

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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April 2014 - Issue 261

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Housing Threat to Rural Scene at St. Stephens

Plans for a development of twenty-five mixed houses between the old village of St. Stephens and the Churchtown Farm Wildlife Reserve drew forth a furious response from local residents. A packed meeting in the 'Cecil Arms' made clear local feelings to invited Councillors and protestors filled the public seats when the Town Council discussed the outline planning application.

A petition with 140 signatures had been received and Mayor Councillor David Yates read from among the forty or so letters, of protest. These claimed, "St. Stephens is one of the jewels of Saltash attracting walkers and runners" and "the village feel would disappear". A local child feared "lots of animals in the area would be upset by the building".

Dangers of increased traffic in the narrow Farm Lane were a major concern, residents claiming the developers' traffic plan was outdated, failing to take into account the many children walking that way to school and those accessing the popular nature reserve at its end as well as the church and graveyard. There is no separate footway along the narrow lane.

Other major concerns were run off of waste water and sewage towards Forder Creek, lack of public space and over development of the small site around the long disused farm buildings. The scheme is well away from Broadmoor Farm that has been identified to take most if not all of the thousand new homes allocated to Saltash.

'Saltash has been allocated a thousand new homes and these twenty five would help',

responded County Councillor Bob Austin. 'Of seven hundred now affordable homes, these ten would be a way toward it,' he added also saying 'We are seeking high quality houses to encourage high quality businesses to set up in Saltash'. He conceded concerns regarding sewage on which a South West Water report was awaited, and also suggested awaiting an anticipated Highways Report before a decision was made.

Other Councillors were more anxious to reach a decision that evening County Councillor Derek [Holley said that many of the residents' objections. While valid, were not grounds for planning refusal. He did put forward three suggested grounds for refusal, which could be accepted by Cornwall planners. These were the effect of the proposed development on a listed building. St. Stephens Church, the narrowness of Farm Lane especially at a dangerous bend in the road by a stone barn allowing limited visibility, and the fact that the area is outside the building line of Saltash.

After lengthy discussion it was decided to recommend refusal of outline planning permission by ten votes to nil with two abstentions.

Rail Services Resumed

Following the storms in February that destroyed part of the sea wall at Dawlish, through rail services from Cornwall to the rest of the country have resumed in time for the Easter holidays. Network Rail have worked around the clock to rebuild the sea wall and relay new track, these works are nearing completion.

Saltash will once again have its direct daily London services restored, and whilst the bus services between Plymouth and Tiverton have carried thousands of passengers over the last 6 weeks, nothing beats a direct service.

Richard Bickford, from Saltash Rail Users Group, commented that 'Since the track at Dawlish was destroyed we have had a shuttle service between Penzance and Newton Abbot, which has worked well, but we are looking forward to the return of direct services and the normal timetable'.

Saltash Rail Users Group

has produced a Saltash timetable that will be valid from the time the line reopens until May 17th; these are available in the Guildhall and Library.

Daily commuter Jamie Quinn, who works at the University, also added, 'The temporary timetable has given us a good service, I hope some aspects will be implemented in the future in terms of times of trains, I just hope those Saltash people that have not used the train lately, come back soon!'

For more information on using trains from Saltash, call Richard Bickford on 841119 or 07737390151.

Mayor Asks Kids to Collect Cascade of Coins and Fruit

As the bells ring out to pronounce the choosing of a new Mayor of Saltash it is a longstanding local tradition that the new Mayor tosses from trowel warm pennies, followed by fresh fruit, to eager children waiting below.

In recent years the newly elected Mayor has looked down from the window to see few if any children below.

Mayor elect Cllr. Mrs Jean Dent wishes to reverse this trend and invites local children to share the fun of Mayor choosing by helping keep this tradition alive.

She and her consort Bill invite local children to assemble outside the

Guildhall on Mayor choosing day, Thursday 8th May at around 7.20pm waiting to catch or collect the cascade of coins raining down on them and the apples and oranges to follow.

There is no record of how the custom, apparently unique in Saltash, arose or when it began, being lost in the mists of time.

Guildhall Ghostbusters

An evening or overnight investigation of the paranormal in Saltash Guildhall has been requested by a Cornish based group of paranormal enthusiasts. "Encounters with Spirit" have held a number of investigations in Cornwall and beyond by their team of seven members and have now identified Saltash Guildhall and Mary Newman's Cottage as interesting venues for exploration.

While some Town Councillors expressed doubts as to the suitability of this, other had more practical concerns as to the manning of the Guildhall by its staff for a late or overnight session. It was agreed by a vote of nine to three to allow the Guildhall to be hired subject to staff volunteering and payment of

their actual overtime costs.

One Councillor confirmed that he had felt a distinct chill in the Mayor's Parlour but had attributed this to economics in the heating bill.

The group was referred to the Tamar Protection Society in regard to investigating Mary Newman's Cottage for paranormal activity.

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Essa Files

After a few columns worth of musing on my travels, New Year's resolutions and the meaning of life generally, I'm back onto politics this month. It is now a good three years since all of the brouhaha over constituency boundaries and the prospect that Saltash might have to be part of a Plymouth parliamentary constituency. That prospect has not entirely disappeared, although it certainly will not happen at the next election, but for the moment Saltash remains safely, and correctly, in South East Cornwall.

The reason that this is back in my mind right now is a mixture of March 5th having been St Piran's Day and the campaign for the Scottish Independence referendum in September. The thought that occurred to me was 'suppose Oil was discovered off of Rame Head, making Cornwall economically sustainable - would we want independence?' The answer, probably, is no because even with oil Cornwall is likely too small to practically survive as an independent country: all of those questions Scotland is grappling with about currency, military, embassies etc would be multiplied ten-fold.

However the idea of Cornish Assembly, along the lines of the National Assembly for Wales, is a rather more realistic idea.

Cornwall, like Wales, has a distinctive history and culture, major economic challenges and its own language.

