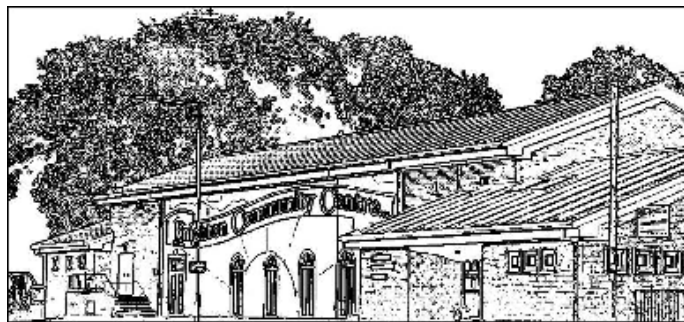




# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



## Contents

Chairperson’s Report 2021.....	2
Staff.....	4
Grants and Donations .....	4
Safeguarding .....	5
Hirings .....	5
Building .....	10
Knighton Festival.....	10
Garden Project.....	10
Volunteer Hub.....	11
Community Hub .....	11
Community Cohesion Group.....	14
Knighton Library Friends (KLF) .....	14
Library .....	15
Stay and Play @ the Comm .....	16
Family Centre .....	16



## Chairperson's Report 2021

This is my third and last report as Chairman of the Community Centre, and I would like to thank all the volunteers, staff, Committee members and the Knighton Community for your support in what has been a rewarding but very challenging and difficult year, reflecting the problems of the pandemic. We could not have achieved so much in the past 12 months without the unstinting support of our volunteers and staff, especially since lockdown. The latest research on the development of community hubs shows that the development of a diverse and enthusiastic volunteer group is the most important success factor, and we are very fortunate to have a very good group of volunteers. We are also very grateful for the help of our individual donors and organizations giving us grants or donations in kind. This has enabled us to carry on providing services during the pandemic. Our local donors have been very generous and include the Tower House Gallery, Knighton and District Rotary Club, Radnor Hills, Bill and Cally Ware and numerous anonymous donors.

We also thank PAVO and Powys County Council for their unstinting support especially Councillor Angelique Williams, Councillor Rachel Powell, Cabinet Member for Children, our Mayor Chris Branford and Deputy Mayor Mark Coxill, Kay Thomas Principal Librarian, Hannah Isaacson, our District Librarian, Joanna Harris, Commissioning Manager for Children, Michele Muireasgha Assistant Director, PAVO and Dave Coffey, our Community Connector until August 2021 who is also based at the Community Centre. We are also most grateful for the support of the Knighton and East Radnor Food Bank, Knighton and Knucklas in Bloom / Wales in Bloom, TVEG, the Offa's Dyke Centre, the Tower House Gallery, Men's Shed, Knighton and District Rotary Club, Knighton Town Council, the Knighton Museum, KINDA, Churches Together, Reverend Petra Goodband, Knucklas and Knighton in Bloom, Wylcwm Street Surgery, the Little Black Sheep Café, The Flower Box, the Coop, A J Pugh Butchers, Lou's Baked Treats and Knighton and District Community Support in working together to provide services for people in Knighton.

Highlights of the past 12 months include:

- Volunteer and hub development by Annie England
- Community newsletter led by Annie England and Rafi Mohammed
- Development of volunteer group led by Annie England
- Literary Festival 2020 by Fiona Roper, Gillian Forrester and others
- Flu vaccination clinic assisted by volunteers for Wylcwm Street Surgery
- Stay and Play and the piloting of a Family Centre service by Chris Martin and Cats Cadwallader
- Summer of Fun activities led by Hannah Isaacson, Ceri Brown and Chris Martin
- Work on the Community Garden by Ceri Brown, Chris Martin and Phil Grierson
- Science and nature group led by Ceri Brown and Chris Martin
- Community Cohesion Group and film led by Kevin Dare with film developed by Robert Clough
- Flicks in the Sticks led by Sheila Taylor
- Establishment of the Information Service by Annie England and Cats Cadwallader



- Work undertaken by the Library and Community Centre to re-open including Library Café, Art Group, Weight and Exercise Group and Thursday Drop In led by Annie England and Wendy Emerson (previously Louise Hardwick) and the Car Boot sales led by Ceri Brown and Annie England
- Donations and grants raised during the pandemic
- Training events held for the local community in safeguarding
- Exemplary management of the kitchen by Liz Reynolds
- Exceptional support from our Treasurer Bob Andrews
- Continuing market led by Louise Hardwick, Ceri Brown and Steph Griffiths

Our paid staff have worked extremely hard to re-open the Community Centre which we achieved in August 2020. This was a complex task because of the rapidly changing guidance and regulations and the need to implement many changes including a track and trace system and an intensive cleaning schedule. There has been a gradual increase in activities within the Community Centre, and hirings have been returning. A key aim in the past 12 months has been to develop activities to enable people to meet safely.

