

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

August 2018 - Issue 317

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Major Employer Fears Job Losses if Housing Goes Ahead

A major local leisure facility which is the town's major employer with 220 staff and attracts twenty five thousand tourists to stay could lose between one and two million pounds a year and shed fifty to sixty jobs if proposed development on adjacent land goes ahead.

Mr. Shape, Chief Executive of the China Fleet Club, to a Saltash Town Council meeting, expressed this concern.

It follows an amendment to the Saltash development plan whereby inspectors sought that land at Pill between the China Fleet Club and the town be reserved for housing development.

'As the largest employer in Saltash for 27 years we put £4.5 million per year into the local economy, around £2 million of which is in jobs', said Mr. Sharpe. If the housing development up to the club's boundaries were to proceed, this would affect the club considerably. 'We value our workers and our involvement in the town', said Mr. Sharpe.

There was also concern expressed in letters written on behalf of the North and Middle Pill Neighbourhood Association and written privately, asking the council to preserve the green area. They especially expressed concern over traffic issues, describing Cutlers Corner where Saltmill Land and Old Ferry Road meet North Road, as difficult to manoeuvre and a

scene of accidents. Two other 'pinch points' were named as Glanville Terrace and Shute Corner and the Council was asked as to its safeguarding of pedestrians and vehicles accessing property in the area.

The inspectors had amended the draft plan, replied, Councillor David Yates who has been masterminding the town's neighbourhood plan, as they believe the rate of build at the major Broadmoor Farm development would on its own be insufficient to cater for local housing needs. They therefore sought an additional site for additional housing. 'The inspectors felt that plans to build a hundred houses a year at Broadmoor were over-optimistic', said Councillor Yates. He added that he personally disagreed but that local authorities have to meet the inspectors' requirements.

The plans cover a 5.9 hectare site of 58 proposed dwellings. The amendment assures that east of the A38 is more

appropriate for low density housing and lends itself to self and custom built housing.

Local landowner Mr. Holman, who owns much of the property and helped put forward the development proposal, assures the Observer, 'This is indeed a low density and eco-friendly housing scheme and we want to engage with our neighbours including the China Fleet Club'. He added, 'Britain has the lowest level of self and custom built housing in Europe and the government is eager to encourage this, away from the major national big building developers. 'The landowners will be living next door so it has to be right for us', he concluded.

'There is nothing that we can do to stop houses being built at Pill', advised Councillor Yates, 'It will be necessary to fully consider all issues if there is to be building there. I am not saying yet if this should be a reserved site, this will be considered at length as part of the Neighbourhood Plan

Anti-Social Behaviour Remedies Explained

Saltash does not suffer much high level anti-social behaviour at present, but what there is currently is being closely monitored by Cornwall Council in conjunction with the Police, Cornwall Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Officer Helen Toms told the Town Council at their July meeting. She explained that she is the one out of four such officers in Cornwall and is assigned to South East Cornwall. Her duties include working with victims to offer support and advice as well as with offenders in seeking to issue and enforce Criminal Behaviour Orders (which have superseded ASBO's)

When anti-social behaviour is identified in an individual the first action is for case workers to operate a preventative staged anti-social behaviour warning process. The individual is then monitored over a six month period to check or reduce such behaviour. Nobody under age 18 is currently on such a warning in the Liskeard area, which includes Saltash stated Ms. Toms, although there are several in the St. Austell area which she also covers. In 2016/17 80% of young people and 73% of adults who received a warning or intervention from the anti-social behaviour team did not come to the attention of the team again within the following three months. If such behaviour does persist then the team will take further action and if necessary proceed to a criminal behaviour order.

Much of what anti-social behaviour does take place in Saltash is around the Tamar Bridge and under it in Elwell Woods and on the Waterside as Ms. Toms was evidently aware.

Your Saltash Observer correspondent pointed out that many of those to whom such behaviour in Saltash is attributed are not Saltash residents but come over the bridge from Plymouth. Ms Toms assured him that Cornwall's anti-social behaviour team can and do still take appropriate action when the participant lives in another local authority area.

Anyone subject to or witnessing anti-social behaviour is encouraged to call the police on their non-emergency number 101 or if the threat is causing immediate danger on 999. Alternatively it can be reported directly to Ms. Toms via Cornwall Council.

Station Building Planning Approved



Cornwall Council planners have approved the Planning Application for the Redevelopment of the Saltash Station Building. The application received support

to the function and restoration of the building and will enhance the setting of both the bridge and the conservation area."

The next step is to finalize Tender documents for the

refurbishment works and issue them for a - what is a six-week tender window. Once a main contractor has been appointed works could begin before the end of the year.



from the Cornwall Buildings Group and Historic England, who included a long comment including the following statement.

"Historic England welcomes the restoration and reuse of the station buildings and their return to active community use. Whilst one part of the building requires demolition due to its very poor condition, the replacement extension will compliment the character and appearance of the original 19th century building. The repairs and works of alteration are all appropriate

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Telegraph & Star
THE WORLD WAR AT AN END.

Dear Friends,

As promised we are now delighted to advise you of the Performing Arts Workshops dates and times for our Commemoration and Celebration of the end of the Great War 1914-1918 and at the same time Women winning the Vote 1918.

We will be providing the Workshops every Wednesday morning from **September 5th until November 14th** from 10.00am until 11.00am (1 hour workshops) At the Burraton Community Centre, ground floor (Grenfell Avenue). (More news later regarding our Friday evenings workshops).

All the workshops are **free of charge** and our music and drama practitioner Julian Barnicoat will be there to put us through our celebratory paces.

This is a rare opportunity for us all to take part in a wonderful period theatre encounter. We don't need any performing arts experience, just a willingness to partake in what we believe to be a unique experience on reflecting and paying tribute to all those who 100 years ago fought for our today's freedom and equality.

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Town Messenger

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Email: schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk

Education Welfare:

Telephone: 0300 1234 101
Email: educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk

Housing Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 161
Email: info@cornwallhousing.org.uk

Social Services Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 101
Email: children@cornwall.gov.uk

Social Services Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 131
Email: adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk

Highways Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email: customerrelations@cornwalllimited.co.uk

Transport Department

(Schools Transport)
Telephone: 0300 1234 101
(Bus Pass) Telephone: 0300 1234 222

Email: schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk

Roads, Transport and Parking

Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email: roadstransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk

Waste Department

Telephone: 0300 1234 141
Email: [via contact form on website only](mailto:viacontactformonwebsiteonly)

Cormac Solutions

Telephone: 01872 323 313
Email: customerrelations@cormactd.co.uk

Fly Tipping:

Telephone: 0300 1234 141
Email: refuseandrecycling@cornwall.gov.uk

Have the Binmen Been?

