

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

August 2019 - Issue 329

Established 27 years

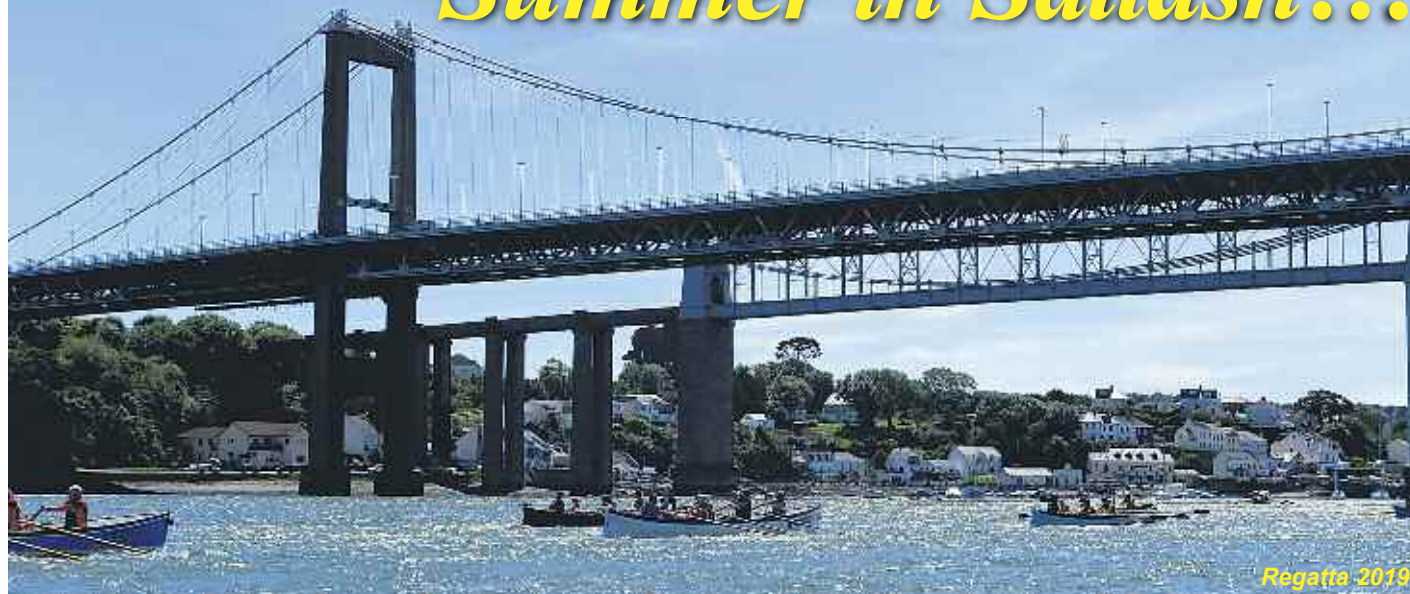
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## Summer in Saltash...



Regatta 2019

Photo Ian Robinson

This summer has once again seen our friendly Saltash community repeatedly come together to share our annual and well loved seasonal events. Beginning with Mayfair, which as usual heralded in another summer for Saltash

your Observer team have as always been out and about to capture the moments of festivity and fun. We have already published a few 'taster' photographs amid the articles which we knew you would want to read.

Now with August and the holiday season fully upon us it is time to share more magical memories of the Saltash community sharing sun-filled days of fun as the town relaxed in holiday spirit. So your August Observer, while continuing to

update you on the news and events that matter, and as well as promoting the local businesses that help make our community, here is your long promised special Summer in Saltash

Observer, filled with those photographs that so many have been waiting for and that sparkle with sunshine.

More Regatta 2019 photos can be seen on pages 4 & 5

## Collisions on A38 Highest in August

Safe38, the local campaign group putting pressure on government and Cornwall Council to undertake safety changes to the A38, are today urging drivers to watch their speed with August being the worst month for collisions.

A recent study undertaken by Highways England and Cornwall Council showed that local users are the most likely to have accidents rather than tourists but that rates were considerably worse in August.

With this in mind the local group has updated their signage along the stretch of road to warn users to 'Drive Safely'.

James Milledge, Chair of Safe38 said, "The vast majority of collisions on this route are a direct result of driver error. It's an unforgiving road to drive for locals as well as tourists who would be unfamiliar with the A38 and its many hazards, which catch out so many drivers.

"We all have the responsibility to

do what we can behind the wheel to try and bring this collision rate down while we wait for engineering solutions to make the road easier for drivers to negotiate", he added.

Moves this week by local MP Sheryll Murray to speak with the new Secretary of State for Transport have been broadly welcomed by the group who are not only demanding interim measures to improve the road including a by-pass to move congestion away from villages such as Tideford, and major junction improvements at Lean Quarry and Menheniot junctions.

"It is vital that pressure for both short term safety measures and major improvements are highlighted to the new administration and continually kept in the minds of the decision makers in Westminster," James stressed. "In the meantime we urge everyone to do what they can to make their journeys on the road as safe as possible".

