

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

August 2021 - Issue 353

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Appeal Launched for Mary Newman's Cottage

Flood damage to the historic Mary Newman's Cottage has meant that while other museums are opening up again after the Covid lockdowns, the doors of this outstanding cultural asset have to remain firmly closed.

During the 1970s, the cottage was earmarked for demolition but was saved by a small group of concerned residents, who later formed the Tamar Protection Society to restore and care for this landmark building, as well as Elliott's Shop and Museum on Lower Fore Street.

Repairs to the damaged roof and wall of the cottage are estimated to cost £14,000. "This is a huge sum for the volunteers in the Society to raise, but everyone is determined to succeed," said Brigette Dixon, Chair of the Tamar Protection Society.

Mary Newman was the first wife of Sir Francis Drake, and local legend suggests that she lived in this cottage in Saltash during part of her lifetime. Whether Mary lived here or not, the cottage offers a fascinating insight into life in Tudor times. To the rear is a delightful garden, laid out to Tudor design and planting schemes. The cottage is a popular destination for the local community, as well as for others from further afield.

"There is no entrance fee as we believe the cottage should be experienced and enjoyed by all. We used to get income from our small café, but we haven't been able to open that over Covid. Any contribution through our Crowdfunding Appeal will be gratefully received." People wishing to donate are invited to visit the Crowdfunder website and search for Mary Newman's Cottage under the Explore button.

CCTV at the Waterside

Following a spate of anti-social behaviour at Saltash Waterside, the town has been offered the use of a Rapid Deployment Camera that was acquired by Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service for added security at the G7 summit. Due to be installed by the end of August, the camera will come at nil cost to Saltash, and will be strategically placed to capture footage in the public space area on Waterside Green and Ashtorre Rock.



REGATTA AHOY!

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th September

With Covid restrictions lifted, the much-loved Regatta and Waterside Festival is set to launch on the new dates of the first weekend of September, with exciting plans for two full days of water-based activities featuring rowing and sailing, live music across two stages, and plenty of stalls and entertainment.

The Fun Officially Starts at 10am on Sat 4th Sept

The Civic and Children's Parade will leave Victoria Gardens at 10am to process down Fore Street to Saltash Waterside. Other years have seen colourful participation from school groups, but with this year's Regatta taking place in the summer holidays, organisers are inviting individual families to take part.

The Parade's theme is Under the Sea, and fancy dress is actively encouraged!

Wild Swim & Regatta Relay

Saturday afternoon will see the popular Wild Swim and the introduction of a new fun race: the Regatta Relay. Paddle boards and kayaks will be provided to local businesses and groups to have plenty of watery fun. If you have a team who would relish the chance to push people into the Tamar, get in touch with the organisers, or turn up on the day.

Paint Party & Cardboard Boat Race

Activities on Sunday include a Treasure Hunt with prizes for all, the glorious Paint Party and the thrills and spills of the Cardboard Boat Race. Jon and Dee White, along with their team of volunteers from Redeemer Church, have been organising this infamous Boat Race for four years now, and the workshop they set up earlier this month in Studio 79 on Fore Street is a bustling hub of remarkable creativity and cardboard. At 3pm on Sunday, the intrepid sailors will be competing for coveted titles including the Most Impressive Sinking and the Brunel Award for the Best Eco-creative Design.

Actively Seeking Sponsorship

Difficulties presented by Covid mean the organisers have at times felt like they have been rowing against the tide, especially with the lack of opportunities to raise funds. Karen Lilley, Chair of the Saltash Regatta Committee, said: "We are extremely grateful to the many sponsors and supporters who have stepped forward to help us financially, but we are still actively seeking sponsorship. So please get in touch via our Facebook page or website if you can help support this community event."

"Every penny helps to
keep the
Regatta afloat!"



Photo Mike Pitches

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News from Saltash Town Council
Konsel an dre Essa



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Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

Saltash Essa ED

Cllr Hilary Frank
cldr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk

Saltash Tamar ED

Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd
cldr.sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwall.gov.uk

Saltash Trematon & Landrake ED

Cllr Martin Worth
cldr.martin.worth@cornwall.gov.uk

Cornwall Councillors Cover such services as:
Housing – Education
Social Services
Highways
Waste & Recycling
Tamar Bridge

From the Mayor of Saltash

It seems that I have written quite a few columns in which I have looked forward to the easing of lockdown and getting back to some sort of normality with the resumption of events such as Mayfair and Regatta.

It is therefore refreshing to write about an event that has actually already taken place and that I attended. That event was SaltFest and I feel I must congratulate the organisers on such a well planned event that was only given the green light to go ahead, around three weeks before the planned date.

Attending as a visitor, I managed to speak with quite a lot of people, both those that were running the stalls and displays and also other visitors



Mayor Pete Samuels & Chamber Chairman Sarah Martin

to the event. Just about everybody that I spoke to was delighted to be able to attend such an event after what has seemed a very long sixteen months since the first lockdown.