To help keep our residential areas neat and rubbish free all residents are asked to put out their rubbish for collection by 7 a.m. on the collection day. Remember the rubbish is your responsibility until it is collected. If you are unsure of your collection day, details are below. It should not include asbestos, commercial waste, chemicals (including paint) batteries or electrical equipment.

The plastic bags that most of us use sometimes present problems when seagulls, attracted to food waste within, rip them and scatter the contents. While a heavy sheet on top might help, seagull proof sacks are sold through the one stop shop in our library.

Garden waste also should not be included with domestic rubbish. This can be collected

for recycling, alternate weeks from the standard recycling collections. Again bins, and the requisite permits, can be organised through the library or via 0300 1234 141 or www.cornwall.gardenwaste

Recycling collections are fortnightly. Boxes for glass as well as bags for plastic, cans, food tins and aerosols, and separate bags for both paper and for cardboard are available free of charge for each home. Again anyone not in possession of these can organise their collection via the library or delivery via the above number.

For information on local collection days for domestic rubbish...

Cornwall Council Services at your fingertips...

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/>
Please enter your postcode on the right and then select your address from the drop down list clicking the blue button 'View my area' to view Council services in your local area. This includes your Councillor and services in your area including waste and recycling collection dates, your nearest library, one stop shop, waste and recycling centre and safe places, as well as local car parks, roadworks near you and schools in your area.

Largest Litter Ever Comes Ashore by Ash Torre

As the world worries about seaborne plastic pollution what has been described as 'the largest piece of litter ever' has been washed up at Saltash.

An eight foot long lump of polystyrene was hauled from the old ferry slipway on Saltash waterside, a spot which has become popular with local children cooling off in the water during the long hot summer.

Saltash's own Waterside Warden removed the giant piece of marine waste for proper disposal.

Had it remained in the water it could, with all the other plastic waste highlighted in the recent 'Blue Planet' television programme, have broken down into many thousand fragments of plastic waste and ingested as food by fish and other sea life. The plastic could in turn be swallowed by humans enjoying seafood meals.

Town Centre on Camera

Safeguarding Saltash, especially areas where people gather to shop and to socialise, is always a concern, and the Town Council has been seeking quotations to enhance security through CCTV.

Funding is currently being sought to mount several cameras in the heart of the town along Fore Street. If they prove a success then the scheme can be extended to cover other parts of the town.

A survey confirmed that the majority of shopkeepers would wish to see CCTV in the street, for their added security and that of their customers. Some already have their own in house systems and some already belong to PARC (Plymouth Against Retail Crime), an organisation that gathers evidence against shoplifters, many of whom come to Saltash from outside the town.

Such a security system would be an asset to everybody, it is considered, especially when so much has been spent lately on making Fore Street attractive through hanging baskets, planters and street furniture. The council will consider the matter further when costings and possible fundings have been evaluated.

Your Town Council

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Pete Samuels
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Use Your Vote

A seat for a Town Councillor has fallen vacant in the North Ward of Saltash. Details are available on Town notice boards or on the Saltash Town Council website.

The election will be held on 6th September and all registered voters in that ward are entitled to cast their vote.

Put Out More Flags

A colourful array of Union Flags to line Fore Street is replacing the Cornish flags of St. Piran this month.

This is a part of the town's dedication to mark the centenary of the armistice that ended the Great War of 1914-18, other events of which are separately publicised in your Saltash Observer.

Your Cornwall Councillors

Saltash North
Sheila Lennox-Boyd
s.lennox-boyd@cornwallcouncillor.org.uk

Saltash South
Hilary Frank
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Saltash East
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Saltash West
Sam Tamlin
sam.tamlin@cornwallcouncillor.org.uk

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Keep Saltash Tidy

Summertime is when most people are getting out and around and are enjoying Saltash and the countryside while it looks at its most attractive.

Sadly, the town's attractiveness is on occasions spoiled by a small minority who, particularly when eating and drinking outdoors, do not place their rubbish in a convenient bin or take it home.

A correspondent to the 'Observer' has in particular felt obliged to collect the resultant rubbish himself and photographed it beforehand as shown elsewhere in your Observer.

The obvious solution is for everybody to bin their rubbish. This includes 'dog poo', an issue that results in many complaints to councillors. It is not only unsightly and unpleasant but is a serious health hazard, particularly in open spaces where children play.

Most rubbish bins especially in such open spaces such as Longstone, are for dog poo as well as general rubbish. Sometimes, especially after a sunny weekend, bins are overfull. This can be reported to Cornwall Council on 0300 1234 141 or email refuseandrecycling@cornwall.gov.uk please include the 'location reference' if available on the side of the bin.

There have also been recent incidents of fly tipping, including furniture dumped in the Trematon area. This too should be reported to Cornwall Council on 0300 1234 141 or

email: refuseandrecycling@cornwall.gov.uk

Areas such as Warfelton field and Churchtown Farm are especially prone to fly tipping especially in the summer months. Friends of Churchtown Farm Volunteers and Saltash Town Council Wardens are kept busy collecting up after those especially who seem capable of carrying heavy drink containers to the far corners of the nature reserve but incapable of carrying the empties back.

Other Volunteers eager to help keeping Saltash tidy are invited to join the regular litter picks organised around the town by Saltash Environmental Action (SEA) pickers are provided and these are pleasant as well as useful events, please go to www.sea.pl12.org.uk or e-mail info@sea.pl12.org.uk

Despite the actions of an irresponsible minority Saltash remains an attractive environment, now enhanced by our newly appointed Town Wardens who are seeking to weed the beds and water the plants around the town centre among their other duties.

Let us all do our bit to maintain our environment and keep Saltash a pleasant place to live.

Mayoral Points of View...

Dear Residents,

Following the theme of last month's points of view, I will bring you up to date with your Councils road to devolution of assets and services from Cornwall Council.

On the 1st of August, the Town Clerk and myself met with a number of Cornwall Council Portfolio holders and Officers at Director level. I informed them of our dissatisfaction at the level of Service Saltash has received recently, especially regarding grass cutting, rubbish and litter collection, and maintenance of open spaces. I truly feel their apologies for the poor service we have been receiving was genuine. This led to a positive and frank discussion and a determination from both sides to deliver services back to Saltash, to achieve value for money and vastly improved services. To that

end, we have agreed a working group be set up to deliver devolution and assets to Saltash Town Council.

