



SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

April 2020 - Issue 337

Established 27 years

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A Personal Message from Your Saltash Observer Editor



While all of us are seeing our lives changed, sometimes out of recognition, we are endeavouring to ensure that your Saltash Observer will continue to come to you each month as it has over the past three decades. Having spoken to various of our friends and supporters they have emphasised to us, especially Saltash Town Council and Sheryll Murray MP, that "it would be a great service to Saltash and extremely important to the town that the Observer can still go out, it is our local paper and the paper that people look out for."

We have spoken to local police who have asked us to ensure that our delivery staff keep their distance in order to keep you and themselves safe – we will of course follow this advice.

So, a printed copy of the Observer will continue to reach as many households as possible throughout the current crisis in order, in particular, to keep you informed of matters local and of where you can seek local support and advice if needed. If for any

reason, such as printing or distribution difficulties we cannot circulate a printed paper we will continue on line. Should this be the case we would ask you all, as soon as the paper is out on line, to tell all of your neighbours and friends through Facebook, twitter, WhatsApp, messenger or indeed text or telephone or any form of social media, so that all may share it.

Whether we are in print and on line as normal or just online we want as many as possible to read your Observer as usual.

We also would ask of you that you help and support, through these times and beyond, those advertisers still able to support us and to help ensure the Observer continues to serve the community. We must add to this our own massive thank you to those still supporting the Observer and enabling it to go out to our readers.

We are here as ever to keep in contact with the whole community in and around Saltash and especially for those people who are alone in isolation, in particular those who are vulnerable. We know many such people and our hearts and thoughts are with you all. We hope that you and we will come through the present situation into better times sooner rather than later and meanwhile please keep safe and look after each other.

We would also express our appreciation for all of those locally – the vast majority from our own observations – who are conducting their lives in changed circumstances in such a way as to

help speed an end to the situation, to save lives of those in their community, and to help the NHS.

And of course, your Observer joins with Saltash and with the whole nation in its thanks to the

NHS workers, carers, key workers especially those ensuring that we all get food and other essentials - during unprecedented difficult times. You are all doing an amazing job.

We all owe it to you to follow government guide lines in order to minimise the spread of the virus and see us all back to a happy normality. Editor Mary Crawford, Stay Safe

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Coronavirus: World Health Organisation says Newspapers Safe to Touch

community enterprises PL12
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If you are in one of the high-risk groups and self-isolating, our team of Volunteers are here to help.

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Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council
Konsel an dre Essa



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Email: schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk

Education Welfare:

Telephone: 0300 1234 101
Email: educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk

Housing Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 161
Email: info@cornwallhousing.org.uk

Social Services Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 101
Email: children@cornwall.gov.uk

Social Services Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 131
Email: adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk

Highways Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email: customerrelations@cornwallimited.co.uk

Transport Department

(Schools Transport)
Telephone: 0300 1234 101
(Bus Pass) Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email: schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk

Roads, Transport and Parking

Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email: roadstransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk

Waste Department

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

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Fly Tipping:

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Email: refuseandrecycling@cornwall.gov.uk

*Town Messenger
news is supplied
by the Town
Council*

Your Cornwall Councillors

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

From the Mayor of Saltash

Dear residents of Saltash

First and foremost, I hope you are keeping safe and well; and thank you so very much for honouring the Government's request to stay at home where and when necessary and in accordance with the Government's guidelines, during this terrible Coronavirus Pandemic. Saltash has responded magnificently during these most unprecedented times with caring, sharing and selflessness.

On my own journeys around and about Saltash serving and caring for the residents in need, I have witnessed such kindness and dutifulness, and people pulling together, that I have never seen before in Saltash in my lifetime, and I thank all those that have, and continue to serve Saltash in so many ways and sectors.

There have been some locals affected by the Virus and I send them all and their family's sincerest wishes of



full recovery soon.

Saltash Town Council staff and individual Councillors are also pulling out all the stops to serve their community, which is so refreshing to witness with pride and admiration. On that subject, Saltash Town Council does have a small amount of Nitrile gloves and are able to offer to those frontline workers or organisations in Saltash, please contact 01752 844846.

Furthermore, Volunteer Cornwall had put out a plea

for towns and villages to assist with volunteering, and other vital resources with joined up coordination. Saltash Town Council proudly had an advanced action plan in place.

Saltash Town Council offices are closed, but the staff are working very hard behind the scenes to assist the Saltash Community.

There are no Town Council meetings at the moment, but rest assured the Town Council and Councillors are functioning well just the same

and plans for virtual meetings are being urgently discussed.

I am now coming to the end of my role as Mayor of Saltash, and I would like to pay tribute to all the individuals, organisations, institutions, clubs, groups, businesses etc. that I have had the greatest pleasure to meet and greet in so many different ways. It has been an honour and a privilege to share their experiences in their fields. Thank you all!

I thank also our Town Clerk (Ray) and our loyal

staff for their outstanding service always with enthusiasm and commitment to duty. And indeed, my Mayor's Chaplain (Brian), for his support, advice and being a pleasure to be with.

So, too, my Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Councillors Pete and Brenda Samuels. Pete and Brenda have been wonderful and dedicated support to me, sometimes under the most difficult and trying times. They have served Saltash Town Council and me personally with

fortitude and as genuine Ambassadors of Saltash generally. Thank you both very much!

And finally, you, the people of Saltash, who are quite extraordinary folks to know and associate with in so many varied ways. Thank you all!

See you all soon, around and about Saltash.

*Again keep safe and well
Yours sincerely
Gloria Challen*

Mayor of Saltash 2019/20

Your Town Council

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Mayor:
Gloria Challen

Deputy Mayor:
Pete Samuels

Town Clerk:
Ray Lane
T: 844846

E: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk

Councillors telephone numbers can be obtained at the guildhall.

**Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6JX
Tel.: 01752 844846 Email: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk Website: www.saltash.gov.uk**

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From The Deputy Mayor

What utterly strange times we live in

Whilst most of us will have never before experienced the trauma that our Town and our Country are going through, I suspect that to a generation that is a little older than I, the current difficulties and hardships will evoke the spirit of the wartime years when there was a feeling that we are all in this together, a common foe to be defeated and the hope and belief in a better future.

What I have come to understand, though, is that same spirit has been handed down the generations and is still relevant today.