More importantly it has that feeling of being on the fringes politically - of being ignored by London (after all it took the EU to get serious funding down this way).

Of course many in Cornwall also feel ignored by Truro but then a Cornish Assembly could tackle that problem too - have a Welsh style assembly dealing with the big issues (education policy, agriculture, health) and then councils below them dealing with the more local issues (we could call them District Councils!).

In a year where Scotland is getting to choose its future within the UK, perhaps it's time Cornwall got the same chance?

Celebrating One Year

Lucky customers visiting the Saltash Community Market later this month may well get more than they bargained for - a slice of birthday cake!

Traders and volunteers will be celebrating the success of the community enterprise, which was launched in the near-derelict former British Gas showroom at the bottom of Fore Street on 20th April last year. To mark the event, Town Mayor David Yates will be cutting a specially designed birthday cake, made by one of the regular stallholders.

Market Manager Rosie Waters said the last 12 months have been 'amazing': "There have been so many

highlights it's hard to know where to start. As well as the daily stalls which can be booked by anyone wanting to try out a small business idea; we've hosted Santa's Grotto and the youngsters from Saltash College, local charities and the popular monthly Food Market. The community spirit here is brilliant. Several of our regulars have moved on as their businesses and confidence have grown - which is exactly the aim of the project."

Letter to the Editor



Civic Service at St Nicholas & Faith Church Sunday 23rd March 2014.

On behalf of the public I would like to express my disappointment at the lack of Elected Town Councillors attending the Civic Service.

I counted there were at least 10 missing. This is a bad image for the Town Council especially when many other representatives & dignitaries made the effort to be present.

It was a well-organised and uplifting service enjoyed by those who attended.

Regards Brian Davies

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Speeding Targetted

The main A38 west of Saltash is to be targeted by Police for speeding motorists following a series of serious, and in some cases fatal accidents.

Patrolling Police Officers will use detection equipment to identify those exceeding the 50 mph limit on the dual carriageway sections. They will also be on the lookout for other causes of serious accidents, distraction in particular through use of mobile phone, failure to wear seat belt, and evidence of alcoholic or drug consumption.

The section of mixed dual and single carriageway, steep hills and bends on a main arterial road has resulted in a high statistic of fatal and serious accidents. Police have been concerned at the number of drivers recently detected exceeding the limit, sometimes in excess of 65 mph even when recent high winds and driving rain have added to the danger.

Jean is Next Mayor with Bill for Deputy

The next Mayor of Saltash will be Jean with Bill as consort while the deputy Mayor will be Bill with Jean as deputy Mayoress.

Councillor Jean Dent, the current deputy Mayor was proposed as next year's Mayor by Councillor Derek Holley, seconded by Councillor Martin Gee and her nomination was unanimously agreed.

Councillor Bill Phillips was similarly unopposed as Deputy Mayor having been proposed by Councillor Gloria Channon and seconded by Councillor Bob Austin.

Our Mayor elect is a 'Plymouth Maid' but has lived in Saltash for a quarter of a century, both her adult children having been educated in the town. A former schoolteacher she and her husband Bill dedicate much of their time to ex-servicemen's organisations, The Royal British Legion and the Royal Navy Association. She has served as Councillor for eighteen months.

Deputy Mayor elect Bill Phillips is a man of Kent but has lived in Saltash for over thirty years. He and his deputy Mayoress elected Jean have three sons all of whom were educated locally. Since retirement from a career in engineering he has been involved in the Tamar Trotters and most recently as a member of Saltash Rotary. He looks forward to supporting the new Mayor during her year of office.

Both will be formally chosen and installed in May. We are pleased to confirm that the new Mayor will keep up the tradition of each Mayor, in the twenty two years of the Saltash Observer's service to the town, in updating our readers by maintaining the column "From the Mayor's Parlour".



CORNWALL COUNCIL

and our PL12 community

For Observer readers

Derek Holley, Cornwall Councillor, Saltash East

Politicians are always blathering on about open government and the importance of involving people in decision making - usually without the slightest intention of doing anything. My slant on this is that I have always approved of openness and hated secrecy in any form of government. Accordingly I have been getting more and more concerned about the increasing levels of secrecy in meetings at County Hall. I have always held these views generally and remember way back in the eighties, along with the late John Scannell, walking out of Saltash Council meetings that were excluding the public - we refused to take part.

So lately I have been writing emails about these concerns, copied to all Cornwall Councillors, and to about 100 different Cornwall Council officers. I have heard that people are now fed up with my whinging on about it; this is a gratifyingly good sign and has encouraged me to redouble my efforts. As far as I am concerned there are only ever two reasons to exclude press and public from any meeting

1 - if personal details about a person are being discussed (for example at an interview) and

2 - if contracts or commercially sensitive information are being talked about. Everything else, absolutely everything else should be open for you, the public to observe, if you wish. After all it is your money and your interests that are at stake.

Now in Saltash Town Council that is what happens, you can turn up and observe any meeting. They have long ago stopped private briefings, which are often requested by planning permission applicants, or by other parties. Saltash Town Council says, "We will listen to you, but only if the public are also invited, and we insist on full-scale consultations being held out of the Guildhall at another venue".

So why are there now many more secret meetings at Truro? For example, there are ten policy advisory committees which are open to the public; however each one has, on another day, a previous secret briefing meeting.

So now I study each agenda to see if there is a need for secrecy - and guess what? - I haven't found many agenda items needing that for a long time. Why on earth should the public not see these briefings which are often much more interesting than the main events? The way I look at it is this - the public, yes, can and should see how councillors vote at the main meetings, but that is usually just waving a hand in the air - crucially they should also always be able to

see how councillors minds are made up - and that takes place at these numerous secret briefing meetings.

Worse still this taints the real decision-makers at County Hall, the ten Cabinet members. Their briefing and pre-meetings have barbed wire and watch towers around. These meetings are the ones that should really be open because they inform the views of these few people - the ones who actually decide much of what goes on - the public should be able to see how their minds are made up. What are we afraid of in a County Hall?