We are very fortunate to have a skilled and committed group of staff. Louise Hardwick made a significant contribution to the Community Centre through the market, volunteer hub and soup project. She has been promoted to the post of Development Officer for Community Halls in PAVO. We were very pleased to recruit Steph Griffiths to the post of Volunteer Coordinator. We were also pleased to recruit Cats Cadwallader as Information Assistant and Wendy Emerson, a long-standing volunteer as Soup Coordinator. One of the recent improvements has been the development of services for families. Chris Martin, now our Playleader has developed Stay and Play and is now opening pilot Family Centre sessions with Cats Cadwallader including outreach sessions on the Knighton estates and Knucklas. We have appointed Chris Fox-James to replace Chris Martin as Caretaker. Finally, we are very grateful Diane Watkins, Helen Cunnington and Michele Kuegler to keeping the Community Centre very clean and safe throughout the pandemic.

I am retiring as Chair but hope to carry on as a committee member. There have been some changes to our Committee and we were pleased to welcome Evelyn Scott, Simon Gill and County Councillor Angelique Williams to our Committee. Phil Grierson has sadly decided to resign from the Committee after 5 years service and I thank him for his contribution.

We are also very grateful to our external funders.

We have asked for individual reports from staff and volunteers, so I will let each report speak for itself.



## Staff

Our paid staff have increased in the past 12 months and our staff team is:

		<b>Role</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Funding source</b>
Ceri	Brown	Centre Administrator	22	Comm
Catherine	Cadwallader	Information Assistant / Playleader	33	Arwain – Leader / Social Value Development Forum
Helen	Cunnington	Cleaner		Comm
Wendy	Emerson	Lunch Co-ordinator	5	Wales Lottery
Annie	England	Hub Coordinator	30	Arwain – Leader programme
Chris	Fox-James			Comm
Steph	Griffiths	Volunteer Co-Ordinator / Market	8	PAVO
Louise	Hardwick	Volunteer Coordinator / Market	9	Left 31/8/21 to work for PAVO
Michelle	Kuegler	Cleaner		Left 30/4/2021
Chris	Martin	Playleader	9	Wales Lottery / Social Value Development Forum
Diane	Watkins	Cleaner		Comm

## Grants and Donations

The Community Centre has been successful in gaining funding from the following funders:

Community garden development	Powys County Council / Welsh Government
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Information Service / Hub Development	Arwain – Leader EU Funding programme
Drop In Stay and Play	Awards for All, Wales Lottery
Volunteer Grant	PAVO
Cleaning grant (library)	PAVO
Classes in weight and exercise, Art	PAVO
Family Centre Pilot	 PAVO SOCIAL VALUE FORUM DEVELOPMENT FUND
Community Cohesion film	Community Cohesion Programme (Ceredigion/Powys County Councils/ Welsh Government)

We are waiting for an outcome of an application to the UK Renewal Fund through PAVO and Powys County Council to develop youth service activities in Knighton and we are undertaking preparatory work with representatives from Knighton Town Council. If the bid is successful, and we are able to recruit suitably qualified staff, we hope to undertake a wide consultation of young people to enable us to develop a plan to re-establish youth services in Knighton.

We are also looking for funding to enable us to continue with the Hub/Information project and the Family Centre pilot after funding ceases in January and April 2022.

### Safeguarding

Over the past year we have arranged for staff and volunteers to undertake training with NPSCC Cymru. The training was also open to staff and volunteers from other organisations and was well attended. We have also completed a bullying procedure. Safeguarding is well established in the Community Centre.

Please remember, safeguarding is everyone’s concern. If you have a concern it is far better to speak to someone (informally, if you wish) than let matters slip than latter regretting not doing something.

If you would like further help, or have any comments on safeguarding issues, please contact the centre safeguarding officer.

