

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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April 2018 - Issue 313

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## Carkeel Safety Fears Expressed to Cornwall Projects Team

The lights at Carkeel roundabout need a longer delay to let people through or the timing should be reset, the Senior Project Manager Cornwall Council's project team, Philip Jailer was told. 'Motorists of around my age are frightened to use the roundabout', said Councillor John Brady, who added that drivers from the Callington direction are turning left to Plymouth to avoid crossing the roundabout and local businesses are suffering.

A meeting had been called for Saltash's Town and Cornwall Councillors, as well as councillors from surrounding parishes, to put their concerns over Carkeel roundabout to Cornwall's projects team.

The safety audit had been completed, councillors were told, and only two issues had been found to be addressed. One was the need for a maintenance bay and to ensure safe access to mow the centre of the roundabout. There was also a need to move the 40 mph signs on the A38 nearer to the tunnel and both of these would be attended to.

A main concern to local councillors was the placing of the lights on the road out from the town, which encourages

drivers to access the roundabout and sometimes block it off. 'We have identified the issue of traffic queuing on the roundabout but the design meets all Highway regulations', was the reply. 'It is always recommended that one junction on a roundabout is left uncontrolled', Mr Jailer added that any vehicle blocking the roundabout by waiting on it for the lights to change was in breach of the Highway Code and drivers could be prosecuted.

Councillors were not satisfied and asked that this and other issues be referred back to Highways England. 'It is just not safe coming to the roundabout from the south, this is not satisfactory' said Cornwall Councillor Derek

Holley. 'Could extra lights on the south side not be added - we said this was necessary and we still say so'. Cross hatching on the roundabout had been suggested but this is not permitted.

Another suggestion was that the right hand lane approaching from Saltash should be marked 'Superstore' or 'Industrial Estate' as well as 'A38 East'. This would avoid Waitrose shoppers using the left lane and later having to cut across. This would be considered.

The lights are 'intelligent' and timings will vary as they note particular traffic build up, Mr Jailer confirmed. Councillors had expressed particular concern as to how the traffic would flow when millions of motorist unaccustomed to the area arrive over Easter and the Summer season. He was asked whether there would be anybody monitoring the roundabout over Easter, the first busy holiday period since the lights were installed. 'No, the system is now up and running and has been proven, thought there are cameras that will be constantly monitoring the situation', he replied. He also confirmed that the police and Highways England can override the lights, for example if the A38 westward is closed due to a serious accident and westbound traffic is re-routed via Callington.

A main concern of local councillors clearly remains traffic speeding on the A38, whatever signs may be in place, and it was agreed that speed checks would be requested along the Saltash-by-pass.

Asked specifically about the accident rate Mr Jailer advised that since the lights had been switched on, on 9th December and work had been completed on 15th November there had been no collisions reported on the roundabout itself as of the date of the meeting in mid March.

## Supermarket Site Gets Go Ahead

Work is expected to proceed apace on the building of two large stores and two fast food outlets adjacent to Carkeel roundabout. The site, formerly a car showroom, was earmarked for a Tesco store until that company pulled out and released the land.

Issues over traffic queuing back from the McDonalds burger drive through, blocking access to the site and possibly backing up to the roundabout, had caused Saltash Town Council to recommend refusal for previous plans, as reported in your January 'Observer'. However the planners have since redrafted the siting of the buildings and Cornwall Council planners granted conditional permission for the development to go ahead.

One condition is that the developers contribute £248,000 towards the development of the town centre to help ensure that it remains a viable shopping hub. They are also to pay over £45,000 towards the development of cycle and walkways around the town. Chairman of Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Industry Peter Ryland, who was involved in the negotiation of this sum increased from an original offer, expressed himself as content with the

final plans and the cash settlement to the town.

A highways survey is to be conducted as another condition of the planning agreement. This will in particular consider whether there should be a compulsory left turn out of Gilston Road for traffic exiting the shops and cafes. Traffic including trucks making deliveries, would then have to make a complete circuit of Pillmere roundabout to get back to Carkeel and the A38.

There have been several changes as to the retail businesses acquiring the new store sites but currently it is anticipated that an Iceland food store and Home Bargains, will open alongside a Costa Coffee and a McDonalds drive-through restaurant.

The developers have suggested that up to 165 employment opportunities will arise from the completed development, while around two hundred will be employed on the building of it.

## New Museum for Brunel



Photo Ian Robinson

see article on page 8

## Extra Train Capacity Boost for Saltash Underway

Adding to a fleet of new Intercity Express Trains due into service this Summer, GWR has just announced a scheme to modernise High Speed Trains (HSTs) to provide even more additional seats and services.

Work is already underway to convert former eight carriage HSTs (8+2) to four carriage (4+2) Class 43 Castle trains, to operate services between Exeter and Penzance, which will help double the frequency of services on the Cornish main line.

The work will see the sets made more accessible and modernised; decade old slam doors will be replaced with modern, automated, sliding doors; toilet retention tanks fitted and an improved passenger information system fitted.

GWR Commercial Development Director Matthew Golton said:

"These trains will replace smaller, less powerful trains on this part of the network; doubling the number of seats as part of our commitment to improving rolling stock across every part of our network."

"They will work alongside the new Intercity Express Trains due this summer; helping us to double the frequency of services to and from the South West and improve capacity on suburban commuter services."

48 passenger carriages and 24 power cars are being updated, to make 11 sets, with



four spare, as part of a wider national programme to modernise the High Speed Train.

Mayor of Saltash, Jean Dent said, "This is great news, and these trains and extra capacity will come along in parallel to the Town Council's refurbishment of the station building here in Saltash."

Jamie Quinn, Saltash resident and daily commuter commented, "It was great to see this refurbished train pull into Saltash and easily cope with the increasing numbers of passengers here. As to be expected from trains that currently operate the London services, they are comfortable, have power sockets and WIFI."

Councillor Geoff Brown, Cornwall Council cabinet member for Transport:

"This is a fantastic time for rail in Cornwall and the arrival of these trains marks another milestone in efforts to transform services on the Cornish mainline."

