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April 2023 - Issue 371

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SALTASH MAY FAIR

CELEBRATE THE CORONATION ON FORE STREET AND LONGSTONE PARK

6TH & 7TH
MAY 2023

Cornwall Deserves A Proper Referendum

A report published ahead of an Extraordinary Meeting of Cornwall Council's Cabinet states that seven in ten of the 6,105 people who responded to the consultation on the government's proposed Devolution Deal for Cornwall stated they are opposed to the idea of a Mayor. Another common theme was disappointment with the scale of funding and powers offered.

These results are a blow to the Leader of Cornwall Council, Cllr. Linda Taylor, who came to Saltash to promote the Deal. Cllr. Taylor highlighted a separate 'representative survey' commissioned by Cornwall Council from a Yorkshire-based company.

Continued on Page 2

Shop Your Town

On the first Thursday in March, Saltash Town Council hosted the Annual Town Meeting with Parishioners. Despite being facilitated by the Town Council, it is not actually a regular council meeting. In fact, it's not technically a council meeting. It is a meeting of all the electors in Saltash to discuss matters affecting the town, with the main section given over to reports from the wide range of volunteer groups and organisations in Saltash.

The tradition of an Annual Meeting with Parishioners dates back to medieval times, before the

modern-day tiers of local government. Parishioners would meet up to discuss the matters of the day and make decisions on what the local area wanted to do about them. These days, annual meetings don't hold any binding power over the Town Council, but they still play a valuable role in local democracy because they give

councillors and council staff the chance to hear the unfiltered views of the public, enabling them to incorporate messages learned at the meeting into future decision making and policy.

Starting a couple of hours before this year's Annual Meeting, Saltash Town Council hosted a new initiative called 'Shop Your Town'. Designed to give the groups presenting a report to the Annual Meeting a platform to tell

the story behind their report, over 20 organisations including Saltash Floral Art Club, Saltash Heritage, Saltash Regatta, Saltash Foodbank and Saltash Bowls Club set up a stall in the Guildhall. It proved to be an excellent opportunity to network, and gave 'parishioners' who were looking to volunteer, join a new club or learn a new skill the chance to hear first-hand about the opportunities available in this bustling town of ours.



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Cornwall Councillors/Wards

Saltash Essa ED

Cllr Hilary Frank
cldr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk

Saltash Tamar ED

Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd
cldr.sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwall.gov.uk

Saltash Trematon & Landrake ED

Cllr Martin Worth
cldr.martin.worth@cornwall.gov.uk

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Highways
Waste & Recycling
Tamar Bridge

From the Mayor of Saltash

This weekend we have finally had some sunshine, and it has been lovely to see so many people visiting the town for the annual Three Rivers Race. With over 70 gigs on the river the Waterside has been a busy vibrant place with teams and boats coming and going. I would like to pass on my thanks to Caradon Gig Club, who are based at Saltash Sailing Club for running a brilliant season opener and one that so many other clubs make such an effort to attend. The weather was kind with a warming sun and gentle breeze. Whilst Coverack won on overall combined times, Caradon came home 2nd and 5th for a set of excellent results. I hope the rest of the season goes well for all involved.

It was great to see that many of those visiting, also made their way into the town centre for refreshments and to explore. The whole town felt alive, something I know will be repeated in a few weeks time for the May Fair, this year taking place on the same day as the King's Coronation. Saltash Town Council are supporting the May fair, both financially and by accepting their invitation to hold a Civic Parade to celebrate the Coronation. At the time of writing Buckingham Palace have not published a full timetable for the day, but we currently expect the parade to take place in the morning in conjunction with the Parade of Youth. We hope you will all come along and enjoy the day, we are hoping that there will be at least one large screen in place to watch the Coronation events live from London too.

Overall, the May Fair celebrations look bigger and better this year, with live music later into the evening on the Saturday, and a Coronation Big Lunch on the Sunday, both making good use of Longstone Park. Also on the Sunday is the Saltash half marathon and fun run, organised by Tamar Trotters, if you fancy having a go at the runs, entries are still being accepted, or please come and support those that are running. A big thank you to the small, dedicated team that deliver this event, do get in touch if you have any spare time to help marshal, sell raffle tickets, direct traffic, they definitely would welcome you. On the Bank Holiday Monday there will be repeat of the 'Beating of the bounds', a traditional walk between some of the towns Boundary Stones, finishing with a Cream Tea at Isambard House. Please contact the Guildhall or Library for tickets.

In the Council Chamber, we have recently met with the local Policing Team and Cornwall Council officers to look at sensible ways to encourage more considerate and safer parking around the town. Thank you to those that sent in problem hotspots. It is always



our hope that people will consider others and the need for emergency service access, but the police and enforcement teams will act if problems persist. On a more positive note, the Town Council hosted a meeting of local stakeholders to look at the future of healthcare provision. The meeting was informative and may provide a positive way forward. We must and will keep the pressure on though. As I write this, I am also penning a response to Cornwall Councils Car Park Charges consultation, with an emphasis on encouraging use of our town centre, rather than pushing people away, as well as trying to convince them that introducing Sunday charges in Saltash will mostly be a waste of their time and generate little income whilst penalising a few.

Sarah and I look forward to seeing you at the May fair for what sounds like a brilliant weekend in Saltash.

*Councillor Richard Bickford
Mayor of Saltash 2022-23*

Continued from page 1

Proper Referendum

The company interviewed 1,102 people across Cornwall and delivered results indicating 65% of respondents were in favour of accepting the Deal and Mayor.

Cllr. Taylor acknowledged the opposition to a mayor, but said "the 'silent majority' seems, on balance, to favour the Deal, including an elected mayor."

Her comments drew widespread criticism on social media and from councillors, including Cllr. Hilary Frank (Saltash Essa), who said: "Dismissing the views of over 6,000 people who took the time to respond to the consultation is insulting." She pointed out that the website of the company commissioned to deliver the representative survey states: "we use our expertise to help our clients achieve their aims", and said "There are now 87 councils across Cornwall, including Saltash, who have passed a resolution calling for a referendum. The only way to get an answer on a mayor is to hold a proper referendum so both sides can put their case fairly without Cornwall Council's resources being used to promote a particular point of view."

