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Full Programme for
The May Fair Weekend



SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

April 2010 - Issue 213

Incessant trumpet of trade; armoury of fearless truth without fear or favour ...

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BRIDGE TOLLS SHOCK - IMMEDIATE INCREASES IMPLEMENTED

Tamar Bridge commuters found themselves paying fifty per cent more for their tolls within four days of the increase being authorised by the Department of Transport.

Following an enquiry in January this year the Inspector decided that a compelling case had been put for the increase to be implemented and he reported accordingly to the department.

Lord Adonis authorised the increase on the Tuesday and the increased tolls were effective from 5 a.m. the following Friday.

Tamar Tag holders will find themselves being charged 75 pence inset of 50 pence each time they cross to Devon. Cash payers will pay £1.50, up from £1.00.

The Bridge and Ferry authorities sought to justify the speed of the increase pointing out that they had applied for it last May and expected to implement it last December. They were losing £10,000 of anticipated revenue per day before the rise took place. The Bridge and Ferry had been operating at a deficit for three years and had been funded by cash reserves which were now almost depleted. The increase in tolls would generate an expected £3.5 million per year additional income.

The last cash toll increase was sixteen years ago, the last concession increase thirteen years ago. Since then considerable capital had been expended on strengthening and widening the Tamar Bridge, replacing all three Torpoint ferries with enlarged versions, and introducing the convenience of electronic tolling intended to speed through traffic.

On a radio interview Bridge and Ferry Manager David List said that enquiries had shown that a majority of bridge and ferry users would prefer to see small toll increases every two or three years rather than substantial increases after around fifteen years, and this would be borne in mind for the future.

Meanwhile commuters and shoppers to Plymouth have to pay the 50% increase in addition to paying out for anticipated increased petrol costs making car travel more expensive than ever. The alternative is to use the bus or the enhanced rail services which now call at Saltash Station, or avoid bridge tolls and expensive city centre parking fees by checking out the excellent range of shops which we have in Saltash.



TEAM RUN FOR HEROES

Following last years successful 'Run for a Grand' in which they raised £1,000 for St Lukes Hospice, Roger and Heather Smyly are doing a triple run this year hoping to raise a similar sum for charity.

They were overwhelmed last year at the support given by friends and by visitors 'For Your Rooms,' the furniture showroom that they own in Fore Street. This has spurred them on to enter the Plymouth 'Hoe Ten' miler, which they

completed in February. Now they are heavily in training for the Tavistock half marathon in April and that in Plymouth in May.

Meanwhile, they are out running four times a week including a long run each Sunday.

This year they have decided to support 'Help for Heroes,' especially since their son Luke recently joined the Royal Engineers. This is also the current Mayor of Saltash's main charity.

Sponsorship forms are available in 'For your Rooms' and anyone willing to support this worthwhile cause is invited to call in.

SALTASH WINS MAJOR LOTTERY BID FOR LANDMARK NEW CELTIC CROSS

It was announced yesterday that Saltash has won a Flagship award of £450,000 from Lottery Community Spaces.

The award will enable the development of Elwell Woods and the construction of an iconic modern interpretation of a Celtic Cross, by Cornish artist Simon Thomas.

The site lies at the Gateway to Cornwall, alongside the Tamar Road Bridge, with spectacular views upriver and across to Dartmoor. The neglected scrub woodland has been closed to the public for nearly 50 years, and will be sympathetically regenerated as a community woodland and wildlife habitat.

On an elevated part of the site, the spectacular 20 metre

cross will be built as a landmark greeting motorists entering Cornwall. The scale is similar to that of the Angel of the North and it is hoped that visitors will help regenerate the town centre economy and come to symbolise South East Cornwall.

The £ half million project is led by Saltash Waterfront Residents Association and supported by the Town Council, Gateway CIC, and Cornwall Council, with high profile public endorsement by Tim Smit (Eden Project) and Kevin Lavery (Cornwall CEO).

Project leader Joe Ellison says

"this award has enormous implications for Saltash and Cornwall. It is a reward for nine months of hard work by a small dedicated project team, working closely with the local community.

Saltash is arguably the most innovative town in Cornwall, and has recently been declared the most desirable postcode in the UK. This project will add to the environmental regeneration of the town and Waterside area.

It is expected to be completed over a two year period, and is subject to compliance with a few remaining conditions to obtain planning permission"

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HIGH LOCAL PETROL PRICES CAUSE CONCERN

The high price of petrol in Saltash, as against elsewhere in the area is causing increasing concern to motorists now hit in addition with increased toll charges.

While increasing petrol costs are a national problem for drivers Saltash Council's Industry Commerce Transportation and Tourism Committee believes that the Town is being hit particularly hard with prices far higher than in Plymouth a few miles away.

The Town's Chamber of Commerce and Industry which has previously

negotiated price reductions with local outlets, shares this concern and it was agreed that Town Councillor Joe Ellison together with a Chamber of Commerce representative should meet with local petrol station managers to see if anything could be done to bring local prices more into keeping with the regional average.

SALTASH SAVED FROM INCINERATOR ACROSS THE TAMAR

The threat of a giant incinerator across the river from Saltash with its tower dominating the Tamar Bridge and pumping noxious fumes across the town is no more.

Ernesettle is now off the agenda as far as plans for a giant incinerator to consume South Devon and East Cornwall's waste is concerned. Members of the action group STIFLE which includes many Saltash Residents including Town Councillors were suitably jubilant to know that the town is not to be dominated by the structure on a green field site just across the river from Brunel Green and bordering on the Tamar Valley area of outstanding natural beauty.

Two prospective sites are still being considered, that by Virador at Lee Mill, and that of a German company in the North Yard of Devonport Dockyard.

STIFLE will however, continue to monitor the use that Plymouth City Council may have in mind for the green field site at Ernesettle which was considered for the incinerator, Saltash town councillor and STIFLE activist Joe Ellison advised. It could still be considered for some different form of waste disposal.

The North Yard site, Councillor Martin Gee reminded all, is still within

sight of Saltash and a south-easterly wind from there could bring air pollution to Saltash. The town council is seeking further information on this projected site.

CRIME FIGURES FALL BY TWO THIRDS

Crimes in the Saltash area were down by 69% over the equivalent period last year, PC Simon Fletcher was pleased to tell the March Town Council meeting. Forty-two reported crimes contrasted with 130 the previous year.

There had however, been two burglaries from dwellings. In reply to questions PC Fletcher advised that there was no reason to connect these two burglaries.

"Most house burglaries are not planned in advance. They are opportunist, offenders take advantage of seeing an unsecured building," he warned, adding, "Most burglaries do not take place at night but during the daytime when homes are more likely to be empty."

Deputy Mayor Adam Killeya took the opportunity to thank PC Fletcher for his work in the town, where he has been involved since the 1980's, and wish him well for his forthcoming retirement from the Police Force.

CONCERN FOR WILDLIFE IN COMMUNITY WOODLAND

Plans for a giant Celtic cross in a managed Elwell woodland site adjacent to the Tamar Bridge have been recommended for approval by the town council subject to assurance of protection for the area's wildlife.

Amended plans for the community woodland area had come back to the town council due to concerns for tree roots on an amended right of way, and concerns for a bat survey.

All is sorted with regard to diverting the right of way without harming the trees, Joe Ellison, who had put forward the plans advised the town council. While bats had been observed in the woodland there was no evidence of their roosting but he was happy for a full bat survey to be carried out.

Environmental concerns had been raised by the Saltash Environmental Action Group. They had pointed out the importance of retaining a wide tree canopy next to a main road to absorb carbon dioxide and were concerned at loss of trees and of undergrowth on the woodland floor. There had been no proper survey of wildlife currently in the woodland, or what might be attracted to it, they claimed, and they expressed disappointment that the proposed pond or wetland area no longer featured in plans.

The concrete surrounds for a twenty metre high Celtic Cross caused environmental concerns and SEA asked instead for low trees or shrubs

to surround it.

Stone paving, not concrete, was planned around the cross, replied Mr Ellison who confirmed that the wetland area could be re-instated into the plan.

Town Councillor Derek Holley proposed recommending approval to the amended plans subject to the maintenance of as much woodland floor cover as possible to include a wetland, the minimum reduction of trees and the supervision of an ecologist. "This young woodland, properly managed could be of considerable benefit to the town," he believed. As to the Celtic Cross, which was selected by townfolk from among a number of designs ten years ago, he described it as of "modern and uncompromising design. The Angel of the North proved controversial, now it is accepted as an icon and a tourist attraction."