Later this year, these new short form HSTs provide our local rail service - trains leaving Penzance for Plymouth every 30 minutes and stopping at stations along the way.

"As a Council, we have been working with our partners at GWR, Network Rail, the Department for Transport and the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership to bring about changes in

infrastructure and rolling stock, changes which will benefit residents, commuters, visitors, the economy and our environment."

The completed first train set went into passenger service just before Easter, more than doubling the number of seats per train. (139 generic in 2 car 150 v 316 in a coach A to D HST).

With all modifications complete, the trains will also be extended to serve the route from Penzance to Cardiff, and to bolster peak time services between Gloucester and Taunton.

The Class 43 Castle trains will be maintained at GWR's depot at Laira, Plymouth

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# Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

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Konsel an dre Essa



## £400,000 Funding Secured

*We know you are very interested to hear about progress, so here is an update...*

We know you are very interested to hear about progress, so here is an update. We have now managed to find around £400,000 of funding for the project; a significant proportion is coming from Cornwall Council (£140,000) as part of their Local Transport Plan funding, and will help to fund the passenger facilities that will be incorporated into the building. Other sources will be officially announced in the weeks to come. The search for funding is not over though, and we require a significant further amount to complete the refurbishment of the entire building.

Town Councillors have approved a draft design for the refurbished building, and the architects are busy finalising a planning application. We will share the designs, when they are available. The design keeps the building looking almost exactly as it does now, and provides a flexible space in most of the building with passenger facilities (waiting room and toilets) located

closest to the current platform entrance.

The 3d images have been produced by our architects, the Bailey Partnership, and indicate how the building might look, inside and out, once the work is complete.

The Town Council would be keen to hear from any potential businesses interested in office space or in operating the café facility within the building.

## Historic Trust Can Aid Modern Families

A historic local trust, originally set up for the relief of 'poverty' for Saltash residents or exceptionally those in adjoining parishes, is still available to assist local residents.

Dating in part from the 18th century, the Mabbott Trust was amalgamated in 1992 and its income of around £1,500 per annum allows only relatively small grants to be made. However these can make a real difference, in particular to local families in order to pay for children to share outdoor education pursuits with friends when the parents cannot afford the cost. Clothes and equipment for such children have been provided by the trust. Other

grants have covered assistance with heating costs and provision of a washing machine, or re-carpeting a home following flooding. Payments are not usually made directly to the recipient but to the supplier of the product or service.

Applications for grants should, similarly to the Foodbank, be made via a formal body such as the Town Council, giving full details of the proposed recipient and the need for the request.

*Town Messenger news is supplied by the Town Council*

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## Civic Regalia Renewed

The mayoral and deputy mayoral robes are, it has been agreed, well past their use by date and ready for renovation or replacement. It is not known how old they are but the tricorn hat is labelled as being made by a company that then supplied the King and Queen, dating it back at least sixty-five years.

The Mayor's robes and tricorn hat are to be replaced, while velvet collars are to be purchased to place under the medallions worn by the deputy mayor and the mayor's consort.

The mayor's consort will also have, added to the medallion, bars showing the names of previous consorts who have worn it.

## Smile, You're on Camera

Saltash Town Council is taking positive moves forward in respect of CCTV camera, monitoring the town for anti-social behaviour.

Various systems are currently being investigated with a view to cameras probably being mounted in Fore Street and possibly on the Waterside. It is emphasised that these would be intended for the general safety of the Saltash public.

## Poppies Bloom for War Centenary

The Town Council has taken on board a proposal by a local resident that areas around the town be planted out with poppies to mark this year's centenary of the end of World War I.

Mrs Scantlebury made the suggestion and, as mentioned elsewhere in your Observer, several possible locations have been identified.

Those finding favour to date include the area around St. Stephens War Memorial, the SHADO centre on Plougastel Drive, and the wild flower section of the Peace Garden in Alexandra Square. The floral boats maintained by Saltash Lions and Rotary are also suggested, subject to the agreement of those organisations.

## Mayoral Matters...

Bill and I have been quite busy this month. Attending a boat launching (for Saltash Sailing Club, very chilly on the river but a very warm welcome in the club house), Plymouth Mayor's Civic Service (in Plymstock) Rwind concert (wonderful music as always), and an Abbeyfield coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support, amongst others.

One event was the USA open day, quite an experience. Did you know that you can experience music, walking (we thought we might be part of the stragglers group rather than experienced walkers), felting and needlework, iPad use, artists, photography, languages, geology, theatre, genealogy and any others that I apologise for not including. Who says there is nothing to do in Saltash!

Talking of meeting people, I think the last 'meet your councillors' that we held on Fore Street this last month must qualify of the wettest, coldest and most miserable since I started doing it. Always good to make ourselves available to our electorate but not so good when the book that we record the questions in gets so wet that it

## Children's Art to Enhance Town Convenience

Murals made by local children are soon, it is hoped, to be placed in Longstone Park on the public convenience block and on other public conveniences and public buildings in the town.

The work in creating the murals was paid for by a Town Council bid to the Local Devolution Fund seeking to enhance otherwise austere public structures and to encourage local children to come together in a major art project. There has been some delay during negotiations with Cornwall Council, which still owns the structures, but it is hoped that these are now near conclusion.

Saltash Girl Guides were especially involved and it has been requested that some murals may be placed on the guide headquarters at Warfelton field.

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## Era of Change with New Mayor and Deputy

A new era in Saltash's civic affairs could be opening up with the unanimous election of Councillors John Brady and Gloria Challen as next year's Mayor elect and Deputy Mayor elect.

Both had stood for these roles in previous years but had been defeated. At this year's extraordinary Town Council meeting held to consider the nominations, all councillors present voted in favour of them both, save for the current Mayor who abstained.

Councillor Brady, who has served five years as councillor has 'worked long and hard for the betterment of the town', said Councillor Julie Rance who seconded him after Councillor Bill Phillips had proposed him. 'During my two and a half years of working with him I have learnt to respect and value his dedication to the town'. She referred in particular to his work regarding the appointment of the town wardens and the acquisition and restoration of the station building. He has lived for 46 years in Hatt and Saltash.

