

Community Enterprises PL12, Chair's Report to STC, February 2021

*The Hub was able to re-open for Christmas sales in December, but has been unable to reopen this year due to L3 restrictions.

*We have resumed our volunteer service for shopping, prescription runs & jigsaw swaps.

*The Community Fridge opened in November and continued during the Festive period. It is now open 4 times a week, supporting 200 – 300 people/ families a week; it's doing an amazing job, helping the community when it's needed most. To date, we have served over 2,000 people, and saved over 4 tonnes of food from being wasted. We have no shortage of volunteers coming forward to help.

*Last week saw the launch of our Mobile Community Fridge & Larder. This will be out twice a week, following one route on Tuesdays & a different route on Fridays. Unfortunately we're unable to cover the whole of Saltash, but do visit most areas. This has been well received, with this Tuesday's mobile returning with empty boxes.

*We are part of the newly-formed Saltash Food Alliance, made up of organisations, schools & Councillors involved in helping eliminate food need in Saltash and PL12.

*Sarah Martin has done a great job with publicity, getting us on Pirate FM and BBC Spotlight for the Community Fridge and Mobile Fridge. Sarah is also helping us put together a CEPL12 newsletter/ leaflet, which will be distributed next month to PL12 households & key places such as the pharmacies. This contains lots of info about CEPL12 activities, as well as a list of businesses open during lockdown, scam warnings, and information on the foodbank & citizens advice. If this is well received, we may discuss putting together a regular publication (every 2-3 months)

*The Hoppers are active where they can be, helping to deliver & distribute fresh produce & food parcels for the schools. This week, they have started a service to take people to/ from the China Fleet Club for vaccinations, we are not charging for this service but asking for a small donation.

*We have outgrown our premises at 4 Fore St, & Solicitors have now been instructed for the lease purchase on the Barclays building, to create a new space for our activities.

*We have been accepted by the Co-op as one of their causes for 2021, so can I please urge everyone to become a Co-op member, and choose us as your cause; we get funding for every £1 spent. Spread the word & get your friends, neighbours & family to do the same.

I'd love to say that by this time next month we will have resumed our normal activities, but I regret that seems unlikely. We will continue to use our resources to help our community in whatever way we can during this crisis – and beyond.