

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

August 2011 - Issue 229

Incessant trumpet of trade; armoury of fearless truth without fear or favour ...

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MAYFAIR MIGHT MOVE FROM FORE STREET

Saltash May Fair which has been held in a stall-lined Fore Street for thirty-four years may be seeking a new venue for its 35th anniversary in 2012. This follows what committee members described as widespread criticism and abuse from those in Fore Street, resulting in a number of key committee members deciding no longer to involve themselves in May Fair.

"It would be a struggle to stay on the committee and be abused as we were this year by traders, stallholders and even councillors," one resigning

committee member said. Former Chairman Peter Stephens, standing down from his post after twenty

years of committee and around six years of chairing it, thanked all of those who had worked hard to provide the town with what all who had attended had clearly enjoyed as an excellent event.

"We have moved forward tremendously over the last three years both financially and pro-fessionally," he stated, adding however, "Our success has been tainted for me by the aggravation and problems while endeavouring to produce something special for the town as a whole.

We will have to think if we want a Mayfair in the future or not and whether Fore Street traders want stalls in the street or not. The new Committee will have to think whether to have it in Fore Street or not." He added "It would be easier to hold it elsewhere but personally he believed that there was a tremendous atmosphere in Fore Street during May Fair."

"The criticism was not from the public, all of those who came along to enjoy May Fair seem to have had a whale of a time," added resigning

Treasurer Mike Nottage who described some of the personal abuse he had endured in his voluntary role. "Many traders enjoyed it, many traders did not."

There were messages from shopkeepers saying that May Fair was excellent for trade and to keep it in Fore Street. Others had complained to the committee particularly about those stallholders who did not pay rent or rates blocking off the shops, other complaints were of too many charity stalls. "You can't win," commented one committee member.

All Fore Street traders had been invited to attend the Mayfair Annual General Meeting and retiring Chairman Peter Stephens expressed disappointment that not one had turned up.

"I had hoped that they would come forward with positive criticism to take Mayfair forward. Those who criticise the committee might like to step forward and help run Mayfair themselves," he added.

Urging that Mayfair

continue, either in Fore Street or another venue, such as the suggested Warfelton Field, Mayor Cllr. Colin Oakes said, "We moved to Saltash in 1986 and with our first May Fair the following year realised that Saltash had something special to offer everybody and it was clearly a great place to bring up a young family.

The community spirit is unmatched by any other town and this is largely thanks to those who organise such events.

I spoke to a number of stall holders this year and all said that this was the best event ever and that they had taken more money largely for local charities, than ever before." He expressed especial thanks for "The tremendous work that retiring Chairman Peter Stephens has put in over many years and I am sorry to see him stand down, though I understand why."

Despite many committee members failing to stand again enough came forward to form the basis of a committee to organise the 35th May Fair over next May Day weekend.



Ooh Argh Me Hearties!!
See page 5 for Regatta News

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and lifestyle

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They will firstly be having to consider the venue for this event.

More members would be more than welcome to share the load and help in the organisation of the Town's every popular Spring event.

It is, we are assured, fun and rewarding as well as hard work, though the more members there are, the more this work can be shared.

Anyone interested is invited to attend any committee meeting, the first being on Monday 15th August at 7 pm in the Maurice Huggins Room, Victoria Gardens.

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Visitors can particularly benefit, discovering so many of our local delights within its pages.

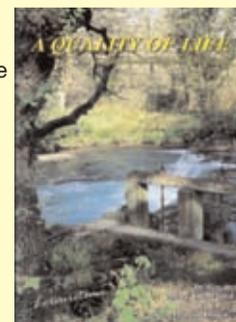
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ESSA FILES

This time last year I was in the midst of setting up the 'Keep Cornwall Whole' campaign to fight against the idea that Cornwall and Devon would have to share at least one MP. We made a lot of noise and attracted a lot of attention, but ultimately the campaign didn't succeed: there will be at least one 'cross-border MP'. However the campaign does have two legacies:

The first is an increased awareness of the importance of protecting Saltash's Cornish identity – flags of St Piran fly in Fore St, the Town Council letterhead proudly proclaims 'Konsel An Dre Essa' below 'Saltash Town Council' and a lot of Saltash residents, including me, put 'Cornish' on their census forms. I have also noticed a lot more awareness of Cornishness amongst the students at school which is excellent to see: I have recently joined the Cornish Educational Charity 'Cornish Quest' as a trustee and working to promote the awareness of Cornishness amongst the young of the whole of Cornwall is one of our key aims. Of course I am not originally Cornish myself but one of my favourite things about Cornish identity is that it's inclusive, not exclusive – it's not against anywhere else and you don't have to be born here to act or feel Cornish – you just have to like it here, like the identity and culture and want to preserve it. The second legacy of the campaign is that this autumn the boundary commission will

publish its specific recommendations on MPs seat and we'll find out whether they plan to put Saltash in with Plymouth or to 'cross the border' higher up. The Town Council will not be shy is fighting to keep Saltash firmly with Cornwall and the public will also have the opportunity to put comments in: watch this space for details!

Kernow bys byken! (Cornwall for ever) Adam Killea

Flying the Flag for the Tamar Bridge

A flag to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Tamar Bridge which falls this October will be flown in Saltash.

A site near the Brunel bust at the end of the bridge slip road is to be located. This will match a similar flag to be flown on the Plymouth side of the bridge.

