

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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August 2015 - Issue 277

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Just as You Thought Carkeel Road Works were Completed

As major roadworks at Carkeel roundabout draw to a close plans have been put forward for 'Stage 2' due to commence at the end of this year and be completed in early 2017. These plans include enlargement of the roundabout and the installation of full time traffic signals upon it. The A388 road to Callington will be made into dual carriageway for the short distance between the A38 and the roundabout by the Services and Waitrose turn off. The A38 eastbound will be widened west of the roundabout to three lanes, equivalent to the work recently done on the westbound lanes east of the roundabout. There will also be a re-alignment of the pedestrian and cycle approach to the new footbridge.

The reason that the work is being done in two stages rather than all in one go, it was explained at a public exhibition in the library, is that unfortunately the contract for the first phase was let by the time that Growth Deal funding for the second phase was confirmed, while the first phase was funded

by Highways England, the second will be funded by Cornwall Council at around £3.85 million. They are seeking to ensure that the Carkeel junction is fit for purpose to deal with traffic from the envisaged thousand new homes put forward for Broadmoor and the 1298 new jobs which the

Broadmoor development will seek to create.

Meanwhile local commuters and other motorists who have endured delays over the past months should prepare for a possible fourteen months of further traffic problems commencing later this year, though Cornwall Highways representatives at the local exhibition advised that it is hoped that the work may be completed sooner.

Steve Gudge from Cornwall Council's capital projects team said, 'We have been working closely with Highways England to ensure the works for the two phases are compatible. We appreciate the patience of motorists up to now and while delays are inevitable with the next phase, we want to reassure them that we will be doing all we can to complete the work as soon as possible'.

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A Sunday Stroll Across Refurbished Royal Albert Bridge



Martin Lister photographed with Chris Grove (Brunel)

Almost five hundred Saltash and Plymouth residents together with visitors from all over Britain forsook a Sunday lie-in to gather in the drizzle at 7 a.m. on Saltash Station. They were there to enjoy what could be a once in a lifetime experience, a walk across the newly renovated and repainted Royal Albert Bridge.

To the music of 'Four Flutes' from the up platform, groups of walkers were led onto the platform for health and safety briefing by orange clad Network Rail staff. They could then walk off the platform and onto the track and towards the 156 year portal bearing the name of I.K. Brunel, designer of our iconic structure.

The amazing iron lattice work above caused all to gaze in wonder and pause for photography. Gazing down it was sometimes disconcerting to see glimpses of the Tamar a hundred feet below between the wooden slats on either side of the track.

The form I had filled in to obtain my press pass had questioned my ability to walk fast and to turn my head over my shoulder, causing us to wonder whether the need to outrun a train was a prerequisite for the pedestrian crossing of the bridge.

However there were no such

unpleasant surprises.

There was a surprise as we reached the Devon bridge portal and Brunel himself was there, with stovepipe, hat and cigar, to welcome us and to pose for photographs. It proved to be Chris Grove, Co-Coordinator of the Bere Ferrers 'Tamar Belle' Railway Heritage Centre.

Due to the road bridge lane closures fleets of buses had been organised to take walkers back to Saltash. However the work having finished early, just after midnight, walkers were able to walk back over the road bridge, watching the last of the bridge walkers completing their crossing.

There was however a more fun alternative, I walked down the hill to Saltash Passage where a ferry was waiting at the sailing club. We re-crossed the river in the same manner as all of those non-railway passengers prior to the 1961 opening of the road bridge, over the choppy waters to Saltash pier. Here it was a few yards stroll to the Ashtorre Rock Centre where a team of volunteers was busy serving hundreds of bridge walkers with a welcome ham and egg breakfast.

The walk, which marked the completion of five years work on the bridge over a five year period to ensure its future well into the 21st Century was organised by Saltash Rail Users Group (SRUG), Ashtorre Rock and Network Rail.

Happy 50th Birthday, saltash.net!

With it only happening once in a lifetime, everyone in saltash.net's community agreed that the Golden Jubilee celebration was worth an extra special effort. To mark fifty years of education on its Wearde Road site, staff and students from saltash.net rallied together to stage a thoroughly memorable and enjoyable anniversary event on Saturday 4th July.

Fortunately, after months and months of planning, the weather was glorious enabling the huge crowds of visitors who turned up for the afternoon and evening activities to make the most of everything that was on offer, including being able to enjoy and appreciate the stunning views afforded by the school's spectacular location.

The 50th anniversary's official opening took place in the school's main reception where invited guests, including MP Sheryll Murray, Mayor Bill Phillips and Deputy Mayor Hilary Frank, gathered for the unveiling of the 50th plaque by two ex-students: Gary Davies and Roger Gillett. Both Gary and

to the main hall where an incredibly comprehensive and informative exhibition had been staged by Media Technician, Jennie Anderson. Ex-student, and Répétiteur of the Welsh National Opera, David Doidge, provided the musical entertainment, which was followed by Gary Davies and Roger Gillett sharing many memories from their time at the school, back in the 60s.

