

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

April 2013 - Issue 249

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Saltash Neighbourhood Plan Makes Progress

At a Public Meeting in November 2012, eighty-one Saltash residents who attended voted overwhelmingly to create a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Saltash in order to have a greater say in how and where development is carried out in Saltash Parish through to 2030. The Cornwall Local Plan, currently out to consultation, requires Saltash to build around 750 new homes between now and 2030, but current commitments and completions reduce this number to 587.

A goal of the Saltash Neighbourhood Plan (SNP), as emphasised by those who attended the Public Meeting last November, is to ensure that no new homes are built without equivalent new jobs and appropriate infrastructure. As a first step, a Working Group was formed in December 2012. They have been concentrating on

establishing a formal organisational structure and constitution.

Community Engagement is key to developing a successful Neighbourhood Plan, which will undergo scrutiny by an Independent Examiner before it is allowed to go to Referendum. "We need to communicate with and get the opinions of as many

residents as possible", said Councillor David Yates who is chairing the Working Group.

The Working Group currently representing neighbourhood associations and the business community is keen to attract members of the community involved in education, health, faith, leisure activities, and especially young people, to form a Steering Group for the Plan. To this end, the Working Group is planning a stall at May Fair where people can come and ask as many questions as they like. Denise Watkins, who is acting Communication, Publicity and Information Officer for the Working Group, suggested that anyone who would like to contribute to SNP, should come along to the next Working Group meeting on Monday April 15th at 6 p.m. at

Saltash Guildhall, or contact Denise Watkins on 01752 463509 for more information.

Once a Steering Group has been established, they will work on a questionnaire to get input from all Saltash residents on their vision for Saltash 2030 and identify the objectives that will best fulfil that vision. The Working Group is especially looking for anyone with experience in questionnaire design, information analysis, report writing, project management, website design and management, or planning and development expertise. Details of all SNP activities are shown on Saltash Town Council website.

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Mayor Dared to Sing For Comic Relief

'Dare the Mayor' was the theme for a newly formed local choir who challenged Cllr. Martin Gee to sing with them in support of comic relief's red nose day.

Rock Choir have been going for just a year, rehearsing each Wednesday morning during school term time from 10.15 a.m. in Saltash Wesley Church. It was in the church that they gave a rendition of some of their favourite pop, Gospel, Motown and general feel good contemporary songs with the Mayor, who had been sent a lyric-sheet in advance, bravely joining in chorus.

All are welcome, men and women, to join the choir and share the good family atmosphere, either by just turning up for rehearsal or contacting choir leader Jo Seville on jo@josaville.co.uk.

Saltash.net Support Comic Relief



The Mayor & Mayoress walk the mile with Saltash.net... see feature on Pages 4/5

A Menagerie of Colourful Creatures



The Hearing Room have fun for Comic Relief

A Great Success for St Stephens School Red Nose Day



"It was such a fun and successful day" reports St Stephens School! ' We have almost reached our target of £1001.00, with more sponsor money due in.

"The St Stephens Bake Off was delicious and we auctioned and sold every last crumb!

"The talent show was a raging success...Simon Cowell would have been proud, they were all awesome (staff included)!

"The Fun Run was wet and completed! Well done and thank you to everyone involved.

Check out our school website - under "School Life". We had the best day ever."

A menagerie of colourful creatures took over the Hearing Room together with the NHS Hearing Centre opposite as staff came together once more to bring colour to Fore Street while supporting a good cause.

This year for 'Red Nose' Day they dressed in colourful 'onsies' which, for the benefit of the uninitiated are a form of babygrow outfit favoured by the young.

Many of the staff added to the fun by dressing in creature costume including Bonnie as a giraffe, James as a penguin, Sydney as a panda, Michael as a tiger and Tom and Sadie as cows. Refreshments including cakes were served to customers and passers by.

All of this helped to raise an excellent £77 towards Comic Relief to aid needy children and young people.

Observer Telephone Numbers
07971484872 or
01579 345699
Email your copy to:
marye.crawford@virgin.net

The Essa Files

I will avoid too much talk of elections in this column, except to say that no matter who you vote for on May 2nd please do vote.

I have just been working on a draft of Saltash Town Council's comments on the latest version of the Cornwall Local Plan – the document that will set the overview for planning for the next 20 years. This document does not deal with the very controversial question of where houses might go: those issues are still being looked at both in Saltash and at Cornwall Council.

However the document does cover several important issues – the number of houses to be built in Saltash is proposed at around 750 over 20 years, which in practice would mean a development of about 600 houses on top of a few smaller developments here and there.

The Town Council's main concern about this number, which is much smaller than some of the higher numbers that Cornwall put up as options for discussion, is that any extra housing must be jobs led. We need to restore the imbalance we have between jobs and houses in Saltash which at the moment is too heavy towards housing. Currently, in my view,

Cornwall's plan is very weak on jobs and this is something that the Town Council is discussing.

We are also looking at a range of other issues that come under the plan such as the town centre, garden grabbing, and crossing the A38. You are free to put your own comments directly in to Cornwall Council if you wish, by going on their website, and I would encourage anyone who feels strongly about these issues to do this.