After the Bridge anniversary celebrations are complete the flagpole will be used to fly the Cornish flag of St Piran.

CORNWALL COUNCIL

& our PL12 community

For Observer readers

From Councillor Derek Holley
Pill Ward Saltash



Rightly or wrongly Cornwall Council has made a fairly monumental decision which will affect us all. It has decided (or at least the ten men and true that comprise the Council's Cabinet has decided) to go ahead with one large, central incinerator to burn the county's rubbish. The lucky community that will have the pleasure of this enterprise is St Dennis, a smallish place in the "clay country" which I expect feels pretty peeved at the moment, understandably. Financially it will get the county, in other words you and me, off a massive financial hook, so I suppose from the rates point-of-view it is a good idea.

The alternative, if you disregard unfortunately insubstantial other proposals such as mass composting or digestion, is an horrific combination of landfill taxes from the lovely E.C. and probably broken contract legal costs from SITA, who organise our waste disposal for us. County officers estimate three hundred and twenty million pounds would be the sum we would have to find so I suppose the incinerator makes financial sense. Work to acquire land will start straight away and I expect a lot of people will be putting their houses on the market. It's an ill wind though that blows nobody any good because quite a few permanent jobs will be created. Eventually this plant will mean most landfill waste tips will close. Quiz question: where in Saltash was the last landfill tip sited and what is there now?

Closer to hand another incinerator is raising its ugly head. Having seen off an incinerator that was proposed across the river at Emesettle, another one is proposed by our neighbours Plymouth in the northern dockyard, so it is a lot closer to home. I have more concerns about this one because of its position inside a major city and because it is relatively close to us. Technically it is not going to get us anywhere to complain about emissions from the chimneys because the technology is apparently well proven across Europe and the level of noxious gases such as dioxins is considered safe. In fact one of the good lines these companies trot out is to say something like...."your garden bonfire gives off more emissions than our plant in a day". Perhaps it does but again in principal I think these sorts of waste plants should be sited where the emissions, if any, fall or are blown by the south-west winds away from centres of population and where the rain can wash them away into the soil or sea where natural

processes will break down the (mostly) organic chemicals concerned. So I do not agree with the siting and have written my reasons and submitted them to add to Cornwall's comments in the consultation process. You too can comment to go along to the Guildhall and ask to see the documents and plans there. Do not be put off by my comments above. Make your mind up and write an email in support or objection. More hot air, or in this case, gas. To misquote Sergeant Pepper, "4000 holes in Saltash, Cornwall". A complaint from a nice constituent last Sunday was the straw that broke the gas main's back. The lady quite rightly pointed out that there were too many holes around the town, not enough people digging in them, too many red lights stopping people looking into them and what was I doing about it? Accordingly and belatedly I started enquiring as to why there were so many holes hanging about for so long and why in particular traffic lights have been in operation with minimal work going on to justify them. After a circuitous but interesting tour of county officers the organ grinder himself rang me today; this was an apologetic gentleman from Morrison's, a Western Gas company contractor who listened to my quite basic comments and explained that there was a "resource" problem. On further enquiry this turned out to be a lack of properly trained workmen and in fact the ones you have seen at the bottom of local holes are from North Wales, Newcastle, Yorkshire and other such Northern Places. It seems there are no suitable gas workmen to be found any closer. I had noticed a lack of much activity on Mondays and Fridays and this manager confirmed this may have been to do with travelling. The good news: I have sought and received an assurance from this helpful manager that Callington Road will be finished first, and hopefully dreckly, before any other roads are opened up. The bad news: there is an awful lot of work still to be done in Saltash as every old gas main of over 30cm width and within 30 metres of a house is being replaced – this is about 4 kilometres in total. So lots of disruption to come! And none of it the fault of the council...hurray!

It is August, warm at last, blackfly all over my runner beans, blight all over my potatoes, children all over the streets looking happy (I wonder why) and so everything is normal. Proper job! *Have a lovely summer!*
Derek Holley, Saltash Town and Cornwall Councillor.

Saltash on Target for Super-Fast Broadband this Year

Saltash will receive a super fast broadband by the end of this year, the Public affairs Manager of BT has confirmed.

At a meeting with Sheryll Murray MP Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Industry members had expressed concern that after Saltash had been promised to be among the first Cornish towns to receive this facility it was now apparently to be put back until Autumn 2012. Mrs Murray had promised to look into this.

She was able to confirm from BT that Saltash is a part of the national rollout of super-fast broadband, this being why the exchange was not mentioned in a recent announcement about those exchanges included in the Super-fast Cornwall Broadband Programme.

BT will be deploying a combination of Fibre-to-the-Cabinet (FTTC) offering speeds of up to 40 Mb/s and Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) delivering speeds of up to 100 Mb/s.

These speeds allow customers to benefit from the super-fast upload and down load of rich digital media files and an enhanced online experience when gaming, social networking or watching streamed videos, their press release reported.

The new exchanges which include Saltash serve more than 1.5 million consumer and business premises with Saltash being among the majority targeted for upgrading by the end of 2011.

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TESCO PLANS HELD UP BY HIGHWAYS

"Town says yes to Tesco," we reported in your Saltash Observer last October, yet plans for the major supermarket at Carkeel have yet to progress to Cornwall's Planning committee.