Celebrating St Piran and Saltash Citizens



On the day when Cornwall and Saltash celebrated the patron saint of Cornwall, St. Piran, Saltash Town Council celebrated the achievements of several citizens at the Mayor's Civic Service at Saltash Baptist Church. The Town Council has redesigned the civic awards, replacing the previous award for Citizen of the Year with six new categories, all of which were awarded on 5th March at the Civic Service.

Contribution to the Community Awards were won by: Rika Chanter for her work at the Saltash Food Bank offering food and support to local families; Averil Pinckney for her community work, including supporting bereaved families who have suffered infant loss; and Andy Rance for the life-changing work he and his team deliver at Livewire for young people of Saltash.

Cultural Contribution Awards were won by: Peter Clements for his tireless work in identifying those who have lost their lives in conflict but are not named on the town's war memorials; and Heidi Walsh for her work with Gracenotes Acapella, which brings women together in song, and Page 2 Stage, a musical

and drama group for children. Lifetime Achievement Awards were awarded to: Sue Hooper, who set up a charitable foundation giving grants and donations to young people to support their ambitions in the arts; Lynn Marsh, the chair at Ashtorre Rock who has dedicated more than 32 years of service at the community centre; and Bill Ryan, one of the founding members of Saltash Rugby Club and still actively involved over 50 years later.

"I have always believed that sport builds strong communities," said Bill in receiving his Award. Sporting Achievement was won by 14-year-old skateboarder Lola Tambling, who has risen to become a national champion and placed sixth in the recent world championships in Dubai. Youth Achievement was won by Henry Woodward who attended Livewire as a young person and is now volunteering there to support others through music.

There were two winners in the Youth Group Leader category: James Mills, who coaches at Saltash Rugby Club and instructs at Saltash Sailing Club Cadets, supporting young people to develop skills on the water which have taken them to compete at international level; and Jenny Rowlands, who has volunteered with St John Ambulance for over 25 years, helping to set up the Badgers in Saltash and teaching lifesaving skills to hundreds of local children.

The Mayor's Award was given to Councillor David Yates for his commitment and service to Saltash especially on the Saltash Neighbourhood Plan which was approved by referendum in 2021.

Reverend Tim Parkman, who conducted the service as Mayor's Chaplain, was also called upon to conduct members of Saltash Community School who sang from their highly acclaimed recent production of 'Matilda.' The school then went on to receive the Peter Stephens Cup for the musical production the Mayor has most enjoyed over his year of office.

Fittingly for a service held on St Piran's Day, guests were led in Cornish song by the Burraton Boys culminating with a rousing rendition of Trelawny. Afterwards, the Mayor and Mayoress led their guests to Isambard House, the restored station building, for more Cornish music from the Burraton Boys and refreshments including saffron cake.

Mayor and Deputy to Serve a Further Year

Councillors at the Extraordinary Meeting of Saltash Town Council held on 16th March voted for the incumbent Mayor, Cllr. Richard Bickford, to serve a further year as Mayor of Saltash in the new civic year beginning in May.

Councillors also elected the current Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Julia Peggs, as the Deputy Mayor Elect for the next civic year.

Commenting after the meeting, Cllr. Bickford said: "I would like to thank my fellow councillors for supporting me as Mayor Elect 2023-24. It has been a great honour to take on the role over this last year, and I am very pleased to have the opportunity to carry on for another year, building on the good foundations that have been established."

By-election in Tamar

Following the resignation of Lewis Challen as councillor, three people have put themselves forward to represent Tamar Ward on Saltash Town Council.

Residents of Tamar Ward will receive polling cards inviting them to go to Saltash Guildhall on Thursday 20th April to vote for Stephen Hobbs (Saltash Taxpayers Alliance), Lisa Mortimore (Independent) or Karen Writer (Independent).

Your Town Council & Wards

Saltash Essa:

1. Cllr Richard Bickford
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2. Cllr Rachel Bullock
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3. Cllr John Brady
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4. Cllr Matt Griffiths
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5. Cllr Jon Foster
jon.foster@saltash.gov.uk
6. Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd
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Saltash Tamar:

1. Vacancy
2. Cllr Sarah Gillies
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3. Cllr Sarah Martin
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4. Cllr Julia Peggs
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5. Cllr Pete Samuels
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6. Cllr Jean Dent
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Saltash Trematon:

1. Cllr Steve Miller
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2. Cllr Brenda Samuels
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3. Cllr Brian Stoyel
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4. Cllr Yates
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Mayor:

Cllr Richard Bickford

Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Julia Peggs

Town Clerk:

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Councillors' Telephone Numbers can be obtained at The Guildhall.

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Local Community Driving Future NHS Provision

Community representatives at a meeting organised by the two Patient Groups in the town, and hosted by Saltash Town Council on March 15, were pleased to hear the recently appointed Managing Director of Integrated Care for East and North Cornwall, Dr Andy Sant, say that "Saltash is now the number one town on my action list, because of the community energy I have observed here".

Dr Sant had come to seek views that would influence the way he could allocate NHS monies available to him. He was well aware of the negative impact of the loss of in-patient beds and the minor injuries service at St Barnabas hospital six years ago, and acknowledged that in the period since then local people had decried the "managed decline" in available services. He undertook to use his powers to reverse that. Nevertheless he pointed out that the hospital was still "bustling" as a base for community staff and out-patient clinics.

Town Councillor Julia Peggs highlighted the lack of NHS investment in recent years compared to other towns in East Cornwall. Representatives of the League of Friends of the hospital then pressed for the reinstatement of the lost beds, even if these could not be returned to St Barnabas itself. Dr Sant responded that he may be granted extra resources to achieve this, much to the relief and approval of those present. He said the beds would best be focussed on helping patients to get back home quickly.

Also present were the managers of Saltash Health Centre and Port View Surgery who underlined the difficulties they have been experiencing in maintaining

previous levels of staff of all types, including doctors and nurses. The two Practices are now working together more closely and cooperatively to increase their resilience in the face of increased demands, and to find imaginative new ways of supporting patients. Both managers committed to playing their part in helping to build the more responsive local provision which was being sought.