HOPPER



community enterprises

TRIPS



September 2019

**Tue 3rd 11am - 4.30pm (£8.00)**

Totnes

**Sat 7th 10am - 6pm (£7.00)**

Last Night of the Proms at Sterts Theatre  
Liskeard

**Tue 10th 10am - 6pm (£12.00)**

Widcombe Fair

**Sun 15th 11am-3pm (£5.00)**

Lunch at Mussel Inn Wembury

**Tue 17th 10am - 4.30pm (£9.00)**

Dingles Vintage Fairground and Lifton Farm  
Shop

**Sat 21st 10am - 5pm (£13.00)**

Topsham and Darts Farm Shop

**Fri 27th 10am - 6pm (£15.00)**

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**Sun 29th 11am - 5pm (£10.00)**

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RAF Memorial Museum



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our website for the timetable or collect a  
copy from our office @ 4 Fore Street,  
Saltash



Regatta 2019

Photo Ian Robinson

## As We Enter Our Twenty-Eighth Year...

Welcome to your new truly local "Saltash Observer" locally produced exclusively for the Saltash community with sponsorship from Saltash businesses...

It is an amazing twenty-seven years since we launched the "Observer" with these words yet as we enter our 28th year they remain as pertinent as ever. The past twenty seven years have seen outstanding changes in the national and international stage – and just as much on the Saltash scene. The town has expanded, there have been changes for the better and worse. Some of the local businesses we have been happy to support throughout the past three decades some have gone, others have been started up and we have been pleased to help them flourish. Our town, and all towns, face new challenges and our local businesses depend on local support as never before. Our message has remained consistent over three decades and as we enter our 28th year we would once again urge – Shop Local, support your local community and help to ensure that Saltash remains a lively and prosperous community.

Back in 1992 we added "We hope that you will come to welcome and rely upon the monthly arrival of the "Observer". Countless numbers of you over these past twenty seven years have confirmed that you do so and, with our long history of producing the paper which you so evidently enjoy, we are increasingly inspired to ensure that we continue to bring you the very best of local news, views and business promotion throughout our twenty-eighth year and beyond.

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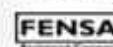
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# Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council  
Konsel an dre Essa



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Email:  
[schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Education Welfare:**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
[educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Housing Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 161  
Email: [info@cornwallhousing.org.uk](mailto:info@cornwallhousing.org.uk)  
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Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
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[children@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:children@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Social Services Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 131  
[adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Highways Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 222  
Email:  
[customerrelations@cornwallimited.co.uk](mailto:customerrelations@cornwallimited.co.uk)

**Transport Department**  
(Schools Transport)  
Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
(Bus Pass) Telephone: 0300 1234 222  
Email:  
[schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Roads, Transport and Parking**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 222  
Email:  
[roadstransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:roadstransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk)

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

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*Town Messenger  
news is supplied  
by the Town  
Council*

## Your Cornwall Councillors

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**Saltash East**  
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**Saltash West**  
Sam Tamlin  
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**Cornwall Councillors –  
Cover such services as:**  
Housing - Education –  
Social Services  
Highways –  
Waste and Recycling –  
Tamar Bridge

## Meet Your Councillor

### Councillor Bill Phillips – North Ward Saltash

Work brought me to Plymouth 36 years ago, Jean, our 3 boys and I set up home in Saltash as we decided it was the place to be.

My job was in Devonport where I worked in the facilities design group, managing site services. During this time I was a member of 2625 Squadron RAF reserves at St Mawgan for 5 years, which got me into running, I then became a founder member of the Tamar Trotters.

I also joined the Mayfair committee organising the half marathon amongst other events.

Following medical advice to give up marathons and eventually all running, I became aware of a vacancy on the Town Council and I was co-opted in 2010. Then re-elected in 2013 and 2017. I also had the honour of being elected Mayor in 2015-2016.

Since my time on the council representing North Ward, I have taken particular interest in Pilmer, as well as being the chair of the Policy



and Finance committee, the Burial Authority and a member of the Library project, the Station and Waterfront groups.

I am also a member of Saltash Rotary Club which enables me to provide charitable service to the town as a whole.

I am passionate about making our town the best place to live and will look back at what we have achieved in my 10 years on the council and be proud.

Saltash Town Councillors meet in Fore Street at the beginning of each month. If you have a question for your Town Councillors, an issue you wish to raise, a bright idea that might improve the town, or simply want to find out more about what the Town Council is doing, then follow Saltash Town Council on Social Media to find out when Councillors are next meeting.

## Plastic Free Community *What is a Plastic Free Community?*

We are trying to create a Plastic Free Community campaign to free where we live from single use plastics.

We are tackling avoidable, throw away plastic, for our shores, rivers and green spaces all the way back to brands and businesses who create it.

It's not about removing all plastic from our lives; it's about kicking our addiction to single use plastic and changing the system that produces it.

We are on a journey! Being a plastic free community does not mean there is no plastic.

Being a Plastic Free Community means that we are starting work to turn the tide on plastic pollution.

It means we are pulling together different aspects of our community, collaborating and including everyone to bring about the culture change we need to see.

We will also be part of a National Network of Communities all doing the same, backed up by the National Campaigns and Surfers Against Sewage. Which is brilliant!

### The Objectives Required are:

#### Resistance Hubs:

Work with businesses in our community to

help them reduce single use plastic (a minimum of Six are required)

#### Plastic Free Allies:

Inspire the wider community to spread the plastic free message.

