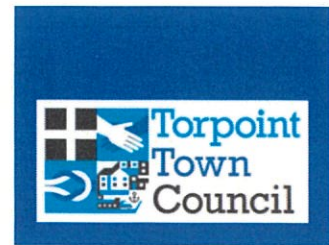


# Torpoint Library and Community Hub



**Summer at Torpoint Library & Community Hub has been busy and lots of fun! We welcomed 10,000 people through the door!**

**Bringing people together from across the globe, with food!**

In August we had a wonderful community event, involving food! Senior Managers and Directors from the Library Service, our Deputy Town Mayor Councillor Chris Goodman, along with members from the Resettlement Team, attended. Residents attended from our Afghan community, who have resettled in Torpoint, with two tasty dishes of food. Pilau rice and chicken, and a sweet dish, similar to rice pudding, called, Firnee. A lady from Ukraine who has resettled in Torpoint, demonstrated what people can do with cabbage and served some tasty treats! Gwen from the Library made a traditional victoria sandwich cake, along with a demonstration on how to make scones. Kate from the library shared a delicious quiche and chocolate scones.

Kathy demonstrated how to pickle garlic and make Kimchi. Everyone got involved in peeling garlic and pickling. It was a fantastic afternoon!



**100 Children have joined the Summer Reading Challenge from Torpoint!! WOW!**

**We've had lots of great activities happening at Torpoint Library and Community Hub over the summer months - here are just a few...**



Pebble Painting



Spaghetti Sensory Play

Simple Sewing and Appliqué



**We all had a HOOT when the Screech Owl Sanctuary came to visit**



Our volunteers have run 3 gardening sessions for all ages

**Volunteers! We have 4 more volunteers that have completed their Basic Food Hygiene**

**Table Tennis was great fun!**





## **Torpoint Library and Community Hub update for July/August 2025, for the Development and Localism Committee September 2025**

### **Saturday opening pilot, June to August - Findings**

#### **The purpose of the pilot was to target different demographics.**

The pilot project for opening Saturdays during June, July and August, has been completed. The team have recorded on a spreadsheet; the purpose of customer visits and the number of people visiting. This information has been reviewed by the library and community hub manager and these are the findings.

#### **Program for Saturdays in June/July/August**

The program of activities for the pilot was designed to target different demographics. Those being, young people, parents of children with SEN who might need a quieter space. Along with offering sensory story time. Table tennis was offered on some of the Saturdays, to encourage teenagers into the library space. Dungeons and Dragons was also offered, to target young people. Along with making the library more accessible for people who work.

Saturday opening was promoted on Facebook. Also, on our posters in the library.

#### **Findings -D&D is Dungeons and Dragons for teenagers.**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Number of customers</b>	<b>New or returning customers</b>	<b>Reason for visit</b>	<b>Activities to reach different demographics</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1 new customer. 34 returning who visit in the week.</b>	<b>1 for D&amp;D, 12 café, 1 needed info, 4 books, 16 free food, use of facilities, play area, 1 Archives</b>	<b>2 for table tennis. 1 for D&amp;D</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1 new customer, 52 returning who visit in the week.</b>	<b>12 books, 16 café, 4 summer reading challenge, 1 D&amp;D, 2 children's play area, 16 free food, papers, 2 asked for help, visited with friend,</b>	<b>0 for sensory story, 1 for D&amp;D</b>



<b>August</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>2 new customers, the rest were returning who visit in the week.</b>	<b>14 books, 5 needed information, 29 visiting café, 3 visited archives, 5 play area, 2 for D&amp;D, 19 free food, digital support, papers, recycling bags.</b>	<b>2 for D&amp;D, table tennis cancelled due to dangerous weather, 0 sensory story.</b>
---------------	-----------	--	---	---

### **Recommendation**

Most people that attended on the Saturdays were people that can attend and do visit the library and community hub in the week. The free food is available to everyone, there are a handful of people that are known to staff, that we hold food back for in the week.

The results prove that people will come to the library if we are open every Saturday. However, this cohort, also visit in the week. It does prove we are meeting a need, but it's the same need we are meeting, Monday to Friday. Reaching the different demographics has not really been achieved.

To entice young people into the library will require more work and partnership working. The table tennis is a great incentive, and it will continue to be promoted for half terms. Working with youth workers, from CC and Action for Children, in Q3 of this year, will help the library and community hub manager, firm up the offer we can make to young people.

Working with families of SEN children and offering sensory story time, can take place during the week. A volunteer and staff training morning will be organised with Beat4autism, to widen knowledge and link with families who may start to attend the library, for sensory story time. The library team will also work closer with families that we know already use the library and talk to them about how we can develop our offer to SEN children/young people.

It is the Library and Community Hub Managers recommendation that we do not open more than one Saturday a month. The team's energy will focus on how we can develop our offers and deliver them during the week.

### **Summer Activities and the Summer Reading Challenge**

The summer activities have been going well, with a visit from Screech Owl Sanctuary, Clay bug making, Sensory Play, Nature story time, Lego Club, Rhyme Time, Cooking, Sewing and a silent disco. The activities for plus 13-year-olds, cooking, table tennis and sewing, which was a pilot, were not well attended, however, we did have people enquire about them. This is an offer we will continue to work on.

Over 100 children have signed up to the Summer Reading Challenge this year. We are now seeing children who have completed the reading challenge, as well as

incentives to encourage them to read 6 books, there is a certificate and free swim voucher! The library and community hub manager would like to look at a bigger incentive for next year, maybe finishing with a picnic in the park for all that joined and completed.

### **Pain Café update**

The Pain Café will run the last Thursday of the month, starting from September 25th, 4-6pm. Two members of staff will undertake the 10 Footsteps Training. The Library and Community Hub Manager has been in discussions with Imagine If, who helped set up most of the Pain Cafés in Cornwall, as well as the Manager at Rame Practice doctors' surgery and the Social Prescriber in Liskeard.

### **Menopause support sessions**

These sessions are running well, and a respectable number of women are attending them on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, from 6pm. The sessions will run for another 4 months and then we will review if we need to run them again.

### **Library Outreach work.**

The library organised a Drop-In session at Albion Court to talk to residents about all the activities and support the library offers. Along with what services, like the singing group, residents would like to run at Albion Court.

Around 15 residents attended. There are a number of bed bound residents that might require books, so another visit with the concierge is being planned. Singing for Friendship and Memory will start at Albion Court after the summer holiday.

Findings – Residents do have access to a number of books on site where they live. Mostly people know what is on offer at the library and some residents are regular visitors.

Singing for Friendship and Memory is what residents really would like, and this will happen every other week for an hour from September.

### **Community Hub Grant**

The Community Hub Q1 report was submitted to Volunteer Cornwall. This is to provide evidence that we are delivering what we said we would, for the purposes of the grant.

Feedback from 30 surveys were presented in the report, which noted the impact on people, who visit the library and community hub, or attend an activity like, Pilates. One survey was from a regular user of the library who wrote that "he didn't think anyone cared if he was dead or alive." It went on to say, "well maybe after visiting the library, people do care!"

As this person handed the survey to staff, the team spoke to them to ensure they were getting all the support they needed.

Volunteer Cornwall were pleased with the report.

### **Chief and Author, Karen Anne Murry.**

Karen Anne Murray, who was visiting her brother Cllr Lambert Keise, attended the library on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August. Karen, talked about her book *Tea Table* and what inspired her to write. Karen served West Coast Scones and shared stories from chef training in Birmingham, life and tea times in California and her culinary connections to Torpoint. Around 20 residents attended.