Later in the day I donned my Saltash Rotary Club viz jacket and helped out on the book and DVD stall where business was brisk, all of the takings being ploughed back into good causes.

I was later delighted to learn that I had won third prize in the SaltFest Raffle and have since received the £50 cash prize, which is to be recycled into the Mayor's Charity account for



this year, the beneficiary of which will be Dementia Voice PL12, an organisation of volunteers dedicated to support those affected with this condition and also their families.

Saltash is blessed with so many people who are prepared to roll up their sleeves and help with such varied projects and organisations ranging from SaltFest, Regatta, Dementia Voice PL12, Saltash Rotary and so on, I could almost fill this entire page if I were to list all of those who deserve praise, so my sincere apologies for all who are not mentioned here.

Another organisation worthy of mention is the 1941 Blitz Committee who have worked hard behind the scenes to commemorate and pay tribute to the 15 Saltash civilians that were tragically killed as a result of enemy action during WW2.

Fire Cadets now Welcome Juniors to Join

“How soon can I join the fire cadets?” is a question that Mike Parker and his fellow organisers of Saltash Fire Cadets have frequently heard from junior school students. To date they have had to wait until school year 7, when they reach secondary school, to discover the variety of activities organised at Saltash Fire Station and beyond.

Now, to cater for the demand, a junior cadet section has been set up and already around twenty eager nine to eleven year old boys and girls are in uniform and learning potential life saving skills and discipline while having fun and making new friends.

When we were attending an initial evening they were gathered around a model house and enthusiastically making suggestions as to how to ensure fire safety, making a “fire plan” and what to do in case of fire. They will progress in due course,

towards joining the seniors and experience with fire engines and hoses. There are also visits arranged to other fire stations and events in other towns, while fire cadets usually play a prominent role in local civic parades and fun events in the town.

Juniors, in school years 5 and 6, and seniors aged up to 18 (the oldest of whom help in training) are always welcome and for further information can contact Mike on 07811 954830 or saltashfirecadets@gmail.com Or just turn up at the fire station on a Monday at 6.30 p.m.

On Wednesday 4th August 2021 the installation of two Blitz Memorial benches commenced, with the aim of completing the installation prior to the Blitz Event on Sunday 8th August. One bench is installed on the corner to Wesley Road adjacent to the Blitz Memorial Information Board and the second bench is on the opposite side of the road, outside the Factory Shop in Fore Street.

After a break of some sixteen months, Saltash Town Council

is reinstating the ‘Meet Your Councillor’ sessions in Fore Street, which will now take place on the second Saturday of each month, from 10.00 to Mid Day. If you have anything that you would like to discuss with one of your elected representatives, or simply want to come along and have a chat, we will be delighted to see you.

On the subject of elected representatives, there is at the time of writing a vacancy on the Town Council and an election will take place on Thursday 9th

September if more than one candidate comes forward.

At a recent Town Council meeting, Councillors heard that an area of St Stephen's Churchyard is to be given over to allow wild flowers to grow, this following a local campaign.

The Saltash Library Hub continues to go from strength to strength with increased membership who can browse for their choice of reading in the recently refurbished and refreshed ground floor, where new shelving and a bright new

look can be found.

A date for the diary is Thursday 26th August when the previously delayed NHS Big Tea Party event will be held at the Library Hub between 10.00 AM and 2.00 PM, so why not come and enjoy a slice of cake and a cuppa, whilst helping raise funds for the NHS.

I'll be back with another column next month, but in the meantime, take care and stay safe.

With warmest regards
Cllr Pete Samuels
Mayor of Saltash 2021-22

Your Town Council & Wards

Saltash Essa:

1. Cllr Richard Bickford
r.bickford@saltash.gov.uk
2. Cllr Rachel Bullock
r.bullock@saltash.gov.uk
3. Cllr Gloria Challen
g.challen@saltash.gov.uk
4. Cllr Matt Griffiths
m.griffiths@saltash.gov.uk
5. Cllr Averil Pinckney
a.pinckney@saltash.gov.uk
6. Vacancy

Saltash Tamar:

1. Cllr Lewis Challen
l.challen@saltash.gov.uk
2. Cllr Sarah Gillies
s.gillies@saltash.gov.uk
3. Cllr Sarah Martin
s.martin@saltash.gov.uk
4. Cllr Julia Peggs
j.peggs@saltash.gov.uk
5. Cllr Pete Samuels
p.samuels@saltash.gov.uk
6. Cllr Jean Dent
j.dent@saltash.gov.uk

Saltash Trematon:

1. Cllr Steve Miller
s.miller@saltash.gov.uk
2. Cllr Brenda Samuels
b.samuels@saltash.gov.uk
3. Cllr Garry Taylor
g.taylor@saltash.gov.uk
4. Cllr Yates
d.yates@saltash.gov.uk

Mayor:

Cllr Pete Samuels

Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Richard Bickford

Town Clerk:

Ray Lane
T: 844846

E: 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
Website: www.saltash.gov.uk

Fore Street Memorial Benches



Saltash Fore Street is paying tribute and homage to the 15 Saltash civilian personnel that were sadly killed during the April 1941 Blitz.

