

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

April 2019 - Issue 325

Established 26 years

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## It's All Happening on the Waterside

One of Saltash's hidden delights is the Ashtorre Rock Centre, beneath the Brunel Bridge pillars and overlooking the sparkling river. Especially attractive as a venue for refreshments when the riverside balcony basks in spring sunshine, it has also been busy throughout the colder months.

March saw a profusion of events at Ashtorre, beginning with welcoming the many participants and supporters of the Three Rivers Gig Race who appreciated hot drinks away from the outside weather.

Since then Ashtorre had celebrated all things Celtic, starting with a St. David's Day sing along, St. Piran's Day also marks Ashtorre Rock's anniversary and the room was especially decorative with banners bunting and daffodils for those who came to share a cream tea with homemade scones (and jam and cream in the proper order).



St Patricks Day

Photo by Ian Robinson

The celebrations culminated in St. Patrick's Day, always a favourite at Ashtorre, when one and all appear to discover a touch of the Irish in themselves including this year a coach load of residents from The Elms. Hosted as ever by Bill Ryan, musical accompaniment by Maureen, and with a 99 year old senior citizen joining

enthusiastically on the harmonica, the whole house, many wearing of the green, joined enthusiastically in the Irish themed singing and came together for a photo shoot for the Observer at the end. Thanks too to Clare and Joe Ellison who were busy keeping all supplied with food and drink while managing the kitchen.

## Spotlight on Cornwall Councillors in SE Cornwall...

### Tamar River Links Could Become a Reality

Imagine boarding a river taxi from Saltash to spend a day at Mount Edgcumbe. Picture hopping on a boat to commute to Plymouth or visit friends in Torpoint or Landulph. Now link this in to a network of walking and cycling trails that will open up further leisure opportunities across South East Cornwall. This is the vision that is at the heart of £4million of funding approved at the end of March by Cornwall Council.

Funding to develop the business case for the Tamar River Links Project is part of a wider package of inter-linked economic regeneration projects in South East Cornwall, including a project to develop cycling trails connecting Looe with Lanhydrock and Torpoint. Another element of the funding package is the creation of a post of Regeneration Officer for South East Cornwall who will work alongside Cornwall Councillors and officers to drive forward with the Tamar River Links project and other economic regeneration projects.

There is still plenty of work that needs to be undertaken before the vision of Tamar River Links can be brought to reality, especially because of the need to build a low-water landing jetty at Torpoint, but the funding that was approved by Cornwall Council will enable an initial business case to be developed, which will then unlock possibilities of attracting funding and investment to build the infrastructure. Here's hoping that project partners will take their inspiration from the River Tamar and will cut a new path if an obstacle gets in the way.

## Speedwatch Back in Action

Local roads in which speeding motorists have been reported as a safety issue are being targeted as Speedwatch, which has lullled due to personnel, equipment and training issues, is reactivated.

Spot checks will be carried out in restricted zones and have recently been activated in Carkeel, New Road, Liskeard Road and Callington Road. North Road and St. Stephens Road are intended to be future checking points. Those taking part report that around 85% of traffic proceeds within local speed limits.

The Saltash Area Road Safety Committee which operates with speedwatch has reported parking around schools to be an ongoing challenge, although the safety message seems to be

getting through as the situation seems improved lately, Town Councillor Steve Miller reported to the town's annual meeting. Issues around saltash.net school have been referred on and measures are being developed.

Elsewhere various traffic initiatives such as parking restrictions and some speed limit changes have been progressed and the deterioration of the raised sections in Fore Street have been assessed for action by Cormac.

**SALTASH SOCIAL CLUB**  
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**May 2019**

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Sat 11th XLR

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**June 2019**

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All Information correct at the time of going to Press

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**MAY 2019**

<p><b>Wed 1st 9.00am - 6pm (£15)</b> Padstow May Day (Obby Oss)</p> <p><b>Sun 5th 11am-4pm (£5)</b> Lunch at Boringdon Golf Club Then Saltram House &amp; Gdns</p> <p><b>Thur 9th 10am-5pm (£13)</b> IKEA &amp; Exeter</p> <p><b>Thur 16th 9am-6pm (£14)</b> Devon County Show</p> <p><b>Sat 18th 10am-4pm (£5)</b> Callington Mayfest</p> <p><b>Sun 19th 11am-4pm (£6)</b> Lunch at the Rifle Volunteer &amp; Visit Gunnislake Gardens</p> <p><b>Thur 23rd 11am-5pm (£10)</b> Hanburys Fish &amp; Chips @ Oddicombe then Babacombe</p> <p><b>Sun 26th 11am-4pm (£6)</b> Calstock Village Gardens Lunch @ Tamar Inn (carvery)</p>	<p><b>Mon 27th 11am-4pm (£6)</b> Trago Mills &amp; Newton Abbott</p> <p><b>Wed 29th 11am-4pm (£9)</b> Poldark Quay &amp; Charlestown</p> <p><b>Thur 30th 9am-4pm *(£5)</b> Half Term special! Children's trip to Woodlands Family Theme Park - Totnes *Price is bus only</p> <p><b>Hopper Day Trips</b> To book a seat please call in our office:- @ 4 Fore St, Saltash or Call <b>01752 848348</b>. Open 10am to 1pm. Mon - Sat <a href="http://communityenterprisespl12.co.uk">http://communityenterprisespl12.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>Hopper Link</b> To Town Centre - Supermarkets and Tamar View Nurseries. <b>Every Wednesday</b> Please check our website for the time table or collect a copy from our office in No4 Fore Street. Saltash</p>
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# Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council  
Konsel an dre Essa