#### Deputy Mayor

A true 'Saltash maid', Gloria Challen was born in Saltash where she has lived and worked all her life, and believes her family to have



historic associations with Saltash going back as far as the Black Prince.

She was long a member of Saltash Boys Club, more recently the Chamber of Commerce, Saltash Lions and other community groups, and has been largely responsible for many local events, most notably the Mayfair for a number of years. She has proudly run three businesses in the town. 'Gloria is one of our more experienced councillors with leadership qualities,

involvement in traditions and heritage of the town and council, and her commitment to the town and community projects is without question', proclaimed Councillor Peter Samuels in proposing her. Councillor Garry Taylor seconded her.

The new Mayor and Deputy Mayor elect will be expected to take on their roles at the May council meeting, with a formal inauguration on 10th May.

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**Cornwall Council:  
The financial journey  
from 404 to 87**

Advances in medical treatment have meant we are living longer. In Church on Easter Sunday, we all sang 'Happy Birthday' to sprightly Saltash resident Amy, 102 years young. It is predicted that by 2036, over half the local authorities in England will have 25% or more of their local population aged 65 and over. But not everyone enjoys good health in their twilight years, and we've seen a sharp increase in the number of people needing to use the adult care services of Cornwall Council. At the same time, the costs of delivering those services have increased, placing extra pressure on our systems.

It all comes at a time of austerity, too, when the amount of money principal local authorities receive from central government has fallen dramatically. Cornwall Council was created as a unitary authority in 2009. At that time, Cornwall received £404 million in grants from central government. By 2017/18, the central government grant had shrunk to £87 million. It will continue to dwindle.

Principal local authorities are required by law to set a balanced budget. What an ominous challenge that is in these circumstances, especially when there are limited options for raising money. In Cornwall, just

10% comes from services Cornwall Council charges for, like planning, licensing and parking. With less money coming in, one of the only options to deliver a balanced budget is to increase Council Tax. But as councillors, we are only too aware how difficult it is to make ends meet these days, so raising taxes in not a decision we take lightly. It was with great reluctance that we voted in February to raise the council tax by 2.99%. The stark reality, though, is that in order to keep council tax increases in line with inflation and in the face of reduced income, we have had to make cuts totalling nearly £300 million since 2009.

Cornwall Council is not alone in this predicament. Nationally, the central government revenue support grant to councils will continue to fall. It was £7.2 billion in 2016/7 but will be £2.3 billion in 2019/20, with councils across the country having to find ways to fill the funding gap. In a bleak, scary turn of events in February of this year, Northamptonshire County Council became the first council in two decades to issue a section 114 notice, effectively declaring bankruptcy. There are fears that other councils could follow.

In efforts to deliver a healthy budget, Cornwall Council has also reduced back-office costs and

introduced new ways of working. It is an ongoing struggle, though, in the face of dwindling income. The funding crisis is exacerbated in rural authorities, because the model central government uses to calculate its funding allocations is based on historical, outdated formulae. We currently have a situation where funding for metropolitan areas is greater per resident than rural areas. The London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, for example, delivers the same range of services as Cornwall Council but has 48% more funding per resident from central government. In January, Cornwall Council launched a campaign to encourage central government to take account of key drivers such as deprivation, life expectancy, the economy and the environment in their review of the funding model. The campaign is gathering momentum, with the Leaders of Devon, Plymouth, Somerset, Torbay and Dorset Councils joining us in calling for central government to provide more funding to stretched rural councils.

And then there is Brexit. A new report released last month from the County Councils Network and Grant Thornton warns that much Brexit policy to date has focused on London and the major cities. Recognising the need to make sure Cornwall is 'Brexit-ready', Cornwall



CORNWALL  
COUNCIL



and our PL12 community  
For Observer readers  
From Councillor Hilary Frank  
Saltash South

Council has been working with partners to produce a document called 'New Frontiers'. This will be our proposition to central government, offering an opportunity to collectively re-appraise national thinking on the tools and levers required to unlock regional growth in a post-Brexit world, with a focus on Cornwall's distinctive local strengths in renewables, space and satellites, creative and digital technologies, and green growth. The 56-page document is still a work in progress, but it has already gained wide interest, with BBC's Newsnight running a ten-minute piece last month on how Cornwall is preparing for Brexit.

So Cornwall Council is being proactive. We are looking to the future, and looking for innovative funding projects. So I want to finish by telling you about two projects being led by Cornwall Council that will inject money directly in to Saltash. First up is the Green Infrastructure for Growth programme, where Cornwall Council has secured over £3million to spend on urban green spaces in 6 Cornish

towns, making them better places for people and wildlife. The Saltash phase of the programme will focus on areas including Saltmill, Longstone Park and Warfelton. Come along to Saltash Leisure Centre on Saturday 21st April from 10am to 1pm, to meet Cornwall Council officers who will tell you more about the ideas and listen to your views. Then there is the pot of £1million to improve cycleways and walking routes in Saltash. Cornwall Council officers have begun work on drawing up some plans, but if you have any suggestions do get in contact with one of your 4 Cornwall Councillors in Saltash.

*We take it in turns to hold a surgery at Saltash Library on Saturday mornings from 10am to 12noon. You can always catch one of us there.*

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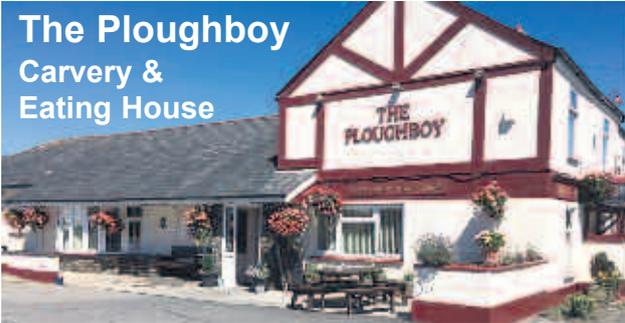
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which includes Trematon Castle

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## Peter Ryland Chamber Chairman... Keeping us Up-dated

For the last few months there was one main item that was challenging the Chamber namely mitigating the impact of the proposed development at Gilston Road on our members. We recognised the fact of the inevitability that a scheme would, at some stage, happen on this site, but wanted to try and ensure that the impact on town centre trade and traffic congestion around the site were kept as low a possible. With this in mind we engaged with the developers and discussed these issues at length with them.