#### Plastic free Rallies:

Mobilise our community, hold clean ups, mass unwraps or other events to raise awareness.

#### Set up a Steering Group:

Form a group of local stakeholders and meet at least twice a year to keep the campaign going forward.

*Councillor Julia Peggs*

## Your Town Council

**Saltash North**  
Sarah Gillies  
[s.gillies@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:s.gillies@saltash.gov.uk)

Brenda Samuels  
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Bill Phillips  
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David Yates  
[d.yates@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:d.yates@saltash.gov.uk)

**Mayor:**  
Gloria Challen

**Deputy Mayor:**  
Pete Samuels

**Town Clerk:**  
Ray Lane  
T: 844846

E: [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk)

**Councillors telephone numbers can be obtained at the guildhall.**

**Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6JX  
Tel.: 01752 844846 Email: [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk) Website: [www.saltash.gov.uk](http://www.saltash.gov.uk)**

## Grenfell Avenue

At a recent Saltash Town Council Services Committee meeting it was noted that land at the Grenfell Avenue allotment site is being "refurbished" with a view to advertising the space for any individual or organisations to take on.

Any expressions of interest should be made direct to the Guildhall either by e-mail to: [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk) by

telephoning 01752 844846 or writing to:

The Town Clerk, Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall 12 Lower Fore Street, Saltash. PL12 6JX

**Observer Telephone Numbers  
07971484872  
or 01579 345699**

## Tamar Bridge Work in Progress



Photo Ian Robinson Observer

The work on the kerb and deck waterproofing on the Tamar Bridge, which began in May, was anticipated to close the footpath and cycleway from that date. In fact the contractors have been able to carry out the work so far without the threatened closure.

However it is anticipated that during August it will be necessary to divert westbound vehicular traffic onto the cantilever, which will mean closing it to cyclists and pedestrians. A regular and frequent free shuttle bus, which can carry bicycles, will be operating twenty four hours a day between Fore Street and the Tamar Bridge car park until work is completed.

## From the Mayor of Saltash

### Dear Residents

It hardly seems a month ago that I wrote my last column to the Saltash community, and here we are once again, and so much has happened since then, which I would like to share some of them with you all.

Saltash Town Council in support of the retailers and businesses in Fore Street, have a desire to initiate quite an exciting project moving forward by Councillor Sarah Martin to reflect on the history of Saltash in the way of displaying 6 illustrated banners in the main street depicting Saltash's moments of history.

In the future there could be plans for other banners displayed around the town; and Fore Street will be the first area for the historic displays.

The purpose is to promote Saltash - not only celebrating its past, but also to make the town look attractive and engaging to local people and visitors alike, as part of our showcasing of what Saltash has to offer. We hope that the banners should be in place by October of this year.

In addition, the wonderful floral hanging baskets in Fore Street in association with Saltash Town Council

are beautifully setting the summer scene.

Exciting news Georgina a Volunteer in the town and Councillor Julia Peggs are engaging with local businesses and organisations to promote a Plastic Free Community.

I have attended numerous engagements and Civic events over the past few weeks, including:

Attending a reception with the High Sheriff of Cornwall. A service of thanks giving, celebration and presentation of the Trelawney Plate, St Nicholas and St Faith Pre School Sun and Safe certificates presentations, Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy Summer Fair, Forder Community and Conservation Association Summer Fete, St Stephens Church Summer Fair, MKC Heroes Ambassador Awards at St. Nicholas Church and H.M.S. Drake.

Civic Service to mark the end of WW1 with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in association with the Saltash Great War Commemorative Events Committee – I was delighted that the Mayor's Cadet Hannah Spry took an active part in the quite touching event and also read so beautifully "The Soldier" by Rupert Brooke.

30th Anniversary RAF & Allied Air Forces Monument Service on Plymouth Hoe.



"A Celebration of Saltash Sport and Summer Social".

Saltash Lions Club President hand over.

Mr Len Maddocks retirement at the Scout hut, marking Len's 30 years in scouting

HMS Drake Summer reception.

Furthermore, our Deputy Mayor and Mayoress Pete and Brenda Samuels have kindly attended several engagements.

Such important engagements just go to show the spirit of our wonderful community and the valued individuals who give up their time as Volunteers.

I would like to Thank Mary the editor and her team for giving me each month the opportunity of conveying to the residents of Saltash what I, and Saltash Town Council are supporting and delivering in and around the town.

*Yours sincerely,  
Councillor Gloria Challen  
Mayor of Saltash 2019/20*

## A Great Day Out for All the Family...at a very little cost! Summer Holidays are here again....

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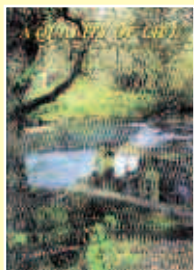
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## Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland – Keeping us Updated

At our meeting on the 1st July, Chamber members had a presentation by Devon and Cornwall Police on Cyber Security and I was surprised to learn that 54% of UK businesses had been subject to ransomware attacks. This not only goes to show how difficult it is for businesses to ensure their systems are secure but also shows how susceptible computer technology can be.