Kevin Dare  
Safeguarding Officer

### Hirings

#### MARKET

From October the Community Centre has taken over the running of the market. It's a very well established market and runs alongside a café led by our community centre volunteers. We have 50 stalls that are on our list with 30 regular spots although as mentioned in previous AGM's the summer months are always quieter. Since taking over we have 3 new stalls coming in and items range from food, stoneware to skincare and all in between. We are looking to bring in more artisan providers to encourage new shoppers.



Working with Steph we will now be offering a free table at every market to any charitable organization

that wishes to promote themselves.

Plans are in place to hold activities for children to run alongside the market during the October & Christmas markets as well as the Library holding Art sessions 4 times a year with a market.

We are still following covid guidelines with sanitiser, social distancing, masks having to be worn and track and trace.

We promote via the newspaper, facebook and having posters and boards around town. I am working on getting more views on the facebook page and advertising the businesses with their own posts and engaging more with followers.

We tried car boots at the centre, the first in June and the latest was alongside the market on the 28th August. This event saw 300 people come through the market and this, plus feedback from the market vendors, we will be looking at holding a car boot, once a month on the last market date from April - September next year.

### **Christmas Countdown Online**

This was an online countdown where we worked with local community groups and businesses to bring some much-needed Christmas Spirit to all. Churches together created The Christmas story via zoom - very entertaining and a second installment is coming this year. We also had installments from The Flower Box, Knighton Rugby Club, Teme Spirits, Restorella, Stay and Play, The Library, Rogers Christmas past video, Knighton Town Silver Band, Soup making with John & Louise plus more. We are looking forward to this years and some in person events will be available.

Hirers- October 2020 - 2021

After the last AGM we were put into another lockdown which shut the centre until May of this year which meant that hirings were down.

We were allowed to open for specific sessions such as Health care including the Flu clinics and Powys health board sessions, polling, children's items and exercise classes.

March saw the hearing aid clinic return but with minimal contact and Mind returned in July with 1 session a month. Drop-in services returned as face to face appointments in September and this has been a welcome sight- These include POBL, housing, job Centre and Prime Cymru

During the school summer holidays we worked with the Library to hold Summer fun sessions. We had Play Radnor in for a few sessions plus volunteers and paid staff. The activities were funded by Powys County Council and the Welsh government. Some of the sessions included a planetarium, Animal man and arts and Crafts. This brought many more users to the centre which may bring more hirings in. It was successful and parents are asking what the next events are and are joining other hirings.

The planned Science and Nature group could finally start at the centre in June and has regular attendees from ages 4 - 8. We are working with Radnorshire wildlife trust and will hopefully be able to talk to the young people in knighton primary to encourage more year 4,5 & 6 to come.

Recently Teme spirits and Flicks in the sticks returned to the centre and a very welcome back to them. We have a new Dance fitness group - Panache, that started in September and is very well attended.

Throughout the last two years my role has changed and developed with what is needed. This change of focus proved to be very beneficial as I have new knowledge and skills which help the centre.

Some of the roles and responsibilities I took on were

Online support for stay and play

Support for the newsletter

Helping with the various facebook pages and groups the centre run

The literary festival 2020 and 2021

Creation of marketing materials

Involvement in grant applications

Nature and Science group

Involvement in grant to PCC for the garden project

Involvement in the production of the Summer Fun sessions alongside the Library.

Involvement in the Christ Countdown project for last year and this year coming.

Involvement in interview processes

Involvement in running car boots and now the market.

Support and involvement in Thursday Art Class

Support and Involvement in Crafty Coffee

<b>Activity Types</b>	<b>Hours usage</b>	
	<b>14<sup>TH</sup> October 2020 – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b>
<b>Adult Education:</b>		
• Welsh, Driving, Craft, Computers, Art Class	50	186
• Sign Language, French, Writing Classes	7	26
• All Day courses (Domestic Abuse Training, PAVO, Local Companies training)	0	48
• <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>Artistic:</b>		
• Amateur Dramatics - Teme Spirits, YFC	18	43
• Live music	0	16
• Flicks in the Sticks	12	45
• Literary Festival	12	16
• <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>120</b>



