



## REPORT TO BOARD MEETING

### Report to Town Council: February

After a slow start to the year, things are picking up across all our enterprises, much of the work in the background is slowly coming to fruition and our links with the local community are continuing to grow and thrive.

We are delighted to have developed links with Livewire, Andy Rance and his team do an amazing job supporting the young people in our town in many different ways, including providing food for young people in need of sustenance. Following conversations, we have rearranged the route taken by our mobile fridge which now drops off food to Livewire on a Monday, we also aim to give him any surplus ambient goods that he can make use of. Following this development, we would also love to set up a 'munch club' providing a warm space for young people after school, as yet these discussions are in an early stage, but it has long been our ambition to involve the younger members of our community so we are hopeful that this comes to fruition.

We have established strong links with the Tamar Bridge Visitors' Centre, they now stock out local Saltash themed products and are hoping to use our Community Kitchen as a starting /end point for their tours, this will incorporate a talk about the bridges and history of Saltash, hopefully these events will attract more people into Fore Street.

We are beginning to extend the activities available in our Community Hub ( housed in the Community Shop). We are promoting other events and groups in the town and, following requests, are starting a 'form filling service.' So many official documents now have to be completed on line, this proves difficult (if not impossible) for people with limited access to, and understanding of, technology. Examples are: Carers Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance(DLA) Blue Badge Applications and Renewals to name but a few. We are making it clear that we are unable to provide advice or advocacy and that, if appropriate, we will signpost people to Citizen's Advice.

Over the last few months we have supported the work of 'Outreach Paramedics' in many ways, acting as a collection point for donations, providing facilities for the Ukrainian group to meet and celebrate together. On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January we were able to support the send-off of the two ambulances to Ukraine by providing refreshments for the crowd of supporters. It was an emotional moment waving them off on their journey.

Our Community Transport continues to thrive and evolve. Our dedicated team of volunteer drivers run the weekly shopper link, picking up a growing number of customers from Landrake. And Saltash. We are also able to provide transport for a number of community groups and organisations, currently we are supporting all the local primary schools and choirs, Port View Surgery and our own Dementia Voice group.

Following talks with the DWP, we are pleased to have been designated a 'disability confident employer,' in our situation this relates to the volunteers that support us. We now have almost 100 volunteers registered with us, not all are active but over 50 people regularly give their time to ensure we can run all our enterprises, without them we couldn't function.

Our community kitchen and fridge are still collecting a wide range of produce that would otherwise go into landfill, whenever possible we use the food to provide hot meals for our customers. Our ambition is to set up cookery classes, demonstrating how left over food can be turned into hearty meals. We continue to provide a warm space and a chat over a cup of coffee, the number of people making use of this facility continues to grow. For more information about the growing number activities we host, please check out our website.

Our Board currently has three vacancies, however we are delighted to welcome Jane Davey who is going to join us with the aim to take over as Finance Director, I am sure she will be a great asset to the team. We are still looking to recruit shop and DV Directors to join us.

To the future:

We are already planning activities to support the town during the May Fair and coronation activities. However, our main focus for the time being is to make sure we embed the new developments whilst continuing to manage well established activities. If you have any ideas about ways we can further support our community, please let us know as we are committed to work with others for the benefit of all.

Jo Grail