One only has to look at postings on social media or to watch a news broadcast, to see what a wonderful community spirit has either developed or come to the fore, whether people are helping in the wider community or simply shopping for their housebound next-door neighbour.

We are all disappointed that events such as May Fair and the VE75 celebrations have been cancelled, events of a type that are immensely enjoyed and always bring our local community together. But recent events have brought the community together in a way that feels more personal and with a sense that we all have a part to play, one way or another.

There are so many examples of organisations and individuals that have come to the aid of others, that to try and pick out some examples would risk creating a list that was very incomplete and in no way would adequately do justice to all who have stepped outside of their normal routines for the benefit of our community. I sincerely thank you all.

Since moving to Saltash some ten years ago, I have repeatedly stated that Saltash does have a wonderful community feel and I now feel even more strongly that my view on this is wholly justified. It is an honour, a privilege and a pleasure for me to have served the residents of Saltash as Deputy Mayor this past year, working alongside our Mayor Gloria Challen, who is not only a popular local lady, but somebody that truly understands the needs and aspirations of our residents.

I could not write this without thanking the dedicated staff at Saltash Town Council for not only their hard work during the past year, but the outstanding efforts they have put in since the outbreak of the pandemic, sometimes in their own time, to keep our Council working smoothly and efficiently.

In different times and circumstances, it can

sometimes be all too easy to blame 'the Council' for this or that, without understanding that all Saltash Town Councillors serve on a voluntary basis, purely for the benefit of the Town and residents. So thank you to all fellow Councillors for the work you always do, but especially so under the current situation.

By the time this 'goes to print' the situation may well have moved on apace, but we will be nearer to beating this virus and looking forward to the time when we can get back to some semblance of normality. What a treat it will be, simply going to the pub, or to a restaurant, or even getting a drive-through burger. Somehow those traffic jams that we have previously complained about will pale into insignificance.

Despite the current situation in the UK and all of the inconvenience and worry, let us also spare a thought for those who live less privileged lives in some other parts of the world, for whom uncertainty and poor health is a daily fact of life.

A massive thank you, one and all, for the part you are playing during this current emergency.

*Stay safe and keep well.
Deputy Mayor
Pete Samuels*

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Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland - Keeping us Updated...

There is no doubt that Coronavirus will have a long-term impact on our society and the economy. But one of the positive developments evolving out of these times is the strengthening of our community spirit. Like many others, I have been housebound.

I am fortunate that I have family around, but there are many who do not have such an advantage. We are extremely grateful to the volunteers who have been so active in ensuring that neighbours are neither isolated nor lacking in their everyday needs. Whether it is shopping, collecting prescriptions, delivering the newspaper or making a phone call to ensure somebody is okay - all these activities are invaluable and will ensure that life continues, albeit in a totally different way. Many of our Chamber members have been involved with these activities, and I hope the Saltash community will continue to support these local businesses when this crisis is over.

We have not held a Chamber meeting during this period, but through emails, phone calls and social media we have been able to support our members, and to signpost businesses to the financial support that is available through loans/grants to ensure they

come through this difficult period.

In other matters, I am pleased to say that the Charity Commissioners have accepted our application for Scrapstore to become a Charity. As a Trustee, I am pleased because it will enable Rosie and her team to play an even greater role in supporting the community for at least the next 3 years. During this period Scrapstore is still accepting donations but, as the shop is shut due to the Government directive, we ask that these are left in sealed bags by the rear door.

Finally, on behalf of the Chamber, I would like to thank all those who have gone out of their way to do their bit, whether it is as a volunteer or by working for the NHS, care community or public services. It only shows how strong the community bond is in a time of crisis. Let us hope that this bond will help Saltash to recover once the crisis is over, and let us support those who have supported us.

Peter

Estate Youth Feel Estranged

The young people of Saltmill feel estranged from the general community of Saltash, believing Saltmill to be a secluded area in which they can just hang out and do just as they please.

This has been the finding of the Junkyard Youth Project who have focused on the area, working closely with Groundwork South West to make a presence in the area, giving the space a new updated look with repainting and signposting. When speaking to local young people and about other youth clubs and activities on offer within the town, the main response has proved that they do not want to be a part of any club and just want to hang out there in their own space. Junkyard will therefore continue to have a presence at Saltmill delivering youth work in that area.

This was a part of the report made by Junkyard to the annual town meeting. They also reported high attendance, sometimes of over forty at their bi-weekly evenings for open access to 11 to 19-year olds from 7 - 9 pm each Tuesday and Thursday. Professional youth workers join the Junkyard volunteers and together look at single issues such as bullying, drug misuse, social media dangers and exam pressures. The female only sessions on the last Monday of each month are becoming increasingly popular in encouraging young girls' confidence building and a funding bid will hopefully enable further outreach with these sessions in late 2020.



Lets Hear It for The Carers

The streets of Saltash, strangely silent during the day, have been erupting with sound each Thursday evening. The town is proud to join with the nation in celebrating and thanking those selfless staff of the NHS who are working all hours, sometimes at personal risk, to help those suffering the current pandemic.

At 8pm each Thursday Saltash streets resound with the hand clapping, banging of saucepans and sound of klaxons as unprecedented as it is moving - a true tribute to the often-unseen army of carers. Ian Robinson, our photo-journalist, has been putting the flags out and standing his door playing the stirring sounds of 'Chariots of Fire'. Reporter Martin Lister, not to be outdone is striking up with 'Land of Hope and Glory', while at her more

Bridge Barriers May Be Raised to Protect Residents

Further plans to raise the safety barrier on the Tamar Bridge are under consideration following concerns expressed about the safety of those living below it in and around Lower Fore Street and on the Plymouth side. A report presented to the Bridge and Ferry Committee stated that there had been sixteen incidents of items thrown from the bridge or abuse addressed to residents, ten of these in Saltash.

Objects thrown included cones, a fire extinguisher and even parts of a pig. While no injuries to those below had been reported there could well be casualties if this is enabled to continue. There is also the risk of jumpers crossing the barrier and landing in the road or on residents' property as has happened in the past.

Historic Trust Still Aids Local Needs

"The poor always you have with you", says the Bible and it remains ever true even in a supposedly wealthy society such as Britain and a town such as Saltash.

Relief can be at hand through a long-established charity that can still offer relief to people in need in Saltash and adjoining parishes by making grants for specific purposes.

The Mabbott Trust, a registered charity can help children and young people, the elderly, the disabled and other defined groups.