<b>Social:</b>		
• Private parties, christenings & wedding receptions	0	115
• WI Meetings	4	17
• Shopping Events	0	4
• Fundraising	0	36
• Church	0	11
• Communal meals & coffee mornings	216 Soup	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>198</b>
<b>Health and well-being:</b>		
• Leg Club	0	73
• MIND	8	18
• Blood Donation days	0	16
• Hearing Aid Clinics	21	10
• Drop ins – Calon DVS, Housing Support, Job Centre / CREDU	8	100
• Neuro Chat with Stroke Association	0	10
• Bracken Trust	24	50
• Community Connector	0	384
• Simply Nails – Age Cymru	32	10
• Flu Clinic	12	3
• Volunteer Fayre	0 online	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>427</b>
<b>Sport &amp; Fitness:</b>		
• Karate	23	102
• Yoga	0	94
• Zumba	0	9
• Line dance	0	7
• Rallies, long distance walks etc	12	32
• Healthy Eating / fitness	4	21





• Pilates	28	4
• Panache	6	
• <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>269</b>
<b>Youth activities:</b>		
• Army Cadets, Stay & play, Story time	124	123
• Children's Dance	12	18
• Kids at the Comm	0	10
• Science & Nature	20	
• <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>Others:</b>		
• Community Markets	45	36
• Auctions	0	5
• Polling	16	16
• Dog Training	0	6
• Political surgeries	0	6
• Conferences / meetings / AGM	7	40
• Café	42	69
• Refugee support groups	4	9
• <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>187</b>
Hours of activities	<b>767</b>	<b>1,612</b>

Ceri Brown



## Building

There is still outstanding work to improve the exterior of the building (paved path at the rear) and to improve disability access within the building. There has been a huge effort to prepare the building to safely re-open fully after lockdown. A risk assessment had to be prepared and many changes have been implemented.

## Knighton Festival

A very successful Festival was held in 2020, and we are very grateful to Fiona Roper who chaired the Festival Committee and Gillian Forrester who undertook the programming. The Festival Steering Group has continued and a lively and interesting programme is taking place at the moment. We are very grateful to Fiona Roper, Gillian Forrester, Ceri Brown and Martin Redfern for their support to the Festival in 2021 and to the Steering Group.

## Garden Project

Ceri Brown, Chris Martin and Phil Grierson have been working to develop the garden area outside the Community Centre. The main news to report is that we have secured substantial funding from the Local Places for Nature 21-22 initiative, run through Powys County Council on behalf of the Welsh Government. In total this comes to £24,700.

The major groundworks, involving scarifying and construction of steps, etc., will be undertaken by PCC approved businesses, and supervised and paid for directly through PCC. As well as the purchase of items such as a greenhouse and potting shed, funds are available for a range of other items to help develop and maintain the garden, as well as for seeds, bulbs, plants, shrubs and trees.

The management of the practical side of garden development is still a work in progress, and as part of our commitment to the Local Place initiative, the Community Centre has to produce a development plan to show sustainability over time. Work on this has already started.

We are indebted to Michelle Brinkhurst for her inspirational garden design work, and work on ordering seeds, bulbs, plants etc., recommended by Michelle is already underway. Additionally, Dave Alker has signed and delivered an application for extending the ground lease to Powys County Council and we are awaiting their action on this. Once this is completed it should then be possible for Powys County Council to start work on putting up the new boundary fence and gates, that will delineate the new border to the garden itself.

Practical activity on the garden is currently somewhat limited, but Ceri Brown and Chris Martin are overseeing this, and involving children and young people wherever possible, and as part of this are developing a link with staff of Radnorshire Wildlife Trust.

The Community Centre was part of the Knighton and Knucklas in Bloom entry to Wales in Bloom and



received positive feedback.

Phil Grierson

## Volunteer Hub

I work 8 hours per week on Mondays and Fridays and started work on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021. I have previously worked in voluntary organisations and as a paralegal. I started at the Community Centre as a volunteer. Since starting at the Community Centre I have contacted a number of local groups. A BBQ was held at the beginning of September 2021 and our Mayor Chris Branford presented certificates to volunteers who had worked very hard during the pandemic.