Following many Acts of Remembrance at Saltash Churches and gravesides, in addition a plaque on Saltash Railway Station and a Blitz memorial board situated in Saltash Wesley Road; the final tributes are the installation of two Blitz memorial seats, which have recently been installed in the centre of the town.

The seats were commissioned by the Saltash 1941 Blitz Committee, and installed by Saltash Town Council.

The memorial seats have been made possible by a close association of the Blitz Committee, Saltash Town Council, and Saltash Enterprises PL12 and funded by Section 106.

A spokesperson for the Blitz Committee said: “These most beautiful memorial seats to honour the brave of Saltash, is most fitting, and it has only been made possible by local groups working together for the same purpose to pay tribute to the valiant fallen Saltash civilians of April 1941.

“The memorial seats situated in Fore Street, will remind all those that see them and sit on them that for their tomorrows these brave people gave their todays, and they will always be remembered.”

Mayor of Saltash, Councillor Pete Samuels added: “This will be a true and lasting tribute to those local civilians who lost their lives in the Blitz of 1941 and the very presence of those seats will bring awareness to younger generations who thankfully have not witnessed such tragic consequences brought about by global conflict.”

Twenty-Four Hour Alcohol Allowed Against Town's Wishes

Alcohol can be sold twenty-four hours a day in an outlet close to a residential area of Saltash and close to the vast new housing development at Treleden that is now taking shape. This is against the wishes of Saltash Town Council who voted to oppose an extension of the licence for the Carkeel Moto service station.

The existing licence allowed the sale of alcohol from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and an application to extend this to full time had been made to Cornwall Council's Licensing committee.

The Town Council had expressed concern that a twenty-four-hour alcohol licence could adversely affect the residential neighbourhoods close by with the risk of noise and riotous behaviour. The licensing committee took note of the objections from the Saltash councillors but considered that there was no evidence that the granting of the application would adversely affect the quality of life of those living nearby.

To Wear or Not to Wear the Wig

As a result of the long-term absence on sick leave of the Town Clerk it was suggested that the acting town clerk should be able to wear the town clerk's civic regalia on appropriate formal occasions.

The Town Council debated the issue at length, in particular as to whether the wig should be worn as part of such regalia. Asked her opinion the acting town clerk advised that she personally considered regalia should be worn only by duly elected or properly qualified councillors and officials. However, she would wear the regalia if the council voted accordingly.

Following a vote, it was agreed that the acting town clerk should wear the town clerk's regalia as appropriate with the wig being optional. It was noted that the House of Commons has not required the wearing of wigs since 2017.

Meet your Town Councillors

At the Full Town Council meeting held on 5th August 2021 Saltash Town Councillors resolved to reinstate Meeting Your Councillors monthly event.

Events will be held on the 2nd Saturday of every month 10am – 12noon outside Blooms Hearing on Fore Street.

A selection of Councillors will be available to answer queries from members of the public and help resolve any issues they are facing in Saltash.

Keep up to date with all future Meet Your Councillor events by following the Town Council social media sites:
Facebook [SaltashTownCouncilOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/SaltashTownCouncilOfficial) Twitter [@saltashTC](https://twitter.com/saltashTC)

Chamber Chairman Sarah Martin Keeping us Updated...

The Tamar Bridge remains one of the hot topics at the moment in the town as the summer continues. Some retailers are reporting a downturn in their revenue for this time of year, and a reduction in their customers coming across the Bridge, with deliveries also impacted as the roadworks continue. Yet Saltash remains very much open for business and that is our message to visitors and residents alike!

Tamar Bridge resurfacing project

It's been a busy first few weeks of the school holiday and after an initial respite from the roadworks for one weekend, it's full-on again with work started on the second phase. The two cantilevers have now reopened to traffic but work on the main deck requires two of the three lanes to be closed. With 3000 cars per hour in peak times, that's a lot of cars to get across the Bridge. The impact is being felt by our retailers in the town centre, but also those businesses based around the town - especially at Carkeel. Chamber has been involved in key stakeholder meetings alongside Cornwall Councillors and Plymouth City Councillors, so if you are a Saltash business and have any comments, concerns or questions, we are keen to

hear from you on info@saltashchamber.co.uk.

SaltFest 2021

The one-day SaltFest on 31 July organised under the umbrella of the Chamber of Commerce proved to be just the tonic that Saltash needed as a first event after a long and hard 18 months, and it was great to see our town centre buzzing again. We would like to thank Saltash Town Council, Cornwall Council and Carlton Plastics for sponsoring the event, and Chamber members Chapple Property Management, Eclectic at Home and The Bookshelf for their generous donations of cash prizes for our Fund the Fun raffle. Thanks to all who came for supporting the event and for buying over 1000 raffle tickets!