Grants of money or payment for items, services, or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons, are made on a discretionary basis by the five locally based trustees.

The e-mail contact address for the trust is: themabbotttrust@outlook.com

David List, it was agreed, will contact management of similar bridges nationwide and worldwide to ascertain if any have partially raised their barriers and if so, what effect this has had. Once a report back has been received the issue will be considered further later in the year. Such work at both ends of the bridge is estimated to cost around £2 million as against £6 million for the entire bridge span, Cornwall Councillor Holley told the 'Observer', "The Tamar Bridge committee and officers have been doing research on this issue for over two years. We have had in-house workshops and had a select committee call in and interview all manner of agencies involved in public safety on similar structures. We have interviewed the police, had advice from the fire service and from Public Health Plymouth and Cornwall, as well as from public safety representatives employed by Cornwall and Plymouth councils.

We have gone into it thoroughly; it is time to make our minds up" Councillor Holley added that he is pleased that there is, on the Tamar Bridge, an "absolutely superb network of support for those in distress, on site twenty-four hours a day". All staff are fully trained to help the desperate, even the bridge contractors on site are similarly trained.

There is however, now some pressure to have a raised barrier limited to the bridge where it passes over land, but not over the river. Cornwall Councillor Derek Holley urged the Bridge and Ferry Committee to consider this, noting that it would not altogether stop items being hurled over but could save residents, children in particular, from the 'life changing' experience of looking up and seeing someone hanging over. Between 2017 and 2019 there were 267 events reported as giving 'concern for welfare' and four deaths had resulted. Bridge and Ferry Manager



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We are by Request Publishing The Observer To bring Local News Information & Help Advice During these difficult times

Particularly for the Vulnerable & Those of you who are isolating alone
We want you to know there is a whole Community willing to be here for you, Check out the information in this Observer

There is a Telephone Number If you do not have access to emails Please call them if you need them.

Thank You to the Team

Our fabulous team has kindly agreed to Carry out their deliveries they will keep Their distance & follow all safety guidelines Please help them in their work by being Kind when you see them!

Thank you so much to those businesses who have supported us this month we appreciate each and everyone of you.

Advertising In May 2020 Issue

If you are a business and feel you could help with advertising, we need your support to finance the continuation of the Observer during this period.

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Local Resilience Forum

Since the Civil Contingencies Act became law in 2004, all areas in the UK have a multi-agency partnership to plan for emergencies and communicate during them. This partnership is called a Local Resilience Forum (LRF), and our local LRF covers Cornwall, Devon and the Isles of Scilly.

Our LRF is chaired by the police, and includes representatives from Cornwall Council, the NHS, and blue light emergency services. Since the start of the COVID-19 crisis, it has been meeting to review the guidance from central government and the situation on the ground. Information and communications from the LRF are being channelled through Cornwall Council, and collected on Cornwall Council's website: www.cornwall.gov.uk.

Cornwall Council has been working hard to make sure the information on its website is up to date and easy to access. A dedicated email address has also been set up for any questions you may have that haven't been answered by the website, or for any suggestions or concerns: covid19@cornwall.gov.uk.

Please use this covid19@cornwall.gov.uk email address to contact Cornwall Council - there is a team of staff dealing with the emails who have access to the latest information, so you will get up to date advice. But sending in an email also helps Cornwall Council gather information on current issues, and will therefore help to inform decisions that are taken by the LRF. Anyone who does not have online access can ring Cornwall Council on 0300 1234 100, but please be aware that many Cornwall Council staff have been moved to frontline roles and it may take a while for your call to be answered.

www.cornwall.gov.uk
covid19@cornwall.gov.uk

Tamar Bridge

Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council have jointly agreed to temporarily suspend all tolls on the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry, in order to protect Bridge and Ferry staff and to facilitate the journey for key workers and for people travelling for essential reasons.

At the Bridge, Tag users may find that their tags beep as they are passing through, but their account will not be charged. Please pass through open booth lanes with care as there may occasionally be bridge staff crossing behind the toll booths.

The suspension of tolls will be reviewed as the situation develops and in the light of any further Government advice.

Elderly & Vulnerable

Cornwall Council is working in close collaboration with NHS Kernow and Volunteer Cornwall to ensure residents are getting the help they need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Various staff from Cornwall Council have been temporarily moved from their usual jobs to work with Volunteer Cornwall and increase their capacity. Over 3,000 volunteers and around 300 community groups have registered with Volunteer Cornwall, so no-one has to go without the help they need.

People who are part of the national shielding programme will receive a letter from the government. As soon as you receive your letter please confirm receipt online or by calling 0800 0288327. It is really important that you confirm receipt, even if you don't need assistance, so that support can be co-ordinated and managed. And please remember that you will not receive assistance if you don't confirm receipt. If you think you should be in the shielded category but have not received a letter, please contact your GP for advice.

People who are not part of the shielding programme but have complex needs or difficulties in getting shopping or medicines can contact Volunteer Cornwall on 01872 266988 or requestforhelp@volunteercornwall.org.uk. Here in Saltash, people also have the option of contacting Community Enterprises PL12, who have set up an excellent volunteer support system: 01752 848348 between 10am and 4pm or 07709 235927 between 4pm and 8pm.

Borrow Box

For so many people a good read provides comfort, calm and continuity, which makes it even more saddening that all of Cornwall's libraries have had to close their doors and mobile libraries are off the road. But there is a wealth of good reading available online through Borrow Box if you are a Cornwall Library Member.

Many people across Cornwall have already discovered the joys of Borrow Box, with numbers accessing the service across Cornwall up 630% on the pre-Covid-19 rate. And Pressreader - Cornwall Council's free platform which offers the majority of national daily and Sunday newspapers - showed that 5,600 more e-newspapers and magazines were downloaded in the second half of March than in the first half.

The easiest way to access books is by downloading the BorrowBox app. You will need to register your Cornwall Library number (which can be found on the back of your membership card) and your PIN number (the default PIN is the last 4 digits of your membership number). Once you have downloaded your eAudiobooks and eBooks you no longer need the internet connection to listen or read.



Care Leavers

If you have accommodation in your home, an annexe, or a separate building and are interested in providing a care leaver with a home, Cornwall Council's 16+ Team would really like to hear from you. We urgently need to ensure these young people have a safe home during the coronavirus outbreak, and provide them with the help and guidance they need to make the transition from care to independence.

