

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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August 2017 - Issue 305

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## New Mayor Expects 'Exciting Year for Saltash'

Mayors and other Leaders of local communities together with Saltash councillors and representatives of many local organisations gathered in the Guildhall to celebrate the inauguration of Mayor Councillor Mrs. Jean Dent.

The ceremony followed the long held tradition as the Mayor scattered fruit and warm pennies to expectant children below the Guildhall window. These included the pack of 1st Saltash Rainbows who are celebrating their thirtieth anniversary this year.

The ceremony was adapted and shortened from the usual Mayor Choosing since Councillor Dent had already been serving as Mayor of the new council since early May, this being an election year. However, the usual ceremonies were followed with her reading the declaration of acceptance and being presented with the Key to the Town before investing her husband Bill as Mayor's Consort.

Deputy Mayor Councillor David Yates then invested his wife Stephanie



as Deputy Mayoress.

In her short address the Mayor paid tribute to her predecessor Hilary Frank describing her and her family as 'Very Special' people. 'She did an incredible amount of work in her year, looking at what had been done in the past and seeking to make it new and more exciting'. Among the innovations of Councillor Frank, the new Mayor cited picnics in the park and on the Waterside, the festival on Firework night and the making

of Armistice Day poppies by the children.

She would be a hard act to follow, agreed Councillor Dent, but she looked forward to an exciting year for Saltash with the Waterfront, the station building and devolution high on the agenda. 'We need to work together for Saltash to give it what it deserves', she concluded.

Deputy Mayor David Yates added, 'Saltash has a lot going for it and a lot coming to it over the next year. It cannot be done without everybody helping'.

Councillor Dent hosted the ceremony, and celebratory buffet supper in the Saltash Social Club afterwards, despite having suffered a fractured arm while hastening down Fore Street earlier that day. She admitted to being still in serious pain but continued to smile as she greeted and socialised with her many guests.

Her Mayor's charities, she announced would be Dementia PL12 Veterans Group and The Saltash Town Band. 'Dementia touches so many families that there can be few who have not had someone close living with dementia', she said. Of the town band she considered 'There is not enough fuss made of it, it being very much a part of the town. What would a local procession or concert be without them? They also encourage many local children into music'.

## Congratulations to the Brave Runners who took up the Challenge

The Magnificent 7 Road Run that was held in July is a challenging, seven-mile race in Saltash, organised by Tamar Trotters as part of the Cornish Grand Prix Series. The website of the Saltash-based running club gives the warning: 'Very Hilly Course', saying that the race follows a tough course through country lanes with good views over the Tamar Estuary. Judging by the state of the runners at the end, though, not everyone may have had the energy to admire the views.

Now in its 18th year, the event attracted a record 470 entrants and a further 77 in the 1.5-mile Fun Run, making it a busy day for the organisers. A couple of hours after the final runner had crossed the finish line, though, the entire site was clear and tidy.

John Smith, from the Tamar Trotters in his last year as Race Director, said: "People from all over the county, country and the world took part in the race. It is fair to say that well organised competitive sport is still alive and well in our area." Tony Brewer was the quickest round the course in an impressive time of 39:08.

### Congratulations to the Tamar Trotters

Hilary Frank, Vice Chair of Cornwall Council, who presented the medals, was full of praise, saying: "As well as exhaustion, there's also a tangible sense of achievement and companionship. Congratulations to everyone who has taken part, but especially to the Tamar Trotters, who celebrate their 21st birthday in August."



Pictured: Vice Chair of Cornwall Council presenting the trophy for overall winner to Tony Brewer



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## Tamar Bridge Safety Barriers are Sought

Demand is increasing for raising the barriers by the footway over the Tamar Bridge following the second tragic suicide from the bridge this Summer.

An on line petition for the bridge has gained over a thousand signatures and it is intended to be presented to the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry authorities when it reaches 1500.

When Saltash student Charlie Pitcher jumped from the bridge last summer it was pronounced that his was the eleventh such death in ten years and since then the number continues to rise.

As a result of concern following Charlie's death boards have been placed at both ends of the bridge encouraging prospective jumpers to contact the Samaritans on the telephone number provided.

Similar boards have long been placed by the Clifton suspension bridge in Bristol

and more recently the raising of a suicide barrier on that bridge, similar to that being sought on the Tamar Bridge, resulted in the number of deaths being halved.

Meanwhile a local volunteer group. The Tamar Angels, has been founded with the intention of mounting foot patrols on the bridge, ideally at all times, offering a friendly face and somebody to talk to for anyone suffering depression. Tamar bridge authorities have, however, sought to discourage such patrols, suggesting that such work should be left to trained professionals. It is hoped that the proposed barriers, while not altogether preventing the possibility of jumping, may at least discourage jumping and can slow down determined suicides until help can arrive.

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There is some news which I will get to later but first some nitty gritty: Cornwall Council is a very complicated machine and I make no apologies for the boring list at the bottom of this article of what it actually does or tries to do. Why am I doing this? Because I am frequently asked by residents about what they get for their rates- and bear in mind that apart from an educational grant little else comes from the government these days. However my betting is that you are only really bothered about three things: firstly that your money is being spent wisely with as little waste as possible, secondly that corruption is either non-existent or very little and thirdly that if you are in a corner then you have a helpful councillor to get you out.