The very large number of visitors to the main school site were able to enjoy a look at the exhibition, tours of the school led by student ambassadors, as well as refreshments served by the Friends Association.

Meanwhile, taking place

on the school's extensive playing fields, was a whole range of fun and enjoyable events, designed to provide a focus of interest for young and old alike. These included a Dog Show, Marquee (supplied by Hines) with a full programme of live music, games stalls run by Year 7 and 8 Social Enterprise teams, Dotnet Café and Sweet Stall, BBQ and Hog Roast.



Roger had walked through the doors of the school's brand new building back in 1965 and they have remained firm friends ever since.

Headteacher, Isobel Bryce, welcomed everyone to the event, saying that she hoped it would be a day full of memories and reunions, but also an opportunity to consider what lies ahead in the next half century, with the school continuing to build on its reputation, providing an excellent, inclusive education for all students in its care in partnership with the local primary schools.

After the official opening, there was an opportunity to cut the beautiful 50th 'birthday' cake, made by support staff member, Karen Snowdon, before adjourning

the end of the day, Mrs Bryce said, 'It has been such a wonderful community event and I am so pleased there was an opportunity for students and staff, past and present, as well as other community members to come together to share memories and learn some more about the history of education here in the town of Saltash.

We could not have wished for a better day and I would like to thank all of my colleagues who did so much to help make it the success it was, especially my PA, Jude Hollyman, Assistant Business Manager, Naomi Lawrance, and Media Technician, Jennie Anderson.

It was most definitely a team effort!

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Essa Files

At the risk of sounding like I do nothing with my time but fly around the world and occasionally write columns for the Saltash Observer, I have to confess that this month's offering is another dispatch from overseas. I am on my first trip to North America and as I am write have just passed through Providence, Rhode Island, on a train from Boston to Washington DC.

I have greatly enjoyed my trip so far: amongst the highlights I have seen a show on Broadway, watched my first live baseball game, and been whale watching. I have also particularly enjoyed some of the very good historical museums and monuments which in Boston have understandably focused mainly on the revolutionary war. Only a couple of days ago I got to pretend to be an American revolutionary, stick a feather in my hat (to disguise my-self as a Mohawk Indian) and throw a fake bundle of tea over the side of a reproduction tea clipper in Boston Harbour. I'm just hoping that this doesn't technically count as treason.

In Saltash too we are fortunate to have an exceptional local museum run by Saltash Heritage, including the ongoing opportunity to visit a recreated First World War trench, as well as several important and interesting historic buildings and structures – not least of course

the Royal Albert Bridge. We also have some very important memorials: not just the main war memorials but also for example the plaque at Saltash Fire Station to the local Firefighters killed during the blitz. Hopefully we will also shortly have some 'blue plaques' to commemorate famous notable people who were born or lived in Saltash – a project that the Heritage is currently working on.

All of which brings me around to my point: which is the importance of continuing to visit, appreciate and preserve this heritage for its own sake, to remember those who went before us, and to help remind those whose who are yet to come.

Adam Killeya

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CORNWALL COUNCIL
and our PL12 community
For Observer readers
From Councillor Joe Ellison

We are now in the dog days of mid summer – August is a month when many regular council meetings take a break, although the volume of division work doesn't seem to diminish.

The big news of the last month was the highly publicised visit by the Prime Minister to sign the "Deal for Cornwall" in Truro. In many ways, it was a landmark, the first such major regional devolution deal after Greater Manchester, and it confers upon Cornwall

Powers to set and subsidise county bus services and introduce integration with rail services and introduce through ticketing

Power to integrate NHS acute and specialist services with Adult Social Care, which should prevent bed blocking, and provide a seamless service from hospital to home care

Most important, the award of Intermediate Body status, that will give Cornwall the power to decide on ERDF and ESF projects to benefit from the next £4.8 million EU funding package. This is unqualified good news – as a member of the Local Action Group, we currently wrestle with lengthy delays and bureaucratic rules caused by DEFRA.

In addition, there are lots of "The Government will work with Cornwall" worthy aims with regard to training, apprenticeships, green energy measures, hot rock research etc.

However, in my view, it falls far short of Cornwall's own "Case for Cornwall" aspirations - most notably in lack of planning powers. We can't determine our own overall housing numbers (42,500 may still be considered inadequate), and the power of a single Government Planning Inspector in Bristol can overturn local planning decisions. Appeals cost Cornwall £475,000 in legal fees last year. Nor have we any powers to limit or discourage second homes in the County.