Cornwall Council will provide training, support from the team and a weekly payment for each young person with you. Please call 01872 326700 and leave a message including your name and number or send an email to: nicola.penfold@cornwall.gov.uk

Parking

In a move to support essential workers, Cornwall Council suspended car park charges for three weeks from midnight on 27th March 2020. Residents will also be given a 2-month extension to any parking permit due to be renewed within the next year.

Cornwall Council had been running a trial scheme to enable carers to park on double yellow lines when they are supporting clients in their own homes. This permit scheme was a great success, and it has now been decided to continue it indefinitely. During these extreme times, the scheme has also been extended to all District Nurses in the community who are providing care for our most vulnerable residents.



Proud to Care

Cornwall's dedicated care workers are doing an amazing job of caring for elderly and vulnerable residents in Saltash and across Cornwall. They are making a real difference to the people most in need.

During this ongoing crisis, there is an unprecedented demand for care workers, and Cornwall Council is urgently recruiting people to join its temporary care workforce.

It is not all about qualifications - what is most important are your values and attitudes to working with people who need care and support. There are various roles available, including providing medical support for pain management and providing personal care. The pay rate is £9.30 per hour, and you'll receive full training and support. So please register your interest with Cornwall Council by visiting: www.proudtocarecornwall.org.uk



Rubbish Collection

A massive thank you to Cornwall's rubbish and recycling collection crews who are doing a brilliant job out on the frontline. Thanks to their dedication, collections of rubbish and recycling continue as normal, so please put your bins out from 7am at their usual place on your normal collection day. Crews may not arrive at their usual times, but they'll get to you as soon as they can. Please remember to keep your distance as the crews go about their work.

If anyone in your home has Covid-19 symptoms, please put used tissues and cloths in a bin bag and tie when full. After 72 hours, place the bag into a second bin bag, also tie this, then put it out separated from your other rubbish.

The garden waste collection service is continuing as normal, but from 7th April Cornwall Council has had to temporarily close this service to new customers. Please consider home composting or store your garden waste until we can reopen the service to new customers. And please avoid burning garden waste, as emissions may aggravate health conditions.

All 14 of Cornwall Council's Household Waste and Recycling Centres, including the Centre in Saltash, remain closed for the time being.



Cllr Hilary Frank:
hilary.frank@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk



Cllr Derek Holley:
derek.holley@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk



Cllr Sam Tamlin:
sam.tamlin@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk



Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd:
sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk



CORNWALL COUNCIL



CORONAVIRUS



Bus Services

Bus services in Cornwall have been operating on a reduced timetable since 29th March, aimed at providing a link for key workers, and for those who have no other way of making an essential journey. If you are a key worker who is unable to get to work due to the changes in timetables, please contact transport@cornwall.gov.uk with details of the route you need to make.

But a new service that was introduced at the end of March is the direct route to Derriford Hospital. This route has been subsidised by Cornwall Council, and means there is no longer any need to change buses at St. Budeaux to get to Derriford Hospital. It is not part of the measures that have been introduced to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic - it is a permanent route that Cornwall Council will keep running after this crisis is over.

Buses are being thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day, and seating areas are cleaned at the end of each journey, but please only use buses for essential travel, and wash your hands before and after travelling. Please also try to maintain a 2-metre gap between other people and board vehicles one at a time.

Cornwall Council Useful Contacts

The following links provide useful, factual and regularly updated information and support around COVID-19:

- Cornwall Council's COVID-19 information page: www.cornwall.gov.uk/coronavirus
- Queries relating to Coronavirus: covid19@cornwall.gov.uk
- Cornwall Council's Helpline for advice on employment: 0333 0150699
- For guidance for businesses www.ciosgrowthhub.com
- For community safety: www.safercornwall.co.uk
- For people affected by domestic abuse: www.saferfutures.org.uk or 01872 225629
- Worried about a child? Ring 0300 123 1116
- Worried about an adult? Ring 0300 1234 111
- For mental and emotional distress: www.valuedlives.co.uk or 01209 438 option 1
- If you see someone sleeping rough: www.streelink.org.uk or 0300 500 0914
- For help with alcohol or drugs issues www.addaction.org.uk or 0333 2000 325
- If you smell gas, ring Wales and West: 0800 111 999
- To report a water leak, ring South West Water: 0800 230 0561
- To report a power cut, ring Western Power: 105 or 0800 6783 105





Together We Can, Together We Do

Staying safe – Avoiding Scams

Lots of people are offering help and support. Most are genuine, but some may be scams. If someone you don't know offers you help, try to find out more about them.

Do not feel pressured to accept help from a stranger. If in doubt, do not accept the help. Take their number and ask someone you trust to check them out or **call us on 01752 848348.**

There are a number of scam emails and phone calls going around. Please ignore all calls claiming to be from a recognised organisation such as HMRC/Government Tax Authorities, from the Government itself, from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or any other organisation.

Any legitimate organisation will not be emailing or phoning you without your previous consent.

Do not give personal details or money to anyone who calls you. If you are unsure, ask the caller for their number, say you will phone them back – then **call us on 01752 848348** and we will check for you.

If they can't give you a phone number, then it is definitely a scam and **HANG UP THE PHONE.**



Together We Can, Together We Do

Delivery Service for Essential Items

The following businesses are currently operating a delivery service for essential items. Please contact businesses individually, as the situation is changing constantly.

This information has been put together by the volunteers at Community Enterprises PL12.

Paul Bray's Butchers, Tideford. Will deliver to Saltash on Thursdays. Minimum payment £20

<https://paulbrayandson.co.uk/> 01752 851224

Mills Milk. Milk & more delivered to your door. Phone them to order & set up an account, & they accept cheques or bacs payment 01752 844419

Applejack Barn - at Tamar View Nurseries, Carkeel. Taking orders for collection but not deliveries

<https://tamarfresh.co.uk/products/> 01752 848738

Tamar Valley Meats, at Tamar View Nurseries. Open for collection only, not taking orders. Currently open Tues-Sat 9am – 4.30pm

Steve Brown Butchers, Saltash. Taking orders for collection but not deliveries. 01752 842671

Holmes deliveries; 07538 432757 / 01752 843753 will deliver fresh fruit and veg & essentials

Polnoon Pasties, Callington Road. 01752 846777. Will deliver freshly-baked or frozen uncooked pasties, small minimum order applies.