The 250,000 square feet supermarket was given a guarded recommendation for approval by Saltash Town Councillors last Autumn subject to conditions including Highways approval and the resolution of traffic issues.

It is these traffic issue that are delaying the scheme since the Highways Agency is seeking a complete redesign of the roads on to the site. Extra lanes to feed on and off the Carkeel roundabout have been suggested.

"It was intended that the application be put to Cornwall's July planning meeting. It is now unlikely to go to either the August or

September meeting," Cornwall Councillor Bob Austin advised a member of the public when the question was raised at Saltash Town Council.

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FROM THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR...

Summer has arrived at last and so have the hanging baskets in Fore Street and I hope you are all enjoying the lovely warm weather. The street clean that I mentioned in my last column, is due to take place during the first week in September, which is good news.

We have been busy visiting the Summer Fairs and Fetes at Brunel Primary School, Bishop Cornish School and Forder, where we were entertained with singing, dancing and bands and all were great fun. We have also attended the Saltash Team Ministry Strawberry Tea and the Age Concern Cake Bake, both very enjoyable afternoons and an opportunity to meet and talk to the residents of Saltash.

We were entertained by the younger generation at the Air Cadet BBQ, who I must say were extremely attentive and polite, and which was a very enjoyable evening. The end of term concert at Saltash.net Academy was another fantastic evening of music from both the students and ex-student David Doidge and fellow students from the Royal Welsh Conservatoire of Cardiff. We were also treated to excerpts from the Wizard of Oz which will be performed later in the year and having seen the cast in action, we can't wait to see it!

A very special appointment in our calendar this month has been to wish a happy Birthday to Beatrice Roberts, a lovely lady who has just celebrated her 102nd birthday.

I asked her the secret of long life and she replied that



eating vegetables (she has a good appetite apparently), drinking Sherry and having a good laugh, kept her going! I will always remember her cheerfulness and her advice.

Another highlight was the concert at Saltash Wesley with three local male choirs including our own Burraton Male Choir, who, I have to say were fantastic. The evening was well attended and the music was first class.

Saltash Regatta was a great success this year. The weather was perfect and I don't think I have ever seen so many Pirates on our shores! This event seems to get bigger and better every year and for those who missed it, Marilyn and I danced on the Green and sat in the stocks, it was great fun and everyone joined in the spirit of the day. Saltash Town Council came second in the Five Towns rowing race and lost to Torpoint, who won again this year. Well done Torpoint, we'll get you next year!

Brian Whipp (our Town Crier) led the procession dressed as a fantastic pirate, from Victoria Gardens to the Waterfront followed by numerous members of organisations in Saltash.

Other activities this month, on a local note, have been an invitation to the re-opening of the Shado Centre which, following funding from Viridor, the Town Council and Cornwall Council and practical support from Saltash Rotary, the members now have a building to be proud of and can enjoy their new surroundings. We were made to feel very welcome and enjoyed the evening very much.

The Saltash Branch of the Royal British Legion is celebrating its 90th Anniversary this year and we were delighted to attend the dinner at HMS Drake to mark the occasion. The Legion has always been very supportive of our Town, taking part in numerous events including the Civic Service and of course, the Remembrance Service which, this year will be held at the Saltash Wesley Church.

The members of the Saltash Royal British Legion are extremely committed and work tirelessly for their cause and it was wonderful to see them and numerous other organisations, giving their

*Captured in the Stocks...
Photo by Kind permission
of John N Pickering*

time freely at the Regatta, to raise funds for their charities.

This brings me finally to the point that has struck me most since I became Mayor in May. During the past three months I have met more people than I would probably meet in a normal year. Every person that is involved in our organisations, whether they are volunteers working with various charities within our town or parents and carers that help run PTAs or indeed, teachers and assistants, they all work incredibly hard. I have had the privilege of talking to some of our most senior citizens and many young people who are incredibly enthusiastic about what they do and what they are achieving and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in Saltash who is involved in some way, with helping others to fulfil their hopes and dreams.

*Cllr Colin Oakes
Town Mayor*

CONUNDRUM CORNER...

Taking the initial letter to the one word answer to the following nine questions can you re-arrange them to make a nine-letter word?

- 1 What was the name of Fletcher's cell-mate in the Television Prison series Porridge?
- 2 Which fruit is a cross between a Tangarine, a Grapefruit and an Orange?
- 3 Amalgams are alloys containing which chemical element?
- 4 In which American State is the Grand Canyon found?
- 5 The town of Rugby in Warwickshire is situated on which River?
- 6 Which did Admiral Nelson lose?
- 7 In George Orwell's Animal Farm what was the name of the dictatorial pig?
- 8 Who was the French composer of Clair de Lune and La Mer?
- 9 A Conchiferous creature has what distinctive feature?

Answers on page 6

AS YOUR 'OBSERVER' ENTERS ITS TWENTIETH YEAR...

With this August's edition your Saltash and District Observer proudly enters its twentieth year of bringing local news and views to your door while enabling local business to promote themselves to our enthusiastic readers.

Over the last two decades we have worked hard to ensure that each and every month you, our loyal readers, have received a paper packed with details of events and happenings in and around our lively town. We have sought to ensure that we have remained a true community newspaper. We have maintained the promise made in our first edition of being locally owned, giving you full local news, and above all promoting local businesses. Our reward has been the enthusiasm with which you have greeted each edition and assured us of how you look forward to and welcome each month's 'Observer' reading it avidly from cover to cover as being "the paper that really covers local news and events."

