

To receive a report from the Community Hub Team Leader and consider any actions or associated expenditure

All our clubs and activities have continued to thrive. Knit & Natter, Saturday Book Club, Children's Story Time, Colouring group, Music Man, Giant Crazy Games days and being able to offer the mezzanine space to support the independent Writers Group and Spanish Clubs.

Community groups and social prescribers such as 'Back to Work', 'Read Easy', 'Kooth' (Well-being school transition), Tamar Reach, Saltash U3A and CEPL12 Dementia Memory Box Choir (we now host a range of dementia friendly books) also make use of the Library Hub spaces. We are actively in conversation with Saltash.net Community College to partner events and activities in the coming term times. We have supplied 1,000 digital C.C. Library Card numbers and expect the relationship to grow as the College moves forward.

We had an excellent 2024 Cornwall Council Library Customer Survey where we are getting recognition for our wider community services as well as our Library services – refer to agenda item 14 for further information.

Our book usage numbers, and footfall continues to grow against an increasing online use for Pressreader and Borrowbox supported by the ever-popular ordering and delivery system connecting all the Cornwall Libraries (Click and Collect).

The Home Library Service, despite promotion, has not grown in any great numbers. This may well change during the Winter months. We have a good database of volunteers ready to help.

The Southwest Reading Challenge grew this year with over 70 participants. This ran from January until May and is an independently run reading challenge and competition for all ages to take part in. We support this challenge as it's there to encourage any ability and age to read. One of our readers won a bronze prize of a £15 Amazon token.

The Summer Reading Challenge, this year's theme 'Marvellous Makers', continues to be popular with the under 11's during the Summer Holidays. We are on target to equal last year's numbers and surpass Cornwall Council targets. Noticeable that the support pack this year from Cornwall Council has been reduced in size due to the cost to the Reading Council for materials. We have subsidised significantly from our Library Hub activity budget toward the basic kit of parts and as normal created our own unique activity and events listing to support the 'making' theme. Clay Club, Kite making, making music with Livewire, Pebble painting and montaging, dancing with Gee etc.

Our annual key note events continue to be well supported by the community and school visits. UK Science Week in March was yet again popular with a 'Time' theme. Our 'Past, Present and Future' exhibition and hands-on experiments and presentations by Plymouth University Robotics and Nanotechnology Departments and Spaceport Cornwall was concluded by Space Adventure workshops (making and launching rockets, encouraging design, teamwork and promotion of potential career avenues).

Our new Biowatch 2024 environmental campaign in partnership with Plymouth University Marine & Biology Department started in Spring. Aimed at creating a Saltash flora and fauna database with participation from the Saltash community through the four seasons providing learning opportunity and understanding of our local environment as the database continues to grow. The Spring season was hugely supported, and we are well underway for the Summer season. We linked the database to key events and activities including 'live' TV Smart-screen links to the Conservation Trust at the National Marine Aquarium, visits from Cornwall Butterfly Trust, Tamar Grow Local Beekeepers, Beach Guardian and The Westcountry Rivers Authority amongst others. We are also linking up with local groups such as Tree Saltash and Friends of Tincombe Park who we are also working closely with us.

Through Biowatch 24 we have now established a relationship and look to partner with Tamar Valley National Landscape moving forward to help promote this side of the River Tamar.

Post window refurbishment we have already planned for our annual Literary Festival Week in late October where keynote authors have confirmed to visit the Library Hub as well as a forum with Cornwall Writers alongside our amazing local Saltash published authors.

Weekly, monthly and quarterly events and activities will continue post refurbishment. Crafting, Artisan Fairs, children and adult Theatre Groups (Scary Little Girls) and the popular Fake or Fortune antique days are part of the annual Library Hub listings.

Saltash Library Hub attended this year's Regatta. We looked resplendent and offered many activities to our residents and visitors, some of which signed up to the library. The pitch location on the Waterside Green wasn't ideal due to the music stage but we managed to get by. It would be worth elevating the pitch next year.

End of report
Community Hub Team Leader