



## REPORT TO TOWN COUNCIL

Following the resignation of Jo Baskott, I was elected Chair at the AGM in September. I am delighted that Peter Ryland has, unanimously, been elected Vice Chair. As always, life is busy in CEPL12, below are just some of our many achievements over the last month.

Our Community Kitchen is truly becoming the heart of our community, we already have a growing number of regular visitors who enjoy the warm welcome they receive from our Kitchen Manager, Chris and his team of volunteers. Aside from our regular activities, we are gradually being used for a wider range of community events, including a community play, pumpkin carving and visits by therapy dogs. In the future we have an art exhibition, book reading and Christmas events to look forward to.

I am thrilled that we have accessed funding to become a 'warm space' throughout the winter months, this enables us to provide a safe, warm environment, including activities and refreshments, for our community. Currently our opening hours are based around Chris's working hours during the day time but, with volunteer support, hopefully we can consider opening later in the afternoon for school children who might benefit from a warm place to meet friends and complete homework.

The DV Café, that recently moved back into No 8, has grown so rapidly that it has already outgrown the space we can offer and so, sadly, the decision was made to return to the Wesley Church. However, we have managed to change the day to a Wednesday which means that we can continue to keep Tuesday mornings as a drop in café for people living with dementia.

We are delighted that our Town Council is discussing Dementia Friendly Communities, hopefully this will link in with our DV enterprise. For some time now we have wanted to appoint a Dementia Friendly Champion to work with local organisations and businesses in order for Saltash to become a Dementia Friendly Town, hopefully the links with the Town Council will enable this to happen.

Our community fridge is now settled in its new home at No 8, over the past weeks we have been concerned that the amount of food we receive had dropped as shops and businesses look to other options to reduce food waste. However the FareShare collections have now recommenced and, for a small fee, we receive an amazing quantity of food which benefits both the fridge and the kitchen.

Our Community Shop continues to prosper, despite the current economic situation we are maintaining sales. We have recently made contact with the Tamar Bridge Visitor's Center who are keen to work alongside us, promoting our range of Saltash products and,

hopefully, using us a starting / end point for their bridge tours.

No 4 is also a recycling collection point for, among others, ink cartridges and stamps.

We are also delighted that we can, once again, support the Ukrainian appeal by becoming a drop off point to collect resources that will be transported to Ukraine.

Our Eco crafters group is now well established at No 4, they meet on a Wednesday evening and have a wide range of activities planned throughout the autumn. To date they have made 151 morsbags!

Our Community Transport goes from strength to strength, I am delighted that we remain true to our ethos by only providing transport that enhances our community. Trips are growing in popularity and private hires are increasing as local schools and voluntary groups are making use of our vehicles. Once again, we are indebted to the small number of volunteer drivers who give freely of their time to make sure we can honour our commitments.

To the future ...

As a community organisation, we are keen to work with other groups and businesses in order to enhance the life of our community. To this end we are developing the role of Community Liaison Director. Although early days, we are already developing links with DWP, Tamar Visitors' Centre and the library, to name just a few.

As we lead up to Christmas we have a number of events planned to coincide with the Town celebrations, the shop will extend their opening hours and, once again, provide an electricity supply for the loudspeaker system during the switching on of the lights. We will also join in the Christmas Tree Festival at St Nicholas and St Faith's Church.

We know that Christmas can be a lonely time for many people, and so we hope to open No 8 as a 'warm space' and a social place between Christmas and New Year.

As you are aware, our organisation is totally reliant on volunteers, including Directors, all give freely and willingly of their time to ensure we can continue to grow and flourish. Currently we need a Director to oversee our Dementia Voice Enterprise as we are really keen to extend and develop our current provision, if you know of anyone please let us know.

All in all, these are exciting times for CEPL12 as we look forward to the future with great anticipation.

**Together we can, together we do**

Jo Grail  
Chair  
29.10.22