**Education Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
Email:  
[schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Education Welfare:**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
[educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Housing Department**  
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Email: [info@cornwallhousing.org.uk](mailto:info@cornwallhousing.org.uk)  
**Social Services Department**  
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Email:  
[children@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:children@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Social Services Department**  
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[adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Highways Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 222  
Email:  
[customerrelations@cornwallimited.co.uk](mailto:customerrelations@cornwallimited.co.uk)

**Transport Department**  
(Schools Transport)  
Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
(Bus Pass) Telephone: 0300 1234 222  
Email:  
[schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Roads, Transport and Parking**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 222  
Email:  
[roadstransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:roadstransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Waste Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 141  
Email: [via contact form on website only.](mailto:viacontactformonwebsiteonly)

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## Why Has Our Town Council Tax Increased?

**S**altash Town Council has agreed that the publicised increase of the overall council tax bill would not give a true representation of the facts. Postings on social media suggest that there is a misunderstanding that the overall council tax bill has risen by 56% but that is certainly not the case.

It is a fact that the 56% increase applies only to a tiny percentage (7.62%) of the previous year's council tax bill, whereas the overall council tax increase for a typical Band D property for the year 2019/20 is in single figures taken across all four charging authorities, Cornwall Council, Adult Social Care, Police and **Saltash Town Council**.

Budget meetings have been held in recent months both at county and local level, to determine the increase that is necessary to maintain the services that residents would expect, whether that be rubbish collection, social care, or services such as the Library.

A programme of returning control of your services to local Towns and Parish's Councils is taking place across Cornwall whereby services that were previously provided by Cornwall Council have been transferred to Town Councils including **Saltash**. This is ongoing and will be for the foreseeable future. This means that the revenue needed to pay for these services are now collected at local level rather than at county level.

Overall the council tax bill for **Saltash** residents has increased by the equivalent of approximately £3.07 per

week for a typical Band D property of which £1.48 goes to **Saltash Town Council** to pay for the services such as the Library, public toilets, maintaining the Waterside and Waterfront, additional grass cutting and more. The other £1.59 is split between Cornwall Council, Police and Crime, and Adult Social Care.

If the services mentioned were not being returned from Cornwall Council to Town Councils it is a fact that Cornwall would have to raise the additional revenue themselves, with the obvious impact on their budget. Alternatively, services such as the Library might have faced closure or curtailment.

Equally important, if not more so, is the fact that in 2018/19 **Saltash Town Council** received just 7.68% of the overall council tax, whereas for 2019/20 it is to receive 11% of the total bill. This is all money that will be spent locally providing better quality local services for local residents.



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## What Do We Get for Our Money

**T**he ever-increasing number of services run directly by **Saltash Town Council** at local level gives **Saltash** residents the added opportunity to input into how their town is run.

Most notable of the services recently acquired by the town is the Library, with its Information Centre, Registration Office and added space offering exciting opportunities for future development.

Elsewhere the town has acquired the four public toilets, some or all of which might have been otherwise closed, and which are being maintained by the town in the face of unfortunate vandalism issues.

**Saltash** can now safeguard and maintain its local environment with the acquisition of the Waterfront and Waterside including the pontoon and maintenance of the grass cutting thereabouts as well as weeding throughout the town. The Maurice Huggins Room will shortly be refurbished and available for community use. There are areas throughout the town that the Town Council delivers maintenance and health and safety checks, such as, Pillmere, Elwell Woods, Cornish Cross and a play area at Honeysuckle Close.

Throughout the town residents can enjoy the hanging baskets, flower beds and bunting maintained by our town Wardens. These Wardens, while ensuring that the Waterside remains a credit to the town, are also active throughout **Saltash**.

The cemetery and churchyard are also now a local responsibility. The old closed churchyard at St. Stephens is maintained by the Town Council, though Cornwall Council contributes to the cost. The cemetery alongside is also maintained by the town, while across the road Churchtown cemetery in current use is fully owned, operated and maintained by the Town Council. As is the Memorial Peace Garden in the heart of the town.

The Town Council also runs the allotments and Longstone Depot alongside the park. This is a useful community resource as the well-equipped workshop is used by council staff to carry out much work that would otherwise be contracted out at the town's expense.

Meanwhile the Town Council continues to actively support the local community, notably and

recently responding to the community desire to own and refurbish the derelict station building. It also supports local youth, for example with a recent £40,000 grant for Livewire, The Core and Junkyard Skate Park and supporting other community organisations with grants and assistance.

## Mayoral Points of View

*Dear Resident,*

My term of office as your Mayor is now coming to an end and your new elected Mayor will take office on the 2nd of May.

I as an elected Councillor, was the only Saltash Town Councillor to vote against the precept increase of 56.1%. Why? I felt the increase had not been thought through, despite many committee hours, and pressure was brought to bear on newer council members to vote on a personality/ club basis.