Adam Killeya

Relief is at Hand

The Brunel Inn has now rejoined the town's community toilet scheme. This means that Saltash shoppers can now use the facilities in the 'Brunel', 'Railway Hotel' and the Guildhall during their normal opening hours. This is in addition to the public convenience in Belle Vue Road car park which has been promised a much needed refurbishment.

Crime Continues to Fall

Recorded crimes in the Saltash area have continued to fall over the past month and over the year as a whole.

The annual crime figures for 2012, totalled 922 reported offences as against 976 the previous year, a fall of around 6%.

Offences during the previous month had shown an even more marked fall, Sergeant Andy Dunstan reported to Saltash Town Council. They had dropped from ninety during the equivalent period last year, to 54, a fall of 40%.

Of the crimes committed there had been three burglaries on dwellings and eight other burglaries. The latter had mainly been in the rural areas around Saltash when tools and garden equipment had been stolen.

There had been eleven assaults and one street robbery when a wallet and phone were stolen, the phone was later recovered. Police are still seeking two suspects. There had been five thefts from vehicles and six other thefts as well as three thefts from shops or by employees.

The public were reminded of the regular police surgeries held at Saltash Library each Thursday from 10.30 a.m. to midday. An increasing number of local residents are calling in to discuss policing issues.

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For Observer readers

From Councillor Bryan Preston
Burraton Ward Saltash

Council Tax bills for 2013/2014 have been dropping through letter boxes with a welcome surprise that the tax is being frozen for the third year running. However Council Tax is a big slice out of household budgets and people often ask me where is it all spent and is it value for money.

You will all know that the Government has cut the grant it gives to Local Authorities like Cornwall Council and some tough decisions have had to be made. I often say to people that the work that the Council does and the services it provides affect our daily lives much more than the decisions made far away in the House of Commons.

The biggest expenditure is on our schools. Providing education for the children of Cornwall from Primary through to Secondary, this is an investment for the future because the children of today are the older citizens of tomorrow. Many other services are targeted at children, Social Services including looked after children and foster care as well as special schools and don't forget the Youth Service and Children's Centres.

Many of you will use Council facilities and perhaps not realise who runs them. Obviously our excellent Library and One Stop Shop, as well as the Leisure Centre but how about the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages or your Dog Warden and Parking Attendants.

Ever go for a walk in the country? Well you are probably on a Council maintained footpath; especially beautiful is our famous Cornish Coastal Path. Visit a Country Park like Mt Edgcombe and it is run by Cornwall Council shared with Plymouth. Grass is cut, trees are lopped and drains cleared, fly tipping removed, hedges cut and dog bins emptied.

We pick up your household waste and dispose of it as well as, with your help, recycling as much as we can.

The Environment services protecting our countryside, and Trading Standards protecting your consumer rights. We even operate a Fishery Protection Vessel. Grants to all sorts of organisation, support for small and large communities, Public Toilets and Car parks, the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry. The list is endless and I could go on and on. It's a very complex organisation with dedicated staff who like many of us have been under

a lot a pressure recently.

My Last Column

This is the last column that I shall be writing for the Observer, there are elections for both the Town Council and Cornwall Council on May 2nd and I shall not be standing again. I will have served for nearly 20 years as a Town and/or Cornwall Councillor and I feel that it is time to stand aside and let someone else take over the reins.

I have enjoyed much of the strategic work that I have done in that time, especially leading my political group when we were in control of the County Council. I spent a spell as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Newquay Airport as well as Chairman of the Council Audit Committee and Vice Chairman of Devon and Cornwall Police Authority.

But what has been closest to my heart has been working with the people of Saltash. I was honoured to be Deputy Mayor of our town for two years and Mayor in 2000/2001. It really is a great town with so much going on and people working together for the good of the community, so many organisations and so many volunteers. I have enjoyed every minute. Whoever is elected to the Town Council and Cornwall Council on May 2nd has a community to be proud of.

I shall still be involved with the town. I am a governor of Saltash.net Academy, and a member of the Council of Saltash College. I am Vice President of the League of Friends of St Barnabas Hospital in this our 50th Anniversary year and Chairman of the Trustees of the Livewire Youth Project, so plenty to keep me busy in my retirement.

Thank you to all the people I have worked with over the years and thank you to Mary Crawford and the staff of the Observer for providing the space for the Cornwall Councillors column. It was an idea of my former fellow Cornwall County Councillor Joyce Mepsted about 10 years ago and I am sure that any new Councillors will keep up the tradition.

Thank you Bryan

Thank you Bryan for not only keeping us up to date with Local and County news for many years, but also for getting that news to me on time, and without fail wherever you were on your travels. We will certainly miss your contributions, if you feel you have something that our readers will enjoy we would love to see it.
Kindest regards Mary



Rail Franchise Farce Could Actually Be Good For Saltash

The recent Department for Transport announcement that First Great Western will continue to run rail services between Penzance and Paddington should mean that Saltash will continue to receive an improving service. The new franchise which could have led to significant changes to the services and timetable has effectively been thrown out, and the whole process will have to be restarted sometime in the future.

Town Councillor and Saltash Rail Users Group representative Richard Bickford, said "whilst a new franchise will eventually lead to improved rolling stock and services, another 2 or 3 years working with First Great Western to improve services at Saltash, will put us in a stronger position when the process is restarted".

