

## Community Enterprises PL12 Annual Report, Year to February 2023

The last year has been a time of change and turbulence, globally, nationally and locally. Community Enterprises PL12 has been no exception. Over the last twelve months we have taken on a new premises, new Directors, staff and volunteers. All of these changes have had an impact on our organisation, but, as this report demonstrates, we have risen to every challenge.

### **Governance**

Last September, Jo Baskott stood down from her positions of Chair and Kitchen Director, over the years she had worked tirelessly for our organisation, her dedication, enthusiasm and energy have had a significant impact across the PL12 community, and will continue to do so in the future. I was elected as Chair at our AGM in September and hope to continue to continue to develop our Enterprises.

David Bremner also stood down from his positions of Finance, Digital Inclusion and joint Dementia Voice Director. During his time with us his commitment and vision helped to shape our organisation and enabled us to plan more effectively for the future.

Over the last twelve months our team has been strengthened by the appointment of two new Directors: Cathy Jane joined us as Shop Director and Melanie Cowie joined us last summer as Marketing director. They have both had a positive impact on the running of our organisation and have evolved and developed their roles over the last twelve months..

### **Financial**

The economic climate has been, and continues to be, a cause for concern (both nationally and closer to hand). Fortunately we are getting back on our feet following COVID, but are well aware of the challenges to come in the future. Although we are a 'not for profit' organisation, we do need to cover the growing cost of our overheads, we rely totally on donations and grant funding to ensure we can continue to provide our invaluable support through our various enterprises. We are always on the lookout for someone with experience in accessing funding in order to strengthen our financial situation.

### **Operations:**

With ever changing and increasing legislation, together with our expansion, we recognised the need to have an Operations Director and Manager. Al Marks, previously Shop Manager, has taken on the role of Ops Manager and has risen to this challenge amazingly, together with the Ops Director he is working through the lengthy list of policies and statutory requirements to ensure we are fully compliant.

### **Transport;**

The year got off to a slow start, however recent months have shown a great uptake on people benefitting from the wide range of trips we have to offer. We now have a dedicated 'trips team' who research different destinations that appeal to a wider section of our community . Our weekly shopper has been extended to include Landulph, again the popularity has increased and our 'Shopper Hopper' is regularly full.

The biggest change over the last twelve months have been the number of local organisations who are now hiring out our buses to enhance their own activities, these include local schools, the bowling club, U3A, Live at Home to name but a few. We also support Town events whenever possible, we provided a shuttle service to the Waterside during the Regatta and transport for the Mayor and his entourage on Remembrance Sunday.. We are thrilled that we can provide them with this much needed support.

Our small bus continues to be regularly used to pick up produce to support the Community Fridge and Larder. Our volunteer drivers give freely of their

time to make sure that we can benefit from the food rather than it ending up in landfill.

#### **Community Shop : No 4**

Our Community Shop provides an outlet for over 25 local crafters who are able to make use of our space to promote their wares. We have a range of Saltash themed products that promote our town and make lovely souvenirs and gifts. We have a group of 'eco crafters' who meet on a weekly basis, they have made 377 Mors Bags (to date), these are reusable, original bags using recycled material and can be collected free of charge from No 4.

No 4 is also a Community Hub, providing information about local activities, we also continue to take bookings for Hopper Trips and events in No 8.

#### **Community Kitchen: No 8**

After months of planning and tremendous support from Weatherhead Shopfitters we were thrilled to open our Community Kitchen last spring. Chris Cook was appointed as our Kitchen Manager and, together with an impressive set of knives, joined us in the summer. Along with a team of volunteers, he provides a warm welcome alongside refreshments and hot food

This venture is supported by Waitrose, Lidl, Co-op, FareShare, Origin Coffee, Rows Pasty Shop and Tamlyns' sausages, the food they donate enables us to provide tea, cakes and hot meals using food that would otherwise have gone into landfill.

We were aware that there was a need for this facility, but have still been taken aback by how quickly we have become a part of the local community. A range of groups use our space to deliver their own services, including Chatter and Natter, Your Voice, Mandown, a Dementia Voice lunch club and, very recently a stroke support group. We also have regular visits from the therapy dogs and one off events that have included a community play and art exhibition.

Last autumn we were thrilled to receive funding to enable us to become a 'warm space' for people suffering from fuel or food poverty. Throughout the cold winter months we have provided a safe, warm space for many members of our community. Everyone is welcomed and are sure to receive a warm welcome from our wonderful volunteers.

#### **Community Fridge**

The Community Fridge now operates from No 8, this has enabled us to review the opening times as we are now no longer tied to the shop hours. Over the year we have maintained the uptake of people visiting the fridge, however the amount of food we receive varies from day to day.

Sam Gardner has taken over as Director with responsibility for the Community Kitchen and Fridge, this means that the two enterprises are now working in tandem for the benefit of all.

#### **Community Liaison**

One of our key aims is to work with other organisations and community groups to further enhance the life of those living and working in the PL12. area Cathy Jane has taken on the role of Community Liaison Director, she is fast establishing links with a wide range of people to ensure we can complement their services. This role is in its infancy but she has already made a number of contacts that are keen to work with us.