However I can take comfort from the fact that in my year as Mayor a new committee structure has been put in place in council which will vastly improve council efficiency. The Station Building refurbishment is under way, and here I will take credit as one of the prime movers with my colleague Councillor Bickford who is the project lead. I have moved the management of council services firmly into the hands of the Town Clerk and his team which, coupled with the new committee structure, should lead to a reduction in duplication and a much shorter time in decision making. I have, I hope, provided a reasoned statement for the precept increases in your Messenger column, and am pleased an invited number of Councillors assisted in this statement.

The enjoyable part of my and Jackie's year has been the meeting of so many people involved voluntarily in the community. Jackie and myself have lived in Saltash/Hatt since 1972 and are still amazed at the number of organisations and groups in existence in our Town. Wherever we have been invited, we have been met with open friendship, hospitality and warmth. Thank you to everyone we have met.

Looking ahead to April, Jackie and I have a number of Mayoral visits to go and we are looking forward to meeting new people.

Would I wish to be Mayor again? The answer would be yes because of the wonderful unsung voluntary workers in so many organisations. To you, the residents of Saltash, , thank you for your kindness to Jackie and myself this last year.

*John Brady, Mayor of Saltash*

## Why Did We Take On The Library?

**S**altash Town Council was concerned at the very present risk that the town could lose its Library, Registration Office and Cornwall Council Information Centre if the town did not take on responsibility for it. Other towns in Cornwall had lost theirs and **Saltash** Councillors determined that they would keep the much-loved community asset open.

They were eager to ensure that it remained a thriving community hub for different age groups and interests ranging from

David and his singing toddlers, to those of all ages who enjoy having a safe warm place to spend time and sometimes to offset loneliness with books, computers and downloads. At the Library residents may pay their council tax, seek advice or register a Cornish birth or death. All of this might have been lost to the town.

The library Sub Committee of the Town Council had projected their financial needs for the future and began to put money aside for further building work and running costs that may be needed.

There are several projects under current consideration to support the future running costs of the library and a new Senior Library and Information Assistant is starting shortly and will be encouraged to make appropriate changes and offer ideas.

The people of **Saltash** value their library, the Town Council believes, and they would not wish to be looked upon as a Council that refused to keep it open.

Looked at in context that Band D costs for **Saltash** residents at £1954 are less than those of other large Cornish towns including Truro £1989, Bodmin £2064 and Launceston £1961. They are similar to those of Callington £1940, Newquay £1954, Penzance £1940 and Wadebridge also £1940.

**Saltash Town Council** can assure residents that their money is being spent both wisely and prudently and that the Council are committed to providing first class services for the town that represent value for money.

## Your Cornwall Councillors

**Saltash North**  
Sheila Lennox-Boyd  
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**Cornwall Councillors – Cover such services as:**  
Housing - Education – Social Services  
Highways – Waste and Recycling – Tamar Bridge

## Your Town Council

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John Brady

**Deputy Mayor:**  
Gloria Challen

**Town Clerk:**  
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**Councillors telephone numbers can be obtained at the guildhall.**

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## Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland – Keeping us Updated

Another Busy Month Both at the Chamber and within Community Enterprises PL12

The presentation at the monthly Chamber meeting on community led local development funding was very thought provoking and there has been much discussion between members subsequently as to how there may be the opportunity to apply for funding to boost the economy of Saltash. If anybody has any ideas then don't hesitate to let me know.

The Chamber has also been asked by the Mayor, who attended our monthly meeting, to take on the initiative re. improving the viability of Fore Street to sustain it for the next 20/30 years. We are looking to set up a meeting to get the views of the businesses in the town centre.

I have also agreed with developers of Saltash Retail Park, Quora Ltd., that they will fund the replacement of the Town Centre sign which looks down the slip off the Tamar Bridge and agreed the design with the contractors. It is hoped that this sign will be erected prior to Easter. Quora have also agreed to provide the 1st prize in the May Fair raffle and provide some sponsorship for the May Fair and Christmas Festivals. We are still trying to find more sponsorship for the Christmas Festival so that we can ensure the event can go ahead.

With my Community Enterprise hat on, I have managed to agree with the landlord a new agreement for 89 Fore Street so that Scrapstore can remain in occupation. Such agreement is based on the landlord's ability to find a long-term tenant whereupon we will have to relocate Scrapstore elsewhere in the town.

The Board have now

approved a proposal to change our status from a CIC to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This will, amongst many other things, give a saving on business rates and taxation which will enable us to invest more into enterprises to the benefit of the people of the PL12 community, such decision is subject to a vote by our members which will take place later in April and then we will have to apply to Charity Commission to register our application. This whole process should take 3/4 months.

At the time of writing we have approximately 400 members but we have in excess of 4,000 people with Saltash Card. We now have a new Saltash Card and if you want to renew your Saltash Card then why not become a member as well and, if all goes according to plan, become part of the charity.

We are also looking to relaunch the Saltash Card with, hopefully, additional benefits to members.

I would take the opportunity to remind readers that if you need an office, we have one available to let at Belle Vue Road on a short-term basis. Drop into No. 4 or Scrapstore and pass on your contact details so that I can arrange to show you around and discuss the proposition with you.

