

Community Enterprises PL12 Report to Saltash Town Council, Year to February 2021.

We entered the first Lockdown on 18 March 2020, and suddenly our normal activities – Hopper buses, Dementia Voice groups, Community Shop, Community Hub – all ceased. Since then, our team of volunteers has worked tirelessly to help the residents of Saltash and PL12. Some of the highlights are outlined below;

Christmas Cheer Boxes

Our volunteers put together 68 fabulous boxes, which were delivered by our Hoppers during the festive period. The lucky recipients were all been nominated by Saltash residents, so we know they all went to people who deserved a little bit of Christmas Cheer.

We also gave out Christmas Cheer boxes from our Hub, which were well received.

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

Co op Local Community Fund

We've 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 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

This began during the first lockdown. 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 3 and will continue once we go back to some form of normality. 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 and prevent them going to landfill.

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 getting busier every week, and word is spreading fast! We never know what's coming in, but a typical week will see breads & baked goods, eggs, fresh fruit and veg, dried pasta, rice & noodles, tinned foods, cakes, cereal, filled rolls and UHT milk. It may not be perfect food, the apples might have blemishes- but it's all perfectly edible. To date, we have shared over 5 tonnes of food, to over 3,000 Fridge visitors.

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

Tuesday 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Wednesday 10.30 am – 12.30

Friday 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Saturday 10.30 am – 12.30

After Lockdown, the opening times will change; see our facebook page or contact the Hub for amended opening times.

We follow strict Covid guidelines, to keep our volunteers & users safe, so you will be expected to follow Hands-Face-Space guidelines.

We are part of the Saltash Food Alliance, working in partnership with other local organisations, churches and schools, to try and ensure everyone in Saltash has access to food.

We are also operating a Mobile Community Fridge on Tuesdays and Fridays; see our facebook page for routes and times, or contact us on 01752 848348 for details.

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 would love to hear from you; simply email hub@cepl12.co.uk for a volunteer application form.

Transport

Although our Hopper trips are not able to run at present, we are using the buses in other ways, to help the PL12 community. During Lockdown 3, we used the Hopper buses in collaboration with schools and other organisations to get food and essentials to residents who need it. We are currently offering a transport service to vaccination centres, and running a Mobile Community Fridge twice a week, accessing people who may find it hard to get to Fore St.

Dementia Voice

Sadly, all our Dementia Voice activities – the Café, walking group, singing group and Veteran’s group - remain on hold. We are looking forward to resuming services once it is safe to do so, welcoming friends old and new, who are living with dementia.

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. As we emerge from the Covid crisis, “shop local” is more important than ever; please support the local businesses that have supported you during the last year.

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 PL12 residents; particularly the over-60s, the clinically vulnerable and disabled, and those living alone or living with debilitating conditions. 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.

Community Life PL12

Support us!

During this year, our volunteers have been really active, supporting their community in whatever way they can. We have 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 evidence of support. **You can support us in a number of ways;**

Survey

We would be grateful if you could show your support by completing our short survey, which can be found on the back pages of our Community Life PL12 booklet, or you can get an electronic version by emailing us hub@cepl12.co.uk , or pick a copy up from the Community Hub. Every survey completed gives us a better chance of winning future funding, to help our community.

Membership

By becoming a member of Community Enterprises PL12, you will be part of our organisation, supporting our projects. Pick up a membership application form from the Hub, or email hub@cepl12.co.uk.

Co-op Community Fund

We are delighted to have been chosen as one of the local causes supported by the Co-Op, and we receive funding for every £ spent on Co-op products and services, whether in a store or through Co-op Funeralcare. If you're a Co-op member, please choose us as your local cause; and remember to use your Co-op membership card every time you shop! Follow the link <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/54005>.

The Future...

The pandemic has been the catalyst for change and expansion for CEPL12. We are investigating the possibility of taking on the empty Barclays Bank building, and transforming it into our new Hub, giving us the space to continue all our projects. We're determined to get something positive from the pandemic!

Thank You!

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, the Emergency Food Assistance Fund, SASF, and Cornwall Council.

Jo Baskott, Chair, Community Enterprises PL12

23/02/2021

End of Report.