Those present thanked Dr Sant for coming to listen, and for sharing his thinking. He promised to present what the next steps might be within a month, and to make Saltash a pioneer project for citizen engagement. The Chairs of the Patient Groups will set up an "action group" of local patients, voluntary bodies, elected representatives and NHS professionals to drive this forward at pace. Cornwall councillor, Martin Worth, spoke enthusiastically about how collaborative working of this type can bring the desired results.

Heriatge Volunteers Thanked in Pasties and Song

Cornish pasties and a rich blending of Cornish and nautical song were presented by Saltash Heritage to the volunteer stewards of the town museum at their annual party. In her opening remarks, Heritage Chair Jean Dent said the event was being held "to thank our fabulous volunteer stewards, because without you there would be no interaction between the people of Saltash and the wonderful things in our museum."

Dementia Voice Turns 7!

Dementia Voice, run by the Community Enterprise PL12 celebrates its 7th anniversary this month as it continues to thrive and support people in and around the Saltash area. In April 2016 they launched the Dementia Drop-in Café at 4 Fore Street, Saltash to raise awareness about Dementia, reduce stigma, and make positive changes to improve wellbeing.

The group supports anyone affected by Dementia in one way or another to help people live well with the disease. The group acts as an advocate for dementia and is a place to meet like-minded people, keep up with what's happening with Dementia and meet others who are sharing the experience.

"Rose, Carol and the team work with compassion and dedication to support people living with or caring for someone living with Dementia," said Community Enterprise Marketing Director Melanie Cowe Smith. "Through advice, friendships and support, they have created a hugely valuable asset to Saltash. It's clear by the vast numbers of people they help at any one time, that services such as these are much needed."

The 7th year anniversary comes at a time when Dementia is more widely talked about by the media and celebrities. Recently actor

Bruce Willis announced his diagnosis with Dementia, bringing the disease under the spotlight and helping raise awareness of the condition.

"Recently, the Dementia Voice team moved the popular weekly Drop-in café to Ashtorre Rock because of the large numbers attending. Our Hopper bus provides the transport for people attending and our Community Kitchen serves up some sweet treats so it's a real team effort," added Melanie.

Since Dementia Voice was first established, they have gone on from strength-to-strength to create a Veteran's Group and a singing group called "Do you mind if I sing?"

"We're so proud of what Rose, Carol and the team do for Dementia in Saltash, we see how much of a difference their support makes to people. It really is life changing."

For more info: see www.cepl12.co.uk

Saltash Town Council Dog Fouling Competition

Following residents' concerns on the issues of Dog Fouling Saltash Town Council consulted on areas in the town that were deemed problematic. After running a community 'Have Your Say' survey, four areas were reported to be troublesome for repeat offenders not collecting their dog waste

These areas included Chapel Field, Cinder Paths by local primary schools, Churchtown Reserve and Rugby and Football Pitches.

The Town Council provided information to the community by publishing free educational material through social media and noticeboards in areas that are cause for concern and worked in partnership with a variety of land owners to secure permissions to install signage, to encourage and remind owners to collect their dog waste. A competition was launched with three age groups and schools and local children were encouraged to submit designs to be made into signage.

There were some fantastic designs received and choosing



three winners proved difficult for the judging panel which consisted of the Mayor Councillor Richard Bickford and Mayoress Sarah Bickford, Deputy Mayor Councillor Julia Peggs, Councillor Pete Samuels Vice Chairman of the Services Committee, Councillor Rachel Bullock Member of the Saltash Team for Youth Working Group and Cornwall Council Senior Environmental Protection Officer, Sarah-Jane Brown.

A huge well done to Amelia Ayley from Bishop Cornish CEVA Primary School, Lily-Mai Richardson from Saltash Community School and Ben Sleep from Brunel Primary School who designs were chosen to be made into signage. The winners met with the Deputy Mayor Councillor Julia Peggs at one of the installed sign locations and were awarded their very own sign and congratulated on their artistic qualities.

Thank you to all the land owners who provided the Town Council with permissions to erect signs within the community of Saltash. These included Cornwall Council, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Anthony House and Saltash Rugby Football Club. Residents can report dog fouling offences to Cornwall Council via the following link: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/animal-welfare-and-enforcement/dog-fouling/>

Or download the fantastic free mobile application 'Pooper Snooper' which encourages dog owners and wider communities to take responsibility for tackling dog fouling in their local areas.

Don't forget you can dispose of bagged dog waste in any dog bin, litter bin or general domestic bin. Keep our environment safe and clear for all to enjoy.

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Essa Voices

Question: Take a smattering of police officers, add in a handful of Cornwall and town councillors, sprinkle with some highways, parking and housing officers and get them to walk around streets together. What do you have?

Answer: An Environmental Visual Audit.

According to Kevin Sinfield, the Crime Prevention Officer with Devon and Cornwall Police who led the first EVA in Saltash one grey morning in March, an EVA is a key part of Community Policing

that brings a range of stakeholders together to identify and record 'comfort factors', like good street lighting, that reduce the levels of worry about crime when they are present, but may give rise to concern if they are absent.

There were about ten of us on that first EVA, and we went for a wander around places including Alamein, Warfelton and Mulberry. We were looking for issues like graffiti, inadequate street lighting, fly tipping in gardens or grass verges, overgrown foliage and illegally parked vehicles.



Councillor Hilary Frank
cfr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk

We took photos of TVs that had been dumped, spotted offensive graffiti on a lamp post, noticed a sign that was sticking out at a dangerously jaunty angle on the 'cinder path', and came across far too much rubbish in some of the alleyways. We listed everything in a report, giving details of environmental improvements that need to be made to enhance the quality of life for residents.

Bin There, Done That

I promise you that the report will not just sit on a shelf somewhere gathering dust: each partner agency is committed to taking action to resolve the issues that were highlighted. The graffiti was removed the following day, for example. And a new bin has already been installed at the end of Alamein Road by the grassy bank leading down to Church Road after a resident pointed out the need for a bin in that spot to us. We already have a date in our diaries to revisit the area to see what other

improvements have been generated.