We look forward to entering our third decade of promoting the Saltash community and its businesses. But to enable us to do so we need your continuing support. We have, throughout the past two decades, continued to promote local businesses above all others and urged our readers to support Saltash and the wide variety of friendly local businesses in and around the Town. To enable us to continue so doing we need these businesses to support their community newspaper, the paper that those in and around Saltash really read and look upon as a source of local information. If you have not

already done so please feel free to contact our Editor, Mary to discuss how we can best help to promote your business. And to all our readers - please continue to ensure, in these difficult economic times, that you use local business, keep money flowing within the community, and help ensure that Saltash remains the friendly, vibrant Town that we have come to love over the past two decades of the 'Observer' and which we look forward to serving a decade or more to come.

Drive Dead Slow in Cemetery

Speeding cars in the St Stephens Cemetery and Allotment areas have been causing concern, the Town's Burial Board has been told.

A speed restriction of 5 m.p.h. is to be introduced, it was agreed, and a notice be placed accordingly in the new notice board soon to be erected.

This board will also show a ban on dogs within the Cemetery area.

Salt Mill Improvements

A project whereby an estate is improved while young people develop or work together is to be put into effect of Saltash's Salt Mill.

Local police community support officers together with the Guinness Trust are currently planning out the Town's own Saltash Dream Scheme Project.

The scheme can include any such activity as decorating, gardening or litter picking. Young people who dedicate time to this are rewarded with a day trip or other activity.

Young residents of Salt Mill aged from 8 to 16 are invited to involve themselves in community activities on Tuesday 16th August. Parents and other tenants of Guinness Trust properties are welcome to attend.

The Saltash police community support officer team have also been busy organising a fun day for children on the Pillmere Estate. Due to take place on 3rd August, ball games and other activities are aimed to ensure a fun day for all, with funding being sought towards a healthy lunch for participating children.

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Library may be used for Planning Perusals

Use of Saltash Library could be enhanced and the public given better access to local planning issues if planning applications could be viewed there.

This was the suggestion of a member of the public at the Town Council's question period and the Council has agreed to follow it up.

"The Council has supported the library with the emphasis on use it or lose it," a local citizen reminded Town Councillors. "Having planning applications there for public perusal would reduce work for Guildhall staff and give greater public access since the library is open for longer hours including Saturday mornings."

The idea had been considered when the Cornwall Council One-Stop Shop opened, Councillor Merryn Killeya replied. "We were informed that they would have paper copies of plans but this never happened."

It was agreed that the suggestion would be pursued and the County's Planning Department be asked to make this facility available.

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Real Ale will Flow at Festival on Waterside

A pint of natural, living beer lovingly pulled by hand pump or tapped from a cask and served at room temperature is a uniquely British tradition enjoyed by generations at village inns or town taverns. Yet forty or so years ago it seemed in danger of extinction as the 'big five' breweries of Britain exerted a stranglehold on almost every pub and forced them all to sell what real ale lovers looked upon as tasteless electric-pumped fizz.

The comeback of real, often locally brewed ale, is the result of one of the most successful consumer mass protests ever and Saltash residents and visitors will be able to sample the results as Saltash's own Real Ale Festival on the Waterside over the weekend of 10th and 11th Saturday.

"The Union Inn," the town's own historic real ale free house, is offering a feast of live entertainment as well as foods to accompany what is anticipated to be the widest variety of real ales every to have been offered within the

town. Over the weekend a changing array of ales will include the best from the West, favourite local brews from Devon and Cornwall's many micro brewers. There will also be a guest appearance of many renowned and some lesser known beers from other parts of Britain seldom seen hereabouts.

There will be a full programme of live entertainment throughout the period of the festival. On the Saturday the line up of bands will be continuous from midday to midnight with

performers changing hourly to offer a wide choice of music to suit all. The packed programme of music will resume on Sunday from midday again, this time until 6 pm. This will enable real ale festival participants to then participate in the Union Inn's ever popular Sunday Evening Super Quiz to conclude the event.

Entertainment will take place outside if fine where there will also be a range of foods from our professional teams, including all your old fast food favourites such as burgers and hot dogs, from TD Event Catering, who we see at many of our local events with their range of hot Donuts, Crepes, Ice Cream, fresh Coffee and lots more.

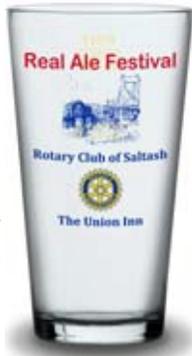
We are also very pleased to be offering A Taste of the Caribbean from Timary Spice showing us a few of their specialities, if you like your food a little spicy then come along and try it out for yourself.

The event is being organised by Saltash Rotary Club in

conjunction with the Union Inn, in aid of Erme Valley Riding for the Disabled Group. This charity was chosen by Brian Pritchard, Landlord of the "Union," his disabled daughter Kelly having benefited from the facilities that they offer to disabled riders of all ages and abilities, boosting their confidence and giving them an interest in horsemanship.

It is anticipated that members of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale, will be attracted to Saltash Waterside for the weekend, where all will receive, for an initial payment of £5, a commemorative glass and their first pint of real ale to fill it!

