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SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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August 2013 - Issue 253

Established 21 years

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Two "Garden Villages" Proposed for Broadmoor

Two distinct "Garden Villages" separated by existing woodland and open space while linked by new and existing foot and cycle paths are envisaged for the Broadmoor Farm area between Carkeel and Stoketon Cross.

The Broadmoor Farm area was identified in the Cornwall core strategy consultation draft as one of the sites for proposed mixed use development. Saltash residents have demonstrated that given the choice they would prefer a thousand new homes built between 2010 and 2030 to the alternative option of 3500 and plans recently on show in the Saltash Wesley Church showed how a number of these homes might be sited. "The site is for a locally distinctive sustainable and thriving new community well integrated and having

excellent communications with Saltash" it was claimed. It would include a balanced mix of high quality housing as well as diverse employment opportunities for local people. The new "Garden Village East" would be linked to the town by a new road junction south of Carkeel, and "Garden Village West" by a new junction with the A38 at the currently notorious Stoketon Cross. There would also be a new junction linking to both villages from the A38 near Latchbrook at the end of the by-pass.

The Commercial Estates Group, established in 1989 and specialising in mixed use and strategic land projects across Britain, claims that the site offers to accommodate all the necessary uses required for the town including homes and work within well defined boundaries to mitigate any visual, noise or transport impacts.

The plan includes leaving Ball Wood and Broadmoor Wood between the two villages as well as Marsh Wood by the A38, protected and maintaining existing wildlife habitats. Current footpath and bridleways would remain and be supplemented by additional routes for walkers and cyclists. Community amenities such as school, health centre and community centre could also be included.

Visitors to the exhibition were told that Cornwall Council anticipates adopting a local plan for Saltash probably in 2014 and that there is a risk, prior to its adoption, of speculative planning applications being made piecemeal on less

appropriate sites.

Matthew Tunley, Development Manager of Commercial Estates Group added, "We want to deliver a special place that has a winning combination of top quality design and a flourishing community spirit. We would create neighbourhoods that provide opportunities and benefits to existing communities and stimulate investment into Saltash via new residents, visitors and businesses?"

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A Perfect Summer Evening for Year 11 Prom



A perfect summer's evening provided the backdrop for Year 11 students at saltash.net as they made their way to Boringdon Golf and Country Club for the 2013 Prom. Many students made the most of the idyllic weather by stopping off en route to the Prom for photocalls at Waterside in Saltash and the Hoe in Plymouth.

Once the students had arrived at Boringdon, they were given the red carpet treatment before sitting down to an excellent meal. All of the tables were adorned with beautiful hand made confectionary decorations produced by support staff at the school.

The evening continued with dancing for those with plenty

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Colours of Life

Saturday 31st August

Fabulous flags, Segway Safari and a new adventure playground a fantastic day out for all the family.

Over the last few months Forces families and community groups in Saltash, Torpoint and Plymouth have been creating glorious silk banners using a batik method. Ladies from St. Anne's Care Home, the Saltash Live at Home scheme and the Saltash branch of the Royal British Legion were among participants who joined with Forces families and the Plymouth Military Wives Choir to create a riot of colourful banners celebrating our maritime heritage and the vital support role played by the families of our service personnel deployed abroad.

The project was funded mainly by the Ministry of Defence and

received support from Saltash and Torpoint Town Councils as well as from Cornwall Council and the charity Circular Arts.

Over 100 banners have been created altogether and they will be set up in the grounds of Mt Edgcumbe for one week from 31st August, with a launch at 11am on that Bank Holiday Saturday. So come along to marvel at the 'Colours of Life' banners. Children will love the new adventure play park with its tree house and tree platforms, and children at heart will have great fun on a Segway – both 2013 additions to the wide range of activities at Mt Edgcumbe.

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The Essa Files

I spent the start of August on holiday in Krakow – a very pleasant city worth a visit in its own right for its history, atmosphere and food. It is best known however as a base for visiting a very unpleasant place, albeit one that gets over one million visitors a year – the Nazi concentration and death camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Auschwitz is not a place I 'wanted' to visit, but has long been somewhere I thought I ought to visit – because of our general duty as humans to understand what happened there and ensure that it cannot be repeated, but also because human rights and the holocaust is part of what I teach at school.

Three things struck me in particular from my visit. Firstly how sensitively the whole museum is done, with great respect for the victims and a strong desire to explain the background and operation of the camp rather than simply dismissing it as a 'horror'. Secondly the fact that, even standing in the camp, it is hard to fully digest the scale of what happened, and it is exhibits that tie the holocaust to its individual victims that make the most impression. These include seven tons of human hair taken from prisoners before they died and a mound of name tagged suitcase stolen from victims to fund the Nazi's war efforts.