Even better

Not all issues can be resolved by an EVA, but at the very least it creates the opportunity for residents to highlight how issues make them feel about the area where they live. Speaking with residents as we roamed on our Audit was really informative, and proved to be a catalyst for action. On the back of one chat, for example, a couple of people have signed up to Saltash Environmental Action's Litter Ranger scheme, where residents 'adopt a street' and are loaned litter picking tools to help keep the street free of rubbish.

Everyone involved felt the Audit had been really worthwhile, and we're already planning to audit a different area of Saltash within the next few months. So, if you see us mid-audit please come over and say hello, especially if you have some suggestions for helping make the street where you live even better.

To a Skylark

by William Wordsworth

Up with me, up with me into the clouds!

For thy song, Lark, is strong; Up with me, up with me into the clouds!

Singing, singing, With clouds and sky about thee ringing,

Lift me, guide me till I find That spot which seems so to thy mind!

Up with Me to Churchtown Farm



The plump-bellied skylark is our most common lark. The male bird advertises its territory with a spectacular song-flight, rising almost vertically with rapid wing-beats, hovering in mid-air for several minutes. All the time it is in the air the bird sings its liquid, warbling song before plummeting down, always landing on the ground, never in trees or bushes. Song flights of up to one hour have been recorded, and the birds can reach 1,000 feet before descending. In recent times, though, the number of skylarks has also plummeted, so that today the population is about one-third what it was 30 years ago, and the skylark is on the Red List as a bird of high conservation concern.

Skylarks are ground-nesting birds, and the main cause of their decline is considered to be the widespread switch from spring to autumn-sown cereals, which are taller and denser throughout the season. Fewer birds nest there, and those that

are disturbed by dogs.

Churchtown Farm Nature Reserve, owned by the Antony Estate and leased to Cornwall Wildlife Trust, is an ideal habitat for skylarks to create their nests. It is also a much-loved venue for walkers, and in particular dog walkers.

Anxious to ensure that dog owners are aware of the skylark's fragile habitat, the Friends of Churchtown Farm, a group of volunteers who support Cornwall Wildlife Trust in maintaining the Nature Reserve, held an Awareness Day for dog owners, reminding them to keep dogs on leads in all fields south of the railway line during the skylark nesting season of April to August.

Steve Brooks, Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Assistant Reserve Officer said: "Churchtown Farm is one of our best reserves in terms of public access, but it is first and foremost a nature reserve and the public need to take care of it. It is so easy, especially in the nesting season, to inadvertently cause irreparable damage to wildlife on the reserve."

The Awareness Day was also about celebrating dogs: hand-baked dog treats and poo bags were being given away, and Justine Bromidge of Puppy Parenting was on hand to offer practical advice on making life easier for dogs and their owners. Sponsoring the event and giving away dog treat samples was the Fore Street shop Kernow Pet Supplies.

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The Coronation May Fair

6th and 7th May

The King and Queen Consort have picked the date of Saltash May Fair for their coronation. Helped by funding from Saltash Town Council, May Fair will be celebrating the weekend in style giving residents the chance to join neighbours and the nation in celebration, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

On Saturday 6th, there will still be around 100 stalls at the Fore Street outdoor market, there will still be a Parade of Youth and maypole dancing, but this year there will also be large screens showing the Coronation as well as a Coronation Concert on Longstone Park, starting at 11am with Livewire and finishing at 9pm with a right royal music-fest courtesy of the Queen tribute act Good Old Fashioned Lover Boys.

On Sunday 7th, there will still be running races, a giant climbing tower and wellness activities on Longstone Park, but there will also be a Coronation Big Lunch picnic from 1pm, with popular local musicians RWindband providing musical entertainment.

May Fair's poster has been redesigned by local graphic artist Ambika Olney, taking inspiration from the emblem created for the coronation



reflecting King Charles' love of nature. "We are keen to join with the King in promoting the message that our planet needs our help," said Tanya Hatch, member of the organising team.

"We loved the rose, thistle, daffodil and shamrock of the Coronation emblem and commissioned Ambika to add some Cornish gorse." To bolster the environmental message, organisers will be giving out packs of wildflower seeds to children who help with litter picks, and are planning to plant trees as a lasting legacy of the Coronation May Fair.

Ways To Create Your Coronation Memories In The Community

Polish your crowns and join the Parade of Youth

Youth groups, schools and families with young children are all invited to join the Parade of Youth, which will leave from Victoria Gardens at 10am on 6th May.

The theme will be 'Coronation', so get out your cloaks and union jacks, polish your crowns and be part of the celebratory throng.

Win a Coronation Medal Finishers in the Saltash Half

Marathon, the 5K+ and the Fun Run (1.8 miles) will all receive a medal featuring the Coronation emblem. The runs will start and finish in Longstone Park in the morning of 7th May. Places are limited, so enter early to secure your chance of winning your very own Coronation medal. Visit the Tamar Trotters website for details, including videos and maps of the courses.

Win a Fore St Coronation Hamper

All this fun comes with a price tag. Funding from Saltash Town Council and sponsors goes some way to meeting the costs, but May Fair organisers are urging residents to help fund the coronation fun by purchasing a raffle ticket or two. In addition to the cash raffle with a top prize of £200, there will be a separate raffle for individual prizes and a Coronation Hamper worth over £500 bursting with treats kindly donated by Fore Street retailers and traders. "We want to make it a really special weekend, but we need people to buy raffle tickets to make that happen," said Adam Webb, member of the May Fair organising team, who is selling tickets in his shop Nicky's Glow Beads.

Join thousands singing the National Anthem on Fore Street

Deputy Lord Lieutenant James Kitson, representing the King in Cornwall, will be the honoured guest of the Mayor of Saltash, and together with other dignitaries they will process down Fore Street following the Parade of Youth, and then lead the crowds on Fore Street in a mass chorus of the national anthem.