Partly as a result of this, the scheme now has an improved queuing arrangement for the drive thru's and a larger financial contribution which can be used to offset the impact of the additional retail units on town centre trade.

In addition to the items which will be included in the planning consent we have agreed that, subject to necessary consents, the developer will also provide signage to promote the town centre and ensure that the third retail unit, which at the time of writing this article does not have a proposed occupier, is not let to a trader whose main trade would be in direct conflict with a town centre trader.

We acknowledged that there was, within the PL12 community, general support for this development and therefore our input was on a positive basis. There is no doubt that much of the PL12 shopping is done in Plymouth but hopefully this development may help retain the main trade in the town and thereby facilitate peripheral shopping in Fore Street. In addition, it is envisaged that the retailers will attract more footfall coming to Saltash and hopefully they can be

attracted to the town centre.

We will, in the next month or so, have a new mayor and deputy and the Chamber looks forward to working with them and all the councillors (some of whom are Chamber members) in achieving goals that benefit the people of Saltash. Councillors represent the people of Saltash and the Chamber represents the business community. By working together we can achieve the feel good factor which benefits both the

community and the businesses and with the help of Saltash Gateway CIC we can achieve much for the town.

### Bruce Reid

"The Chamber was sad to hear of the passing of Bruce Reid who had been Chairman twice and, during his second time of office [1999-2000], led the Chamber into the 21st century. I personally will always remember his good humour when serving me in his shop"

Peter

## ROAD CLOSURES FOR SALTASH MAY FAIR

Sat 5th May 2018 – 6:30am - 8pm  
(approximately)

The following roads will be closed to vehicles:

- Fore Street
- Wesley Road
- King Edward Road from Essa Road
- Victoria Road from King Edward Road
- Belle Vue Road towards Fore Street

Longstone car park is the only car park affected, but there will be on road parking restrictions in place

Updates are available on the May Fair Facebook page

## Town Mourns Ex Councillor, Businessman and Sports Lover

St. Nicholas church was filled as the many friends of the late Bruce Reid, local businessman, Town Councillor and enthusiastic supporter of many organisations around the town, joined with family to pay him tribute. Bruce had died in Derriford Hospital aged 80 after a short illness. Rev. Bob Munro who was able to eulogise Bruce as a friend for many years, since Bruce served as head of Saltash School PTA when Bob was Deputy Head conducted the service.

A proper Cornishman, Bruce Reid was born in Penzance in 1937, one of four siblings whose father was a surgeon. He married Edna, a Plymothian who had moved to Penzance, and in 1968 they came to Saltash where Bruce became involved in the confectionary wholesale business. This gave him and Edna the impetus to open a confectionary shop in Budleigh Salterton, Devon which was highly successful but when a shop premises became available in Saltash in 1991 they seized the chance to return to the town that they had come to love.

Here Bruce became prominent in the community where having served in Rotary and Round Table he joined the Chamber of Commerce, of which he became chair. He was determined that everyone should be able to see Saltash's special shopping community lit up for Christmas and not only helped organise the seasonal lights but climbed ladders to erect the display.

He was also actively involved in sport, supporting the town's sailing, rugby and football clubs, a love that he passed on to his only son Ross, now a professional sports webmaster. He also found time to be one of our splendid team of 'Observer' deliverers. Following retirement from his business he became a Town Councillor and was highly active in civic affairs.

In his eulogy son Ross thanked the community of Vincent Way for the amazing support offered to the family. As well as his son Ross, Bruce left two grandchildren James (21) and Emma (18).

The family was warmly

touched to see the church so full and was especially pleased that leave was granted for Bruce's good friend Bob to conduct the service, which was followed by refreshments in Saltash Social Club.

Condolences to Edna & Family  
- God Bless Bruce

Mary Crawford

## Floral Displays Should be Watered by the Wardens

Saltash should have its usual colourful display of hanging baskets in and around Fore Street, but these should be watered and maintained 'in house'.

This would save considerable costs to the town, Councillor John Brady proposed, when an application for over £3,800 of 'Section 106' monies, made by the town's Community Enterprises PL12 came up for discussion. Of this £1008.00 was to cover the cost of acquiring the plants and the balance was for maintaining and watering over a twelve week period.

Now that Saltash has its own Town and Waterside Wardens they could carry out maintenance among their other duties and at no extra cost, suggested Councillor Brady. He suggested that a local organisation such as the Lions might be approached to submit an application for funding to purchase the hanging basket displays and the town then take on maintenance. This was agreed unanimously with one abstention.



Charity  
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Welcome

## Entertainment Every Weekend

NOW! Every Sunday Night Karaoke

### April 2018

Sat 21st Switch (Bar)

Sat 28th Three's Company (Bar)

### May 2018

Sat 5th Karina & The Slaves (Bar)

Sun 6th Mrs Jones 5pm – 8pm (Bar)

Sat 12th Swamphogs (Bar)

Sat 19th Rebel (Bar)

Sat 26th Hi Jack (Bar)

### Bank Holiday Weekend

Sun 27th Mike Tyler 5-8pm

(followed by Karaoke with Vince and Kaz)

### June 2018

Sat 2nd Ashes to Ashes (Bar)

Sat 9th Lipstick and Lashes (Bar)

Sat 16th Bourbon Soul Club (NEW) (Bar)

Sat 23rd Toby Graham (Bar)

Sat 30th Banana Thieves (Bar)

