



SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

August 2010 - Issue 217

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The Saltash and District Observer has come of age! It is eighteen years since with the headline 'exclusively yours' we broke new ground in providing the local community with its own community newspaper dedicated exclusively to providing local news, publicising local events and organisations and promoting local businesses.

Over those eighteen years while we have, with our local supporters, gone from strength to strength, we attribute our success to holding fast to those principles and above all supporting the local community – but to continue to do so it is essential to retain the local community's support.

The last eighteen years have seen many changes in

continued on page 2

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PE Department Rated Outstanding!

Following the Ofsted inspection of saltash.net community school's PE department in June 2010, staff and students were delighted to receive an Outstanding judgement. saltash.net prides itself on its caring ethos and strong sense of community spirit which is not just focused within school but reaches outwards from a local to an international level.

This desire for achievement for all has led to partnerships on a global scale and the most recent international link being one developed with a Nigerian school through partnership with the British Council and the Youth Sports Trust. Opportunities for students at saltash.net to be creative and to achieve their full potential are numerous.

Comments made by the Ofsted Inspector, whilst specific to the PE department, reflect the spirit of the school as a whole.

"The extra-curricular and enrichment programmes are extensive"

"The Theme Day enabled

boys and girls to make exceptional progress in their creative work, communication and teamwork"

"Staff know individual students extremely well and do everything possible to meet their needs and aspirations."

"Teaching inspires students to want to be the best they can."

"Outstanding relationships exist between students and staff."

FLAG TO FLY WHEN TROOPS LOSE LIVES

The Union flag will fly at half mast on Saltash Guildhall when a Cornish serviceman or woman loses a life on active service.

The Town Council has agreed a request by the Saltash and District Branch of the Royal British Legion that this tribute be afforded the sadly continuing number of local military personnel falling in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

They were to liaise with the British Legion as to the details of when this should take place.

YOUR OBSERVER IS EIGHTEEN YEARS YOUNG!

continued from page 1

and around Saltash, and your Observer has changed with the times. Encouraged with our award winning early years, we have produced a book promoting our local countryside and further books are well into the planning stage. We expanded from black and white into full colour an expensive undertaking but one that we considered essential to provide you with the best possible local community paper.

More recently, it is just a year since we went worldwide and we know that our Observer website means that your local paper is read as avidly across the world as within the town. This has also given us the opportunity over the last few months to create a photographic gallery for May Fair, for the Regatta, and we are continuing as events take place to build up our archives together with back numbers to provide you and future generations with an online archive of historical interest.

We strongly believe that being a community newspaper means giving something back to the community. You will

read elsewhere in this issue of our 18th anniversary fun charity fund-raising efforts and indeed every 'landmark' anniversary has been marked with parties or other events created to share with our readers and advertisers a sense of community and raising money to put back into the community.

Above all we have continued from edition number one to prioritise local businesses as far as possible over those out of the area. We are always delighted to accompany advertisement features with editorial and photographs to give fuller information particularly on newly established businesses or those celebrating for various reasons.

We look forward, with your support, to continue doing so for another eighteen years or more.

Also of course, we have enjoyed promoting events in and around town from the well-loved Regatta, May Fair and Christmas Celebrations through to the very special 'one offs' such as VE Day Anniversary and Brunel's Birthday and his bridge's 150th

Birthday Celebrations.

We are also pleased to offer a service to each current Mayor and to our county councillors, opening our columns to them to ensure that you are aware of what your elected councillors are doing on your behalf.

Many small organisations as well as businesses need to publicise events and this cannot be done completely free of charge. Although we do our utmost to give space to everyone at times a small charge is necessary, particularly to those whom we are aware have an advertising budget, in order to ensure the viability of your community newspaper.

If your business or organisation has enjoyed space in our columns and we have benefited your event through the last eighteen years we trust that you will be keen to see the Observer continue to flourish and grow. We aim to flourish as "one of a kind," a truly independent and locally owned newspaper that is packed with local news and events and that, as you repeatedly assure us, you enjoy reading from cover to cover. But we do need your support to make this happen. We look forward to continuing to provide advance publicity of local events, to attend these events with cameras ready, and to provide post-event coverage. We can however only undertake to provide this support for those who support us. To those whom we know have a publicity budget but use us only to provide free editorial because, as not a few say to us, "everybody reads the 'Observer'," we will have to say 'no.' With your support we will be delighted to continue to attend and support local events and promote local businesses.