Thirdly, and most importantly, visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau cannot fail to put your own everyday concerns into context. We (I) can sometimes treat parking charges, planning applications or bin collections as though they are matters of life and death. Treading the scene of torture, slave labour and genocide reminds us of what we should try to keep in mind already – our own struggles, however rightly held and important to us, are minor compared to what some others experience. This should not stop us from trying to deal with them but we should perhaps try to do so with a little more sense of scale. Adam Killeya



CORNWALL

COUNCIL
& our PL12 Community



For: August 2013 Observer readers
From: Councillor Bob Austin
West Ward, Saltash

Happy 21st Birthday to the Observer

This paper has been a great asset to Saltash over the years and many thanks to Mary Crawford and her team for all the hard work they have done – it's been a delightful paper to read and covers everything from local politics to the personal touch when people have some news to share. It has improved over the years and I wish it all the best for the future.

Settling down of the new Council

Since the elections in May life has been busy councilors trying to settle into their new committees and hopefully the four of us have managed to spread ourselves as much as possible around the very wide spectrum the council covers, as well as trying to keep Saltash on the Cornwall Council radar.

I have been assigned to the following committees – Devolution and Localism Portfolio Advisory Committee (PAC), Planning East, Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee, Bereavement Panel, Chair of the Tamar Bridge & Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee, and chair of the Community Network Area Committee (This will be reviewed in Sept).

Localism & Devolution PAC

Portfolio Holder – Jeremy Rowe, Chair – Carolyn Rule

There have been two meetings to date, one to choose the Chair & Vice w. The second meeting was informal where we discussed training for members on how we could develop the Community Network role, taking into account the new Localism Act.

There has been a motion to council highlighting the potential value of making use of the Sustainable Communities Act. The legislation gives a formal mechanism for local authorities and communities to put suggestions to government where they think there is a need

for a change in legislation, so if you have any suggestions then let me know.

Mount Edgcumbe

At our last meeting we discussed how the estate will survive with the reduced funding that Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council have imposed on it them. They are bruised but I am sure they will survive. One of the projects they just started is that they have a fleet of Segway's which they are hiring out to the public. If you have never been on a Segway then now is your chance and enjoy the wonderful views of the estate at the same time – they are great fun. Tel 08717891024 or adventuresegway.com. They also have an exhibition in the main house on the wreck of the Metta Catharina, an ordinary ship with an extraordinary story.

Also Cllr Hilary Frank will be placing a new set of handmade painted flags made of silk at the water's edge on the 31st August at 10.30 pm south of the Orangery.

Play Areas

As many of you know I have complained bitterly about the swings that have been taken away from many of our play areas in Saltash and indeed right across the county. I have been very concerned about this for a while. The reasons they have been removed are that they have failed the health and safety standards and Cornwall Council do not have the money to repair or replace them. All the Saltash Cornwall Councilors are raising this at a very high level at County and we are hoping to find a way forward within the next few months.

FROM THE BACK BENCHES

Greetings

Our Town is full of people and busy all through the day. Two new shops (bathroom/kitchen and pasties) have opened and I understand that there are two more food/restaurant places about to open. We are fortunate to have such a vibrant town centre particularly in this unsure economic period.

Cornwall continues to astound me. The latest on the Waterside toilets is as usual a fiasco. The officers of Cornwall have agreed that the facilities should be stainless steel but the lights and driers will remain at a domestic level. Lets hope for no minor vandalism or persistent wear and tear as Cornwall want the Town Council to back date the payment for any normal running costs [not the refurbish] from April. The toilets were shut for six weeks and during Regatta the drains flooded – this, at the most frequently used time of the year. Saltash should not pay for inadequate service.

You may have noticed that the tender from the Waterfront Play station is still missing. It has been in the hands of Cornwall Council since April – it is being repaired. No replacement date has been given.

Citizens Advice Bureau

The final and probably the most important Cornwall attack on the citizens of Saltash is the proposed closure of the Citizens Advice Bureau building in Belle Vue road. This is to save money!! The first suggestion was that Saltash Town Council takes over the building with vague ideas of revenue. If Cornwall cannot run the building at a neutral cost how can Saltash! There have been other suggested buildings and even moving the CAB to Liskeard. On what planet is Cornwall Council??? Saltash is the second busiest CAB in Cornwall, the sixth largest town in Cornwall and there is an economic recession- and it expects our people who are in financial straits to travel 17 miles to Liskeard!

Sad to report, that the officers of Cornwall have recommended that the old

Wheatsheaf pub on the Waterfront be demolished and replaced by four flats. There is some silver lining to this dark cloud there will a small kiosk selling snacks/ice creams!

The railway station appears to have changed hands again but I have no further details of any refurbishment.

Finally, after not many upbeat notes, could I ask you all to fill in the form called Saltash Town Council Priorities (available from the Guildhall or the Town Messenger) This will give the Council the ideas you want for our town Best Wishes Martin Gee Councillor

Thanks: Doney

Gary and Sharon wish to thank everyone who came to Sheila's funeral and for the kind wishes and cards that they received during this very sad time.

Thank you to Alan Butler for the service and Darren Lee for playing Sheila's favourite music.

Thank you to Tamar House Nursing home for the excellent care given to Sheila during her time with them.

Thank you to Pengelly's Funeral Services for their support and care.

We will greatly miss her.



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From The Mayor's Parlour...