Wise spending? That is down to decent officers and proper supervision by your councillors and the problem here is that the vast nature of the council means that this has to be split up. For example I am able to deal with three areas only (planning, pensions and Tamar Bridge) and just hope that the rest is properly supervised. On the whole I think it is because most of the councillors I've come across are an interested, nosy and nit-picking bunch who challenge a lot, which is just what I want, to be honest.

Corruption? I would be really surprised if some doesn't go on in such a big organisation but because of the numerous, tiresome and pedantic checks and balances I suspect it is at a very low level. No excuse for any though. Many people suspect that planning is corruptible because residents can easily get at planning councillors but oddly the nature of the system with 15 councillors on each committee makes successful bribery difficult and with big feet we jump on any irregularities or bias we spot in officers planning reports. No, my gripe with planners is different and basically is with those (thankfully few) councillors who seem pre-determined before they come in to a



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For Observer readers

Derek Holley  
Cornwall Councillor, Saltash East.  
dholley@cornwall.gov.uk



meeting or worse who seem to vote the same way every time on a particular sort of application. I have raised both these points with a senior planning officer.

Helpful councillors when you need them? I think the ones I know locally are very much like this and the local new ones will be good. I have though, come across those who I think are pretty much useless - again that is democracy, they were voted in and I just hope that people realise that a label (Independent, Labour, Tory, Lib Dem etc.) should be the last consideration, about 95th down the list, and competence should be first.

So what's new in the county? Well the consultation on the details of the countywide local plan has just finished and the Saltash Neighbourhood Plan team has just put their opinions in. Secondly Cornwall Council has just won a £5million grant to improve roads. This is great for what it is but sadly a drop in the ocean - I think I mentioned that at the current rate of repairs it will take nearly four hundred years to put our 4000 miles of county roads right.

Thirdly and controversially parking in Fore Street has just gone to a half hour slot. This is because of initial comments from traders that the parking on the street just wasn't working because a lack of traffic warden time, which meant many were seriously abusing the system. If you think about it virtually all of the time you cruised up or down the street there were never spaces available. In theory with a shorter slot there should be more chance of getting a space for a quick shop and if you want a longer stay there are four car parks available, albeit with a charge. I have had quite a few adverse comments but my view

is that because a huge section of the towns population never ever shop in the street (I did a straw poll of Pillmere residents, asking 17 families and not one family, not one ever came to Fore Street at all) then it should be given a go. Then they can have a chance of parking and seeing the considerable shopping choice available. Nothing is set in stone and if it doesn't work we must seek to change it and try something else.

But you don't get to the end of this list of county services... fire service, police (also get a government grant), environment protection (huge area of departments including pollution, noise, streams and rivers, drainage and flooding, beaches, litter, air quality etc.), bins and waste, recycling, the new county incinerator, graveyards, planning, planning enforcement, building regulations, street cleaning, parks, playing fields, play equipment areas, roads, bridges, pavements, libraries, children's homes and children's services, adult social care (the biggest spender), parish and town councils and numerous financial sectors like pensions, salaries including my own allowance. Probably many others I've missed.

Just been to Zimbabwe, wonderful people but effectively now a third world country. When I said I had gardening as a hobby everybody thought I was round the twist! Quite disconcerting but when I came home to a meal of our own new potatoes (moderate crop only), runner beans (ditto) and courgettes in a ratatouille (ditto, oh dear) I think I had it right!

## Community Volunteers to Help Restore Station

There has been widespread public enthusiasm for the town council's recent acquisition of the derelict station building. Members of the Saltash community have responded with offers of funding, expertise, and even to wield a paintbrush in order to bring the building back to its former glory, Councillor John Brady told the town council.

Meanwhile progress towards funding the refurbishment is proceeding apace, Councillor Richard Bickford confirmed. He had recently attended a GWR Community Rail Conference resulting in productive funding discussions, and when meeting with Cornwall Council transport department to discuss LTP 3 funding found himself 'pushing on an open door' with the station manager and Rydon Signs regarding platform side signage and are awaiting a quote.

A Station Property Working Party is to be set up between councillors and members of the public keen to see the building restored and an asset to Saltash. Anyone who believes they have something to offer to the project is invited to contact the group via the Town Clerk at the Guildhall.

## Press Secretaries & Correspondents

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## Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland... keeping us Updated

I start off this month with some sadness from the passing of Herbert Davy. I was not a member of the Chamber when he was Chairman from 1982-85. However, I have heard many favourable words about him from people who knew him well. He was well respected by the business community.

Now turning to good news, Saltash Town Council approved that the Chamber should have responsibility for the Christmas Festival in 2017. We have secured funding from the S.106 funding panel and are hope to pull out all the stops to make sure that this event, which will be held on the 2nd December will be a great success. We do, however need to have help from the businesses in Fore Street and the community at large. Danielle Frith, my Vice Chairman, is co-ordinating all matters and she would love to hear from you with ideas. The Christmas Festival attracts a lot of visitors to the town and it is the attraction of more shoppers throughout the year, which is paramount in the Chambers thinking at the present time and is also in the mind of the Community Interest Company (CIC).