"We thought Saltash, with all the many social events taking place in the town, lacked a beer festival and decided to provide one as a charity fund raiser," a Rotary spokesman told the 'Observer' "If it proves a success we will build upon it with an even better Festival next year."



Chernobyl Children Warmly Welcomed by Saltash Youth

It is now twenty-five years since nuclear disaster struck the community of Chernobyl in the former Soviet Republic of Belarus. A quarter of a century on the radiation results in children having a limited life span – but a lifespan that can be extended and a quality of life enhanced by a visit to a community such as Saltash.

Local families have each year hosted Chernobyl children who have rejoiced in clean air, healthy food and fun unimaginable in their land-locked homeland. This year children told that they would be taken to the beach at Newquay enthused, "It is a dream come true."

The seaside visit was just one of a variety of treats laid on this Summer for fourteen children aged ten to eighteen accompanied by two adult escorts. They were greeted as every year by friendly host families and then taken to a welcome party at Saltash Fire Station. Young Saltash Fire Cadets their own age together with local firemen organised the welcome party with a barbecue, fun in the "Walking on water" bubble (unseen before by the Belarusian visitors) and a chance to mix with their young Saltash contemporaries. The following night they were invited to Wesley Youth Club's Friday night disco followed by an array of



entertainment and days out.

While enjoying the barbecue the children especially enjoyed tasting fresh fruit since imported fruit at home is prohibitively expensive and families are forced to eat home grown produce contaminated by ongoing radiation.

The dangers are such that when a Belarusian boy fractured an arm on a previous visit his X-rays showed so many previous breaks that the casualty team suspected serious child abuse. They were assured, no, this is to be expected of the brittle bones from which all Chernobyl

children suffer.

These visits can only continue thanks to the generosity of local businesses, individuals and host families. Thanks are due to Tamar Fruits for provisions, Specsavers for free eye tests (impossible at home), The Cornish Maize Maze and all other businesses who have helped. Many Saltash residents and visitors helped with a massive collection of around £250 during Saltash regatta.

Especially thanks go to Saltash Firemen and particularly the young people of Saltash Fire Cadets and Wesley Youth Club who do so much for those of their own age so less fortunate than themselves – their welcome was, as ever, outstanding. Above all thanks go to helpers and host families. Anyone willing to help or with suitable accommodation to offer next summer is invited to contact Vanessa on 01752 848033. There is no payment – save seeing the smiles on the children's faces and knowing that one has added a potential two or three years to their young lives.

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£5 buys a commemorative glass and first pint!

10 Real Ales
Music (Blues & Jazz) and Food throughout each day
Traditional entertainment 3 - 4:30pm each day

Coach Park site suggested

Increased numbers of visitors to Saltash could be attracted by means of providing adequate parking for coaches, the Town Council agreed.

As last month's "Saltash Observer" advised possible sites have been investigated with a view to coaches being able access them and a minimum of parking spaces being lost.

The Co-op car park has been identified as a suitable location. Two coaches could park alongside close to the Keast Mews access to Fore Street. Just seven car parking spaces would be lost.

The proposal was to be submitted to Cornwall Council for approval.



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**Pirates of the Tamar
Theme made
Entertainment for All**

Pirates of the Tamar was the theme for the 2011 Saltash Regatta and dozens of children together with many adults including some of the weekend's entertainers entered fully into the piratical spirit. The fun began with the Saturday parade the full length of Fore Street and down to the Waterside. Dastardly pirate Brian the Whipp with his partner, otherwise to be seen as our Town Crier and consort, headed the Parade in fine pirate costume, and his inspiration had encouraged many of the Town's children to make similarly splendid efforts to adorn full pirate rig. Once on the Waterside the Mayor, Cllr Colin Oakes, congratulated the organising committee on their efforts and those who had piratically dressed for the occasion. Awards were presented to the best dressed pirates and the weekend of racing on the river and fun activities ashore was under way. Wreckers Morris and Crooked Tempo Samba, both popular and familiar to Saltash audiences, started the packed programme of entertainment. From the start the crowds were there to enjoy the feast of activity and entertainment on Waterside, Jubilee Green, and between. The road under the bridges, closed to traffic, was lined with stalls selling an array of fancy foods as well as arts and crafts and much more beside. More stalls lined Jubilee Green beyond which there was an array of children's entertainment as well as another performance arena. Children could also enjoy fun on the seaside courtesy of a quantity of real sand imported to Saltash beach for the occasion. Highlights of the weekend entertainment include Pirate Theatre, with their live action performance vying against stern redcoats, as well as leading their audience in stirring sea shanties. Owdayado Pirate Theatre also entered into the nautical spirit. By contrast The Hornets offered a true Cornish band

sound, Michael Campari proved a popular crooner and the Roosters, fulfilled their promise as a "Good Time Band." Jill Cole and Kev Burns brought pleasure to Jubilee Green, while youngsters revelled at Punch and Judy and all ages marvelled at a welcome revisit from teenage Unicycle Sam. Other wonders were performed by Elfie the Jester and Zag's magic show. The warm weather, especially on the Sunday, guaranteed a busy queue for ice creams and the open air bar, while all food stalls appeared to do good trade as the hundreds of visitors from Saltash and beyond found so much to keep them entertained that they chose to come early and stay late. One of the best crowds seen on the Waterside brought satisfaction to the hard working organising committee now faced with the hard task of ensuring that the 2012 Regatta is even better.

