

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

Report to: Library Hub Sub Committee

Date of Report: 22.04.25

Officer Writing the Report: Community Hub Team Leader

Officers Recommendations

To note the update report received.

Report Summary

The following report update was provided by the previous Community Hub Team Leader:

On returning to the Library Hub in the New Year we were able to quickly get back into our stride. Community Groups were very happy to return to the space and we were able to put on a mix of events and activities for the well-being months of January and February.

For the two week side windows refurbishment period from March 3-14 we were able to take a light library to the Guildhall to keep the click and collect service continuing while enabling customers to return books.

From Monday 17 March we were once again up and running in the Library Hub. Again clubs were very patient and are using the space. These include Story Time, Music Man, Knit and Natter, Colouring Group, Lego Club and our Saturday Book Club.

We had a fantastic evening event in partnership with Cornwall Council for Shakespeare Week showing a recording of the stage play 'As You Like It'. Once again we were full and this helps support plans to have more evening events when the internal refurbishment is finished.

From April 1st we were able to implement the new staffing hours and create the new staff rota. One new member of the team will add to the existing staffing number. Role

titles have been changed from Information Library Assistants to Community Hub Assistants to align with the goals of the Town Council.

We were able to plan and produce our two week LIT FEST either side of the easter holiday featuring author visits, children's author visits, creative writing groups, Cornish Writers Forum and a local Saltash Authors group.

Once again we are promoting the South West Reading Challenge (Feb - June) which supports reading abilities of all ages with prize incentives. This runs alongside our Biowatch Creative Writing Competition, made possible by winning a small grant from 'Seed Bed', which enables us to promote three writers workshops (2 adult and 1 children), all run by professional authors.

All this is supported by our dyslexic and dementia book stock. Appreciated by the Memory Box Choir who 'rocked' the Library Hub at the beginning of April.

In May we are hosting the 'better late than never' UK Science Week (postponed and re-scheduled from March). The UK theme is 'Change and Adapt' and we have sub-sectioned the week into three categories. A. Environment B. Space C. Technology. We will have our usual popular front of house experiments and activities and for our presentations we have visits from Spaceport Cornwall, NASA, Space Detectives, Plymouth University Biology & Marine Sciences, Robotics & A.I. and Nanotechnology.

This is to encourage, educate and understand the world of science, how it appertains to us and also highlight the opportunities in employment in this burgeoning work sector in Cornwall.

June is being set up for the launch of Biowatch Summer quarter incorporating 'The Great Big Green week'. Plans are also underway to ready the Library Hub for the Summer Reading Challenge (July onward) with the theme of 'The Story Garden'. This will fit in well with crafts and activities across the Biowatch themes.

May to present day:

Since the departure of the CHTL the Town Clerk has taken on responsibility for overseeing library operations in a line management capacity.

All scheduled events have continued as planned, including highlights such as Lit Fest and Science Week. Regular community favourites such as Knit and Natter, Lego Club, Music Man and Writers Sessions have also been running as usual.

The Community Hub Assistants have welcomed a new team member and are actively preparing for the Summer Reading Challenge. Young volunteers have begun applying to support the event throughout the summer holidays.

The Library Hub has hosted a variety of presentations, covering topics such as World War II, the life of historic Saltash resident Ann Glanville and a Councillor Welcome Session that showcased the full range of services Saltash Library offers to the Town Council, residents and the wider community.

Recruitment for the CHTL role is ongoing with a positive response following the advertisement of this exciting opportunity within Saltash Town Council.

End of report.

Signature of Officer:

Previous Community Hub Team leader / Office Manager / Assistant to the Town Clerk