We are anxious not to encourage out of town competitors to local businesses into your community newspaper but without ongoing local support we may have to consider this.

Finally and most importantly as we reach our coming of age and look back over the past eighteen years, we wish to thank the many of you, advertisers and readers, who have supported and encouraged us, some of you throughout our existence from day one. We still get a thrill out of seeing the paper come together each month and hope that we may long continue to do so. To help ensure this please, those readers who wish to see an independent community newspaper packed with news of the town, check out on those businesses that support us, you support them, and ensure that they know you read the 'Observer.' And as our eighteenth year enters our nineteenth we can all look forward to our next landmark birthday charity fund-raising celebrations for our twentieth and twenty-first years of your 'Saltash Observer.'

**Cecily Baker
Charity**

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CORNWALL COUNCIL
& our PL12 community
For Observer readers
From Councillor Bryan Preston
Burraton Ward Saltash



The biggest story at the moment is the intention of the Council at Truro to set an emergency budget in November or as soon after the Comprehensive Spending Review as possible. To set another budget half way through the financial year is pretty unprecedented. The argument is that the Council will face big financial cuts and it needs to take action to deal with it

Areas already identified include rationalising the property the Council owns and leases. Integrating some services to save money and making savings by improving the procurement of goods and services.

It would however that these measures alone could make the savings being talked about, so it is more worrying that they are talking about 2000 job losses. That can only affect the front line services that are provided in our town by the Council and is very bad news indeed.

Although no decisions have been made, your Councillors will need to keep a close eye on any proposals and certainly make sure that a still Trurocentric Council doesn't give us a bad deal.

We have already lost free swimming for the over 60's and there is a proposal now not to replace the grit and salt in the roadside bins unless the Parish and Town Councils pay for it. It was also interesting to see the recent announcement that United Mines the landfill site in west Cornwall will stop taking waste in October this year. Mark Kaczmarek the local Cornwall Councillor and member of the Council's cabinet, was happy to say how this will mean big

reductions in traffic and an improved quality of life, whilst giving no mention to the huge increase in traffic and declining quality of life for people in south east Cornwall when thousands of tons of rubbish is transported the length of the County to the Connon Downs site near Liskeard. .

Another proposal to hit us especially because of our proximity to Plymouth is a likely increase in car parking charges. Some time ago the old Caradon District Council set a 10p for the first hour charge for many car parks, and if you had a residents card it was 5p. I know that this was very popular in the town by both residents and traders. For someone like me who lives outside the town it meant I could pop in to do my shopping and support the local businesses. The likely charge for the first hour is now to be 50p, bad for both shoppers and traders and just encouraging people to shop outside the town where parking is free. This is especially important in Saltash and Torpoint with the lure of Plymouth across the water.

I have recently had complaints that new bags have been provided for people to buy to put out their garden waste and that they are woefully inadequate and split too easily. As people have to pay for these they should be good enough to do the job and I will be taking the issue up with officers.

Don't forget that you can always contact one of your Cornwall Councillors at our surgery at the One Stop Shop at the Library. Every Saturday 10 until 12
Bryan Preston

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Congratulations to Mary

FROM THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR....

Firstly: a happy 18th Birthday to the Observer and many congratulations to everyone involved in producing it. Whilst in general the weather hasn't been quite as glorious this month, it was absolutely stunning for the Observer Duck Race in Seaton, perhaps demonstrating that the sun shines on the righteous!

To update you all on our staff at the Guildhall: we are currently expecting Ray Lane to start as Town Clerk on September 6th. Until then Debbie Ashton, who was helping us out as temporary Clerk for a day a week, is now working full-time. Debbie, along with our other hard-working and valued staff, is a tremendous help to all of us, and please say hello if you see her at the Guildhall or around!