My last email was sent to what is basically the committee charged with reviewing the constitution, and I have asked them to debate whether the default position in Cornwall Council should be that all meetings are always open, unless a real need is shown (see above) to go into secret session. Not the other way around.

Is there any other reason why I am bothering with all this because I am getting precious little support from other councillors? I understand some reasons why I am not getting support - it is much easier to have a nice secret session, you can reveal your ignorance and sometimes have a bit of a laugh with your friends. I enjoy it too, but a justification for secrecy?

However the main reason I am bothering is that I am extremely concerned about the stock of Cornwall Council among the counties residents...you are mostly very polite and nice to our faces but I am fairly certain you think we are often an uncaring, overpaid and underworked bunch who ignore the numerous consultations given out, and do what we want anyway. One way we could improve our ratings would be to stop hiding ourselves in meetings in County Hall and literally show the county we not only care and will try to make sensible decisions but will on every occasion physically show ourselves getting to that point. Keep going, Derek.

Interesting day today: my county email software has been down for four days and today I paid the penalty - emails, phone calls, letters and a home visit took from 11.30 to now, 8.41pm, with just a break to chop wood and light a fire and another for a great chicken something from my lovely wife. Actually it was surprisingly fulfilling day because I managed to help quite a few folk along the way; tomorrow the great outdoors calls - horse manure, garden fork, onion sets and broad bean seeds...heaven...bet it rains. Have a good spring.

DerekHolley
Cornwall Councillor, Saltash East

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- Notice of Death -

Mrs Annette St. John Gawthorn

Lately of Saltash, sadly passed away aged 85 on 17th March 2014 at a Nursing home in Hampshire near her relatives.
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From The Mayor's Parlour...

Over the last week I have read several articles in the national and local newspapers which apparently contradict each other and have made me think "can this be true or is that true or both? What would my response to this be?" To concentrate on just one topic, energy costs, despite the relatively warm winter the cost of keeping our homes warm has become a major issue. All of the statements below have been reported in one national newspaper (the Times) in one week:

March 24 - The USA has drilled hundreds of shale wells a year since starting their fracking programme. Poland has drilled 50 wells, the Ukraine a few and this country has allowed 3 wells in the last 5 years. This has given the USA a significant competitive advantage by allowing industry to buy cheap energy.

March 26 - The Prime Minister suggests that we should take a new look at fracking as a way of reducing our dependence on Russian gas. It has been estimated that some European countries could run out of gas by the autumn if Russia switched off supplies of oil & gas. **March 27** - SSE the Scottish-based energy company says it will freeze prices until at least January 2016.

This is seen as a response from politicians to reduce household and business costs.

March 27 - Europe depends on Russian for about a third of its supplies of oil & gas. Recent events in the Ukraine threaten the security of that supply. President Obama has offered to help provide alternative supplies but has urged Europe to "put aside political and environmental qualms and do more to develop its own energy resources".

March 27 - Balcombe, the village famous for opposing fracking has formed an energy co-operative to install enough solar panels to meet the village's electricity demand within 3 years. So what can we, as individuals, do about this?

Despite reports that the oil and gas companies are making excess profits another newspaper article said that actual gas prices in the UK are less than in most European countries and that the reason our bills are so high is that houses are so poorly built.

I switched on the television recently and heard the immortal words "an Englishman's home is his castle". That is as maybe but it doesn't mean it has to be damp, drafty, cold and cost a king's ransom to keep warm.

If we can make our homes warmer and more affordable to heat, we can improve our health and the quality of our lives. As a response to this Cornwall Council has set up the Glow Cornwall programme which helps homeowners or those in privately rented accommodation by subsidising boiler repair or replacement and the installation of insulation which together could achieve annual savings of up to £600 on average household energy bills. This scheme is particularly aimed at vulnerable households and older, hard to treat homes. This is particularly relevant to the many older houses in Cornwall with solid walls which are very difficult to insulate.

If you check the Glow Cornwall website www.glowcornwall.co.uk or call the helpline 0800 316 4425 to find out what help you may be eligible for and arranging an inspection of your house after which you will be told what can be done and how much it will cost. It is well worth looking into so that we are ready for next winter!

*Clr David Yates
Town Mayor*

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saltash.net students impress at Microsoft Global Education Forum



For the first time in the nine year history of Microsoft sponsored global education forums, students were invited to attend. Previously an adults only domain, this time, in the beautiful city of Barcelona in March, four young people from the UK were given the chance to present their views on the future of new technologies and how they can continue to enhance learning and progress.

The four students selected by Microsoft Worldwide were none other than Amy Donovan, Rowenna Hoskin, George Seymour and Jack Wickham, who are currently in Years 8 and 9 at saltash.net community school. saltash.net's reputation for the innovative and pioneering use of technology brought the students to the attention of the organisers of the 2014 Global Forum.

Fish and Quiz for Ashtorre Helpers

A fun quiz and a fish and chip supper was shared at the Ashtorre Rock Community Centre by those who are normally behind the counter serving there.

'Ashtorre Rock should glow with pride' Lynn Marsh told the volunteer staff at the annual 'Thank You' event organised for them, adding, 'You are all the face of Ashtorre Rock and thanks to you over the last year we have never had to close.

It was Lynn's late father, Saltash Ferryman Gerald Truscott, whose dream of a community centre at the heart of the Waterside became a reality. Nestling immediately below Brunel's bridge the cafe' and riverside veranda are increasingly popular among locals and visitors seeking refreshment with a riverside panorama.

The centre opens daily and with two 'shifts' needs at least fourteen volunteer staff each week to maintain it. More volunteers are always welcome to spend as many or as few hours as they wish and those interested can 'shadow' experienced members while

learning. Anyone interest is invited to contact Lynn on 01752 844255.

Terry Was Well Remembered

A good friend of the Saltash Observer who sadly passed away late last year was evidently a good friend to many.