## Walkers Cyclists and Drivers Face Disruption on Bridge

All cyclists and pedestrians, as well as motorists who use the Tamar Bridge have been warned to expect up to eighteen months of disruption starting possibly from this April as vital work on the carriageways is carried out.

The project will include closing the footpath and cycle way for much of this time, firstly so that work on the kerbs and water proofing can be carried out.

The carriageway will remain closed to walkers and cyclists as it will then be used for vehicles when resurfacing takes place on the other lanes.

During this period a free shuttle bus service will operate across the bridge with a trailer to carry bicycles. It will run twenty four hours a day, on a fifteen minute basis during the day and every twenty minutes at night. A similar shuttle bus service operated in 2001 when the extra cantilever sections were added to the bridge and the main carriageway was replaced.

The work on the kerbs will precede the planned £1 million scheme to make Saltash cycle friendly by opening up specified cycle ways through the town.

While it is intended that four traffic lanes will remain open to vehicles throughout the work, some disruption to traffic flow is anticipated, though the Tamar Bridge and Ferry Committee promises that the contractors are obliged to keep bridge users informed of their work and adopt a work programme which will minimise disruption to traffic flow.

## Ancient Wall was Dangerous Structure

The narrow lane followed by many families and dog walkers from St. Stephens to the Churchtown Farm nature reserve passes below the ancient wall of the St. Stephens churchyard and cemetery.

The effect of Badgers and rats, together with the effect of many years of neglect caused Saltash Town Council, who have assumed responsibility for the cemetery and its wall, to seek a surveyor conduct a structural survey.

The result disclosed the wall to be a health and safety issue, endangering those who walk the lane. Urgent remedial work was reportedly required.

Following a tender process the town council appointed MP Landscapes, a specialist contractor, to carry out the necessary work.

The council confirms that they are pleased with the standard of work and value for money. Now fully restored but in traditional style, the wall should be safe and stand for many decades to come.

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Website: GLOWLASHBROW.COM

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## The Best Weekend in May – The Saltash May Fair

The Saltash May Fair will fill the town centre on Saturday 4th May, a date that coincides with the anniversary of the Brunel Bridge, so watch out for Brunel-related fun!

The 2019 May Fair is being organised by a group of volunteers from the Saltash Chamber of Commerce. "As well as providing Saltash residents with memories to treasure, we want to bring footfall into the town, creating a buzz in our retail centre from Longstone Park through to Lower Fore Street," says Tracy Hayton of The Bookshelf. Tracy, who is a Chamber member and stalwart of the organising team, went on to say: "It's a celebration of community and business in Saltash."

The Youth Parade will start the proceedings when they head off from Longstone Park at 10am to parade to the stage at the bottom of Fore Street, where the trophy for this year's *Unsung Hero* will be awarded. Look out for your chance to join in maypole dancing with Flash Mob action throughout the day! The tempting mix of over 100 stalls and live entertainment will complement the offer in our local shops and keep the crowds on Fore Street enthralled. The fun spills over in to Victoria Gardens for the dog show from 12pm. You'll find even more stalls in the newly-landscaped Longstone Park, where there will be an array of food outlets as well as children's entertainment and music performances.

Organisers have received a grant from Saltash Town Council towards expenditure such as the Longstone Park stage and publicity, but more

funds need to be raised for costs like medical cover and road closures. One fundraising scheme is the Treasure Hunt. At £1 a square, you get the chance to 'unearth' a silver token worth £100 which has been kindly donated by Chamber member Saphira Jewellers, and your money will go towards the costs of staging May Fair. There is also a cash prize raffle, with a first prize of a massive £200 sponsored by Quora, developers of the Gateway Retail Park by Carkeel roundabout. Further cash prizes have been donated by The Bookshelf, Computech, West Country Skip Hire and ADS GAS.

Keep up to date with performers and information on the Mayfair Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SaltashMayFair](http://www.facebook.com/SaltashMayFair)

### Keen Competition for "Totem" Sign

There has been much local interest in the Saltash Station "Totem" sign portrayed on the front page of your February "Observer" and many readers have queried what price it raised at auction. It raised £4500 after keen competition between two main bidders and finished up in private hands.

A Newton Abbot sign went for £800 and Truro for £850; there is a strong demand for these examples of railwayana.



CORNWALL COUNCIL  
and our  
PL12 community  
For Observer readers  
Derek Holley  
Cornwall Councillor, Saltash East.  
[dholley@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:dholley@cornwall.gov.uk)



On Saturday I did my usual morning surgery at Saltash library. Today, a lovely Sunday afternoon we visited the Waterside and had a cup of tea at the Ashtorre centre; we watched loads of happy families relaxing, children running on the grass, kids enjoying the play park. A train rumbled past overhead and pulled into Saltash station. Next to Ashtorre, between the two bridges I walked past a public toilet, clean and well maintained.

Bear with me... there is a direct link between these four things (and I could have added more): the link is Saltash Town Council (STC). Why am I saying this now? Well, and it is the umpteenth time in the last couple of weeks this has happened in one way or another, a young gent at church this morning pointed out that the part of the council tax down to STC was rising by a significant percentage and why?