During the month I attended a meeting organised by FEAST which is an organisation which encourages Festivals for Arts. It was through their support last year that we were able to include the larger lanterns within the Christmas Lantern Parade. One of the main reasons that I attended was because, following a meeting of retailers, councillors and other interested parties, festivals and other leisure activities were recognised as necessary to attract footfall into Fore Street.

From the meeting car parking charges were also highlighted as a factor for the decline in footfall along with the amount of empty shops. In the case of the latter the Fore Street equates favourably with many other shopping areas but there are still many empty shops so the Chamber is looking at ways to find occupiers, even if only on a temporary basis until long term occupation can be achieved. We are also looking at the possibility of reducing the cost of two hour car parking in the four town centre car parks.

What else has been happening recently? With my Community Enterprises hat on we have relaunched the Saltash Card and are looking at ways to encourage more

businesses to sign up so that everybody who has a card can benefit by way of discounts or marketing of special promotions. Don't forget if you are not a member/card holder you can sign up at No. 4 Fore Street.

Can I also take the opportunity for everybody to view the Neighbourhood Plan and make comment thereon if there is anything that you feel needs amendment?

Finally, can I remind all readers that Community Enterprises is always looking for more volunteers whether you can spend several hours or only one hour please let us know at No. 4. We are always looking for people to help in the shop at No. 4 Fore Street, bus drivers for the Hopper Bus (we can train), craft workers for Scrapstore or to help with Dementia Voice.

We were formed to help the community and look to the community to reciprocate by helping us Please, please, help.

**Observer  
Telephone  
Numbers**  
**07971484872**  
or  
**01579 345699**

## Gold Award for St Stephens Primary School



There was strong representation from Saltash at a special award ceremony in County Hall in July that celebrated the achievements of children from across Cornwall who volunteer to be a part of their school's council.

St Stephens Community Primary School was one of just 3 Cornish schools to achieve a Gold Award. Their school councillors were in County Hall to give a presentation about the key role they are playing in decision-making at their school, including interviewing prospective teachers. Monty the school Labrador featured strongly in their presentation, but the children were equally proud of their charity fun run, which raised a massive £1,300, and their community activities in Saltash, including judging the

Christmas window dressing competition on Fore Street. The presentation given by the 11 school councillors from Bishop Cornish School, who picked up a Silver Award, had a strong focus on animals, with children talking passionately about finding a soul mate for their school's alpaca and chasing pesky chickens.

Cornwall Councillor Hilary Frank, who represents Saltash South and is Chairman of Cornwall Council, presented

the awards. Hilary said: "It's great to see children raising their voice to tackle issues that are important to them, and I'm particularly pleased that two of today's 20 schools are from Saltash. The children's presentations were really inspirational – and I loved the chance to get a selfie with them!"

*Letter to the Editor*  
Dear Editor,  
A Useful and Valued Service

How very sad it is to hear that several town shops are closing and that one, Saltash D-I-Y has closed. In the case of the latter, we have lost not only a shop providing quality goods, but also a most useful and valued service. Mike Parker represented all that a local shopkeeper should. I saw him at work; he was always welcoming, cheerful and professional. He provided appropriate technical advice – freely to his customers, especially appreciated by the elderly.

If we do not support our local shops we shall surely lose them. Saltash would then lose such much valued personal service, and become just one big housing estate without a central focus and character. An environ of Plymouth or 'Tamar side'! and some what used to be called 'Out of Town Shopping Centres.'

Barry Brooking  
Saltash

### Tamar Traffic is Poison to Marine Life

The river Tamar is being poisoned by the emissions from the vehicles constantly streaming across the Tamar Bridge according to a recent survey.

Exhaust particles blended with dust from tyres and brakes combine to wash or blow into the river below where they create a toxic mixture harmful to marine life. Saltash was once famous for its oysters but shellfish found in the neighbourhood of the Tamar should not now be consumed as the pollutants are causing genetic damage to the marine creatures.

While alternative energy sources may succeed in reducing exhaust emissions the report confirms that there is no immediate solution to the problem of brake and tyre dust save for drastic reduction of traffic flow.

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## Spotlight on Cornwall Councillors in Saltash Contemporary Cornish Living

Cornwall Council marked the centenary of the 1919 Housing Act at a celebratory event in Bodmin attended by 100 tenants from across Cornwall, including Hazel Tearne from Saltash.

The 1919 Act was a highly significant step in providing homes built through the public purse or, as Lloyd George phrased it, 'Homes fit for heroes'. It made housing a national responsibility and local authorities were given the task of developing housing for working people. Nationally, the proportion of homes rented from social landlords increased from around 1% in 1914 to a high of around 30% in the late 1970's. It has since decreased to around 16% nationally and around 11% in Cornwall, mainly as a result of the Right to Buy policy.

Hazel, who has lived in a council house since 2002 and is also a tenant representative on the board of Cornwall Housing, said: "We were in privately rented accommodation, but suddenly the house was put up for sale. We managed to find somewhere else to live, but after 6 months there the rent was put up by 50%. Then we were provided with a council house, which has given us peace of mind and security. Council housing should be available to everybody who needs it."



Cornwall Council owns the 10,500 homes that used to belong to the districts of Caradon, Carrick and North Cornwall. But with more than 10,000 households registered as looking for housing on Cornwall Homechoice, Cornwall Council recognises the pressing need for more social housing.