In the last few weeks the newspapers and other media have been full of articles on the possible futures for towns and especially their shopping centres, the most pessimistic suggesting that we should accept the gradual decay of the traditional retail-based town centre under the relentless pressure of the internet and out of town shopping.

All sorts of ideas have been put forward on how communities should react to this view, if it is indeed true. One view being put forward is that if people don't use the town centre for shopping then why worry? Other activities can be used to "take up the slack". The Town Council's view is that we owe it to ourselves to maintain Saltash as the vibrant centre that brought us, or our predecessors, here.

Boarded up shops are the most obvious evidence of a town's stagnation, and although it is true that there is more to a Town Centre than shopping, the effect of these is to create an impression of decline.

So what makes a successful town, now and in the future? Well it depends on your point of view. At a simple level, for a resident, it is a place you are happy, and can afford to live in and provides your needs. For a visitor, it is somewhere you have heard about and want to visit, and visit repeatedly, because it is clean, has exciting events and attractions and provides the facilities you want while you are visiting.

For a retailer it is a town that attracts plenty of potential customers who can spend enough time near your shop to spot what you have to sell, come in and buy it.

For an employer, or potential employer, it is the availability of suitable premises in an area with expansion opportunities on site or close by, with good communications, in a location with a supply of qualified people to act as a workforce.

All of these things affect the viability of a town as most of us understand it, and maintaining the balance between them has been, and will continue to be, a considerable challenge for all of us.

So how can we meet that challenge? Some of the initiatives are comparatively simple and can be achieved in relatively short time scales. Car parking charges have been blamed by many for the drop off in town centre retail activity. Our response to that has been to provide free parking on Saturdays and during the build-up to Christmas. Running events such as the Christmas Event, May Fair and Regatta raises the profile of Saltash and attracts people to the town.

Improving the condition of Fore Street with seating, hanging baskets and planters improves the "feeling" of the town centre and influences the length of time people spend in the centre, and generating more retail business. These are some of the things that have been done already, I will write about our longer term plans in a future article.

Cllr David Yates Town Mayor



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**Congratulations to the Saltash Observer
On their 21st Anniversary**

Music and Family Fun at Botus Fleming Jam Aid Too



Landlady and landlord Debbie & James with Chris Speed present a cheque to Stewart Lees for £1,800

owed to Gilletts Spa, Appleby Westward and 3663 for food supplies, with KLM Diner and Roger Young Landrover. Local shops who gave support and draw prizes included Van Essa Menswear, Tamar Fruiterers, Bargain Booze, artist Roger Holmes, Travis Perkins, Glow Beauticians, as well as those who displayed posters and the private individuals who gave prizes

and time to make the day so successful. The organisers have given special thanks to the Saltash Observer for helping promote the event.

So successful was it that a further and even better JamAid family music day is being planned for next July when it is hoped to see all of those who enjoyed this year's event together with other new faces.

New President for Saltash Rotary

This July saw the annual handover of the office of President for Saltash Rotary Club. In a ceremony at the China Fleet Club, the outgoing President, Bill Phillips, took the opportunity to say how much he had enjoyed the past 12 months and remarked how quickly it passed. The new President, Beryl Rosekilly, on receiving the Collar and Jewell which represents the office spoke of her exciting plans for the club over the coming year. Beryl is the 54th President of the club which was founded in 1959.

Saltash Rotary Club is always keen to have new members and welcomes enquiries from men or women who share the ideals of service particularly for the community locally and internationally. Please visit saltashrotary.org for further details. *Outgoing President Bill Phillips congratulating the President for 2013-2014 Beryl Rosekilly following the hand-over of the Collar and Jewell of Office.*



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Beer, Skittles, Music and More at Third Ale Festival

Real ale that is a living beer, matured and kept under natural conditions and naturally drawn by hand pump or poured directly from the barrel, is making a decided comeback nationally and locally. Hence substantial order of around ten differing ales from locally based breweries around Devon and Cornwall and beyond are being ordered for Saltash's third annual beer festival.

The popularity of this event over the last two years saw some brews run out and new consignments have to be rushed in to satisfy demand from the real ale epicures as well as those who flocked to the "Union Inn" to sample the general ambience of good beer, good music and good company.

Saltash Rotary have once again joined with "Union Inn" landlord Brian to ensure that all the ingredients are again brought to the Saltash Waterside in good measure over the weekend of 7th and 8th September. The grand opening of Saltash third annual beer festival will be at midday on Saturday with the beer flowing, to a variety of live musical accompaniment, until eleven that evening. The festival will resume at midday on Sunday, in time for participants who wish to share in the popular lunchtime 'open the box' event with its choice of prizes. The festival will finish at six that evening before the equally popular weekly Union Quiz begins.

Throughout the festival there will be nonstop live music to please all tastes including folk, jazz and blues as well – it is hoped – some shanty singers to add to the nautical atmosphere of the historic Saltash Waterside.

An outside canopy will enable drinkers and music lovers to enjoy the ale, and the choice of burgers and pasties sold from outside whatever the weather.