Bring your Cucumber Sandwiches

Buckingham Palace has invited communities across the UK to host a Big Lunch to share friendship, food and fun. The May Fair organisers are inviting you to a Big Lunch Picnic in the Park on Longstone Park on 7th May from 1pm. As well as music from RWindband, there will also be inflatables, food stalls, activities for children and plenty of bunting.

Model Railways in the Station Building

Modelling a world in miniature brings delight to all ages, and the joys of model railways can be discovered and rediscovered in an exhibition on 15th and 16th April, fittingly taking place in the former station building Isambard House.

Led by the recently re-established Saltash Model

Railway Club, exhibitors will be displaying up to seven tiny model railway layouts, based on varying prototypes and several gauges, including a complete reproduction of Yelverton station in the steam days of the 1950s.

The event will also offer younger visitors a ride on a miniature railway being set up by Plym Valley Railway on the platform side, and feature an art exhibition by local artists as well as ten-minute talks by local historian Bruce Hunt. There will also be a trade stand for those inspired to create their own world in miniature.

The exhibition is being organised by Saltash Rotary, and will be open from 10am to 4pm on both days. Admission is free, but donations will be invited to support local community needs. Refreshments will be available. In view of limited parking at the train station, there will be a free shuttle bus service to and from the Leisure Centre car park with donations going to local causes.

FREE Treasure Hunt in Celebration of the Kings Coronation!! Sat 6th May

Once again, Redeemer Church will be hosting a free treasure hunt - with prizes for all! To take part, head down to the May Fair festivities and find the Redeemer Church stall at the top of the Fore Street. The team will set you off on a hunt to find some heavenly crowns located in and around the Fore Street shops!

SALTASH VIDEO CLUB

Present Films of Saltash

Remembered Friday 5th May

Films made by members over the years 1977 - 2000 incorporating building of the Saltash Tunnel - Various May Fairs inc the first Mayfair of 1977 & many more

Ashtore Community Centre

Doors Open 19.15 for 19.30

Interval Half Time - Refreshments & Raffle
Entrance: £3.50 at the Door

Bring your picnic blankets and Union Jacks and join the nation in celebration on Longstone Park on Sunday 7th May 1pm to 3pm

**Inflatables and food stalls
Live music from RWindband**

Unfolding Worlds at Saltash Library

With a calendar bustling with events aimed at a wide range of interests and ages, Saltash Library is far more than a collection of books.

Environmental activities begin with an RSPB presentation 'Together we can save our wild' given by Mervyn Orchard on Thursday 13th April at 11am. This is followed by 'Tamar grows Local' supporting sustainable local produce on Monday 17th at 11am, and 'Resilient Planting for the New Climate' presented by Dr Rebecca Pearce on Thursday 20th at 11am. Given on behalf of Saltash Environmental Action, Dr. Pearce's talk will focus on how the action group is growing their community allotment.

Children are invited to a craft morning and exhibition 'We Love Bugs' on Saturday 22nd April at 11am when they will be encouraged not to squish mini beasts but to examine their wonders under a magnifying glass, and perhaps learn how to build hotels for them.

All ages but young people especially are invited to the Big Recycle Bash workshop on Thursday 27th at 1pm given by Rob Stevenson with members of Plymouth-based junk band, Weapons of Sound, and learn how to "make a percussion noise out of anything." And all ages should enjoy the 'Life in Our Seas' presentation and workshop from Seadream Education on Monday 24th at 11am and 1.15pm.

The first week in May is Children's Book week with free book giveaways at the library and a return visit of popular author Simon James. He will demonstrate how he illustrates and writes his best-sellers, including 'The Day we were Vacuumed' and 'The Boy from Mars.' He will be in the library on Saturday 6th May at 11am.

Community History Month will be marked locally by members of the Town's Great War Commemorative Committee who are planning a display and presentation on 'Saltash at War.' Starting with the building of the Norman castle at Trematon, through the Civil War to the two major conflicts of the 20th century, the display will show how Saltash has stood at the forefront through 'war and the rumour of war.'

Meanwhile the Writers' Group set up this winter, is already flourishing and welcomes new members on the second Saturday of each month at 11am. A new Saturday Book Club is forming and would-be founder members are invited to the library at 11am on 29th April and on the last Saturday of every month following. There really is something for everybody at Saltash Library.

BRIDGING THE TAMAR Visitor & Learning Centre

This Easter at Bridging the Tamar:

Saturday 8th April 2pm - 3.30pm - Storytelling with Clive PiG
Monday 10th April 11am - 12noon Guided bridge walking tour
Wednesday 12th April 10am - 11.30am - Anchorage tour
Wednesday 12th April 2pm - 3.30pm - Storytelling with Clive PiG
Friday 14th April 10am - 11.30am - Storytelling with Clive PiG

Guided talks Tuesdays and Thursdays 11am & 2pm, Saturdays 11am (free - pre-booking required)

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HOPPER TRIPS - April 2023

Wednesday 12th April
Tavistock

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Leave Saltash 10.30 Return 16.00 - Travel only £7

Monday 17th April
Helegan & Mevagissey

Explore the gardens offering mystery and romance visit the Heligan Kitchen for lunch you may prefer to visit Mevagissey with plenty to do including shops lunch in one of the fish restaurants or pubs

Leave Saltash 10.30 return 16.30 - Travel Only £12

Sunday 23rd April
Sunday Lunch The Burrough Arms Bodmin

A traditional pub very popular for Sunday Lunch set along the Camel Trail just outside Bodmin plus a visit to Trelawny Garden Centre for shopping or afternoon tea

Leave Saltash 10.30 return 16.30 - Travel Only £10

Friday 28th April
Tolgus Mill Cornish Gold

Award winning site offering both history and a unique collection of jewellery which combines heritage and contemporary Cornish designs also enjoy lunch in the Cornish Pantry

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Sustainable Saltash

A regular column on changes Saltash residents are making to confront climate and ecological breakdown.

There are no two ways about it. Of all the things that have entered my life as I try to live more sustainably, my bicycle is the one that has brought me the most joy and happiness. I was a reluctant convert. I was not a cyclist, I hadn't owned a bike in years. I have a daily commute to Derriford hospital. At the time I started, this also included dropping a toddler at the adjacent nursery and carting around a heavy laptop.