Speaking at the centenary event, Councillor Andrew Mitchell (Portfolio Holder for Homes, representing St. Ives West on Cornwall Council) said: "We're taking advantage of the lifting of the Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap to provide 400 new homes for social rent. We also recognise that other types of homes are required in the modern world, so Cornwall

Council is investing £200m in a programme to deliver 1,000 homes, some of which will be affordable, and some will be to buy or rent at market value. But people wishing to move in to one of the affordable homes must already be living in Cornwall. We're not building homes for other local authorities to house their residents."

People at the event were given the opportunity to view the new homes that Cornwall Council has just completed in Bodmin under the first phase of its Contemporary Cornish Living project. Councillor Hilary Frank (Chairman of Cornwall Council, representing Saltash South on Cornwall Council) said: "It's been humbling to hear the many ways in which social housing has changed the course of people's lives. The need for affordable, high-quality homes is as real today as it was 100 years ago, so I'm delighted that Cornwall Council is working with partners and the community to build energy-efficient homes that are less expensive to run and look wonderful."

## Fire Cadets Put all Hands to the Pump

Twelve young fire cadets aged 12 to 17 spent all day and all night building their arm muscles as part of a twenty-four hour pumping marathon. In order to help raise funds to purchase a mini-bus the young people were sponsored to continually man a stirrup pump over this period during the regatta weekend. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor started them off, taking brief turns at the pump themselves.

As well as through sponsorship funds were raised through taking bets as to how much water would be pumped. Twenty four hours later your exhausted youngsters, who had grabbed just an hour or two of sleep overnight, and he was invited to confirm the volume of water pumped. It proved to be over ten thousand gallons, far more than the highest estimate put forward, and the cadets had every reason to feel proud of themselves as they mounted the fire engine to be carried off, relax their arms, and catch up on sleep



Photo Ian Robinson

## The Italian Paint Job



Photo Mary Crawford

Two young visitors from sunny Italy arrived on Brunel Green just too late to join in the mass print party. The "Observer" was able to arrange for Sonia and Alessandra to have their own colourful paint experience.

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# Summer in Saltash 2019



Photos Ian Robinson



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## Pillmere Needs Place to Poll

The local electorate at Pillmere need a local venue to mark their ballot papers in local and national elections, it was agreed. The Town Council was discussing a consultation by Cornwall Council on any additional need for polling stations both for the current 122 electoral divisions in Cornwall and for the new 87 electoral divisions coming into force in 2021.

Pillmere sadly lacks a community centre, or school or other public building suitable to serve as a polling station. Accordingly local residents have had to travel a distance to vote. The Town Council agreed to respond to Cornwall Council stressing the need to supply a polling station on or close to the substantial development.

It was suggested that several local businesses might be asked to make a suitable room available for public use on polling days. Alternatively the Saltash Town Council's trailer might be pressed into service as a polling station if a suitable site could be found.

## Saltash Loses Late Book Loving Businesswomen

A well loved businesswoman and good friend of the "Observer" who sadly passed away this summer originally established Saltash's proudly independent "Bookshelf", through which many have come to enjoy the delight of reading, in 1987.

Diana Summers was a 'Hampshire Hog' who came to Cornwall to serve in the wartime Women's Land Army and subsequently remained all of her life in the South West. She and her first husband originally ran a guest house at Portscatho before opening a local shop where her lifelong devotion to promoting a love of books began. After being widowed she married Charles Summers who, as well as pursuing his own career as an artist, supported her as she moved on to establish bookshops in St. Mawes, across the Tamar in Ashburton and Kingsbridge, then in 1987 in Saltash. Her devotion to personal and friendly service ensured that there was still a place for an independent book store where customers care still counts.

We reported in 2008 that at the age of 86 she faced

retirement with mixed feelings. "I have really enjoyed it and am so very sorry to finish," she told us. She looked forward to catching up with reading many of the books that she had sold.

After initially finding difficulty adjusting to a life of retirement, her widower Charles tells us, she came to enjoy relaxing in her home and garden on the edge of Bodmin Moor. Sadly arthritis came to limit her activities over the last few years before she died peacefully aged 97. She had a daughter by her first marriage who predeceased her as well as two sons who still live in Cornwall, six grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Mary and Martin of the Observer send condolences to Charles and to all of the family.

The big event last month was Boris being elected as Leader of the Conservative Party. Regular readers will know that I have supported him from his campaign launch to today. I am confident he will make an excellent Prime Minister who can deliver Brexit and unite this country. With 2 out of 3 members supporting him he has a firm mandate from the party to take it forward and deliver the policies he has outlined through the leadership contest. He has already made a fantastic start in parliament. I can only describe his first speech as being electric. I look forward to working with him in a new spirit of optimism.