S106 Bids

Last month, Chamber took two bids to the Section106 panel, which grants money to encourage football to the town centre. One was for help funding SaltFest and the Saltash Christmas Festival (first Saturday in December), and the second was for a subsidised car parking initiative to be run in the Autumn. Both bids were granted by the panel, which was great news, especially considering the limited ability to fundraise for events this year.

Exclusively Yours for 30 Years

August marks the start of another chapter in the story of the Saltash and District Observer as we enter into our thirtieth year as the town's only totally local, independently owned newspaper. Today, as always, we remain dedicated to keeping our community informed of local news and events, robustly supporting our local organisations, businesses and event organisers.

Our archive of articles is a treasure trove of memories, and during our anniversary year we will be sharing some of the highlights of the past three decades of the Saltash Observer with you. Keep an eye on your Observer and the Observer Facebook page to reflect with us.

Owner and Chief Editor Mary Crawford says: "Thirty years since I first saw a need for a true community

New Chamber website

Chamber has a new website and a new domain name - www.saltashchamber.co.uk. The brilliant team at Saltash-based Carbon Pixel have been working these last few months on a new website, more representative of the Chamber of Commerce in Saltash. We are really pleased with the result! We will continue working on the website to keep it up to date so that all Saltash businesses are up to speed with the events and initiatives we are working on. Thank you to the team at Carbon Pixel for their continued hard work on the website.

As always, I'm happy to hear from businesses and retailers alike - email me at Chair@saltashchamber.co.uk

newspaper, I still feel a tingle of delight and pride at people's response to receiving our cheerful local paper through their letterbox every month.

'Exclusively Yours' was our first headline all those years ago, and to this day we remain rooted in the community. I've really missed interviewing people in person over the past year, so it was a particular pleasure to meet up with readers at SaltFest, and hear from many of them how our monthly newspaper has

been a lifeline in the months of Covid hardship.

There are plenty of smiling faces in this issue of the newspaper, but I'm painfully aware of the heartbreaking impact the tragic events in Keyham, just over the river from us, is having on our community and Plymouth. Over the years, the Observer has shared sorrows with you, as well as joys. We will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with you through the years to come. Exclusively Yours."

Community Enterprises PL12; Expansion Plans

Many of you will have heard over the last few months about our exciting plans to take over number 24 four Street, the old Barclays building. We have eagerly awaited the day when we can start to put our plans in place; but, alas, it is not to be at the moment.

We first viewed premises in February 2020 and in the subsequent months our world has changed significantly. Due to spiralling costs with taking on the project, coupled with a degree of uncertainty regarding our future financial security, the directors of CEPL12 have taken the very difficult decision to withdraw from taking on the building.

Although we are no longer moving into number 24 it does not mean we are putting a stop to all our plans. Our volunteers have been amazing over the last 18 months, helping their community in so many ways and we are currently exploring all options for continuing and expanding those projects.

We hope that a decision will be made over the next few weeks, and we can once again look forward to a busy community led future.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support and for all the donations received; these will be used for future projects, wherever they are based. Rest assured, our volunteers will continue with their fantastic work for the PL12 community. Jo Baskott, Chair, Community Enterprises PL12

Saltash Designated Wildflower Areas

Following residents' requests and working in partnership with St Stephen's Church and Saltash Environmental Action (SEA) Saltash Town Council have put together a small map highlighting where allocated designated wildflower areas of up to 2 metres are situated along the boundary for those who wish to visit.

Our Service Delivery Team will be mowing the Churchyard on a reduced regime around the boundary to allow for wildflowers to grow naturally.

We hope these small areas will offer wonderful patches of colour in areas where once there was just green and provide a much needed source of food and habitat for pollinators, beneficial insects and wildlife.

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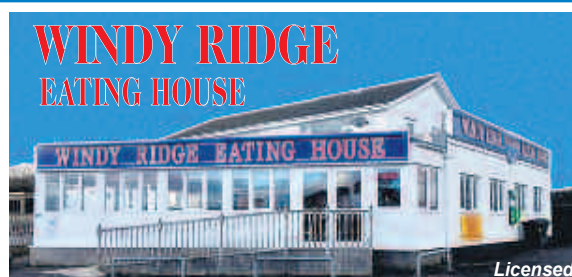
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REGATTA BEACH

With Covid still stalking, the volunteers organising the annual Regatta and Waterside Festival had no choice but to postpone the June edition of this much-loved event to September. Karen Lilley, Chair of the Saltash Regatta Committee, said: "One of the most saddening, maddening thoughts around the postponement was that we might not be able to provide the sand to make our annual Regatta Beach by Ashtorpe Rock. But the kindness of many supporters who contributed through our Go Fund Me Appeal, along with a monumental donation from John Lawler from Waterways Drainage Specialists in Saltash, meant we were able to bring in a truckload of sand at the end of July, just in time for the school holidays." Children have been happily making sandcastles at the Regatta Beach, and now that Covid restrictions have been lifted the Regatta Committee is in full flow preparing for the new dates of 4th and 5th September.