The Library Sub Committee have now met with their Cornwall Council counterparts and started the process of bringing this asset and service into Saltash Town Council's control. Lots of meetings ahead for this committee, however I am confident they will deliver within the timescale agreed.

The Station Building has now got conditional planning approval and the Council is now going through the formal tender process. It has been a lengthy process to get this far and I thank Council members for their unwavering support in getting this project to where we are. I will be truly happy to see the scaffolding up and builders on site. October is the month we will see this, all being well.

I, wish now to put on record my thanks to the WW1 Commemorative Committee for all of the hard work in organising the August 4th unveiling of The Silent Soldier, and all of the other events in the pipeline.

Councillor John Brady
Mayor of Saltash

Barn Conversion Approved

A derelict barn which is a listed building may be rebuilt and converted to a residence, the Town Council has agreed.

It recommended approval in respect of a derelict barn at Pill Farm, Middle Pill, Saltash, between the Lower Estate and the China Fleet Club.

Blessing for Rose Blooming for Lost Children



A sunny corner of St. Stephens's churchyard has been dedicated to children who were lost before birth and where family members can quietly remember them.

A centrepiece rose bush aptly named 'Sweet Child of Mine', recently planted, was blessed by the Reverend Cathy Sigrist. She was accompanied by Deputy Mayor Mrs Gloria Challen, Chair of the Burial Board Councillor Averil Pinckney, and other Councillors. Also

present were family members of children who are remembered there.

The rose was acquired through the town burial board thanks to the charity Eva's Little Stars and commemorates in particular those children stillborn after twenty four weeks.

Close by is a plaque and a small solar water feature kindly donated by Tamar View Aquatics, by which bereaved parents can pause and contemplate the ever flowing stream.

Present too was Sue of 'Petit Pain' who, together with Geoff, wishes to thank especially their loyal customers whose generous contribution to Eva's Little Star helped finance the feature.

Social Meet for Chamber Members

Local business people are being invited to socialise and network over a drink before the opening of the Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Industry's September meeting.

Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland hopes that this might encourage more chamber members to attend the monthly meeting and to let the Chamber Committee know how the Chamber can best serve the interest of local business.

All Chamber members are warmly welcome to meet with committee and fellow members over a social drink from 5.30 p.m. on Monday 3rd September at the China Fleet Club.

Asbestos Adds to Bridge Repair Costs

Current work on the Tamar Bridge cables is to take longer and cost £1.5 million more than budgeted following the announcement that hazardous asbestos has been found by those working on the project.

The current work is being carried out on the cables which connect the main suspension cables to the bridge deck.

The cost was estimated at £6 million but Cornwall Council has been given a revised figure of £7.5 million. Workmen will be seen fully clad and masked in bio-hazard clothing.

It is also likely that the work will overrun the anticipated Autumn completion date.

This unexpected expenditure is likely to be taken into account when bridge toll increases are considered for next year as a result of increased maintenance and running costs.

Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland – Keeping us Updated...

The Chamber made a more detailed application for funding for the Christmas Festival and, in part, this was supported by the Town Council at its meeting on the 2nd. I say "in part" in the sense that we had applied for £8,800 and were recommended to receive only £5,000. We had hoped to have a festival as good, or even better, than last year but the reduced funding will mean that we will have to look at reducing the activities that are put on. The Town Councillors questioned the need for the lantern parade and the snow cannons both of which are very popular with the younger children and which are a big draw as parents/grandparents come with the children and therefore we hope that we can slim down the event without losing these but, unfortunately, their cost is a third of the original application.

However, the Chamber is determined to make it work so that the Christmas Festival 2018 can go ahead and we will endeavour to find other funding sources e.g. grants, sponsorship etc. in the hope that we do not have to reduce the standard of the event.

On other matters, the Chamber has responded to the questionnaire regarding the increase in Tamar Bridge tolls and made the suggestion that it is time for the owning committee to consider differential pricing between the bridge and the Torpoint ferry as the latter is subsidised by the bridge tolls and if the toll for crossing the ferry was

increased then this could help in keeping the toll increase on the bridge to a smaller amount.

At our next meeting in September we are looking forward to having potential new members in attendance. The Chamber thrives on having debate on all matters affecting business in PL12 and the more members we have the more varied the debate. If you are in business and would welcome the local support the Chamber can give or the wider support that our affiliation with Cornwall Chamber can provide then come along to the meeting at 5.30 p.m. on the 3rd September at the China Fleet Club to see whether you can benefit from Chamber membership. We do not expect you to sign up on the night but would hope that you would feel that the cost of £25 per year is acceptable and will sign up in due course.

Action on Air Traffic Pollution

Residents of a village near Saltash who reportedly are endangered by an unacceptably high level of air pollution are being prioritised by Cornwall Council's environmental protection. The Cornwall Gateway Community Network Panel was informed.

A new air quality unit to measure particles has been installed at Tideford, a village through which the A38 brings an almost constant stream of traffic.

The Cornwall Environmental Protection Officer Eloise Travis had circulated an update confirming that Cornwall Council is currently working together with Highways England to complete a feasibility study of traffic management options to deliver air quality improvements along the A38 in Tideford.

There have also been reports of Saltash itself suffering dangerous levels of air pollution from traffic, though figures are considered suspect by many, as Cornwall Councillor Sam Tamlin made clear in a recent 'Saltash Observer'. During debate at the Town Council doubts were expressed on the measurements of air pollution taken, it was said, by the fire station. The Mayor did however refer to air pollution being a problem in the Carkeel area.

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September 2018

Sat 1st Vicious Kitten

Fri 7th Motown Pirates (MH) Members £5.00

(Non Members £10.00)

Sat 8th Hi Jack

Sat 15th Trena Marie

Sat 22nd Switch

Fri 28th Abba Duo + Double Soul (MH)

Members £5.00 Non Members £10.00

Sat 29th Mrs Jones

October 2018

Sat 6th Ashes to Ashes

Sat 13th Weazledust

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Sat 27th Low Profile

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Letters to The Editor...

Dear Editor

As a regular attendee of public council meetings, I am appalled at the lack of transparency and accountability under the current leadership of Saltash Town Council.

Previously, members of the public attending a council meeting had to give 15 minutes' notice to ask a question. Saltash Town Council now only allows questions from the public if they have been submitted 24 hours in advance by email. This is completely contrary to the advice given on the Council's own website and its current Standing Orders which state that questions have to be submitted 15 minutes in advance of a meeting.

To make matters worse, questions that I have submitted 24 hours in advance have been answered prior to the meeting via email, and at the meeting



I have been told that since I had already received an answer in writing there would be no discussion on my question.