From 26th June to 30th July Merryr and I undertook 14 engagements. Within Saltash we attended the Strawberry Tea at St Nicholas and St Faith followed by the Brunel Summer Fete – very kindly opened earlier that afternoon by Deputy Mayor and Mayoress Colin and Marilyn Oakes. We also attended the Concert by the Ladies Choir and Loughborough Youth Band and a reception for the Chernobyl Kids.

I also officially attended an experimental 'Meet the People' at Waitrose, a Presentation to Blackwell Bate Accountants, the Bishop Cornish Sports Day and the Mayfair AGM; and was made extremely welcome at a meeting of the Saltash Royal Naval Association.

Outside of Saltash we attended the Service of Thanksgiving for the Armed Forces in Truro, the NSPCC Cornwall AGM in Penzance, the RAF Service of Thanksgiving on the Hoe (along with one of my Mayor's Cadets, Chris Tandy of the Air Cadets) and the afore mentioned Saltash Observer Duck Race in Seaton.

The two events during Armed Forces week were particularly poignant to me, recognising the number of people, including many from Saltash, who serve our country in times and places of danger. I'm sure that we all recognise and appreciate the sacrifices they make to keep us safe, including those made in Iraq and Afghanistan in recent years.

Finally I went along to the Cornish Constitutional Convention in Truro, where I expressed our grave concerns at



the idea (in the papers recently) of joining parts of Cornwall to parts of Devon or Plymouth for MPs seats. Saltash Town Council is writing to the boundary commission expressing strong opposition to this, and I have also started a Facebook group 'Keep Cornwall Whole' which all are welcome to join.

As you read this column Saltash will be embarking on a month containing not one but two excellent festivals – the Saltfest from 20th-22nd August promises to be a fantastic long weekend of music including Blues, Rock, Folk, Jazz and World Music across five venues around the Waterside with three headline events at Livewire including The Damned. Some of our wonderful local bands will also be involved and Saltash Town Council is proud to be sponsoring this event which will hopefully be the first of many!

As soon as you and your ears have recovered from that excellent experience we'll have 'Making Saltash Greener' – taking place from 11th – 26th September. Thanks to the previous hard work of Saltash Environment Action (from way before I got involved, so not blowing my own trumpet!) Saltash is now a transition town. Saltash in Transition (SiT) has decided that a single event isn't enough to 'unleash' the idea of transition of Saltash. Therefore there will over a dozen events to cover every interest, from food to fashion, quizzing to shopping and sewing to cycling, and I urge to all to go to at least one! You should not be able to miss the advertising over the next few weeks...

The idea of the transition

movement is that oil and gas supplies and reducing just as humanity has become most dependant on them. Couple that with the threat of climate change in the near future and we could be in trouble. Transition ask 'how can Saltash not only rise to these challenges, but also achieve a happier more close-knit community?'. It looks at energy, food, transport, work, leisure, and every other aspect of our lives, to try to make them both more enjoyable and better for our planet and all living things.

Transition Fortnight will include events centered around all of these themes – for example Sunday 12th September will see a free-boot-sale – like a car boot sale but where you swap instead of selling (and everyone who comes gets one thing completely free), and the big showpiece will be a Recycled Fashion Show at saltash.net community school on Thursday 23rd. Friday 17th will also see a Fore Street experiment with over 20 shops planning to extend opening to 7pm accompanied by music entertainment: please all go along and if possible buy something to support your local Fore St!

TOWN SQUARE A FOCUS OF PROPOSED SALTASH REGENERATION

A town square as a focus for a vibrant Saltash serving a variety of civic and leisure functions, and a chain of market stalls through the town are among proposals in a recently released strategic action plan for Saltash.

These plans were put to local traders and business people at an open meeting of Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Industry held at the China Fleet Club.

The action plan has been commissioned from an independent firm of consultants by the town's Gateway Community Interest Company whose managing director, Les Williams, put it to the Chamber meeting.

The town square, he explained, would serve a variety of functions including a meeting place, an entertainment centre with stage, arena, and television screen, a venue for civic events, an information centre, and a refreshment area.

Several possible sites had been considered and discussions would take place with local residents at an early stage.

