

## Perranporth Library Report January 2023

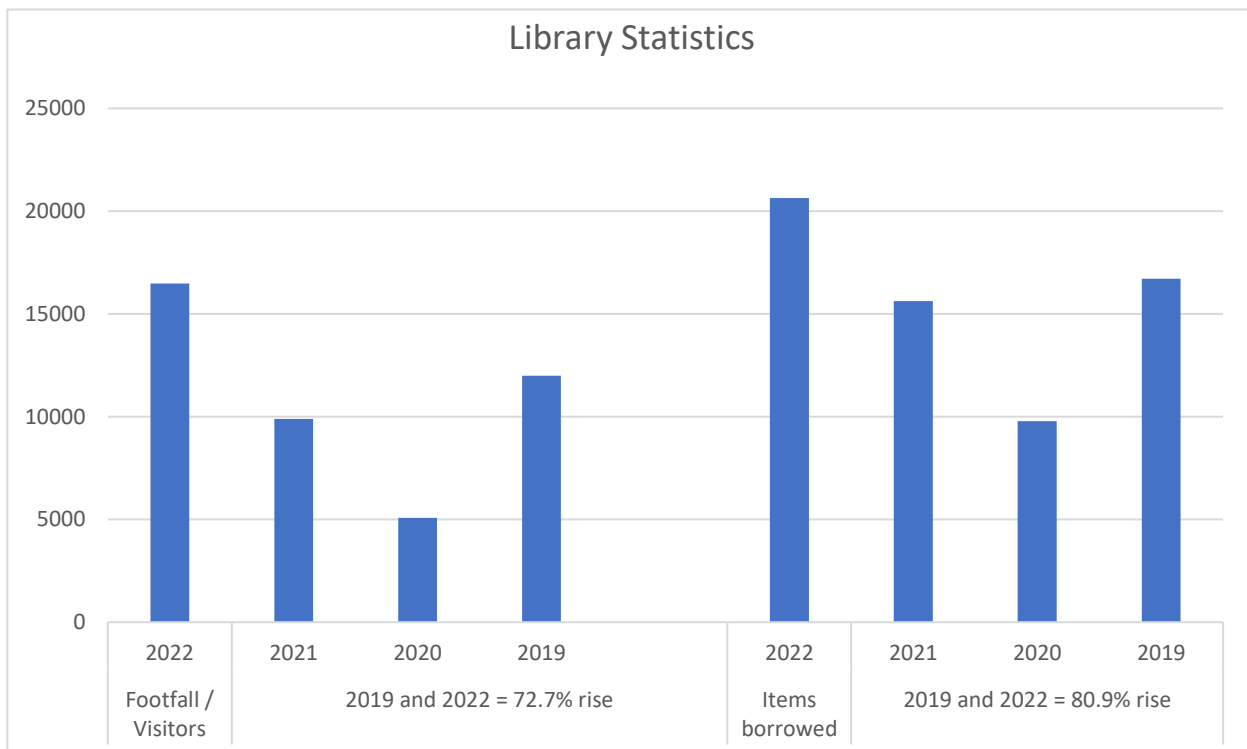
### Statistics - Looking back on 2022

This past year has proved to be very successful. One measure of this is the year-on-year increase in customer numbers using the library i.e. footfall, and the volume of items that are being borrowed. We are also seeing an increase in the number of people who are signing up to become a new library member. In 2019 there were 135 joining and in 2022 we had 226 new joiners, this equates to almost a 60% increase, with the total of Perranporth's current library borrowers now averaging 1500.

There have been over 70 people attending a monthly Book Group and over 140 coming along to the monthly Jigsaw Swap session held on a Tuesday morning.

Our social media posts are now averaging over 5500 views a month on both Facebook and Instagram. Using both platforms means that we can use videos more effectively alongside information and 'poster' style posts. This form of communication is still proving to be an effective means of promoting the library and its activities.

**The Sandy Toes group** has seen an amazing **66% increase** in attendance this year with families making attendance a regular part of their weekly routine. I was asked to report this success to Cornwall Libraries at the end of January (see article below).



Footfall / Visitors	2022	16477
	2021	9887
	2020	5084
	2019	11994
Items borrowed	2022	20645
	2021	15623
	2020	9781
	2019	16710
New borrowers	2022	226
	2021	137
	2020	84
	2019	135

The year-on-year figures clearly show that the library is growing in popularity and that there is a clear need within the community for this service. Harder to quantify, but no less important, are the numbers of people who require assistance with computer and printing needs. Many customers use our library as a 'safe space', one where they can receive a friendly smile and a warm welcome.

A National Initiative called Warm Spaces has allowed us to encourage customers to take their time, take a seat, have a chat and get warm. This is all adding to the sense of community within the Parish. There is still much to be achieved, not least in getting the message out to our community that there is a library in Perranporth! I still have conversations with people who have only just found out we exist!