### Every Sunday

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Every Sunday with Vince/Kaz

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Subject to change



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### TRIPS



### Sun 15th Apr 11am-4pm (£8)

Sunday Lunch at Britannia Inn &  
Pinetum Nurseries

### Tue 17th Apr 10am- 4pm (£10)

Otter Nurseries Ottery St Mary

### Sat 21st Apr 11am – 5pm (£12)

Tregothnan House & Gardens

### Mon 23rd Apr 12pm - 6pm (£7)

Newton Abbot races

### Tues 24th Apr 1pm-5pm (£7)

Lunch Cowslip Café Launceston

Charlie Bears & Jo Down Glass

### Sat 28 Apr 9am-4.30pm (£12)

Powderham Castle & Gardens  
Toby Buckland's Garden Festival

### Sun 29th April 11am - 4pm (£8)

Highway Man's Haunt for Sunday  
lunch + Chudleigh /Teignmouth

### Sun 29th April 2pm - 4pm (£5)

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office @ 4 Fore St, Saltash or  
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### Fri 4th May 2pm-5pm (£6)

Buckfast Abbey

### Sun 6th May 11.30am-5pm (£5)

Bank Holiday Lunch at Whitsand  
Bay Hotel

### Mon 7th May 10am-5pm (£10)

Artisan trail Mortonhamstead

### Tue 8th May 2pm - 4.30pm (£6)

Lopwell Dam Café & stroll

### Thu 10th May 1pm-5pm (£8)

Tamar otter & wildlife centre  
North Petherwin

### Sat 19th May 9am-5pm (£10)

Devon County Show Exeter

### Sun 20th May 11am-4pm (£8)

Lunch @ Trethorn Golf club

### Tue 22nd May 11am-5pm (£9)

Dart's Farm & Topsham

### Mon 28th May 11am-4pm (£5)

Bank Holiday Lunch

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## Road Safety Group Seeks 'Speedwatch' Volunteers

Saltash Speedwatch, in which volunteers, under supervision, monitor vehicles in areas where speeding has been identified as a problem, hopes to restart shortly, the town's Road Safety Committee reported to the Town Council. It has suffered a lack of resource and equipment lately but a revised process and re-validated equipment will, it is hoped, encourage a faster sign-up of volunteers. Anyone interested can contact the Guildhall on 01752 844846 - Suggestions as to areas with speeding issues can also be submitted and will be assessed by the police for safety compliance.

The road safety group has also concerned itself with problems over the new traffic lights at Carkeel Roundabout and are involved with the suggested compulsory left turn out of the forthcoming Carkeel shopping and fast food complex, both issues separately covered in your 'Observer'.

The A38 between Saltash and Trerulefoot roundabout is apparently identified as the most dangerous road in Cornwall and a consultation on problems, involving Sheryll Murray M.P. is ongoing. The main junction at Landrake is identified as problematic as is the emergence of heavy haulage

vehicles from the operations depot by Notter Bridge. A bypass is considered the only total solution, through the advancement of the eastbound lane-merge prior to the bend has been suggested to increase visibility.

Within Saltash North Road residents have expressed concern as to being on a 'rat run' from the tunnel. Access from the Liskeard Road to the A38 at Latchbrook is proposed to be changed with closure of the western slip road on to the A38 and the making of the eastern slip road two-way.

Parking enforcement officers have been asked to increase their hours spent in

Fore Street to limit overstaying and help to keep bus bays clear of other vehicles. Parking problems at local schools are noted as being reduced with St. Stephens having introduced a 'drop off' system and others benefitting from more thoughtful and limited car usage, or even alternatives such as the recently televised walking protest at Landulph following proposed withdrawal of school bus facilities, for some students.

The Saltash Road Safety Committee continues to hold quarterly meetings chaired by Cornwall Councillor Holley and to monitor all local road traffic issues.

## Launch Renamed for Sailing Club Stalwart

The Saltash Sailing Club's launch has been relaunched and renamed for a well known late local businessman and town councillor.

After a total refit and repaint the launch, used as a safety boat, was officially named the 'Herbie Davey'. Mr. Davey is still well remembered for the high class butchers and provision merchants which was a family concern over the decades and a familiar feature of Fore Street.

In the presence of the Mayor, Herbert Davey's widow, Mrs Nancy Davey, cracked open a bottle of bubbly and officially renamed the vessel. Her late husband had for many years been a stalwart member of the Sailing Club and various other organisations about the town.

## Naming New Wards

Saltash's four wards for Cornwall Council, are likely to be reduced to three as the number of Cornwall councillors overall is reduced from 123 to 87. The boundary commission recommended a reduced number and Cornwall Council agreed to settle for 87 after considering an even lower number.

The draft redrawing of the ward boundaries is intended to give each ward a target electorate 5163. The new 'West' ward would cover a substantial rural area around the town with such villages as Botus Fleming, Cargreen and Landrake. The current figure for electorates in the proposed new wards is 5053 in West, 5354 in North and 5202 in south. The boundary commission, in making up the proposed new wards, does not take into account proposed new development, such as that at Broadmoor, which would considerably increase the electorate for the ward into which it falls.

Suggestions have been sought as to new names for three wards, the current four being named for points of the compass. Current suggestions include Saltash Essa for the South Ward, Saltash Tamar for the North Ward, and Cornwall Gateway for the West Ward including town and country villages.

## Irish Airs Please Ashtorre Audience

If Irish eyes were smiling, English voices were certainly singing together familiar Irish songs and there was standing room only in a packed Ashtorre Community Centre on Waterside.

This was the third year when what had begun as an informal gathering to celebrate St. Patrick's Day had grown to a fun filled afternoon of music and laughter. 'We started with some of our regulars bringing their instruments along and somehow we have just built on this', organiser Bill Ryan told us.

The keen audience, some sporting Irish colours listened to solos and joined enthusiastically into a community selection. Musicians included Maureen McCarthy and Helen Furlong on piano accordion, Daphne on penny whistle. Jim McIntyre on guitar and Roger Smith on guitar and banjo.

There was a special rendition of the 'Irish Rover' for Observer editor Mary, while Carole Hughes gave a haunting rendition of 'The Galway Shawl'. All present seemed familiar with the songs, not least when they all came together in a vociferous concluding performance of 'Danny Boy'.

## Explore the Magic of Books

Encouraging young readers to explore the magic of books, and also enjoying the delights of freshly homemade cakes and pastries, have always been two of Tracey Hayton's pleasurable priorities. So when she discovered that the Saltash Bookshelf and Tea Rooms, which she had long enjoyed as a customer, was on the market she was thrilled to take over the business and develop it to even better serve local book and food lovers.