I couldn't have managed the extra load without an e-bike, so that is what I bought. I also can't shower at work, so didn't want to get too sweaty (though I have since discovered that they key to this is to simply slow down a bit, motor or no motor, as people did for generations). The extra initial cost was offset when my spouse, tired of watching me sail by in the next lane whilst he was in traffic, started cycling. We were able to go down to one car. We continue with one car and two cycles five years later. The bikes are long paid off.

There is some risk, road traffic can be dangerous. There is a need for great care, but knowing cyclists and pedestrians are injured on the roads doesn't incline me more towards driving. I must say that my experience of using the roads has overall been positive

and I think that things are getting better.

The immediate reduction in traffic-related stress and car expenditure was predictable, but what I wasn't prepared for was how dependent I would become on it in other ways. Cycling is wonderful. The intoxicating rush of freedom and joy you felt in childhood never leaves you. I sleep better. I eat what I want. I arrive at work each morning bang on time, having taken exercise, had fresh air and natural light, heard birds and maybe exchanged a few words with people. An analysis of data from the UK, published in the Lancet in 2009, showed that the mental and physical health improvements from cycling outweighed the risk of injury by at least 15 to 1. This feels right to me.

Bicycles are amazing machines. Their design has

barely changed in 150 years because they are so efficient and simple. They have been a huge force for emancipation and equality and they enrich lives. They are a remarkable human achievement. J.F Kennedy once said 'nothing compares to the simple pleasure of riding a bike'. I couldn't put it better. I started this because I want to tread a little lighter. I carry on, rain or shine, because it makes me feel a little lighter.

Marc Bramham

This column is a conversation starter for our whole community. If you have comments on the subject, ideas of your own or suggestions for future content, please do get in touch at sustainable.saltash@protonmail.com

Contact the Observer
01579 345699
07971 484872

Saltash Bowls Club

Saltash Bowls Club (SBC) takes on a Bowls England squad on May 9th to celebrate the Club's 100th year. The match is the first of five special centenary events being held at the Longstone Park green this summer.

The final 'birthday' event on 22nd August will be against Devonport Park, attended by the Town Band and local dignitaries - a rerun of the first match ever played at the Saltash club.

SBC was founded in 1923 (the same year as Disney) and has a growing membership of over 100 active players.

Thank You

Ruth, Nicholas and Richard White along with their families would like to thank everyone for all the cards the kind words and especially for attending John's funeral.

Special thanks to David Fowell of Pengelly Funeral Service, The Reverend Josie Lobb, The Reverend Bob Munro, Phil Taylor, the bellringers and members of St Nicholas and St Faith Church for all their help.

A total of £840 was donated for St Nicholas and St Faith Church and the Second Saltash Scout Group.

Saltash Mourns the Passing of Former Mayor David Kent

David's Civic funeral was held at St Nicholas and St Faith Church on January 9th 2023.

The incumbent Saltash Mayor, Councillor Richard Bickford and Mayoress, Mrs Sarah Bickford was in attendance; supported by Saltash Town Councillors, escorted by the shrouded Town Maces.

The Church was packed with Mourners of former Mayors and Councillors and Freemen of Saltash together with friends, colleagues and family.

David was a Saltash Town Councillor from 1976 until 1987 - and was Mayor of Saltash during 1980 - 1981 with his wife Maureen as Mayoress.

David was a stalwart member of the Saltash Community, and was associated with numerous organisations and charities until his passing.

The Eulogy of David's life was written by Reverend Bob Munro, and read in his absence by a close friend and colleague of David's - Jill Price.

Prebendary Reverend Brian Anderson officiated the service, and readings included "Crossing the Bar" by Tennyson, and hymns were "Eternal Father" and "Praise my soul, the King of Heaven".

The Last Post was sounded and the service concluded with the music "Always look on the bright side of life" - which was most fitting for David, as he lived his life celebrating this philosophy.

How to Preserve Your Relationship Through Money Worries

Money is commonly identified as one of the main reasons for conflict within relationships, and rising costs are making things even more difficult. We spend our money on what we value, but what we value is often different to the person next to us - including our nearest and dearest. This month, I'm offering some small actions you can take today to help prevent friction and foster healthier and stronger relationships to weather those storms.

Learn your differences

What do you do when you want to save but your partner likes to spend? A gentle way to open up a conversation could be through suggesting you take an online money personality quiz. These can help you identify your different attitudes toward money, describe the strengths and challenges of each, and offer tips on how to best manage your money traits.

Talk about solutions

Couples often argue over money worries because there's been a lack of communication over household finances. By having regular conversations about where you're at financially as a couple, you can begin to consider different solutions to the problem. Seek free, expert help if you've fallen into unmanageable debt.

Share responsibility

In many relationships, one partner may hold more responsibility or control over the household finances. Whilst this isn't a bad thing, it can create problems if the power over your shared finances leans too far towards one person. For relationships where one partner is always making financial decisions, can you come up with a system where each person has an equal say?

Involve your children

Lots of parents and carers will naturally want to protect their children from being exposed to the anxiety and worry that debt and money problems can create. Whilst we're not suggesting you place every fact and issue you're facing on the table, involving your children into some of the decision-making process, like deciding what to spend your budget on, can actually draw you together as a family through working together.

Get support

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) reports that nearly half (43%) of their debt help clients said they put off getting free debt help because they didn't think anyone could help. It's important to know that support is available and, in the UK, there are several free debt help organisations. Visit capuk.org or call 0800 328 0006 to find out more.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity with over 580 services across the country delivering debt counselling, money management education, job clubs, life skills groups and more. Visit capuk.org to find out more.

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Tamar Reflections

Water through the Centuries

Thanks to South West Water, and its various Water Board predecessors, Saltash is generally well provided for in the way of its water supply, and Saltash has had little disruption over more recent years given nationally reported droughts and water shortages; for which I feel Saltash has been very fortunate.