Deli Bazaar, Fore St Saltash. Staying open for as long as they can! Range of health & wholefoods including gluten-free & vegan. Collection only, no orders taken.

Baker's Cornish Bakehouse, Prideaux Close, Saltash (near Waitrose). Freshly baked bread & savouries. Normally wholesale, currently open to the public 7.30am – 5pm. 07795141964

Veg box fresh <https://vegboxfresh.co.uk/> Saltash-based. If you need a delivery urgently, are self isolating, vulnerable, NHS staff or have been recommended to stay indoors, please call emergency hotline number on 01752 845559

Cornish veg boxes 01752 842251 (press option 1) Saltash-based Cornish Farm Produce have a veg box scheme

Just Eat deliver from local restaurants: currently Blue Moon, Saltash Tandoori, Food Nation, School of Spice, Papa Johns.

<https://www.just-eat.co.uk/area/pl12-saltash>

Farm Pizza £12 minimum order and sliding scale of delivery charges

<http://www.atampizza.co.uk/saltash/>

01752 847000

Stop By <http://www.stopbysaltash.co.uk/?responsive> 01752 848877

Asian Bowls <https://asianbowlsrestaurant.co.uk/index.php>

01752 845050

The Bullers Arms, Landrake. Takeaway menu on Wednesday & Saturday. Collection, or Delivery charge of £1.50. 01752 851283

The Market Place Fishmongers <https://www.themarketplace.co.uk/>

01752 673200

Kemow Pet Supplies. Pet food & supplies.

Free delivery in Saltash 01752 849002

Florabella Florist Will deliver flowers but also essential items if you drop them into the shop

<https://www.florabellaworld.co.uk/> 01752 846767

Caterfoods <https://www.caterfood.co.uk/>

01803664422 £5 minimum order

Essa Taxis are offering to pick up click and collect orders and deliver goods 01752 905 905

Trevethan Distillery: free next day delivery

<https://www.trevethandistillery.com/>

Cecily Baker don't normally make home deliveries, but will do so in the current circumstances.

<http://www.cecilybakercharity.org.uk/contact/>

07855 628154

Veg in a Box, near Exeter but they do deliver to Saltash area. Free deliveries over £25. Phone Mon to Sun 8am-8pm on 07951 786653 or 01392 877189

<https://veg-inabox.com/>



A Positive Attitude

Despite the current situation Dementia Voice PL12 is still working hard to support their service users. It was not easy to make the decision to suspend all of our activities, but we quickly started to look at what we could do rather than what we couldn't.

A positive attitude can achieve a great deal and we knew the most important task was to keep in touch with those who rely on us. Although we cannot see people face to face, we phone everyone on a regular basis to ensure that they do not feel forgotten and this enables us to offer any support needed and have a chat.

Quizzes have always been a regular feature of our Veterans Group, so a lot of hard work is being put into composing and delivering a military based quiz each week to members of the group. We don't want to leave anyone else out, so a general knowledge themed quiz is also distributed each week. These are giving people great pleasure and providing mental stimulation together with topics for conversation.

We couldn't forget about Easter, which can be hard when you cannot see family and friends, so an Easter themed quiz was sent out and we have also emailed some sheets giving interesting facts regarding Easter.

We regularly send out information regarding the many home delivery services in the area which can be so vital if people are struggling to do shopping. We are lucky in the PL12 area to have so many available to us.

Thanks to the generosity of

local people there were lots of jigsaw puzzles, DVDs and books donated to the Community Hub at 4 Fore Street. This has enabled us to pass these on to those who need them the most and have provided hours of entertainment.

We are constantly looking for any information that may be useful or anything that can provide cognitive stimulation and enjoyment. A clip of Cornish folk singers proved very popular and a rousing version of Trelawny was enjoyed by all.

A couple of picture quizzes themed around Beatles songs and British birds also proved popular and provided a fun challenge for everyone.

We are also keeping in touch with our services users and supporters via our Facebook page which enables us to post useful information and links.

We don't yet know when our activities will be able to start again but we see the current situation as a challenge, and we will continue to support our wonderful friends and colleagues in any way possible. **If you need any help from us please email dementia@cep12.co.uk or leave a message on 01752 848348.**

Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Livewire Continues to Support Youth Through Crisis

Livewire Youth Project has over recent years seen a growing need for helping young people through emotional and mental health issues. The current coronavirus crisis is having an effect on everybody's life, not least our young people, and with the Livewire venue on Waterside, a lifeline to many of its regular visitors, being forced to close during the crisis a range of support services have been made available for the youth of Saltash and district.

Livewire is rightly renowned as a centre for excellence for making music and this is continuing through the closure. Virtual music lessons and musical get togethers take place on Monday and Thursday evenings from 7 – 9 pm and Wednesday from 6 – 8 pm all through the Livewire Youth Project members' support page.

Individual one to one help for any young person aged 13 – 21 in need of emotional support can be obtained by texting 0739 1507. By leaving name, age, details of the problem if it is appropriate to tell, and also if appropriate any specific staff member to whom one wishes to speak, it can be arranged for somebody appropriate to get back in response.

A virtual Livewire will continue on line on Monday, Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday with youth workers and councillors available to talk through this media, again this can be accessed through the members, support page.

Andy, the project leader is available for telephone support on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10 am to midday on 0798 3806736. Elaine is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the same hours on 0739 8620705.

Whether it is just a desire to keep in contact or a more specific issue or problem Livewire aim to be there as ever to support the town's young people and see them through these unprecedented times.

Hearst Magazines good deals for Good Housekeeping, Prima and Country Living and lots more Begs these to have something to look forward to whilst in self-isolation and all being just £6 for 6months = £1 per mag and each delivered to your home. Good value

Dupath Farm, Callington advertising plenty of veg for collection only though. <http://www.dupathfarm.co.uk/farm-shop.php> 01759 382197

Tartendown Nurseries, Nr Landrake info@tartendown.co.uk. Will deliver plants, compost etc in the Saltash area. 01752 851431

Saltash Foodbank If you need help from the foodbank the quickest way to reach us is by telephone. We can then direct you to the most appropriate agency to give you a foodbank voucher.

<https://saltash.foodbank.org.uk/>

0800 328 2124 info@saltash.foodbank.org.uk

Compiled by the Volunteers at Community Enterprises PL12. April 2020

Saltash Citizens Advice

We have moved almost all our resources to home working so have a network of staff and volunteers around the county responding to our text service, calls on Adviceline, emails, webchat and providing telephone appointments.

