

November 2024

# Torpoint Library and Community Hub



- This month we have supported a number of people in crisis.
- We have served over 100 bowls of soup in 5 weeks, as part of our warm hub free soup Friday.
- We held a Partnership meeting with other local professionals so we can work together, share resources, to support residents of Torpoint and surrounding areas.
- We have our Christmas Fair on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December, starting at 10am.
- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November, Father Christmas is coming to Bob's Barn at the library, organised by the Torpoint and Rame Lions Club.

## Halloween at the Library and Community Hub



## Thank you!

This November we were privileged to welcome around 4,500 people and children through the door!!



Warm Hub – has served over 100 bowls of soup

We said Goodbye and Good Luck to one of our amazing volunteers! Claire has volunteered at the Torpoint Library and Community Hub for over a year. Claire said she owes so much to the library as 18 months ago she barely left her house, when her anxiety was at its highest. Claire said she joined the Knit and Natter group, made friends and then was encouraged to volunteer in Drecklys café! Now after her newfound confidence, Claire has got a dream job working in a local dog café and store! Good Luck! If you want to volunteer with us, contact us.



Cassie, our volunteer knitted these amazing sugar pot holders!



Cornwall Community Foundation visited us to meet groups and individuals to talk about funding that is available for community projects.

## **Torpoint Library and Community Hub update for December - Development and Localism Committee.**

### **Partnership meeting**

We held a partnership meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November. The purpose of the meeting was to understand who delivers what services locally and to be able to share resources and work collaboratively. Attending was, Volunteer Cornwall, Christians Against Poverty (CAP), CHAT, Cornwall Community Gateway, Social Prescriber, The Peninsula Trust, East Cornwall Primary Care Network, members of the Community Mental Health Team (CMHT), IPS Employment Specialist, Torpoint and Rame Foodbank, Peninsula Trust, Volunteer from the library and me. The Clerk chaired the meeting, and everyone was asked to give a little update on the services they provide. The next meeting will be in January 2025.

### **Advice and support**

From our partnership meeting it was identified that there is a gap in services, around support for people filling in forms and knowing what benefits they are entitled to.

Lynne who works at the library has a friend who worked for the CAB and is now retired and looking for something to do. I met with him last week, and he is very keen to offer some support on a voluntary basis at the library. He described himself as a first responder around advice and support. He will also be happy to support people with forms and will start one morning a week after Christmas.

### **Managing the library and the team**

Having been in post for 3 months, its clear to see that all the staff have their own specific skills, interests and all bring something unique to the day-to-day job. It is like no other job in my opinion, as each day brings something different. It requires staff to be able to work in a flexible way, adjusting to the nature of enquiries, support, questions, issues and crisis situations that can arise. The team are excellent at doing this.

What is needed in this very fluid environment is for me to make sure that everyone has everything they need to support them to do what is required operationally on a daily basis. We are compiling a number of case studies that will help us make sure everyone knows who to sign post people to and there is a lot we can learn from each other!

I am also creating 3 monthly plans to make sure that some of our other areas of work, are kept on schedule, I have listed some of the work areas/projects below.

### **Library projects for the new year.**

- Exploring Arts Council funding and projects, for example, bringing a book to life through acting, embracing the diversity of cultures in Torpoint, Ukraine nursery rhymes translated into English for example.

- Health and Wellbeing events. Working with Healthy Cornwall during January, February and March, we will be offering health checks at the library. Also health and wellbeing day.
- Engaging with schools targeting families, raising awareness around joining the library online, and all the activities/support that the library offers.
- Going into older people's accommodation, starting with Albion Court, to make sure we are promoting that we can deliver books, or ask what books people are interested in and take a regular box of books for people to borrow. As well as promoting joining the library online and all the other activities and support the library offers.
- Sensory boxes – exploring sensory books/neurodiversity resources.
- Dyslexia friendly library- working towards making the library an easier place for anyone with dyslexia to find their books, with a dyslexia champion.
- Book review wall.
- Supporting a selection events/initiatives put forward by CC library.
- Cornwall Community Gateway has offered in the New Year to deliver some training to people who struggle completing online forms.

Each member of staff will be involved with certain projects, and this will be agreed at their appraisals.

### **Volunteers**

We have recently had several people come forward to be volunteer. One lady is being trained to work in the café and the other lady, has been trained to help with the books. Now that we will be back to a full team as of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, training and recruitment for a few more volunteers will take place mid-January.

### **Christmas Fair**

The Christmas Fair will take place at the library on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December starting at 10am. We have 17 people booked in to sell their goodies.

### **Internship**

The Clerk has arranged a meeting with Jo Ledger from Youth Employment, for a meeting about recruitment and internships. The meeting is on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December.