New this year, Saltash Rotary Club are building on the old English pub tradition by introducing a variety of traditional games including skittles, shuttleboard and shove-halfpenny.

The Saltash Ale Festival Beer glasses, available only at the weekend, have already become collectables, and will again be on sale at £5 to include being filled to the brim with the first pint of the weekend of fun. As before profits will go to the Erme Valley Riding Club for the disabled, a cause dear to landlord Brian for the benefit it has bestowed on his disabled

daughter Kelly. Her parents Brian and Barbara have been thrilled at the self confidence, as well as horsemanship skills, that Kelly has gained from the club and are delighted to help put something back.

The last two years have seen the Union Inn overflow with those enjoying the atmosphere as well as the taste of a real pint, prepared and poured as it should be. All seems set to ensure that the third beer festival should be as good if not better than ever.

Model Cross Ownership Disputed

Following the erection of the town's iconic Cornish Cross a row has broken out over the six foot high model of it which has for many years been on display in the Guildhall.

The model was erected last century when the cross was planned to be installed in 2000 as a millennium project. At the project lapsed it has stood in the lobby of the Guildhall.

Since the opening of the actual cross in April the designer Simon Thomas has claimed ownership of the model and asked for it back. The Town Council is reluctant to relinquish it and has formed a group to look into the evidence of ownership and if necessary instruct the Council's Solicitors.

Recently an artist's model of Tyneside's well known 'Angel of the North' sculpture appeared on television's 'Antiques Road Show' and was heralded as of considerable value. Town Councillors are therefore anxious to hold on to what could become an equally valuable civic asset if this can be justified.

Camping Weekend a Great Success



"During July over forty members of Saltash Wesley Church enjoyed a camping weekend at Drummers Lodge near St. Austell. Young and old camped al fresco in the wonderful sun-shine taking part in games of rounders, cricket, team games also launching rockets made of old lemonade bottles, plus a little extra air, high into the sky. Almost everyone took part in a walk which ended at Pentewan Sands where there was an opportunity to swim in the sea. Meals were prepared by Hayley Ainger providing yet another time to socialise together. Quiet times of worship were available each day. There was a gathering around the camp fire on Saturday evening where camp fire songs were sung, poems, stories and jokes were told. The fun atmosphere was completed by toasting marshmallows over the fire. The weekend was a great success - no-one wanted to leave. However, this was made easier by making plans for next year. For more details of Wesley Church events please go to www.wesleyweb.co.uk or ring the administrators on 01752 845177 between 9am and 1pm."

Wreckers Raced Ducks for Cancer Fund

The Tamar Valley based Wreckers' Morris side familiar from their many appearances in the town, enjoyed a highly successful duck race at Seaton beach this summer. As in previous years the Wreckers' had a busy day dancing their way around various villages in the South

East Corner of Cornwall from Cawsand through to Hessenford before converging at Seaton mid-afternoon.



The winter storms had caused the river's course to move and this, together with the wind and fast flowing water, added to the excitement as the Millbrook Town Crier started the race and hundreds of plastic ducks were launched upon the water. A Saltash resident 'owned' the winning duck

and received the first prize of £50. However the main winner was the Rainbow Ovarian Cancer Trust to whom the yet unknown but clearly substantial profits would be passed.

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Conundrum Corner

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

1 Of which Country are the Faroe Islands a part? (7)

2 In A Midsummer Night's Dream who is the Queen of the Fairies? (7)

3 What name is given to a drink made of raw eggs, milk, sugar, spice and brandy or rum? (6)

4 Which is England's smallest County? (7)

5 In ancient times what was the Pharoah of Alexandria? (10)

6 Who made a journey to Brobdingnog? (8)

7 What type of instrument is a Clarion? (7)

8 Which Country invaded Kuwait in 1990? (4)

9 How many legs does a Mite have? (5)

Answers on page 7

As we Complete our Twenty-First Year

We look back, over two decades, to when our Editor Mary, after a career in the media working for others decided to start a local community paper of her own, serving a unique community. The paper would, she had decided, be unlike others in that it would be locally produced, including a high ratio of local news alongside features and advertising promoting, as far as possible, only local businesses.

After looking at various towns that she had come to know Mary decided upon Saltash as having a friendly atmosphere, community spirit and a wide range of local businesses. In addition Saltash had so many local organisations and clubs which she believed would appreciate a truly local newspaper to keep the community informed of their activities.

That was then, and since then Mary and the 'Observer' team that she has built up have totally enjoyed meeting with so many people, becoming a part of the community that we have sought to serve. We never cease to be amazed, when we are out and about, at how many friendly greetings we receive from those who have come to know us.

First Year 1992

Looking back at those early years we see, from our first year 1992, headlines concerning proposed housing and business development at Broadmoor. Nearly twenty two years on history repeats itself.

Also in those early days we were writing of the controversy over a second Tamar road crossing at Saltash - we have

since then covered bridge strengthening and widening, new toll booths, tags and increased tolls - but no new bridge. Plans for a new leisure Centre at Warfelton discussed in that first year have come to fruition, as have many other proposed changes to Saltash which we have covered, many of the town's undoubted benefit, other more dubious. Many issues have we covered during our issues over the years, up to last year's Olympic Flame and Royal Jubilee and the raising and opening this year of our Cornish Cross.

