

Community Enterprises PL12 Annual Report, Year to February 2022

Introduction

As I start my third and final year as Chair, I would like to say a huge Thank You to all our volunteers for their help during the Covid crisis. They supported our community over 3,000 times during the crisis, including shopping, prescription runs, emergency food help, and jigsaw swaps.

To acknowledge the support from volunteers, local businesses and organisations, a very enjoyable Thank you Evening was held on Saturday 2nd October at Saltash Social Club.

In recognition of the work carried out by volunteers during Covid, our Chair was invited to a very special Lunch held at the Eden Project during the G7 summit, hosted by Her Majesty the Queen, the Duchess of Cornwall, and the Duchess of Cambridge. Needless to say, this was a very special day!

Post-Covid

After a traumatic, sometimes chaotic period, we are now just about back to normal activities, with volunteers working hard to support the PL12 community.

Our finances are stable, although we are going to be extremely cautious with spending over the coming months.

Retiring Directors

Carol Emmett and Rose Edwards have worked tirelessly as Directors, & have now decided to step down as Directors and focus on Dementia Voice activities as lead volunteers.

CIO application

A previous application a couple of years ago failed and we have listened to the reasons. Subsequently the Saltash Card has now been transferred to the Chamber of Commerce.

We have re-submitted our application and awaiting to hear from the Charities Commission.

Charity status will make a huge difference to us, both in the way we operate, and in the amount of funding we can access, to continue our community-led activities.

Community Fridge & Larder

This is going from strength to strength, and usually sees 60- 100 visitors a day. It's currently open 3 times a week, with a 4th session if we collect enough rescued food.

Current opening hours are;

Tuesday 3 - 5 pm

Wednesday 10.30 am – 12.30pm – but not every week

Friday 3 - 5 pm

Saturday 10.30 am – 12.30pm

The Fridge collects surplus food from supermarkets, shops, growers and producers, and we get regular donations from the Cornwall Gleaning Network. The rescued food is available to anyone who will use it, to stop it being wasted. We don't charge, but we do ask for a small "pay as you feel/ can" donation if possible, to help towards our overheads.

Gardening group

the Gardening Group had a busy year, distributing over 500 packets of vegetable seeds to the community, with surplus veg that people grew being given back to the Community Fridge. They also held a very successful Plant Swap & Sale, and this is being repeated this spring.

They are now starting their 5th year growing produce at the Community School, & the produce grown is distributed through the Community Fridge. This year, some of the produce will go to the Community Kitchen, for tasty light meals served to anyone taking part in activities at the Community Kitchen.

Mobile Larder

This is now running every Monday, following alternate routes around Saltash. The routes have been carefully planned in association with organisations like Housing Associations and Citizens Advice, and will be revised at the end of March.

We aim to make this a permanent service, and plans are being drawn up to take it out to the PL12 parishes later in the year.

Transport

We are organising 4 day trips a month.

We sold one of our mini-buses, & replaced it with a 9-seater, which doesn't require the driver to have a D1 driving category on their licence. This is being used for food collections & smaller trips.

We hope to be able to organise more trips, if demand allows.

Dementia Voice

The Café, Veterans Group and Singing Group are all well-attended and enjoyed. Sadly, the walking group didn't re-start after Covid, and the "Turning the Cogs" group has discontinued; we are hoping to start a similar group based in our Community Kitchen, aimed at a wider audience, in the next few months.

Digital Inclusion

We received generous funding from Waitrose and Co-op, and plans are in place to hold regular sessions in our Community Kitchen. We are currently procuring a selection of refurbished iPad, laptops & phones which can be used as teaching aids, & lent out to users.

Community Hub

Our Hub houses the Community Shop, which sells a selection of gifts handmade locally. All our profits help support our community-led enterprises.

Community Kitchen

This time last year, we were looking to take a lease on the Barclays building & turn it into a multi-use community hub. Sadly, we pulled out, as costs were spiralling.

We have since taken a lease on 8 Fore St, which was previously trading as "the Kitchen" café for around 40 years.

This will be a permanent home for our Community Fridge, Mobile Larder, Digital Inclusion and Dementia Voice café, as well as supporting community groups and organisations, hosting creative classes, and teaching people to cook.

the Kitchen is due to open at the beginning of March 2022, and we are incredibly grateful to all the local businesses who have helped fund the refurbishment, but most especially to Weatherhead Shopfitters.

We are currently looking for a Community Kitchen Manager (paid role) to head up this enterprise.

Volunteers

Whilst we currently have a team of over 80 volunteers, we will always find room for anyone who would like to spend a few hours a week supporting their community. We are having a Volunteer Meeting on Sunday 6th March in Saltash Social Club, where volunteers & potential volunteers can meet up over a cuppa & slice of cake, & discuss volunteer roles which might suit them.

Other roles

Many of our Directors and volunteers are involved in other community organisations and groups in the PL12 community, including Town, Parish and County councillors, Festival committees like May Fair & Christmas festival, school governors, patient participation groups, town regeneration groups like the Town Team, and helping at other charities including Citizen Advice and Cecily Baker. We think this gives us a unique position to have insight into the PL12 area, and the community needs, and our independent status enables us to be proactive to those needs, without prejudice. We will continue our aim to work together to make Saltash and the PL12 area a better place to live, work and enjoy.

If you would like to know more about anything in this report, please contact hub@cepl12.co.uk or visit our website, www.cepl12.co.uk

Jo Baskott

Chair