The council voted unanimously in favour of the amended plans for the woodland and for the cross which was then dependent upon the outcome of an application for a lottery grant. Confirmation has now been received that the grant is now on offer. We now await confirmation as to Cornwall County planning committee accepting the recommendation of the town Council.

FREE RAIL TICKETS TEMPT TAMAR BRIDGE USERS

In an unusual step the Saltash Rail Users' Group are offering disillusioned Tamar Bridge users an alternative to their daily commute by car. People are being offered a free weekly ticket between Saltash and Plymouth in the hope that they find it easier and cheaper than jumping into their cars.

Richard Bickford, from SRUG said 'It seemed an appropriate time to try this scheme out, Road Bridge users have just been hit by a rise in the toll and fuel prices are continually creeping upward. We know that the train won't work for everyone, but if you work in or around Plymouth City Centre, then it may be a viable alternative, it only takes 10-12 minutes and can cost from as little as £1.50 return per day.'

The scheme is being paid for with some funding that has been gained through taking part in rail based consultations, but if the scheme proves successful and more people start to use the rail services then more funding may be sought. Mr Bickford, also commented that "the more people that use the service we have, then the more services we can get. We are just trying to accelerate the process a bit".

Over recent years the rail service provided at Saltash has improved significantly. Roger Creagh-Osborne, Chairman of SRUG added "We have around 40% more trains than 4 years ago and we will fight for further improvements. The trains are more reliable and the fares are affordable for most. We would urge you to find out more".

You can contact the rail users group on 841119 or email secretary@srug.org.uk



CORNWALL COUNCIL

& our PL12 community
For Observer readers
From Councillor Derek Holley
Pill Ward Saltash

This is not what you are going to want to hear but I reluctantly supported the demise of the old Caradon Council subsidised parking card system. Many of you will have these white plastic cards which gave you cheaper parking throughout SE Cornwall.

The cards themselves can still be used and topped up at the machines, but at normal rates. At the end of last year I managed to get myself onto the Parking Policy Panel at County Hall which is trying to pull together six different parking systems into one. I admit that I did this mainly so that I could try and persuade the Council to recognise that Saltash's town centre economy is drastically affected by the proximity of Plymouth and that hikes in parking charges will damage the viability of our town centre. I continue to press this point at every available opportunity, so much so that the Chairman of the Panel (who is a genuine good guy and very fair) took me to task this week and pointed out, quite rightly, that I was there to represent the rest of Cornwall as well. Back to the old Caradon parking card. The problem of fairness was that only Caradon and the old Restormel district had these cards and to keep them as they were would have meant that the other ratepayers and car parkers throughout the county would have had to subsidise a system which benefited only the 25% of Caradon households which took up and used the cards. To extend the system throughout Cornwall would have cost over £2 million of subsidy on the rates plus the cost of the machines in each car park. It was indefensible to keep the subsidy on the cards and I took the view that it was more important to support the removal of this subsidy (which would have got through anyway) and later fight the bigger battle of trying to keep our parking charges down. Hey ho. If only life was straightforward. Meanwhile all the county is having an interim smaller rise in parking charges while these bigger battles are being fought.

Why put them up at all? Because county finances are extremely tight and will get tighter and the car parks are looked upon as a "cash cow" to generate income. Thank goodness all the panel, every member, has said that this is a wrong starting point and that we will look at other factors as well.

The next question you will

ask is this? If finances are this tight why is Saltash getting £450,000 to create Elwell Park and the Celtic Cross (Elwell Park will be down Lower Fore Street, on the left under the road bridge and through the woods)? Leaving aside any benefits to the residents that the park will bring and the tourist and mapping impact the cross will have the simple fact is that this is national money for projects like this that would have gone elsewhere for something similar if we had not got it. It is not money that we could have bid for and then used for car parks or public toilets or schools. So we might as well have it, is the way I look at it. Anyway well done to Joe Ellison' team, the Waterside Residents Association and Saltash Town Council for getting this award. It is a cracking example of how a few determined people can "win" money for community projects. Why don't you form a Residents Association in your area - it is worthwhile, interesting and fun and can reap decent rewards for your area.

Leave the best till last. Hands up those who want your bins emptied once a fortnight. This is not, I repeat not, on the cards yet, but if you want to stave this off then one thing that you can do to help is to recycle. There are loads of households along Saltash's streets that do not recycle and plenty more that only recycle some bits and pieces. If we can keep our landfill down by recycling more and more then there will be less pressure to change the existing system. So if you know somebody who never bothers to recycle have a polite and kind word with them and say what might happen if they don't. Personally having experience of fortnightly recycling at my daughter's place up the line I would anyway fight this one to the bitter end, if it ever comes up. I am certain my fellow Town and Cornwall councillors would do the same. It is a lousy, smelly system which is a fine sentiment to end on. Here's hoping for a fine warm spring with light rain only at nights, no blight on my potatoes and a glorious summer. Happy Days.

Derek Holley, Cornwall and Town Councillor.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR.....

Dear Residents and Friends
(One and All)

This is my last message to you as Mayor – as I come out of office in May and Mayor Elect Councillor Adam Killeya will be in place by the time the next Saltash Observer is on your door-steps.

May I therefore take this opportunity of thanking all the community of Saltash for making my time in office (ably assisted by my husband/consort John) such an enjoyable year.

We have met so many wonderful people at all our events – far too many to list in this message – but they include – schools, churches, uniformed/sports organisations, concerts, pantomimes, charity events, Saltash Town Regatta, (May Fair to come), Special Anniversaries/Birthdays, presentations, grand openings and much more; not to mention our Civic and major events in other towns and cities. We have been welcomed with open arms by all – and it has been once again a most humbling experience.

We also had the great honour of welcoming two Japanese Professors from Tokyo – they came to Saltash as part of their research into local politics for publications that they are preparing and they will report their findings in a book and a National Magazine – they were very impressed with Saltash and Cornwall and promised a favourable report – super!!

I would also like to thank all those individuals and groups who have donated so much to the Mayor's Charity Funds (Help For Heroes, local charities and worthy causes) – my Mayor's Fund is still open until May 11th – where Adam takes over after that date. So still time to contribute at the Saltash Guildhall.

I must pay tribute to all the young people at Livewire who are working hard on their charity CD to benefit the Haiti Earthquake disaster fund – they are so enthusiastic in their aim to raise as much money as possible – well done you guys/gals and to Andy and his loyal project team at the club!!

Whilst I am giving out bouquets – I should also congratulate SWRA and their partners on their recent success in raising almost ½ million pounds for the Ellwell Woods/Celtic Cross project. This project which has gone through stringent public consultation and planning and design stages and we await news of when the project can go ahead – it has been a long arduous journey for all concerned – and I applaud all partners involved for staying with the project and realising a dream and vision for Saltash and for visitors to our Ancient Town and to Cornwall – well done Joe Ellison and one and all!!!

We have some of the finest young people in the area here in Saltash – and I really congratulate them on their outlook on life and what it has to offer them – and in doing so offer special thanks to parents/schools/organisations who put so much time in supporting their efforts to be good citizens and worthy contributors to our local community. It was a joy recently to attend the Caradon Swimming Club presentation evening and the Tamar Trotters Junior Athletic Club – both organisations had very talented and competitive young people – indeed all our other youth sports clubs in Saltash are doing so well.

I acknowledge we still do have a few young people we need to stimulate and encourage – but they are truly



The Countess of Wessex receives a posy from one of the schools pupils

in the minority and all is being done by various agencies to involve them in projects.

We live work and play in a marvellous town and all share the gifts of friendship and generosity – and I pay tribute to all those who play such an important role in organisations (including youth) to provide a platform to those who greatly benefit from so many local associations.

One of the highlights recently was to be present at the opening of Bishop Cornish School's new "Environmentally Friendly" children's unit. So much hard work has gone into raising the many thousands of pounds to build this marvellous facility for young children as an educational and pre/post school building. I applaud all concerned for having the vision and the expertise in every aspect of its development and the final opening where the Countess of Wessex so kindly opened. The children loved Sophie – she was a delight and was genuinely interested in the children and the project – and was rightly very complimentary of the school and all that is done there for the pupils. A DVD tribute was also paid by the Arch bishop of Canterbury which was well received by all present. A special mention must also be given to the school musicians/choir – under the baton of Mr Ryan Hill – superb!!!

I would like to take this opportunity too of thanking our local Councillors who have been so supportive in every way – likewise – all the staff at Saltash Town Council who have helped me in my day to day duties.