Terry Martin, whose life we recorded in the February 'Observer' following his funeral, left a loving family who suggested any donations at his funeral or in his memory be divided between two much loved local charities. To their grateful surprise these amounted to almost £800. A cheque for half of the total was sent by the funeral directors' to Little Harbour Hospice, the above photograph shows four generations of the family presenting a cheque for the remainder to the Intensive Care Unit of Derriford Hospital Plymouth.

Along with their teachers, Scott Wierprecht, Dan Buckley, Grant Taylor and Samantha Owen, they travelled - all expenses paid - to Spain for a week from Monday 10th to Saturday 15th March.

Once in Barcelona, the students showcased work as 'Ofperts' - experts in the use of Microsoft's Office 365 to an audience of educators from around the world, as well as government ministers and Spanish royalty.

The week culminated in a superb gala dinner, at the end of which saltash.net community school was presented with one of just nine awards given for student led projects.

Teacher of Maths, and Microsoft 'Expert Educator' Scott Wierprecht, said, 'It was such an honour to attend the Global Forum with the students; they were awesome. To win one of the 'cutting edge use of new technology' awards was the icing on the cake! Everyone is very proud indeed and the young people were a credit to the school and to their families.'

Microsoft Partners in Learning lead for the UK, Stuart Ball, added,

"In my 20 years of teaching I have never met such a group of remarkable young people. They are a credit to themselves and the school, and it has been an honour and a privilege to spend time with Amy, Rowenna, Jack and George."

ENTERTAINMENT

April: Sat 19th Hi Jack
April: Sun 20th Shane Karaoke
April: Sat 26th 60 Plus
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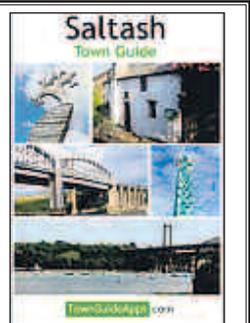


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New NHS-funded Chiropractic Care...

For Cornish Residents Suffering with Back Pain, Neck Pain, Headaches and Whiplash

It has been highlighted in the news that more than 50% of GP's are planning to retire early due to an ever increasing workload. In an attempt to alleviate some of these pressures from GP's, Plymouth Chiropractic Clinic are now able to deliver Chiropractic care on behalf of the NHS. This is an 'Any Qualified Practitioner' pilot scheme currently available only to people who are registered with a GP in Cornwall, who present with a musculoskeletal complaint that they have had for less than a year.

- A patient is eligible for referral to an AQP provider if they present with primarily back or neck pain with or without 'referred' symptoms to the limbs including:
 - Whiplash associated disorders
 - Stiffness and restricted movement
 - Cervicogenic headaches
 - 'Mechanical' neck and low back pain
 - Degenerative pain
 - Postural related neck and back pain.

Patients who meet any the following conditions are not appropriate for referral:

- Suspicions of serious pathology – urgent to secondary care or as per locally agreed pathways.
- Patients under 16 years of age
- Patients that do not meet referral criteria above.
- Patients who are not registered with a GP in locality.
- Patients who is recognised at point of referral / initial assessment have little or no potential for further or sustained improvement through undertaking a course of treatment.
- Housebound patients
- Patients with widespread or chronic (greater than 1 year) musculoskeletal pain.
- Patients who have a primary peripheral limb problem with secondary back and neck pain (e.g. hip or shoulder problems, foot or gait abnormalities).
- Women who are over 35

weeks pregnant. Plymouth Chiropractic Clinic are one of only a few Chiropractic Clinics in the country who have been able to successfully apply for this initiative, by proving that they can offer a high quality level of healthcare, complying with the NHS standards. Chiropractic is a primary health care profession that specialises in the diagnosis, treatment and management of many conditions affecting the spine. It focuses on naturally restoring the normal movement of the spine, without the use of drugs and surgery. Treatment involves safe, gentle and specific adjustments to levels in the spine to increase mobility, which may free the joints in the spine encouraging better movement and often a reduction in pain. The NHS-funded aspect entitles the patient to a consultation with a chiropractor at Plymouth Chiropractic Clinic, who will assess range of motion, reflexes, nerve sensations and muscle strength, before starting a course of chiropractic treatment. Advice on posture, rehabilitation and overall health is often available. Patients who meet the criteria can be referred directly by their GP, or can self-refer where appropriate. This is a great opportunity for so many residents in Cornwall that have been suffering to access help and advice.



Plymouth Chiropractic Clinic
Tel: 01752 770131
www.plymouthchiropractic.com

Fortieth Birthday Forty Mile Trek for Charity

A forty-mile trek over Dartmoor with around seventeen other ladies is Donna Symons proposed way of celebrating her fortieth birthday. Instead of throwing a party she decided to do something different and for someone else. With her friends Mel Purslove and Kate Libby the idea of a two-day trek raising money for Derriford Hospital's Cancer services and Little Harbour South West Children's Hospice just grew. Soon there were any number of friends, colleagues and fellow mothers of Burraton School children willing to seek sponsorship and get into training on Bodmin Moor and Dartmoor prior to the great event. Local businesses have been generous in sponsorship and soon posters will be covering Saltash with collecting boxes in pubs and other venues.

Observer Telephone Numbers
07971484872 or
01579 345699

Douglas Colton a Lifetime's Loyal Support to the Labour Movement

As one who devoted himself to supporting the underdog and improving conditions for working people Douglas Colton, who has been an active part of the Saltash Community since 1947 will be sadly missed by family, friends, and those in the labour party and trade union movement. 'Dougie' died peacefully in Derriford Hospital on 3rd March.

Born in Stonehouse where his family ran the 'Frederick Inn' Douglas was turned down on medical grounds from conscription and spent the war in Spoonsers' store until it was bombed. He was then drafted to a naval uniform outfitters where he worked one day before that was bombed. He was next drafted as night telephonist at Devonport Hospital which had more luck – he remained there for forty years, meeting there a student nurse Joan who was to become his wife, and indeed his last job before retirement was to hand over the keys on the hospital's closure.