#### **Dementia Voice:**

Our DV group continues to grow and thrive. The café takes place on a weekly basis providing a safe space for people living with dementia to meet others for a drink and a chat. We have recently moved the venue to Ashtorre Rock, our hopper buses and volunteer drivers make sure that everyone is able to attend the new location. This has had a positive impact as we are now able to transport people from outlying parishes who, previously, were unable to

make the journey. Thanks to funding from the Co-op we are able to organise trips for the group, they recently enjoyed lunch at Strawberry Fields near Lifton which gave everyone a much appreciated day out.

Our vibrant singing group meets twice a month at the Wesley Church, led by an incredibly talented facilitator we have a regular attendance of 20+ people who create an amazing sound. We would love to showcase their talents by developing a DV choir in the future.

Our veterans group meets every other Saturday at the SHADO Centre, we regularly have over 30 people attending, they thoroughly enjoy their supper and entertainment organised by our volunteers.

Whilst Rose Edwards and Carol Emmett stood down as Directors, they continue to devote much time and energy to ensuring all our activities can continue to thrive.

The lack of a permanent Director means that we have not been able to expand as we would have liked. We would dearly love to resume a group for people living with cognitive impairment, but need someone with enthusiasm to lead this venture.

**18 Belle Vue Road.** We now have 7 occupiers in the building along with a small office used for our own administration. The income received supports our other enterprises and enables them to remain viable.

## **IT**

We are thrilled that our website is now up and running the number of views increase on a regular basis. Hopefully we will be able to take advantage of the on line booking system to support all our events. Please check out [www.cepl12.co.uk](http://www.cepl12.co.uk) Melanie Cowie, our Marketing Director, has developed our Facebook pages and posts information about our activities on a regular basis.

## **Volunteers**

With the exception of three paid members of staff, we are totally run by volunteers at all levels, without their amazing contribution we wouldn't be able to function!

We are always on the lookout for more people to join our team, and have revised the way we induct potential volunteers to make sure we are able to put their skills and expertise to good use.

We are widening the range of volunteering opportunities we can offer, and now have work experience and DofE students involved in our work.

We are all appreciative of the time and enthusiasm so many people devote to support our ventures, in December we held a special event to say thank you to our volunteers. Over 40 people attended on the evening and enjoyed a range of tasty snacks and mulled cider, our local traders also contributed to the evening by donating prizes for a raffle, this was very much appreciated by all.

## **Conversion to CIO**

Our last application to the Charities Commission was, sadly, unsuccessful, however undaunted we have not given up on our aspiration to become a charity and have been working hard on a new submission. This has proved to be a lengthy, complicated process - despite devoting much time to the application, we are still not ready to submit it. Hopefully we are nearing a resolution as we believe gaining charitable status will make a significant difference to services we can provide to support the PL12 community.

## **Other news:**

For the last year we have been able to support the number of Ukrainian refugees who have sought safety in SE Cornwall, we were a collection point

for donations which were shipped out to Ukraine and hosted a number of events, including celebrating their National Day with food and music from Ukraine. We also supported the Outreach Paramedics who delivered two ambulances and provided training earlier this year. We provided refreshments to the large number of supporters who waved them off on their journey, it was an emotional moment. Thankfully they have now completed their mission and are home safely. We will continue to provide support whenever we can in the future.

### **To the future:**

It is hard to believe, but April 5<sup>th</sup> sees the one year anniversary of the opening of our Community Kitchen, it's amazing to reflect on how much we have accomplished in this time! We are planning a 'thank you' event for all our sponsors who have supported us along the way for, without them, we would not be in the fortunate position we are in.

March 5<sup>th</sup> is the most important day in the Cornish calendar: St Piran's Day. As this falls on a Sunday this year, we are planning to celebrate all things Cornish in No 8 on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Thanks for the generosity of Rows, we are going to have a pasty lunch followed by scones for afternoon tea (jam first, obviously!)

Both No 4 and No 8 provide a warm, safe space for many in our community, on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Age UK are organising an information day which will take place in our Community Kitchen.

We would love to open our doors to children and young people before and after school in order to provide a warm, safe space where they can have a chat and something to eat. To this end we have been working with Live Wire to explore setting up a 'munch club,' run by older students and youth workers.

We have also been working with Groundwork Trust and Saltash.net to reinvigorate the gardening project at the school, we are hopeful that we can restart this venture that will see students and volunteers working together. This also coincides with our annual seed swap, thanks to local seed suppliers we have a wide number of seeds to give away with the hope that they will provide fresh produce for the fridge and kitchen in the summer months.

We are planning a number of fundraising events to take place in No 8, currently we have funding to provide cookery demonstrations focusing on cooking food from scratch these are in the planning stage at the moment but we are hopeful we can begin monthly sessions in March.

We are also holding our first Quiz Night in March, check out our Facebook page for more information - hopefully you will be able to join in some of our events.

Finally, as we have expanded, our reliance on volunteers has also grown, we could not operate without the amazing band of people who give freely of their time to support us.

Our Directors work tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure that we can continue to thrive and develop. Currently we are looking to recruit three more Directors, specific roles include managing our Community Shop and Hub, leading Dementia Voice into the future and supporting financial management. The roles are crucial to the smooth running of CEPL12, but are also immensely rewarding.

This report clearly demonstrates the enormous progress we have made this year, we can look forward to the next twelve months with optimism.

Jo Grail  
Chair CEPL12

'Together we can, together we do.'  
War-barth 'gan gallos War-barth 'gan gwul