The latest passenger data shows Saltash station has the fastest rising growth in the whole of Cornwall, up an impressive 28% in 2012. Growth has been fuelled by improved reliability as well as additional services stopping, along with better local promotion of what is on offer.

Councillor Bickford added, "Saltash Town Council have continued to support increased use by funding the Saltash Train Timetable which is published twice a year, providing a handy leaflet that combines timetable and passenger information". SRUG also offer help and advice by phone and email for anyone wanting to use services at Saltash.

The rail service not only provides a convenient and fast way to get into Plymouth City Centre, and beyond for commuters, but also offers excellent value leisure travel opportunities through the South West, as well as high quality direct trains to and from London Paddington.

The Town Council and Rail Users Group are also working with First Great Western and Cornwall Council to improve the station itself, with additional

lighting and improved shelters high in the list of aspirations. The former station building is also constantly in the minds of the people of the town, Councillor Bickford added "I am more hopeful than ever that something good is just around the corner and Saltash will soon be proud of the result". more news soon.....

Bird Resistant Refuse Bags

For those who are annoyed at seeing their rubbish, and that of their neighbours, strewn all over the road by flocks of seagulls while the refuse truck is awaited, a solution may be to hand.

Seagull proof sacks are currently subject to a trial scheme by Cornwall Council. Saltash Town Council has expressed an interest in selling the sacks and will be informed when trial results are known.



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Poles Provide Nest Site for Rare Raptor

A magnificent water bird, extinct in Britain for many decades, is occasionally seen flying over the Tamar and Lynher estuaries and is to be encouraged to make its home here.

The Osprey was hunted to extinction in this country but since the 1950's has been nesting again in Scotland and moving slowly southwards into Wales and England. The large gull-like bird may be seen in Autumn or Spring on its migratory passage over Saltash's estuarial waters and has been known to stop on the Lynher.

Cornwall wild life trust are intending to place nesting poles, with associated perching poles, at various points along the Lynher in the hope that the osprey may be re-introduced to an area in which it has probably not bred for several centuries.

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From The Mayor's Parlour...

Warm Greetings, I hope you had a good Easter and did not eat too many Easter eggs! Despite the low temperatures and the biting winds there are budding signs of Spring and the swans on Saltash Waterfront are pairing off for nest building.

As I write this, I received news that the Cornwall Cross will not be raised this weekend. After really good news for very low winds on Saturday night and Sunday morning there is a frost warning. Below certain temperatures the resin used to cover some of the lower structure will not cure and go hard. When the next date will be for possible erection is not known so please listen and look at the local media.

Amazingly, Cornwall council started to move with some speed but have lapsed into its usual comatose state. Land/site issues - Grenfell Avenue lease for the allotments is ready but still no monies as promised. The toilets at the Waterfront are not ready for the start of April as promised. It appears that the refurbishment will not be completed until the end of April so they will not be open for sometime. However Saltash Town will not be paying anything until the Town Clerk is content with the works!

WARNING: Cornwall recyclers are enforcing the rules about only putting metals and plastic bottles in our orange recycling bags. The collecting crews are leaving any bags containing anything else. Please comply.

I was hoping to say the railway station had been sold from its current owners, who have let the site deteriorate badly, to a more town conscious developer. Today I have discovered that the current owners have failed to put a return into Companies House, this means that the company no longer exists! Until the company is reconstituted nothing legal can happen.

Cornwall cannot be blamed now for Tesco not opening. The Highways Agency and Cornwall have agreed the new road layout for access to the site off the A38. Now there are new

proposals by Tesco on how much money should be paid by them to ensure our town is not too seriously affected by the competition. This money is called Section 106 monies (or planning gain).

The Tamar Bridge and Ferry Committee are consulting about increasing their tolls. There seems little information about this consultation. Please write to the general manager of the bridge and ferry offices with your ideas and suggestions. There does seem very little public involvement by this directly unelected body. Saltash Town council have asked that their meetings are advertised more openly so people have the opportunity to get more involved.

Fore Street has more churn. The engravers have contracted their business back to their shop in Plymouth and the revamping of the shop at the top of the town continues. The fruit and veg shop is still to be leased. At last! No. 4 Fore Street is inhabited by Saltash Community Interest Company (CIC) which will provide a centre for the community bus service, an outlet for the mobility vehicles and a retail outlet for small art and craft artisan producers. Planning permission has been submitted for a kebab/pizza establishment in the middle of town.

The group started by Richard Fry for the youngsters who want a uniformed unit for water activities has grown. It now numbers 14 young people and is trying to become affiliated to a major organisation. We wish them well.

Next month the season of celebration starts with our great Mayfair on 2/3 May at Warfelton. It will be brilliant for all ages so do come along!

Wishing you all a brighter Spring! Martin Gee Mayor of Saltash

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Churches Come Together To Welcome New Minister

An exciting and clearly joyous day in the history of Saltash Baptist Church was shared with members of other churches and the wider community as well as visitors from throughout the South West.