Photo Mary Crawford

Saltash Reconnects at SaltFest

Saltash came together once again after what seemed like eighteen months of slumber cast upon it by a malevolent spirit, to share in a community event of the kind frequently experienced in what seemed a distant past, but will again become a frequent feature of our friendly town.

SaltFest was celebrated on the last day of July, and was intended to signal the start of a time to rebuild social connectivity following the ending of most restrictions on socialising two weeks earlier.

The event took on the spirit of May Fair, cancelled on the last two May holiday weekends, with a wide variety of entertainment at the top and bottom of the town. In between, Fore Street once again had a colourful market feel as stalls lined the traffic-free street, though more spaced out than at a May Fair.

The weather proved perfect for the first community gathering since Christmas 2019, warm and largely sunny though not over hot. And the crowds came out, perhaps hesitant at first but soon as eager as ever to share in the community spirit, and in many cases meet with friends not seen for many months.

The stalls in Fore Street appeared to be doing a brisk trade, as did the carousel and the soft play area 'Jungle Journey' entertaining the youngest SaltFest goers. Children also enjoyed the magic of Zig Zag, who opened the entertainment at the stage at the foot of Fore Street. He was followed by varied live music ranging from bands to Grace Notes Acapella, a local, all-female group who sing four-part acapella, Barbershop style.



Photo Mary Crawford

Live Music Festival

Music was enjoyed in Longstone Park, too, where a large stage was set up to enable, in particular, local bands and singers based at the town's LiveWire Youth Centre to perform to an appreciative audience. The programme opened with Bridge Apart, followed by The Kites and then Riptide. The grassed area was lined with bouncy slide and castle as well as stalls offering a variety of cuisines, all attracting queues as patrons sat back in the summer sunshine to enjoy the food, entertainment and companionship. Families spread all over Longstone Park to picnic or just to enjoy the almost forgotten pleasures of coming together in fellowship and sharing the spirit of a friendly and community-minded Cornish town.

The music continued into the evening, with the energetic party band I Love Amp bringing the festivities to an exuberant close. As the audience dispersed, it seemed to one and all that Saltash was once again settling back in to being a town where residents feel connected.



Photo Mary Crawford



The organisers of SaltFest had a vision of bringing the community together in Saltash town centre again after the ravages of Covid. They made initial plans earlier in the year, but it wasn't until the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on the first Monday of July that they decided to go ahead with the event.

"We gave ourselves less than 4 weeks," said lead organiser Hilary Frank, "but the community shared our vision and together we created a moment in time for families, community groups, musicians and businesses to come together and celebrate being together."

As well as headaches about Covid, the organisers also had to contend with more than a year of limited opportunities for fundraising. The 'big ticket' items like insurance, closing Fore Street to traffic, hiring a stage and medical cover alone cost around £5,000. Hilary said: "We are so grateful to Saltash Town Council and Cornwall Council for their financial support. But also to Carlton Plastics, who recognised the need and offered to buy flagpoles for the stunning flags. Fabulous community spirit."

The organisers held a cash raffle with prizes donated by Chapple Property Management, Eclectic Interiors and The Bookshelf, managing to sell over £1,000 worth of tickets on the day of SaltFest. "Every ticket sold made a difference not only to the finances but also to the community spirit," said Hilary. "As one of my favourite Japanese authors says: Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean."

Essa Voices

TOKYO 2020

Three little words with big stories

Word One: kinen

"I declare open the Games of Tokyo celebrating the 32nd Olympiad of the modern era," said the Emperor of Japan at the Opening Ceremony of Tokyo 2020. At least, that is the official English translation provided by the Imperial Household Agency.

But the Emperor's opening declaration did not contain the word *kinen* (celebrating) used by his grandfather Emperor Hirohito at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and his



Councillor Hilary Frank
cfr.hilaryfrank@cornwall.gov.uk

hopefully you'll be able to spot me standing, dutifully, behind the Emperor. You may not be able to see me clearly, but you will probably be struck by the contrast with the Opening Declaration of Tokyo 2020, when there was a lone Emperor wearing a face mask, surrounded by no-one. Apparently, the switch in wording from celebrate to commemorate was

made out of consideration for people suffering under the health and economic consequences of Covid.

But the Tokyo 2020 focus on the human stories of the superhuman athletes, and the interviews with their families back home, gave us the feeling we were actually all connected, even making us feel that we were Stronger Together, just like Barshim and Tamber.

In a country where only small numbers of people have been vaccinated against Covid, there was a great deal of angst before the Games opened, and yet somehow they happened. A Games bereft of spectators but salvaged by the stoicism of the people of Tokyo and the luminous talent of athletes. A Games that richly deserves to be both commemorated and celebrated.



father Emperor Akihito at the 1998 Nagano Olympics. Instead, it contained *kinen*, which is closer in meaning to 'commemorating'.

Why did I notice this? First: because I speak Japanese. But also: I was the interpreter for Emperor Akihito at the Nagano Games, and was standing right behind him when he declared them open.

