

# SALTASH LIBRARY HUB



## JULY 2021 PROGRESS REPORT

1. **Post Covid opening** – The Library was deemed by our customers and residents a fantastic physical and mental support service during lockdown. Click and collect grew to huge numbers as indeed did Borrowbox (online reading and talking books service).

Many activities were managed online such as our monthly 'Wordquiz' in partnership with the Bookshelf in Fore Street.

A preliminary zoom 'Meet the Author' evening proved a great success and is now continuing 'Live' in the Library.

The interim browsing section, when available, again gave residents a sense of normality during difficult times.

This 'closed' period gave the Library an opportunity to plan, execute and 're-vamp' its interior layout while waiting for a fully open deadline from the Government. The upgrading of shelving and other interior furniture has allowed us to offer a spacious clean vibrant interior offer for families, individuals, club members and general public. This is ongoing currently as we move forward.

## 2. Library interior



The new lower level library shelving (gondolas on wheels) have allowed us to reposition STC stock (10,500 books) and allows vision across the whole Hub floor. New signage is clear and concise. They are flexible to be moved to create space for activities and events.

All old furniture has been replaced. A spacious meeting, reading and activity front of house area has been added with coffee tables and bucket chairs.

Interior notice boards will be re-populated and support columns will be cleaned when SDGAs can be scheduled and available.

The end wall has been painted and cleaned and a clock is to be installed.



The children's reading and activities area has been re-located and expanded with new furniture and storage kinderboxes and new clean safe shelving.

A new 'buggy' parking area has been allocated opposite the entrance welcome desk and the rear courtyard space will be used as an overflow buggy area to avoid floor blocking and clutter for A. safety factor for Covid spacing and emergency exit. B. other customer simultaneous browsing.

The free computer service is fully operational and the whole ambiance is a warmer friendlier environment. The computer area/desks are next in line to upgrade.

Opening hours have been expanded from 10am to 2pm during the July/August period to allow for staff holidays and shortage of hours. This will be re-assessed at the end of August as and when a LIA has been appointed.

Volunteers are casually currently helping with the daily re-stocking of shelves and young volunteers are now helping for the Summer Reading Challenge (SRC).

.....

### 3. Library exterior

Whilst the interior has seen significant progress, the exterior remains dirty and unloved.

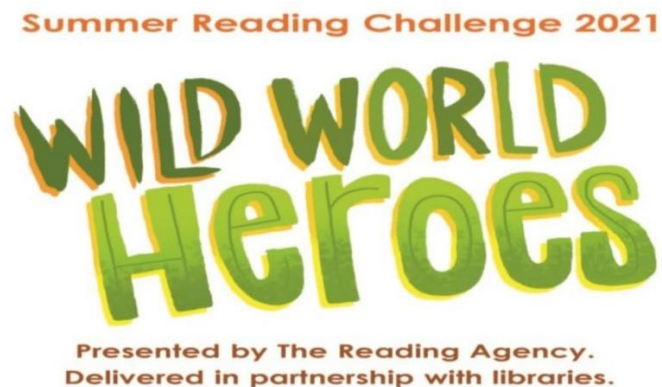
The service department have filled the plant troughs with summer bedding but the windows remain 'fogged' and the fascias are dirty and unappealing to the eye.

Interim Fascia TLC has been recommended to improve the visual experience on entering the building. Window decoration is continuing to help enliven the entrance.



---

#### 4. Current activities & events



**Summer Reading Challenge “Wild World heroes”**– This year all Cornwall Libraries are partnering with WWF on taking action for nature and conservation. This will be a combination of online and activity based packs for children, the ultimate aim of certificates and medals for successful participants for children to read six books during the summer holidays.

Lots of additional small challenges for children to do have been planned and designed in the Library with the team ranging from ‘guess the height’ to ‘what part of the world does this animal come from?’ All aimed at educating how important environments and habitats are.

Saltash Library SRC challenge to win family tickets to Porfell Animal Sanctuary and Park. (nr Liskeard).

Answer two sets of questions related to our local environment, habitat and indigenous wildlife.

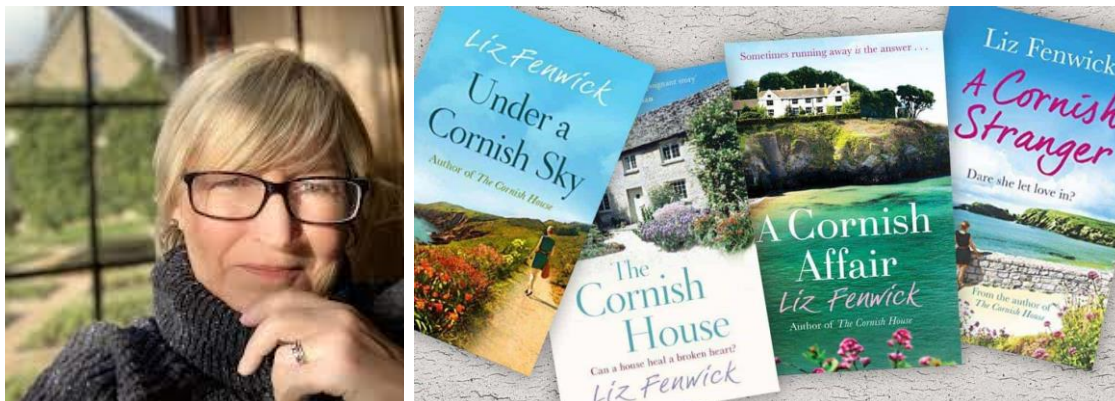
1. A walk in the woods (Coombe Woods)
2. A walk by the river (Saltmill).