Our Town Clerk Mrs Marilyn Small is leaving after 17 years of Service to the Saltash Town Council to pursue pastures new – on behalf of the Council and the town may I thank Marilyn for her dedicated services and wish her all the very best for the future. We are having a "Bit of a Do" for Marilyn in April and I am accepting donations for her farewell gift – I am sure there will be many out there who may wish to contribute – you can do so by taking them into the Saltash Guildhall (reception).

I would also like to thank the Mayor's Chaplain the Rev. Alan Butler for his kind services to me and the Council over this past year.

You will be well served by our new incumbents Councillors Adam and Merryn

Killeya (Mayor and Mayoress elect) and Councillor Colin and Marilyn Oakes (Deputy Mayor and Mayoress elect). Adam and Merryn have been outstanding support as deputies and I have every confidence in them for the ensuing year. May I wish all four every success in serving this wonderful community of Saltash.

Without my dear husband's 100% commitment to his role as Consort – I would not have been able to do the work bestowed upon me as Mayor – so I thank John from the bottom of my heart for his dedication and support to me – not only as Mayor but all that he does to help me in every way 24/7 in our community work.

Thank you too to editor in chief Mary and ace reporter Martin who have given the Mayor a platform to reach the people of Saltash it is a wonderful opportunity and one that is most appreciated!

The Mayor's Charity Big Band (and Glen Miller) Swing buffet supper is on Saturday 24th April at the Saltash Working Mens' Club 7.15 pm – tickets £22 – if you would like to come pop into the Saltash Guildhall and get your tickets now as they are limited.

See you all around and about Saltash (HOPEFULLY AT THE MAYFAIR – BE THERE!!)

Sue Hooper MBE – Mayor of Saltash 2009/10



A WATERBEARING CHALLENGE FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Saltash children and their parents rose to the 'H2O Challenge,' promoted through the Eden Project, on Saltash Waterside.

The object was to transport water from a waterbut on the green to a bath on the beach using a complex system of pumps and pipes. The reward was to see the clear water gushing through.

The project, funded by Cornwall Council was aimed to encourage children to think about water and to appreciate how valuable an asset it is in supporting all of life.

The aptly named Philip Waters, Play Project Co-ordinator of the Eden Project, oversaw the experimentations carried out by local children with an interested audience of local swans.

SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

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A few minutes on a Saturday morning in Saltash could save your life. Over the last few years, of the hundreds who have undergone a brief blood pressure test on 'Save a Stoke' day around one in five have been advised to seek attention from their general practitioner.

A stroke can be fatal or at the very least have a major effect on one's whole life but can be easily avoided if warning is given in time. Hence Saltash Rotary are once again inviting one and all to participate by attending 'The Hearing Room' or a chance to see The Hearing Room's new

premises Regional Hearing Room, in Fore St or 'Boots the Chemist' on Saturday 17th April where paramedics will be ready to carry out a relaxing and painless blood pressure test and give either the 'all clear' or advise on pre-emptive treatment.

We will be giving a radio reminder nearer the day but meanwhile please note the date - 17th April - in your diary - it could save your health or even your life.

Everyone welcome!

Saltash May Fair 2010
Saltash May Fair 2010 will be held in the town on Saturday 1st May, with traditional favourites in the street market alongside new entertainments and activities involving local organisations, clubs and societies

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FORE STREET SHOPS ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

Empty shops in Fore Street are to be utilised to promote local organisations and, it is hoped, as start-up centres for new business. The former Learning Centre which faces up Fore Street is proposed for use as an 'incubator,' for new businesses.

TOWN CENTRE FLATS TURNED DOWN

Four flats to be built adjacent to listed buildings between Victoria Gardens and the Wesley Church have been turned down for approval by the town council.

There had been considerable opposition from local residents some of whom described the plans as a gross over development that would destroy the historic setting of listed buildings at the foot of Callington Road. The building formerly named 'Prospect House' would lose its fine prospect over the Tamar and Tavy Valleys, one resident told the town council meeting.

The plans involved over-development of the site and overlooking of homes in Fenton Park, believed Councillor Joe Ellison, and Councillor Derek Holley added that they could "compromise the quality of the local environment to a considerable degree." The council unanimously recommended refusal of permission for the four flats to be built.

The Town's Community Interest Company is seeking to break up the large premises into smaller units where new businesses can establish themselves, before, if successful, moving on elsewhere.

Items from the town's rich history may be displayed in the former Marianne's dress shop where Saltash Heritage have been invited to promote their organisation and the town's museum and local History centre in Lower Fore Street. Saltash College is also interested in putting some art on display. A Volunteer's Agency is being suggested for an empty shop at the foot of Fore Street, while the Community Interest Company seeks to work generally with the Town Council in improving and acquiring high quality window displays as required.

All is aimed at enhancing the appearance and attractiveness of Saltash as a shopping centre while long term tenants for the empty shops continue to be sought.

**A Date for your Diary
Rotary Stroke
Awareness Day
Saturday 17th April**

Help save yourself from the risk of a stroke, have your blood pressure tested. It's in Fore Street and it's FREE

Children are Crying Out Loud

Town criers from throughout the South West will be making themselves heard on the Saturday of Saltash May Fair. Criers will be coming from as far as Somerset and Gloucestershire to participate, along side our own town crier Brian Whipp, in Saltash's first ever town crier's competition. With fourteen of them expected it should prove colourful as well as a noisy event.

Another first for Saltash will be a Saltash Junior Town Crier contest to be held that afternoon between five boys and five girls representing each of our local schools.

Brian Whipp and his wife Monica have been visiting each school promoting the event. When we caught up with them at Brunel School a host of hands proved the enthusiasm for donning the



Brian Whipp with Jessica at Brunel School
Photo by Martin Lister

miniature town crier's costume, complete with hat, sounding the bell, and crying out "oyez" to their schoolmates.

Staff will be selecting those due to appear on May Fair Saturday when there will be prizes for those judged the

best and smaller awards for all competitors.

Thanks are due to sponsors Stylus Engravers, Treasure Island, Florabella, Nevills Cake Shop, Waitrose, Ginsters, Saltash Leisure Centre and the Working Mens' Club.

SALTASHCARD celebrates 1st birthday

The SALTASHCARD scheme was launched a year ago to promote and support local businesses.

Over 20 businesses are currently participating with a great new addition. The Brunel Inn, has just joined, offering 10% discount on food orders over £10. Richard Bickford, scheme coordinator said "The addition of the Brunel is a great

way to celebrate our first year. Probably one of the biggest businesses in Fore Street, we hope that people will use the offer and lengthen their stay and perhaps do a bit more shopping."

Matt Smith, new owner of the Brunel said "We are determined to make a success of the pub and want to do all we can to encourage people in, we are already offering a wide range of great value food, now its even better value. The SALTASHCARD is a great idea and we hope it goes from strength to strength."

Now with over 800 cards in circulation the scheme hopes to continue to attract new customers into Saltash, building on the success of the first year.

We 'May' need volunteers!

Everything that makes Saltash May Fair a great event for the people in the town is organised by a small group of local volunteers.

Whilst many months of planning help to make May Fair happen each year much of the event's success depends upon it's smooth running on the day. This can only be achieved with the help of others who can spare a few hours of their time. If you can help to ensure that everything runs smoothly and safely throughout Fore Street, Victoria Gardens or Longstone Park on Saturday, or on the course during the Half Marathon and Fun Run on Sunday please contact the May Fair Committee through www.saltashmayfair.co.uk or contact Kevin Procter on 07767 444816.

Acknowledgements & Thanks

We would like to express our thanks to the following:

Local police force (full-time & Specials), Fire Service, St. John's Ambulance Cornwall, Cornwall Council, the Highways Agency, Speedy Prints Saltash, Saltash Video Group, Ashtorpe Rock Community Centre, Saltash Bowling Club, Saltash Chamber of Commerce, Cottons Taxis, the May Fair Princess & Attendants, the Town Crier Brian Whipp & his wife, Martin Lister, Rachel Mabbitt, & all our wonderful entertainers. Special thanks go to all the organisations who held events over May Fair weekend, including Livewire and Tamar Trotters.

"Thank you" to the businesses who have sponsored May Fair in these lean times, including Active Alarms, Tamar View Fruiterers, Waitrose Saltash, Mike Nottage Woodwind Repair and all of the businesses who sponsored the Programme in this Paper - your contributions make a huge difference! A special thank you to Saltash Town Council, the Festival Fund grant has really helped May Fair happen, & to all of the organisations and individuals who have helped with this year's May Fair, especially Mary Crawford & the Saltash Observer.

Lastly - thanks to the people of Saltash for supporting the event!