### **Sandy Toes success story and an Early Years funding bid**

Cornwall Libraries have been asked to put together a funding bid to support Early years provision in Cornwall. Perranporth was one of 5 libraries in Cornwall who was asked to feedback any information that will help to achieve this funding goal.

The specific questions asked were:

- A paragraph or so about anything from your site which indicates a decrease in literature levels in under 5's and/or an increase in demand for provision.
- Have numbers for rhymetimes and storytimes significantly increased? Is there more demand for visits from EY settings? Anything else you can think of which would support the need for increased EY provision?
- Any stats would be ideal but anecdotal evidence would also be useful.

I was delighted to send information about our Sandy Toes group and the fantastic increase in demand we have seen in recent years. I have shared both my email and Emma Moles' reply below. The Library team is definitely on the right track in terms of both stats and social outcomes and I have shared this excellent result with Abby and Jasmine.

**My email to** Emma Moles, Young People's Service Manager for

Culture, Leisure & Libraries at Cornwall Council

"Perranporth library has been running an under 5's group called **Sandy Toes** for four years. So many people have been attending that I have created 2 one-hour sessions that run consecutively on a Friday morning. We do several story book readings at each session, together with rhyme time/music & movement with a craft / colouring activity all based around the theme of the morning's book(s). We also offer refreshments; this has proved a very good way of allowing time for the families to interact, the children to make friends and our staff to be able to do any signposting about enquiries e.g. joining a pre-school or primary school etc. Our weekly numbers have continued to increase and the stats for the end of 2022 show we had 585 attending during the year, whereas in 2021 there were only 386! **That's almost a 66% increase!**

Parents and carers have expressed their delight at finding a free reading group available in Perranporth, and especially one that is connected to the library. We have seen families attending who would do not normally frequent libraries (their words, not mine). They bring their children in to browse and read books after the session at Sandy Toes and we've seen lots of children being signed up for their own library cards! After Covid we found that children took time to learn to respond to each other, and when there were other adults around. Parents have said that the Sandy Toes group has helped their children not only start developing an interest in stories and books, but that the sessions have aided in the 'normalising' of their children's behaviour, together with helping interaction with adults outside of their family group.

I believe that Early Years provision within a library setting helps not only the children but also supports parents and families. Encouraging active engagement in your child's reading, from the earliest years, builds a framework for parents that helps them understand their children's educational needs. A considerable number of the parents in Cornwall, especially in our rurally deprived coastal setting, value and rely on the support libraries give them. One of the major aspects for joining a library is the fact that the books are free! Here at Perranporth I've seen parents of infants sign up for a library card just so that they can save money not buying expensive new books.

I hope my comments and thoughts have aided the bid for an EY provision in Cornwall."

**Her reply was very encouraging:**

"That's a brilliant summary! Thank you Linda, really helpful."

## Staffing



**Abby has decided to leave the library** after 3 ½ years as a valued member of the library team. She and her husband Chris are going into business together and are opening a vegan/vegetarian food outlet in Perranporth. We will miss her but wish her all the very best in this new venture.

The role has been advertised with a deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> January. Interviews are scheduled to take place during the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> February.

Abby is seen here with the prize we awarded to the best dressed pirate aged under 11 (see report article on Events).

## Volunteers



**On November 5<sup>th</sup>** we welcomed a young lady who is volunteering on Saturday mornings in the library. She is working towards her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award and has only 3 weeks remaining before her time with us ends. She has been a reliable

and enthusiastic, using her initiative and skills to great effect. We will miss her when she goes.

At present we only have 2 volunteers during the weekday opening times as our longest serving volunteer of 3 years has chosen to 'retire'. We will miss Sue on Tuesdays as she has been an excellent member of our team. We're planning a trip out for her with coffee and cake as a thank you.

## A Diary of events...

### September



**Rick Candler** dropped into the library whilst on his charity walk from John O'Groats to Landsend to use our computers, printing and Wi-Fi. He was walking to raise money for Alzheimers Research UK and chose to end his marathon effort in Cornwall.

He also plans to use his daily blogs to write a book about his 'marathon', with 100% of the proceeds going to this charity.

## October



**Black History month** was an opportunity for us to showcase lots of wonderful books from all the sections in the library; Junior Fiction and Non-Fiction, together with a wide range of Adult books too.

We often use a specific event to promote material that has not been borrowed recently. This intentional practice of raising awareness of library stock has encouraged our borrowing figures to continue to improve.



**The Summer Reading Challenge** ended this year when I visited both Perranporth and Goonhavern Primary schools towards the end of October. I presented the 42 children who had completed the challenge with certificates and prizes. The pupils in both schools were very excited when I gave an interactive assembly all about the challenge's theme of gadgets.