Fore Street could be transformed with a covered shopping area, all-weather canopies, and an increased 'café culture' aimed to make it a 'destination town.' Widened pavements could accommodate colourful market stalls. Suggestions included part-pedestrianisation or a multi-use shared space for pedestrians and vehicles.

Traders gave a guarded welcome to the proposals. While anxious to see footfall

increase in the town and empty shops be taken up, many were concerned that the plans showed the loss of five much-used parking spaces on Fore Street. Short term parking availability needed to be increased, not reduced, appeared to be the general feeling. Traders also commented on a loss of trade when Fore Street is temporarily pedestrianised during May Fair or the Town's Christmas celebrations.

For Saltash to be a true 'destination town' the Town's priceless asset of the Waterside needed to be linked to Fore Street by public transport, it was agreed, especially with a proposed enhanced water taxi service likely to bring more visitors to Saltash pier.

Mr Williams promised to take on board the comments and suggestions of traders.

The presentation to the Chamber of Commerce had been the first consultation, there would be meetings with residents likely to be affected by any proposed town square before full public consultation took place this Autumn.

HOUSING SURGERY MOVES HOME

The weekly "surgeries" held on Thursday morning for those with housing problems have been relocated.

Instead of being at the Guildhall they are now continuing at the Cornwall Council "One Stop Shop" in Saltash Library off Callington Road. The same degree of advice and assistance should continue to be offered.

SEATS ARE SUB-STANDARD

A number of seats around Saltash are broken or badly in need of repainting, the Town's Civic Amenities Committee has noted.

Those in Fore Street are the responsibility of Cornwall Council who have been asked to mend broken slats and repaint them.

Those in the cemetery are to be checked with a view to appropriate remedial work being carried out as needed.

Repainting is to be done by the Town Council of the seats for which they are responsible in Huntley Gardens.

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TOWN COUNCILLORS CLEAN UP



Dirty business carried out by Saltash Town Councillors was observed in Fore Street late one afternoon.

The Mayor and Mayoress had joined other councillors and their families in cleaning up a long empty shop as part of a campaign to enhance Fore Street and hopefully encourage new business into the town.

The grime of what was estimated as between ten and fifteen years was cleaned up by councillors from the long empty former gas showrooms strategically sited at the foot of Fore Street. The Town's Community Interest Company together with the Town Council have negotiated with landlords of empty shops to have them made available to

promote the Town's organisations.

The Tamar Protection Society was anxious to mount a display in the former gas showroom similar to that of Saltash Heritage which is attracting much interest in the former Marianne's dress shop. Other organisations showing an interest in publicising themselves through these shops include the Royal British Legion, Youngstagers, Rotary, Saltash in Transition, Saltash College and saltash.net school, while young people have offered to decorate a wall inside one such shop.

"We also aim to show these premises as being usable as a shopping unit", explained one of the council working party Cllr. Richard Bickford. "The best result would be somebody wishing to move into the shop."

The WaterSide Project

20 local artists have been working with artists, Richard Allman and John Forster, exploring the waterside theme and the waterfront at the heart of Saltash and elsewhere.

The project began in May with two workshops with Richard and John, when the group spent time exploring composition and drawing and photographing images from boats and piers to pebbles and rusty chains. Since then, the group have developed their early sketches into paintings and collages that reflect very personal responses to the structures and objects around the tide line and to people's impact on it.

Nearly 1000 people visited the group's Painting the Bridge exhibition in 2009. This new show again combines exciting work rooted in the community with professional paintings.

More than 40 new paintings by Richard and John will be on show. Richard Allman lives in Plymouth and is well known for his large pen drawings and paintings recording the changing face of Plymouth. John Forster lives in Saltash. He designed the Brunel 200 community mural at the Waterside but is best known for his abstract, mixed media paintings.

The exhibition runs from 21 August to 5 September at Ashtorre Rock at Saltash Waterside, where the centre encourages Saltash people to explore their environment through painting and drawing.

After the exhibition, the work will be shown on Saltash's on-line art gallery, TheBigSaltashPictureShow.com

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Saltash's Very Own Free Music Festival

It is getting close now – Saltash's very own free music festival, organised to please every musical taste and to bring the generations together to a variety of musical venues around Saltash Waterside.