Steph Griffiths

## Community Hub

### **Response to the Pandemic**

#### **Volunteer Bank**

The manner in which we responded to the pandemic was very much by and large facilitated by our bank of dedicated, professional and resourceful volunteers, who without their invaluable help and support we would not have been able to provide all we were able to at such a high standard. At the beginning of the pandemic, we were approached by many residents all wanting to help in some way, thus the Volunteer Bank was born. Thus over the last eighteen months we have been able to deploy volunteers to tasks such as delivering light lunches weekly to over 90 people within the community, disseminating over 1,500 newsletters and flyers to households in Knighton either monthly or bi-monthly, offering weekly befriending telephone calls, supporting partnership events such as marshalling at last year's Autumn Flu Clinic, delivering shopping, prescriptions or meals for local Cafes. The numbers on the database have reduced, but even so at present we have 56 volunteers registered on our community volunteer bank database, its usefulness has been unprecedented throughout the last year and a half. People do not have to volunteer regularly, thus the beauty of the bank is that if Community Centre or another group or organisation needs volunteers urgently or as a one off I can send out an email asking for help, and I can safely say (although it might take a while) I always find someone who is willing and able to help.

#### **Christmas Meal:**

Thanks to two very generous beneficiaries (financial) and many volunteers giving up their time on Christmas day, the Community Centre were able to commission an outside caterer to provide a Christmas meal to 30 people, most of who were on their own due to the sudden changes the Govt.



made to Covid-19 restrictions in December. The meal (a 2 course Christmas lunch) was very much appreciated by our customers, one reporting that in a day destined to be bleak and lonely there was an hour where the kindness of others touched the immensely & helped them manage the rest of the day.

### **Newsletter:**

As a means of disseminating urgent information to our community, the Newsletter was originally introduced at the beginning of the pandemic. Due to its popularity and success we continued to publish it monthly for some time, only going to seasonal publication this year. 3 editions have been delivered to 1,500 household thus far, the fourth (& final one for this year) is due for delivery at the end of October 2021.

The newsletter has received great praise and appreciation from many within the community, as anticipated it has been hugely useful to those who either don't 'do' social media or just don't have access to the internet. People have also contributed the additional material we have published such as information on the Covid-19 vaccination roll out, an update from our GP's surgery and various flyers promoting different services within the community.

We owe great thanks to the success of the publication to our contributors, our volunteer graphic designer and our 15 volunteers who pound the streets delivering the 1,500 copies! We currently have 46 contributors making submissions to the publication, and people are now asking us to make them our lead story. Sadly at this juncture we say goodbye to our volunteer graphic designer Rafi, and we would like to thank him with immense gratitude for all he has done to make the newsletter such a professional and appreciated document.

We do intend to continue providing the newsletter but it will be in a different format, and possibly only available to households periodically but for those on line it will be available monthly.

### **Crafty Coffee at the Comm**

As a means to offer low level and informal emotional and peer support (& to replace the Tuesday Cafe) we established an online forum last year known as A Crafty Coffee at the Comm, this group was delivered weekly, and we would have a guest speaker / presenter talking to us about their particular craft/hobby. The forum allowed an opportunity for us all to be socially engaged with each other, learn about a new craft or develop existing ones and to be supported by peers if needed. We are currently in the throes of developing the Crafty Coffee idea, and plan to bring it into the building in a formal and planned manner, whereby we will have a workshop monthly where people can come and learn about a new craft, socialise in a safe space and share their craft experiences and knowledge.

### **Soup from the Hub/ 'Advice from the Hub Thursday Drop-in Eatery'**

From its fruition in March 2020, the Soup from the Hub project has gone from strength to strength at the height of the pandemic we were reaching over 90 customers per week. In May of this year Louise Hardwick 'hung up her apron' and our new 'soup Dragon' Wendy Emerson was recruited to the role of Kitchen Assistant. Wendy's recruitment coincided with the return to opening up the Community Centre, and (with St. Edwards Church blessing) launching the new 'Advice from the Hub Drop-in Eatery'. Through consultation with our customers we identified a keenness to return to some type of 'normality' and people were clearly saying they wanted to attend an indoor event, where they could have social interaction with friends (old & new), staff and volunteers. Of course there were (& still are) those who for whatever medical reason not wanting to access the indoor service, so we currently provide 20 soup lunches as a home delivery project. Thus we have 4 dedicated volunteer drivers, who



either do weekly or tri-weekly rostered shifts to ensure the meals are delivered safely and on time. So a big thank you to Chris M, Charles G, Bryan D & Mike D.

A grant application made to the National Lottery Wales was successful, thus as from July 2021 & up until end of June 2022, K&DCC are able to employ a kitchen assistant, provide a light lunch weekly, and intermittently have entertainment available within the Drop-in. This grant also pays for the Stay & Play practitioner to deliver the service weekly.