The Town Council has passed responsibility for the car park refund scheme to the Chamber. At present, with the voucher on the ticket, shoppers can claim back the cost of parking for 2 hours (£1.60) from many of the retailers in the town. However, starting in September Chamber members will be discussing whether there should be any changes to expand/amend this. Any thoughts would be welcome.

In addition the Town Council (STC) has passed responsibility for looking at ways to improve Fore Street to the Chamber. This was previously the responsibility of the Saltash Town Centre Improvement Group (STIG), which folded earlier this year.

Again in September, the Chamber members will be considering ways in which this can be achieved and will work with STC, CIC and others to achieve this but would love to hear from anybody who has thoughts. The CIC has already had thoughts on how to extend the Saturday Produce Market and in addition to No. 4 are proposing, subject to necessary consents, an outdoor covered area.

Reverting back to the issue of car parking in the town, there is some confusion due to the change that, in Fore Street, parking is now limited to half an hour (previously one hour). Behind this change was the initiative to allow customers who wanted to make a quick visit into one or two shops to have a better chance of finding a space. If the visit is to be longer, then it is only 50p for an hour in the car parks and of course for two hours £1.60 which can be reclaimed. So there should be plenty of opportunities for parking in the town and if you only plan to stay for an hour why not pay for two hours and reclaim payment but also stay and have tea/coffee or look at what other shops have to offer.

The Chamber is not only concerned with the town centre but with businesses throughout and I have had a meeting with developers of the site adjacent to Carkeel roundabout who are proposing a retail development comprising three retail units and a drive-thru.

We are concerned on the impact that this will have not only on the town centre but also the impact on the traffic flow in this area which will affect the industrial estates and the businesses thereon. The principle of retail development was approved a few years ago, when Tesco obtained their consent, so has been established but we are trying to ensure minimum impact of the current proposals.

Finally can I ask all readers who have a Saltash Card, and are hence a member of the Saltash Gateway Community Interest Company, to put a date in their diary, the 19th September 6 p.m. in the Guildhall when the AGM of the CIC will be held.

However at 6 p.m. an open event will be held when Neil Gallagher (who was brought up in Saltash) and is the BBC (S.W.) Business Correspondent will give a talk and answer questions. This part of the evening is open to all so why not come along.

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## Cornwall Considers Cutting Councillor Numbers

The proposed reduction of the number of Cornwall councillors came up for discussion in Saltash Town Council. The town council had been invited to make comments prior to the electoral review which is to consider the total number of councillors elected and the boundaries of electoral divisions. Saltash currently returns four Cornwall councillors, one for each ward.

When the district councils such as Caradon were abolished and Cornwall became a unitary authority it was agreed that 123 councillors be elected to serve upon it. More recent discussions suggested that this be reduced to 99 and the local government boundary commission has now put forward a council size of 87 as being most appropriate.

This is ridiculously low, complained Saltash Town Councillor Matt Coot. Cornwall, like Wales, has been declared a 'protected minority' and there is a need for more councillors, not less.

A smaller council consisting of sixty members, offered a decent salary would attract a younger and more mixed council, argued Councillor John Brady. He believed that current councillors, who receive £14,000 per year allowance plus expenses do less than the suggested twenty hours per week work for the county and a council which did not largely depend upon retired person

supplementing their pensions would serve the county better, with an increased workload but working longer hours for a realistic salary.

Other councillors, including deputy mayor David Yates disputed that current councils have such a minimal workload and believe that they devote more than twenty hours a week to Cornwall Council affairs.

After discussion it was agreed that rather than putting forward a response from Saltash Council to the consultation council members should respond as individuals.

Responses were due by 7th August. Following this a formal view will be published by the Boundary Commission and a public consultation run on new warding arrangements, to be completed by December this year. If councillors are reduced to 87 as is proposed then Saltash may lose its representation of four, to be reduced to three or two to represent the town in Truro.

## Fortieth May Fair for 2018

The May Fair which this year stretched from the foot of Fore Street, through the town and around Longstone Park, was considered by those involved and attending to be a great success, the May Fair committee's annual general meeting was told by Chair Vera Forbes.

The newly elected committee intend to build on this to ensure that the 2018 event, which will mark the fortieth anniversary of May Fair, will be particularly outstanding.

Treasurer Tanya Hatch announced a profit of £764 this year, in which there were a record number of stalls stretching up the street and in Longstone.

The Committee stood down, in accordance with its constitution, and Mayor Councillor Mrs Jean Dent, who is ex officio May Fair President, called for nominations – both Chair and Treasurer were unanimously re-elected. The Secretary had previously stood down and Chris Tandy agreed to take his place and to start work on seeking the funding to ensure a better than ever event on May 5th 2018.

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## Mayoral Matters

Many of you may have had a leaflet telling you about the expansion of the plastic recycling opportunities. Now you can recycle most plastics as long as they are not black. All those ice cream tubs, meat trays, milk container lids and so on can all now be put in with the recycling bag.