Cornwall also wanted other powers in relation to energy, employability and training, flood prevention etc, and will continue to negotiate on these issues, but ultimately, you take what you are given by Government, and grab it with both hands. I have some concerns, particularly with the integration of Health Services and Social Care : both have an insatiable appetite for funding and power tends to reside with those who hold the purse strings. Will Kernow Commissioning Group give up it's financial

clout? Can Cornwall reduce costs of Adult Social Care, the largest single item of Cornwall's annual budget? Or has the Government knowingly relinquished a massive loss maker?

With a sigh of relief, the Phase 1 works at Carkeel are almost complete, and the new Footbridge is about to be officially opened as we go to Press. The impact on A38 traffic flow has been horrendous for several months, not helped by two weekends when expansion joints were replaced and the Tamar Bridge was closed, without prior notice to us Councillors.

However a public exhibition has just shown plans for Phase 2 works at Carkeel. This work is due to start in January, cost £3.85 million, and last for seven months. Saltash Cornwall Councillors will shortly meet the responsible Highways Engineers from Cornwall Council and Highways England. We remain unsatisfied that the works don't extend north to Carkeel or south to Gilston Rd, where potential traffic from the Tesco and Lidl sites is not considered.

Above all, lessons MUST be learned in terms of traffic management. Avery Way industrial estate was frequently gridlocked, and shoppers were unable to exit from the Waitrose and B & M car parks. No one could use the SITA tip for hours on end. Why cone off lanes on the A38 when no work is taking place? These issues must be addressed in advance.

Finally, some good news to report. Saltash has been one of fourteen Cornish towns to be awarded a £10,000 grant to set up a Coastal Communities Team, specifically to develop plans to develop and regenerate Saltash Waterside. This is particularly timely, as the Devolution Options Group (DOG – blame Cllr Killeya!) is already negotiating an orderly handover of Waterside assets and management functions from Cornwall Council. The funding will allow a proper business plan to be professionally prepared.

I remain optimistic that we will have a real summer soon, instead of the few hot days interspersed with dense drizzle, cold nights and strong winds. So far, we have been lucky in selecting good days for our regular weekend breaks at our caravan site near Hayle, but Clare is not happy with the effects of the weather upon her hanging baskets and the lack of progress of her runner beans. The sun needs to come out soon, as our house is encased in scaffolding, ready to be painted.....

Town Council Not Informed on Bridge Closure

The closure of the full three lanes Tamar Bridge leaving only one outside cantilever lane open in each direction over weekends in the July holiday season was not disclosed in advance to Saltash Town Council.

Councillors were angered that they only became aware shortly before through articles in the regional press. One Councillor suggests that the Town Council was treated 'with contempt' by the Tamar Bridge authority others agreed as to an abysmally poor communication problems.

They queried the need for work to be done at weekends in the holiday season. 'Essential works', County Councillor Bob Austin subsequently told the town's Chamber of Commerce were chosen to be done while the days were long and the chances of warm weather were good.

Any future non-urgent work should not be undertaken without reasonable notice, the notice period to be agreed by the Bridge Committee, the Town Council agreed. They would write to this effect to the Tamar Bridge authority with copies to local MP's and Councillors. They also agreed to send an e-mail asking to ensure that traffic from Saltash could infiltrate traffic from the tunnel to avoid gridlock through Fore Street, New Road and beyond.

Footbridge Leads to Longer School Walk

While the long-awaited opening of the footbridge over the A38 by Carkeel roundabout has been acclaimed by most walkers, at least one local mother has found that it causes extra dangerous road crossings on her walk to school.

The Carkeel mother complained to Councillor John Brady, he told the Town Council, that when she walks her child to school she can no longer cross the A38 on the west side of the roundabout. She therefore has to cross a busy main road four times to use the new footbridge and in the busy rush hour this can add up to ten minutes to her walk. She is seeking a footpath on which it is safe to take children to school without busy road crossings.

Work to provide a footpath between Carkeel village and the footbridge has been held up since Highways England put a stop on the Broadmoor development until the developers have given money to improve the Manadon roundabout, replied County Councillor Derek Holley. An improved footway alongside the Callington road to Carkeel is part of the road improvement proposals.

Letter to the Editor

Once again Mr Holley is able to express and publicise his views with arresting front page coverage as Cornwall and local Councillor. We recognise that LNA is the Residents' group he describes but we certainly don't accept his glib dismissal of our views as mere 'vested interest' and take exception to the implication that we had nothing of value to contribute to the discussion. We requested - and had - a calm and measured meeting with Mr Holley to discuss his views that there should be no restriction on further building in the town.

LNA's view was that we could not agree to his premise that building 'more and more houses everywhere' would actually result in sufficient affordable houses for local needs or even be targeted to help the homeless in Saltash. National building companies are not interested in the locality (we are!) and giving them free reign will certainly open the flood gates to piecemeal developments, ie. build quickly, sell, make a profit and leave.

LNA's view is that it is a complex issue and needs careful planning and varied measures to resolve the problems, perhaps including council sponsored building programmes, shared equity proposals and a control of second homes. Even the government is working on tax proposals to stem the tide of Buy to Let get-rich-quick landlords.