Over two and a half days of a late August weekend the area between the Sailing Club and the Royal Albert Bridge, in the heart of old Saltash, will host each and every form of music from the renowned band 'The Dammed' (the only one for which an admission charge is made) through to classical.

The programme is fast taking shape and for the latest news on the feast of entertainment in store, visit the new website on saltfest.org.uk.

The free festival will be opened at around 6 pm. on Friday 20th August by the Mayor of Saltash, Cllr. Adam Killea.

Saltfest will then swing into full musical action for the

Friday evening with the first of around seventy various performing artistes and groups going live at six closely linked venues. Saltash Sailing Club, the Livewire Youth Centre, the 'Union' and 'Boatman' inns and the Ashtorre Centre will each be hosting musicians, as will a large marquee erected for the weekend on the adjacent green.

The performances will continue all day Saturday and into Sunday. It is hoped that a truly wonderful atmosphere will prevail and that everyone will be able to relax and enjoy their own brand of music, and better still perhaps sample some other style and expand their musical pleasure. With bands, choirs and soloists specialising in everything from heavy metal through blues and jazz, folk and classical, all should be able to find something to please, to chill out or to thrill to. An art display, arts and crafts stalls, a choice of food and drink,

together with the excellent refreshments offered in local hosteleries, should all enhance the Saltfest atmosphere.

This free festival has been made possible through generous support by Saltash Town Council, Spinnaker and Waitrose. The organisers wish to thank all sponsors as well as FEAST- a new programme to make great art happen in Cornish villages and towns.

Look out for the posters and banners appearing throughout August, check the website for the latest details on the musical line-up, and come along to experience a new "first" for Saltash which, it is hoped, will be established as a regular annual happening for the South West.

Observer Telephone Nos
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CAR CRIME RAMPAGE AND SPEED MONITORING

While local crime figures continue to fall overall one night of car crime led to twenty-four individual cases of damage reported to motor vehicles.

On the night of June 23rd and 24th damage was reported to cars from the villages of Trematon, Pillaton and Blunts through to the Warfelton Crescent, St Stephens Road, Lynher Drive and other areas of Saltash. Police are keen for any information regarding this car crime spree.

Despite this the total monthly crime figures for the area fell to 85 reported offences as against 115 for the equivalent period last year. There were four thefts from motor vehicles and one burglary from a dwelling. A suspect has been bailed in respect of this last offence.

Saltash police have also been monitoring speeding through the town as part of Operation Everest, the police day of action, on 23rd June.

During two hours in New Road 22 drivers were found exceeding the speed limit, on Callington Road there were 14 in one hour, on Fairmead Road 4 in one hour and in Glebe Avenue one in one hour. During this operation one driver was charged with having no insurance and several individuals found to be wearing no seat belt.

Sergeant Andrew Dunstan, who brought these figures to the Town Council's attention, advised that further speed monitoring in the town was planned with the aid of 'Speedwatch' volunteers.

He was advised by Town Councillors of issues at Salt Mill, where younger children were being intimidated by older teenagers, and at Glebe Avenue tennis courts where residents reported rowdy behaviour and bad language. He promised that police would check out on these.

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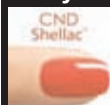
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A Service to the Motorist Unique in the Area.....

Local motorists can now benefit from the full facilities offered by a newly established garage which has grown from an idea imagined by two young trainees in the motor industry several decades ago. It came into being when they, and another long-standing friend, spotted the perfect premises in which to make Moorland Auto Solutions a reality.

Keith Tozer and Andrew Carmichael had been friends since attending the same infants' school. As they bussed to work together while Keith was an apprentice at Turnbolls Garage and Andrew a trainee accountant at Mumfords Garage they fantasised about starting a garage business together.

Subsequently Keith devoted his life to building up knowledge and experience of the motor trade while Andrew followed his father into the family business of helping the hard of hearing but through their marriages and raising of families they remained in contact. Andrew went on to establish the nationwide business 'The Hearing Room' with its base in his home town of Saltash but he always retained his keen interest in mechanics. Meanwhile while water-skiing twenty years ago Andrew met with Ian Aquilina and found that they not only shared an interest in things mechanical but they also both knew Keith Tozer.