Many of these visitors had travelled from Bristol where Tim Parkman had served as minister before accepting the call to Saltash to replace popular pastor Jeff Howden. Tim Parkman's wife Michella is in Church of England Orders, prompting the Rev. Brian Anderson, President of Saltash Churches Together, to thank the Baptist church for its generosity in bringing her the town as a 'buy two get one free' bargain! Mayor Martin Gee promised Tim and Michelle warm welcome in a 'wonderful town, full of keen volunteers and wonderful people' Tim Packman told a packed Baptist Church of how, when he heard that Saltash was calling for a new minister he went on the web and found a family fun day was to be held at the church. Having attended this he was delighted to be informed that the church council had unanimously agreed to invite him as their new minister and immediately accepted. He and Michelle, with their young sons Joe and Barney already felt welcomed and he looked forward to

serving not only the church but the wider community.

The new minister was inducted by Jez Brown, regional minister of South West Baptist Association and the sermon was given by a former fellow college student of Tim's who is now Minister of Westbury on Trym, Bristol, Ben Lucas. We on the Saltash Observer join with the town in welcoming Tim and Michelle with Joe and Barney and wish them well in their work within Saltash.

Town Gives Town Council's Go-Ahead for Demolition of Inn Opposed by Cornwall

The demolition of the 'Waterside Inn' on the town's waterfront, and its replacement by an accommodation block of fine apartments with covered parking, has been recommended for approval by a majority of Saltash Town Councillors.

A similar scheme had been recommended for refusal by the town and turned down by county planners following a site meeting. The new plans show the building as lower than previously planned and also included a hot food retail unit.

A number of conditions are attached, including that a full archaeological survey be conducted. This was requested by Saltash Heritage, in the event of demolition taking place, since it is a long occupied historic site close to the town's civil war battery. It is also a condition that the public footpath and cobbles to the rear do not be disturbed and that no work is carried out during the town regatta or other public event.

However Cornwall Council's planning officer went against the recommendation and opted for refusal. It was left to town councillors to decide whether to accept or challenge this.

Observer Telephone Nos

07971484872 or
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Announcement

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for your caring messages and cards during my family's time of sadness.

It has been a long road my Dearest Mother is now at peace.

Thank you also to Pengelly's Funeral Services for your kindness, understanding and professionalism during our recent bereavement.

Kindest regards Mary Crawford.

Letter to the Editor

Deletion of Pillmere Destate from service 43A, timetable change effective May 5th 2013.

Over the years Pillmere estate in Saltash has had a number of bus services, initially from First and latterly from Plymouth Citybus. The standard and frequency of the service has varied but all of them have been important to the residents who use them as they provide the only direct link to Plymouth city centre.

Recently Citybus announced the deletion of Pillmere estate entirely from Service 43A (even though the route will still run very close by) and substitution of it by a week day only direct service 30 to run from Pillmere to Derriford Hospital. There will be no service at all from Pillmere at the weekends. Service 30 will run via St Budeaux and not visit the city centre, the timetable change will be effective from May 5th 2013. The revised route of 43A passes close enough to Pillmere for Pillmere's addition to it not to greatly affect its operating times or cost, but not close enough for young or elderly residents to walk to the nearest stop on its new route. Residents of Pillmere estate who are concerned about this change and wish to voice their complaints are requested to do so by email to: customer.services@plymouthbus.co.uk Facebook users can also voice their concerns on Citybus' facebook page at the link: <http://www.facebook.com/plymouthbus>

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trade in our Town Centre and will operate during April, May, June, July, August, September, October and November 2013

www.saltashtowncentre.co.uk

Celebrations for Support Star Jude Hollyman

There were celebrations all round, including a nice cup of tea and a slice of cake, when Jude Hollyman, PA to the Head Teacher at saltash.net community school was confirmed as a finalist in the Times Educational Supplement's Support Stars competition. (http://www.tes.co.uk/)

Nominated for her outstanding work across the school by Head Teacher, Isobel Bryce, Jude found herself in the spotlight when a Support Stars cake, mugs, trophy and official photographer all arrived in school to mark Jude's national success. Jude will be featured in a forthcoming edition of the TES and will also be placed against other support staff nominees in a competition to win £10,000 of multimedia equipment for the school.

Prestigious Award

Mrs Bryce was delighted that her PA had been shortlisted for a prestigious Award especially as her support was felt throughout the school and not just in relation to PA duties. In her nomination she said, 'Jude has been my PA for two years, joining saltash.net community school in Cornwall at the start

of the Spring Term, 2011. As Headteacher at saltash.net for the last decade, I have been very fortunate with my PAs but Jude is quite simply exceptional. She provides an amazingly efficient service for me as Head Teacher, dealing particularly well with parents and receiving many positive comments on the way she deals with enquiries or concerns. However, what sets Jude apart is the role she plays within the broader life of the school. Three mornings a week, she does her pinny and sets off for the school's Breakfast Club where between the times of 8.00 and 8.35 she serves up to 200 cups of hot chocolate alongside the canteen supervisor who is dishing up the toast and cereals. This is done completely voluntarily and is not part of her job description but she knows just how much it means to our young people to have a breakfast before they commence their learning. She is always cheery and happy and the students love meeting with her first thing in the morning.