Royal Acclaim

And talking of matters Royal, last year we mentioned the receipt of our own Observer's royal acclaim, another much prized plaudit endorsing the surprise award that Mary received in our early days of publication.

We have done much in addition to producing what so many of you tell us is your favourite, and only truly 'newsy' local newspaper, over the last twenty-one years. Our popular book celebrating local walks and other leisure activities 'Quality of Life' has

been enjoyed and is still in demand from many readers. We still have plans for other locally based books. Our anniversaries celebrating our tenth, fifteenth and eighteen years have presented us with opportunities to organise celebrations, while collecting for local and other good causes, each culminating in a party shared by advertisers, readers and other supporters. We will never forget the beach party on a sunny day at Seaton, with Wrecker's Morris dancers and our 'thousand duck' race, all shared with our current mayor and mayoress and members of parliament. So what party are we organising for our twenty-first, many of you have asked. Well, we have decided to save it up for a really special bash to mark our quarter centenary year, beginning just thirty-six months away.

Observer Website

We have also, during those two past decades, brightened out into colour and in particular launched our website, now three years old and still building up a following that is literally worldwide. Through it we have offered those businesses that have supported us, with our compliments, full coverage on a professionally produced and constantly updated website.

In particular thanks to our dedicated team of deliverers, out in all weathers and in particular our longest standing 'paper boy' John Hooper who has been with us from the start. ~We believe our delivery team to be second to none.

Secondly Mary wishes to thank roving reporter Martin Lister whose active sourcing of news stories has ensured bringing of many news stories to you that nobody else has covered, (not forgetting Diane who very kindly types the copy for Martin every month).

None of this could happen without the active support of our advertisers many of whom to have been with us from the beginning or over many years and whom we have come to know as friends. And of course, not forgetting our readers whom we thank for their many unsolicited favourable comments when we



Emeet them out and about as we do what we enjoy, cover the streets of Saltash in order to bring to you the latest news of our friendly local community, and help our local businesses promote themselves to the town.

We look forward to continuing support from local readers and advertisers as we advance into our third decade of the 'Saltash and District Observer'.

Thank you

It remains only to thank those without whom we could not have brought the Saltash Observer to your door every month over the last twenty one years and with whom we hope to continue doing so.

In particular thanks to our dedicated team of deliverers, out in all weathers and in particular our longest standing 'paper boy' John Hooper who has been with us from the start. ~We believe our delivery team to be second to none.

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NO OBLIGATION - FREE QUOTATIONS

Last month I mentioned that I was drawn fourth in the ballot to introduce a Private Member's Bill. This is one way in which a back bench MP can introduce a Law. I am fortunate in that last year my Marine Navigation (No2) Bill received Royal Assent.

My Bill this year is "The Deep Sea Mining Bill". This Bill is about the deep ocean bed in areas beyond the limits of any national jurisdiction, in other words at least 200 nautical miles from the coast of any state except where a rock belonging to a state may be deemed so small as to be unable to sustain human habitation or economic life of its own. Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) such rocks can only generate a territorial sea (up to 12 miles) and not a continental shelf. Commercial use of minerals from this area is still a concept rather than a reality, but as technology has developed to the extent where mining in such extreme environments is a possibility, exploration activity is increasing.

UNCLOS provided for the establishment of the International Seabed Authority, which became fully operational in 1996, two years after the entry into force of UNCLOS. The Authority organises and controls all mineral-related activities in the international

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...

seabed area. The Authority has developed regulations for the exploration of various mineral deposits and has subsequently issued licences to applicants for this activity. Applicants must be sponsored by a State party to UNCLOS, and must be in possession of a licence from that State party, which serves to ensure the State party is able to exercise national control over the company or organisation concerned. In 2012 the UK Government sponsored the first application for an exploration licence by a UK company for an area in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, and is sponsoring a further application in 2013 in a similar area.

Current exploration activity mainly concerns polymetallic nodules. These are found in high density in parts of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, usually at depths of 3000 metres or more below sea level. They contain manganese, copper, cobalt, nickel and other trace elements. Other exploration activity is focussed on polymetallic sulphides, found on ocean ridges such as

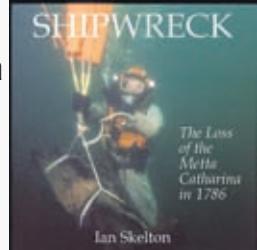
the mid-Atlantic ridge, and exploration for cobalt-rich crusts, found along seamounts and ridges is expected to start soon. Countries involved in these exploration activities, predominantly through research institutes, include Germany, France, Russia, China, Japan, South Korea, and India. More recent applications sponsored by Tonga, Nauru and Belgium, have been made by commercial enterprises.