The situation is compounded by the minutes of meetings, which are skeletal at best. Even though delivering transparency and accountability on proceedings and public expenditure is a fundamental part of local government, the minutes of Saltash Town Council meetings lack detail, so there is very little chance for anyone unable to attend a meeting to keep up with

Good Evening Mary

Please find attached a photo of litter found en route to Latchbrook via Fore Street, Longstone Park, Callington Road and Liskeard Road. A simple, straightforward walk but the amount of litter left lying around is disgusting. I'm sure some of this is a leftover from the recycling rounds but the majority is pure and simple litter from disrespectful, ignorant, selfish and thoughtless people. Not only is this awful to look at but, as I'm sure you are aware, is also a hazard to children, pets and wildlife. I'm happy to do my bit as I'm proud of my town but I have no desire to live in squalor.

Regards, R.Rawlings



developments. Take the minutes of the Business Strategy and Forward Planning Committee held on 25th July, for example: the only information given on important agenda items such as committee budgets, the Station Building and the Maurice Huggins Room is one line stating that the Chairman gave an update.

Repeated requests for town council meetings to be webcast, making them more widely accessible, have fallen on deaf ears, despite promises that funding for it had been included within this year's precept.

In my mind, it's a sorry state of affairs, and a sad indictment on the leadership of this current council.

Sarah Martin
Saltash

Dear Mary Crawford

I read Sheryll Murray's column this week with some distaste. She refers to the "will of the people" over the Brexit referendum. While this is a well-worn cliché it is also a gross misrepresentation of the facts...that nearly half the people who bothered to vote wished to remain in Europe. To leave is certainly not "the will of the people", but the choice of not even half the franchise. "The will of the people" gains traction with constant repetition, and insults and angers those whose will was ignored. It also pretends that the issue hasn't polarised and divided our society.

Can you tell me where your paper stands politically? Does a Tory MP (who also clearly doesn't represent the views of all living in her constituency) have your paper as her personal mouthpiece? Could we perhaps see some political balance, please?

For example, why not publish this in your next issue?

Yours sincerely

Richard Sowman

Volunteers Thanked at Hog Roast Evening

The often unsung heroes and heroines who volunteer to help the community through community enterprises PL12 were guests at a hog roast evening held at Landulph.

Many of those present were volunteer drivers on the Hopper busses and three Hopper trips ensured that all the guest were carried out to the event. Two of those who helped create Saltash Gateway CIG almost twelve years ago were present, former Cornwall and Saltash Town Councillors Bob Austin and Joe Ellison. Bob has been a director ever since, as has Steve Tait.

All present were thanked for their efforts on behalf of the community, it was a well attended event and pronounced a great success.

Observer Telephone Numbers

07971484872

or 01579 345699

I am really sorry if what I'm going to say at the end disturbs or even offends some people: it is the result of looking back over my accumulating service on Cornwall Council and I suppose my growing disenchantment with the whole caboodle.

Thinking the unthinkable is something that I normally leave to others - to the genuine deep thinkers, to the casual extremists with a small 'e' that you meet everyday in Fore Street or in the pub and even to the shallow Internet-afflicted thinkers preaching from false news pages; however I suspect in the light of what some, not me think is unthinkable - Brexit - that it is time that we all have a go at this. Skip to the end for mine.

Right. I don't think that the Grand Cornwall Council Amalgamation Experiment is working for us in South East Cornwall. In fact I think that we are being failed by this council on several levels and I just do not see a way around it any more. When it all started in 2009 (which was when Caradon District Council and the other districts were extinguished by a government dictate and Cornwall Council was formed) I thought it might just work on the basis of the promises we were made. Two examples of promises: firstly we were told that the council would work regionally and not be based in Truro all the time; secondly that the community network areas (we are Cornwall Gateway) would evolve into mini district councils with funding for some items. That lasted five minutes, maybe less before finances, we were told, would not allow for any sort of revolving council around the county - just too expensive. The devolution to the networks never even started and they have only survived by the skin on their teeth - it is only now that a paltry amount is being gifted to the networks for transport improvements.

It's not just that - it's more the extreme effort it seems to take to get anything at this end of the county. Armand Toms,



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and our PL12 community

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



a Looe councillor (and a very good one, too) is another who is quite rightly banging on about it - he cites for example the miserable amount of Cornwall's vast EC spending that has arrived up here. A lot of my concern is down to distance and I have somewhere a letter to a committee I serve on locally, from a Truro officer, who could not come up to the meeting because of the distance - absolutely incredible considering the promises made that the county would not become Truro-centric - that was a while ago but I am convinced that there is a mindset there. It is actually physically impossible to be as good a councillor at a distance compared to those in the Truro area - for us there is no such thing as a morning or afternoon meeting because with travelling it is practice a good part of a day. Accordingly and with some exceptions the best attenders are those local to Truro. Virtually all meetings except for local Planning meetings are held in County Hall. Unitary councils like Cornwall were the brainchild of someone in a city up the line and indeed they work in heavily populated areas where such councils are compact and all councillors have equal influence.

And what about other spending? Is that Truro-centric? Cornwall Council is spending £3.2 million on the Hall for Truro...sorry, Hall for Cornwall (yes I know that there is lots of other funding from outside the county but that is not the point) and is going to spend another £3million on a Stadium for Truro...sorry, there I go again, Stadium for Cornwall. I have been told several times that it is all OK because we can go to the Theatre Royal in Plymouth or watch Argyle in

Plymouth. Absolutely no comment. Having said that there are plenty of areas where savings through amalgamation have worked, albeit at substantial job losses of thousands over the years. As a direct result of both the Draconian government cuts to Cornwall Council's finances and to the distance and representation problems I have outlined above, town councils such as Saltash are being forced into taking on large devolution issues. I have the greatest respect for Saltash Town Council who have bit the bullet and have saved the toilets, are in the process of saving the Waterside from steady deterioration and are saving the library. Well done, yes it is double taxation and it shouldn't have to be done but there is no choice.

Thinking the unthinkable: I hate this idea and have never said this before but we might be better off in Saltash if we were part of Plymouth. At least we would be that critical thing - close to the seat of power with almost certainly more influence as a major rates contributor and by being a town with minor infrastructure problems compared to some areas of Plymouth. I don't want this, I would still oppose it but logically I can see the argument that could be made. I would rather reform Cornwall but I just don't think it will ever happen. Let me know what you think.

Just been away doing DIY things for an offspring and by Jove the Cabbage White butterflies have really enjoyed my absence - my cabbages and Brussels are in tatters and heaving with fat and happy-looking caterpillars. A gardeners lot is often not a happy one!