While serving tea to some Bude ambulance drivers Douglas was persuaded to join a union and thus began a lifetime's dedication to the labour movement. He was highly active in the Confederation of Health Service Employees (later UNISON) and the Saltash Labour Party. As a member of the Anglo-Soviet Friendship Society he enjoyed a

fascinating insight into Stalin's Soviet Union visiting on medical grounds from the Bolshoi Ballet and the ruins of Stalingrad. Back home the stories of help that he gave to those suffering problems at work are numerous. He was also devoted to the Plymouth Arts Centre. His enthusiasm for the cinema there stemmed from early days at the silent cinema in Plymouth – he decided not to join the queue for the first talkie to be shown maintaining that 'the talkies' would never catch on. He was also a loyal member of the Stewards' team in Saltash museum. His wife Joan predeceased him in 2010. Douglas leaves a brother Fred, sons Hugh and Peter, grandchildren Jeff and Kathryn, and a host of friends in the labour movement and throughout Saltash and beyond. Douglas Colton is gone, memories of what he has done for others live on.

Town Overruled on Tamar Tag

Despite the three Saltash County Councillors who sit on the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Committee voting against it there will be a charge of eighty pence per month for holding a Tamar Tag however much or little it is used. Saltash Town Councillors were angered that the decision was made despite their own recommendations against it and despite 58% of respondents to a recent survey opposing it. "This makes a nonsense of public consultation", a Councillor claimed. Local County Councillors had supported the Town Council in putting forward the alternative of a slight increase in toll for cash payers on the bridge and a higher increase for cash payers on the Torpoint Ferry. This would reflect the difference in operating costs of bridge and ferry. By targeting cash payers rather than tag holders it was thought that local commuters and other regular users would be protected.

Police Seek Youth Disposal Order

Following concern by residents around the Gordon Court area of Church Road Police are seeking a Court Order to prevent gatherings of young people. Those who suspect groups of youths have been drinking close to Saltash College have reported intimidation. Police hope that by May or June, once procedures have been gone through, they will have a dispersal zone thereabouts and so be able to order any group of two or three or more to leave the area. Should they return, or refuse within a specified time, they could be arrested. Meanwhile Police will step up patrols of the area.

A Hearing Test with bloom™ Hearing Specialists is a Relaxing Experience



A hearing test with bloom™ hearing specialists is a relaxing experience where the customer understands fully what is going on at every stage.

The experience begins with Rebecca welcoming you in to the reception with a tea or coffee whilst you wait for your appointment with Elaine Stockman, the fully qualified Hearing Aid Audiologist.

The test that follows is free of charge and without obligation. You are encouraged to bring a close friend or relative as often they have experienced first-hand the changes in your hearing. Often hearing may have deteriorated so gradually that only a test such as this can show how much has been lost and can be improved with the latest hearing aid technology.

During the hearing test, Elaine will check the

general health of your ears before she carries out a full audiometric test. Elaine will spend some time finding out about the situations in which you would like to see an improvement, for example, family gatherings or social events. Elaine can then demonstrate the latest technology if you wish. If you decide to go ahead with one of the solutions suggested a further appointment would be made to fit and program the hearing aid(s) to your

individual needs. Elaine will ask you to return a few weeks later to ensure that the hearing aid(s) is worn correctly and to deal with any queries that may have occurred in the meantime.

It is this degree of customer care that has established the Saltash business as a leader in its field ever since Andrew Carmichael, himself a fully qualified Hearing Aid Audiologist, established it in Saltash a decade ago. Andrew remains Managing

Director continuing to run it as a family firm. Andrew's son James and daughter Jodie are the third generation of the Carmichael family to provide quality-hearing care after following their father and his father before him in to the industry. All are equally dedicated to maintaining the high standards of customer care and technological advance that have seen the business develop and expand over the last decade.



The Friendly Face of Rebecca

Experienced and knowledgeable but above all welcoming, Rebecca is the first friendly face met by most customers as they visit bloom™ at their newly refurbished branch in Saltash.



Rebecca enjoys the wide range of people that she meets and helps and is always happy to see a customer whose life has been transformed by better hearing.

Having been with the company for over three years she was delighted to be able to put her experience directly to customers when put on the front desk. "I am also here to answer queries, solve problems and provide batteries or accessories, whatever help is needed I am here" she tells bloom™ customers.

Tel Rebecca on 01752 850421

New Name and Newly Refurbished Premises Same Great Service and Friendly Staff

The name and the decor may be new, but bloom™ is already a well-established part of the Fore Street community and is currently celebrating a decade of service to Saltash and the South West. Formerly The Hearing Room, the newly refurbished premises are now proud to be a part of the prestigious bloom™ hearing specialists network.

While the name has changed and the premises have been tastefully refreshed, the great service and friendly staff remain the same. The business has brought the joy of better hearing to so many residents of Saltash and surrounding areas over the last ten years.

In recent years the business has become one of the towns leading employers with around forty staff at their head office, managing a major hearing care provider covering England, Wales, Scotland and the Irish Republic.

It is through listening to their customers speak about their daily life and interests, as well as the challenges they face, that bloom™ can help bring them closer to the lifestyle they used to enjoy.

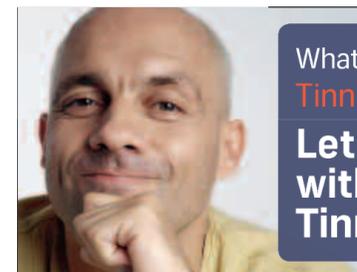
bloom™ Are at the Forefront of Tinnitus Management

Tinnitus is a condition that can be suffered by those of any age. Working or otherwise spending time in a noisy environment sometimes but not always brings it on. It can come on suddenly or so slowly that it is hard to know when it began.

Often described as a ringing in the ears, buzzing or humming it is experienced differently by each individual. Around 250 million people worldwide suffer this and many of those with hearing loss are affected.