I recently attended the Great South West All Party Parliamentary Group meeting. This APPG meeting focused on transport issues affecting the Great South West region, and welcomed guests from the Peninsular SNTB, Network Rail, Highways England, SWR, GWR and Cross Country. I again stressed the need for improvements on the

## SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



A38. I also spoke in a debate on the replacement of EU structural funds for Least Developed Regions once we have left the European Union. I believe it is essential that any future government recognises Cornwall's unique circumstances and will continue to push from funding. I also made the point that as we leave the European Union we will make savings as a country and that I want to ensure that Cornwall does not lose out. I crossed the Tamar last month for the Plymouth Armed Forces Day. I was impressed how many of my Cornish constituents are involved in the organisation of the very successful event and would like to thank them for all they do in arranging the show. I was honoured to be asked to lay the wreath on behalf of Parliament during the opening service especially as a number of my other colleagues were also in attendance. We laid our wreaths on the RAF memorial. The RAF played such a vital role during the Second World War. My South East Cornwall predecessor Flight Lieutenant (Pilot) John Rathbone MP was killed in 1940 during a bombing run over Antwerp. It was also impressive to see the number of charities involved at the event and the number who were there to support our armed forces once they have left the services.

It was good to visit Roger Young Jaguar Land Rover site. It was interesting to hear how the business provides employment for around 130 people. Roger Young is a member of the National Franchised Dealers Association (NFDA), the leading representative body for franchised vehicle retailers in the UK retaining 85% of dealers in membership. The UK's automotive retail sector is an important industry which makes a significant contribution to national economic and employment figures. Having seen this business expand over a number of years into one of South East Cornwall's largest employers, I hope they will be able to continue this success as the automotive industry and in particular Jaguar Land Rover innovates into the electric vehicle market. My visit coincided with the recent announcement that Jaguar Land Rover will invest almost £1 billion in building electric cars in the UK.

I met with our Police and Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez in Parliament. She was promoting the tri-service and other emergency services collaboration which covers the largest geographical area in England. They are collaborating and pioneering with our blue light partners to better serve our communities covering Tri-Service Safety Officers, Community Responders and Police and Fire Community Support Officers. I also met with the National Lottery Community Fund who has given £1.5 million supporting projects in South East Cornwall.

I would like to thank Mr Hunter for inviting me to Burraton Primary School recently. I was pleased to take a tour of the school seeing the excellent work that they are doing.

I would like to thank Mr Hunter for inviting me to Burraton Primary School recently. I was pleased to take a tour of the school seeing the excellent work that they are doing.

## Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 How many contestants took part in an episode of The Weakest Link? (4)
- 2 By what name is Constantinople now known? (8)
- 3 What fruit flavour is used in Crepes Suzette? (6)
- 4 In which Country is the Suez Canal located? (5)
- 5 For what is London's Shaftsbury Avenue most famous? (8)
- 6 Taurus, Syrus and Desiree were three of the many horses of which military leader? (8)
- 7 The classical works of which composer include The Hebrides Overture and The Overture to a Midsummer Night's Dream? (11)
- 8 What type of transport is Budgie the character created by the Duchess of York? (10)
- 9 How many legs does a Crane fly have? (5)

Answers on Page 7

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## Saltash Does Not Declare Climate Emergency

With heightening concerns over climate change and London predicted to have a Mediterranean style climate within decades, Saltash Town Council discussed whether it should join other towns in declaring a climate emergency.

Saltash Environmental Action, Town Councillors noted, has been active over many years in promoting concern over this issue and putting forward positive partial solutions to the problems created. The Town Council has, Councillors stated, been pleased to support them in this as well as having included the issue and likely effects over the next five years within the neighbourhood plan, recently released for public comment. The most obvious issue local is the risk of increased flooding on the Waterside as ice melts and sea levels rise.

Councillor Richard Bickford proposed that the town favour declaring a climate emergency. However after debate the motion was rejected by four votes in favour to five against.

## Farewell to Frank of Sligo and Saltash

A proud Irishman with the gift of the Blarney, yet an equally true Cornishman who has raised many thousands of pounds for Cornish based charities, has been lost to Saltash. We on the Observer will especially miss Francis (Frank) Hopper who died on 6th July aged 76. A full attendance at his requiem mass in Our Lady of All Angels Church heard a moving eulogy from friend and fellow fundraiser David Wood.

Born in County Sligo, the oldest of seven children, Frank lived awhile on a farm before coming, as so many Irishmen before and after him, to London when aged 21. It was here, in an Irish Dance Hall, that he met Margaret, who was to become his bride and now his widow.

They were married in Plymouth in 1970 and came to Saltash where they raised their family of three Melanie, Sean and Martin.

Margaret was to help develop the successful 'Saltash Live at Home Scheme while Frank devoted much of his life to Saltash Rotary organising the 'Kids Out' events and building Santa's Sleigh among his many other activities for others. More recently he became involved in the Cornwall based 'Shelterbox' disaster relief organisation and together with David Wood



Photo Mary Crawford 2009

toured Cornwall and Devon raising funds for this life saving cause.

Frank was proud to see his children succeed in their differing careers, Melanie becoming a top surgeon, Sean being always destined to follow his father as a builder since he had his first Lego bricks, and Martin who enjoyed adventuring and seeing the world as a photographer.

We on the Observer will remember Frank for his eagerness to work for those more needy than himself coupled with his Irish sense of fun, whether dressed as a leprechaun for St. Patrick's Day at Ashtor, or as a scarecrow for fund raising with us in Fore Street, a picture of which adorned the order of service of his requiem mass.