We are manned 5 days a week from 9 to 5 but people may struggle to get through on phones at busy times so we suggest that the first option is to text ADVICE to 78866 or DEBT to 78866 and one of our advisers will call back within 48 hours.

Alternatively call us on 03444 111 444 10am to 4pm or visit the national website at www.citizensadvice.org.uk where there is loads of information. We also have webchat but that is only showing as available when there are advisers free to chat.

War and Peace Postponed

The crisis that each one of us is currently living through is often compared to the wartime experience of the 1940's.

This challenging epoch was to have been the theme of Saltash Heritage's 2020 exhibition, entitled "War and Peace – the 1940's" it was due to open this April. In common with all museums in Britain, the Heritage museum is closed until further notice.

The museum with its exhibition will open as soon as circumstances permit and it will be especially fitting as a reminder of an era, within living memory of some, a but distant history to many, when Britain pulled together during a crisis, and of how the nation recovered and resumed normality once the crisis was passed.

Instead of the proposed new exhibition for 2021 it has been decided to hold the "War and Peace -1940's" display over through the 2021 season also so that all may have the opportunity to experience it.

The Bookshelf & The Tea Rooms Saltash

Tracey & Chris
Send Good wishes to all
of their customers at this time
Keep Well & Stay Safe

We look forward to seeing you on the other side

96 Fore St Saltash Tel: 01752 845804

All About The Shoes

*Richard & Theresa Wish you all well
During these difficult times
Take Care & Stay Safe*

We look forward to seeing you again very soon

Lunar - Rieker - Joseph Sibel

F <https://www.facebook.com/AATSLtd>

60 Fore St Saltash Tel: 01752 840998

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The Railway Hotel Provides Support to Local Community

Local pub and hotel, The Railway, Saltash, has been supporting its local community by preparing and delivering meals to those in the area who are currently self-isolating in their homes.

The news, which comes after the Government requested the closure of all pubs, with the exception of those offering takeaway services, clearly demonstrates the continued desire and passion of publicans across the country to act as a hub for their communities.

Neil, Gloria and Lewis Challen, the publicans at The Railway, which is part of the

Publican Partnerships estate, launched the initiative to provide a service for vulnerable members of their community.

To raise awareness of the initiative, they have engaged local churches and posted about the service on social media to ensure that people in need receive the help they require. Since then, the initiative has gained a lot of traction, generating food donations from customers and the local Waitrose store in Saltash as well as garnering support from local Cllr Derek Holley and local volunteer group, Saltash Lions Club,

whose volunteers are helping deliver meals.

Gloria, who is the also the current Mayor of Saltash, said: "At The Railway Hotel, we really want to support people in the community to help everyone get through this challenging time together. Every day, we have been preparing and delivering meals to people who are self-isolating, especially as some residents in the local area are carers for their loved ones, but cannot get out due to health reasons. We want to do whatever we can to help.

"Our team at the pub are a family who are not here to just serve a drink. We believe that

our role in the community is to be here to listen and help when needed. This initiative is a fantastic

example of how the pub can bring together different members of the community for the common good. The service has been a great success so far and we are really grateful to all those who have either donated, volunteered or helped put this community project together."

For more information on what pubs across the county and country are doing to support their local communities please visit: <https://great-british-pubs.co.uk/>



Neil Challen collecting a donation from Jack of Saltash Waitrose

Double Lines "A Mistake"

The double yellow lines recently painted on the north end of Essa Road were placed there in error. It had been agreed that these should be single lines to indicate restricted parking and not a total ban, so that residents on the section nearest St. Stephens Road could continue to park overnight. A mistake was made by the contractor who was ordered to redo the work.

We Would Value Your Help

The leisure and entertainment venues where so many of us enjoyed coming together have been forced to close by the current corona crisis, followed soon after by most of our local shops and other businesses. Together with other media we are thus finding ourselves short of our usual revenue with which to keep the paper going until life resumes as normal and businesses re-open. We are determined to keep serving the community, as we have over the past three decades and intend to do so into a fourth decade of being your local newspaper. To help us achieve this we would find any business advertisement greatly helpful and well appreciated in order to keep the paper coming through your door.

VE 75 – FRIDAY, 8TH MAY 2020

Friday, 8th May 2020 will mark 75 years since the end of the War in Europe. The Saltash VE75 Committee are sorry that plans to commemorate and celebrate the 75th anniversary between 8th and 10th May have been cancelled due to the Coronavirus but we would ask that you acknowledge this important date in our history.

We are hoping that we will be able to provide some form of celebration later at a time, when we will all be in need of a celebration, a swing band and a conga, and many of the things that we had hoped to do with the community as tribute to all those that helped guide us to the peace and freedom that we enjoy today.

Thank you
Saltash VE 75 Committee

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



Her Majesty the Queen is an inspiration to us all and it was good to hear from her on Sunday. She took us back to when she was young when many men were going overseas to fight, many women were in factories and many children were shipped out into the country into areas they did not know. Then we had a very visible enemy. Perhaps what makes this battle so difficult is that we cannot see our enemy but please be assured that scientists all over the world are working collaboratory like they have never before to find a solution to this terrible disease.

My thoughts are with all those who are suffering; both those who are afflicted and those who have lost loved ones.

Whilst my physical office is shut my virtual office with staff working from home is very much still open. Please do contact me on Sheryll@sheryllmurray.com. Please do ensure you spell my name correctly with one 'r' and two 'l's otherwise I will not receive this email. Please include your physical address as I can only deal with constituents. You can also write to me at The Office of Sheryll Murray MP, The Parade, Liskeard PL14 6AF but please be aware that my husband is only picking up the mail

once or twice a week.

I am still working and having lots of meetings with Parliamentary Colleagues and the Government. I have heeded the advice and not left home for two weeks but have meetings online.

I have had regular such meetings with the Council Leadership team and I would like to thank them for organising these. It has allowed us to work together and help resolve issues which many constituents are facing at this time. I have also had a regular catch up with our Police & Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez where MPs can raise issues.

Many fishermen have raised a number of points and I was pleased that the new Fisheries Minister, Victoria Prentis MP, took the time to listen to Cornish MPs at a virtual meeting to discuss the problems faced in this important sector.