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Letter to The Editor...



Please find below a report from one of our hirers at Ashtorre Rock...

The Tamar Valley Dental Group based at Derriford Hospital often used the Ashtorre Rock Centre for their Dental Education Evenings. They were so impressed with the facilities that were offered to them and the kind hospitality of Lynn (Chair) and Tony Marsh at Ashtorre Rock that when the Dental Group was closed recently Heidi Mills, the Dental Group Leader elected to donate left over funds to the Ashtorre Rock Charity to help with future improvements to the Centre.

Photo shows Heidi Mills and Steve Saunders of the Tamar Valley Dental Group with Lynn Marsh and other members of the Ashtorre Rock Committee receiving a cheque for £1,740.00. Ashtorre Rock is delighted to receive this very generous donation and would like to express their sincere and grateful thanks to Heidi, Steve and the Tamar Valley Dental Group for their support of Ashtorre Rock.

Lynn Marsh Chair of Ashtorre Rock

Spotlight on Cornwall Council in SE Cornwall...

A Cornish Initiative #2MinuteBeachClean Boards

Saltash schoolgirls, Olivia Didymus and Jessica Cain are worried about the impact beach litter is having on marine habitats. They said: "Litter is killing and injuring sea life, and it makes Cornwall look uncared for."

Efforts to keep beaches clean will be helped by 24 new #2MinuteBeachClean boards that have been jointly funded by Cornwall Council, Cormac and Clean Cornwall. The boards have taken up residence at coastal locations from Penzance to Seaton, bringing the total number of Beach Clean boards in Cornwall to 44. Each board is lovingly cared for by a volunteer 'Board Guardian', who keeps the board stocked with litter pickers and bags or buckets.

The #2MinuteBeachClean is a Cornish initiative that began in Bude in 2014, but has now spread nationwide, with more than 250 boards in locations across the UK. Founder Martin Dorey said: "The partnership with Cornwall Council has been strong right from the beginning when we were putting up our first boards. The trials proved that they worked, and now we're coming full circle, because we're putting more and more out every day."

But Amy Walker from Clean Cornwall also gave a warning: "Our beaches and coastline are obviously a vital part of Cornwall, but it's important to also look inland to our towns, villages and countryside. Litter is a hazard for our wildlife and habitats here, too." Members of Saltash Environmental Action, who have been running community litter picks on the 4th Sunday of every month for the last few years, have said they are seeing increasing amounts of

litter on the streets and pathways of Saltash. SEA's litter picks are supported by Cornwall Council, which arranges for insurance and for the bags of litter to be taken away.

And then there is the increasing amount of roadside litter. Every year Highways England and Cornwall Council spend hundreds of thousands of pounds clearing litter such as drinks bottles and cans, food packaging and takeaway cups from roadsides in Cornwall. Not only is roadside litter an eyesore and expensive to clear away, but picking it up, especially on high speed roads such as the A38, means that the workforce is exposed to unnecessary danger. Sue James, Cornwall Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection, said: "Cornwall Council has a regular programme of litter picking on roadside verges. We also liaise with CORMAC on any planned roadworks so teams can litter pick at the same time, reducing the cost to the taxpayer."

Dropping litter is a criminal offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and changes to the law last year mean that vehicle owners will face penalties of £150 if it can be proven rubbish has been thrown from their car, van or lorry, even if was discarded by a passenger. Anyone who sees a litterbug can report them to Cornwall Council by ringing 0300 1234 141 or sending an email to envhealthandlicensing@cornwall.gov.uk.

As Olivia and Jessica suggest: "If everyone picked up their own litter and five pieces someone else has left behind then Cornwall would be a lovely place to live and it would look amazing!"

SEA's next community litter pick is on September 23rd, meeting at 10am at the Celtic Cross. All welcome.

BBQ for the 'Y' in Lynn's Garden

Volunteers from Saltash's YMCA charity shop joined with colleagues from Plymouth and Torpoint to enjoy the charity's annual Summer barbecue.

Saltash Manager Lynn invited all to her garden where the sun shone warmly on the fifty plus who come to share the fun and fund raising.

A highly successful event raised £300, much of this coming from a raffle and various fun games. All present clearly enjoyed the event and were pleased to support this cause.

Summertime and the Walking is Easy

August and the height of Summer are upon us once again. For us on the 'Observer' this marks yet another anniversary as we enter our twenty-seventh year. For an almost unbelievable quarter of a century and more we have been busy spreading the news, promoting local businesses and promoting the community of which we are proud to be a part.

August is for us all the height of the holiday season and for families in particular with children it may mean weeks of rediscovering the Cornish Coast and Countryside that we locals all love. As of course do many others, and with the hot and sunny start to Summer Cornwall is set to attract more visitors than ever before.

Yet it is easy to escape those madding crowds even in Summertime and to enjoy solitude within the rural peace of our gorgeous countryside. As swallows dive low over the ripening corn there are little known deep banked lanes and field paths to discover, many within or close outside Saltash's boundaries.

One of our happiest achievements over the past quarter century has been putting together our own tribute to Saltash's countryside in the 'Saltash Observer' book 'A Quality of Life'. Including as it does six strolls within easy walking distance of downtown Saltash and eight more a short drive or bus ride away the book is your passport to discovering the best of the rural surroundings of Saltash and Lynher and Tamar valleys. To take a random paragraph on a green track from the walk entitled 'A Trek Around Tideford'.

'This (green) lane was formerly the route from Wiswandra and Trewandra farms to Tideford and to the river, once the main means of communication around the Tamar and Lynher estuaries. Limestone would be carried upstream to Tideford, the highest navigable point on the River Tiddy, and burnt on the quays in kilns the ruins of which survive. Lime would be carried from the quays up this lane to be spread over the farmlands as fertilizer. Carts would travel the other way bearing farm produce down to Tideford quays for carriage by river down to Devoport and Plymouth markets. Now metalled lanes connect the farms with the A38 and green lanes such as this are all but lost to history'.

Or from another walk within a couple of miles from Saltash yet is a different world.

Observer Telephone Numbers
07971484872
or
01579 345699

Community Grants to Youth Projects

The Livewire Youth Project which in particular encourages young people to make and record their own music, is one of the recipients of a recent town community chest award. Livewire has also become extra active in promoting mental health issues among young people. It requested and was granted £900 from the Community Chest.

Young people with more nautical inclinations will benefit from a similar sum as £992 was granted to Saltash Sailing Club's cadets. The Sailing Club is keen to ensure that the sailing experience is open to all interested young people and not those whose families own boats.