At a talk I gave in Japan a year or two after Nagano, an elderly gentleman approached and shyly offered me a stunning photo he had taken capturing that very moment. The copy of that photo I'm sharing with you here is a little grainy, but

Word 2: Essa
You and I know that 'Essa' is the ancient name for Saltash. Perhaps you knew, but I didn't, that it is also a name in Qatar. Actually, it's a name of high jump athlete Mutaz Essa Barshim, who gave us one of the defining moments of Tokyo 2020 when he decided to share a gold medal with Italian athlete Tamber rather than enter into a jump-off with him.

Word 3: Together
The IOC added the word

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Photo Mary Crawford

Saltfest Stewards Line the Bridal Way

As a happy bridal pair, followed by eleven cars full of guests, headed to the Saltash Social Club for the reception booked many weeks ago, they met an unexpected hitch – the town was closed to traffic for SaltFest.

Undeterred, as soon as they were aware of the problem the team of volunteer Saltfest stewards lined the street to ensure that the vehicles could safely drive up to park close by.

They then escorted the bridal party through to the door. The day was made even more memorable for the happy couple who were serenaded by acapella singers Grace Notes, fresh from performing on the Fore Street stage.



Photo Mary Crawford

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Fore Street (Junction to Linn) 10:30 - 10:45 SAT
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3RD - 5TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Parking Restrictions for: Saltash Regatta 2021

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Old Ferry Road (Pounds Park West to Pounds Park East)
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Lower Fore Street (55 Lower Fore Street to 103 Lower Fore Street)
Silver Street (Albert Road to Albert Train Bridge)
Cutler Road (3 Cutler Road to Albert Road) (Southbound Only)

4TH - 5TH SEPTEMBER 2021 06:00 - 21:00

The Essa Club

In view of the revised government unlocking of covid restrictions monthly entertainment at the **SALTASH ESSA CLUB** will be back on...

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Saturday 30th October - 8 30pm
Brian Burley

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Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following ten questions can you re-arrange them to make the name of a well-known celebrity? 5,5

- 1 What word describes the Wine made from the produce of a single year? (7)
- 2 Which is the only British bird of prey to feed exclusively on Fish? (6)
- 3 The Picts were a people native to the north-east of which Country? (8)
- 4 How are mounds or ridges of sand commonly known? (5)
- 5 What role did Will Summers have in the Court of King Henry VIII? (6)
- 6 Baghdad is the Capital of which Country? (4)
- 7 What name is given to an early type of Jukebox? (11)
- 8 Chesil Beach, an 18-mile shingle stretch, is a feature of which English County? (6)
- 9 Which of the Three Musketeers has the shortest name? (5)
- 10 In the musical My Fair Lady where does the horse-racing scene take place? (5)

Answers Page 8

Goodbye, Mrs Green

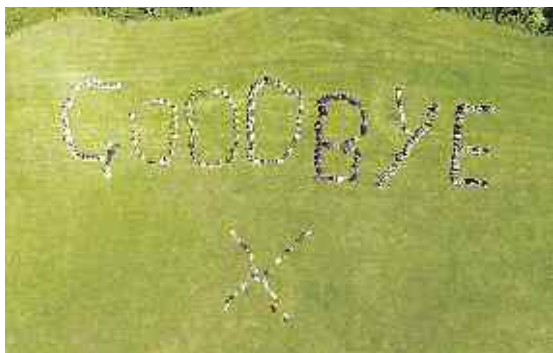


Photo SKYVIEW Media

The end of the academic year saw children, staff and governors at Bishop Cornish Church of England Primary School bid farewell to their Headteacher, Mrs. Sue Green, who retired after a career of 36 caring years in education.

"She is a special lady, so we wanted to give her a special goodbye," said Scarlett, aged 10, and with the help of Saltash company SKYVIEW Media, the children from the school and the pre-school were able to give Mrs. Green a very big 'Goodbye', managing to get the photo taken while Mrs. Green sat, oblivious, in her office.

Mrs. Green said: "My retirement brings mixed emotions. I cannot yet

imagine not seeing these amazing children and staff every day. This will be the hardest part. However, I am looking forward to being with my family, who have been my strength over the years."

The Bishop Cornish School family is looking forward to welcoming Mrs. Tracey Fletcher as their new Headteacher in September. Mrs. Fletcher has worked in a variety of educational settings for 26 years. After living in New Zealand for nine years, she returned to the UK in 2010, and most recently has spent five years as Headteacher of a Church of England school in Oxfordshire.

Old Cornwall Meeting Re-commence

One and all who have an interest in our Cornish heritage (though not necessarily Cornish by birth) are welcome to attend Saltash Old Cornwall Society meetings which resume this September.

Usually held on the fourth Monday of each month from September to April, this season will commence on Monday 27th September when former Baptist Minister John Adams and his wife Janine will speak on their experiences in South Africa – and back to Cornwall.