All three remained in close contact when what were evidently the ideal premises for a spacious and fully equipped garage became available on the edge of Saltash earlier this year. Keith, Andrew and Ian seized the opportunity to acquire them and fulfil their long held ideal of offering a unique service to the motoring public.

All three directors of Moorland Auto Solutions have their own individual experience to offer the enterprise. Ian has been working at Babcock Marine on the development of a new super yacht, Andrew has developed his working life creating and expanding a Saltash based nationwide business and Keith has a lifetime of experience encompassing every aspect of mechanics and motor cars. Moorland Auto Solutions is now fully opened and, its three directors proudly believe, is able to offer an experience of service to the motorist unique in the area.

A Considerable Achievement for Moorland Auto Solutions...

MOT Testing to Include "Class 7" Larger Vehicles

For a newly established business to satisfy the demanding requirements which result in its being granted authority to carry out full MOT testing is a considerable achievement. Moorland Auto Solutions have not only done so but have extended this to include the full range of "Class 7" larger private and commercial vehicles.

Moorland Auto Solutions have, in a few short months transformed a spacious former factory unit into a garage which amazes all who see it, including a 'greatly impressed' AA man who recently brought in a crashed vehicle. It's many services already include MOT testing of all vehicles extended to cover long wheelbase transits, 4 x 4's, motor homes and up to 3 1/2 tonne trucks. The highly

qualified staff aided with the latest of diagnostic equipment are among the few in the area to offer such service to such a full range of vehicles.

It is well worth a visit to Moorlands Lane (off the Liskeard Road, near the 'Ploughboy') to examine the sumptuous premises that three businessmen have recently opened as the town's latest commercial enterprise.

The motorist will first find ample and secure parking and storage facilities for their vehicle before stepping into the fully carpeted reception lounge with adjacent comfortable waiting area.

An inside window commands a view across the clean and spacious workshop area where highly trained staff are working on a variety of vehicles.

Moorland Auto Solutions are proud to service and repair any vehicle including any make of private car up to the larger private and commercial vehicles which they are authorised and experienced to test for MOT certification. Any service to the motorist from brake, exhaust or tyre replacement to crash repair or valet servicing will be attended to promptly and to the highest of standards. Cars can be collected and returned if required from anywhere within the area.

In the unfortunate event of accident a simple telephone call to Moorland Auto Solutions can take away all concerns and ensure that every detail will be professionally resolved. This will cover collecting the vehicle through negotiation with insurers, pursuing a claim

and carrying out the necessary remedial work to perfection. Any vehicle brought in for any kind of service will be returned fully washed, hoovered and with a full safety check report. Owners can, if they wish, even protect their vehicle for the road ahead by purchasing a future MOT test guarantee to cover components in case of future failure – ask for details.

Moorlands Auto Solutions currently employ three full time experienced and qualified staff alongside their three directors. Already interest in the business is

such that they are anticipating taking on additional qualified staff and offering an apprenticeship, aiming to boost local

employment opportunities as a new and flourishing Saltash business.



Andrew Carmichael
Director



Ian Aquilina Director



Keith Tozer Director

High Quality Used Cars

An ever expanding range of high quality used cars will be on offer as Moorland Auto Solutions build their business on the edge of Saltash.

This is the aim of its three directors and already they have seen a steady turnover from the wide range of family and sports cars that they have been proud to display in front of their newly adapted premises.

They intend the range to include commercial vehicles and top of the market 4 x 4's as well as the family runabout.

Whatever the range all vehicles will have in common that they have been fully inspected and brought to the peak of mechanical perfection by the experienced and qualified Moorland Auto team before being offered for sale. As a result extensive sales warranties will be offered on each vehicle, together with MOT warranties which the sales staff will be pleased to discuss. Sales staff will also be pleased to discuss

arrangements for part exchange if so required.