I am not a member of STC and I am not just banging their drum without reason - I am just a Cornwall Councillor but what I do know is this: without STC stepping in and taking on the running of the library it would by now be having a much reduced service, maybe even closing, instead it has a brighter future than before but it is costing an arm and a leg, especially now, at the start; without STC stepping in and taking on the Waterside bit by bit it would undoubtedly be worse, the pontoon gone, the rest probably deteriorating fast; without STC taking on the toilets they would be closed; without STC buying and taking over the station building it would probably be an eyesore for years to come - instead it is being renovated to provide good indoor waiting facilities, offices and toilets etc.

The bottom line is that Cornwall Council has been forced to make cuts by the

government and basically has abandoned more or less as many non-statutory services as it can (those are services it does not legally have to provide and include three of the four above). So STC has had to step in, raise its share of the council tax and do the job. It could not just let these things wither away or disappear. It is having to take on more areas of Saltash in the future and may well have to take on the grass cutting - this because Cornwall now do the very minimum which is effectively the maximum it can afford - witness the terrible state of many grassed areas last year. Not much more to say. The town has to be looked after and these places and services maintained for the residents. That's it really.

Now for something a bit darker. You must have heard of fake Internet news. A cracklingly good example surfaced a couple of days ago on a so-called news and discussion website. This site lambasted Cornwall Council up and down Fore Street and most of it was a wonderful example of the triumph of little knowledge, no checking of facts, no understanding of democracy, no understanding at all of what a local authority can and cannot do, absolutely no comprehension of the drastic limitations caused by the cuts mentioned above, etc. etc. It was jolly good press; it read well and was well up to the standard of the worst tabloid newspapers. Before you say it, yes I know, I am a Cornwall Councillor and maybe I have a vested interest in the whole business but those who read my columns know I frequently criticise what I think are failings in CC.

Hang on; I'm getting to the really good bit. At the end of this article, in the final rant it accused CC generally of corruption in that it took backhanders (this presumably means bribes, brown envelopes, money under the table or whatever). I took exception to this for practical reasons and not just because this statement was foolishly defamatory without any evidence being shown. Probably there is some corruption in local government across the country, statistically that might well be so but because of the way decisions are made with extensive scrutiny by committees it is simply unlikely. It is even less likely in planning where all the big decisions are made entirely by 15 elected CC councillors and all the others are looked at by individual CC and parish councillors, who also monitor the big ones. The logistics of successfully bribing under those conditions are unthinkable complicated and difficult. Accordingly I have asked the county solicitors to take action against the website: watch this space.

If you invite me in my CC role to visit your house for whatever reason just make sure I wash my boots. I have found the dreaded New Zealand flatworms in my garden. These little rotter's are often bright orange, short and flattish and love nothing better than sucking the juice out of an honest English worm. They can often be found under bits of wood or stones. If you find 'em, squash 'em; ask questions afterwards. Enjoy your gardening!

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**ROAD CLOSURES FOR SALTASH MAY FAIR**  
Sat 4th May 2019 – 06:30 – 19:00 (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.  
No parking in Glebe Avenue.  
Updates are available on the May Fair Facebook page

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Sunday 21st of April 2019

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## Action on Derelict Inn Delayed by Planning Application

The former Waterside Inn on the town's waterfront has for years been branded an eyesore by local residents as the Town Council has sought to enforce the cleaning up of the site. An enforcement notice was served upon the site's owners in 2017 requiring work, to be completed within six months, by February 2018 but a year on the work still has not been carried out. Meanwhile Saltash Town Council has been engaged in considerable correspondence with Cornwall's enforcement officer and legal action was listed for a court hearing in February this year.

Now a further planning application by the site owners may cause the enforcement process to be set aside and recommenced if necessary. Last December permission was granted to demolish the building and re-develop the site for an apartment block with garaging, similar to a previous application which was made but after which no efforts to carry out the work ensued.

The Town Council had agreed a year ago, in April 2018 to seek a compulsory purchase order be granted so that the local authority acquires the property at market value. However, to do so is an expensive procedure which Cornwall Council has proved reluctant to undertake.

Local Waterside residents have become increasingly concerned not only as to the building detracting from the image of the area, but claim it to be rat infested and attracting trespassers who endanger themselves and the building.

In response to a written request by a local resident Saltash Town Council advised that although the most recent planning application has set the enforcement process back, they anticipate that by May this year, if no action has

been taken by the property owners, the 'Section 215' notice, requiring the clearing up of the building, can be enforced by the courts. This could include the removal of boarding and the installing of new windows pending further action regarding the building's future.

## Bikes Stolen Be Aware

Take Extra Care of your belongings...

Tuesday 26 March, in Albert Road, in the deep of night, intruders crossed a house yard and garden, forced the door of a locked outhouse and stole two immaculate adult bicycles. Both are painted black, men and ladies, near-new and distinctive, an On One Scandal mountain bike and a Cube Access ladies; tools and pump went too.

The owners are young and had just moved into Saltash; greater than the loss is the feeling of violation and intrusion into their new home that is hurting far more.

Their circulated letter suggests the thieves "...were probably local; be vigilant and take care of your belongings. If you know anything about this, please call us on 07989 953222."

## Saltash Town Council Grants Policy

Saltash Town Council has recently implemented a new Grants Policy for groups and organisations applying for funding in the Town. There are two separate funds available to the local community - Community Chest and Festival Fund.