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**Fun and Excitement in River
Rowing Events**

With so much to see on shore it was sometimes easy to forget the array of racing activities that brought around a hundred and fifty crews to compete in pilot gig racing in Saltash's nationally renowned Regatta. Those who lined the foreshore could enjoy a feast of rowing races with teams from across Cornwall, Devon and beyond. The Prince of Wales Cup too was a major draw, the historic trophy (lost for many years) was hotly contested as always by Royal Naval rowers from HMS Raleigh. Yet the main attractions afloat were as always the Three Towns race of the Saturday and the Race to England on Sunday. The Three Towns race saw our Saltash Town Councillors compete against their civic counterparts to Torpoint and Looe. An entanglement with the Looe team near the start set them behind but they managed to finish a creditable second to Torpoint. The Sunday race to plant and then retrieve the Cornish Flag from the English shore of the Tamar saw, as ever, a goodly number of teams competing, many in fancy dress. There were the seven dwarfs (well, five of them) pirates, police, oompah loompahs, all entering into the hotly contested heats with much dirty work at the rowlocks. Following the knock-out heats, the exciting finals saw 'Blood sweat and Beers' come



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Visiting Rowers Recorded Warm Welcome



The Thames Rowers enjoying the hospitality of Saltash Sailing Club

After rowing their way round Cornwall members of the Lower Thames Rowing Club were more than ready for a run ashore in Saltash and to be welcomed into the Saltash Sailing club.

Club members aged from 17 to 80 made up those who arrived in the Tamar to complete the final stage of their annual rowing Summer holiday. The club, based around Southend on Sea is, as far as they can establish, the first rowing club on the Thames Estuary for over a hundred year.

This Summer they had enjoyed coastal rowing around Coverack in an alarming rolling swell, as well as a more gentle pull up the Fowey river to Lostwithiel and back.

During their three day stay in Saltash, where they reported on a warm welcome from the Sailing Club and Caradon Pilot Gig Club, they rowed up to Calstock as well as down to Plymouth Barbican and across to Cawsand.

"We really appreciated how everyone was so friendly - a special big thank you to Ann 'at the bar' and to Steve Kent of the big club for permission to moor and leave boats and tackle overnight," the visiting rowers recorded. "The hot food in the Club house was fantastic. We really appreciated the hospitality that we received in Cornwall - we will certainly return next year!"

Now visit...
www.saltash-observer.co.uk

Ex Student brings Welsh Magic to Wizard Singers

The powerfully emotive strains of the 'Les Mis' showstopper 'Do you hear the people sing?' opened the end of year concert at saltash.net.school with the choir of fifty-five singing in perfect harmony and clearly enunciating each word. So it was of some surprise to the capacity audience to learn that they had never sung it before that day.

The amazing rendition of that, and two other choruses to follow, was the result of an all-day workshop led by former saltash.net student David Doidge with fellow students from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. The evening concert which thrilled the audience of students, staff, parents and friends, included solos from the Welsh visitors as well as many singers and instrumentalists from the school. David Doidge's hands especially whizzed across the keyboard in a vibrant rendition of a Chopin Scherzo while Reisha Adams' soprano voice proved equally matched to the intricacies of Gounod's 'Jewel Song' and the richness of 'Showboat'. Tenor, Will Helliwell similarly ranged from the magnificence of Italian grand opera with Verdi's 'Rigoletto' to the rich romance of 'West Side Story'.

The musical magic of the visiting students seemed to inspire not only the chorus but to add to the delight brought to all by a wide range of student soloists. Instrumentalists ranged from guitar, piano and clarinet to the lesser heard bassoon played excellently by Clara Oldfield. Four students came together on guitar, violin, piano and drums, with vocalist to perform a memorable rendering of 'One day like this.' Year seven's Kalum Willmott is to be especially commended for his lively and unaccompanied singing of an Irish folk song which met with exceptional applause.

Yet the greatest applause resulting in a final standing ovation that included Mayor

and Mayoress Colin and Marilyn Oakes, was for the mass choir of the 'Wizard Workshop.' So called because they were starting rehearsals for 'The Wizard of Oz' as the School's Christmas Show, they gave promise of the treat that they have in store then with a performance of the Cowardly Lion's song 'If I only had a nerve.' But what brought the house down and brought about the standing ovation was the finale 'Don't stop believing.'

In her vote of thanks to one and all including in particular the three 'Role Models' from Wales, Head Teacher, Isobel Bryce justifiably described herself as 'bursting with pride' for her students. And after a hand-clapping resume of 'Don't stop believing' few could have left the School without renewed belief in Saltash's young people.

Next Christmas, the 'Wizard of Oz' promises pure magic!!

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Saltash Club enjoys its Summer Sails . . .



Laura took the tiller in the Youth Helm race!

“Djinn Seng” Raise £1,400 for Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Trust



“Musk Ox” and Djinn Seng, both teams from Saltash Sailing Club do well in Prestigious Race

Saturday 16th July saw the 10th anniversary of the Eddystone Charity Sailing Pursuit yacht race, (actually to the adjacent “Hand Deep’s” Buoy to the west of the Lighthouse) and back to the Race line at the Royal Western Yacht Club. The race has been organised each year since 2001 by the Eleanor Creeke Charitable Settlement (ECCS), the aim being to assist charities which strive to “improve the Human Condition”.