The current UK legislation, The Deep Sea Mining (Temporary Provisions) Act 1981, predates UNCLOS and the establishment of the International Seabed Authority and in a number of technical respects is inconsistent with the Convention. The 1981 Act is also limited to one type of mineral only. The purpose of the Bill is to bring UK legislation into line with certain provisions of UNCLOS and to broaden the scope of minerals in the deep sea for which the Government can issue licences, thereby ensuring that British companies can potentially benefit from all the opportunities available.

As the world's demand for minerals continues to grow, and land-based sources become overstretched, the search for minerals in the deep sea is the inevitable consequence. Any type of mining, land based or from the sea, causes some environmental impact, but properly conducted activities to explore the seabed for minerals should have little potential for causing serious harm to the marine environment.

Little is known yet about the potential impact of deep sea use but by helping to place UK companies at the heart of this frontier industry, under the control of the UK Government, we can ensure that these companies comply with the highest environmental standards, and that there is due recognition given to the environmental impact in the development of international regulations for the possible use of seabed minerals in the future.

I am optimistic that this will create good well paid jobs in the future.

SHIPWRECK:**The Loss of the Metta Catharina in 1786**

18th Century History
Brought to life in an Underwater Archaeological Adventure

Saltash diver, Ian Skelton, has recently written a book about his team's 32 year long project, excavating the deep-water wreck of a 230 year old Danish brigantine in Plymouth Sound.

The discovery of a beautifully decorated bronze ship's bell on the sea floor in 1973 helped the divers to identify the wreck as the *Die Frau Metta Catharina von Flensburg*. Research confirmed that the brigantine, which was carrying a valuable cargo of Russian leather from St Petersburg to Genoa, was wrecked on a dangerous reef to the west of Drake's Island during a stormy night in December 1786. The modern-day owner of the wreck, His Royal Highness Prince Charles, granted Ian's team permission to excavate and survey the wreck.

The Book

The book tells the story of the Danish mariners, who fought for their lives in heavy seas as their ship was dashed against the rocks. It also describes the challenges and successes of the diving team as they excavated and surveyed the wrecked ship beneath 30 metres of cold, dark water on a seabed swept by strong currents.

The book also tells the story of the remarkable Russian leather — tanned and curried during the reign of Catherine the Great. Leather, which was so well preserved, that much of it has been recovered by the divers and turned into field sport equipment such as gun cases and cartridge bags. It has also been used for attaché, violin and doctor's cases and barrister's bags. Pairs of shoes have been crafted from the leather, with one pair being presented to Prince Charles for his generosity towards the diving team.

The hundreds of shipboard items, also recovered from the wreck, include wine bottles, spirit flagons, clay pipes, navigational instruments, tunic buttons and shoe buckles, together with crockery, musket balls, a wine glass and an ornately decorated brass tobacco box. Many of these items are illustrated in the book in full colour. All the material from the wreck is now on display to the public at Mount Edgcumbe House.

The family-friendly exhibition is supported by digital inter-activities, animations telling the story of the sinking and recordings of the divers giving their account of the discovery and the excavation. Beautifully designed wall panels describe, in both text and pictures, the history of Russian leather, early navigation methods and various aspects of life at sea in the 18th century.

The exhibition was opened on June 18th by Monty Halls, the TV presenter, marine biologist and diver. For details of opening times contact Mount Edgcumbe by telephone on 01752 822236, or e-mail , or look up on: www.plymouth.gov.uk/mountedgumbe.

The book was written by Ian to support the exhibition. Available at The Bookshelf, 96 Fore Street, Saltash. £4.99 Tel: 01752 845804, e-mail: thebook.shelf@hotmail.com

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Focus on Saltash

First of all let me congratulate the Observer in celebrating its 21st year in circulation. The paper goes from strength to strength because of its commitment to the people of Saltash and understanding that sitting opposite Plymouth does not mean it should not have its own unique identity. Something sometimes, I fear, forgotten by both Truro and London. Saltash is more than just a gateway to Cornwall, something I witness first hand during the recent regatta when I saw what a vibrant Town it is.

And yet this is a difficult time for the Town. Saltash is often missed out of Cornwall wide projects as it is classed as being part of the 'Plymouth area'. Petrol remains stubbornly high, and now we will have to fight hard to ensure the promised 5p reduction includes Saltash. The Town Council has initiated free car parking at key times and fought for limited rises for the first hour, but Truro will need to be convinced of the need to reduce prices in the long term – your Lib Dem councillors recognise that this is an important investment at a time of tight budgets and cutbacks and the continuing threat to Fore Street from Plymouth.

Most importantly its Saltash investment in business so that our next generation can work and live in the community.

Fighting for the individuality and growth of the Town, is for me the point of politics. Not promotion of yourself and your party but what you can do to serve your community – people politics not attack politics.

For example I recently I met with a group of local young people talking about their career aspirations and wishes for the future of Saltash. None wanted to leave the Town but all thought they would need to because of the lack of job opportunities, and cost of travel.

I have a particular passion for supporting young people

having spent most of my working life as a social worker working for children and young people, which is why I have been supporting the million jobs campaign from our party.

