, our thanks go to Julia Pegg for coming along to support us.

The group enjoyed a highly successful trip that took in coffee at Otter Nurseries, lunch at The Seafood Restaurant and a visit to Plymouth Gin Distillery - it was a fabulous day out and much appreciated by all who attended. This was only possible due to the monies we received from the Co-op Community Fund, we are grateful for their support.

We have managed to secure funding to extend our successful singing group from twice a month to every week, this is fabulous news as the group is well attended and brings joy to so many people.

Plans are in place to rename and relaunch our DV group as the current name can be off putting for people living with dementia. We intend to hold a launch event at The Wesley Church on Wednesday 5th June, please put the date in your diary as it would be lovely if you could join us.

Our Community Shop welcomed another new trader last month and yet another is going to be introduced in May, we have a wealth of talent in our local area and we are thrilled that we can showcase their work. Sales are slow but steady, however we are constantly looking for ways to improve the footfall.

To this end we are hosting a weekly 'pop up' ticket sales table from 17th May to 21st June for Saltash Songs and Sea Shanties this will, hopefully, encourage a larger footfall and potentially new visitors.

Our community space at No 8 continues to grow and flourish, it provides a welcoming space for so many different groups (please check out our website, I think you'll be surprised at just how much we have to offer.) We were thrilled to be able to host a successful blood pressure monitoring session last week, 11 people benefitted from the opportunity and so we are hoping that this will continue and even expand to other days in the week.

We were proud to help out at the recent, successful 'Connectivity Day' by providing refreshments at the station, as our aim is always to work with other organisations to support the community.

We continue to benefit from food donations from Fareshare, Co-op warehouse, Lidl, Greggs, Waitrose and Rows, our volunteer drivers collect this food that would otherwise have gone into landfill. We make good use of it, both in the kitchen and fridge and even, if we have surplus food, supply other organisations including Live Wire. We really feel that we are making a difference by reducing food waste.

Our team of 125+ volunteers do an amazing job, it is because of them willingly giving up their time that we can continue to run all our many activities. We were thrilled that Mylo, one of our youngest volunteers, who initially volunteered for his Bronze D of E award and still supports the fridge every Saturday, received a Youth Achievement Award at the recent Mayor's Civic Service.

Another of our young volunteers, Leland, has been shortlisted as one of three finalists in the YMCA Plymouth Youth Awards in the category of Outstanding Contribution to the Community Award.

Leland first came to our notice through Live Wire when he expressed an interest in becoming a chef, he now travels from Plympton every week and has grown in confidence so that he now, with support from Chris, runs our Saturday kitchen. Again, we are delighted to have made such a difference to this young man and wish him every success at the award ceremony and in his future.

We had some fantastic news that, after a lot of hard work, we have received Lottery funding to replace our green shed which, sadly, is not fit for purpose. However it seems that the current problems can be resolved with the new unit, this will particularly benefit the fridge and the volunteer drivers who pick up food collections.

Another unexpected treat was the delivery of 60 volunteer T shirts from Westcountry Embroidery, these brightly coloured shirts are already being enjoyed by our volunteers. Our huge thanks go to Westcountry Embroidery for supporting our work.

Despite all our best efforts it has come to our notice that not everyone appreciates the work that we do, recent negative publicity suggests that a small group of people still appear to be disgruntled about the 'free food' we distribute and the resulting impact on local businesses. I am sad that this feeling still exists as we have worked hard to promote the work we do to support the community. We have embarked on a social media campaign to highlight all the groups we support and the positive impact this has on the community. I would appreciate your support in helping us to get over the message that we are a community resource which is there to improve the lives of people who live, work or visit Saltash.

Working towards financial security remains a major concern for the Board, this report illustrates just how much we benefit from grants and sponsorship, however researching opportunities and completing applications is a time consuming job. Our directors work tirelessly behind the scenes to access funding but this is precarious and uncertainty makes forward planning difficult. Our aim is to research and implement ways in which we can cover our, considerable, overheads so that we can plan for the future and further extend our work. In planning for the future we need to be aware of the needs within the locality, we would like to ask for your support by sharing information from different consultations and surveys that you have access to in order to highlight areas that are lacking within the PL12 area, this information will be invaluable in setting future direction for us.

Together we really can make a difference.

Jo Grail 25.04.24

For more information about any of our activities please check out our facebook and Instagram pages, our website or pop into No 4 or 8 to find out more.

'Together we can, together we do.'
War-barth 'gan gallos War-barth 'gan gwul