Victorian Times – Springs and Wells

I was looking at some of my Victorian postcards again recently (as I do!) and found a beautiful Victorian postcard of lower Fore- Street, with a lady walking down the street carrying her earthenware pitchers to fetch water from the Spring or Well situated under the wall at the end of the railings at the old Boscundle Cottages. The old cottages were replaced in 1971 where my dearest late friends the Butlers and the Rundles were housed in the rebuilt Boscundle Row

Saltash until the early twentieth century had to rely on Springs and Wells as there was no other source of water.

Plymouth Water Supplies

Coincidentally, I was also reading a booklet from my collection of Plymouth's water supplies and how Plymouth entered into an agreement in 1897 to bulk supply Saltash with clean water.

Going back Centuries

The ancient Borough of Plymouth of course sourced

water in one form or another going back centuries; indeed, reading the Plymouth water supply booklet was very interesting as it referred to Sir Francis Drake's involvement (Sir Francis Drake of course married a Saltash young woman - Mary Newman) and Saltash boasts the Elizabethan 'Mary Newman's Cottage' in lower Saltash, managed by the Tamar Protection Society (worth a visit!).

Going back to the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, Plymouth also depended on its water upon Wells and in time of drought upon Streams miles from the centre of the town. The water at that time was distributed with the aid of pumps and open conduits.

By the middle of the sixteenth century Plymouth had developed to such an extent that its existing resources were inadequate. As a result 'An Act of Parliament' enabled the Plymouth Corporation to construct a lead to convey water from the River Meavy to the town thirteen miles away.

Accordingly, although Sir Francis Drake had been Mayor of Plymouth in 1581 it was not until the Water Bill appeared in Parliament in 1584 that he took an active part. Sir Francis Drake was not only a member of the select Committee which considered and approved the Bill, but in the year of 1598 he entered into a 'composytion' to carry out the actual construction of the lead; Drake played a significant role.

Burrator Reservoir

By 1898 Burrator Impounding Reservoir was built and water piped from there.

From those early

pioneering days vast improvements were made during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with iron and cast-iron pipes being laid for water courses from Devon streams and thus, water distribution to areas of Old Devonport and Old Stonehouse and elsewhere in and around Plymouth.

There is so much more that I could write on the various Plymouth Water Companies and their mapping of numerous distribution sources, but I wanted to come onto Saltash's eventual supply from Plymouth.

Saltash Wells and Streams

As I say, Saltash had depended on limited water resources Wells and Streams. Indeed, the people of Saltash drew almost all of their drinking water from Wells; further, nearly every 'impressive' house of 'wealth' had a private Well, and there were at least six public Wells for mainly free use for Saltash residents, but in times of droughts there were small charges for collection of water from buckets.

Droughts

During droughts these Wells became dry, and for some days only one source of supply (Eil Well) was open to the public. Following intensive research and surveying, in particular by local Councillors, water had also been procured from an old mine Adit at Pill. There had been reports during these times of severe water shortages in Saltash, which were referred to as 'Water Famine' and the Borough Councillors at that time felt a great responsibility to address these issues as soon as possible.

Noteworthy, schemes incorporating St Mellion and Trematon were talked about and considered, but ultimately the volume of water was not significant enough to pursue. Some people were able to

source a Well and carry water from the Wearde Estate using small boats, but such measures were for the minority that had access to small boats.

Trematon had its own reservoir and later, there was a water holding tank at Longstone Park; both now long gone!

Burrator Reservoir was formed by two dams; one built across the River Meavy at Burrator Gorge and known as the Burrator Dam; and the other called Sheepstor Dam, built on the dividing ridge between the Meavy and Sheepstor Brook.

The water was of excellent quality and remarkably soft. The whole of the supply was sterilised, with frequent samples taken for analysis; this clean water was perfect for Saltash.

From Burrator Reservoir there were Service Reservoirs at Yelverton, Roborough, Belliver, Upper Crownhill, Hartley, Beacon, Kings Tamerton and Devonport Park.

Royal Albert Bridge

In October 1897 a large supply of water sourced from Burrator Reservoir, was piped to the Borough of Saltash and was supplied in bulk by a main carried by the Royal Albert Bridge across the River Tamar, in association with the Plymouth Corporation and GWR. The Plymouth Corporation was extremely helpful and courteous; and the longevity of such goodwill was enormously appreciated at the time by the Saltash Corporation; however, there were a few sceptics that doubted the long lasting sincerity of Plymouth Corporation, but they were proved wrong!

Tamar Road Bridge

Over the years, despite upgrading the systems in the early 20th Century, the pipes carrying the water across the Royal Albert Bridge corroded, and no longer used, however water is now pumped across the Tamar Road Bridge reciprocally in both directions for part of Cornwall/Devon supplies.

Water Authorities

From those Victorian times of Saltash's water supplies from Plymouth, there is an interesting record of water works in other parts of Saltash involving past authorities and associates - such as St German's Rural Council, Saltash Corporation, East Cornwall and South East Cornwall Water Boards, Carew-Pole and the War Department -

£6,000 Raised

Emma and Alice enjoying their Easter Egg cakes after the Spring Fete held by the Friends of Summerfields Park at Brunel Primary School to raise money for play equipment in the Park. Featuring a Nest Dive Lucky Dip and an Easter Egg hunt as well as pocket money toys, the event raised over £350 and plenty of laughter. Organiser Lisa Mortimore said: "I'm absolutely thrilled that we have managed to raise over £6,000 since August. Thanks, everyone, for your enthusiastic support."



Emma and Alice

Bishop Cornish Children filmed for Truro Cathedral's Easter Service

Choristers from Truro Cathedral Choir have been invited to sing at the Coronation of King Charles III in Westminster Abbey. It is a great honour, but their joy is matched by the excitement of children at Bishop Cornish Primary School, who have been filmed singing Easter songs as part of the Easter celebrations at Truro Cathedral.

all playing vital and active roles in areas of water supplies. These include schemes such as.... Burraton to St Stephens, Saltmill, Carkeel Camp, Wearde Camp and Wearde Cottage, Forder, Antony Passage and Trematon Castle, Wearde Coombe and Babis Estate; all these being in the early 20th Century.