We feel that unrestrained building would be a disaster for Saltash. There is a very real danger that it will become a huge messy unsustainable urban sprawl; with services stretched beyond workable limits; no guarantees of affordable housing; insufficient infrastructure and no promise of local employment.

We are not alone in these concerns: the huge majority of Saltash residents who responded in the 2012 Cornwall Local Plan consultation said they did not

want the 3500 house proposal and agreed to the 1000 (though some were reluctant for even that number). Many residents are now puzzled about why these numbers are still open for discussion as the general perception is that the requisite housing need has been agreed, and indeed sited, with planned services and infrastructure included.

To this end we have been fully supportive of the establishment of a Neighbourhood Plan aiming to deliver a thoughtful, coherent and sustainable planned future for the town's growth.

Leslie Rust, Chairman
Latchbrook Neighbourhood Association

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Footbridge Follows Years of Campaigning For Safe Crossing

A recently opened footbridge offering safe passage for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders at long last fulfils a promise made when the A38 Saltash by-pass first opened. The new road bisected a local bridleway as well as closing off a public highway to Pill, it being replaced by a footpath crossing the A38 where traffic speeds along the dual carriageway at a legal 70 m.p.h.

Promises were made at the time that the two 'lack of a safe non-motorised user crossing' issues would be dealt with at some unspecified but very soon date back in 1988 and since then various local residents, in particular rambler and former Councillor Peter Clements have continually campaigned for a safe crossing of the A38. At last his continued correspondence with various highways authorities and members of parliament as well as an attendance at site meeting with Sherryl Murray

MP and Secretary for Transport Teresa Villiers MP have been rewarded as Peter became among the first to walk the new crossing.

'I like what has been provided but it has been a very long time coming', Peter told the Observer. 'I believe that its provision was always on the cards eventually- especially with all the actual and proposed development on the far side of the Saltash by-pass. I am pleased that the footbridge is linked to Saltash Bridleway 9 Northern section.

Trucks Still Stuck in Local Lanes

Heavy transport is still sticking in narrow and bending lanes in the countryside around Forder and Trematon. Drivers are still following their SAT NAV's and no lessons have been learned since the occasion when the craning out of an HGV truck stuck in Forder village appeared in the national press.

Since then signs have been erected saying that lanes were unsuitable to HGV's. However Councillor David Yates, pointing this out to a truck driver stuck near Mr. Yates' Forder home was just told 'I am not an HGV.' New commercial vehicles are being build wider but not registerable as HGV's and accordingly their drivers ignore the sign. The suggestion was made that the signs need modification.

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Saltash Hosts Offer Lifeline To Chernobyl Children



Photo Martin Lister

Children whose life expectancy is limited by living close by a nuclear fall out zone relaxed, laughed and had fun with our young Saltash Fire Cadets as guests of Saltash Fire Brigade.

Nine children aged nine to eleven were enjoying a visit that is not only fun but can add several years to their lives as they breathe pure Cornish air. They all come from the Gomel area of Belarus, on the Ukrainian border, that still suffers the affects of the Chernobyl nuclear explosion in 1986 and the five thousand residents of their home town of Bragin adjoins the exclusion zone. Already many suffer brittle bones as a result of the radiation and a free dental and optical check-

up, with treatment if required, is a part of their British itinerary. More fun outings include a boat cruise up the Tamar, a trek over Dartmoor, visits to the Maize Maze and Tamar Donkey Park, as well as numerous trips to the beach - none of the children having seen the sea before.

At the welcome party they shared with their new Saltash Fire Cadet friends, water slides, a pool and a bouncy castle before tucking into a feast of food courtesy of Saltash Lions, Kensey Cakes, Samworth Brothers and Anderson Transport. The fruit from Tamar Fruiterers was a special treat, fruit at home still being a radiation risk.

Hosts are already being sought for four weeks next summer. Anyone willing to offer a young Belarusian child food and a bed (full entertainment is provided) is asked to contact Vanessa on belarusness@hotmail.co.uk or the main office website www.ccll-org. It promises to be a happy and rewarding (emotionally if not financially) experience for host families and their own children, and the guests are happy to share rooms with same sex host children.

Would New Cameras Increase Shopping Centre Safety?

A new town CCTV system will enhance the overall crime prevention strategy for Saltash and provide a safe, secure, healthy environment for the local community and visitors to the town.

This is the belief of Saltash Town Improvement Group (STIG) who are requesting just under £16,000 of funding from 'Section 106' monies, that is money paid for town improvements by developers as a condition of planning agreements.

However, Town Councillors were divided as to whether there is any evidence that CCTV really does keep crime down.

They disputed whether there has been any increase in crime in Fore Street that would justify the new system and commented that it is only of real value if constantly monitored in real time.

There was also concern that only one quotation for the work had been obtained.