Over twenty years of living in the Saltash area with her husband bringing up two boys as well as her previous career with Cornwall Council being involved in early years and pre-school education has given Tracey special insight into children's reading skills and how to enhance their enjoyment. She has already begun to widen the range of books from pre-school to young adult and is particularly pleased if asked to help parents, grandparents and others select appropriate reading for any age.

An expanded range of fiction and non-fiction for

adult browsers is complemented by the speedy ordering service by which any book in print can be obtained within a couple of days. Local interest books and books by local authors will continue to be a speciality, including of course the Saltash Observer book of walks and countryside 'A Quality of Life'. This and other books of local walks as well as maps are ideal for those wanting to get out and about this spring.

The eclectic range of cards to original designs unobtainable elsewhere locally is also to be retained and extended, while the Amanda Copson range of glass jewellery will be re-introduced with other high quality gift suggestions.

A traditional tea room augmenting the bookshelf is a priority for Tracey, with a wide range of speciality teas and 'proper Cornish' Puro coffee. These perfectly complement the new selection of delicious homemade cakes as well as fresh homemade scones as part of a perfect Cornish cream tea. The Saltash Bookshelf intends to be the ideal venue for morning coffee and for afternoon teas, in addition to offering a tasty breakfast menu and a choice of light lunches. The most youthful diners can enjoy selecting from the Young Readers' Menu.

Forthcoming special events include a Special Royal Wedding Afternoon Tea for Harry and Meghan, with elderflower and lemon cake, and the opportunity of a reason for an occasion at a Royal Ascot themed tea in June. Tracey looks forward to planning a variety of special events for all who enjoy a good read, good food, or indeed both of these pleasures at the Saltash Bookshelf.

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## Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following nine questions can you rearrange them to make a Cornish place name?

- 1 The United States of America declared War on which Country on May 13th, 1846? (6)
- 2 In which County are England's highest Mountain and largest Lake found? (7)
- 3 Which is the only member of the Seven Dwarfs without a beard? (5)
- 4 From which type of bean are Baked Beans normally made? (7)
- 5 What name is given to a circular Coral Reef growing on top of a submerged mountain? (5)
- 6 Which Country lies immediately south of Paraguay? (9)
- 7 What name is given to a sharp cutting tooth at the front of the mouth? (7)
- 8 In which fictional Country is it always winter? (6)
- 9 Alba, Bourbon and China are varieties of which flowering plant? (4)

Answers on page 7

## Princely Praise to Award Winning Heritage Society

A project involving the history of a prominent Saltash family over three centuries has won a prestigious award for Saltash Heritage, the town's local history society and museum curators.

A Heritage team travelled to Scorrer where Radio Cornwall's Daphne Skinnard was hosting the Cornwall Heritage awards, for which Saltash had been shortlisted. To their delight Heritage archivist Terry Cummings and volunteer Janet Warren were the first to be invited up to accept the Innovation Award on behalf of Saltash Heritage.

The judges had been impressed by the way that Heritage had organised the transcribing of hundreds of letters and documents relating to the Nepean family, members of whom were not only prominent in Saltash but in the Royal Navy and in the settlement of Australia. Around ten volunteers were kept busy transcribing the documents in their own homes for collation by the Heritage team in the local history centre, where the plaque awarded now proudly stands in pride of place.

But this was not all. As winners of the award Heritage was invited to send a representative to the celebrations of the anniversary of the Royal Cornwall Museum. Kevin Richards, who attended, was advised that he

was to meet an unnamed V.I.P. Only after he had passed through intensive security did he discover that was to be His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Kevin was introduced to the Prince who spoke to him of the importance of safeguarding community heritage and congratulating him on what Saltash Heritage was doing.

Anyone interested in seeing the Nepean Papers, which offer a fascinating and often amusing glimpse into Georgian and Victorian life, will find them available in the town's Local History Centre above the museum in Lower Fore Street.

## Shoes Are Going Vegan

Eco-warriors in search of shoes and accessories now need look no further than Saltash's own shoe shop.

Theresa, who with husband Richard runs 'All About the Shoes' explains, 'Having, like so many people recently become a vegan I decided that I should put my principles into practice and offer an alternative range of footwear which aids the saving of the planet. Alongside our conventional shoes we are now proud to offer an excellently crafted selection of vegan shoes, from quality vegan leather which is not only environmentally friendly but is three times stronger than real leather and can outlast and outperform it.'

Fashionable and eco-friendly accessories featured in store also now include the range of Eco Chic hardwearing bags, long lasting, lightweight and foldable. As well as shopping bags that fold to go inside handbags, there are haversacks, handbags, and messenger bags, all in a wide range of designs all intended to play their roll in the fight against the plastic throwaway culture that is proving so disastrous to the planet.

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## SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



Many of my constituents have written to me about the terrible use of electric shock collars on dogs and cats. I am pleased that we saw the announcement proposing government action to ban electric shock collars for cats and dogs. This is very welcome. For some time now, I have been lobbying along with colleagues across the chamber to outlaw the use, sale and distribution of these barbaric devices.

I asked about the protected geographic status. I received confirmation that only Pasties from Cornwall can be sold as Cornish Pasties in the UK post Brexit. This was welcome news.

When the Chancellor gave his Spring Statement he gave us the good news that the economy is growing more strongly than forecast and that we have reached a turning point and that debt will fall as a share of GDP from 2018-19. Rather than list the national statistics I frequently get asked what it means for South East Cornwall. In our constituency there have been 7,930 apprenticeships created since 2010 and the youth claimant count has fallen by 56% during that time. 44,442 people have gained due to increases in the Personal Allowance in 2017/18. Also 218 additional pupils are now attending a good or outstanding school from Aug 2010 to Aug 2017.

I was pleased to open the refurbished Post Office at Gordon Court, just off Church Road in Saltash. This enhanced service is very welcome and I would like to wish the Postmaster, Vinay, the very best with his endeavour. I am aware of a number of issues, particularly with smaller post offices, and I am in regular discussion with the Post Office to see what can be done. This often happens because of a change in

circumstances with the business which hosts the Post Office and it is often difficult to find alternative arrangements.