Regards
Peter J Stephens ISM

I am very pleased to be associated with the May Fair, and wish the committee a very successful weekend.
Please make sure you bring the family along and support them. Editor Mary Crawford

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SALTASH MAY FAIR



Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd May

Put the date in your diary for a truly great day out for all of the family!

LET'S JOIN TOGETHER & WELCOME THE START OF SUMMER IN SALTASH FESTIVE STYLE

Spring has come to Saltash and with it the welcome return of one of the best loved events in our local calendar. Saltash May Fair invites one and all once again to shake off the lethargies of our long harsh Winter and join together in welcoming the start of Summer in Saltash festive style.

Our hard working committee promise each year that this will be "The best May Fair ever," and over the last few years this has proved no idle boast. So when they promise that Fore Street should be lined with even more stalls offering a wide selection of local produce, food, drink, bric a brac,

games, activities and chances to discover what a vast amount of activities go on in our town, this should be encouragement enough to enjoy the once a year experience of a traffic free Fore Street packed with good things to enjoy.

And when we are promised a packed programme of

entertainment to suit all ages, why not make a day of it, bringing lunch, visiting one of our welcoming inns or cafes, or stocking up on the stalls with home made produce for a family picnic.

Sunday too has its variety of attractions from the excitement of our gruelling half marathon and family-

friendly fun run, to the easy going Harding's Hike. Non competitors are encouraged to join in the fun and excitement by cheering our competitors off and welcoming them back, and walkers of all ages and abilities including in particular families are invited to join Observer Ace Reporter Martin Lister as

he leads a gentle ramble through some of Saltash's gorgeous countryside.

Just read of all the fun events laid on for your delight, then come and share the atmosphere of the weekend that brings our town together as a community and heralds the start of another Saltash Summer.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF SALTASH

(Honorary President of the Saltash Mayfair 2009/10)

Dear Residents and Visitors to the Saltash Mayfair - I bid thee welcome this 32nd year since the 4th revival of the Fair; and what fairs they have been for Saltash folk and all the visitors to our wonderful town for decades. Every year the Mayfair seems to get better and better - offering entertainment, charitable stalls for us to buy bargains - and in doing so - enabling organisations to raise needy cash for their chosen worthy causes.

Every year we enjoy all what is on offer - and this year is no exception!! We have our Mayfair princess and attendants, town crier competition, half marathon, photographic competition, Saltash Video Group presentation, youth parade (what a spectacle that is!) various stalls and much much more!!

Saltash boasts one of the most successful fairs in the region - and you only have to see the many hundreds of people flocking to Fore Street on the Mayfair Saturday to see how much it is enjoyed and appreciated.

None of this can happen however - without the sheer dedication and hard work of the local working committee who are all volunteers.

May I take this opportunity of paying tribute to them and indeed thanking them for organising such an outstanding event on our

behalf.

May I also thank all the local businesses - and all who are associated with staging the Saltash Mayfair. In addition a special thanks to the Mayfair sponsors - Saltash Town Council being the major financial contributor.

I do hope you all have a wonderful weekend of celebrations and jubiliations - and I am certain to see many of you on my rounds at the **FUN OF THE FAIR!!**



Councillor Sue Hooper MBE

New Princess for Saltash May Fair

Fourteen year old Corina Roissetter, who attends Saltash.net Community School, will be crowned Saltash May Fair Princess at this year's event on Saturday 1st May.

Corina, whose interests include drumming, swimming & photography, will share centre stage with her attendants, Katie Syass and Maxine Denton. Both Katie and Maxine are aged nine years and have an interest in art, and whilst Katie attends Burraton County Primary School, Maxine is a pupil at St Mellion Primary School.

The girls went through an informal Princess Choosing interview, held at Ashtorre Rock, and will represent Saltash at civic events during their year long reign. An interest in becoming involved in the life of their home town and a pride in representing Saltash was part of the criteria for the girls selection by the May Fair Committee, and one of Corina's first engagements will be as a judge of the junior Town Crier competition on May Fair Saturday.

Supported by Saltash Town Council and local radio station Heart FM, Saltash May Fair 2010 will be held on Saturday 1st May, with traditional favourites in the street market alongside new entertainments and activities throughout the town involving local organisations, clubs and societies. The ever-popular half marathon and fun run will take place on Sunday 2nd May.



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A Diary Date not to be Missed

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May Fair 2010 Promises to Provide a Packed Schedule and something for everyone!

Following the overwhelming success of the May Fair over recent years the 2010 event promises to provide another packed schedule, and truly offers something for everyone. Once again Saltash Town Council has supported the event, and the Committee are delighted to have been able to work with local radio station Heart F.M., who have helped to provide some of the day's entertainment and attractions. Saturday 1st May

Procession of Youth

The festivities begin at 9.45a.m. on Saturday 1st May with the Procession of Youth, including the May Fair Princess and her attendants, led by the Kernow Pipes and Drums from Victoria Park, past the numerous stalls in the street fair and down to the bottom of Fore Street. The Mayor of Saltash, Cllr. Mrs. Sue Hooper MBE, will then officially open the day before a packed programme, consisting of a variety of live music and entertainment, begins in the main arena.

The Arena

The entertainment in the main arena will be hosted by Heart F.M.'s 'Heart Angels' and will include Roo McKellar, a songwriter and lyricist, based in Plymouth. His songwriting styles are incredibly varied, ranging from Country and Rock to Pop and Classical. Also appearing will be Beat-Breakers Entertainment, an Urban Group that works with some of the South West's finest Urban Talent, including Breakdancers, Street-Dancers and Singers. Solo artist Taylor is just 15 years old and a member of the 'Legends' singing club. She works hard to raise money for a number of different charities and has recently performed at Titchy Park and World On Cookworthy Green at Devonport.

Town Crier Competition

Commencing at 11.15a.m. in Wesley Road, May Fair will be host to the first Town Crier competition held in Saltash. The event has been organised by Saltash Town Crier, Brian Whipp, who will not be able to compete, but taking part will be around a dozen Town Criers and their Escorts from around the local area, all of whom will compete for titles of Best Cry, Best Dressed Escort and Best Dressed Crier. A junior Town Crier competition, with boys and girls from five local schools competing, will be held in the afternoon. A special trophy in memory of Liskeard town crier, Frank Beer, will be amongst those presented at 3.30p.m. at Saltash Working Men's Club.

Wreckers Morris
 Also performing in Fore Street

will be Wreckers Morris, a lively mixed Border Morris side based at St. Dominick, who hopes to perform both traditional and new dances, and so have a varied, evolving assortment. They are a friendly bunch and will not doubt be looking for some audience participation, whilst one of the areas leading street entertainers, Passing Showers, will be wandering amongst the crowds performing a variety of tricks.

Bring a Rug and Relax

Younger children can again enjoy the "Teddy Bears Picnic" area in Victoria Gardens, whilst their parents relax. With refreshments from the Maurice Huggins Tea Rooms, why not bring a rug, and enjoy all the free entertainments on offer throughout the day. Saltash Town Band will play a variety of well-known and well-loved tunes and the little ones, and their teddy bears, can enjoy a traditional Punch & Judy show with sausages, crocodiles and lots of audience participation, whilst everyone else soaks up the atmosphere of this traditional family event. Parents can also join the kids in Rachel's Fun Keep Fit sessions during the afternoon. The Heart FM marquee on Longstone Park will include face painting, childrens games and colouring competitions.

Livewire at Longstone

Members of Livewire, the youth music project for young people aged 13 to 20, will be performing at "Rock in the Park". Livewire recently teamed up with Heavy Metal divas, Girlschool, and a number of other hard rock legends, to release a cover of their 1980 hit 'Emergency' as a fund raising single following the Haiti

earthquake. A selection of young local bands and artists will be playing from mid-day at Longstone Park, and there is also a possibility of some special guests attending.

Kernow Pipes & Drums...Free tuition

For many years Kernow Pipes and Drums have been performing at parades, marches and stage shows, and have even provided music for weddings and funerals, and Saltash is delighted to welcome them to May Fair. The band is based at the Territorial Army Barracks in Truro, and has adopted the Green Cornish Hunting tartan for their band uniform. They currently have 30 members of both sexes, along with a youth contingent, and have a free of charge tuition program. Anyone interested should visit www.kernowpipeband.com.