In addition to this, she makes great refreshments for our Year 11 students who come and visit me in small groups at break times throughout their final year of compulsory



An exciting day of celebrations for Jude, pictured with colleagues

education. Jude coordinates all of the arrangements and comes in to take the students' orders for drinks. Not only does she always have a great supply of Kit Kats at the ready, she also takes hot chocolate to another level with the provision of marshmallows for those who like them! The students are enormously appreciative of what Jude does and the core value of Respect that she upholds.

'A Midsummer Nights' Dream'

Another aspect of school life that Jude has played a significant role with is whole school Drama and Music productions. The Head of Drama department regularly acknowledges that she simply could not do without Jude's exceptional organisational skills. For last term's production of 'A Midsummer Nights' Dream', Jude took on responsibility for all of the publicity and ticket sales and all of the front of house arrangements. The show was an outstanding success and very well attended, thanks to Jude's efforts.

Marketing and Publicity are two of Jude's key strengths. She has forged excellent relationships with the local media and much of this is down to her people skills and great sense of humour. She works very well with our web manager and a lot of her handiwork can be seen on our website



While helping at the breakfast club, Jude takes hot chocolate to another level with the provision of marshmallows for those who like them!

Care and Concern

At the heart of Jude's work is a wonderful sense of care and concern for others. Nothing is too much trouble and she immerses herself in the range of fundraising and charity events we support. She always finds time to listen to staff and to students and has even rearranged her office so that there is a little seating area with water and mints etc when members of the school community need a bit of respite!

Although Jude's job title usually gets shortened to

'Head's PA', it is really important to hold on to what PA actually stands for – Head Teacher's Personal Assistant, Jude understands so brilliantly what it means to keep me sane and functioning to the best of my ability, even when the going gets tough! I have absolutely no idea what I would do without her or, indeed, how the school would function and operate on a daily basis.

She is very special indeed and, as someone else has already commented, a support staff superstar well and truly.'

After an exciting day of celebrations on February

28th, Jude stated, "It's exhausting being a celebrity, I much prefer my current role! I would like to thank the Headteacher, Mrs Isobel Bryce, for her touching nomination and also all those members of staff involved for their kind words and unflinching support."

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07971484872 or
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Golden Students at saltash.net

It is always a very special occasion when the first Gold Commendation of the school year are awarded to Year 7 students at saltash.net.

This year, Amelia Horne and Jack Pritchard shared the honour. Amelia, who came to saltash.net from St Stephens Primary school and Jack who previously attended Burraton Primary school, showed that they had made an excellent start at secondary school, clearly committing themselves across a range of subjects and demonstrating that they are prepared to put in 100% effort to all of their learning experiences.



Variety Show for comic Relief

'Apprentice' Star Claire Young Challenges Students to Be the Best That They Can Be

Returning for a second visit to saltash.net community school on Tuesday 5th March, Apprentice 2010 finalist, Claire Young, led another inspiring workshop for 40 Year 9 and 10 female students. The students were able to spend the day with Claire, listening to her life story and finding out more about what has made her a very successful entrepreneur.

Working in groups, the students had to prepare a presentation for a panel of judges in the afternoon – Mrs Boulton, Work Related Learning Coordinator, and Assistant Headteachers, Miss Littlelycke and Mr Oldfield. Focusing on the theme of a new sports accessory, the students 'pitched' their ideas confidently after a day's input from Claire. The winning team named 'Team2Sport', was deemed to be well presented, thought provoking and credible with their idea of 'waterproof earphones'.

Doing Something Funny for Money at saltash.net



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Eyes Down for a World Record

A Sports Hall crowded with 350 students and staff, all in fancy dress, greeted Saltash's Mayor and Mayoress – Martin and Maggie Gee – as they turned up after school at saltash.net community school on 15th March to help support a major fund raising event for Comic Relief. Within minutes, the Mayor and Mayoress, in matching Comic Relief red and black outfits, were joining in with the Musical Mile – which meant completing 18 circuits of the Sports Hall.

Originally planned to take place on the school's extensive sports fields, the event had to be moved inside as a result of poor weather. The band of rain sweeping across the South West did nothing, however, to dampen spirits and the atmosphere was excellent, with everyone wanting to do their bit to help raise money for Comic Relief.

Organised by the school's senior receptionist, Mrs Philippa Ledger, with the assistance of a hardworking team of 6th Formers, The Comic Relief Musical Mile was just one of several events planned to mark the 25th anniversary of Red Nose Day. Other events included a Great Saltash Bake Off, which saw support staff member Debbie Hobbs taking the crown – well, a Comic Relief prized apron – and a Variety Show featuring the talents of students and staff.

The total raised for Comic Relief by saltash.net to date is £1,945, with sponsorship monies still being received daily.

Martin & Maggie Gee the Mayor and Mayoress entered into the spirit by dressing up (photo on front page) joined 350 students and Staff seen here in fancy dress to walk the Musical Mile, to mark the 25th anniversary of Comic Relief. Pictured is a selection of photos showing what fun they all had.