South West Water

Of course since South West Water has been our more recent authority, there have been regular upgrades bringing our water system into the 21st Century, and also sourcing water from Cornwall Reservoirs, Wells and Springs.

So perhaps, when we turn on our taps, take a shower, pull the flush, water our plants, and clean our cars; moreover, everything else we may take for granted in the way of our water consumption - we can reflect upon how our forefather's water undertakings, sourcing and preserving; now coupled with modern techniques, skills, equipment and reserves - and truly acknowledge and appreciate their pioneering and ongoing genius in supplying us with our wondrous natural resource WATER

Oh dear it's raining! - Oh well, my water butt will soon fill up!

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New Town and Country Buses a 'First' for Cornwall

April will bring new opportunities to access bus travel as, for the first time in decades, areas such as Waterside and Forder will be linked with Fore Street shops, the train station and Saltash Leisure Centre by buses running three times daily. Other routes will link Saltash with villages such as Cargreen, Pillaton, Botus Fleming and Trematon, many of which have never enjoyed a regular bus service before, bringing improved access to the retail centre of Saltash.


Subsidised by Cornwall Council, the service will be operated by Red Bus using their 16-seater minibuses which are better able to negotiate narrower lanes and are more agile in areas such as Pillmere where full-sized buses cannot negotiate the road system. Red Bus has already become a familiar sight as it is operating the school service. It was Red Bus co-ordinator Mike Finch, together with Cornwall Councillor Martin Worth, who noted that the school buses were running empty one way each time and wondered whether they could be better utilised. The resulting collaboration is a 'first' for Cornwall and will be closely watched by others who might follow the lead of

Saltash.

Concessionary passes can be accepted on the buses as the new services have been set up by Plymouth Citybus, who have also paid for the ticket machines. In rural areas they will work on a hail and ride principle. The services have been licensed for a trial period of 12 months, and their continuation after that period will depend very much upon their usage.

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Just Thinking Aloud ...

Odds and Sods

Just how it came about that at some point last year I began offering some scribbles for this idiosyncratic publication will perhaps be a humorous topic for the future. For the time being suffice it to say that I have committed myself to regular input – unless or until I feel that I have nothing worthwhile to say. It goes without saying, of course, that Proprietor/Editor Mary has proprietorial and editorial rights over what does or does not appear. I am struggling for this edition – hence its title.

I would like to promise you that – until after the General Election that the powers that be keep threatening us with – I shall desist from any mention at all of matters political, on the grounds that you will suffer enough from mainstream blanket coverage, without me weighing in with my two pennyworth. Yet those of you who know me well are aware that any such promises I have ever made have all the reliability of a chocolate fireguard.

I have never voted communist or similar, though I must admit that as a student I did for a while belong to the British Soviet Friendship Society before I realised what it was a front for. In later years I have gone through Conservatives, Liberals, Social Democrats, Liberal Democrats, Labour and Green, though drawing the line at anything that smells of the far

right. Currently? Well, that's my business. If it interests any of you, after a lifetime of putting up with it I no longer believe that our "first past the post" system of voting is democratically credible. How can an individual or a party receive less than half the votes cast yet still come out on top? Barmy. Have a look online at the monthly forecasts of Electoral Calculus. Fascinating.

One promise I might be able to keep is to return to turning up in the public gallery for Saltash Town Council meetings – once the annoyance and irritation of ongoing post-covid symptoms have left me – to observe and reflect. Having been a town councillor in the dim and distant past, my kneejerk reaction to such bodies is not one of criticism. I know, as do my wife and children, just how much local representatives freely give of their "free" time and how much that can affect family relationships. That does not mean that I do not feel free to criticise on occasion, but I hope to do so empathetically.

Nearly finished. Do you share my annoyance with politicians limbering up for the aforementioned General Election who seem to imagine that we cannot see what is behind their pre-election promises? Why do they want to encourage us to believe that it is a matter of either or? Is there not another way of looking at our future?
Bob Munro

Plenty to Shout About



Barrett's Privateers at the Who'd have thought It

Photo by Mary Crawford

Built on a rock overlooking the Tamar and always the solid foundation of our Waterside community, Ashtorre Rock hosted a special St Piran's Day event, which coincided with its birthday and saw the community centre packed to capacity.

It was 32 years to the very day since the opening of Ashtorre Rock by the late and celebrated Cornish folk singer Brenda Wootton. So it was fitting that One and All joined in Cornish song together to celebrate St Piran's Day and the centre's birthday. In her opening speech Ashtorre chair, Lynn Marsh, welcomed all but particularly those who

had been present on that opening night 32 years ago.

Following their spirited singing, revellers were more than ready to enjoy a Cornish birthday lunch of pasties and saffron buns, while scones were served in the afternoon. Jam first, of course.

Later that evening pub-goers in more than 50 pubs across Cornwall raised their celebratory voice together at precisely 9pm to sing the iconic Cornish anthem Trelawny in the Trelawny Shout. The tradition of 'shouts', or informal singing in the round in pubs, is centuries old in Cornwall, but the first Trelawny Shout was held in 2015, by volunteers with the Cornwall

Community Foundation. Since then, charity collection pots have been filled, and people have sung their hearts out knowing that down the road, across the moor or in some distant harbour or rock the celebration of community is being echoed.

Revellers at the Who'd Have Thought It in St. Dominic were led in the Trelawny Shout by Barrett's Privateers, who will also be playing in the Saltash Songs & Shanties Festival from 22nd to 25th June this year. Visit the Saltash Observer's Facebook page for a video of the energetic singing of Trelawny Shout at the Who'd Have Thought It. There is plenty to shout about.

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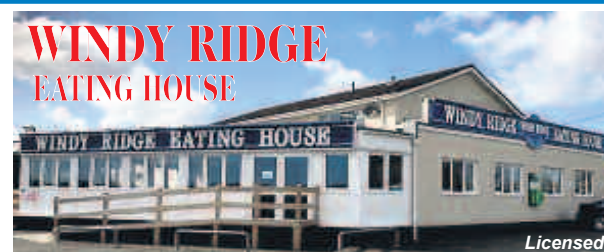
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