I am concerned about the content of the EU Transition Agreement especially when it comes to Fisheries. What has transpired is very disappointing. I have raised my concerns and will be looking to the Government to give assurances to the fishing industry that they will see an improved situation and that access to the resource will not be traded for access to markets. I have had it confirmed that we will be managing our own fish stocks from the 1st January 2021 but this delay is frustrating.

Improvements to the A38 I recently chaired the regular meeting of the A38 working group which seeks to facilitate improvements to the A38 throughout my South East Cornwall constituency and beyond. Representatives from Highways England, Cornwall Council, Plymouth City Council and local Councillors attended to discuss and update me on the progress that has been made to date. The potential economic benefits that can be unlocked along with improved air quality and road safety are all key factors which I am really pushing with the Secretary of State for Transport directly. I am also pleased that the consultants who are leading the work on the A38 are making real progress on the Case for Action document which I was successful in securing the funding for. There is still much work to do on the A38 and I will continue to chair the local working group as well as meeting with the Secretary of State personally to drive home the message that we need to see improvements to the A38 in South East Cornwall.

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## Essa Files

I wouldn't in general consider myself injury prone, but I do seem to have a special ability to achieve my occasional injuries in unusual and arresting ways – when I was 10 I needed staples in my head after taking a waste paper bin to the cranium; in 2004 I managed to require 4 stitches in my finger shortly after an incident with a bottle opener; and in 2014 I broke my collar bone playing football with a Geography teacher. This week though I achieved an impressive new chapter in the book of 'you couldn't recreate that if you tried': I lost my footing at home and went nose first into the wall.

Before anyone gets too worried, the damage isn't too bad. I have no black eyes and although I might have a slight nose fracture I have neither concussion nor serious damage to the fabric of the nose. The reason I know this is that to play it safe my sainted Mum, who probably thought her days of sitting in A&E with her sons had long since passed, took me to the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) at the Cumberland Centre and waited with me for a little over three hours. The treatment and guidance I received was excellent, and I'm immensely grateful than unlike in other countries no one needed me to hand over my credit card or fill in 50 pages of insurance forms first.

This incident did however reinforce my sadness at the fact

that we no longer have a MIU in Saltash. As you'll probably know, after previous periods of temporary closure, the MIU was closed in December 2016 to 'allow staff to focus on the care of inpatients'. Without wanting to say that this reason was a lie, two months later the hospital closed entirely including to those inpatients which the MIU closure was supposed to allow more focus on. According to the Cornwall NHS website the closure of both ward and MIU is still 'temporary' but I don't know if anyone actually believes that either will re-open.

Despite my frustration at both the decision and the way it was handled, I do recognise that the 'temporary' closure of St Barnabas isn't just about Saltash – it's reflective of a much wider issue of a lack of NHS staff and resources, not helped by a recruitment crisis fuelled by a mixture of pay restraint, tuition fees for nurses, and overseas workers becoming, for some reason, less keen to come to the UK. Even if you disagree with me on the wider politics though the local impact is undeniable – I was fortunate enough to have someone willing to drive me over to Devonport and wait with me; not everyone does, and the absence of this vital community resource makes accessing treatment harder for the residents of Saltash.

Adam Killea

## Ashes En Route to Twickenham

As Saltash Rugby Club is about to enter its fiftieth year, what better way of celebrating its half century than winning its way to a national final on the hallowed turf of Twickenham.

Several hundred supporters had poured through the gate at the ground in Moorlands Lane to watch an exciting semi-final between the Ashes, winners of the South West Division and visitors Old Cranleighans, London and S E Division champions in competition for the RFU National Vase.

Having recently vanquished a Slough side 75 to 22, the Ashes were already Champions of the South West, and many supporters from throughout Cornwall were there to add their cheers to those of the diehard local fans. Also present were French supports on their annual visit to the club from Buzancais, and who were to play a friendly immediately following the semi-final.

The grand semi-final began with wide open play across the pitch thought the Ashes perhaps showed nerves at their first foray into such a high powered and crucial game. They played well with some fine attacking footwork but mistakes were made and the Ashes ended the half down with a 15 – 7 score against them.

The second half saw them

rise to the challenge, this, together with the wind and slope in their favour and the yellow carding of an opponent seemingly inspired rejuvenated Ashes. They pulled up to a nail biting 17 - 15 in their favour, held until fast footwork from William Moreton gained a try, swiftly converted by Keiran Down. Then there was no stopping them until the final whistle went and a 31 – 15 score guaranteed a ride to Twickenham on 6th May. On present performance it was anticipated Saltash could well see themselves as national vase winners, when they meet Yorkshire team Wath upon Dearne.

The semi-final spectators, many of whom have huddled on a wet and cold touchline over most of the past fifty years pronounced themselves well vindicated in their loyal support and thrilled with the performance of the current team.

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## Philharmonia Comes to Saltash

On Saturday April 21st the Saltash Wesley Church will be bursting out all over with the 'Sounds of Spring' when the amazing mass voices and musical ensemble of one of the most acclaimed and talented musical companies in the South West; presented by the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation. The South West Philharmonia and Chorus will be making their debut in Saltash which is their first performance in Cornwall, and there will be over 125 performers of mixed voices and orchestra. Under the baton of their musical director Marcus Alleyne who is himself an acclaimed musician, academic, educator as well as conductor.

Marcus started his musical life at the age of 11 with piano tuition and as a chorister. Marcus has also trained with European Baritone Jonathan Lewsey and worked closely with Simon Ible of the Peninsular Arts fame.

Marcus currently also holds the positions of associate director of music to the Sterts Theatre, Sounds Musical Theatre Company and the Loveny Male Voice Choir. This hugely exciting Spring concert in Saltash will be one of the South West Philharmonia's concerts to precede the company's visit to New York City in November where they have been invited via Marcus to perform at Carnegie Hall

### Self Build at Churchtown Farm

An amended application to build seventeen new homes on the site of Churchtown Farm, behind the 'Cecil Arms' inn has been recommended for approval by Saltash Town Council.

