



Report to the Town Council

August has flown by and we are now fast approaching the beginning of a new school term and, it seems, the countdown to Christmas has begun!

Whilst we haven't met as a Board since July, there has still been a lot of work going on behind the scenes and things continue to move forward across all our Enterprises.

Our Shop Manager, Lisa Hambly, has been working with her loyal team of volunteers to increase the footfall into our Community Shop. She has been in conversation with a number of local craftspeople to extend the range of stock we offer. We are always mindful that we try not compete with other traders in Fore Street but rather complement the current provision in the hope that this will attract more people into the street. She is planning a revamp to display the wares we showcase, why don't you pop in to see how things are going?

Our DV continues to thrive with their regular Café, Singing and Veterans Group. We have a group of regular users who benefit from the different activities. Following the successful recent trip out, Rose, our Lead Volunteer is now planning an outing to Healey's Cyder Farm in October. As with all our activities, we rely totally on donations and grants and so we are delighted that Ashetorre Rock have a DV collection tin in their café which generates a much welcomed income.

Our Community Kitchen has been busy throughout the summer. Chris, our Kitchen Manager, took annual leave during August, he is a hard act to follow, but our volunteers, led by Anna Murphy, stepped up to the challenge and did a great job managing the Kitchen in his absence. Recently we have had a number of enquiries from local community groups who are interested in using our space on a regular or 'ad hoc' basis. We recently hosted a

Community Police drop in session which went well, so much so they are hoping to plan another event in December. We also hosted the Plymouth Dance Festival Committee who held their meeting in No 8.

Our therapy dogs are now going to join us on a Tuesday morning to co-incide with our drop in lunch for people living with cognitive impairment.

We are always keen to support other community events, earlier this month we provided a 'popup noodle bar' at the MVV open day in Plymouth. MVV operates a highly modern and efficient 'Energy from Waste' plant at North Yard, Devonport, Plymouth. This facility provides a waste treatment solution for the South West Devon Waste Partnership. It deals with waste from Plymouth, Devon and Torbay that is not recycled or composted and generates electricity thereby saving valuable fossil resources and reducing carbon dioxide output. This is the second year we have been invited to attend the event which is fast growing in popularity, this year close on 2,000 people attended, so the volunteer team were kept pretty busy!

Earlier this month we hosted the first 'Cream Tea Tour' in conjunction with the Tamar Bridge Visitor's Centre, this was well attended and the feedback was extremely positive. We are hoping this will become a regular feature in our calendar as it has the added benefit of bringing new visitors to Saltash from Plymouth.

Both the Kitchen and Shop took part in the recent Fire station Community Day, this was a chance to spread the word about our work and, hopefully, attract more interest from the local community.

Over the last few weeks John Penney, our Transport Director has had to step back from operational duties. Our transport enterprise is always very busy, it provides community hires, trips and a wide range of food collections every week. We are fortunate that our Transport Lead Volunteer, Roger Fursier, has stepped up and, together with the team of volunteer drivers, is ensuring that we can fulfil all our commitments in John's absence.

Our AGM is taking place on Wednesday 27th September at Isambard House, this year the focus is celebrating the work of our amazing volunteers. We are also putting a proposal to our Members that we change our trading name from 'Saltash Gateway CIC' to 'Community Enterprises PL12 CIC' as that is how we are known locally.

Over recent years our energies into recruitment of new members has lapsed, this is understandable as other events have taken precedence. We are now considering re-visiting our membership giving thought to both recruitment and how we can better involve our members in the running of the organization.

The meeting starts at 5.30pm, I hope that you will be able to demonstrate your support for the work we do by attending the meeting, you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Jo Grail
01.09.23

For more information about any of our activities please check out our facebook and Instagram pages, our website or pop into No 4 or 8 to find out more.

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