After discussion it was agreed to defer the issue until the Council's September meeting and in the meanwhile to obtain further quotations and seek more views from local traders, the police, and general public.

From The Mayor's Parlour...

What a busy time Jean and I have had over the last few weeks. We started the period by attending the Liskeard civic service followed by the wind up meeting of the current Mayfair committee.

But the good news is we have been able to put together a new committee who have some different ideas, watch this space.

Our annual Regatta was again a great success all thanks to the organising committee.

We had a great day with lots of visitors to speak to and we even found time to have lunch in the renamed Boatman (Just Be).

Also that evening we had the pleasure of the company of Cheryl Murray at the annual Saltash Rotary clubs President's night.

So many other events, recitals by the Rwind band, the Saltash Ladies Choir, saltash .nets anniversary day, St Barnabas summer fair and the WI anniversary garden party at Ince castle.

It was also a great pleasure to attend the CIC dementia friendly town initiative which will be an asset to many residents if it can be achieved.

But the highlight of the month to me as an Engineer was the walk across the railway bridge. Despite the weather we were able to admire what a massive achievement this was and a great reminder of the industrial revolution.

Lastly I mentioned the road works at Carkeel, the official opening of the footbridge is soon and the plans are out for the next phase of the area upgrade.

Cllr Bill Phillips
Mayor of Saltash

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In the early 60's they both worked together for a pharmaceutical Company called Wander.

In 1995 Tom and Eleanor received a Christmas card from them, but it had no address or contact details.

Recently, Tom and Eleanor saw an article on the internet showing that eight years ago Ernest and Valerie having their 50 years wedding vows blessed (please see photo) The blessing took place at Gorse Hill Baptist Church, Swindon where they were married.

The article reported that they were living in Saltash, Cornwall. They had two sons Paul and Ian and a daughter Jayne.

If you know the whereabouts of Ernest and Valerie or members of their family please contact:-
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Picture shows overlaid images showing the recent discovery of Beagle-2 on Mars with an indication of what deployments might have been made. The image credits are embedded. The second shows what Beagle-2 should have looked like on the Martian surface fully deployed - including the robotic arm. This image credit should be "The Beagle-2 Consortium".

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Hello there

I'm not certain why I looked up the "Saltash" entry in Wikipedia yesterday but it was probably prompted by Cornwall's recent victory at Twickenham. Then, I thought I'd jump on to the school's web-site just "for old times sake". Once there I discovered (what I had not known) that the school was now a specialist in science, mathematics, and computing and (what I should have known) that it is celebrating 50 years at the Wearde site.

I was in the first intake at the school in 1965 having spent one year in the old Grammar school down on St. Stephens road. I remember still the excitement of that first day exploring the new building and discovering its wonderful facilities; the language labs, the great central hall, the gym which had changing rooms indoors! I would even know where to find the Library today (unless you've moved it!) - it was where I found John Wyndham's science fiction books.

Also that year began my interest in discoveries in the



solar system made by spacecraft - I still have the scrap book, dated 1965 and bearing the address "27 Newman Road"! I didn't finish my education at the school as the family moved to Wales, but with O-levels and A-levels aplenty I obtained a place at Cambridge where I studied physics in all its forms (theoretical, experimental, historical). A former mayor, Phoebe Lean, wrote to congratulate me but, I fear, that letter is, now, long lost.

Since graduating from Cambridge, I have worked as a software engineer in the international space programme - first in Bristol, then Oxford, later in Germany, and, eventually, all the way back to Bristol again. During that time I have been involved with many space missions but there are two which students and staff at the school are likely to know about.

You might remember, from November, the little Lander dropped onto a comet far out in the solar system. The Open University has a gas-chromatograph mass spectrometer instrument on-board and I wrote the software to control it. In those first frantic 60 hours on the comet, the instrument worked a treat - the OU receiving a prestigious Sir Arthur Clarke award as a result. Since I thought to write this to you yesterday, the news has (just) arrived that the little Lander has woken again!!

Perhaps more obscure would be the Press Conference from the Royal Society in January announcing the discovery of the Beagle-2 Mars Lander, lost in December 2003, but found lying on the surface of Mars in a dishevelled state. For Beagle-2, I wrote

Fifty Years On – Your Observer Reporter Goes Back to School



The times they are a changing', sang Bob Dylan in 1965, and they certainly were. In that year Churchill died, the chart-topping Beatles released 'Help' and petrol soared to five shillings (25p) a gallon. It was also the year that Saltash students moved from grim stone and brick built buildings to new purpose built premises on the

edge of town at Wearde. Fifty years later, as one who attended a traditional grammar school in the 1960's I was delighted to take up the

open day and see how education has changed and continues to evolve. All around the school past and present students and teachers, together

century while looking back on it's past, exploring its present greatly expanded campus, and looking to its future development.