But creating jobs and apprenticeships is just the part of the solution we also need to ensure that they can afford to get there. That means finding solutions to the spiralling car insurance costs for young people and ensuring a good public transport is available to all. It will need a strong voice to overcome the rhetoric of sound bites and photo opportunities, I am determined that the Saltash youth I met is heard: that's what real politics is all about.

*Phil Hutt - South East
Cornwall Lib Dem prospective MP*



A Dream of a Day in Midsummer London

On a beautiful midsummer's day, almost all of the Year 10 cohort at saltash.net community school travelled to London for a day of education and culture. The summer term's Theme Day, organised by Director and Assistant Director of Creativity, Jim Romain, and Amy Lewis, enabled one group of students to participate in a Science focused visit, whilst the other group had an Arts based itinerary.

The National History Museum and Science Museum were the first port of call for 120 of the students and staff, before they enjoyed a sightseeing tour of London.

80 other students were given the opportunity to see Buckingham Palace and the Changing of the Guard, before walking through Hyde Park, past the Serpentine Lake and on to the Royal Albert Hall and Albert Memorial. The rest of the time was spent enjoying the stunning art and design collections at The Victoria and Albert Museum and using them as an invaluable source for GCSE Art work.

Commenting on the success of the visit, Jim Romain said, 'It is really important that our students are able to participate in a wide variety of curriculum enrichment opportunities. Equally important is giving our young people the chance to travel and see parts of the

country they have not yet visited. Over half of the students who took part in the visit had never been to our capital city before'.

When asked what the best bit of the day had been, one Year 10 replied, 'Every bit of it!'

Police Help Children Have Summer Fun

With the long school summer holidays under way local police and police community support officers have been helping local children make the most of their leisure time.

Over forty children from Pillmere spent a hot July day enjoying games organised by the town's team of PCSOs with funding help from Cornwall Council.

Children aged eight to fourteen in the Alamein area were invited to help their community by taking part in a litter pick with those participating promised a day on the beach the following day. The event was to be repeated later in August in the Babis Farm, area both events supported by Saltash Youth Council.

An "Eco village" by the Tamar of carbon neutral homes, with a village community spirit built around a hub and linked by a waterside cycle path to the town centre just a kilometre away, has been put forward for public consideration and comment.

The site is the land between Salt Mill's Pilgrim Pitch, the river Tamar and the China Fleet Country Club. It has already been earmarked by the Cornwall core strategy plan for a suggested 200 to 250 homes. Now a consortium of local landowners, N and M Pill Landowners, have come together with a proposal which they claim includes "a unique lifestyle choice, adapts the highest green credentials and best design standards which will contribute to the long term economic advantage, well being and prosperity of Saltash and its hinterland".

"

We do not like the way that volume house builders have treated Saltash," Bill Holman, one of the consortium told the Observer. They are currently open to suggestions as to how many homes should be built on the 65 acre site, but their initial proposals include leaving land vacant for community agriculture and orchard.

A

development of mixed density high quality housing is envisaged, in clusters and large blocks all linked by lanes rather than estate roads.

There would also be foot and cycle paths including along the river foreshore. The houses would be carbon neutral or of embedded carbon business design, each self dependent in energy, heat, water and drainage and incorporating reed bed drainage.

I

t would be hoped that houses could be utilised for work, life lifestyle option, and people working from home bringing wealth creation into the town with minimum carbon footprint.

A

ffordable housing, with self build starter homes for those about to climb the

property ladder, would all be governed by a community property trust able to negotiate with the town council and other bodies. A home owners' association is also envisaged to cover ongoing management and maintenance.

Entitled "Tamar Village", the proposed development

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Steve Returns from World Blind Bowling to Barbecue Party

A Saltash man was greeted by friends and neighbours with a surprise barbecue party on his return from playing in a world bowls championship match. This is despite the fact that Steve Cook, has been blind since early childhood.

This has been no impediment to him playing golf and, since 2007, bowls at which he has twice been England Champion in the National Blind Bowls Competition. The game is played on an ordinary green with sighted assistants.

Following his all England Championships Steve went to Worthing this summer to participate in the World Championships in which he came a creditable fifth, the England team coming in fourth. And on his return to Saltash he and his partner Linda, who is also blind, together with their

seeing eye dogs, were guests of honour at a surprise party organised by Kirsty Muir with other Warfelton friends and neighbours, together with Deputy Mayor Cllr Joan Dent and husband Bill.

Steve, who is 49, now hopes to travel to South Africa in four years time, to participate in the next World Championships. Meanwhile he told the 'Observer', "The party, on my return was a total surprise and a wonderful evening. My thanks to Kirsty and to all who helped organise it and came to share in the celebration".

Anyone for Table Tennis in the Street

Past champions, schoolchildren enjoying their holidays and passers by were pinging and ponging on a summer's day in the courtyard off Fore Street by Saltash Bookshelf. They were joined by two Radio Cornwall presenters.

The open air event was part of "Ping ! Cornwall", part of a post Olympic work by Sport England to help people and communities to create a sporting habit for life.