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The Ploughboy is available as a Venue for Quiz Nights
(See Mike & Joan for further details)
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Samaritons Quiz Night
Thursday 25th April 7-7.30pm
Linda Davies Quiz Night
In Aid of Schools in Africa
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April Flowers Flourish in Tamar Facing Terraced Garden

Spring was in the air for the charity opening of a Saltash garden with its flower lined terraces overlooking the Tamar.

It was the first time that Brenda Andrews had welcomed the public to enjoy her deceptively large garden behind 47 Hillside Road and she chose Shelterbox, who provide life-saving supplies for disaster relief worldwide, as her chosen charity.

The gardens will be open again as the spring flowers advance, on the afternoon of Sunday 21st April from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is just £1 with teas, coffees and cold drinks on the terrace lawns. If you receive your April Observer too late to enjoy that afternoon, look out for future opening in the summer.

Sailing Club Seeks Support

Saltash Sailing Club has sought support from the Town Council regarding an anticipated grant of £50,000 from Sport England. If provided this would go a considerable way to paying for £120,000 of improvements to the club building, in particular it's changing facilities.

Town Councillors agreed to write to Sport England endorsing the application and stressing how much the club does especially for the town's young people through its highly active cadets groups offering sailing experience to children who would otherwise have no such opportunities.

Full School Hall Applauded Concert for Deaf Children

From three pairs of parents discussing how to thank those who had helped support them and their profoundly deaf children came the idea of a concert that was to pack the hall of saltash.net school.

Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following nine questions can you then re-arrange them to make a nine-letter word?

- 1 What is the highest ranking suit in the card game of Bridge? (6)
- 2 What name is given to small, round dishes used for baking a single serving of food? (8)
- 3 What name is given to the central block at the top of an arch? (8)
- 4 Which river flows through Venezuela and forms part of the with Colombia? (7)
- 5 The Welsh town of Aberystwyth Lies in which Bay? (8)
- 6 In which Grimms fairy tale does a mysterious dwarf spin straw into gold for the miller's daughter? (15)
- 7 The short, popular piece of music called Nimrod is a work by which composer? (5)
- 8 What type of creature is the Broad-snouted Spectacled Caiman? (9)
- 9 In which part of London did Jack the Ripper operate? (11)

Conundrum Answers on Page 8...

The School hall was to resound to a variety of big band sound, choir, instrumental, solo singer and drama from all age groups showcasing a selection of regional talent

The concert was in aid of the National Deaf Children's Society and Plymouth and District Deaf Children's Group, the compere and organiser Matthew Oakes, a drama teacher at the school, having himself a deaf daughter.

The concert opened with the City of Plymouth Concert Band who throughout the evening brought their own special treatment to music from the shows. The Sunday Choir sang various numbers and joined with the band in particular in a spectacular finale from 'Les Miserables'.

Soloists included soloist Sydnee Ponsford and classical guitarist David Cotter, while by contrast drama was added by the Wranglers' Children's Youth Theatre Group especially in a chilling excerpt from 'The Witches'.

Well earned rousing applause went in particular to Egguckland Vale Primary School singers and signers who, especially appropriately to the evening's cause, sign languaged the lyrics as they sung in part harmony.

A full house, which included the Mayor and Mayoress, showed their appreciation of all the local artistes who had given of their time and talents to support such an excellent cause.

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



On March 20th the Chancellor delivered his budget. I thought it would be a good idea to outline some of the announcements that I believe will be good for the people of South East Cornwall. In a tough economic situation, I believe the British people know there are no easy answers or short cuts. But slowly the Conservative led Government are succeeding, slowly but surely, in fixing those problems. I agree with the Chancellor that this is a budget for people who work hard and want to get on.

It is important to remember what have the Conservative in Government achieved so far. The government have now cut Labour's record deficit by a third, helped create 1.25 million new private sector jobs and interest rates remain at record lows. This government inherited the largest deficit of any major economy. Labour's plans to borrow even more would take us backwards. Instead, by making savings from bureaucracy, from the benefits bill, and by ensuring that the better off play their part, we are able to do more to boost jobs and help families.

The government is creating a new Employment Allowance to help small firms take on more staff. By taking £2,000 off the employer national insurance bill of every company, it will take around 450,000 small businesses out of paying this at all - that's one third of all employers.

I believe cutting corporation tax to 20 per cent from April 2015 is important, giving us the most competitive rate in the G20. The Government will improve infrastructure by

boosting capital investment by £15 billion over the rest of this decade. Public investment will now be higher on average as a percentage of our national income under our plans than it was in the whole period of the last Government.

The personal tax allowance will be increased to £10,000 next year. Families will pay over £700 less in income tax than when this government came to office and 24 million people will pay less tax. The government is giving people 20% off, equivalent to the basic rate of tax, on the first £6,000 of their childcare costs for each child.

Canelling the September fuel duty increase altogether is incredibly important. Pump prices will be 13 pence per litre lower than if we had not acted over these last three years to freeze fuel duty. Taking a penny off the price of a pint of beer will save drinkers 4 pence a pint compared to the last government's plans.

I want to support people who want their own home, but can't afford the increased deposits that lenders now require by using the Government's fiscal credibility to support a Mortgage Guarantee to help lenders offer mortgages to people with a deposit of between 5 per cent and 20 per cent. This should dramatically increase their availability.

