Y Lolfa Llyfrgell Gymenudol Community Library

Annual report April 2019- March 2020

The Community Library has had another busy and successful year. The Library has opened for 241 sessions (30% increase) and has benefited from 1,420 hours of volunteer time (3% decrease). There are currently 2,997 library visits per year (27% increase) and Lolfa collection loans of 332 (21% decrease). (The number of issues from the NPTCBC collection remained stable at 1,909 in 18/19).

The Trustees met on 29/9/19, 18/11/19, and 20/1/20.

The Celtic Energy Community Fund and National Lottery Community Fund grants allowed us to continue to employ a part-time project worker to work with book clubs. A grant from the Community Infrastructure Fund Wales allowed us to purchase a selection of self-help Books on Prescription covering mental health issues. We also received funding from the NPTCBC Third Sector Fund covering core costs and a donation from GCG Community Council. Our main fundraising events were the Christmas Craft Fair and a bookfair.

Activities in the library have been art, craft, Ancestry, local history, creative writing, Caffi Cymraeg, Lego club, and French conversation. Book clubs: First Readers, Young Readers, Yellow, Aqua, Green, Blue, Purple, Teen, Young Adult, Adult, and Welsh Adult. We took part in the Burns By Your Side Reading Dogs Scheme with Liz Webb and Zane helping children improve their confidence and fluency in reading.

The summer reading challenge theme was Space Race; thanks to a grant from NPTCBC Youth Fund the Reading Hacks devised activities including the Space Amaze and Space Off Bake Off. We partnered with Canolfan Maerdy in the NPTCBC Food and Fun scheme to provide meals over these summer events.

We took part in the Council for Voluntary Service for Neath Port Talbot's Volunteering Awards in March, receiving a group award for our volunteers and an individual award for Anthony Hall.

At the end of the year, our activities were affected by the Coronavirus, and we closed the library in mid March and cancelled our scheduled meetings. We have since shifted to book clubs and French meeting via Zoom and are planning to operate a click and collect service.

Martin Locock
Hon. Chair
Presented at AGM 28th July 2020