

Torpoint Library and Community Hub update – April 2026 report for the Development and Localism Committee.

Easter School Holidays

The Easter school holiday activities went very well, with several days, reaching 400 people through the door! Activities are free, which is important with the cost of living still impacting many families. Our garden volunteers were busy with families and children, potting up vegetables and sunflowers. Now that Awenek has closed, we will not have them running an art session in the children's holidays. A young man has offered to help with children's activities; this will relieve pressures on the team. All children will be always accompanied by adults, so a volunteer is never on their own with a child.

People in crisis

The impact of the new housing regulations on private landlords, has increased the number of support for people needing to register on Homechoice, along with accessing Housing Options, Cornwall Council. For the team, guidance sheets are being worked on, for when the library manager is not on site.

Hub Grant – Stroke Group, Men's Group, Suicide Project

Notification has been sent that there is funding this year for Hubs, which is great news! The core grant of £8,000 has not changed, however, there are a few more small hubs that have been created so this might reduce a little. There are still the same strands that we can apply under for extra money, Live Well, Grow Well, Age Well and Die Well. New projects will be a Stroke support group, men's walking group and there will be a suicide project that is being led by Healthy Cornwall at the moment. All projects are in collaboration with CHAT and the Social Prescriber.

Drecklys Café

The café now has an increased menu. Thursday's offer is Jacket Potatoes along with scones. Friday's there is an offer of a 'Friday Special' if our main cook Denise is in, or scones if she is not in. Along with the offer of more homemade cakes. An increased menu relies on having volunteers that are happy to cook, and we have two that are thankfully. Another lady is now making us homemade cakes, so we have four cake makers. This hopefully will increase the profits of the café a little. More importantly our customers love homemade cake, scones and jacket potatoes!

Volunteers

Two 19-year-old young people have signed up as volunteers. Skylar who wants to more to his CV, and would like to join the police, is enjoying helping with the books on Tuesday's. Emily, who was going to do the books on a Friday morning, did not like that role and now would like to help tidy the library. A new lady is being trained to take over the Monday morning shift in the café and a former volunteer has returned to help with books. We have no shortage of eager volunteers!
Everyone has been sent home with a volunteer appraisal form; to complete so we can gather some information on the benefits of volunteering.

Cornwall Library Manager's meeting – talk about volunteers

The library manager has been invited on the 20th May to attend the Library Manager's meeting, to talk to other managers about volunteers. Not all libraries have volunteers, or if they do, not as many as the Torpoint Library. The library manager will focus on; the range of volunteering roles, when to DBS a volunteer, role profiles, inductions, how to keep volunteers, the benefits of volunteering.

Sensory session and Sensory Trail around the library

Following on from a session with volunteers and staff, delivered by Lizeta from Beat4Autism, a Sensory Family/individual session will be held in May. The session will give families tools to make affordable and fun sensory toys for either themselves or for children.

Along with a wonderful Sensory Trail around the library, which will include a sensory floor trail, sensory trail buddies, sensory touch items will be on walls, and a grounding station.

What was learnt when Lizeta ran a session for staff and volunteers, is that the library and community hub environment cannot be changed. For example, the coffee machine makes a noise, people are talking, singing, and laughing, children are playing. Sometimes the noise of the library can be overstimulating or overwhelming for neurodivergent individuals and the trail and grounding station is a grounding tool.

Plymouth Sound Marine Park Blue Sparks Initiative

This project is a Heritage based project which focuses on local spaces. Sam is a PHD student who has contacted the library manager to ask to run free workshop to interact with the community of Torpoint, focusing on how they engage with Plymouth Sound. There will also be a workshop and an awareness session.

Along side this, the Federation of the Old Cornwall Societies (OCS), is leading a project, The Tales of the Tide, in collaboration with the OCS of Callington, Torpoint and Saltash. This project has been divided up, and the federation are overseeing a part of the project that will deliver on a Saturday in July at the library, an Archaeology Workshop and a Poetry Workshop. The archaeology workshop will involve people having the opportunity to look at pottery collected along the Torpoint's water's edge. The poetry sessions, one for adults and one for children, will focus on poetry related to the sea.

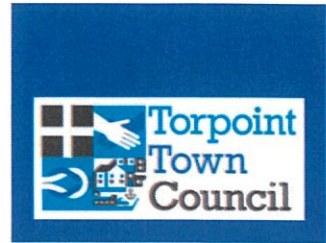
Food share event – 22nd of May

At the request of our Ukrainian ladies that come into the library, they are very keen for another, food share event, like what was organised with the Resettlement Team last year. These types of events bring people together by sharing food, language barriers are broken down and it's a nice community event. There are only a few families left in Torpoint from Afghanistan, we hope that they will attend this event again and bring some food to share.

Read Easy

Read Easy met with the library manager to discuss how the Torpoint Library can promote their work. The aim will be to find people that would like to learn to read, and this can include some of our Ukrainian ladies that have been learning English for 3 years and now want to learn to read and write English. Once we have found people who want to engage with Read Easy, a volunteer will be trained from the Torpoint area to support the individual.

Torpoint Library and Community Hub



We welcomed 4,866 people through the door!

We had LOADS of fun with our Easter Activities!



This Easter School Holidays we have had amazing fun! Lots of free activities for families.

Activities ranged from, Lego fun, more gardening sessions and potting up sessions for children and families, that links into our Grow Well and Live Well commitments.

Rhyme Time saw over 30 children ranging from 0-7, and as many parents, grandparents and carers. Everyone stayed for the morning! Adults enjoyed catching up with friends and children enjoyed having fun and games playing in our children's area and reading books. Easter Pudding cups were on offer as an activity and children enjoyed eating the results! Lots of glittery sheep creations were made on Thursday!



Young volunteers

We have recruited two young people who will volunteer with us at the Torpoint Library and Community Hub. Both Emily and Skyler, will start with helping us with the books. This will help them add to their CV and help them both gain more confidence.



Accessibility Video

We have a new Accessibility Video to help our existing and potential new customers, feel confident to visit us, knowing they can access all areas of the library and community hub.

You can find this video on our Torpoint Library and Community Hub Facebook page, the Torpoint Town Council, YouTube channel, and the Torpoint Town Council website. Or scan the QR code on your smart device.



Our cake makers bring smiles to peoples faces with delicious homemade cakes and scones! Volunteers who have completed their Food Hygiene, and are expert cake makers, bake our cakes. Our volunteer Rob has been taught by our own Kate, to make cheese scones! We share our skills and learn from each other here!