Already the interest shown indicates that there will be a fast turnover so it will be well worthwhile making regular and frequent visits to Moorland Lane to check out what is currently on offer and, if interested, request a full examination and test drive.

Andrew, Keith and Ian, the three directors of the latest business, in the local vehicle market, are determined to establish a deserved reputation for reliability and value and look forward to welcoming any driver interested in expanding their motoring horizons.



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THE DAY WE LAUNCHED A THOUSAND DUCKS

There was music and dancing by the sea the day we launched a thousand ducks. What was intended as the Grand Finale to our eighteenth anniversary Saltash Observer charity fund-raising fun (though as you may read elsewhere we now have another fun event on the go) brought together a number of our readers and friends together with local celebrities to the beach on a sunny Sunday July afternoon.

We were especially grateful to Wreckers' Morris and Plymouth Morris Men for allowing us to share their big day. They had been dancing their way through South East Cornwall all day, starting at the 'Edgcombe Arms' Cremyll at 10.30 that morning. We caught up with them at the 'Copley Arms' Hellenford where within ten seconds our editor Mary found herself dancing and shaking a tambourine. She was swept off her feet from behind, soon found herself sitting on the shoulders of two powerful Morris men and by the time all moved on to Seaton beach she had become an honorary morris man with the name of 'Rose!'

At Seaton we were pleased to welcome a number of our readers who had 'bought' some of our thousand ducks for the afternoon race. We were especially delighted to welcome

honoured guests the Mayor and Mayoress of Saltash Adam & Merryn Killea, Sheryl Murray M.P., County Councillor Richard & Mrs Janet Pugh and Lynn from Helston with friends Tippy and John. Lynn had first become involved with the 'Observer' when we were active with last Autumn's 'Children in Need' appeal, she heard editor Mary on Radio Cornwall and made a bid for our auctioned picture of Pudsey Bear. She has since become a good friend of the paper, selling ducks for our race in the Helston area and we were delighted to have her as our guest for the afternoon.

All of our guests and many visitors enjoying the sunshine at the beach were delighted to be entertained by our favourite singer Janet Keith performing at Seaton Beach Café. The open air café proved the perfect ambience for her laid back

music on a Summer's afternoon.

Wreckers Morris and the Plymouth Morris Men then took over and entertained the gathering crowd with the last of their dances in a busy day's schedule.

The Morris dancers and all of our Observer guests then went upstream to where Councillor Pugh and the Mayor and Mayoress helped launch a thousand ducks in the river.

Some ducks were soon stuck and the Observer's gallant Ace Reporter Martin leapt into the river sliding over stones and under the bridge helping the ducks on their way to the finishing line armed only with a Morris dancing stick. He was joined nearer the beach, by Morris men, supporters, and young visitors urging the ducks on the last leg of their journey. As they passed the line numbers were taken so that prizes could be awarded to those of our readers who were lucky in selecting first, second and third ducks, last duck, stuck duck and dopey duck.

We all returned to the café where singer Janet soon had many of us joining in, dancing including some cool ten year old dudes up from the beach. The atmosphere, as the sun started to set on the golden sands and azure sea, was truly fantastic.

Sadly Janet had to leave to pack for the holiday that she had delayed for a day in order to entertain us. We then adjourned across the beach to



the 'Smugglers Inn' where the band was still playing.

A true afternoon and evening to remember, as we are sure all who were there will agree. More importantly the thousand ducks that we sold at a pound each will greatly boost our fund raising for local charities, the distribution of which we will of course, be accounting for through forthcoming 'Observers.'

Special thanks go to Nicky Barry, owner of the Seaton Beach Café for her superb hospitality, and to our aforementioned celebrity guests. Our Mayoress, looking especially glamorous in her Summer dress and hat, boldly raised her dress to paddle out and rescue ducks. Sheryl Murray MP had been forewarned and arrived complete with Wellington boots!

Our singer Janet was clearly greatly enjoyed by all present and we must also thank our helper Liz who has supported all of our fund-raising events this year and who was stalwartly selling ducks until all ours had gone, and then on behalf of the Morris Men. As well as thanking all who came we would also like to express our appreciation once more to all of those who bought a duck and who ensured a fun and successful event and a great boost to your Community Newspaper's local charity fund raising.