But why should I bother? What difference will it make? Finances and the environment are the reasons. It is pretty obvious that landfill sites will eventually run out and the cost difference is quite marked; it costs £185 to collect and dispose of a tonne of household rubbish, but £110 to deal with a tonne of recyclable rubbish. In 2014/15 Cornwall's recycling rate was only 33.6% (284th out of the 351 authorities managing waste services). More recent figures show that has increased to 36%, but we still have a long way to go! (In 2014/15 South Oxfordshire was best in the country with 66.6%) so please do your bit to get us further up that table.

Tonight Bill and I have been to a concert in The Wesley Church, not unusual you might think... but this one is a measure of the generosity of the Cornish. Mr Phil Taylor wanted to do something to support the people of Coverack. In not much more than a week he put together a fantastic evening's entertainment and the church was full to overflowing. There were powerful performances from a massed choir, a soloist William Thomas with a most amazing voice, and a fantastic pianist, Michael Burke who grew up in Saltash. A glorious evening's entertainment which raised a lot of money for The Coverack Flood Disaster Appeal. Thank you Phil.

CLr Jean Dent  
Town Mayor

## Late Night Drinkers' Bench Should be Removed

A park bench which has been the subject of complaints from various residents and which is used for late night drinking should be removed, the council's services committee have agreed.

The bench by Callington Road, near Burraton traffic lights, is an eyesore, situated in the wrong place, and in an area where rubbish collects and is not removed due to lack of resources, claimed Councillor Taylor.

It was agreed to approach Cornwall Council and seek that the bench be removed to a better used location.

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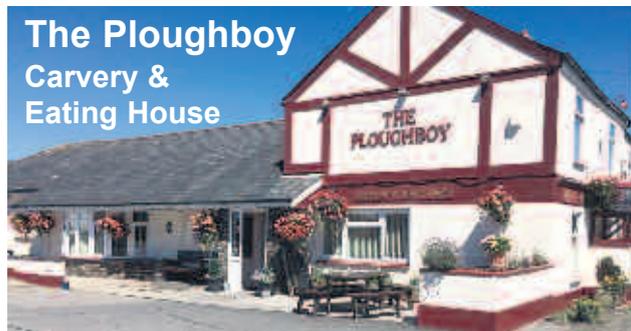
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## Sporting Highlights

### Sporting Success

The Olympic spirit was in evidence as Sports Day 2017 concluded a year of outstanding sporting success in a number of fields. All tutor groups had represented an Olympic country in sporting contests throughout the year and as the parade of flags introduced the 'National' teams to the sports day audience the tension was high with a tight top table, showing Greece and Spain leading on equal points. Students from years 7 to 9 keenly competed for Olympic glory while year 10 students also battled between tutor groups, a highlight being the World Cup Mixed football tournament. Enthusiasm mounted as twenty new records were set, an increase on last year's thirteen, and many students wore their country's colours and were face-painted, seeking to win the award for best supported country. The eventual winner of the Inter Tutor Olympic Champions' Shield was Spain after a thrilling final. Thanking all involved on behalf of the PE department Mr. Hawkins concluded, 'It was a

# 'New Headteacher Kate Littleddyke looks back on what has been a fantastically successful year at saltash.net'

## Wellbeing of Students - A Priority for Head Teacher

Teenagers of today are living in a world of unrelenting pressures, unknown to previous generations, with the world of IT and social media in particular contributing to the constant need to conform, and compete with one's peer group.

Among the priorities of saltash.net Headteacher, Kate Littleddyke, since her appointment at the beginning of this year, is to ensure that students are supported by being in the right state of mind to learn: in a safe, calm environment;

with positive relationships.

One practical demonstration of this policy has been the creation of a pastoral hub where students can go for support at any time of the school day. A transition teacher has been appointed to work with children needing additional support as they move up from primary school, while additional educational psychologist support through counsellors and art and drama therapy will be available.

In addition, a 'Thrive' programme aimed to build resilience, self confidence

and self esteem is being introduced. Next term will see the introduction of a wellbeing initiative called 'Be Well' including dedicated lessons for younger students, tutorial input for all students, and a dedicated wellbeing day in October.

Students are already keen to become involved in the wellbeing programme with a six form student having already begun to plan for a talent showcase in October with proceeds donated to Mental Health charities.

'Parent Power' is also

being launched as a partnership initiative through which, amongst other things, parents will be encouraged to work with the school in helping children to relax in today's media controlled world and to control the over-dependence upon social media.

'Of course the rich and diverse range of curricular and extra-curricular options will remain and even continue to grow,' adds Ms Littleddyke. 'I am proud of our successes in sport and the arts in particular. Next year I am hoping to do more

to promote science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and even more cross-curricular opportunities.' She is also keen to see more vocational courses for post-16 students to learn practical skills alongside the academic offer.



## Year Ends In Style with Nights of Glitz and Glamour

The end of the school year is always a season when hard academic work can at last be relieved by well earned fun and laughter. The fun began early in the Summer Term for some staff and students as the school fully participated in the town's May Fair. Students visiting the school stall were encouraged to 'sponge a teacher' for just fifty pence, as well as purchase cakes baked by the staff, freshly popped popcorn, or participate in a lucky dip.