Sunday 2nd May Half Marathon

On Sunday 2nd May at 10.00a.m. the gun will fire for the start of the gruelling Saltash Half Marathon. Organised by local club Tamar Trotters, it is known in running circles as one of the hardest events of its kind in Cornwall and runners will include Alan Williams who is to run the equivalent of 31 races at the age of 31, with the aim of raising £31,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

The Half Marathon is sponsored by Active Alarms and the Fun Run by Tamar View Fruiterers

Join in the Fun Run

Everyone is welcome to dust off their old running shoes and compete in the two mile Fun Run at 10.15a.m. but be sure to join in with the all important fun warm up session with Rachel before



Photo by kind permission of Mike Nottage - May Fair 2009

stretching those leg muscles on the sprint up Fore Street. If you fancy a slightly more sedate pace why not join Martin Lister on the ever popular Harding's Hike, which starts at the Plough Boy public house at 2.00p.m. and heads into the country for a walk of around 4 miles. The walk should last around 2.5 to 3 hours in total. Families, and dogs with well-behaved owners are very welcome to join in, and

can walk as far as they are comfortable with. Suitable clothing and footwear are required. Stay in the know with everything related to May Fair 2010 at www.saltashmayfair.co.uk.. put Saturday May 1st in your diary as a date to look forward to, and have an enjoyable and memorable day out in Saltash.

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*Ryan Barrett, proprietor of Realistic.
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Saltash has something to shout about!

Saltash will be holding its first Town Crier competition on Saturday 1st May. The event has been organised by Saltash Town Crier, Brian Whipp, who will not be able to compete, and will feature as part of the Town Council sponsored May Fair.

Taking part will be around a dozen Town Criers and their Escorts from the local area who will compete for titles of Best Cry, Best Dressed Escort and Best Dressed Crier. Commencing at 11p.m. in Wesley Road, all Criers will read a pre-written address, which will begin with the familiar cry of "Oyez-Oyez-Oyez" (which means "Hear Ye" in French) and finish their proclamation with the traditional "God save the Queen". A special trophy will be presented in memory of Liskeard town crier, Frank Beer, who died recently. In the afternoon there will be a junior Town Crier competition, with boys and girls from five local schools competing, in uniform and with bat and bell, for the "Best Junior Crier".

The first Town Crier competitions were held in Greece in 396 BC to find the person who could best announce winners of the games. The Criers were also used to announce the severing of relationships, which would lead to an official proclamation of war. Not always a popular person in town, as he would announce scandal and bad news as well as the good and favourable, Town Criers enjoyed royal protection, and the command "don't shoot the messenger" had very real significance. Having read a proclamation, usually at the door of the local inn, the Crier would then nail it to the door post - which is where the expression "posting a notice" comes from.

Important Information Road Closures for May Fair Weekend

SPECIFIC CLOSED AREAS:
Saturday 1st May 2010 (0730Hrs to 1800Hrs)
 Fore Street from Woodside Animal Rescue Shop to junction above The Guildhall 50 metres of Belle Vue Road from Fore Street
 30 metres of Wesley Road from Fore Street
 Left hand lane of the slip road exiting the Tamar Bridge (Fore Street access)
 No entry through Traffic Lights into bottom end of Fore Street
Sunday 2nd May 2010 (0800Hrs to 1400Hrs)
 Fore Street from Woodside Animal Rescue Shop to junction below The Guildhall 50 metres of Belle Vue Road from Fore Street
 30 metres of Wesley Road from Fore Street
 Left hand lane of the slip road exiting the Tamar Bridge (Fore Street access)
 No entry through Traffic Lights into bottom end of Fore Street
 St Stephens Road from the junction with Fore Street to its

junction with Beatrice Avenue (30th April) but will be effective from 6.00am to 6.00pm on both Saturday & Sunday. Following the instructions of the Police No Parking cones will also be placed this year on both sides of Callington Road, from its junction with Glebe Avenue to the end of Longstone Park and will be effective from 6.00am to 6.00pm on both Saturday & Sunday.
 Peter J Stephens ISM
 Chairman
 Saltash May Fair 2010
 Tel. 01752 846597

It should be noted that on both days a diversionary route around Fore Street will be provided via Glebe Avenue. No parking cones will be sited on both sides of the entire length of Glebe Avenue to keep this route clear of parked vehicles to allow the free movement of large vehicles, such as buses etc. Following the instructions of the Police these cones will be put in place along Glebe Avenue from Friday evening

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Friday 30th April

Video Show at Ashtorpe
 As a pre-cursor to the May Fair 2010 celebrations the Saltash Video Group will be putting on another of their fascinating video shows at the Ashtorpe Rock Community Centre. The show will start at 7.30p.m. on Friday 30th April and will consist of films of interest made by members over the previous 12 months. Including footage of the rare 1925 Rolls Royce motor car restored in Saltash and local community events from 2009.

Entrance of £3 will be payable at the door and for further details contact Gerald Dennis on 01752 844772. Telephone Kevin Procter Saltash May Fair 2010 Committee 07767 444816 or Saltash May Fair 2010 - go to www.saltashmayfair.co.uk for more details

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I am pleased to welcome you all once again to the 33rd Saltash May Fair celebrations and hope that you will be able to visit all the various venues and activities during the entire weekend. Following on from the tremendous success of the event last year, the Committee has further enhanced the two days of activities and entertainment for all ages. If you feel that you would be able to join the team only during the weekend this year as a helper, then I would be very pleased to welcome you if you contact me on 01752 846597. The Annual General Meeting of the May Fair Committee will be held at the SHADO Centre, Callington Road on Tuesday 13th July 2010 at 7.00pm and I would be delighted to meet you if you have some spare time to help organize the Saltash May Fair 2011. Alternatively please speak to one of the Committee members during the weekend or contact me direct on 01752 846597. I am sure you will enjoy the programmed activities this weekend and thank you for supporting the local Charities that will benefit from the May Fair this year.
 Peter J Stephens ISM, Chairman, Saltash May Fair 2010 Committee

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31 is a magic number for Alan



Alan Williams proudly shows his medal after completing the Tokyo Marathon

Alan Williams turned 31 years old last December and he set himself a challenge for 2010. His New Years resolution is to run the equivalent of 31 races at the age of 31, with the aim of raising £31,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, and one of those races will be the Saltash

Half Marathon, which forms part of Saltash May Fair, on May 2nd.

Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is a serious inherited disease, which mainly affects the lungs and pancreas, but can involve other organs. Symptoms usually begin in early childhood and include persistent cough, wheeze, repeated chest infections,

malabsorption of food, and general ill health. Alan was diagnosed with CF at the age of four but finds that his course of tablets, a watchful eye on his diet and staying active keeps him healthy and he has spent just two weeks in hospital, through CF, as a result.

Alan said: 'I do not let it affect my life, to any great degree. Other people with the condition are not so fortunate, however, and require organ transplants and long stays in hospital - in several cases, even this is not enough and many people younger than myself have died from CF. In fact, until very recently, the average life expectancy for someone born with CF was 31, the age I reached on Christmas Day 2009. I am extremely lucky in that my condition, according to my specialists, is now at its most manageable ever, which is attributable to a great extent to the fact I am able to run four or five times a week'.

His effort, which will involve running around 500 miles in the races alone as well as hundreds more in training, will raise money to help the CF Trust fund research which could transform the lives of thousands of people in the years to come and, ultimately, could contribute to the ongoing quest to find a cure for the condition.

You can keep up with Alan's progress and make a donation through a blog on the Tamar Trotters website or at <http://run31.org.uk>. And you can cheer him along at the Saltash Half Marathon on May 2nd - he'll be wearing the number 31 of course.

STROLL INTO SPRING WITH THE SALTASH OBSERVER LEISURE GUIDE

Male blackbirds and robins are loudly proclaiming their territories from their song posts, long tailed tits are building their elaborate nests and the rattle of a woodpecker at work is to be heard in our woodlands. Soon it will be time to listen for the first cuckoo of Spring. Meanwhile, swelling buds are bursting open into the delicate green leaf of Spring and underfoot our hedgerows are patterned by a yellow mass of welcome primroses and daffodils. In our woods the first shy wood anemones are starting to appear.

Spring has come late this year, following an ice-chill Winter, but it is all the more welcome as all the flowers burst into bloom together to a symphony of bird-song.

All of this can be enjoyed within a few miles of our busy Fore Street by those who know whence to discover peaceful paths and woodland ways into the Saltash Countryside. Our Saltash Observer book 'A Quality of Life' is designed to aid residents, newcomers and visitors to Saltash in discovering the idyllic Cornish countryside lying on their doorstep. Crammed full with ideas for local walks, strolls and other leisure activities it is available for just

£4.99 direct from us. And during this, our eighteenth anniversary year, £1 for every copy sold will go straight to our charity fund of which further details will soon follow. We will arrange personal delivery anywhere within the Saltash area for those who contact Mary either by Telephone 01579 345699 or 07971 484872 email: marye.crawford@virgin.net See us at the May Fair outside the Bookshelf and we will sign your copy for you.