## Concert Tales of Adventure Features Dragons and Pirates

Saltash's own orchestra, R'Windband, can always be relied upon to select a repertoire which includes the deeply atmospheric and occasional bizarre musical themes.

Their summer concert based on 'Tales of Adventure' and performed in the relaxing atmosphere of Saltash Social Club enhanced this reputation. Opening dramatically with 'The Lion's Gate' with more than a hint of a superhero theme, this was followed by a verse orchestration based on a baseball themed poem published in a 19th century San Francisco's newspaper.

'Casey at the Bat' was recited by Jim Steel to suitable musical accompaniment building to a crescendo at the final strike. Following which compere and conductor Ruth Ballantyne brought her audience back to the more familiar world of the circus 'In the Centre Ring' followed by a maritime meander to a mystical island in 'Pirates' Dream'. The first half concluded with the Hispanic rhythms of 'Iberian Escapades'.

Excellent homemade cakes were enjoyed before the concert resumed, the second half including two tales of dragons, at sea in 'Rising Dragons' and in the Swiss Alps 'Pilatus Mountain of Dragons', with the more calming 'Shannon Falls' intervening.

We are indeed fortunate to have a local amateur orchestra of around 25 players of such talent who are not afraid to alternate the easy and familiar with challenging and sometimes exotic musical drama. R'Windband will next be performing at a Remembrance Concert before their ever welcome seasonal Christmas show.

“What's in a name? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet” pronounced Shakespeare, but then again he was never asked to change his name to North Shakespeare to appease someone else with the same surname. The reason for this slightly tortured opening allusion is that I've just left the world's most recently name-changed country: North Macedonia. The 'North' was added only a few months ago following a controversial referendum, in order to resolve a long-standing dispute with Greece. To cut a long story short Macedonia used to be a lot bigger back in the days of Alexander the Great, and one of Greece's own provinces is 'Macedon'. Thus the Greeks didn't like the Macedonians claiming to represent the whole shebang, and this matters because they can prevent them joining the EU. Thus after several years of negotiation this was the compromise.

Now as you might imagine some of the (North) Macedonians are a little irate about this 'selling our national heritage'. I can to some degree sympathise: were someone to suggest we change the name of our community to 'West Saltash' to keep the Plymothians happy then many people, myself included, would want to have words. Here's the thing though: the Greeks also have a point. Having an extensive and proud history they get a little touchy when they see other countries as trying to take a slice of it. The Macedonians themselves might empathise with this since Mother Theresa was born there, which doesn't stop half the surrounding countries trying to claim that in fact she was born in \*their\* nation. If you like dangerous adrenaline sports try rocking up in Skopje central square and yelling 'Mother Theresa was born in Albania, not North Macedonia'.

So in many ways the name change is actually the very essence of a good compromise: it leaves everybody still a little irritated. Therefore despite my sympathy for both points of view I actually think it's a rather elegant solution that can hopefully allow everyone to get on with their lives. I mention this because compromise sometimes feels like it's becoming a bit of a lost art. Sometimes, and maybe this is the case in the UK at the moment, this is because the positions are just too far apart and compromising would be like trying to cut a deal over ownership of a car by cutting it in two. Nevertheless it's the nature of humans to have our own opinions, viewpoints and needs and if we can't compromise sometimes to meet the opinions, viewpoints and needs of others then frankly we're a bit stuffed.

Incidentally having left the newest name country I'm now typing this from the possibly newest actual country in Europe: Kosovo, another place with a tricky history now made a little better through

compromise and respect for different peoples. I'm on to Albania and Romania next, but I look forward to getting back to (West) Saltash in a week and a bit.

Adam Killea

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## Spotlight Team Bring Sunshine To Forder Fete



The presence of well known BBC weatherman, Craig Rich, together with BBC Spotlight presenter Justin Leigh might be expected to guarantee fine weather for the famous Forder Fete. So it proved as once again the friendly community down by the waterside welcomed one and all. The sun shone down as former Burraton resident Justin officially opened the event, recalling his own kayaking experiences on Forder Creek. He was there supported by Craig and Saltash Mayor Councillor Gloria Challen all of whom

joined the crowds visiting the host of stalls along the creek after being presented with posies by Lila and Taylor.

A quintessential English afternoon was enjoyed as cream teas were consumed and the Saltash Town Band played on, though sadly they were not able to comply with your Observer correspondent's request to play the 'Marseillaise' for visiting student Emmanuelle from Bordeaux celebrating Bastille Day in Forder.

A splash of colour and excitement arrived with the Saltash Sailing Club cadets, racing around from

## Queen of Cornish Novels Welcomed by Local Readers

A bestselling writer described by the 'Guardian' as the Queen of the contemporary Cornish novel made a guest appearance at the Saltash Bookshelf where she chatted to eager fans as she signed copies of her seven Cornish based novels.

Liz Fenwick had recently published "The Path to the Sea", which she describes as "John le Carre lite meets Rosamunde Pilcher." Comparisons with Rosamunde Pilcher were inevitable and Liz Fenwick, who is published in thirteen languages, is also extremely popular in Germany as well as hitting the best selling list in Sweden.