Following the serious business of exams, saltash.net was to see the year 11 class of '17 off with style. Over two hundred students and staff enjoyed an evening of glitz and glamour at Borrington Hall. 'A fab evening for all concerned and our students did us proud,' concluded head of year Mr. Feldwick.

While many year 11 students will be reuniting in next year's sixth form, for year 13 it was a post A level final farewell for many who had spent up to seven years at saltash.net and they were to be sent off in fitting fashion at the annual May Ball. This year's event saw students walk up the red carpet to enter Plymouth's 'Duke of Cornwall Hotel', for a fantastic event enjoyed by all in attendance.

Head of sixth form Mr. Killeya recollected, 'It is always lovely to have a proper send off for our students and we have had great feedback about how much they enjoyed the event.' There was a further and final social gathering at the school for a Leavers' Breakfast before the remorseless onset of the A level examination timetable.



## Students Activities off School Campus

Saltash.net students have been travelling off campus this year enjoying a number of events and activities while gaining greater knowledge of the world around them.

Especially exciting for year 7 students was a visit behind the scenes at the BBC studios in Plymouth. As they had so enthusiastically enjoyed participation in the BBC School Report teacher, Ms. Baxter arranged for them to see how BBC journalists work and to watch regional news programme 'Spotlight' broadcast live before talking to presenter Justin Leigh, weather presenter Holly Green and the Spotlight crew.

Plymouth University played host earlier this year to year 12 students who enjoyed a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) day, where, together with a wide variety of interactive exhibits with plenty of 'hands on' opportunities, they could experience a series of bite-sized lectures from PhD students and researchers.

An exciting visit to the Tregenna Castle Resort for two saltash.net students resulted in them being recognised for their fantastic work in the community with Pirate FM's Local Heroes Awards. Jack Phelan was named Pirate FM's Young Person of the Year and Charlotte Barribal was named the Bravery Award Winner in a ceremony to recognise exceptional and inspiring people around Cornwall. Jack, as we have previously reported in your Observer, is a local fire cadet who has successfully campaigned and raised money for life saving defibrillators to be placed in the town. Charlotte was recognised for her unbelievable courage and resilience, as well as her fantastic charity work raising £8,000 since having been diagnosed with a type of cancer treated as leukaemia in the summer term of her Year 10 GCSE course.

This National Citizen Service programme has been recognised as a unique opportunity by so many Year 11 and 13 students. Each summer, students have the opportunity to take part in a four week scheme based at Cornwall College, experiencing life-skill building activities and being presented with opportunities to build their employability skills.

This year, saltash.net was recognised as a NCS Champion School due to the volume of students that participated in the programme. Mrs Gue, Head of Personal Development, said that, 'Schemes like this are vital for personal development and we are thrilled that so many students have shown an interest.'

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<b>Wed 23rd Aug 1pm to 5.30pm (£7.50)</b> Princetown and Badgers Holt	<b>Sat 9th Sept 10am to 5pm (£6)</b> Trago & Newton Abbot Market
<b>Thurs 24th August 10am - 5pm (£9)</b> Castle Drogo & House of Marbles	<b>Sun 10th Sept 10.30am - 6pm (£13)</b> Lunch at the Pickwick Inn St Izzey & onto Padstow for afternoon tea
<b>Fri 25th August 1pm - 5pm (£5)</b> Lopwell Dam	<b>Tues 12th Sept 10am - 5pm (£7.00)</b> Widecombe Fair
<b>Sun 27th August 11.30am- 4pm (£5)</b> Sunday Lunch @ Whitsand Bay Hotel	<b>Sat 16th Sept 1pm - 5pm</b> Afternoon in Tavistock
<b>Mon 28th Aug 9.30am - 11.30pm (£13.50)</b> Newlyn Fish Festival	<b>Sun 17th Sept 11.30am - 4pm (£5)</b> Sunday Lunch @ Porthbyhan Hotel
<b>Wed 30th August 11am - 5pm (£7.50)</b> Dartington Walk & Talk	<b>Sat 23rd Sept 9.30am-3.30pm (£10)</b> Then into Truro
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brilliant team effort from early morning set up to a super staff relay.'

Sports Day proved a fitting climax to a year which had seen a number of outstanding team and individual triumphs. Saltash.net Under Eighteen football team had made history winning the Under 18 county cup with a resounding win in the final at Bodmin; the Saltash lads dominating Helston College with a 6-1 victory. 'The cup win was very well deserved,' believes coach Mr. Budd. 'This is a truly special crop of players and young men'.

And one player from saltash.net has also made history by becoming the first Under 16 to accept an offer of an apprenticeship for the 2017-18 season with newly promoted Plymouth Argyle. Aaron Gouly of year 11 has represented his school in various sports and is a striker of whom we may well hear more in years to come. On present performance there could be other saltash.net sportspersons continuing their success beyond school.

## Students Help Select Smarter Uniform

A choice of prospective school uniforms was offered to students of saltash.net school as well as to staff, parents, the local community and partner primaries, who were invited to help select for a smarter school community.