Until recently there was a limited amount that could be done to relieve the symptoms of tinnitus. Now bloom™ are at the forefront of tinnitus management including Widex Zen Therapy (WZT). Tinnitus sufferers are invited to their Tinnitus Open Day on Friday 25th April. Appointments are available from 9am to 5pm, strictly by appointment only, to avoid disappointment. The one to one consultation will last approximately thirty minutes with tinnitus advisor Elaine Stockman. Following the initial fact finding consultation

Elaine will provide information on the options available together with a free copy of Eileen Hewitson's Deep Relaxation CD. A full tinnitus assessment with Elaine can then be arranged at a later date where she can recommend sound stimulations like Widex ZEN therapy, amplification and relaxation exercises where appropriate.



What a relief. Tinnitus can be helped. Let us help you with our Tinnitus Open Day.

Everyone experiences tinnitus differently, but research suggests that some universal techniques specifically aimed at tinnitus can benefit all.

Our specialists are trained to address the causes, symptoms and effects of tinnitus and can help you claim back the quality of life you deserve, and clearer hearing.

Our Tinnitus Open Day will be on: Friday 25th April, 9am – 5pm

For more information or to arrange your appointment call 01752 850421.

Alternatively email or contact us online

We are open Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm. Please quote ref: TN SO 01 when contacting us.

bloom™ hearing specialists
111-113 Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6AE
email: saltash@bloomhearing.co.uk

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hearing specialists

*An appointment must be booked and attended to receive your free copy of Eileen Hewitson's Deep Relaxation CD. Only one CD will be supplied per customer. Offer subject to availability. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers.

New NHS Service Available

Do you suffer with:

- Back Pain?
- Neck Pain?
- Headaches?
- Whiplash?

You may be entitled to a course of NHS funded Chiropractic care at Plymouth Chiropractic Clinic, who will be delivering this service on behalf of the NHS. Certain criteria and exclusions apply.

Appointments can normally be made within 14 days.

Treatment is available if it is felt to be appropriate for your healthcare

Contact Us

Plymouth Chiropractic Clinic, 152 Mannamead Road, Hartley, Plymouth, PL3 5QL

01752 770131

www.plymouthchiropractic.com

info@plymouthchiropractic.com

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they are the world's sixth largest hearing aid manufacturer, and supply almost 100 countries.

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SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



Since my last Column, the Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced his Budget for this year and Parliament was rightly focussed on its contents. On the whole I felt this Budget benefited my Constituents. I am pleased that the Chancellor has announced a sustainable budget, which continues on our route out of deficit so we are not eternally mounting debts on future generations. As he put it – it is a budget for the makers, the doers and the Savers.

I was very pleased to see the relief on VAT on fuel for our sea rescue services and air ambulances. Cornwall Air Ambulance is a fantastic service along with all the excellent work by the RNLI. Fuel is a large part of their costs and this will help.

I have mentioned before that many people have raised the matter of potholes with me, whilst I have been visiting homes in Saltash. I was very pleased to hear from the Chancellor that he has set aside £200 million for our roads and that Cornwall Council has applied for some of this money. I sincerely hope that South East Cornwall gets its fair share of this funding and hope that many of you will join me in calling on our local Cornwall Councillors to make sure this Constituency receives its fair share of this extra funding. Far too often we lose out under the seemingly Truro centric Unitary Council that very few people wanted and our Councillors must stand up for South East Cornwall. I will certainly support them in this. I was pleased to hear the Chancellor help hard working families. I was very pleased to see no increase in fuel duty again. This is particularly important for those that live in the more rural areas of our constituency who have to drive more on average and often do not have easy access to public transport.

I was pleased to see a tax cut that will get more money in workers pockets. This will particularly help the very low paid more of whom will be taken out of tax altogether. I was also pleased to see the increase the maximum Tax-Free Childcare support available to £2,000 per year for each child. At the end of the working day there was also a little help to be able to afford a drink. He cut the duty on beer by 1 penny a pint, froze duty on cider and spirits and abolished the above inflation duty escalator for wine.

I am pleased that this was a budget for business. This will help getting local people into work. Measures include the doubling the annual investment allowance to £500,000 until the end of 2015, the offering the best export finance in Europe and reducing energy costs, to ensure that the UK remains a competitive location for manufacturing. Savers have been hit during this period of low interest rates. He has changed the way people access their pensions and is encouraging households to save through a package of measures including reforming the ISA into a New ISA (NISA) with a significantly higher annual limit and through cutting savings tax.

The Conservative Chancellor in the Coalition Government has had a very difficult job especially as the Labour Party left the country in a very poor state. I am pleased his plan is bearing fruit and will keep on working to ensure South East Cornwall gets its fair share.

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Explore the Local Countryside

The annual wonder that is Cornwall in spring is all the more welcome after our long damp and dismal winter. Suddenly the lanes, woods and hedgerows in the country around Saltash are a mass of flower bursting into new life – the air is alive with birdsong and the humming of bees. And the byways and footpaths have dried out sufficient for them to be newly discovered as they lead to a newly awakened world of nature.

In order for residents, new or long established, as well as visitors to derive the full benefit of our superb countryside the Saltash Observer's very own book 'A Quality of Life' offers a wide range of rambles around our estuaries, hills and woodland, all but a short drive or bus journey from the heart of Saltash. For the less energetic or those with less time an equally attractive array of shorter walks accessible from the edge of our town is also fully described.

Spring and summer offer the perfect excuse to get out and about lose that winter waistline and enjoy gentle invigorating exercise while exploring what

the Saltash countryside has to offer. With eight longer walks and six shorter strolls as well as a mass of other fascinating local information and even tasty local recipes for the returning walker. 'A Quality of Life' is available in Saltash Bookshelf or direct from the Observer. To order a copy, Contact Mary Crawford direct on: 01579 345699 or 07971 484872.