A May Fair Favourite... Hardings Hike

The ever popular Hardings Hike will start at 2.00pm from The Ploughboy public house. Organised by Peter Clements and led by Martin Lister, this years hike offer's a four mile mystery tour of the local area. Walkers are reminded that appropriate outdoor shoes and clothing should be worn.

Telephone Kevin Procter Saltash May Fair 2010 Committee 07767 444816 or Saltash May Fair 2010 - go to www.saltashmayfair.co.uk for more details

SALTASH MAY FAIR

How to Get There
A link to SRUG and the bus company will be provided on the May Fair website

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As we launch our anniversary year charity fund (see elsewhere in this Observer) for a limited period we are going to donate a £1.00 from every copy sold to our charity fund, of which we will soon be revealing full details. Watch your Observer for more info on our charity year.

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Matthew and Joanna Take on the Challenge To Re-establish the Brunel Inn as a Truly Local Hostelry

The 'Brunel Inn' is regaining its role as a lively pub at the hub of the town, new landlords Matthew Smith and Joanna Manners are delighted to discover. Both of them being locally born, long term Saltash residents they decided, when they realised the traditional inn at the heart of Saltash was on the market last year, to take on the challenge of re-establishing the 'Brunel' as a truly local hostelry where a warm welcome awaits one and all be they looking for good home cooked food at reasonable prices, first rate live weekend entertainment, or simply a quiet drink in friendly surroundings.

An ever increasing number of residents and visitors are coming to appreciate the range of freshly cooked largely locally sourced meals which begin with the all day breakfast available from 10.30am and run through to lunchtimes and evenings, available either in the bar or the spacious restaurant area. Such specialities as the British steak and ale pie cooked to the chef's own recipe or the poacher's chicken are especially popular while the local Cornish homemade soup of the day, with crusty bread proves a fitting starter to any hearty meal. The Sunday carvery with a choice of three roasts is already proving a winner and the Mother's Day menu filled the Brunel with happy families through two sittings. There are always children's' platters available together with a good vegetarian selection.

To complement the meal, or to enjoy just a relaxing drink, Matthew and Joanna promises the finest of beers and cider including resident real ale 'Doom Bar' and 'Rattler' cider alongside a changing range of guest real ales. An extensive



wine list is available by the glass or by the bottle with a fitting range of spirits.

To maintain the Brunel as the heart of a lively town Matthew and Joanna have an entertainment programme aimed to suit all tastes. This ranges from a wide variety of cover bands to the highly popular jazz evenings - every Friday and Saturday night is

live entertainment night. The newly refurbished dance area is proving to be packed out most weekends with all age groups coming together to enjoy the variety of entertainment.

While building up the Brunel as a true community local, Matthew and Joanna are keen to form darts and pool teams for next season.

Already the weekly poker evenings are bringing an element of friendly competition and pool competitions are due to start shortly. For those who prefer to enjoy their sport on the big screen in lively company the Brunel is fully prepared for World Cup with no less than two mammoth high definition screens ready to roll into action at kick off and for other major sporting events.

In the meanwhile, May Fair weekend is going to be a big event at the Brunel and offers the perfect opportunity for one and all to share in the fun of a family day. The terrace and parking space behind the bar will, for May Fair Saturday, become a big music arena. Up to six bands will be playing from midday until well into the evening, these to include Joker and Diamond Geezers, both already firm favourites of Brunel weekend regulars. All the family is welcome, with a big barbeque and face painting for the children. The special Brunel May Day event is in aid of Children in Mind, a newly formed Plymouth based charity working for children with mental health issues.

Come along on May Day, or come at any time to enjoy the food, drink and friendly local atmosphere of the 'Brunel Inn' under its new management. Businessmen as well as families are especially welcomed for lunches as well as evening meals (look out for the "two for £12.00" offer). For a lively night out at a weekend or a quiet drink in cheerful surrounding, in the historic old 18th Century Inn or on the sunny south facing beer terrace, the Brunel aims to be the place to be. And if you cannot tear yourself away there are ten recently refurbished en-suite rooms to let, ideal for family or friends visiting Saltash. To keep up to date with news of entertainment and offers visit www.thebrunelinn.co.uk or find brunelinn on Facebook.

Saltash May Fair 2010

Saltash May Fair 2010 will be held in the town on Saturday 1st May, with traditional favourites in the street market alongside new entertainments and activities involving local organisations, clubs and societies. The ever-popular half marathon and fun run will take place on Sunday 2nd May. For further information please contact Kevin Procter on 07767 444816.

SALTASH IN TRANSITION FOR GREEN FUTURE

Saltash is going greener, having this year joined with 275 other communities worldwide by becoming an official Transition Town.

This means that our community is seeking ways to address the issues of climate change and depletion of natural resources, in particular oil. The core principle of 'think globally, act locally' involves encouraging Saltash residents to work out local solutions as to how to feed themselves, stay warm, and travel with minimal environmental impact.

Living with less oil and environmental pollution is not just a challenge, it can be a key to a far more enjoyable and fulfilling lifestyle, claim Saltash Environmental Action who are promoting means of putting Transition Town principles into action. The post oil era, they believe, gives us all a unique opportunity to create a better lifestyle than that "based on greed, war and the myth of perpetual growth." Many will have already seen members of Saltash Environmental Action in Fore Street on Saturday mornings, providing live music for shoppers while promoting themselves and their activities, the objective being to make local shopping for local produce, a fun and enjoyable activity.

Other Transition Towns, since the movement started in

Totnes in 2006, have created community gardens, allotments and orchards, worked out local transport solutions to reduce car use, reduced local energy consumption and created local currencies and cards to promote shopping within the local community. Saltash already has its own 'Saltash Card' offering sizeable discounts in many local stores to encourage residents to use their town's local businesses.

There are currently around 850 cards in circulation and 25 local businesses participating in the scheme.

A presentation by SEA was given to the Town's Civic Amenities Committee recently and the Town Council was warmly thanked for their support on various projects. It was agreed that the Town Council would support SEA's request that some vegetables should be grown among the flowers in the Council's planters and beds.

Saltash Environmental Action are keen in particular to encourage local residents to discover the joys and pride of growing their own produce, more information is on www.sea.PL12.org.uk and www.saltash-in-transition.org.uk.

50th Anniversary Celebrations of the New Burraton Community Centre

From a newspaper cutting of the Guardian and Gazette dated 10 May, 1951, there would seem to have been a great deal of interest in "the prospect of the provision of a hut at Warfelton Estate or at Burraton for the use of local organisations. Public money would have to be spent on providing accommodation, but there is no call for anything elaborate, a wooden or nissen hut with just the bare essential amenities would serve the purpose well and the income, from hiring, would probably enable the bulk of the cost to be repaid."

The Saltash Borough Council had been made aware that the Burraton Community Association was in the process of raising money to qualify for a Government grant to build a permanent structure. A comment made in the article by the journalist was that if the worthy aim was achieved that the building would enhance the area.

The matter must have been a hot potato for it was not until the edition of the Guardian and Gazette dated 11 February, 1954, when it was reported that the Borough Council had finally approved the proposal for a communal hall at Burraton. It was not many years before the Burraton Community Association was able to build a permanent building and the opening of the new hall

took place on Saturday, 14 May, 1960 and high tea was served 4pm, price 3/- each, 15p in today's money. The hall was officially opened by HRH Prince Chula of Thailand. The President of the Burraton Community Association was Mr J Down, The offices of Secretary and Treasurer were both filled by Mr M Huggins, the Social Secretary was Mr G Hodge and Powell-Thomas were the builders.

Since to opening in 1960, the Burraton Community Centre has been enlarged to provide a second hall, such is the use by the community. Now, in May 2010, in celebration of the 50 years of the NEW Burraton Community Centre, the user organisations are going to provide a wide selection of events - concerts, dances, beetle drive, quiz, water colour exhibition, demonstrations of karate, yoga, dance, kick, keep fit, Tai Chi, amateur radio and taster sessions in vocal coaching and water colour. Yes, we are celebrating between Monday, 10 May and Saturday, 22 May to prove that a good decision was made all those years ago!



Pictured above Lynn Marsh and Pam Court with two special cakes, one gluten free made by Pam for Ashtorre's 19th Birthday which was celebrated on St Piran's Day, preparations are now going ahead for next years 20th Birthday Party

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A CORNISH WRITER'S RATTLING ADVENTURES OF CORNISHMEN ABROAD

Adoptive Cornishman E V Thompson has, in his most recent tales, broken from the rip-roaring sagas of heady days during the Cornish Mining boom and bust. Instead he now follows Cornish adventurers on their Diaspora to the farthest reaches of the 19th Century world.