Over a thousand adults and students took part and an overwhelming 68% chose to change. The new uniform consists of a pale blue shirt, tailored black trousers, or knee length black skirt/shorts, black shoes, blazer and tie with jumper optional.

With effect from this September the new intake of students will be required to adhere to the new uniform code. However there is no expectation for any student already at the school to change their uniform, except that tailored school trousers or skirts and black shoes will be a requirement for all from September 2017. Hoodies will no longer be permitted for year 11 students.

Otherwise parents will only need to invest in the new uniform as and when existing school uniform needs replacement. Ms Littleddyke told us she was determined not to add additional financial pressures for families at a time when budgets are tight, so had made the decision to phase-in the change. 'We'll be fairly mix-and-match for a few years, but I'd rather that than place an unnecessary financial burden on parents,' she said.



## Partner Primaries Share in World Studies

With so many momentous events of national and international consequence having been widely reported over the past few months, saltash.net has been to the fore in ensuring that they are properly understood and appreciated by younger students and have shared this understanding with students from partner primary schools.

A 'Parliament of Wise Owls' involved year 5 students from the local area attending saltash.net for a day of political fun and engagement. Saltash.net's Politics teacher, Mrs Metters and English and History teacher, Miss Halliday split students into groups to each create their own political party. With the aid of paper puppets and video cameras to record themselves, each party had to establish a name, logo, slogan, party broadcast and party song. A vote at the end of the day established the Environmental Protection Party as emerging victorious. The Middle East was the focus for the termly



International Primary Day shared by students from partner primaries and saltash.net year 7. The day began with interactive quizzes and challenges before the students moved on to a wide diversity of activities ranging from an introduction to Arabic calligraphy, and algebra, the Islamic faith and Turkish language to the creation of authentic Middle Eastern dips with the aid of Catering teacher, Miss Noble.

Traditional Arabic designs were used in the creation of tiles, fabrics and magic carpets, while the day concluded with Languages teacher Miss Ivinec leading enthusiastic students in a session of belly dancing. Recent events having focussed worldwide attention on the Islamic community, staff at saltash.net were especially concerned to ensure that Religious Education lessons should be focussed upon the foundation and practice of this faith in which violence and harming of innocent people are strictly forbidden according to the Qur'an. As the holy month of Ramadan came to an end year 7 students learned of the Five Pillars of Islam and in particular the fasting period and the festival of Eid which marks its ending. In creating their own Eid cards and writings in Arabic, students were encouraged to celebrate diversity and understand the wide variety of faiths practiced in the world around them.

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## Cadet and Chaplain Appointed



Continuing the tradition of appointing a Mayor's Cadet, Councillor Mrs Jean Dent was pleased to choose one of the youngest to serve in this role, twelve year old Molly Furlonger.

Molly, a saltash.net student, has been a maritime cadet for two years, having been encouraged to join by seeing her older sister have 'lots of fun' as a cadet. She has a cousin who is a serving Royal Navy officer.

Molly's Commanding Officer Jenny Hutchinson selected Molly, she told the Observer 'because she will represent the unit very well as is more than capable of standing up to the role'.

Appointed to serve as Mayor's Chaplain for the second consecutive year is The Reverend Michelle Parkman. Councillor Dent paid tribute to her 'informal prayers', describing them as 'just a word to God to let him know what would be good for Saltash'.

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## With Little To Give Materially ... They Gave So Generously To Us In Smiles

As minister at Saltash Wesley Methodist Church it was my privilege in July to travel with my wife and five others from the church to the Zimbabwean capital Harare. It is hard to overestimate the problems the ordinary people of Zimbabwe are facing and yet we received a tremendous welcome.

Our partner church in Mbare is the oldest Methodist church in the country and sits in one of Harare's poorest districts. As we gave what

simple support and encouragement we could (the gift of 52 Bibles in their Shona language being a part of this), we were humbled that though they had little to give materially they gave so generously to us in smiles, laughter, and their examples of strong faith, as well as gracious hospitality. I learned a huge amount from the Zimbabwean ministers I worked with in Mbare, and

the living faith of the congregation members. Zimbabwe suffers with 90% unemployment levels and tension is increasing as the 2018 elections approach. It is testimony to their character that our friends there have both resilience and hope. They need our practical support and they are a great encouragement to us. The Saltash Wesley-Mbare project continues to thrive.

### Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following eight questions can you re-arrange them to make a Cornish place name?

- 1 Which spice is sprinkled on the top of a Junket? (6)
- 2 Which Scottish city is home to the statue of Greyfriars Bobby? (9)
- 3 What name is given to an African wild pig with a course main and tusks? (7)
- 4 Who reputedly fiddled while Rome burnt? (4)
- 5 In a game of Cricket what one word describes No Balls, Wides, Byes and Leg-byes? (6)
- 6 How is The Song of the Western Men lovingly known by Cornish folk? (9)
- 7 The story of Anne Elliot and Captain Wentworth is told in which of Jane Austen's novels? (10)
- 8 What was Cafe owner Rene's surname in the TV comedy series 'Allo, 'Allo? (6)

Answers on page 7

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## Scheming Cornwall Council

Cornwall is renowned for its creativity, craftsmanship and its wholesome food and drink. But as well as the traditional pasties and pottery, there are many other fabulous products that perhaps you hadn't realised are proudly Made In Cornwall: Tiflex cricket balls, for example, are made in Liskeard, and the blue plaques that celebrate the homes of Britain's most notable residents are carefully made by a couple in their home near the River Fowey. Then there are the adorable Charlie Bears – cuddly collectors' items that are shipped to over 37 countries from their 'birthplace' in Launceston.