Since its inauguration, the race, including this year’s sponsorship (through the ECCS) has raised over a

staggering £255,000 for the charities chosen by the competitors! This year’s total alone topped the £49,000 mark!

Skippers and crews vary from cruising family members, through regular sailing club racers, to highly experienced offshore racing crews. The idea of the pursuit race is that each yacht is handicapped according to its potential time to complete the course, slowest boats starting early (7.30am) through to the out & out hi-tech offshore racing machines starting as late as 11.20am. Then it is a 26 mile sprint out into the English Channel and back... and first over the line wins! There are a couple of twists in this

The lively activity shared by Saltash’s sailing enthusiasts at sea and ashore has been highlighted to the “Saltash Observer” since our editor Mary has become an enthusiastic, if still relatively inexperienced, sailor. While joining the crew of the 34 foot Sigma class “Sofine,” thanks to Skipper Brian, she has shared nautical experiences with fellow crewmen Ken, Cairn, Mike, Bill Jo, Gary and latest recruit Laura (16) who proudly took the tiller at the “Youth Helm” race.

She has also come to realise how much goes on around the friendly Sailing Club headquarters and among its members on the Tamar and out at sea. Having become a regular participant in the Club’s Thursday night series, she was persuaded, somewhat apprehensively, to join in her first overnight race, the Commodore Cup, spurred on perhaps by the champagne breakfast promised to returning mariners.

The “Commodore’s Cup” which has been recently revived as an overnight Yacht race, is a 42 mile challenge in which crewmen have to exhibit their navigational and seamanship skills. Mountainous seas with waves crashing about the bows proved a challenge indeed for the initiates such as Mary and Laura in this year’s event.

First home was “Imara” skippered by Rob Davies followed, in order by ‘Xtorsion8’ with Dave Oliver, ‘Moon Dragon’ Mark Hanley, and ‘Shirley Jean’ Don Taylor.

Last in was ‘Sofine’ captained by Brian Ridgway and with editor Mary among her gallant crew, all of whom appreciated the round of applause traditionally awarded to the final finisher as well as the Endeavour award which they received as they arrived just in time for the champagne breakfast.

We are pleased to share with our Observer readers glimpses of some of the activities enjoyed by those in and around our friendly and busy Saltash Sailing Club.

Saltash Crew Lost Sail in Mid Atlantic Race



Walter & Bill on Growler after the first leg of the Journey

Mountainous waves and biting cold winds that ripped a mainsail causing urgent at-sea repairs were among the challenges facing two senior members of Saltash Sailing club on an Atlantic yacht race.

After a stressful life of drawing cartoons for the “Sun” and other newspapers Bill Caldwell had decided to exchange this for an easier lifestyle when sailing on a race to the Azores and back in 2007. Since then he has competed in a member of

international races including the 2008 ‘Torbay Triangle’ to Ireland and France and the 2009 ‘Biscay Challenge’ to Spain which he won outright.

But the “Azores and back” was a challenge he was determined to relive and this year he persuaded fellow Saltash Sailing Club member Walter Hooley to forsake his own yacht “Lady de Vie” in Greek waters and join him on the “Growler,” a Westerly GK34 foot long yacht, one of the first cruiser racers designed and built by Ed Dubois in 1980.

The two man crew were first crews to endure the conditions.

First prize went to a 20ft Hawk “Fluency”, a fantastic achievement for such a small yacht on the day. A couple of regulars from Saltash Sailing Club did very well too, both gaining positional advantage through excellent sponsorship as well as sailing ability Musk Ox” coming 11th, raising and winning a total of £1,020 for the Charlie Sumption Memorial Fund, and “Djinn Seng” coming 2nd, winning an additional £700 prize money for the Derriford Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Trust. This, together from very generous sponsorship from main East Cornwall sponsors: Roger Young Land Rover Ltd, Champion Groundworks Ltd, WH Bond Ltd and James Lockyer Associates Ltd brought their total to £1,400.

Further details and pictures of this event can be found at www.eddystonepursuit.org

in their class and sixth overall well into the nine day outward voyage when disaster struck and the mainsail ripped. A running repair with rivet gun served until the wind built up and the sail ripped again. “Fortunately, Walter is a world class sail trimmer with a great reputation,” said Bill, when safely home in Saltash. “Although we completed the voyage with just a small storm tri-sail to catch the wind we moved almost as fast as before.”

The crew of two had used their satellite phone to ensure that Bill and Walter’s wives Sylvia and Margaret would fly to the Azores to meet them carrying in a suitcase a full size mainsail for the return voyage. The families were able to tour the Azores, including gazing at sulphurous pools of volcanic warmed water and eating a dinner cooked in thermally heated pits before the long race homeward.

“Having despaired when we lost the mainsail and thought we were out of the race we eventually managed to be third in our class both ways.” concluded a relieved Bill. “I was enormously grateful that a yachtsman of Walter’s reputation allowed himself to be tempted away from his idyllic Mediterranean lifestyle to sail the surprisingly cold Atlantic

weather.” He recalled, “We are both in our sixties and sometimes with the roar of wind in the sails and crashing of waves there were communication problems. We planned to have twin T-shirts printed worded “I can’t hear and he doesn’t listen!”

Asked if he would do the race next time, in 2015 Bill decided “Yes but I might just sail out to the Azores and take off from there.”