The hero of his latest adventure. "The Dream Traders" is a Cornishman Luke Trewarne trading in a China awakening to the outside world of "foreign devils" while it was still the "Heavenly Kingdom." It is best described as a rattling yarn of derring do set against the backdrop of the Opium Wars, the inglorious nadir of our Imperial adventure when British armed force was used to protect the profitable narcotics trade.

Within the opening forty pages we experience a running battle between a British merchantman and Chinese navy junks, a typhoon, a passing encounter with pirates and a near rape. Then the pace speeds up a bit.

E V Thompson clearly uses his experience in the Hong Kong Police Narcotics Bureau as well as considerable research into the early days of that colony in order to produce this epic of the clash between an ancient and stagnant civilisation and a brash and burgeoning British Empire. The pace of the action leaves little time for serious character development but as an action-packed swashbuckling saga of clean cut heroes set against dastardly villains, with plenty of bodice-ripping on the side, set in a little known period of our imperial history "The Dream Traders" is well recommended as a good old fashioned yarn.

Packed with action too is a recent paperback addition to E V Thompson's tales of

Cornishmen abroad. In "No less than the Journey" the scene is set during 'reconstruction' of post Civil War divided America. From the honky-tonk world of New Orleans to the Wild Western Frontier our hero from Bodmin Moor, Wes Curnow, has adventures aplenty as he seeks to meet up with his gold prospecting Cornish uncle. River pirates, desperate outlaw gangs and, shocking to say, a renegade Cornishman are among the perils that young Wes and his US Marshall pal have to contend with. But life has its compensations as a rough and ready riverboat croupier, a Southern Senator's genteel daughter and a half caste teenage girl vie for his affections.

Again there is all the fast paced action and excitement that the combination of Cornish writer E V Thompson and the Wild West in its lawless heyday would lead one to expect.

"The Dream Traders" and "No Less than the Journey" are available through 'The Saltash Bookshelf' in Fore Street.

If you would like a signed copy of "The Dream Traders" come along to the Bookshelf Saturday 22nd May E V Thompson will be signing his books from 10am - 12noon

Observer
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Saltash U3A

The March Branch meeting started with a quiet moment to remember one of our founder members, Trisha Woods, who has recently passed away. Trisha worked hard to get the U3A started in Saltash and was also a past secretary of the branch. We are all very appreciative of her efforts.

The Chairman, Mike Scott, gave out information of planned activities which included a trip by horse-drawn barge on the Tiverton Canal and an excursion to Agatha Christie's summer home, Greenway. Reports were provided by some group leaders.

After the tea break Rosemary Teverson gave a very interesting illustrated talk on the Tamar Valley and how this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is being protected. She gave out information on the various mining sites along the Tamar Valley AONB, and showed some of the tracks and trails now open. A timetable of a series of walks starting at St Stephen's Church was also available on the Tamar Valley website.

Membership is continuing to increase with over 65 members present, the total membership now being well in excess of 100. The next branch meeting will be on April 8th at 2 pm at the Guildhall, when the speaker, Dr. Colin Randal, will give a talk entitled 'A Sting in the Tale'.



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NEW LIFE FOR THE LIONS

Our local Lions are roaring once more! When Saltash Lions Club held a winding up meeting in June last year after 38 years of service to the town, a few Saltash citizens with links in the community were determined not to see them die.

Now a new 'pride of Lions' has resurrected the society and is widely promoting itself to build up new membership.

With its aim of having fun while helping others the new Saltash Lions Club is delighted to encourage male and female members of any age from 18 upwards. In due course they would hope to reform the Leos Club for younger teenagers.

There was considerable interest shown in Saltash Lions at the recent Saltash Showcase resulting in several prospective new members. A newly donated Lions stall, provided by Lions from Torpoint, will be prominent at May Fair, and again on the Awareness Day at the Fire Station on 23rd May and at the Regatta. At each of these events local Lions will be delighted to explain what being a Lion is all about.

Local Lions from Torpoint and throughout the area have been tremendously supportive in offering financial and practical aid to the burgeoning club. Enthusiasm has been boosted by social events including quizzes, bingo every Monday evening at Saltash United Football Club (a good fund raiser) and the forthcoming Charter Dinner in April. Future social activities include skittles evenings and any other social event that members suggest.

All of these help to bring

members, old and new, together and assist in raising funds for the Lions' other main objective, helping others within and outside the Saltash community.

Through four decades Saltash Lions have a proud history of helping in the town including assisting in providing toilets for the disabled, and assisting in the creation of Waterside's Ashtorre Rock Community Centre and the SHADO Centre. They also organised annual Christmas Parties for the elderly, hampers for one parent families, and many "one off" occasions such as holidays for bereaved families.

On the international front British Lions Clubs are active in helping in disaster zones such as Haiti and Chile.

Saltash Lions look forward, as funds build up, to promoting such projects once more, and hopefully to organising major events in the town again, such as the Waterside Winkle Fair. All of this however, needs the active support of an ever-increasing membership.

Saltash Lions can be visited on www.blogger.com, log on name Saltash Lions Club. Alternatively e-mail www.gmail.com, log on to saltashionsclub.com. Or just phone 01752 840620.

LADIES CHOIR MOVES ON

The choir has recently grown to over 40 strong and has had to look for a larger room for the Wednesday night practices. From 7th April the Choir will be meeting at St Nicholas & St Faiths Church Hall starting at the later time of 7.45 p.m.

There was a party atmosphere at Compton Methodist Church, Plymouth on Saturday 27th March when the choir came together with many guests to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Greg and Sheila Shoebrook. Sheila is a longstanding member of the choir and she had chosen her favourite music which her fellow choir members enjoyed singing. Pam Hensman also sang her solo pieces beautifully. The choir was conducted by their Musical Director Linda Eastlake and accompanied by Carolyn Varcoe on the piano.

On Wednesday 17th March at the Choir AGM votes were counted and all the officers of the Choir were re-elected, with a new Minute Secretary, Linda Skinner. Councillor Sue Hooper, the Choir's President praised the Officers of the Choir for their hard work and commitment. The Choir voted to support 'Help for Heroes' as their current charity. The Choir has two concerts planned for April:- Saturday 10th April at 7.30 pm. At Burraton Methodist Church a concert with Laura Youth Band for the Saltash Blind and Partially Sighted Association.

On 18th April at 6.30 p.m. at St Nicholas and St Faiths Church Community Hymn singing accompanied by Carolyn Varcoe, followed by concert at 7.00 p.m. with the City of Truro Male Voice Choir. Ray Shaddick, formerly of BBC Radio Cornwall is the compere. On 5th June at 7 p.m. the Choir with be singing at Upton Vale Baptist Church Torquay as guests of the Brixham Orpheus Male Voice Choir. On 1st May the choir have a stall at the Saltash May Fair. A lunch at the Hannafore Point Hotel is planned for Choir Members at the end of May.

For further information please contact the Secretary Cicely Sharp on 01752 842686.

'TIME WARP' GROCER'S SHOP RESTORED TO ORIGINAL

The front of Elliott's Store in Lower Fore Street, retained as a 'time warp' Grocers' shop of the 1950's is to be restored to its original condition as funds permit.

The frontage of the shop is currently in a sorry state and the Tamar Protection Society to whom the late Mr Frank Elliot bequeathed the store, wish to take the opportunity to restore the frontage to its former state. The property, originally a butcher's shop, became a grocery store in 1880 and remained in the Elliott family from then until the society took it over and opened it as a museum with much of the grocery stock on display.

Saltash Town Council was delighted at the plans for full restoration and granted unanimous approval for plans to alter the shop front of the building in the Lower Fore Street Conservation Area.

The Tamar Protection Society has obtained a cost estimate of £25,000 and is applying for grant funding of £20,000 hoping, if successful, to raise the balance of £5,000 locally.

WISHING WELL AT WAITROSE

On 30th March, Waitrose and the Rotary Club of Saltash began a partnership to raise money for poorer parts of the world with limited or no access to fresh, clear water. A vortex wishing well has been placed in the Waitrose store at Saltash to collect coin donations, providing an element of fun as the coins spin around the well prior to falling into the collecting box.

The well was inaugurated by John Parker, Branch Manager, and Gerry Stevenson, Chairman of the International Committee of Saltash Rotary.

Funds collected are being split equally between the two organisations.