The message I would give my constituents is to support our local fishermen through buying our fantastic fresh fruits of the sea, where possible, and also what better time to try new species. I can thoroughly recommend some fantastic Dabs or perhaps some Lemon Sole.

I was also pleased to have a catch up online with the Dogs Trust. Whilst it is nice to spend a lot more time with our furry or indeed scaly friends we should remember their needs too especially when an issue arises with them.

In the words of Her Majesty "We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again."

In the meantime please follow the guidance to Stay at Home, to Protect the NHS and therefore to Save Lives.

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Essa Files

It's easy to work out what to write about this month, but harder to know what to say. These are times unlike anything we have known before, and it's difficult to be positive without being superficial or simplistic. There are though some things I think it's both difficult and important to remember right now, and some things we need to remember afterwards.

For right now we need to be kind to each other and to ourselves. I've heard a few people arguing about 'who has it tougher' during lockdown and it makes me feel uncomfortable – it's hard being stuck at home, it's hard having to go out. It's hard being on your own, and it's hard being cooped up with other people for a much longer period of time than you're used to. It's hard if you've never been confined to home before, and it's hard if you can't normally go out and suddenly everyone else is realising how difficult that is.

The fact that it's hard is also why we need to go easy on ourselves. Yes it would be great if everyone could use lockdown to learn a language, or write their book, or develop a new skill, but this is a time of great trauma and it's worrying and stressful. It's ok not to be at your most productive during a global pandemic, and it's ok to just focus on getting through each day.

As far as 'afterwards' goes: as I write we don't know when that will be or what it will look like. When it comes we'll naturally want to focus on the things we haven't been able to do – there are a lot of people I want to hug, places I want to go, experiences like eating out, going to the pub, and seeing live theatre that I want to pick up again. It's important though that we don't forget some of the important things we learnt during the crisis, and that we retain them afterwards. This

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includes little things like 'it's actually really lovely to take a walk around Saltash each day', and wider more meatier points like 'people who work in retail and caring professions don't get enough respect', 'overseas workers are vital to our Health Service', and 'the more we spend well on public services the better they can cope in a crisis.' We also need to remember that some of the things that were possible during this crisis, like better government support for those who can't work, the wider ability to work from home and allow people to attend events from home, and the focus on supporting the vulnerable, are also possible when this crisis is over. Not just possible, but important.

So take care, stay safe, look after yourselves, be kind to others, and see you on the other side.

Hatt Traffic Calming

A traffic calming scheme with a 20mph limit through the residential area of Vollards Lane, Hatt, is under consideration. Public consultation was due to take place with local residents in March, and the issue will be further considered once it is possible to meet with local residents.

A True Story - Not to be Missed

Late on Easter Sunday 1990, 5000 miles from here our photojournalist, Ian Robinson, found himself at the centre of a heart-rending human tragedy.

Almost in the shadow of Mardi Gras, sadly, innocent lives were needlessly taken, and others drastically changed forever.

In the next Observer he reveals a tale, exclusively, so unbelievable that every word just has to be true!

Recycling Banks to be Binned

The recycling banks in the Culver Road car park were to be removed by Cornwall Council as considered no longer necessary, the town council was told. But town councillors were angered at this claiming that they were still well used, often filled to capacity, and their removal could lead to more littering and reduced recycling.

The recycling banks were first introduced into Cornwall over twenty years ago, being placed on council owned and on private land to help boost recycling. However, in an aim to meet recycling targets all homes in Cornwall have had access to a kerbside recycling collection for over ten years. Cornwall Council claims that as increasing numbers of households have availed themselves of this, the recycling banks account for only 1% of the total recyclable waste collected in Cornwall and money could be saved by their removal.

This policy will not affect the facilities at the household waste and recycling centre such as Carkeel, nor will it affect the facilities provided by some supermarkets in their car parks.

As Cornwall enters into a new contract for waste and recycling disposal and public open space cleansing this October the contract will not include servicing of the recycling bins which will be removed in what is described as a 'phased and structured manner' with advance notice

Saltash town councillors in discussion claimed that there continued to be a need for the bins in Culver Road, Councillor David Yates stated that the bottle bank was often filled to capacity while Councillor Mike Parker who had a shop nearby stated the cardboard and bottle bin to be often overflowing. It was feared that their removal would lead to added fly tipping.

In reply Cornwall Councillor Derek Holley stated that while he personally did not agree with their removal they were sometimes found to contain as much general rubbish as recyclable items. Also, local businesses sometimes used them to dispose of the 'trade waste' for which they were required to pay for removal, thus avoiding paying revenue to Cornwall Council.

The Town Council could take over the bins but at a cost of around £6500 plus per annum decided instead to write a letter of objection to their 'incomprehensible' removal to Cornwall Council.

Tamar Bridges Illumination Proposed

Following the lighting up of prominent bridges across the Thames in London, now Network Rail are considering floodlighting the iconic Royal Albert Bridge. This was last done on a temporary basis for the bridge's centenary celebrations in 1959.

The proposal, which is still at a feasibility planning stage, was put to the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Committee. It was suggested that they might wish to participate by similarly floodlighting the Tamar Road Bridge, which will be sixty years old next year.

Concerns were expressed by bridge and ferry committee members over the cost of illuminating the road

bridge, which would have to be met from tolls and for which there is no current budget. There were also concerns as to light pollution, possible effect on marine life, and that the energy use is contrary to plans for Cornwall Council, joint owners of the bridge, to become carbon neutral by 2030 after declaring a climate emergency.

Network Rail confirmed that they were working with local authorities in Cornwall, Devon and Plymouth, regarding a proposal for permanent floodlighting of the railway bridge.

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Town Asked for Input on Renewable Energy

Saltash, with all other Cornish towns and parishes, has been asked to share information and input as to local support for renewable energy, in relation to local neighbourhood planning.

Cornwall council's project manager for climate change advised that the climate change team is currently seeking to identify locations suitable for wind turbines and other renewable energy sources. All such sites would have to undergo planning applications in the normal way.

A renewable energy study would then map the best areas for wind speed while also taking into account other factors including landscape sensitivity, proximity to residents and infrastructure, protected wildlife sites and world heritage sites. Local neighbourhood planning policies would also be taken into account before the broad areas for allocation of renewable energy sources are identified.