The Drop-in is proving hugely successful, normally having a footfall of around 25 – 30 customer each week, what is particularly encouraging is that during recent weeks we are seeing a diverse range of attendees, and we had our youngest customer in with us recently who is 6 months old! Feedback from most is that although the food is both delicious and nutritious, for them it's not just about the food, it's having the opportunity to come somewhere where Covid-19 regulations / guidelines are carried out fully, & where they feel comfortable and safe within the building and really appreciate the opportunity to chat with each other and the amazing volunteers (Carol, Jenny, Penny, Sheila, Steph, Sandra & Sue) whom without their invaluable help we could not deliver this service so effectively.

Up until early October sitting by the side of our Drop-in was the PAVO funded Art Class, this was introduced as means to encourage people back into the community and to support fragile emotional well being. The Art Class was facilitated by Lois Hopwood, and Sandra and Steph were our volunteers who supported the delivery of the class. At one point we had 21 people attending the class, and feedback from a recent survey monkey was incredibly positive; and people reported noticing an improvement in their emotional and social well being through having had attended the classes. I would also like to take this opportunity in saying a big thank you to John Thoroughgood and his team at The Mens Shed for lovingly making us the most beautiful picnic bench, the materials were funded by the National Lottery Grant; however the Mens Shed were extremely generous as they did not charge for labour costs.

Another asset to the 'Advice from the Hub Drop-in Eatery' is that we have our Information and Signposting Assistant Catherine Cadwallader in 'residence' at the Drop-in, thus if people want help, advice, referral to another organisation or signposting they can meet with Catherine during the session.

### **Befriending**

We started a Knighton based Befriending service last year, and although there was limited interest in accessing the service, we did at one time offer 9 people the opportunity to have weekly phone calls with volunteers. One volunteer has been so successful in this service provision she still continues to offer it today, as it very much appreciated by the three people she calls weekly.

### **Tuesday Café from the Comm**

Again through consultation with our customers we identified a keenness from some of our customers to return to some type of 'normality' and people were clearly saying they wanted to attend the Tuesday Cafe, however unlike the 'Advice from the Hub Thursday Drop-in Eatery' the Tuesday Cafe has had a very slow response to uptake, thus I have been looking at creative and meaningful ways in which to encourage footfall. We are pleased to report that agencies such as POBL, The Job Centre and Prime Cymru (& not forgetting our very own Advice from the Hub) are in attendance now; it is a delight to have these agencies return and their presence is very much appreciated by those who utilise their services. We also have a monthly Creative Writing group taking place, and will be having monthly workshops and pop in Cafes taking place. It is encouraging that already we are noticing a higher



attendance rate, and are relieved that people are feeling more able to return to this project.

### **Strength Balance & Flex Weight Management Program**

Earlier in the year K&DCC were successful in securing a grant funded by PAVO, and we were able to provide two healthy lifestyle groups, one was delivered on line and the other a walking group was held outdoors. Both groups were well attended and received by their audiences. Along with securing money for the Art Group we also sourced funding from PAVO to allow us to continue with offering a healthy lifestyle group, this group is now provided in an indoor environment and both previous groups have been amalgamated into one, Nina Walmsley is our group provider and at present the attendance is very encouraging at over 19 people.

### **Volunteers:**

You will have noticed that a current theme in my report is that of volunteers, although already mentioned I would just like to reiterate that without the generosity of time, experience, kindness and professionalism given by over 60 volunteers, the Community Centre (& beyond) really would have struggled to have delivered all of the amazing and much needed services we have done so far during the last 18 months. I really would like to thank everybody who has volunteered with us or within the community via the Community Centre during the last year. However, now we begin to return to some type of normal, we very much need to recruit more volunteers to services not just within our own building but also to those externally. I am very much looking forward to working with Steph Griffiths in the forthcoming months as means of developing existing processes and formulating new ones in relation to volunteers.

### **Community Cohesion Group**

The Community Centre was successful in gaining a small grant from the Welsh Government Community Cohesion Programme. A Steering Group was established and a film was planned consisting of interviews with the diverse range of people living in the area including some long term residents. Chris Martin undertook the majority of the interviews and the film was edited by Robert Clough. The film was shown via Zoom in April 2021. It is now planned to hold an International Day / Festival of Light at the end of November 2021.