Twelve of these homes are to be self-build. The other five are classed as affordable housing.

A recommendation by the Town Council for approval of a barn conversion at the adjacent former farm was not agreed by Cornwall's planning officer who decided against permission for one barn to be converted to a dwelling and the other to three offices. Saltash councillors, when informed of the planning officer's position, decided not to accept it but to keep to their decision and request a 'call in' for the application to be re-considered by the Cornwall Planning committee.

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# New Museum for Isambard Kingdom Brunel

It's March 23rd, I'm finishing breakfast as Radio 4's Today programme announces "a new museum opens in Bristol today called Being Brunel, exploring the life and legacy of one of engineering's greatest minds, Isambard Kingdom Brunel." I turn up the volume as Museum Director Rhian Tritton tells us the museum is beside the SS Great Britain, the world's first great ocean liner and one of his many masterpieces. It contains previously unseen objects such as school reports and engineering drawings, his draughtsman's instruments, an original section of his ill-fated atmospheric railway, even his engraved cigar-case. All of his projects are viewable here "and an 8-metre high head of the great man towers over the exhibition space," Rhian proudly boasts. "He's the engineer who built Britain," she continues, "but our aim is to help people understand that he is not only a person of the past, but also a very relevant inspiration for young people today."

Since my Saltash Waterfront cottage is overshadowed by IKB's Royal Albert Bridge, and a huge mural and his statue are yards from my kitchen window, I had to go.

Well-signed from the M5 and with ample parking, the museum is a compendium of the adopted Son of Bristol's life. A long-coated, cigar-toting Brunel lookalike greets you cordially in the box office lobby; £16 will get you a family ticket that lasts for a year... there's much to see.

In the Great Western



Photo Ian Robinson

Dockyard building where Brunel designed and built the SS Great Britain, his actual office has been reinstated, right down to the colour of wall paint, stovepipe hat stand, benches, plans, and the original regulator clock from his London office... even a very lifelike dog under the desk! Maps, plans, paintings and artefacts are thoughtfully laid out, including several references to my local railway bridge spanning the Tamar.

Through a rear door to that imposing 8-metre facial effigy, I joined excited families entering Brunel's Mind to sit through a 7-minute multi-sensory cinema experience observing standout moments of his life through his own eyes into his many accomplishments... complete with real smoke and smells

wafting through!

The authenticity of the new Being Brunel museum very successfully complements and reflects the majestic 322 foot ship, launched in July 1845 costing £117,000 (£47,000 over budget!) When I arrived, her 6 towering masts scratched the navy blue sky, gold paint gleaming in the spring sun. Now fully restored at final anchor in the dock in which she was built, she's a different lady to the barge-borne hulk towed back in 1970 from the distant Falklands where she'd languished derelict for 33 years following demotion to a quarantine ship and coal store. Today one can select a historical boarding card, assume the identity of a real passenger or crewperson and tour the three decks from Captain's cabin to

Engine Room and Steerage accommodation to First Class Dining Saloon, beautifully returned in every intricate detail to her Victorian glory (along with sounds and smells!) If you're courageous enough, you can even go aloft (for £10) amongst the rigging, complete with body harness and accomplished instructor/guide!

Throughout the dockyard are many helpful attendants (labelled CREW), there to enhance one's visit. I chatted to one who, on discovering where I live in Saltash, insisted on directing me along the harbourside to see Brunel's Other Bridge. There I found a now-redundant, grey-painted swing-bridge, earmarked for restoration, with a shape predated and clearly resembling the iconic design of our local structure, a possible Royal Albert Bridge dress rehearsal, completed in 1849. It was a fitting conclusion to a highly recommended Bristolian day out, and your man, IK Brunel, built both the station and the 123-mile railway track to take you there!

Ian Robinson.



## Miss England Finals for Kate

Kate Scott age 16 has beat over 400 girls to go through to the final of Miss England South West at the Pryzm Night Club in Plymouth on Saturday 19th May.

Kate attends Saltash.net Community College; she is one of 20 girls who will be competing for the title of Miss Cornwall or Miss Devon to go through to the finals of Miss England.

Kate has also been signed up with two London based Talent Agents for modelling.

On behalf of our readers we wish her well.

## Poppies Paint Town Red for War Centenary

A sea of poppies blooming across Saltash is one suggestion for marking the centenary of the peace that marked the end of World War I. Poppies were noted as the only flower that would grow on the abandoned battlefields of the Western Front, covering the scenes of death and destruction in red, and for this reason the poppy was chosen as the symbol of the Royal British Legion.

A local resident suggested that Saltash might follow the lead of other towns in sowing poppies all around the town in time for the Autumn commemoration of the centenary.

The Town Council considered the idea and suggested various places they might be planted, including the floral boats around the town, subject to agreement with Lions and Rotary, and Victoria Gardens in the Saltash Environmental Action flower beds, should that organisation consent. The Peace Garden in Alexandra Square is another obvious site for such a planting, as is the St. Stephen war memorial and the nearby graves of the local World War I casualties - other suggestions are welcomed.

## Walking for Wellbeing of Those Living with Dementia

Walking can provide physical and mental benefits and a feeling of wellbeing to most people, not least those living with or affected by dementia.

With this in mind a new project, Dementia Voice PL12 Walking Group, based in Saltash, is setting up this spring and all are welcome to take part. Trained walk leaders, who are Dementia Champions and have attended Dementia Awareness Sessions, will lead along safe walking routes at a pace suited to all. All that is asked of participants is that they turn up at the meeting point fifteen minutes before departure time in sturdy, comfortable shoes and a waterproof jacket with water and walking stick if required. They should just introduce themselves to the walk leader and be ready to go. There is no charge, but for when the Hopper bus is used while travelling further afield a donation is requested.

The walk will be on the first and third Wednesday of each month starting at 10 a.m. The first will be on Wednesday 2nd May starting from the Old Ferry Road car park on the Waterside. Full programmes are available and further information is on wendy.pickup@icloud.com or call 07512 098117

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