There are currently around 1400 students at saltash.net academy. Fifty years ago there were five hundred. Two of the first pupils to enter its portals and wonder at the futuristic gleaming glass and concrete structure that they beheld returned to unveil a plaque marking the fifty years, since they first walked through those doors.

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with other interested Saltash residents came together to celebrate the school's half

There are currently around 1400 students at saltash.net academy. Fifty years ago there were five hundred. Two of the first pupils to enter its portals and wonder at the futuristic gleaming glass and concrete structure that they beheld returned to unveil a plaque marking the fifty years, since they first walked through those doors.

A select group of us were invited to walk the red carpet into the lobby to share in this historic event.

Roger Gillett and Gary Davies performed this ceremony before an audience welcomed by Head Teacher Mrs Isobel Bryce and which included Mayor and Mayoress Councillor Bill and Mrs Jean Phillips, Sheryl Murray MP, Governors Town and County Councillors as well as four of the youngest present pupils.

"We left this school with great optimism and great belief", Gary and Roger recalled from the heady days of the 1960's. "It is great to see that the tradition continues and today's students really follow the school creed of

'Believe and Achieve'.

We were then invited out into the July sunshine to enjoy the spectacular views from the front lawns and a glass of sparkling wine with tasty canapés prepared by the students.

There was to follow a surfeit of activities resulting from months of organisation by the school team. First on the agenda was a talk by Roger and Gary on the early days of the school. While in nostalgic vein we could then wander the school hall, experiencing the incredible 'time lines' display, some courtesy of Saltash Heritage, exploring the history of secondary education in Saltash right up to the present day. Meanwhile we were entertained with music from former student David Doidge, currently working with the Welsh National Opera.

Then it was time to discover the saltash.net academy of today. This I did with Peter and Paul who in my schooldays would have been 'lower sixth

students' but are nowadays 'year twelve'. They were among the students who with evident pride took pleasure in guiding groups around the ever-expanding facilities that the school offers for education in every sphere.

Many changes I discovered since my schooldays. Instead of serried ranks of desks and chairs, there are in every room small clusters of tables around which students work together in groups. No blackboards, instead whiteboards, while classrooms are brightly arrayed with pictures and posters. Technology rules, even the games changing room has a flat TV screen.

In my schooldays, the DT room was where sinners reported for detention. Now it stands for the latest state of the art equipment for Design and Technology. This was matched by equal facilities for IT, languages, sciences and every other subject on the curriculum.

The library was especially impressive as a venue for reading and relaxing while the latest addition, the sixth form centre, offers exceptional leisure and study facilities for senior students.

Having shown us the gym and sporting facilities Peter and Paul left us for their next tour group and we went out into the sunshine again to discover the host of entertainment on the school field. Here a dog show was being judged by retiring Governor Bryan Preston.

In the spacious marquee student soloists, duos, bands and choirs were providing a programme of an eclectic mix of music. Outside a variety of catering facilities offered all from strawberries and cream to a hog roast in the early evening.

There were various games including a traditional Breton version of pitch and toss in which Hilary Frank persuaded me to partake. I was challenged and soundly trounced by former Mayoress Marilyn Oakes.

A visit to the bar in the marquee soled me and I relaxed while enjoying the students' musical talents and the pleasure of sharing the afternoon and evening with past and present students of a school where a tradition of offering a happy, friendly and nurturing environment has always ranked as important as its high standards of academic achievements.

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Fri 28th Cornwall Air Ambulance Fashion Show (7pm - 11pm - All welcome) (MH)

Sat 29th Livis (Bar)
Sun 30th Shane Karaoke (Bar)

September
Sat 5th Weazledust (Bar)
Sun 6th Shane Karaoke (Bar)
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Sun 20th Shane Karaoke (Bar)

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In Space Everyone has a Good Time

An audience at the Burraton Community Centre on Saturday July 11th were transported to Phobos, the larger moon of Mars, for two hours.

No technological miracle this but the latest Murder Mystery evening from Burraton Community Players. The script, written by Miss Jill Price, told of the horrific murder of the space station's commander (Karla Borisoff) and of the tensions and intrigues of the eight-strong crew. Marie Thyme, Tommy Gunn, Lucy Borscher, Petrie Disch, Charlie Over, Toni Witt, and Paula Cork all had their motives for the foul deed. Why even the non-human RC Android had his reasons to dispense with the evil Borisoff.

An appreciative audience

15th Century Church Saved

This Grade2, listed church is being provided with a £21,000.00 grant towards the £35,000.00 needed to cover the cost of investigations and the urgent repair work to the Bell Tower of the church.

The Bell Tower of the St Stephen by Saltash church will be repaired to stop the ingress of rainwater via the tower into the church, thanks to the grant from Viridor Credits and many other kind donations from local organisations and people.

The necessary work will help to protect the Elizabethan barrel vaulted ceiling, with its carved bosses together with the west end social community area and the associated adjacent facilities under the bell tower.

