

Community Enterprises PL12 Report to Saltash Town Council, January 2021.

Our Christmas newsletter looked at a few of the highlights of 2020 for Community Enterprises PL12. We have updated the information below, to include the activities we now have in place during lockdown 3.

Christmas Cheer Boxes

Our volunteers have put together 68 fabulous boxes, which will be delivered by our Hoppers during the next few days. The lucky recipients have all been nominated by Saltash residents, so we know they're all going to people who deserve a little bit of Christmas Cheer.

We've also given out some boxes from our Hub, which have been well received.

Thank You to everyone who has donated gifts and goodies for the boxes, and to Western Power for their generous funding.

Co op Local Community Fund

We've just been chosen as one of the 3 local causes supported by the Co op Local Community Fund, to fund our Digital Inclusion project.

Every time Co-op members buy Co-op branded products or services, they will give local causes a helping hand; for every purchase, the Co-op pay into a Community Fund to benefit local causes. If you're a Co-op member, you can help us by nominating Community Enterprises PL12 as your chosen cause; simply follow this link <https://www.coop.co.uk/local-causes>.

The more Co-op members choose our cause, the more funding we'll receive to help Saltash residents benefit fully from the opportunities that the internet and technology can provide. This could range from learning how to do an online shop, learning about security online, online banking, ordering a prescription, or joining in a Zoom call with family or friends.

Please spread the word, & tell your family & friends to choose us!

Shopping & Prescription Service

We are continuing the services we started in L1, supporting those who are shielding, isolating, or are unable to shop. Shopping is done on Tuesdays and Fridays each week.

Jigsaws

These were very popular throughout 2020, and we are continuing our jigsaw lending service during lockdown. Jigsaws can be collected from the community Hub during Community fridge opening hours. We regret we are unable to accept any jigsaws or returns until restrictions are lifted.

Community Fridge & Larder

Saltash Community Fridge and Larder shares surplus food, free of charge, to avoid it going to waste. Available to everyone who will use the foods on the table and from the fridge.

Community Fridges are popping up everywhere; They're a simple way of enabling communities and businesses to share good food that would otherwise go to waste. But a Community Fridge does so much more than that; it helps to bring people together, promotes a sense of community, and gives people the opportunity to access healthy food, try something new, and save money.

Although we only opened in November, we're currently sharing around 400kg of surplus food a week, and word is spreading fast! We never know what's coming in, but a typical week will see breads & baked goods, eggs, lots of fresh fruit and veg, dried pasta, rice & noodles, tinned foods, cakes, cereal, filled rolls and UHT milk.

During this Lockdown, the Community Fridge is open during the following times;

Tuesday 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Wednesday 10am – 12noon

Friday 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Saturday 10am – 12noon

The table is constantly refreshed during opening, so don't worry about arriving early to get first pickings! We follow strict Covid guidelines, to keep our volunteers & users safe, so you will be expected to wear a mask and sanitise hands.

We are working in partnership with The Core and Saltash Foodbank, to try and ensure everyone in Saltash has access to food.

Saltash Foodbank can be contacted on;

0800328 2124

info@saltash.foodbank.org.uk

The Foodbank are delivering 3 times a week, with parcels containing 3 days' worth of food.

Volunteers

Our team of volunteers have been amazing this year, working tirelessly to help those who need it. They stood in queues for hours to shop for people who were self-isolating. They delivered & collected jigsaws and books to help keep people occupied (we now have a collection of over 300 jigsaws which have all been donated!) They hand-delivered 5,000 letters, giving details of the help & support available in and around Saltash. They put together a really useful list of all the shops & businesses open during lockdown. They've collected, sorted & distributed food through the Community Fridge & Larder. They've made over 1,000 facemasks, with all the sale proceeds going towards our community projects. They've done so many other things besides, with no remuneration except a Thank You, and the knowledge that they're helping their community.

As we move into 2021, we will have more opportunities for Volunteering, in a variety of roles. If you can spare a few hours a month, and would like to help your community, then we'd love to hear from you; simply email hub@cepl12.co.uk for a volunteer application form.

Transport

We are using the Hopper buses in collaboration with schools and other organisations to get food and essentials to residents who need it.

Help us win Funding

During this year, our volunteers have been really active, supporting their community in whatever way they can. We've set up the Digital Inclusion Project, supported people during lockdowns, and set up the Community Fridge & Larder. We've managed to actively help a large number of people. However, running all these projects takes time (freely given by our amazing volunteers) and money. Next year, more than ever, we need to apply for funding to keep these projects going, and it would really help us with our applications if we could show letters of support.

We would be grateful if you could show your support by writing a short letter, highlighting why you support Community Enterprises and what we do; you can either send it to us at hub@cepl12.co.uk or drop it in to the Hub at 4 Fore St.

Every letter of support gives us a better chance of winning future funding, to help our community.

Dementia Voice

Sadly, Dementia Voice activities remain on hold. We are looking forward to resuming services once it is safe to do so.

Community Hub

The Community Hub remains central to everything we do! From here, we run our enterprises. We also operate recycling schemes, have a library of information on local organisations, and support small local businesses through the Community Shop; over 20 local crafters now sell their quality gifts & goods, and hold a twice-monthly produce market. The Community Shop was short-listed in the Good Retail Awards, recognised as one of the top 5 community shops in the country. This Christmas, the message “shop local” has meant that Fore St – and the Community Shop- has been busy with Christmas shoppers, eager to avoid the Plymouth crowds and see the wonderful window displays and Window Wonderland displays.

Digital Inclusion

We have recently set up a Digital Inclusion project, which extends the support our Volunteers provided during the lockdowns. It will give valuable support & skills to P112 residents; particularly the over-60s, the clinically vulnerable and disabled, and those living alone or with debilitating conditions like dementia. It will reduce loneliness and isolation, increase confidence and self-esteem, & encourage skill swaps and inter-generational interaction.

To achieve all of this we need volunteers who will be Trainers, and IT equipment. We would welcome donations of IT equipment, particularly PCs, laptops, tablets and smartphones (They do need to be in working order).

Citizen Advice

Thanks to funding from the Saltash Town Council, we were able to renovate and adapt the Citizen Advice offices, to create a smart, covid-safe environment which will prove invaluable to Saltash residents over the coming months and years.

Message from Citizen’s Advice during Lockdown;

Any resident can get in touch with Citizens Advice Cornwall by texting the word ADVICE to 78866 for general advice. For debt text the word DEBT to 78866 - we will call you back within 48 hours (except weekends or bank holidays) or simply call Adviceline which is now a freephone number for telephone advice details below for other specialist contacts.

You can contact an adviser through our national phone service:

Adviceline (England): [0800 144 8848](tel:08001448848)

Adviceline’s available 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. It’s usually busiest at the beginning and end of the day. It's not available on public holidays.

If you call from a mobile, we'll ask you to enter a local landline number on your keypad. This can be any number - we only use it to send your call to a local adviser if one's available.

Thank Yous!

We couldn't have achieved anything without our Volunteers, but equally, we need to thank some partners & organisations. Waitrose & Partners, Saltash Town Council for their generous support, our Funders; including Western Power, Cornwall Communities Foundation, Co-Op Local Community Fund, and the Emergency Food Assistance Fund, and Cornwall Council.