Come on Dopey Duck!



Mother Duck

Top right: Oops!!!!..... she was determined to pluck the ducks from the water, well done Merryn you did a great job
Right: MP Sheryl Murray she Ducked and dived wellies 'n all

GRAND DUCK RACE WINNERS

First: Mary Grant **Second:** Brian from The Union Inn **Third:** Sheryl Murray MP (who asked us to put the winnings back in the Charity pot) **Last Duck:** Tony from The Two Bridges **Stuck Duck:** Neil Murray (who put the prize back into our next raffle) **Dopey Duck:** Roger Adams

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DINING OUT WITH A DIFFERENCE FOR OBSERVER CHARITY



So much speculation, fun and excitement has our mammoth 'Observer' duck race and beach party created, as you may read elsewhere in this paper, that we were reluctant to let it die down and to close our paper's anniversary fun-filled fund raising. Something equally fun but totally different, we decided, was needed to keep the momentum going.

While carrying out a champagne photo shoot on a railway bridge, as the bubbles rose so did an idea which is starting to burst on a number of our friends and supporters.

Many of our readers will be familiar with the televised 'Come Dine with Me.' We decided to perform our own Saltash Observer slightly different take on this to provide some nights to remember and some cash for our local charity funds. We set about gathering groups of fun loving extroverts, many unknown to each other, together with several quieter friends who, in their words, were 'caught unaware and bamboozled into joining,' and once roped in could not escape.

We already have a number of groups of four people, one including our editor Mary, who are about to, or have already,

started entertaining each other to a three course dinner and fun evening. One host has promised "egg and chips" others we know are looking forward to practising their Cordon Bleu skills on an unsuspecting audience. Each of the four takes turns to play host to the other three, each of the three guests while hopefully enjoying the cuisine and general ambience will secretly write comments and award points all to be left within a sealed envelope.

Some groups parties are well under way, others yet to start. Once every group has fully dined and wined each other Mary will collect the sealed envelopes and arrange to bring one and all together for a fun filled social get-together at a local venue. Group members will be welcome to invite family and friends and indeed your 'Observer' will be inviting all readers who wish to attend what we are sure participants will make a true night to remember.

We will be opening the sealed envelopes to see who goes on to round two and will also be reading out the comments from the

complementary to the critical and the deferential to the disparaging regarding the standard of cuisine and social skills.

If any reader has been encouraged by this to put together a group of four would be diners, it is not too late to get involved. Participation so far has been by word of mouth but the more diners there are, the more fun the event should be. Contact Mary by e-mail on marye.crawford@virgin.net or on 07971-484872 and she will be pleased to provide a pack and full information.

This all started as part of our eighteenth anniversary years charity fund raising



celebrations but we decided it was something not to be rushed so we will continue the fun well into our nineteenth year and give regular updates in your Saltash Observer.

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OUR SINGER BY THE SURF

Having realised how the tones of our star singer Janet Keith were appreciated at our Charity Fun Night in the "Railway Inn" earlier this year we knew that she would help ensure the success of our Grand Beach Party and Thousand Duck Race in July.

Unfortunately, she was due to fly out on holiday to Spain on the day of the race but she kindly postponed this by a day in order to entertain our guests and the many beachgoers who were attracted by her music to the Seaton Beach Cafe that afternoon.

When not teaching at Plymouth's Riverside School, Janet's greatest pleasure is to entertain one and all with her wide ranging repertoire which promises to please every taste.

The soft songs of Summer relaxed upon a beach gave way, as the evening progressed, to a livelier beat that got beachgoers aged from 10 to – well considerably older, boogying away by the Beach Cafe. Thanks again to Seaton Beach Cafe hostess Nicky Barry, to Dave and Teresa of the "Railway Inn" for support, and to Janet. Those who enjoyed her music – and those who missed out on it and have yet to appreciate it, can enquire of her about bookings on 01752 208262.



Singer Janet Keith meets MP for SE Cornwall Sheryll Murray and Saltash Mayor & Mayoress Merryn and Adam Killea





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