



POP Collectives Fund

WASTE... OF OUR TIME



The Insatiabiles created by the POP Collective - Waste of Our Time.

This perky fund, unique to POP, has been running in one form or another since November 2020 funding more than 45 collaborative and unique community projects. From Prince Rock to Plymstock, the Hoe to Glenholt, we have seen the good that happens when organisations work together for the benefit of others.

We are proud to have funded a diverse range of great ideas bringing support to a wide range of individuals based along social and/or environmental values. We have funded, among many other things, a period-support project for schoolgirls; helped with provisions for refugees; enabled individuals to use 'creativity' to improve their health & wellbeing and equipped a community radio station. And through it all, we at POP have been delighted to observe the passion, enthusiasm and determination of those individuals driving the collectives as they work alongside others - often for the first time - to transform their idea into community action.

The Collectives Fund has two principles - collaboration and learning. If you think you want to work this way for the good of others check out www.plymouthoctopus.org/pop-collectives/ But be prepared: its radical and requires participation. Your fellow POP members will be invited to advice you on your idea and then it will be them - your peers - who decide whether or not you'll get the money (not a funding committee). Once underway, your project, will be observed by POP's Learning Champion, Simon Travers;

"As relationships strengthen and organisations, grow we are all benefitting from the variety and vibrancy of these community projects."

POP Outreach

for Efford, Eggbuckland & Lipson.
Come & join us on the 18th of April, meet the team and find out how POP can help support your community. 9.30 - 1.30 at Efford Community Centre.



Alan, making words count

Do you suffer from Abibliophobia?

If so, a new collective in Stonehouse is seeking funding from POP to provide people in the area, afflicted by the condition, with the necessary remedy.

Abibliophobia manifests as "a fear of running out of reading material". The recently formed Ocean Publishing Partnership based in the Royal William Yard is determined that individuals in Stonehouse will no longer be at risk from this disorder! The area's first public library will soon open in Ocean Studios with more than a thousand books already having been donated. As well as establishing the means for people to borrow and read more books, the collective behind Ocean Publishing is setting itself the more-ambitious outcome of attempting to raise the literacy rate in Stonehouse.

Government research consistently shows poor literacy rates in areas of multiple deprivation. As one of the most-deprived areas of Plymouth, those involved felt a compulsion to provide literary and literacy workshops for local Stonehouse people alongside the library. Letter press artist and typographer, Alan Qualtrough, who lives and works in Stonehouse, believes a local library is crucial in helping to raise literacy rates:

"We think we can provide a great resource for the neighbourhood. Stonehouse has no public library, and there is concern about the literacy level of young people, not only in Plymouth but across the UK."

Ocean Publishing evolved after the donation to Alan's print studio - Kiss and Bite Press - of a rather wonderful machine, the 1953 Heidelberg, which came not from Germany but from Billacombe, which was then swiftly followed, somewhat coincidentally, by a second beautiful letter press, the 1858 Albion, which arrived from Oreston. The acquisition of the presses generated a flurry of new ideas between Alan; Lindsey Hall from Real Ideas and Emma Weatherhead, the founder of Slate Publishing House. Several conversations later and Ocean Publishing Partnership was born to support people to write; to print; to bind

and to publish their own literary works. The partnership has applied for £5,000 from the POP Collectives Fund to support their venture. Emma Weatherhead, who has been in the business for more than ten years, says with few literary opportunities for people in the south west and many obstacles to overcome, she hopes the partnership will help a greater number of aspiring local writers to succeed:

"We've set up Ocean Publishing Partnership as a platform to help those who want to improve their literacy as well as providing for

emerging writers, helping them to improve their writing, and to publish it. We believe it will be really empowering for people to see their work in print."

The Ocean Library is due to open in the Royal William Yard next month. If you have any books you might like to donate or would like to find out more about the project please contact

emma@slatepublishinghouse.com

Prisons in the UK are legally obliged to have libraries: primary schools are not.

Cost-of-Living Community Fund

£63,614 has been awarded by POP and the charity OneDevon to 15 projects across the city. The money will be used to fund everything from residential trips for young people to financial advice; from healthy meals to quiet spaces for some peace & quiet. For more information on these projects visit:

www.plymouthoctopus.org/cost-of-living-community-fund



The Social Value of Banking Time

In the last ten years Timebank has grown from a fledgling organisation with just a handful of projects into an established much-loved city-wide befriending and skill-exchange initiative with more than a hundred regular members. It's the sort of place where magic happens: where individuals come along not quite knowing what to expect and find a warm welcome and the promise of being valued.

Linda surprised herself: it was when she was working in her previous job as a support worker that she thought Timebank would be good for her client. Five years later and it is Linda that's still coming every week to the Devonport Timebank group. As she says, she has found that those skills she had in her previous jobs, are of great value at Timebank:

"I've given pedicures to people who needed a bit of help with their feet and I've been going round to help Benjamin, who doesn't have much strength in his hands, and chopped his veg for him to that he can do his batch cooking."

Meanwhile among the Devonport group, Sue has helped Linda on her allotment; Rachel has helped Jenny with her housework and Jenny has been giving the group crochet lessons. Daphne has been making 'twiddle muffs' for people with dementia and Rowena has been making many many memory bears: fifty at the last count. Her most recent beautiful bear was for Julia who 'paid' her by making her a colourful backpack.



The Timebank Bear: Julia's first of fifty memory bears.

Now working with the Wolsley Trust and Improving Lives, Timebank is launching its Age Positive sessions aimed at people over the age of 65. With Plympton already up and running, the next branch to launch will be in Plymstock next month neatly bringing the number of neighbourhood sessions up to eleven in its eleventh year. Happy birthday Timebank. For more information on all the timebanks visit

www.timebanksw.org

Free online events from  POP ideas Register at BIT.LY/POPIDEASEVENTS

An Introduction to Crowdfunding
Tuesday 18 April

Learn how crowdfunding can help you to grow your audience and diversify your income.

POP Drop-in: Efford
Tuesday 18 April

Join us at Efford Community Centre to meet the team and access free support & advice.

Plan On a Page
Tuesday 30 May

Plan for the future and better convey your message with a 1-page template.