No Support Retail Crime

A Police project aimed at reducing shop lifting and other crime in and around Fore Street has been abandoned.

Police blame lack of interest among local shop owners for the Saltash Against Retail Crime initiative failing to take off. The scheme would involve shop owners being in radio contact with each other and with the Police. They could then immediately circulate details of offenders or suspicious characters while they were still in the area.

Saltash Town Council had offered financial support for the scheme. However only seven of around forty businesses contacted expressed an interest, too few for it to be viable.

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Conundrum Corner
 Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following nine questions can you re-arrange them to make the name of a Town or Village in our locality?
 1 According to a line in the musical My Fair Lady what hardly ever happens in Hereford, Hertford and Hampshire? (10)
 2 In which Country would you find the Volcano Krakatoa? (9)
 3 Which fish is the main ingredient of Gentleman's Relish? (9)
 4 Which Christian name has been used by 10 Kings of France and 2 of Great Britain? (7)
 5 What was the name of David Copperfield's elderly Nurse? (8)
 6 What is the name of the mythical submerged land that lies between Cornwall and the Scilly Isles? (8)
 7 What type of storage place gives its name to a form of dance? (4)
 8 What shape is the body of a Balalaika? (10)
 9 Which creatures live in a home called a Holt? (6)
Answers on Page 7

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Pot Holes and Dualing

In the recent Budget you might have noticed that £200 million was pledged for fixing potholes.

Here in Cornwall that means an extra £11 million to help cover the costs of the winter damage. Of course it's not enough, our roads have taken quite a bashing over the winter and there has been many years of underfunding which has left our roads in a sorry state. Never the less it is good to know that many roads, like the recently resurfaced Beatrice Avenue, could receive a long awaited upgrade even though it will still be a question of which road will take preference over which. I know both the independent and Lib Dem Cornwall councillors are working hard to try to get the extra funding, which of course I fully support.

The events like the storm damage to the Dawlish line has shown how important a good reliable transport infrastructure is to our economy. Which is why all of the Team for Cornwall, made up of the three Lib Dem Parliamentary candidates and 3 MP's are backing a second line across the north of Dartmoor to make sure we are never again cut off from rail transport. But that in itself will not be enough,



we need to ensure the road arteries into Cornwall are also effective and encourage business to start and develop in South East Cornwall. Which is why I am concerned about the proposed Broadmoor Farm development which will see a new road system that potentially may cause as many problems as it resolves and why I supported your Lib Dem County councillors who opposed the new monthly fee for the Tamar bridge tags. Regular readers will know that I believe that the bridge should be free but I also want to see more dualing of the A38 and major improvements to the A388 and even A390. So that potential businesses see this part of the county as being easily accessible and a good place to set up and grow. South East Cornwall has always been a brilliant place to live but until we have a road structure that works well, we will, I fear, always struggle to keep and create local jobs that are diverse enough to off set the vagaries of our ever-changing tourism and commerce.

By Phil Hutty Lib Dem PC

An Opportunity to Try say Saltash Bowling Club

Why not give bowls a try...suggests our friendly local bowling club. Saturday the 26th April is an important day for Saltash Bowls Club, because it is our Opening Day for the 2014 outdoor season.

It is also the day we invite people of all ages, young or older, to come along and have a try at playing outdoor bowls. There is no charge at all, and the club will provide the bowls to suit the individual

One of the myths about bowls is that it is an old person's game. True, there are a lot of older people playing bowls, but it is one of the few games that you can still physically play outdoors as you get older. The level of bowls being played at the club is such that once you have mastered the mechanics of the game, including holding the bowl correctly and delivering the bowl up the green to the distance you would like, you can play either competitive a game, or else in the mixed friendlies.

Our mixed friendly programme this season will include visits to Torquay,

Newquay, Yelverton, and Tavistock. We also play Bere Alston, Kingsbridge, and St.Columb.

These games are generally on a Sunday afternoon with refreshments provided. Our men's league programme is in the evenings at 6.15pm. during which we will visit Torpoint, Liskeard, Lostwithiel and Callington. The ladies leagues are played in the afternoons. Saturday the 26th April at 10am, is open for all to have a go at playing bowls,

when the clubs coaches will be on hand to help and guide anyone new to the game. Should you wish to go further we welcome you to come to our club night every Friday at 6pm. for six weeks at no cost at all to you? You will be given coaching at every visit and at the end of the six weeks we will ask you if you would like to join

the club as a member.

You will be made most welcome and plenty of help and advice will be freely given to you.

Why Not Give it A Try?

Should you not be able to attend on that Saturday, but would still like to have a go at outdoor bowling, then please contact the club secretary,

Mrs Chris Johnstone
01752 219051 or **John Payne**
on 01752 845197

Saltash Bowling Club

Why not give bowls a try

Saturday 26th April 10am
At Saltash Bowls Club

Come along, have a go at playing bowls

The clubs coaches will be on hand to help and guide you

If you enjoy it...

We will offer you an invitation to join us at our club night

Every Friday at 6pm for 6 weeks **at no cost at all to you**

For more information contact the club secretary:

Mrs Chris Johnstone 01752 219051
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University 'History Boys' Work with Saltash Museum



A group of second year history students from Plymouth University have been working in Saltash Heritage Museum and local history centre as part of their research into local heritage. The team was gathering information about the Heritage Centre before writing it up and preparing a presentation to fellow students.

Saltash Heritage was agreed upon as an ideal base for studying and the group reported themselves as well impressed with the organisation and how much was going on.

'We are looking at issues of sustainable history, and how Heritage groups balance entertainment with historical accuracy', they told the Observer. 'How Heritage centres interact with the community and give back to the community forms a part of our studies'.

'Saltash Heritage are always eager to work with students of all ages from primary school up to degree level', confirmed society secretary Elizabeth Sharpe-Asprey.

Observer Telephone Numbers

07971484872
or
01579 345699

Conundrum answers...