### **Knighton Library Friends (KLF)**

Reassuringly as the Library is up & running and available without any concerns around closure, the 'friends' have been pretty quiet of late, we still liaise regularly with Hannah Isaacson and are kept up to date with Library news and or concerns. Due to the generosity of our 'friends' supporters who purchase lottery tickets from POWYS LOTTO we have been able to donate monies to causes such as the Knighton Festival, we also when needed and if appropriate will make donations to the Library. As we fully appreciate and applaud the value that the festival brings to the Library, we do have a strong affiliation with the Festival, and two of our committee members also have a presence at Festival committee meetings. We are very pleased to see that the library is now returning to some type of 'normal' and that restrictions around access are being lifted, it is also very reassuring to see the volunteers in the Library returning & offering a valuable contribution to the day to day running of the service.



## Library

This year Covid has continued to affect Library Services with closures, and guidelines on numbers in the library and quarantining of books as well as sanitation requirements and booking computer and customer service appointments

On Tuesday the 6th of April we were able to re -open with the December hours. Customers have been keen to come back, there have been many phone calls confirming opening times whether computers and photocopying will be available. It has been lovely to be able to say yes! And the first computer booking was for April the 6th

With the Covid Alert at 0 in August 2021 we have been able to increase public access to browsing and borrowing and with more computer and council services appointments. Visitor numbers are rising and happily volunteers are now allowed back in the Library and we have welcomed 2 new Library volunteers, Hilary and Tracey both of whom have supported the Summer of Fun Activities in July and August 2021

Tuesday

10:30 – 1:00, 2:00 – 5:00

Thursday

10.30-1:00, 2:00-6:00

Friday

8:00-12:30

4th Saturday of the month

10:30 – 12:30

Computers/Customer Services by appointment

In July the Library had the opportunity to bid for funding and I secured £2920.50 to arrange Summer of Fun Activities. Along with Ceri, Chri , Cats and Hilary, Steff,Tina and Tracey the Library and the Comm put on and funded 21 sessions Finishing with a Lego competition with Lego sets for prizes.

Hannah Isaacson

With the ongoing uncertainty of the pandemic, this has been another unusual year for the library, and we are delighted that it is now open to support residents as much as possible, within the covid secure guidelines. The library service is very grateful to the Comm committee, staff and volunteers for all of the support given to the library in these strange times, and for the ongoing support in delivering the Order and Collect library books service to people at home.

Of particular note in the last year was the successful application to Arwain/Leader funding, for the development of the information service which complements the library functions so well. Our thanks go to all of the committee and team involved with this project, and in particular, to Ruth Forrester, without whom the application would never have been submitted, let alone the quarterly claims made! As always, I am in awe of the energy, passion and commitment of everyone involved with the Comm and Library, and look forward to another year of working closely together for the good of everyone in Knighton and the wider community, including the development of the garden area, and the youth project.



Kay Thomas

## Stay and Play @ the Comm

During lockdown Stay and Play continued virtually. Each week I read a story and shared some songs which I broadcast live on the Stay and Play page on Facebook. I would also give ideas and demonstrate activities which parent/carers could do with their children at home.

We started back at the centre on May 12th, and since then we have welcomed many new parents. The group has become a meeting place for parents, grandparents and childminders and their children and is extremely popular.

Since we re-opened in May there has been an average of 18 children and 12 parents/carers at each session. Even with the first four weeks offered free to encourage coming back to the Community Centre, we have taken £260.85 in fees. We have spent an average of £3.50 on fruit and milk each week, so when that is deducted over the 15 weeks we have been back open, it leaves £208.35.

Since Chris (the caretaker) has started the physical aspect of this job has become a lot easier, as he sets up the slide, tables and chairs which I am very grateful for. Thanks for your help Chris, and also Cats, who helped before he started.

We are still wearing masks and social distancing inside, but this has not stopped the families coming regularly with enthusiasm, and I have been told that many of the children are asking whether they are going to Stay and Play today.

Chris Martin

## Family Centre

There has been a long held wish to try and develop an open access Family Centre in Knighton to help young children and families and funding for pilot sessions has been granted by PAVO through the Social Value Forum Development Fund which will allow us to develop the service between October 2021 and April 2022. The model is based on the successful community based Family Centres in Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. We are planning to offer a drop in, educational input such as baby massage, baby yoga, paediatric first aid; lunch and a play session together with trips out of Knighton and outreach sessions in Knighton and Knucklas.