The grant will help to ensure that the church continues to serve the people of Saltash, especially the St Stephens area community for many years to come.

Viridor Credits Environmental Company was established in 2001 to distribute funding via the Landfill Communities Fund. This project has received £21,000, funding from Viridor Credits, through the Landfill Communities Fund.

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Blood Sweat and Tears



Saltash Video group are pictured here at the end of the line.

Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following nine questions can you rearrange them to make the name of a Bird?

- 1 What was the name of the Forest which was the scene of Shakespeare's Pastoral comedy As You Like It? (5)
- 2 Which country is linked to Switzerland by the Simplon Pass? (5)
- 3 What is the main ingredient of the Spanish dish Paella? (4)
- 4 What was the forename of Henry VIII's second and fourth wives? (4)
- 5 In the title of Samuel Beckett's play who was being waited for? (5)
- 6 What name connects a strong fortified wine, a rich sponge cake and an island in the North Atlantic, west of Morocco? (7)
- 7 Which town is recognised as the capital of the Isle of Wight? (7)
- 8 Which instrument was Jazz musician Jelly Roll Morton famous for playing? (5)
- 9 How many pairs of wings does a Bee have? (3)

Answers on page 7

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Saltash Social Club Gift to Air Ambulance



Motown music lovers who packed the Saltash Social Club helped to raise over £1500.00 for Cornwall Air Ambulance. When he arranged for Motown Pirates to play at the club, vice-chairman Andy Hatch anticipated that the evening would be well supported and could be a popular fund raiser and he is pictured here handing a cheque from the proceeds to Cornwall Air Ambulance's Saltash shop manager Patricia Pethick.

A Plymouth Argyle shirt, donated by Graham Johns was auctioned and a variety of generous donations were raffled to help build up the total. In presenting the cheque Andy thanked all the staff at

the club who had worked especially hard, all of those who supported the event, and especially wished well to Club Chairman David Byng, currently in hospital, wishing him a speedy return to the club.

A further charity music night is planned for 30th October, featuring swing and blues bands.

Meanwhile the next major charity event at the club also for Cornwall Air Ambulance, will be a fashion show on Friday 28th August from 7.30 p.m. to which all are welcome. Fashion items on display will be available for purchase and there will be an opportunity to win a Shellac Nail Makeover.

"Wreckers Morris" Keeping Busy

We have had a busy Summer so far, we have danced all around the County and beyond including joining the Plymouth Maids to celebrate their 35th Birthday which included dancing around the Barbican which was lovely in the sunshine and ended with a Ceilidh in the evening. We joined our friend Tywardreath Morris in Lerryn, which was lovely but a bit damp, but we had a music session after in the Ship Inn after which was terrific. We danced at Polperro Music Festival and The Saltash Regatta, which was a lovely sunny day, whilst there we danced on the boat The Shamrock, which was brought down from Calstock for the event. We danced in Calstock on a very warm Thursday night this was very much enjoyed by the public and ourselves alike. We danced at 2 carnivals Delabole and St Breward both of them were well attended by the public and we toured the streets dancing and making merry. To end July we will be at Latchley Agricultural Show and we have had to postpone our Duck Race, which was to be on The 26th July, but will now be on the Saturday 19th September. Looking forward to some good weather for all events planned in August and September.

Observer Telephone Numbers
 07971484872 or
 01579 345699

Saltash Ladies Choir

A combined concert was held on Saturday July 11th at Saltash Wesley Church. The Singleton Singers from South Wales joined us in an evening of song to raise money for our chosen charity for 2015, The Women's Refuge Centre, Plymouth.

During the evening a cheque for £1,416.40 was presented to Graham Parkinson of Derriford Hospital Children's Cancer Services, this was our chosen charity for 2014.

The Singleton Singers were led by their Musical Director Carole Edwards and accompanied on the piano by Doreen Owen. Saltash Ladies Choir was led by Musical Director Linda Eastlake and accompanied by Carolyn Varcoe.

The MC for the evening was our President, Mrs. Sue Hooper MBE. We hope to pay a return visit for a joint concert with The Singleton Singers next year.

New members for Saltash Ladies Choir would be made very welcome. We meet at 7pm on Wednesday evenings at Saltash Wesley Church.

More details can be found on our website
 www.saltashladieschoir.co.uk

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Thanks to the generosity of

the local community and the hard work of the committee in obtaining grant funding the church organist Christopher Cook took delivery of the new organ in June and it is already well used.

A Songs of Praise service is planned for 4th October at 6.30 p.m. to celebrate its arrival. All are welcome to hear the new addition to the church 'raise the roof', and share in singing traditional hymn favourites together with the Saltash Town Band.

