



## REPORT TO L12!TOWN COUNCIL

**28.11.22**

Once again, it has been a busy month for all of us at CEPL12

Our Community Kitchen has now been open for 6 months and is rapidly becoming a hub for our local community with many customers returning on a regular basis. The increasing range of activities has meant that more people are becoming aware of all we have to offer. Over the last month the book signing and detective activities drew families and young children into the Kitchen and a second community play was also enjoyed by new visitors. We hosted a pumpkin carving session, our thanks go to Smeaton's Farm who donated the pumpkins.

The Community Fridge is now well established in No 8, with an average of 41 people coming to each session. We are now able to have regular collections from Fare Share which has really supported both the kitchen and fridge.

For more information about all our activities, please check out our website: [www.cepl12.co.uk](http://www.cepl12.co.uk)

Our shop team continue to work hard to ensure No 4 is well stocked, hopefully the 'Shop Local' initiative will mean that the footfall increases before Christmas and helps to draw people into Fore Street. Once again this year we supported the poppy appeal which generates income for the British Legion, we are now delighted to be able to support the RNLI by selling their cards in the shop. We have developed links with the Tamar Bridge Visitors' Centre who are now selling our own Saltash themed goods in the Centre, they are also planning to use No 8 as a base for their bridge tours next summer. This will, hopefully, also bring more visitors to Fore Street.

Our Eco crafters group continues to grow and thrive, they have now outgrown No 4 and so the group meets weekly in No 8. They have made some stunning decorations out of recycled materials for our tree at the Tree Festival. The DV group have also decorated a tree for the festival.

Our DV group was one of the local charities supported by the Co-op this year, they raised £3944 which will help to fund activities for the DV Café. We were invited to set up a display in the Co-op to promote our activities and say thank you to the Co-op shoppers who supported us. Next year the Community Kitchen has been chosen as a local charity. We also set up a stall to promote our work and share our aspirations for the future.

We are thrilled to be working alongside the Town Council regarding Saltash becoming a dementia friendly community. Our DV volunteers, Rose Edwards and Carol Emmet, are hoping to assist with an audit of all STC owned property and land.

Earlier this month I was able to meet with Catherine Thompson and Hilary Frank to chat through our vision and aspirations for CEPL12, it was helpful to share ideas about how we might work together in the future. We are currently evolving a new role of Community Liaison director, Cathy Jane is working with other organisations and community groups to ensure we collaborate for the benefit of the PL12 community. Please let us know if you have any thoughts or ideas about how we can work together in the future.

For some time now our volunteers have been able to collect time credits as a reward for volunteer hours worked, these can be exchanged for a range of services and activities, however the services in Cornwall are limited. Our aspiration is to register No 4 as a partner organization where credits can be used to get discounts off our products. Ultimately it would be great to extend the scheme to other local voluntary organisations in Saltash.

To the future...

We are planning a 'thank you' evening for our amazing team of volunteers on 14<sup>th</sup> December to show how much we

appreciate the incredible support we are given by so many people. As you know, we are reliant on donations and volunteers in order to run our activities – we couldn't survive without them. If you would like to pop in, we would be delighted to welcome you.

I have heard a whisper that Santa is taking a few hours off from his busy schedule to visit No 8 on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, he'll be there to chat to local children, find out how they have been getting on this year and what they would like for Christmas. Later in the day he will also be visited by a group of Disney Princesses to add to the fun!

As always we are pleased to be able to support the annual Christmas lights switch on, No 4 provides the power for the loud speaker system and we have booked a couple of pitches to promote our work.

Our kitchen and shop will be closed over the Christmas period, however we are opening No 8 from 28 – 30<sup>th</sup> December as a welcoming warm space and a place for people to meet and chat. We have received funding to extend our opening hours in order to provide a 'warm space' for people over the winter months, we are increasingly finding that people especially appreciate a chance to sit down in the warm and have a chat with our Kitchen manager and volunteers,

2022 has been a busy, turbulent year for us, we can look back with enormous pride at all we have achieved over the last twelve months. and now can look forward to 2023 with optimism. On behalf of everyone at CEPL12 I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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Jo Grail  
Chair CEPL12