A further sum of £1000 was granted to the Great War 1914 - 18 commemorative events committee whose plans to mark the centenary of the war's ending have been previously publicised in your 'Observer'.

The Saltash Waterside Residents Association was also awarded £480 for its forthcoming Christmas event and a further £320 for a Christmas Tree.

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Top Degree for Ex Saltash Schoolboy

Between being President of the prestigious Oxford University Union and standing for Oxford Parliamentary seat, former Bishop Cornish schoolboy Harry Samuels still found time to achieve a double first degree in classics.

Saltash born and bred Harry gained top marks in his eleven plus which took him to Devonport High School for Boys. While there he taught himself Greek and worked at Rowes bakery in Saltash. His A level results earned a place at New College Oxford where this Summer he gained a double first in classics, with the fourth overall highest marks in Oxford and highest marks over all for his political paper.

His interest in politics, as well as seeing him stand as parliamentary candidate, has resulted in several television appearances. He also served as member of the Cornwall Youth Parliament and has packed a great deal into 22 years, with great prospects for the future.

War Centenary Concert Raised Funds for Poppy Appeal

The solemn and strident tune to that familiar hymn of remembrance 'Abide With Me' fittingly opened the World War I Centenary Commemorative Charity Concert performed by Saltash's own R Windband. There was a good attendance on a hot Sunday afternoon at the Saltash Social Club for the concert, all proceeds of which were to go to the Saltash Poppy Appeal.

The second number 'Iberian Escapades' was especially suited to the Mediterranean heat being experienced. Thereafter the audience was treated to a musical world tour, pausing to cross America with a tribute to ragtime 'New York 1927' before heading upstate to an

There's a Thief About

Tempting as it is to keep windows wide open these Summer days, sadly they also present a temptation to thieves.

One local resident in a bungalow in a quiet Saltash road who had her window wide open at night was disturbed at 3 a.m. by an apparent attempt to enter. She sleeps at the front of her home and on turning on the light saw a tall dark figure running up her drive onto the road. She subsequently discovered that her neighbours had similar experiences that night including a car being broken into. She is naturally concerned at what might have happened had she awoken after he had entered her home.

The police advised that anyone in such a situation should phone 999 immediately and that all should secure outbuildings and the windows of their homes, even if enjoying the garden out of sight of the said windows.

evocative musical portrayal of New York's Catskill Mountains.

R Windband can always promise a few novelty (and musically challenging) items and this time it was a tribute to early Tinseltown with 'Silent Movie Suite'. From lively 'The Jig is Up' and 'Sawdust City Celebration' to the evocative 'Ballad' it was an afternoon of musical contrasts concluding with a triumphant musical piece 'Curtain Call'. And if the audience was feeling the heat one could but imagine how the lively musicians, and especially the band's founder and energetic conductor Ruth Ballantyne must have been feeling. 'R (Our) Windband is a team of fantastically talented musicians that support and encourage every member to be the best they can be', claims Ruth, and they could now match many a professional symphonietta.

There was a break for 'tea and stickies', a raffle at which your Observer correspondent was disappointed in being one number out from winning a bottle of rum, and the Grand Prize Draw, which the Royal British Legion had been running since spring, was drawn. A grand total of £885 was raised towards the centenary Saltash Poppy Appeal.

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



Last month I was pleased to see the launch of the £40m Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Investment Fund in the constituency at the St Mellion International Resort. The new fund will bring new debt and equity finance to small businesses across the region, helping them to grow and to thrive.

Our Police and Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez was recently in Parliament to outline a proposal to merge Devon and Cornwall Police with Dorset Police. It is hoped that the immediate savings to back office and managerial aspects will free up enough of the budget to support another 100 officers on the front line. It is also the idea that separate headquarters will be based in each county (The Devon & Cornwall Police HQ is in Exeter at the moment) and that local community policing will be a priority. In principal I support this but am keeping a close eye on updates to see how this develops as plans are made.

I recently asked a question in the House during Prime Minister's Questions about state aid for Cornwall. It was good to hear that any aid currently given could still be, however I was hoping that by leaving the EU we would be able to do new and innovative schemes.

I was very pleased to hear that Cornwall has been chosen as the centre for horizontal orbital space

flights in Newquay. I hope it will bring many high paid jobs to Cornwall as this capability is developed. I will be pushing for investment into the County to take full advantage of this opportunity.

It was good to attend the very successful Liskeard Show again this year. I would like to thank the many who were involved in the organisation of the event.

I was pleased to be the guest on the last Sunday Politics show before the summer. We mainly discussed Brexit, fishing and council finance. The presenters explained to me that it is hoped there will be a different format after the summer and a new regional Sunday Politics will be on air directly after the Andrew Marr show at 10am each Sunday. Last Sunday's show is on catch up on iplayer if you missed it.

I was pleased to see unemployment fall yet again. Government figures point out that we now have a forty year low for unemployment and that average wages are now rising faster than prices. The figures show that youth unemployment is down 44.2% and that there are 1.5 million more women in work. Across England there are now over 2.5 million more people employed since 2010 and here in the South West employment is up 286,651. This is very good news.

Most of the talk recently has been on Brexit. I still have considerable concerns over the Chequers plan and am determined that Brexit really should mean Brexit and not some kind of watered down customs arrangement. The people of South East Cornwall, Cornwall as a whole and the country all voted for Brexit and I believe strongly that this is what must be delivered.

J. HALL

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Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 What name is given to the stem of a Plant from which the leaves, buds and side shoots spring? (4)
 - 2 What was the first name of Field Marshal Kitchener? (7)
 - 3 What is the main ingredient of the dish Pilaf? (4)
 - 4 In which mountain range would you find Lake Tititaca? (5)
 - 5 What term is used to describe a group of soloists singing or playing together? (8)
 - 6 What was the nationality of the team that beat the British team to the South Pole? (9)
 - 7 In Pride and Prejudice what is Mr. Darcy's first name? (11)
 - 8 Which British City is commonly nicknamed the City of Dreaming Spires? (6)
 - 9 What name is given to a solo vocal piece in an Opera? (4)
- Answers on Page 8

Dementia Voice Group Hosts Volunteers' Wedding

Saltash's lively and pro-active dementia support group sprang from the patients' group at the two local surgeries being concerned at how little support there was locally for dementia patients.

After a struggle to build up a group lasting for over four years Dementia Voice PL12 is now flourishing and aiding increasing numbers of patients and their carers, Chairman Peter Thistlethwaite told the Town Council.