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**Sustainable Saltash Offers
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Saltash has the opportunity to become an exemplar town in the way that it deals with its business waste. A recent event held at the China Fleet Club, the 'Saltash Sustainability Show' focused on a variety of environmentally friendly projects and gave a number of exhibitors and guest speakers the opportunity to share with Saltash their own varied viewpoints on sustainability and how visitors from the town could make a difference to the town and help create a sustainable Saltash.

'Saltash could be the first British community of its kind not to landfill or mass incinerate trade and business waste but to recycle it into raw products for use in industry', believes Steve Whiteway of 'Zero to Landfill'. He had organised the day's display with a team and support of local traders, Cornwall Council, Saltash Town Council and Jo Bunker of Business in the Community. Steve, who recently won the Inspirational Environmental Volunteering Award 2015 at Plymouth University, was pleased to be giving a presentation in the town where he grew up.

There was a steady crowd of visitors to around forty stalls set up by various eco-friendly businesses, charities

and other groups and organisations. Meanwhile presentations were given by around twenty speakers including Ben Mee of Dartmoor Zoo, Pluss who spoke on employment of the disabled, an organic farmer, various charities, and local groups including Saltash Environmental Action and the towns Community Interest Company. A video featuring Bishop Cornish School children extolling their eco-friendly premises was shown and the children's junk band performed live.

In the late afternoon fun family activities to encourage sustainability in the home were organised and children enjoyed a treasure hunt along the club's nature trail as well as face painting, mask making and meeting and handling Dartmoor Zoo inmates including giant snails and Kellog the corn snake.

'Many people, especially teenagers are growing up in a throwaway society' conclude Steve Whiteway. 'We want to show how everything from wood to food to clothes to computers can have a second life' and he added, 'All these people today have a common aim, to create a better planet by starting locally.'

Those interested in further involvement are invited to e-mail steve.whiteway@dcw.co.uk

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Sound of Steam Returns to Brunel Bridge



Photo by Martin Lister

The thrill of the sound of a steam engine chuffing across the iconic Royal Albert Bridge, interspersed by its shrill whistle, returned on an August Sunday. Battled Britain Class 'Tangmere' hauled 'The Royal Duchy' on a special excursion from Plymouth to Par, packed with enthusiastic steam lovers who were welcomed by waving enthusiasts on Saltash Station platform.

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Year 11's 'official' Last Day

Year 11's 'official' last day is a 'rite of passage' anticipated with a range of emotions by students and staff alike at saltash.net community school. On Friday 8th May, there was much fun and laughter as the students arrived in an incredible array of fancy dress outfits for their last day of lessons before the examination and revision programme commenced in earnest.

There were also, however, tears and hugs as the year group, head of year, tutors, teachers and support staff came together to share memories and reflect on everything that had been achieved over the last five years. There were lessons as normal in the morning, followed by a special lunch in the gym which gave all of the students an opportunity to have their Year Books signed, whilst being entertained by Year 11 student Nathan Daniel, an 'in house' DJ!

There was live music at lunchtime with an open air 'bandslam' session in the Year 9/10 quad. Students Bronwen Hall, Elliot Weare Gould, Ryan Kean and Matt Ward performed a series of numbers providing the perfect entertainment for the Year 11 cohort.

In the afternoon, Year 11 assembled in the main hall with Head of Year, Mr Oakes, and Assistant Head of Year, Mrs Sloggett.

More musical entertainment was provided by Lydia Herbert, Rose Bonner and Chloe Brandon. Teacher of PE, Mrs Emma Gue, was presented with a bouquet for all she did to help with the Year Book, and student, Toby Shotton, was presented with a certificate and reward for achieving the outstanding feat of having 100% attendance throughout his whole time at saltash.net.

Headteacher, Mrs Bryce, commended the class of 2015, saying she knew they would make everyone proud this summer and wishing them all the very best now and in the future.

Saltash Leisure Centre Summer Holiday Activities 2015 Continue until 31st August



Wednesday 19th August Vocal Jam

1pm - 3pm - Max 15 children - £8

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Entertainment at the Ploughboy

Sunday 23rd August: Jazz Evening
Jazz Night last Sunday in every month

Comprehensive Menu with Specials Board
Choose from Our Varied Menu

Monday to Thursday

Enjoy 2 Home-made specials for £14.00

(Choosing from the home-made special Menu)

All day Tuesday 2 Rump Steaks £16.00

Food...

Lunch Menu available from: 12noon-2.30pm Mon-Fri

Evening Meals available from:

Mon-Thurs-5pm-8.30pm Fri-5pm-8.30pm

Saturdays from 12noon-8.30pm Sundays from 12noon-8-00pm

Clubs, Organisations & Coaches Welcome

We are open for Morning Coffee & Afternoon Tea.

— Situations Vacant —

**Bar Staff - Kitchen Staff
& Waiting on Staff required (18yrs+)**

Long term preferred - Short term available

Apply within or Telephone 842861

Call 01752 842861 for bookings

and all enquires...book early to avoid disappointment!

-- Bookings advisable --