Community Chest is used to support small scale community projects intended to improve the town environment, to strengthen the community fabric or the common economy of the town, for example equipment for local sports groups, uniforms for youth projects, bands and choirs.

The Festival Fund supports larger events that are free, 6-7 hour long and that are likely to attract several thousands of people to the area. Other festivals may also be considered. In the past the Town Council has supported Saltash Regatta, Saltash May Fair and the Saltash Music, Speech and Drama Festival, and Concerts to name a few.

Both funds have a "cap" on the amount which can be awarded - no more than £1,000 for the Community Chest and not exceeding £1,500 per day up to a maximum two days per event for Festival Fund.

Both funds have a budget allocated each April and where the Committee Chair considers the application is valid and meets the criteria, the application will go to the next Policy and Finance Committee which meets bi-monthly at the Guildhall. The next meeting will be held on the 21st May.

Further information, guidance notes and an application form can be obtained from the Saltash Town Council website: [www.saltash.gov.uk](http://www.saltash.gov.uk) or by e-mailing: [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk)

## Letter to the Editor...

Dear editor,  
Re: Saltash Library I understand that STC is to take on responsibility for the Library which is being 'off loaded' by Cornwall County Council because they are faced with 'massive' cuts in funding.

This, of course, comes at the same time as a significant increase in the Town precept. Saltash Town Council is a service provider.

The usual way of operating is to decide what service to provide, what it will cost, and whether such a cost is justified.

I would think full running costs for providing the Library and information services will be in the order of £100,000 a year for a town population of only 17,000. This is a great deal of Public money. Can ratepayers, like my 99 year old mother, be assured that STC has performed adequate due diligence in researching up to date statistics with regard to numbers and use for its prime purpose to justify this takeover, and whether it is the most cost effective option. If this has not been done properly, STC will surely be negligent and in dereliction duty in taking on another expensive 'vanity project' 'It is all very well having a 'Rolls Royce' ambition but only a Morris Minor income for running costs.

Yours faithfully  
Barry Brooking

## Core Project Seeks Fund to Enhance Youth Services

A much valued local youth facility is working with Cornwall Council on the detail of their premises being devolved to them. The Core Youth Project, based behind the Cornwall College Campus off Church Road, will have to find funding for the upkeep and maintenance of its building (formerly known as K3) and to pay for its rent. It hopes to build up revenue from hiring out the centre to assist with these costs.

Funding will be increasingly important going forward in keeping this community asset open and extending its offer of youth services, Councillor Sarah Martin reported to the annual town meeting.

Its current facilities for young people include frequent workshops and sessions such as after school drop in sessions, a youth club, and a special facility 'Just be You' for local LGBT + young people. Cookery classes, the 'Grub Club' have proved popular and will hopefully recommence when funding is found, and activities also include a climbing club and cinema visits. Young people are encouraged to get involved in its organisation through the youth committee.

Outreach mental health services are also provided through a morning drop in service and workshops at saltash.net school as well as a one to one drop-in for children and young people at The Core building.

## Big Band's Bow to the Big Apple

The wild hedonistic world of New York in the 'roaring twenties' formed the theme for the spring concert by Saltash based R. Windband. As an appreciative audience packed the tables of Saltash Social club in speakeasy style, a wide variety of band numbers carried them back to that iconic era.

An era of flamboyant opulence contrasted with the great depression days, flappers with cocktails and prohibition, honky-tonk, jazz and Charleston, all was evoked in a packed programme. Beginning with a tribute to Barnum and Bailey's Greatest Show on Earth, the band carried the audience through the slapstick silent movie age and, by total contrast, to the mystic beauty of upstate New York's Catskill Mountains. 'Sac Harbour Sunset' too subtly conveyed the tranquillity of the Long Island shore.

But it was the strident sounds of 'Charleston Forever' and the grand finale 'Jitterbug!' that set the Saltash Social Club scene back to the days when the twenties really roared.

## Station Parking Limited

The parking area along the approach road to the station, currently used by rail passengers, will be limited while work is carried out on the station. Local residents are being informed of this.

The roads around the building will remain open and a pedestrian walkway will be provided on the opposite side of the road to the station while the building is surrounded by scaffolding, the town's station property sub-committee has been advised.

Bollards were to be placed on the pavement by GWR, the sub-committee was also told, to make access easier to the property and stop parking on the pavement.



## Open Day

Sat 20th April 2pm - 4pm

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Lizzy Sharpe-Asprey and Sylvia Caldwell receiving the award for 'Best Project on a Budget'

### 'Best Project on a Budget'

The outstanding work of the Saltash Heritage Museum in enhancing their volunteers' experiences has been recognised by the Cornwall Museums Partnership at the annual Cornwall Heritage Awards.

"Cornwall's heritage is something very special and the organisations that care for it provide important services, as they are the holders of our collective identity, preserving our heritage for generations to come," said Emmie Kell, CEO of the Cornwall Museums Partnership. "We created the Cornwall Heritage Awards to recognise the excellence within Cornish heritage organisations and to reward the wonderful work they do."

Museums from across Cornwall were nominated across 8 categories, and our Saltash Heritage Museum

won the category for 'Best Project on a Budget', beating off competition from Bodmin Town Museum and Lostwithiel Museum who were also shortlisted.