I believe the way to restore our economic prosperity is to energeise the aspirations of my constituents. I want to see budgets for residents who are willing to work hard and save. This will help South East Cornwall prosper into the future.

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HIRE ME
The Familiar Logo of Dale Brett Van Hire Can be Seen Locally, Nationally & Internationally

The familiar logo of Dale Brett Van Hire has become an increasingly common sight not only on the roads of Cornwall and Devon but throughout Britain and continental Europe since Dale Brett has set up his specialised auto business twenty two years ago.

During the decades regular and occasional customers have found him always able to answer all of their transport needs to carry any item, large or small, locally, nationally or internationally.

Over the years the fleet of hire vehicles has been expanded and updated to cater for every requirement. The current range of around

25 vehicles varies from VW Crafter/Sprinter to short wheel based transit/ Vauxhall Vivaro Dale or one of his team will be pleased to advise on the best available vehicle to fulfil individual need.

Periods of hire can also be arranged to suit needs from half a day to a twelve-month leasing contract. All contracts include unlimited

mileage as well as full breakdown cover nationally and Europe-wide. With free quotations for competitive rental rates, Dale Brett Van Hire has proved over two decades of service that a friendly locally based business can offer all and more for its customers than the major international companies.

Twenty-two years of service to Saltash's discerning motorists has been marked by Dale Brett expanding his business, D B Autos Ltd, into vast new premises across the road from his previous Gilston Road base. This will enable him and his qualified staff to provide an even better specialised service in all matters mechanical to every make of car and light commercial vehicle. Alongside the row of five ramps on which specialist work may be undertaken, there will now be an MOT bay enabling Dale to extend his in-house MOT testing to vans as well as all cars.

Also newly installed is a full range of state of the art technology in diagnostic equipment. The leading ranges of Bosch, Snap-On and Launch enables the DB Auto Team to apply the appropriate equipment to any make of car or light commercial vehicle, guaranteeing the highest possible standard of excellence.

Another recent introduction is the four wheel laser alignment on any make of tyre to ensure perfect road holding. Supply and fitting of tyres is now a speciality with a wide range now carried in the enlarged workshop and any tyres compatible with any vehicle speedily obtained, all at a competitive price.

A long term speciality for which D B Autos are well renowned is replacement and remedial work on cambelts. 'It is important that every motorist checks the cambelt which, being made of Kevlar/Rubber which can deteriorate over time and under threat, may snap without warning if ignored,' says Dale Brett. 'While we are specialist in remedial work following head gasket and cambelt failure, prevention is better than cure'.

With air conditioning now a standard fitting on almost all vehicles D B

Autos have continued to update their skills in recharging, to include de-gassing and re-gassing of vehicles to ensure perfect temperature control at all seasons.

Clutch work is also a speciality increasingly in demand with the mechanical team regularly carrying out in



Dale with wife Suzanne and their boy's along with staff members

Any Tyres can be obtained at a competitive price



particular replacement and conversion of the dual mass flywheel.

Over his twenty-two years of offering complete auto service to Saltash Dale has gained an ever increasing regular clientele of drivers coming to rely upon him for their every requirement from oil leak or broken bulb to complete engine failure. With

his new and extensive premises and the opportunity to provide an MOT service to a full range of cars and vans, and with free loan of courtesy car or van, Dale looks forward, in his twenty - third year of business, to demonstrating to old and new

customers what DB Autos have to offer by way of service to any vehicle owner.

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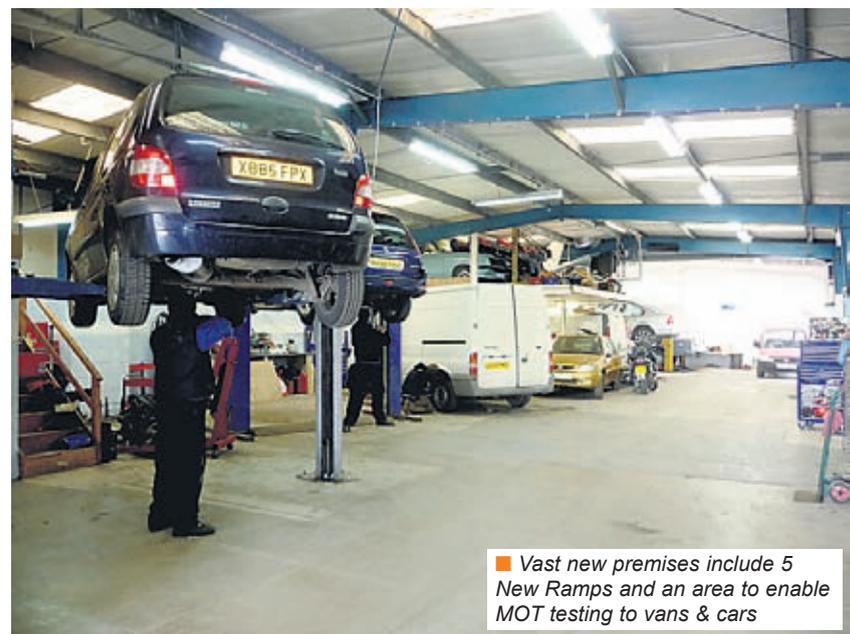
Dale is Now Offering a Select Range of Used Cars

Having dedicated twenty-two years to ensuring that his customers' vehicles are serviced, repaired and returned in optimum condition, Dale Brett of D B Autos Ltd is also now offering a select range of used cars for sale.