However, as with all good things, there are always people ready to impersonate and take advantage of a reputation. Back in 1991, following numerous complaints about products being called 'Cornish' but not actually being made here, Cornwall County Council launched the 'Made in Cornwall' scheme to protect the identity of genuine Cornish products. The distinctive Engine House logo was introduced for members of the scheme to use on their products, and now the public can buy goods safe in the knowledge that what they are purchasing is indeed Made in Cornwall.

Over the years the scheme has gone from strength to strength, and with over 250 members it is now the largest regional origin scheme in the UK. Following its success, Cornwall Council has recently launched a similar 'Product of Cornwall' scheme to protect and promote Cornwall's primary produce, like meat, fruit, vegetables and flowers.

The new 'Product of Cornwall' scheme provides assurance to consumers, restaurants and businesses that the produce displaying the



engine house logo is Cornish through and through. The benefits for the producer include the support of Cornwall Council's experienced Trading Standards officers, promotion of their products through events and social media, seamless access to business support, and the Engine House newsletter, which provides information about changes in legislation and marketing opportunities. For the consumer, the engine mark logo not only gives assurance that the produce and gifts will meet their expectations in terms of quality and origin, but they can also rest assured that the impact on the environment is being kept to a minimum while impact on the local economy is being maximised.

Michelin-starred Chef Paul Ainsworth has given 'Product of Cornwall' his backing: "This scheme is important as it promotes our local producers and their high-quality produce," he said, "and being audited by Cornwall Council's Trading Standards means we can rely on their Cornish provenance."

Crafty Saltash-based companies are already members of the Made in Cornwall scheme, but so far there are no producers in the Saltash area who have signed up to the 'Product of Cornwall' scheme. Anyone interested in joining either scheme is invited to contact Cornwall Council's Public Protection Business Advice Hub on 0300 1234 212 or via email at [businessadvice@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:businessadvice@cornwall.gov.uk)

## Essa Files... from El Salvador

A couple of years back I began my column with a joking reference to taking up post as the Observer's 'Malta Correspondent' and received an email making a serious offer to put me in contact with some good deals for office space.

That would be even more of a challenge this month as I'm spending the first half of my summer holidays in seven different Central American countries. This particular dispatch is being written from the sun terrace in my hotel room in Suchitoto, El Salvador, with beautiful views over Lake Suchitlan, and that is also the subject of the column. You see Suchitoto is of a roughly similar size to Saltash and is a beautiful place – full of colonial architecture, shady squares, and little crime. It is in fact an oasis within officially the most murderous country on earth, and where gang warfare, mostly over drugs, caused the nation to make the headlines in January when for the first day in 2 years no one was murdered. We, however, are safely ensconced in our beautiful hotel, enjoying our fascinating trip through a beautiful region before we return to our safe and comfortable lives.

Why is this? Is it because I've worked harder than the 7 year old Honduran walking along the traffic jammed cars in the middle of the heat of the day, trying to sell cold drinks? Is it because I'm smarter than the guide who took me up the Cerra Negro volcano who studied tourism at university for five years then Nicaraguan history for two more? Is it because I'm somehow more worthy of comfort than the veteran of the Sandanista-Contra conflict who showed me around the museum of the revolution? I doubt it.

In case you're wondering what my point is, it's this. When I hear people talk about those who move countries as 'stealing our jobs', or who

Letter to the Editor... 

## "Greedy Councils"

"It would appear that squeezing the motorist is still fair game to Councils, the only problem is that these same motorists bring revenue into a Town Centre. I observed two Council employees in Fore Street Saltash, on Tuesday morning last, changing the signage. Where it was previously possible to stop for 1 hour has now been slashed to 1/2 hour. Apparently local businesses had not even been consulted on the change. If I were trying to make a living running a shop in Fore Street, I would have thought a concerted protest was in order. Hardly long enough to pop into a Cafe for Lunch or Brunch. But the bottom line is, that they want to be able to fine a motorist for overstaying, how much easier that now is with a half hour limit. Failing that, they hope to drive the hapless motorist into fee paying car parks. Bullying tactics indeed."

Chris Cansfield  
Landrake

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condemn the poor because 'they are lazy and don't work hard' it makes me angry. It's not that none of us have challenges, or problems, but just by virtue of being born in the UK in the twentieth century we all drew five numbers and the bonus in the national lottery of life. Lucky us, but it doesn't make us better or more worthy.