#### A Saturday morning with ‘Animal Encounters’.



Outside of the Library, families will get to meet lots of animals and learn first-hand of their origins and habitat needs. (Relating to Wild World Heroes).

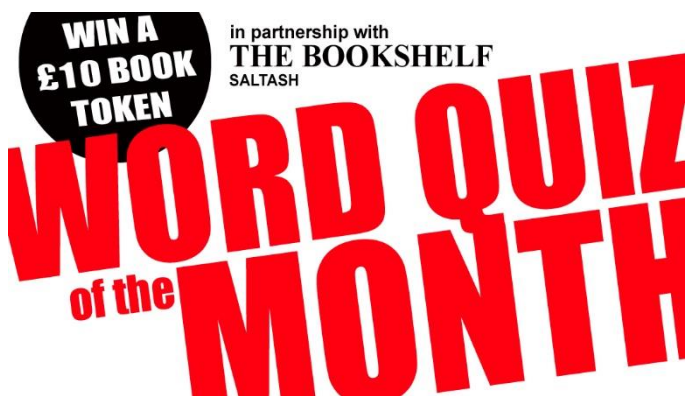
## Meet the Author – Liz Fenwick



The prodigious fiction writer is coming to the Library for a 'live' presentation to discuss her passion for Cornwall and the counties inspiration in her writing. Very popular with our readers. Book signings will follow.

## Monthly Word Quiz – In partnership with the Bookshelf

The quiz, started in January during lockdown, has remained popular with our customers.



## Music Man – weekly



We were able to continue monthly filming with David at home during lockdown to provide a service for Mums, Dads and Children to sing - a - long. Now David has started back in the Library 'live' from July 20<sup>th</sup> and received popular support already.

We are currently working on GDPR paperwork to allow us to film the live event and upload to social media for residents who cannot make the Tuesday morning event and draw more eyes to the Facebook page.

## **Future planned activities & events**

There are many more ideas in the pipeline for Library events now we are open to the public.

The first is to re-instate the **NHS Tea Party** (penciled for Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August) unfortunately postponed due to the extended lockdown.

Other ideas include **Murder Mystery** events, (for our many crime readers), **Comicons** and **Robo-labs** for our junior/young adult readers, (To support our range of Graphic, Sci fi and Fantasy books) and in-house Saltash Brass Band concerts.

We are currently planning with **Saltash Heritage Museum** to have quarterly exhibitions.

**Saltash Regatta** will have a Library presence where we will promote the Library offer, have story tellers for the children in the morning and Music Man in the afternoons as a signposting to us – Also in conversation with CC to have a mobile Library presence as well.

Watch out for the **Saltash library Scrabble All-comers competition!**

We continue to run with Cornwall Council universal offers/events throughout the year such as the Summer Reading Challenge, Fun Palace, Pyjamara and Bookstart. These are being re-instated after the lockdown.

## **5. Recent activities through lockdown**

We have had many recent popular activities and quizzes during the lockdown period ranging from **The Harry Potter children's writing quiz** to **'May the 4<sup>th</sup>' be with you Star Wars drawing competition**.

We partnered with **'Pollenise'**, raising awareness of the importance of bees to us all. We were able to give out 80 packets of bee loving plant seed packets for residents in Spring to grow and learn about the importance of pollinators in the urban environment. We are sowing seeds behind the Library in September.

Local schools partnered with us to plant seeds and promote wildflower importance.

We were able to support families that needed help with photocopying with children's term work that otherwise couldn't afford it and would have had it free from schools.

## **6. Online activity**

### **Website development**

We have developed a strong online Library presence on the STC website.

Pages include a monthly events page, calendar of events, photo gallery and information page about the refurbishment project and plans.

## **Facebook**

From a standing start our Facebook page has grown and developed over the last 18 months. We now have a daily messaging mechanism to support the Library offer (books, events etc), local charities and Council support for residents.

Library Hub Facebook followers continue to grow and stand at 644 followers. We are able to market to thousands of residents, groups and businesses through the Saltash Community Group as the Library is now a group member.

We will continue to provide in-house produced videos online promoting events and offers.

## **In-house clubs and groups**

We are now accommodating again groups like 'The Writing Group', Knit & Natter', Scrabble, Lego and others back onto the premises.

### **7. Footfall figures – Week beginning July 19<sup>th</sup>**

Monday	72
Tuesday	84
Wednesday	(closed)
Thursday	94
Friday	51
Saturday	60

A wonderful start to re-opening and a positive response from our residents in being allowed back into the Library, albeit tentative and watchful.

**END OF REPORT**