

Community Enterprises PL12

The CIC continues to develop its activities, centred at No4 Fore Street. These are so varied and wide-ranging that they are best documented mainly by the organisation's own summary for the past year, as follows:

"The Community Hub had a well-earned facelift, and is now home to around 12 local Crafters, selling their lovely hand-made goods. The Hub became a Plastic Free Champion, supporting the work of Plastic Free Saltash and SEA to help Saltash become a more eco-friendly town. The Hub also sells a range of eco-friendly, plastic-free products, including stainless steel straws, beeswax food wraps, and coconut fibre scourers. The Local Produce markets have been well supported, taking place on the 1st & 3rd Friday of every month. Christmas saw us holding a handful of crafting workshops, hosted by our talented Crafters; these have proven to be so popular that we intend to carry on with them in 2020; the participants have loved having some "me time" to relax, try something new, and make new friends.

Our Community Hoppers have been busy taking the lovely people of Saltash on various trips; some of the most-enjoyed were the Valentine's Day Mystery Tour, the ever-popular Sunday Lunch trips, and day-trips to Truro City of Lights and the Mousehole Christmas Lights. Dave is busy planning some great days out for 2020, including requests from passengers. It's always lovely to hear the positive feedback from trippers, and many friendships have been forged.

Dementia Voice PL12 is expanding rapidly, with standing-room only at some of their recent drop-in cafes, which take place in the Community Hub on Tuesdays, 10am – 1pm. Dementia voice have a very active Walking Group, a Veterans Group, and 2020 will see the launch of their much-anticipated singing group. One of our Directors, Carol, received a well-deserved award at the Cornwall Celebrates Volunteering Awards, for all her hard work for DV12. Congratulations Carol, we're all so proud of you!

The Scrapstore began as a pilot enterprise with us, and has proven to be so popular, it has now set up independently as what we hope will be a permanent fixture on Fore Street. We wish them all the best for their exciting future.

SaltashCard now has over 1,000 members and growing. This local discount card gives discounts & offers at numerous local businesses; if you haven't got one yet, or still have the old green card, call in to the Community Hub at 4 Fore St.

Some of the organisations we've been working with recently include Saltash Chamber of Commerce, Plastic Free Saltash, Saltash Environmental Action, Saltash Foodbank, Saltash Gardening Group, and the Royal British Legion, and we're looking forward to working with other organisations over the coming year.

2020 is promising to be a very busy year for us, with some really exciting new projects in the pipeline (watch this space!) BUT we can't do any of this, without our wonderful volunteers. If you can spare a few hours a month to help with any of our projects, we'd love to hear from you...perhaps 2020 is your year to help us make a difference for the good people of Saltash and its surrounding parishes."

Other activities include managing the offices at Belle Vue Rd, including ongoing contract negotiations with Cornwall Council, and reconsideration of the Charity application which was unsuccessful last year, which has been postponed while the objectives of the organisation are evolved. It was audited as in good financial standing for its commitments whilst under the Chairmanship of Peter Thistlethwaite. Lately a couple of new Directors have been recruited, with a simultaneous change of chair (Jo Baskott replacing Peter Thistlethwaite, who has worked tirelessly in the role for seven years, and still performs a Financial role). An imminent activity to note is a planned Seed-swap day on 21 March and its associated activities including planned "wildflower bombs"!

Councillor Steve Miller