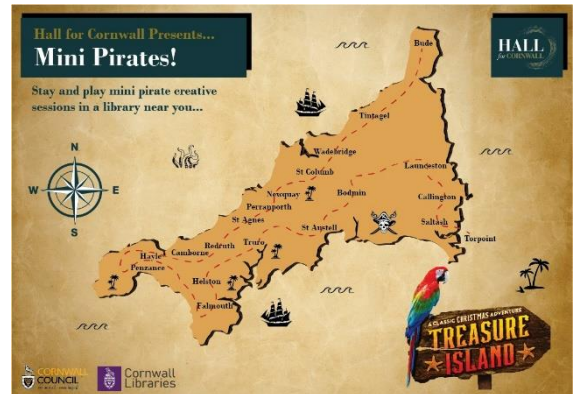
There was lots of excitement from the children when they saw others getting their certificates and I'm hopeful lots more eager young readers will sign up this year for what I know will be an eventful summer. I have been invited back to both schools to introduce this year's reading challenge at a special 'reading' assembly I will organise in June.

## Cast from The Hall for Cornwall's Treasure Island came to Perranporth Library

Cornwall Libraries worked in partnership with the Hall for Cornwall to provide a free event for every library in Cornwall. Cast members from the show Treasure Island came to the library during October half term to run a free, creative, pirate activity hour!

With over 30 adults and children it was a great event. There were prizes for the best dressed pirate, crafts, singing and even piratical dancing and we couldn't pass up this opportunity to join in the fun. Our thanks to the two fantastic 'crew'

who worked tirelessly to entertain and inspire those who attended. Great fun, if a little exhausting.



Cornwall Libraries hope that this partnership with the Hall for Cornwall will continue and that there will be another fantastic event opportunity later this year. This years' collaboration was inspired by the Hall's show, Treasure Island.



## November



In November we marked Remembrance Day with a display of books that included some that tell of what happened in Cornwall during both world wars. These attracted a lot of interest.

We continue to promote through social media items of interest and the main focus for November was Road Safety week. Again we were able to promote this by directing folk to the free online materials available by following the links included in the media post.

November also saw the start of our charity book sale, this time in aid of the charity **Shelter Box** and their work in Ukraine.

This charity was chosen because it is based locally, our book sale coinciding with the charity's social media request for aid to help victims of the war. Withdrawn stock was wrapped in bright paper and folk could have a 'lucky dip' book for a donation. The money raised, standing at around £35 to date, will go towards providing equipment for families to help make their homes warmer through the winter months.

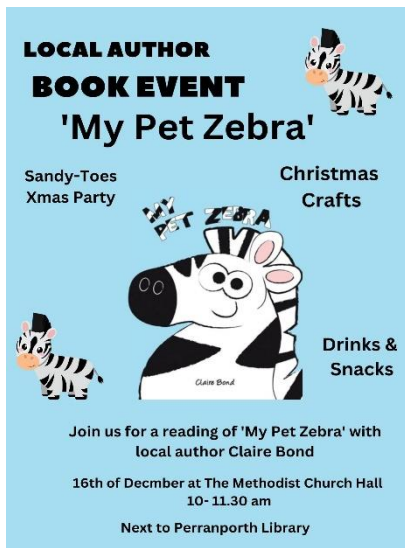


## December



We had a children's author **Claire Bond** visit our Sandy Toes group before Christmas. An author of over 11 books, and counting, she approached me earlier this year and we arranged a visit for her to tell her charming story about 'My Pet Zebra'.

The children decorated their own pet zebras with Christmas 'sparkle' and had a fun time listening to the very funny story.



This was Claire's first time reading one of her books to her target audience. She enjoyed it so much that we've invited her back to read us her new book when it is published in July!



**At Christmas** I created a tree for the Christmas tree Festival at St Piran's Church with the theme 'Snuggling down for Winter'. We also promoted the late-night shopping initiative in Perranporth.



## January



**The start of a new year** and a good opportunity to show an example of the type of resources that Cornwall Libraries supplies us with on a regular basis. With pressure growing on our local NHS and GP surgeries, this information leaflet encourages people to be aware that the GP might not be the only person they could make an appointment with to discuss their medical needs.

As the leaflet is quite small, I copied and enlarged it to create a display, teaming it up with books on health, diet and cooking.



## In other news...

I have had a busy few months, with numerous housekeeping and building issues arising. The PAT testing and Fire extinguisher tests have been carried out, resulting in the library needing a new fridge and a replacement extinguisher. As the Museum are responsible for the Fire Alarm system in the building, they have recently had to have a replacement Fire Alarm board fitted. This has meant the library smoke detectors, fire points and safety lights have also been checked and defective items replaced. Cornwall Council are also in discussions with BT to improve the internet connectivity in the library and fit a Super-Fast line. I have contacted the Museum regarding this.

Linda Jones – Library Manager

January 2023