Saltash town council has been asked whether they consider there should be any limit to the scale and size of wind turbines locally and if so why. They are also asked to confirm any broad location which are or are not suitable and what policy can do to help ensure community support. This could include community ownership and benefit or community share. Saltash is also asked as to whether it considers the Climate Change planning should include a policy supporting community owned small-scale turbines in areas of greater landscape sensitivity, such as the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that adjoins Saltash.

Remove Recyclables from Rubbish

Rubbish taken to the tip by residents in Saltash and South East Cornwall may be inspected before it is accepted and deposited. This is a part of Cornwall Council's plan to boost its rate of recycling which currently stands well below the national average.

If a campaign to encourage residents to put out for recycling everything that is recyclable does not achieve desired results the alternative would be for black bags to be inspected. Household Waste Recycling Centre staff would then ensure that items which can be reused or recycled are removed before the remainder is tipped into the waste for landfill sites.

Rugby Club Relegation as Early End to Season

Saltash Rugby Club has suffered as a result of the coronavirus, being relegated despite a winning streak during recent games indicating a likelihood of remaining in its present division had the final games been played out.

After recent triumphs in the last few seasons seeing the Ashes win their way to play on the sacred turf of Twickenham their fiftieth season saw them sadly slip from the Tribute Western Counties West to the Devon and Cornwall league.

This is considered unfair by players and supporters. When it became evident that the season would have to be abandoned, league officials decided to assess promotions and demotions based on points. It did not take into account the fact that Saltash, who had a tough start to the season following the loss of head coach Nick Skinnard, had recently recovered form and, with six games left to play, had two games in hand over the team below them, Cullompton, and the four teams immediately above

them – a result of Saltash's pitch being unplayable earlier this year. While the football union decided to consider the 2019/20 season void for promotions and relegation (bad news for Plymouth Argyle who were on the edge of the automatic promotion spot) the Rugby Football Union took a different approach based on the team's positions after the last game that they played.

It is a sad ending to what should have been a celebratory Golden Anniversary season for Saltash Rugby Football Club. Club officials were considering the possibility of an appeal. Otherwise they will have to hope that the winning streak continues next season leading to a speedy promotion back to the Western Counties West.

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Please Note: Photos of Socialising & fun times were all before we were in lockdown with Social Distancing...

Hopefully this will lift your spirits...& remind you of wonderful times still to come... Lets work hard together...

Stay in - Protect the NHS - Save Lives...

We will be back...

For The Good Times...

It seems strange now to remember that as recently as early March we were able to enjoy socialising and sharing community events with no pre-knowledge of the lockdown to come. We on your Saltash Observer team especially enjoy participating and supporting such events and there were three outstanding celebrations which we look back on with happy memories and anticipation of when such events can again be shared together as part of everyday life.

Shouting Out for Trelawny

This year's Trelawny Shout, it was hoped, would see at least twenty thousand Cornishmen, if not more, join in singing our unofficial Cornish anthem on St. Piran's Day. Well, we

believe the record was broken and a Saltash contingent of singers certainly helped to achieve this.

A full Saltash Community Hopper Bus, with several members of the Community Market, travelled out to the 'Who'd Have Thought It' inn at St. Dominic. Here they found the bar already packed to its doors, the merry crowd including many others from Saltash. Our Editor Mary Crawford, famed for always enjoying sharing in community singing, felt the vibes as soon as she entered and heard the warm up music. This was provided by 'Barrett's Privateers', headed by 'local boy' Gideon Barrett Based in the Tamar Valley, the Privateers take their wide repertoire of sea shanties and traditional folk songs to pubs, events and shanty festivals throughout Cornwall, Devon and beyond. On this occasion they were joined in

song by the "Shoutees" to help enhance and build the volume of the harmony. Their singing, especially of the wildly popular "Proper Job" went down a storm and was enjoyed by one and all.

An overwhelming evening of community spirit and fun reported Mary Crawford who on behalf of all present would like to thank especially, Gideon and the singers for a fabulous evening. Thanks also to the 'Who'd Have Thought It' new owners who, clearly amazed by a response above all expectation, managed magnificently.

Ashtorre Celebrates Birthday

Our well loved Ashtorre community drop-in centre with its amazing river views celebrated its birthday in the fitting style that we have come to expect. Having been opened on St. Piran's Day twenty-nine years ago

by Cornish songstress the late Brenda Wootton, this year local singers the Burraton Boys led an afternoon of song and entertainment. All of those present joined in with gusto and were well rewarded with a cream tea, jam and cream, served of course, in Cornish fashion.

It was fortunate that this event could be enjoyed and shared before the enforced closure deprived us of a well loved and welcoming venue, created to re-create the community spirit of the old Waterside, and now affording a welcome to one and all. All of its regulars, including especially we of the Observer look forward to its re-opening and becoming re-acquainted with old friends there.

Everyone is Irish on St. Paddy's Day

The one day of the year when so many of us seem to feel the call of the Emerald Isle is always celebrated at a



packed Ashtorre. This year was no exception though the St. Patrick's celebrations were planned for earlier than the actual saint's day. This proved fortunate, giving the chance of a final shindig before the national lockdown. As ever Bill Ryan led his fellow musicians for an afternoon of Irish jiggy and revelry to raise the Celtic spirit in one and all. Bill paid a special tribute to a true Irishman who had always been at the heart of the St. Patrick's party. Frank Hopper had sadly passed away last summer but his widow Margaret had donated his St. Patrick's "props" to the event.

Our Editor Mary Crawford, always an eager participant, was nominated to be adorned in them and was proud to be wearing of the green as she joined in the singing of her two favourite songs dedicated to her, 'Wild Rover' and 'Black Velvet Band'. Residents of 'The Elms' residential home were among those present and a big thank you is due to Bill Ryan, together with all who sang and played including, in particular, those individuals who stood up to entertain one and all.

These events took place, of course, in those days before the lockdown became necessarily enforced on us all to help reduce infection, and when the words "social distancing" were unheard of. We decided to seek to recapture the fun and high spirits of these events as a reminder of good times past and promise of better times to come.



How soon these better times and fun community gatherings will return, together with our friendly local businesses being open to serve us once again, depends upon each and every one of us. Only by us all following the irksome but necessary government requirements in the spirit intended can we save infection, save life and save the pressure on our amazing NHS and other key workers. If we all do what we can to keep ourselves and others safe then the good times might roll again sooner than we think.

We look forward to meeting with you out and about once more.



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