Recent activities included members of the veterans group having a wonderful day as honoured guests at Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth. Back in Saltash the Race Night at Saltash Social Club raised over £1,000 due to the support and generosity of local businesses and individuals. This will help to fund the launch of 'Do you mind if I sing' sessions.

A regular series of short walks for dementia patients and carers was launched, the first led by

local walker and historian and Observer journalist Martin Lister who outlined some local history on a walk along the Waterfront.

Most interestingly however, reported Mr. Thistlethwaite, 'Two of our lovely volunteers got married and chose to hold their wedding reception at the Veterans Group session. They feel that Dementia Voice attendees and volunteers are like family to them. It was kept as a surprise for those of us who attended and a wonderful time was had by all'.

Livewire Hosts Mental Health Project

With increased cut backs in public mental health provision for young people, Livewire the youth facility on Saltash Waterside, is now hosting its own mental health project.

A professional and experienced mental health worker will be available at Livewire on two days each week and a support team is available at all open access sessions.

Any young person aged up to 21 can access this facility and refer themselves by e mail on info@livewireyouth.com

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Church Display of Hatchings, Matchings and Dispatchings

A fascinating display of how major family events have been celebrated or commemorated over the decades has been mounted in St. Nicholas Church.

'Hatched, matched and dispatched' begins with a Victorian Christening shawl, alongside a wartime baptismal robe with picture of baby and proud mother. An array of christening clothes over the ages, some with original bills attached, celebrates the arrival of many new members of local families.

Wedding dresses through the decades also bear witness to the bringing together of local families as do the hats, veils and other apparel. Some parishioners have gathered together albums with photographs and memories of weddings and anniversaries through the ages.

The passing of many prominent and lesser known citizens is also marked with a display including photographs of horse drawn hearses, obituaries, and also mourning apparel including jewellery, some with miniature portraits of the deceased.

The exhibition is open on Wednesdays and Fridays until the end of August from 2p.m. to 4 p.m. All are welcome and in particular are encouraged to bring their own photographs and memories to discuss over refreshment. There is no charge though a donation to church funds is appreciated.

Essa Files

I should warn you in advance that this month's column does not make for happy reading and if you're looking for something uplifting you might want to skip it. I've been holidaying in Vietnam and Cambodia – two beautiful countries with very troubled recent pasts. Vietnam's is better documented to Westerners, albeit mostly through war films that focus on the sufferings of US soldiers, and Vietnam's Wat Museum pulls no punches about the impact on civilians. The Agent Orange exhibition, documenting the effects of the deliberate mass spraying of Vietnamese crops with toxins, was particularly horrific – I'll spare you the details but I only lasted a few minutes of looking at the pictures of young victims before I had to move on.

Even more horrific were the Killing Fields of Cambodia. They do not quite match the scale of the Holocaust, or the speed of the Rwandan Genocide. However, quite apart from the innate horror of any mass killing, especially of innocents, this was only the tip of an iceberg; between those who starved, those who died of disease or overwork in camps, and those who were deliberately murdered, something like a third of seven million Cambodians died during the four-year rule of the Khmer Rouge from 1975-1979.

We visited Security Prison 21, now the Museum of Genocidal Crimes, and several aspects of the camp touched me especially. S21 was previously a high school and, as a teacher, seeing the classrooms used as interrogation cells and PE equipment for torture was particularly disturbing. On top of that the victim total of S21 was 17,000 - roughly the population of Saltash.

As our guide talked through the criteria used to select victims as being 'counter-revolutionary' I also ticked nearly every box - previous employment by the government, university

education, soft hands and even the wearing of glasses were all enough to make you an 'intellectual'. Three of the twelve camp survivors were in attendance on the site to share their harrowing stories – one had been regularly forced to clean the floor with his tongue, and had been interrogated very unpleasantly to 'confess' his work with the CIA – an organisation which at the time he hadn't even heard of.

The whole experience was extremely sobering – like visiting Auschwitz but with extra gruesome detail – and most of us were rather quiet afterwards. Disturbingly, only one senior official has ever been convicted for the mass killings, whilst a former mid ranking Khmer Rouge official just got re-elected as Prime Minister after a somewhat dubious election.

My intention though is not just to share the horrors but to make two specific points. Firstly how little awareness there is of this fairly recent genocide in the west – I remembered a few details from a Blue Peter Christmas appeal in the early 90s, but it isn't discussed or taught much. Secondly our guide, who lost five of his eight siblings during the Khmer Rouge's rule, addressed the question of revenge. It is naturally very tempting for him and other relatives of victims to seek physical vengeance; amongst the reasons they do not were firstly the recognition of how inherently destructive the circle of vengeance becomes, whereby reprisal inevitably begets counter-reprisal, making peace an impossibility. Secondly the Buddhist belief in Karma - that the guilty will justly suffer in the afterlife. I'm not a Buddhist but I do believe that we must not gloss over the horrors of the past but nor must we be drawn into an escalating circle of violence – our responsibility instead is to educate ourselves and others to work towards the goal of 'never again'.

Adam Killeya

Ruth Makes a Public Declaration



A cold and windy June Sunday did not deter Ruth Walters from being baptised by Pastor Jenny Wreford in the choppy waters at Seaton Beach.

Family, friends and members of Engage Saltash turned out to support her as she made a public declaration of her Christian faith. Speaking afterwards Ruth said, "It was a wonderful experience. Thank you God".

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GREAT WAR COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS



2nd Saltash Beavers, with their leaders and Sue Hooper (centre) and Councillor Gloria Challen - far left (Deputy Mayor of Saltash)

A group of Saltash residents recently formed a Great War 1914-1918 Commemorative Events Committee with the aim of commemorating and honouring the World War One dead including 140 men, who came from or were associated with Saltash. It has also been discovered that 44 names of those who died during WW1 are not inscribed on the town's War Memorials. The committee have been fundraising to provide a scroll with the missing names on. It will be framed and put on display. Next year the Committee have pledged to tackle highlighting and displaying the missing names of WW2 Memorials in the same way.

The commemorations will also include a life size metal "Silent Soldier" on permanent display in the Memorial Peace Garden in Alexandra Square, Saltash. This will be unveiled by the Mayor of Saltash, Councillor John Brady in a ceremony, with around 130 invited guests, on Saturday, 4th August at 12 noon. Featuring a Piper and Bugler and eleven year old Leryn Willcox reading Rupert Brooke's "The Soldier". Around six Saltash Centenarians have accepted invitations to attend the Ceremony. There will also be Military personnel in attendance and Standards. Blessings will be given by local Clerics.