Answers: 1 Hurricanes 2 Indonesia 3 Anchovies 4 Charles 5 Peggotty 6 Barn Lyonesse 7 Barn 8 Triangular 9 Others Re-arranged the letters spell out the Village of Polbathic

The Spanish Club in Cornwall

Is meeting in the Saltash Area

Why not join us for Spanish Tapas and various activities on the first Monday of every month.

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Youth Centre Moves Forward

Despite struggling with Cornwall Council's financial cuts to youth services the once popular K3 Youth Club has progressed over the past year towards providing a range of services for the town's young people.

A boxing club on Tuesday and Thursday and dance lessons Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays are attracting young people back to the centre reported Town Councillor Gina Donovan to the annual town meeting.

The Friday night young peoples' sessions also continue to take place.

One of the main aims of the committee has been to get the

climbing wall, opened too much acclaim in November 2011, back into public use. After much effort by the committee a trained climbing instructor has been found and a set of volunteers agreed to re-open the climbing wall sessions. Following a re-launch in March it is hoped to run regular sessions on Wednesdays and expand the wall's use from there.

New Junctions are Among Road Safety Concerns

Major changes to traffic flow on the main A38 at Stoketon Cross and the A388 at Carkeel proposed as a result of the Broadmoor Farm development plans are among major concerns of the town's road safety group.

Parent parking problems around primary schools have also been discussed between local councillors, police, the Cornwall Fire and road safety officer and representatives of Saltash Speedwatch who attended regular meetings. County Councillor Derek Holley reported to the Saltash Annual Town meeting on actions taken including representations by e-mail and letter as well as meetings and

site meetings with Cormac (County Highways) officers.

Mud and leaves on roads, speeding, access to business premises and bus stops on the A38 has also been among safety concerns raised with relevant authorities. There has been general concern over the last year about the deterioration of the local road network and the short-term approach to road repairs.

Be My Bear

After eight years building up a successful business creating personalised cards for birthdays, wedding and all other occasions, Mandy Lock is extremely excited to be developing a new creative entertainment to keep children enhanced at parties. 'Be My Bear' is already delighting young children celebrating birthdays in and around Saltash while pleasing parents who are delighted to see their young guests totally absorbed in a fun new creative activity.

Mandy first began exercising her own creative skills around eight years ago when she designed and prepared cards for her friends' birthdays and other celebrations. This developed into a part time business and so popular did the cards become that she soon found it a full time occupation. She still enjoys preparing personalised cards in full 3D for engagements, anniversaries and children's' births as well as birthdays and weddings.

While she is continuing to create cards 'Be My Bear' is becoming a full time activity in itself as word spreads about the excitement that this brings to birthday and other parties.

Making one's own lovable cuddly pet is an activity that all can share and enjoy from age three even up to adulthood. Mandy will attend any party at any home or other venue in Plymouth or South East Cornwall to get the fun started. Soon the guests are busy stuffing the bear before the vital task of making a wish and creating a 'wish star'. This is sealed within the bear, a 'Birth Certificate' written up and the bear can be a friend for life. There is also a wide range of clothes and other accessories than can be added, at birth of a bear or on a subsequent event. Bags, 'shades,' even a recorded message can be added.

While bears remain a firm favourite, the child's favourite animal can be similarly born, built up and dressed, any zoo animal, popular pet, even dinosaurs and frogs have been requested and acquired.

To see the wide range of fun family activity that 'Be My Bear' open up for

birthdays, holiday activities, or at any time, 'Truly Scrumptious' sweet shop in Lower Fore Street has a display on the sweet cart, and indeed can help in arranging the party if required.

Mandy wishes to thank Danielle of 'Truly Scrumptious' for support and looks forward to welcoming local children to the latest fun-filled activity of making one's own furry friend.



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Saltash Leisure Centre Easter Holiday activities



Book early to avoid disappointment

Tuesday 15th April

Flip n Fun 1pm-3pm

For Children in Swimming Lesson Stage 5 or Above £10.80

Flip and fun is an introduction into the basic fundamentals of diving.

For children in **Stage 5** or above this is a fantastic opportunity to learn how to dive safely and correctly.

Wednesday 16th April

Art Attack 1pm-3pm 5-7yrs £4

Please bring a drink and wear old clothes.

Come along and get creative using lots of recycled materials to make goodies to takeaway.

Friday 18th April

Wet and Wild Fun Session

10am-12pm All Ages £3.50

Body boards, balls, super soakers and great music make this session great fun for all ages. Please note that all children under 8 years must be accompanied by an adult, also under 4s will still be charged the full price due to a restriction on numbers in the pool.

Centre Opening Times
 Mon-Fri 6.30am-10pm
 Sat-6.30am-8pm
 Sun-7.30am-7pm

Pre-booking is essential for all Easter holiday activities

Please see our website or contact the centre for our full class timetable and further information.

Tel: 01752 840940 www.tempusleisure.org.uk

New for 2014!!!

SH'BAM! - The new workout dance sensation from Les Mills. Featuring simple, fun but seriously hot dance moves to stay in shape and tone up.

Mon 10.15-11am, Weds 6.45-7.30pm, Thurs 10-10.45am, Sun 10.45-11.30am

Balance - Holistic, stability class to improve flexibility, build core strength and focus on the mind.

Weds 11.30am-12pm

Aqua natal - gently enjoyable class designed to help release the worries and stress of pregnancy.

Thurs 9.15-10am

Seniors Aqua Friday 12noon -1.00pm

Junior Street Dance 5-10years - high energy fun fitness class with choreographed routines to the latest music.

Fri 4.15-5.15pm

Please see our website or contact the centre for our full class timetable and further information

Tel: 01752 840940 www.tempusleisure.org.uk



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(Opposite the Guildhall)

From This Day Forward

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Stuffing, Wish Star,

Birth Certificate, & Carry home

Gift Bag or Box

Packages start at

£10.99 per animal

Choose from a variety of Animals in various sizes

Have fun collecting the Accessories

Accessories can be purchased to dress your chosen pet:

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