Town Councillor Adam Killeya, who runs a Table Tennis Club at saltash.net school challenged Observer reporter Martin Lister who found himself better matched against a younger novice. Former mayor's consort John Hooper proved a noble opponent and to being a former Army Table Tennis champion.

Radio Cornwall presenter Pam Spriggs, who had sped to Saltash following fronting the early morning programme told

the Observer, "I last played twenty years ago but I loved playing again here, really good fun. I wouldn't mind more regular games and putting Ping Pong into my life."

Co-presenter James Churchfield added, "I had never played before but I loved it, it is ideal being so publicly accessible. I fancy playing it again now I have been bitten by the bug."

Others bitten by the bug are invited to a new fun table tennis session for novices on Friday evenings, between 7 and 9pm. in the Antony Village Hall near Torpoint starting on 6th September any age and ability welcome.

Should Lightning Strike

Saltash parishioners, concerned that the medieval Church of St. Nicholas in the town centre should not suffer the same fate as Pillaton church earlier this year, have been concerned to be told that one of their two earthing plates attached to the lightning conductor was not fit for purpose. Pillaton church had been severely damaged by a lightning strike. St Nicholas's lightning conductor system was installed in 1990 and during its annual inspection the copper was found to have corroded. The quote for its replacement was £645 plus VAT, reflecting the high costs of copper.

The Parochial Church Council pointed out to the Town Council that the conductor protects not only the church and church hall but the adjacent historic Guildhall.

Given the value of the Guildhall and its contents the Town Council has agreed to finance the replacement of the earthing plate to secure the three buildings against lightning strike,

Chernobyl Children Share Fun in the Saltash Sun

The Saltash summer sunshine was shared with ten children from Chernobyl, scene of the nuclear disaster in 1986 that is still limiting the life expectancy of youngsters, such as these, growing up with the lasting effects of radiation. Indeed six of those staying in Saltash and Plymouth this year are orphans who lost both parents to the effects of the radiation release.

spectacles. The four week vacation not only guarantees fun but is proved to extend for years the limited lifespan that these apparently carefree children can anticipate once they return to their radiation struck homeland.

Though there was finance to bring more only ten children aged nine to eleven could come this year due to lack of volunteer host families. Any couple or family willing to offer food and accommodation for four weeks next July and August is asked to contact Vanessa on 844434 or at Van Essa Menswear shop in Fore Street. Children can share rooms with same-sex host children and days out are fully organised – no linguistic skills are necessary.

Saltash Leisure Centre

There is still time to book your Summer Holiday activities 2013

Until Tuesday 3rd September

Tuesdays

27th August

Art Attack

4-7 yrs £4 per session 1pm - 3pm

Come along and get creative using lots of recycled materials to make goodies to takeaway.

Please bring a drink and wear old clothes.

A great way of keeping fit staying healthy & most importantly having fun!



20th August

Snorkelling

8-16 yrs £10.80 per session

1pm - 3pm

Run by a qualified PADI instructor teaching basic water safety and snorkelling skills.

This session is ideal for children of all abilities, but you must be able to swim 50 metres competently and unaided.



Wednesdays

21st August

Activity Afternoon

4-7 yrs £4 per session 1pm - 3pm

An afternoon of activities and games guaranteed to keep your little one(s) entertained! Bring a drink.



Fridays

23rd and 30th August

Wet n Wild

All Ages £3.50 per person 10am - 12 noon

Body boards, balls, super soakers and great music make this session great fun for all ages. Please note that all children under eight years must be accompanied by an adult and under fours will still be charged the full price due to a restriction on numbers in the pool.



For more information on Holiday activities visit our website or telephone the centre

Lifeguard Courses

We are running Pool Lifeguard Courses throughout the year

For further information please contact the centre



Mon-Fri 6.30am-10pm * Sat-6.30am-8pm * Sun-7.30am-7pm

Contact the Centre for more information!

T: 01752 840940

www.tempusleisure.org.uk

Callington Road, Saltash, PL12 6DJ



Tempus
Making time for leisure

Responsible Persons Required

If you are a responsible person and you enjoy walking for health or for pleasure or need a little push to go for that all important walk, why not deliver a few papers on route. I need an active person/persons in the Hatt area

If you are interested please call Mary Crawford on 07971 484872 or 01579 345699

PFS Pengelly Funeral Service 139 Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6AB Tel: 01752 848838 24 hour service 365 days a year www.wcpltd.com email: crownhill@wcpltd.com

Family Owned Business serving Saltash & surrounding Areas Pre-Paid Funeral Plans Available

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.

Situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty the school secures high levels of academic success as well as many outstanding sporting and other extra curricular achievements. It offers excellent ICT facilities, state of the art science labs and has an on site farm with world famous pigs and chickens! It also has a modern floodlit All Weather Pitch.

The school works very closely with its seven partner primary schools to ensure Year 6 students have a smooth transition to secondary school. 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.

Open Evenings for 2013

Wed 2nd & Thurs 3rd October

6:30 p.m.

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

For a prospectus or more information please contact:

Tel: 01752 843715
enquiries@saltash.cornwall.sch.uk
www.saltash.net



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