Adam Killeya

## Assault and Shoplifting on Increase

Crime in and around Saltash was on the increase during the first six months of this year, while the police budget and number of beat officers are falling. As a result of police cuts the neighbourhood team leader for Liskeard and Looe has now assumed responsibility for all of South East Cornwall including Saltash. Sergeant Jo Williams, who has recently taken on this responsibility, advised Saltash Town Council at the recent crime figures. Offences reported up until June totalled 377, an increase of 15.6% on 326 during the equivalent period of last year.

Shoplifting in particular has become a major problem in Saltash with 53 offences reported as against 28 last year. There is no obvious explanation for this and it is not clear whether offenders are largely local or visitors to the town. Sergeant Williams asked that shop keepers and the Town Council liaise with her as to how these offences may be reduced.

There is also a large increase in common assaults reported and this is in common with the entire police area.

This is largely down to 'domestic' assaults within family units, reported Sergeant Williams, though in addition there are increasing numbers of neighbour disputes which result in assault, which is a sad reflection on neighbourhoods in the area.

On a more positive note offences of burglary and criminal damage are down this year so far.

Following a reduction of £55 million in the Devon and Cornwall Police budget over the last six years the current budget is frozen until 2020, Sergeant Williams reported, resulting in an effective further reduction in real terms of around 7% and further cuts to come. This means that only one neighbourhood beat manager for each town will be left to cope with such issues as child protection and the safeguarding of vulnerable adults. With increased workload and reduced staff tough decisions will have to be made.

The Town Council, suggested Councillor Coot, should write to such persons as the Home Secretary, the local MP and the Police Commissioner concerning the

reduction in police spending as crime locally is increased.

On being informed that the refurbishment of Saltash Police Station, anticipated for late July, was intended to include office space for senior officers Councillor John Brady suggested that the money would have been better spent keeping officers on the beat instead of potentially halving the number of PCSO'S as Sergeant Johnson had advised was a likelihood.



A motion picture - Cat and Swan in chase!

## The Swan & The Cat

A swan relaxed on a front lawn in the St Stephen's area of Saltash, excited children watched this very unusual sighting one early morning.

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## Landrake Community Joins Carnival Spirit



Elsie enters into the spirit of face painting.

The spirit of carnival enlivened a sunny summer's day as the village community came together to support the revival of the traditional Landrake carnival. The day got off to a colourful start as the carnival procession wound through the heart of the village with adults and children eagerly eying the floats and enjoying the music. This was but a prelude to a full day of music, fun and laughter.

Entrants went barking mad for the fun dog show in the village square after which the mellow tones of the Landrake village band entertained the crowds gathering to patronise the variety of stalls around and about the village.

This was followed by an afternoon of live music in different styles. While dancers brought traditional Maypole and Irish Reels to the village.

Children from Sir Robert Geoffrey School had entered eagerly into a variety of competitions including picturing Landrake, baking and raising flowers and vegetables.

Homemade produce was eagerly snapped up from the stalls while others enjoyed craft demonstrations and a choice of games and competitions.

All agreed that the carnival spirit was well and successfully restored and the community spirit livelier than ever and thanks were due to all involved in its organisation and especially to major sponsors Dunchaul Ltd of Landrake.

An estimated sum of £500 was raised, with plans to start fundraising earlier this year, no doubt the figure will increase for next year.

Donations will be made shortly to Sir Robert Geffery School and Dementia PL12.



Landlady Drake Amy of the Buller's Arms borrowed a dress hand-made by Sir Francis Drake lookalike Brian Whipp's late wife Monica.



Dressed To Kill Oscar Dodd in pirate pose.



Penny A Ride Penny Mathers astride her saddle having ridden in from St. Erney.

## Strings and Songs from Ukulele and Choir

The exotic sounds of the Queen's Dock Ukulele Band contrasted with the more familiar harmonies of the Saltash Ladies Choir at a summer concert in Burraton Methodist Church.

A good crowd ensured a well attended audience which evidently enjoyed the varied programme. Compere Hilary Frank gave a brief history of the Ukulele, an instrument coming back into popularity and generally associated with Hawaii though believed originally to have come from Portugal.

It proved a truly versatile instrument as the band's repertoire ranged from the exotic numbers to the local and traditional 'Eddystone Light'. The choir too provided a popular programme and especially enlivened the audience with the Hebrew traditional 'Klezmer' celebration song.

## Road Closure for Residents

With the growing number of events in the town but with a low number of people qualified in traffic management a training opportunity should be given for up to twenty Saltash residents to obtain a road closure qualification.

The costs of such a course to be offered by Natter Bridge Training is £70 per person plus £30 for a Lantra ID Card.

Cornwall Council had already agreed to pay for half the cost of the course plus the card. The Town Council's services committee agreed to pay the other half and will encourage anyone interested to sign up for courses to be held in the Guildhall. It is hoped to encourage more community engagement from residents who might not yet be involved with community projects.



Rat Splatting organised by Landrake Young Farmers attracts an eager audience of boys from Sir Robert Geffery School.



A Royal Pair Carnival Princess and Prince Olivia and Charles Green.

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Saturday 12noon - 9pm

Sunday 12noon - 3pm & 6pm - 8pm

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Sunday 5pm - 8pm

For further information & menus

Watch our website

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