The October meeting, on 25th of that month, will see a welcome return to the Medieval Re-enactment Group from Plymouth. All meetings are held in St. Nicholas Church rooms, Alexandra Square commencing at 7.15 p.m. Visitors are welcome, at a small fee, or may chose to become members of what is one of the Cornwall wide Federation of Old Cornwall Societies.

Welcome Back to the Waterside at Ashtorre

The friendly volunteers who make one and all so welcome to call in for refreshments at Ashtorre have once again re-opened the hall immediately below the Royal Albert Bridge with its spectacular river views from the balcony.

One such volunteer celebrated her 90th birthday during lockdown and is eager to get back to work with friends at Ashtorre.

Pam Kelly has been volunteering for around fifteen years and as well as serving hot and cold drinks she served as treasurer for some of that time. She is now serving as a "buddy", working alongside the kitchen crew, keeping the environment clean and safe for staff and visitors.

We on the "Observer" who often used to meet at Ashtorre, are delighted to be back, and thank the happy and welcoming volunteers for making this happen.



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Tamar Reflections Wearde Farm and its History

If we live or walk in the Wearde vicinity, we associate this area now with housing and schools! However, over 100 years ago Wearde was quite a different place, with its rolling fields and uninterrupted views over the river Lynher.

Now at Wearde we have Saltash Community School with Bishop Cornish School as its close neighbour; and there are many hundreds of houses built where these fields were.

Yet, the story of Wearde is steeped in history, and I would like to share some reflections with readers.

August 4th 1914 England declared war on Germany, and England had been preparing for war for quite some time; and Saltash like all villages, towns and cities played significant roles in defence and training strategies and preparations for war well in advance.

Wearde Farm was one of those important sites that were used to host 5,000 troops from August 1914 onwards. Hosting men of the 3rd Battalion Kings Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment), plus new recruits, they were stationed at what was eventually called Wearde Training Camp. The camp was in the fields between Cross Park and Wearde Farm; in the area which is now Broad Walk and the adjoining roads.

Initially the troops were accommodated in various Saltash venues, including Parish Church rooms, Masonic Hall, Star Hall, Albert Hall, Alexandra House, Schools and Scout Hut and the Drill Hall (many long gone now or resited).

Eventually after just a few

months the troops including the Somerset Territorials were moved into tented accommodation on the land at Wearde Camp.



Their encampment comprised of hundreds of tents, some months later, more sophisticated accommodation was built for the troops such as wooden huts placed on concrete and stone foundations. They were built in the sloping fields and within the grounds of what is now Saltash Community School.

Over 2000 tons of stone for the huts were supplied by Messrs. Jeffords quarry at Tor, Burraton Coombe, between October 1914 and April 1915, with a further 900 tons to improve all the access roads.

The "C" Company of the 4th East Surrey Regiment was also stationed at Wearde. In 1917 Field Marshall Viscount French who had commanded the British Expeditionary Force in France visited the camp to inspect the Troops.

The enormous toll of casualties on the Western Front eventually changed the role of the Wearde encampment from a military base to a hospital for the wounded, and after the war

in 1920 became the Queen Alexandra Convalescent Centre under the auspices of the Ministry of Pensions, with the patients being dressed in

light blue clothing.

Whilst the troops were stationed at Wearde, they managed to socialise, and arranged trips into Saltash to visit the hostels and meet a few young ladies too! Some married their sweethearts and family descendants still live here today!

The people of Saltash were greatly supportive of the servicemen during the war and later the hospital patients and events were organised for them. A report in the Saltash Gazette at that time, described a social evening at the Church Rooms as being attended by seventy men from the camp.

There was a camp amateur dramatic society and a camp cinema.

The Wearde encampment eventually closed in 1938 after being used for various projects, too much to say in this space, but I will continue this story in the next issue of the Saltash Observer.

Sue Hooper MBE

Stepping Back in Time – News and Views Three Decades Ago

A glimpse back in time at the first few editions of the Saltash and District Observer shows how much has changed over three decades. One thing that has not changed is our promise under the front-page banner headline that "we hope you will come to welcome and rely upon the monthly arrival of the Observer, which will keep you abreast of local events, keep you advised as to what local businesses have to offer you, and which will be exclusively yours."

So, what were we reporting upon in our first edition 30 years ago? A £1 million extension to the College had opened, and commuters were complaining at a reduction in stopping train services (a decline more recently reversed). We see mention of many familiar names including Mayor Barbara Spring, who wrote a column, starting a tradition that has been followed by mayors since. We mourned the loss of former Mayor and Saltash Heritage founder, 'Cornie Hearl'. We noted Bill McDonald's walk and row round Cornwall, and we reported on a "fun weekend" at Kimberley Stadium run by the Lions and St. Johns Ambulance Brigade. One of the advertisers was introducing the latest technology to Saltash: the Astro Satellite TV to capture the new Sky channels.

"Camera Crimewatch Sought", we reported in our second edition, and a similar campaign is running today, though cameras are now likely to cost more than £900. There was a report on a plan to re-

establish Saltash's ancient market in Belle Vue car park. This never came to fruition, but the Youth Council that was founded with £1000 from former Mayor Sue Hooper's charity fund continues to flourish to this day. And technology again: a complete word processing system was advertised from £499.