The chosen project for Rotary is to create a fresh water supply for a village near Jinja in Uganda.

Water is one of our essentials of life which everyone tends to take for granted. When the tap is turned on, if it is a little discoloured, just wait for a few minutes or so and the pipes flow clear. This part of Uganda is an area where there are no pipes, where the water is certainly discoloured and before a pan is dipped into the pool, it may well be that cattle, goats and other animals have



Waitrose General Manager John Parker with Rotarian Gerry Stevenson

been treading and drinking and defecating in it. It is not a question of finding somewhere else - there is nowhere else, so support for water projects such as this is essential for the health of all the villagers.

The aim of the project is to channel natural water from a spring to run through various layers of material, e.g. stones, gravel, sand, and vegetation, before emerging from a water spout which is sited within a concrete area. This affords villagers the opportunity to fill their containers, pots & pans with water for themselves, and

for animals to drink from the overflow without contaminating the supply in any way. The concreted area means water is always cleanly available without trampling through mud.

This system of water provision has proved most effective over many years and costs in the region of £500 per spring. All work is undertaken by the villagers themselves and Rotary and its supporters on the ground supply the materials (stones, gravel, sand, vegetation, water spout, cement etc) and transport required.

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The Hearing Room Competition Voucher Terms and Conditions

1. Only people who have a full hearing test will be entered into the prize draw
2. This offer is restricted to one entry per person
3. No purchase necessary
4. There is no cash alternative
5. You will be entered into the prize draw that takes place in the same month as your hearing test appointment
6. The television image on the front of this paper is for illustration purposes only
7. We reserve the right to refuse entries at our discretion
8. A list of winners is available on written request. Please send a SAE to Regional Hearing Services, 111-113 Fore St, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 6AE

Please fill out your details and ask your hearing aid audiologist to sign and return to:
Regional Hearing Services
111-113 Fore St
Saltash
PL12 6AE
Call 0800 612 7994 for more information

Customer name:.....
Address:.....
Postcode:.....
Tel:.....
Email:.....

Name of hearing aid audiologist:.....
I confirm that this person has had a full hearing test.
Sign:..... Date:.....

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SALTASH AGE CONCERN - MINI BUS DRIVERS REQUIRED.

Saltash Age Concern needs a Manager to run the Mini Bus Scheme. Qualifications needed are to be aged between 25 and 70 years and have a clean driving licence and a desire to join the Age Concern Team in Saltash and help transport the more mature members of our community to their activities and outings.

Suitable volunteers would be required to drive the Age Concern Bus on either Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, taking people for weekly shopping trips, for Age Concern Clubs, afternoon trips, Theatre trips etc.

The Mini bus is also hired out to other organisations who care for the elderly. The passengers are those of pensionable age and the disabled.

Voluntary Age Concern Drivers get the satisfaction of helping the elderly in their community. The more Drivers Age Concern can call upon to help will mean volunteers are called upon to drive less often and have less demands upon their time. Volunteer Drivers joining the team will be able to share in the Social Life of Age Concern.

If you have time to spare and can offer a few hours or less to being of service to the elderly and vulnerable of Saltash, please contact Mr A Allen on 312813 for additional information.

Regular Age Concern Activities all at Burraton Community Centre :-

Tues afternoon Tea Dance 2pm - 4pm. Marvellous fun!

Thurs Luncheon Club 10.30a.m. - 4pm. call 312813 to book a place, delicious lunch with good company.

Last Wed of every month - Social Club 2pm - 4 pm. A good time! Open to all Elderly or Disabled Persons.

PRESENTATION OF CHEQUE TO SCOUTS

The former Mayor of Saltash, Councillor Derek Holley and his wife Margaret have presented a cheque for £1466 to Saltash Scouts. The money has come from two sources. £1466 came from the Mayors Charity Fund and £204 has come from gifts given to Derek instead of presents for his recent 60th birthday.

Derek presented the cheque to Saltash Scouts to help with improving their new headquarters at Latchbrook. The presentation followed a meeting of the Yellow Cub Scout Pack and the picture includes Cub and Scout leaders from other parts of the Saltash Group. Derek said afterwards "I had great fun and learned a lot when I was a Scout and wanted to give something back...I have always been really impressed with Saltash Scouts and Guides, wonderful young people with very good leaders. If there are other people out there who enjoyed their Scouting days why don't you help with donations or fund-raising?"

Saltash Scouts have moved from their old base in Windsor Lane to their new headquarters but still have a lot to do to extend and finish the site. They are waiting for a lease to arrive from the new Cornwall Council so that the work can be started.



St John's Chris Carter-Brown - Waitrose Duty Manager
Sophie Jarvis - Marketing and Charity Co-ordinator
Elaine Smith - Saltash Divisional Vice President for St John's
Sebastian Rose-Cook - Divisional Superintendent Saltash Adult Division.

GREAT NEWS FOR ST BARNABAS HOSPITAL

The latest news on the Hospital is very positive indeed. We have been told that there are to be at least three new surgical teams making use of the Hospital for day case operations, including general surgery.

This is great news, along with that of the car park alterations being carried out in the not too distant future which will make it infinitely easier to park

This does however mean that we, as a League of Friends, must now help to raise funds to refurbish the Day Room to make it a more relaxing room for people who are to have their operations at the Hospital. It means a lot to anyone having an operation if they are in a calming and relaxed environment.

The fundraising for this got off to a good start when we held our coffee morning on Saturday 13th March. A beautiful sunny morning saw many people attend and the sum of £190 was raised.

Our next fund raising event will see us at the May Fair and this is followed by our Summer Fete which this year takes place on Saturday 19th June between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00p.m. when we are pleased to announce that the Town Band will, once again, be providing the entertainment.

In the meantime if anyone is interested and can spare just a few hours of their time we would welcome them onto the League of Friends Committee. It really wouldn't take up much of your time and if anyone is interested would you please contact our Secretary, Mrs. Gammage on Saltash 844046. We are a friendly bunch and would give you a warm welcome!

NOW EVERYONE CAN SCAN AS THEY SHOP WITH QUICK CHECK

Increasing customer numbers are coming to appreciate combining the quality of Waitrose produce with the speed and simplicity of 'quick check' scan as you shop service.

Anyone aged eighteen or over can register at the friendly Welcome Desk and be enjoying a new style of shopping within minutes. Just bring any debit or credit card for identification only - or if preferred register for a John Lewis Partnership card which brings with it additional benefits which will be described at the Welcome Desk.

You then need only swipe your card, collect the handy hand-held scanner and you are away. As you pick up your shopping pass the bar code over your scanner which keeps a running total of purchases. Weight up loose products such as fruit or vegetables and the bar code is printed out ready to scan. You can use your own bags to pack your produce as you complete your shopping and avoid queuing by returning to the Welcome Desk to pass over your scanner and make payment. This can be by cash or by any card - not necessarily the one used to register.

Once customers have experienced quick check shopping they wonder why they did not get into this simple and speedy shopping system long before.

Waitrose are proud to combine the benefits of being a top quality national retailer with being an active member and supporter of the local community. As well as being a major sponsor of Saltash Regatta and other local events, Waitrose are especially delighted with the success of their Saltash Community

Matters Funding Scheme.

This involves every local shopper who, on each visit to Waitrose, has the opportunity to choose how the Waitrose Community fund will be distributed between local good causes. At checkout everyone is given a token which can be used to vote between the month's three causes. While each will receive a cash donation from Waitrose 'customers' tokens will decide how it should be shared and which will receive the most.

Since June 2008 around fifty local charities and organisations have benefited

including, most recently, Saltash May Fair Committee, Caradon Gig Club and Saltash University of the Third Age. Do your April shopping at Waitrose and you can help decide which between Cross Park Pre-School, Upfront Breast Feeding Support and

Cargreen Sailing Cadets should receive the largest sum from this month's Waitrose Community Matters local funding.

Please ask at the Welcome Desk for more information about the Quick Check.

Your scanner explained

- The Screen**: Once you have scanned an item its details, including the price and any offer, will be displayed on the screen.
- The Help Button**: The help button will display a picture of the buttons on the Scanner with a description of what they do.
- The Minus Button**: To remove an item from your shopping rescan the barcode.
- The i button**: Display your running total.
- Scroll Keys**: The directional arrows allow you to scroll backwards and forwards through the list of items you have scanned so far.
- The Yellow Scan Button**: Simply position your scanner 2-3 inches from the barcode. And press the yellow button to scan the item. The item description appears on the display.

Register at the Welcome Desk
Quick Check
Scan as you shop service

Best Wishes to the May Fair

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