### Phone Box Will Be Back

The traditional red telephone box outside Saltash station will be removed while scaffolding is erected and work carried out on the restoration of the station building.

The good news is that BT have confirmed that the phone box will be refurbished and replaced.

The traditional 'red' box is one of a vanishing breed. With near universal use of mobile phones the use of pay phones has fallen dramatically and many of what were previously a traditional and familiar part of street furniture are being removed. Others are being converted to other uses, such as at Cargreen where the village phone box is now a book exchange. Saltash will however retain at least one old style telephone box by its refurbished Victorian station.

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### Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 In the game of Scrabble how many points is the letter J worth? (5)
- 2 In which Country is St. Peter's Basilica found? (5)
- 3 Which type of foodstuff is Lollo Rosso? (7)
- 4 The Composers Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert are all buried in which City? (6)
- 5 Ermine Street was a Roman Road that ran from London to which other City? (4)
- 6 To which Flower does Garlic belong? (4)
- 7 A Geiger Counter is used to determine the presence of what? (13)
- 8 Which Port and Resort was the scene of Robert the Bruce's signing of Scotland's Declaration of Independence in 1320? (8)
- 9 Which Enid Blyton character lived in his House-for-One in Yoytown? (5)

Answers on Page 7

## SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...

I am currently undertaking a survey in the immediate area around Carkeel roundabout. I was keen to allow the Highways Authority to finish this project and allow enough time for people to get used to it before asking people what they think of the work that has been carried out. If anyone has particular issues or would like to take part in this survey please email your name and address to me at Sheryll@SheryllMurray.com and I will send out a survey form to you.

It was a pleasure to meet Dave Wynne who holds the Franchise for the new McDonalds store in Saltash. They have already taken on 116 staff and are looking for more to work in the store which is open 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. It was good to hear that they source from the UK wherever they can and are working very hard to recycle as much as possible. It was good to hear that they had a very busy first few days and it was certainly very busy when I visited the store at tea time on a Friday. I would like to wish all the staff the very best working in the fast food sector.

I was pleased to see that Devon & Cornwall Police held a Special Constabulary Recruitment Awareness in Liskeard. The Special Constabulary is a force of trained volunteers who work alongside, and support, their local police. You can find out

more about the people, what they get from their involvement, how special constables fit into the police service and how to get involved again in Saltash Council Chamber between 7.15pm and 8.45pm on Thursday 11th April.

This week also saw the announcement by James Brokenshire, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government of over £36 million for the Great British Coast. A couple of projects have benefited in South East Cornwall. In Saltash a grant of £50,000 has been awarded to undertake studies to revitalize the historic waterfront – enhancing access, public areas and providing an entertainment centre.

I would like to thank all those who are helping raise funds for Marie Curie who care and support for those suffering terminal illness. Marie Curie help support those facing a life limiting illness and their family and friends.

I would like to assure my constituents that I will continue to do all I can to deliver on the Brexit vote that South East Cornwall voted for. It is not an easy conversation we are having amongst all MPs at the moment and the situation is changing constantly. My constant thought is how to respect the opinion of the people of East Cornwall who voted leave.

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## Tamar Tag Fee Held

There is some good news for Tamar Bridge users anticipating a 33% increase in tolls for tag users as well as cash payers.

A recommended increase in the annual fee for the Tamar Tag is to be held at 80 pence, instead of the recommended £1. Also the minimum sum which can be paid online to top up the Tag balance will be held at £10.00. Both of these sums will be revised in March 2020.

## All Day Free Travel;

Senior citizens and those disabled who qualify for a concessionary bus pass are no longer restricted to free travel only after 9.30 a.m.

Cornwall Council has listened to those who have complained that they cannot benefit from the concessions when attending appointments. In particular the disabled have had to pay bus fares to attend training and day centres.

Accordingly it has been agreed that the passes are valid, as of this April, on any bus in Cornwall at any time.

## Community Led Local Development Offers Funding to Town

The heart of Saltash including Waterside, Salt Mill and up Fore Street, is classed as one area of a number for which a total of £2.8 million is to be spent through South and East Cornwall. The Community Led Local Development is a European Union funded programme targeting communities most in need in Cornwall, project facilitator Ffion Stanton explained to the town's Chamber of Commerce and Industry which she had been invited to address. The money is to be spent in the area between St. Austell and the Tamar up until 2022 regardless of Britain leaving the EU within that time.

Funding is targeted towards areas of deprivation where it can make a difference economically. It can be awarded through the enterprise small grants scheme, whereby sums between £1000 and £9999 are aimed at new and existing businesses of any size from sole traders upward. Awards can be for purchase of equipment such

as technology or vehicles, or for services such as consultancy and other professional fees.

There is also the community small grants scheme with similar sums available for voluntary, charitable and community sector organisations as well as small and medium sized businesses. Projects are funded that build on local assets and resources and that give residents stronger aspirations, confidence, new skills, and so create pathways to employment and training. A minimum of 28% match funding is expected.

The main grant programme for £10,000 upwards is aimed to provide training and help for the

unemployed help set up businesses and provide ways for existing businesses to grow for example via equipment, e-commerce websites or building renovation.

While applications are invited, Ms Stanton made clear that 70% of funding must go to Core areas of need, in Saltash limited to Salt Mill, Waterside and the town centre out to Warfelton.