Those currently suffering the troubles of the Tamar Bridge resurfacing might sympathise with the front-page headline of our third edition "Alternative Study of Tamar Crossing Needs". Bemoaning 'second bridge blight' we wrote of a survey commissioned by the Department of Transport in which alternative sites for a river crossing were under serious consideration. Again, we wrote of people who will still be well remembered, such as John Taylor, retiring as head of Saltash Junior School.

But what intrigues us is what became of the young people who featured in those first articles: the 8 and 9-year old Burraton School pupils who

enjoyed a camping trip to Looe; the Badger "set" who brought home the cup; and the Bishop Cornish design technology students whose work was exhibited in London. Were you one of them – can you remember your sense of pride?

Yes, the town changes and the townsfolk on whom we reported so long ago have matured, while many of the town's stalwarts who we remember so well are not with us any more. The Observer has endured through these changes, mainly due, we believe, to the guiding principles that Mary Crawford talked about in her 'Message from the Editor' in that very first edition: 'So many newspapers develop into masses of solid advertising with odd snippets of news (some of it not

Wargamers Wanted

Tabletop wargamers who are interested in meeting fellow fantasy fighters and sharing experiences of their hobby are invited to help set up a wargaming club in Saltash.

It is intended also as a means of meeting people interested in PPG games and the hobby in general. Club attendees can play a variety of games including in particular 40K.

An interest poll has been set up on facebook and anyone interested in attending or joining such a club as a founder member is invited to visit www.facebook.com/battle-scapesterrain

even local) filling up the odd corners. I am confident that you, the public, will want to support a paper which is produced exclusively for you, and in part by you.'

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On the Right Tack

Saltash is fortunate to have a range of groups helping motivate and inspire our younger residents. One is the Saltash Sailing Club Cadets.

Saltash Sailing Club has had a cadet section for more than 40 years, but the Club itself was founded over 100 years ago in 1898. For the last 12 years, the cadets have been taught the ropes by Mike Robins and his team of volunteer instructors.

The Club is a Recognised Training Centre affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association, and training follows RYA schemes. Mike said: "There are four senior cadet instructors as well as myself. We have about 12 other instructors who come and go - they were cadets here when they were younger and are now away at University or have started jobs."

SSC Cadets sail every Friday evening from early April until late September, weather and Covid permitting. Look out over the river on a Friday evening and you will see between 40 and 60 children 'messaging about in boats', having plenty of fun and making new friends. Study of the theory units takes place over the winter months so that the learning doesn't interrupt the on-water sessions and fun activities. Race training features as part of the programme, too, with dinghy racing on Tuesday evenings.

Cadets have the use of a wide range of dinghies, ranging from the ever-popular Topper and Pico through to the RS Vision and RS Feva, all bought through fundraising and by Saltash Sailing Club.

"It's a really welcoming, inclusive place - my three children have all relished their time here," said Mike. Any child from the age of 11 up to 18 is welcome to join SSC Cadets. No experience is needed, but there is a waiting list. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact the Sailing Club, or go along to see the fun one Friday evening when there are fair winds and following seas.



Photo Mary Crawford

Saltash Sailing Cadets Daunted but Inspired

Two cadets from Saltash Sailing Club had the opportunity to race against other local clubs and sailors from the national squad in Plymouth Sound ahead of the F50 catamaran races at the recent Sail GP event. Sonny Davies and Emmie Frank were the two youngsters from Saltash who joined cadets from 7 local sailing clubs to take part in the training programme set up by the Royal Yachting Association as part of the Inspire initiative run by Sail GP.

In a weekend of thunderstorms the week before the Sail GP event, cadets from around the area were hosted at Saltash Sailing Club, and trained in sailing an RS Feva, a two-person sailing dinghy designed in 2002. "Thankfully, the weather on the following weekend at the actual races was glorious - so was the experience," said Emmie.

After racing in Fevas on the same course that would be used by the catamarans later in the afternoon, the cadets were taken in RIBs to get up close and personal to the towering F50 catamarans. The culmination of 10 years of development in multi-hull racing, the F50 was the first boat to hit 92.6 km/h (50 knots/57.5 mph) during racing. It still foils using rudders with elevators and two daggerboards, but nearly the entire design has been reworked to create a faster, flatter flight.

Designed on similar lines to the Formula 1 Grand Prix, the Sail GP Championship is made up of eight events,



which take place across the globe. The races in Plymouth formed the third event of this season, with Bermuda and Italy hosting the first two events. The final race at the last event of the season is the Grand Final, where the highest ranked teams in the season's leaderboard go head-to-head to be crowned Sail GP champions and win a prize of \$1 million.

Sonny Davies said: "Representing Saltash Sailing Club was pretty daunting, but it was a great experience and we've made good friends out of it. We've told them they are more than welcome to come to Saltash Regatta!"

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