Walter, a doyen of the Saltash Sailing Club for thirty years has enjoyed crewing with many illustrious club members including late Commodore John Lillie and Aubrey Long with whom he won a race from the Canaries to St Lucia in the Caribbean in 1991.

He has also competed in and won many cross channel races and since spending much of his life with wife Margaret in Greece has won his class in the Ionian Regatta.

“Since Bill invited me, last Summer, I have been building up to do the Azores race with him,” he added. “I think we did very well given the misfortune of the sail ripping.” And he too said “I might do it again.”



Back in Saltash Bill shared his experiences with the Observer

Awards for Teaching Excellence at School Farewell Assembly

The degree of excellence by which saltash.net academy students are taught has been recognised by no less than three members of staff being confirmed finalists in the National Teaching Awards for the South West Region. And one of them is among the three finalists up for a national award.

Students and staff at the end of year assembly joined in applauding Paul Horrell and Eileen Sloggett as they went forward to collect their commendation certificates from Head Teacher Isobel Bryce. Mrs Bryce was then delighted to inform the packed assembly room that Nicola Bovey, together with school dog Max, had not only been acclaimed science teacher of the year for the very wide South West Region, but that she had been invited to attend the House of Commons as one of the three whom the national judging team have listed as finalists for the country.

In accepting her 'Plato' award Mrs Bovey thanked all her science students on behalf of whom, she said, she had received this accolade.

Another prestigious award went to Conor Brady who had just completed his year as Head Boy. He merited the 'Diana Award' named for the late Princess, given to exceptional young people. The Head of the Sixth form described Conor as one of those 'inspirational young people who make an outstanding contribution' to all manner of academic, social, sporting and charitable activities within and outside the school. His award results in an invitation to Althorp,

family home of Princess Diana.

All of these were among the many awards made to students and staff at the end of what Mrs Bryce described as "An incredible year for saltash.net.school" and the assembly was given over to looking back at some of the events that made it so.

A fitting celebration of a year of successes for the school which has now become an academy, it was also touched with sadness as a farewell was said to six staff who together have notched up a total of 168 years service to the school. Their service ranged from 17 years up to 33 years of dedication to Saltash students by Dave Garland, the last nine of them as Deputy Head.

A more sombre note was struck as Mr Scantlebury read out a moving tribute by newly appointed Head Girl Hannah Burtwell to the victims of Auschwitz written as she and a fellow student traced the path of the railway line into the camp from which so few returned.

But the end of term mood soon prevailed as students sat silently to recall the years triumphs, recall many of them on film, and cheer their schoolmates and teachers before bursting out to enjoy seven weeks of Summer sunshine and fun



Year 11 Prom

'The large number of staff who attended last night's prom at St Mellion agreed that it was an exceptional evening and one of the best leavers' events they had ever been to. Everyone was delighted that the sun shone, enabling all of the stunningly dressed students to arrive in style and enjoy fully their time on the red carpet. The students behaved impeccably and were an absolute credit to their Head and Assistant Head of Year - Mr Dave Stokes and Mrs Eileen Sloggett, as well as to their families and friends. The school would like to express its gratitude to the team at St Mellion for helping to give the students and staff from saltash.net such a wonderful night to remember.'

TOM DALEY AT SALTASH TENNIS CENTRE



"Saltash Tennis Centre were recently delighted to host the Westcountry's Diving Champ Tom Daley and his Mum Debbie, complete with Film Crew.

Tom appearing as Ambassador for the Nestle "Get Set, Go Free" promotion which goes "Live" this month, was ably assisted by Coaches Phil Tucker and Stewart Lees. Playing on the grass courts, both Tom and Debbie demonstrated a flair with the racquet, with surprisingly Mum coming out on top! Chris Cansfield STC Chairman said "I think we may have found two new members, but I appreciate Tom might be somewhat tucked up next year"! We were fortunate the sun shone and filming was a success."

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Further Funding Boost for St Stephens Hall

A community hall to serve the St Stephens area of Saltash is moving closer to reality following the Town Council's offer of £10,000 towards the project.

This sum towards the £250,000 total for the project is from the "Section 106" monies provided by Lidl's supermarket towards the community as part of their planning conditions.

The community hall, to be built opposite the 'Cecil Arms' on the site of a former paper shop, will provide a large hall for public meetings and entertainment, a smaller room upstairs, storage rooms and a toilet block. It replaces a long defunct building riddled with asbestos related issues.

There is understood to be only around £70,000 funding still to be sought. The Town Council grant was made on the basis that the other funding would be raised and work commence within twelve months.

The hall would be well used for wedding celebrations and wakes connected to the nearby church, as well as events based on Churchtown Farm Wildlife Reserve, it is anticipated. The existing hall at Burraton as well as the Wesley Church rooms are already booked to near capacity showing a clear demand for an additional facility.

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saltash.net community school is a thriving, highly successful 11 to 18 mixed, community comprehensive school. On April 1st 2011, the school achieved Academy status, another significant milestone in its history. Becoming an Academy means the school can continue to strengthen and develop all areas of the curriculum, including its specialism of Science, Maths and Computing.

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We strive to provide the highest quality education for all children in our care.

We are proud of what our young people achieve and we look forward to welcoming you to our school soon.

For a Prospectus or for more information please contact:

saltash.net community school
Wearde Road
Saltash
Cornwall
PL12 4AY

Tel: 01752 843715

enquiries@saltash.cornwall.sch.uk
www.saltash.net

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