The scheme is community led by local action groups who consider the applications and Ms Stanton invited applications especially from the local business community, to serve on these groups.

## Protection Sought for Boundary Stones

The six historic stones marking the boundaries of Saltash should be repaired, maintained and protected by the Town Council, it has been suggested by local historian Peter Clements.

He has already been active in ensuring that the ancient milestones in and around the town be 'listed' by Historic England and is now also requesting that the same protection be given to the town's boundary stones.

The town's boundaries are almost entirely river and stream, the Tamar, The Lynher, the stream from the Lynher known as Cock's Lake and from Moditonham known as Clerk's Lake. There is just half a mile of 'land' boundary around Hatt. There are six boundary stones, two on the old and new bridges at Notter, one near the 'Cardinal's Hatt' hotel, and three on lanes across the streams. They were marked in 'beating of the bounds' walks last held in 2012 and led by Observer correspondent Martin Lister, when traditionally the Mayor, and the town's children are ceremoniously 'bumped' on each stone to fix the boundaries in local memory.

The request by Mr. Clements first produced doubts from the town clerk as to ownership, he claiming that the stones belong to the Highways Authority. Mr. Clements stated that they were formerly the property of Saltash Borough Council. The Town Council has agreed to correspond with Cornwall Council to confirm whether Cornwall or Saltash has subsequently assumed ownership and responsibility for the boundary stones.



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## Essa Files

This month I've been particularly exercised by questions of diversity, difference, tolerance and respect: values that are at the core of what we promote in school and are central to my own personal philosophy. As I write this (31st March) it's Trans day of visibility, so I'm thinking of my trans friends and how difficult life continues to be for them because people won't accept who they are. There have also been a couple of recent news stories about the resurgence of intolerant attitudes towards LGBT people. Of course such attitudes never went away but for a while it was becoming increasingly less acceptable to voice such intolerance, and because of this life for LGBT young people, whilst still often tough, was getting significantly better than it was when I was at school.

Which is why I found it particularly disturbing to hear of an ultimately successful protest in Birmingham to prevent young people being taught about respect for different identities and sexualities. The message being sent to the children at these schools is that respect doesn't need to extend to LGBT people and that makes me angry, both as a teacher and as a human. Incidentally in case anyone wants to make a lazy link from some of the Birmingham protests being led by Muslim parents, I'd advise them to check their facts. There are a great many very tolerant and diversity positive Muslims, and sadly some intolerant and diversity rejecting people from other religions or none. I'd also point about that religious intolerance is another great scourge of today's society, as anyone following the recent events in New Zealand where 50 Muslims were shot by a white supremacist will know.

Nor sadly is intolerance limited to people's identities or faiths. There seems to me to also be an increasing intolerance of different opinions. One of my family was worried this month that I might be planning to write about Brexit, and whether that might lead to my getting abuse or threats. The fact such a thing is a legitimate and real concern is, whatever side of the Brexit debate you're on, frightening. I'm getting increasingly worried about the inflammatory and intolerant language we're seeing, about 'traitors' and so forth, and neither side is entirely innocent on this score.

I'll finish with one final thought, in case anyone wants to argue that if I respect different opinions then I surely have to respect the rights of people who 'disagree' with homosexuality to hold their opinions. This misses the point: firstly LGBT people aren't expressing a belief or holding a faith: we're talking about their identity as human beings and that should not be up for debate. Secondly I wouldn't lock anyone for holding an opinion, even an abhorrently homophobic one, but that's not the same as using it to stop children being taught about tolerance and respect. Acceptance of other people's views has to be based on based on those views being themselves respectful of others. Beliefs that are transphobic, or indeed beliefs that people on the other side of the Brexit debate (whichever side that is) should be 'strung up', are neither tolerant nor respectful and should have no place in our community or our society.

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


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A party including Saltash Heritage members recently travelled by Saltash Hopper bus to Bristol to experience 'Being Brunel'.

They first explored from keel to top deck, the SS Great Britain, in 1843 the largest and strongest ship then ever built, innovative with her iron hull and screw, as alternative to paddle propulsion. It proved not possible on a weekday to climb to the masthead, to the disappointment of your Observer Photographer and relief of your reporter.

Below deck all could appreciate the changes since your reporter, as a Bristol student, watched the hulk hauled up the Avon Gorge to complete her final voyage back from the Falklands, in 1970.

From First Class lounge and dining room to steerage quarters, all was as it would



Photo by Ian Robinson

have been experienced by those mid Victorian transatlantic travellers. In the galley, rats scurried to the delight of the school parties who shared the experience with the Saltash visitors.

Then it was to the latest experience, 'Being Brunel', opened last year. Here we could dine with Brunel's

family, enter his study, and view personal items from his original diagrams and diary to his cigar case with one remaining cigar. Finally we entered a supersize replica of Brunel's head where, with full atmospheric sounds and smoke, an interactive display enabled us to witness incredible moments from Brunel's

tumultuous life and to share his amazing blend of triumphs and disasters.

Three hours later we were crossing the Tamar and viewing afresh Brunel's final achievement, opened as he was dying, destroyed by the apparent failure of the 'Great Eastern', his greatest ever ship.

Martin Lister

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