On display at that time, in the grounds of St Nicholas

and St Faith Church, will be significant sections of the carpets of poppies being created within the Saltash community. This project is on-going and will form part of a touring exhibition in Saltash, culminating on Remembrance Sunday, 11th November at St Nicholas and St Faith Church.

Large pictorial display boards depicting those troops and Memorial plaques at Saltash Railway Station and Saltash Ferry slipway will remind and inform people where Saltash men and Troops from Cornwall and elsewhere left for the Western Front.

Other aspects of the Committee's commemorations include inviting children and members of the community to write prose and poetry relating to the First World War. It is our intention to compile a publication that will contain their works.

Children's workshops are being held in a local Fore Street shop to create poppies from plastic water bottles. (The "offcuts" will also be put to good use by another organisation in making fashion garments out of recycled materials.)

Children's poetry workshops are also ongoing in the same Fore Street shop.

The Committee have also invited the local children and community to paint 140 Cornish pebbles for the men that died from or associated with Saltash. Some most touching examples are currently circulating around the town in hidden places, but it is hoped that they will finally all be reunited in the Saltash Memorial Peace Garden and form a permanent structure.

Our local shops will have window displays and during November we also hope to have a WW1 themed festival

Conundrum Answers:

1 Node 2 Horatio 3 Rice 4 Andes 5 Ensemble 6 Norwegian 7 Fitzwilliam 8 Oxford 9 Aria Re-arranged the letters spell Hannaford

at Saltash Waterside abutting the old Ferry Slip where many of the Troops embarked on their perilous journey. Events will also include World War One related, films, sing-alongs, poetry readings, and re-enactments, and a few surprises!!

The Committee are ever grateful for the funding given thus far fromSaltash Town Council, China Fleet Country Club, Saltash RBL, Saltash RNA, Saltash Rotary, Cornwall Councillors (Saltash).

Great War Dead are Set in Stones



Painted pebbles commemorating the 140 men with Saltash associations who died as a result of World War I are being distributed around the town. They may be found in such locations as the Memorial Peace Garden in Alexandra Square and other public areas in and around Saltash.

Members and friends of the Great War Commemoration Committee who have also been encouraged to add the name of one of the known war victims have painstakingly painted each one. Those who pick up these stones are invited to replace them, or find another suitable location, and perhaps ponder on the person who lived in Saltash a century ago before his life was so tragically cut short.

GWCEC Poem by Tori Carter

In no man's land
The mud
Will disperse
But these years
Will not be forgotten
Pain and loss
Will rain down on these soldiers
And hope
Is gone
The despair that takes over
Will never end
Because love
Is lost in this distant place
Not everything
Can survive in the dull, grey mornings
Happiness
In Hell?
To live
We don't need
To fight for justice
We need
To stop this madness
It's Dangerous
Hate?
It's victorious
Love?
Will die
And war
And feud
And conflict
Will come out on top
You can say that hope
Still exists
But remember that humanity
Will regret the choices made
It is not worth it
And those who say
Differently
Will be judged
Those who fight for peace
Kid themselves
Those who fight for chaos
Are winning
Because dreams
Will be crushed
Makers of mayhem
Devils of disaster
Justice and peace are lost
And no-one can say that
There is still hope
In no man's land
(Now read it from the bottom)

Awards for Warfare in Miniature

Miniature warfare in locations from the Western Desert to the Bocages of Normandy featured in the first organised group build of the recently formed Saltash model club.

Members had been challenged to create with the aid of a simple kit, aircraft or tank, a battle scene, and some extremely imaginative creations were on display in the Essa Club.

Club members themselves selected winning models, the overall winner being Mark Lane whose Typhoon aircraft with aircrew busily stowing ammunition was especially admired, Junior winner was 19 year old Charlie Crabtree whose German Tiger Tank was set in Rommel's army amidst desert sands.

Mayor and Mayoress John and Jackie Brady were present to congratulate the winners whose prizes, a choice of superb model kits were kindly donated by club member Mike Parker of Saltash DIY Store.

All of the models are to be displayed in the Saltash Heritage museum.

Midsummer Madness

Those who attended St. Nicholas Church rooms at a welcome return by the Saltash Team Players for a midsummer evening's entertainment shared fun and laughter.

A one act play 'What's for Pudding?' opened the evening. Jack and Mary, played by Richard Margetts and Margaret Evans, settling for their usual mundane Saturday night at home, have a shock as visitors Maureen and Ted (Pam Kevern and Brian Anderson) shatter their routine, together with Dennis (Roman Bloodworth). As Dennis immerses himself in a club catalogue, the two couples share a tentative sherry or two, or whisky or more, and home truths start to emerge. The audience laughter grew as hints of drunken debauchery and marital infidelity from the supposedly staid and sober couples were introduced with fast and witty dialogue leading, we are happy to report, to a happy ending.

After the audience had enjoyed a pasty and cider supper the cast returned to amuse them in a series of comedy sketches introducing Helen Fowell and Leslie Stevens.

Stories of Saltash Oarswoman Sought

Renowned Saltash oarswoman Ann Glanville now sits, in replica, back on the Waterside overlooking the river from which she led her gallant team of Victorian ladies to rowing glory across Britain and beyond.

Now Terry Cummings of Saltash Heritage is anxious to put together a booklet about her and her era of rowing. Born in Saltash in 1796 she was buried at St. Stephens's churchyard following her death in 1880 and still has descendants living in the West Country.

There is a wealth of legend about Ann Glanville but anyone with knowledge of any facts about her is asked to contact Terry on 01752 516996 or via terrycummings@blueyonder.co.uk.

He would also be especially pleased to have made available any photographs of a four oar gig from the period of around 1840 such as that rowed by Ann and her team.

Discovery Day Encourages Getting Back to Nature



Chris Johnson
Aminal encounters

Photo by Anne-Marie Turner of Saltash

With the long summer holidays just beginning local families were invited to see how they could enjoy getting in touch with nature at the Churchtown Farm Discovery Day, organised by the Friends of our local nature reserve.

During the day walks around the reserve were organised for those unfamiliar with the wide variety of natural habitats, ranging from meadow to wood to salt marsh to foreshore, all attracting their own flora and fauna. Children especially thrilled to the bug hunt, organised by Warden Natalie Mitchell for Wildlife Watch. As well as a variety of butterflies three species of bees were identified on the brambles, together with a variety of spiders and a shieldbug.

Stalls promoted various local nature based organisations, including Hedgehog Care, while visitors could also get up close and personal with a variety of owls and reptiles (though not at the same time).

With so many young people now equating holiday time with screen watching time it was hoped that the event would encourage some to explore the wonderful natural world on our doorstep.

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