The new and enlarged Gilston Road premises now offer him the opportunity to show off to full advantage the small selection of quality used cars which he guarantees as being among the best of their models on the market in the local area. He selects for sale only those with low mileage and new in their year of registration.

All vehicles, before being offered for sale, are fully serviced to the highest standards of D B Autos. They will also be fully cambelted, utilising the company's specialised expertise and equipment, if required. All are fully warranted and part exchange can be negotiated - Advice and assistance on finance is available if required.

As the range available is ever changing prospective customers are welcome to inspect the fleet frequently or to call Matthew on 01752 849420 for the latest update on what is available.



Vast new premises include 5 New Ramps and an area to enable MOT testing to vans & cars

Sign Writing...Signs Prepared to Order

Complementing the services offered by her husband Dale, Suzanne has been developing her own business Saltash Signs alongside D B Autos and often been enabled to help them and their customers in personalising their vehicles.

Not surprisingly all vehicles belonging to Dale's Van Hire business show off signs prepared to order by Suzanne. She has also been proud to prepare vinyl printed signs, designed to customer's requirements, for many of their customer's commercial

vehicles. Signs can be designed and cut within a day for relatively straightforward designs, somewhat longer if more intricate work is required, in order to ensure a perfect print. Shop fronts and billboards are also a speciality and Saltash

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'Ploughboy' Packed for Fun Filled Quiz Evening to Help Hospital



Mike & Joan pictured with staff & a patient from Birch Ward Derriford

Dedicated cancer nurses from Derriford's Birch Ward joined with the 'Ploughboy's' keen regulars and other visitors to pack the pub for a special fund raising quiz night. An estimated two hundred competitors meant that extra tables had to be brought in as those who had come early to enjoy a pre-quiz meal met with others eager just for a fun evening while raising funds for the new transplant unit at Derriford. Landlady Joan

formed a family team across the generations with daughter Shirley and grandchildren Vicki and Geoff.

A special guest was 32 year old Leanne Turner, a student hairdresser at Saltash Collage. Leanne is one of a small number of younger people diagnosed with multiple myeloma blood cancer. She came to support the Birch Ward nurses who have been treating her over the two years that she has been suffering from the condition and who

described Leanne as 'always smiling while helping to bring cheer to other patients.' The nurses also held a raffle in the 'Ploughboy' to help swell the charity funds.

Mike and Joan are always keen for the 'Ploughboy' to be a venue for quiz nights and are pleased to discuss arrangements for this. Earlier this year a quiz was held there for St. Stephens School Funds, while other charity events have included a darts night in aid of Derriford's Leukaemia Ward.

The quiz for Birch Ward in particular raised funds to pay for eleven new radio units to be supplied by Sony for the hospital. There was a great fun-filled atmosphere in the capacity filled bar, with everyone evidently enjoying the opportunity to help an excellent local cause while having a great night out.

New Housing by Traffic Lights May Add to Pollution

An application to build three new town houses adjacent to Burraton traffic lights has been recommended for rejection by Town Councillors concerned over noise and fume pollution.

'The tunnel effect which they would create would exacerbate the already unpleasant environmental effects of noise and fumes from traffic at the lights', believed Cllr. Derek Holley. It was said that the existing bungalow, where the proposed houses were to be sited, had been hit by traffic and that the houses would be dangerously positioned. Four letters of

objection from neighbours had been received by the Town Council.

The recommendation for refusal included the grounds that it was a cramped form of development creating an overdeveloped site, too close to the highway, and a detrimental impact on the environment and amenity of existing properties respect of noise and fumes.

Hail and Ride Replaces Bus Services

The two Saltash circular bus services, withdrawn by First National, have been replaced for Pillmere passengers by a privately operated service.

The First Groups' 33 and 33A routes were introduced to connect with the service to Plymouth when the previous 1 and 2 services, which did a circuit of the town were withdrawn and replaced by the 1 to St. Stephens and 1A to Latchbrook. The reason given

for withdrawing the 33 and 33A was lack of use.

David Bateman of Maxi's has informed the Town Council that he is introducing a privately operated hail and ride fixed price service to cover Pillmere. It will operate on a restricted timetable to begin with, focusing on those in the community who currently have restricted access to transport. It is hoped to extend the service accordingly to demand.

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Speedwatch Volunteers Sought

Those who are concerned at the risk to life and limb of themselves or their children from speeding motorists are invited to join the local 'speedwatch' campaign.

Saltash Police, with the help of local volunteers, have carried out a number of successful checks on speeding vehicles and stopped those who go above the legal limit within the built up area. An area recently targeted has been the Liskeard Road, where motorists speed up before leaving the town, or fail to slow when approaching it.

Kit and appropriate clothing are provided by the Police. Anyone interested is invited to speak to any Town Councillor or contact the police non-emergency number, 101, and ask to speak to Sergeant Dunstan or a local PCSO.

Conundrum Answers

Nine-letter word: Corkscrew
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