Her accent is far from Cornish, she being a Bostonian who grew up in another peninsular, Cape Cod. She came to Britain in 1989 and two weeks later the man who was to become her husband brought her to

Waterside. Justin Leigh presented them with trophies, the winning topper, after a thrilling photo finish, being ably skipped by Sam Hawes and the winning Pico crewed by Nev Ridge and Frank Olney. Your Observer correspondent, having won a bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon was able to host his own Bastille Day celebration.



Cornwall. She fell in love with him and Cornwall which she describes as "my muse".

While she might be identified with female readers, in fact a third of her readers are male. She describes her books as "life dramas and mysteries with a central love story, though this is not a main part of the book." Based on this your Saltash Observer correspondent read and

thoroughly enjoyed "The Path to the Sea", an inter-generation story ranging from the Cold War to the present day, all based around a family home by St. Austell Bay. And we can now look forward to her current work in progress which will have a setting based in the Tamar Valley with ancient homes that we should recognise.

Photo Martin Lister

## Love Tragedy and Triumph

Something unique and exciting is about to happen in Saltash! This autumn a musical/theatrical event will bring together performers from the local community and beyond. We will tell a story of love, tragedy and triumph against an all-but forgotten backdrop - Wearde Camp. This was a training facility for troops preparing for battle in the First World War and was situated on the outskirts of the town. After the war it focussed on convalescence for injured troops returning to face a hopeful yet uncertain future.

There are many stories to tell but ours will be amazing and as unforgettable as this extraordinary period in the history we now share.

In 2018 'Blood Red Rose' was created and staged in Saltash. This was a musical commemoration of the Suffragette Movement and the end of the First World War. Composed by Julian Barnicoat, commissioned by the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation and performed by the people of Saltash and beyond, the final performance was staged before a delighted, capacity audience in the town. That energy is now driving a new, adventurous and very different work, this time, commissioned by the Saltash Great War Committee. Children and adults regardless of age or ability can take part. It doesn't matter whether you consider yourself, 'a good singer' or whether you have ever had this kind of experience before - your enthusiasm is what we need; and is open to all as a community project. Don't let this pass by and then think: "that was great, I wish I'd done it now," ...

**Don't miss out, get involved, be inspired and enjoy it!** Rehearsals will be starting soon and members of the committee will soon advise folk of venues and times.

In the meantime, for more information on being part of this great and historic musical/theatre please contact:  
**Julian Barnicoat**  
E: [info@stillvoices.co.uk](mailto:info@stillvoices.co.uk) or  
**Sue Hooper** 01752 843073  
E: [suehcf@msn.com](mailto:suehcf@msn.com) or  
**Lynn Marsh** 01752 844255

## Church Service Remembers Treaty of Peace

One hundred years ago on 28th June the signing of the Peace Treaty of Versailles marked the formal ending of the Great War and, it was believed at the time, heralded it a new age of peace and prosperity.

To mark the centenary and remember all of its hopes, a Civic Service was held at St. Stephens Church exactly a hundred years after the signature. The Mayor Councillor Gloria Challen with other Town and Cornwall Councillors joined our young Fire Cadets, the church congregation, and other townsfolk for a service conducted by Mayor's Chaplain the Reverend Catherine Sigris. Members of the Saltash World War I commemoration committee, in one of their last publicly organised events, took turns to read about the treaty, its objects, its terms, and the end results. The Mayor's Cadet,

Hannah Spry read movingly the poem 'The Soldier' and Tony Marsh with Martin Crawford sang a song remembering the equine victims of the conflict, the horses that survived the war being almost entirely slaughtered when it ended.

'The treaty is signed, Militarism, with all its disciplined brutality and unbridled lust of conquest, is at an end'. So read the press report in June 1919, and though this was soon seen to be a false assumption, those gathered at our ancient parish church were able to remember those from Saltash and elsewhere who fought and lost their lives in optimistic pursuit of that future.

## Road Resurfacing Planned

Cormac has produced a list of local roads scheduled to receive significant surface treatment over the next twelve to eighteen months. No specific dates have been scheduled for any particular project.

The sections of road that will be closed at some time include in particular the full length of Fore Street, which will require major diversions to buses as well as all other traffic.

Other roads to be closed in full are Albert Road, Broad Walk and Fairmead Road. Barkers Hill will be closed

from St. Stephens Hill to Castle Hill to the junction with Longlands Lane and St. Stephen Hill to Castle Hill will be closed from 'The Barn' to the junction with Barkers Hill.

Local residents should be informed when the work is imminent.

## STOP PRESS

### We want your stories...

The Saltash Great War Commemorative Events/Projects Committee are urgently looking for local people who had family or friends that were in residence at Wearde Camp from 1914.

We are aware that there are families still living in Saltash whose parents, grandparents and great/great grandparents were part of the training/convalescence camp at Wearde.

We so much want to hear your stories so that we can entwine them into our musical theatre.

We will arrange some meet and greet occasions as soon as possible to listen and record your stories for our amazing musical/theatre performance/s.

Contacts are .....

**Julian Barnicoat** email [info@stillvoices.co.uk](mailto:info@stillvoices.co.uk)  
**Sue Hooper:** 01752 843073 **Lynn Marsh:** 01752 844255  
or E: [suehcf@msn.com](mailto:suehcf@msn.com)



*This Musical theatre project has been made possible by the generous sponsorship of the heritage lottery fund*



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