



SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

December 2012 - Issue 245

Incessant trumpet of trade; armoury of fearless truth without fear or favour ...

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MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT COTTONS

Thousands Thronged to Spectacular Lantern Parade in Super Seasonal Festival



and the Lanterns kept on coming

From the top of Fore Street, where a Victorian Horse Bus was drawn by two mighty Stallions, to the foot of the street where a barrel organ resounded to the tunes of bygone seasons, there was an air of excitement and expectancy through Saltash. Shoppers strolled the traffic-less street between beautifully decorated shops where many staff were ready to serve seasonal delights attired in Dickensian dress Saltash was preparing to welcome in the festive season as only Saltash knows how.

Then, as stream of urchins in Victorian orphanage and cockney garb burst into the street, singing and dancing to the music from 'Oliver' the fun was under way. The arts and crafts fairs in Keast Mews and Victoria Gardens were attracting great interest, while a steady queue of hopeful youngsters waited to enter Father Christmas' grotto and disclose their Christmas wishes. The youth of

Youngstagers, following their excursion as Oliver's urchins, sang Christmas song in the Victoria Gardens, more mature singers of U3A sang, in Victorian costume, elsewhere in the town, hopscotch and other traditional games could be enjoyed in the street. Sugar plums, roast chestnuts and mulled apple juice could be enjoyed around the town as darkness fell. In St. Nicholas

church the festival of Christmas trees, decorated by the many organisations within the town, brought their own magic, enhanced by the sound of hand bell ringers. The Mayor and others judged the Victorian fancy dress competition before the civic party had to hurry away ready to participate in the early evening highlight. As December darkness fell the foot of Fore Street was lit up

with three hundred lanterns. Borne proudly aloft by the children and adults who had created them in workshops over the previous weeks they presented a truly magical spectacle to the hoards who lined the street as they paraded up to meet the Mayor and other dignitaries at the top of the street. Then the crowd's wait was rewarded as Father Christmas himself, with a jovial wave for all, led the Mayor and other dignitaries and the parade of three hundred lanterns down the street to the arena, assembled earlier by our Air Force Cadets, at the foot of the street.

Also in the parade were our Youngstagers again, now in the guise of Joseph and Mary, shepherds, wise men and angels, ready to play their part in retelling the greatest story ever told - they were accompanied by loveable Poppy the donkey, also to play her part. Before they performed the Mayor, Cllr Martin Gee, formally thanked all of those who had helped organise the stupendous event, especially Hilary Frank who he said, truly deserved a pat on the back from all for her leadership in creating a fantastic day. He then announced the winners of the Chamber of Commerce Cup for the best decorated shop window as chosen by the children of St. Stephens School. Petit Pain and Truly Scrumptious were highly commended but the overall winner was Stylus Engravers.

Then, following a dramatic countdown, the town's Citizen



Consider Yourself Flash Dance

Panoramic view of Lantern Parade sent in by Tony Hackley

and Young Citizen of the year, Hazel Greaves and Hannah Burtwell, switched on the cascade of Christmas lights up the street and Saltash was once again in fully festive array, ready for the coming of Christmas.

The traditional open air carol service was this year included within the Youngstagers' nativity play, with carols being sung by the children and by the full audience as the familiar and timeless tale progressed. The Saltash Town Band provided accompaniment as Saltash raised its voice in Christmas song. Following concluding prayers from Canon Alan Butler, the Mayor's Chaplain, some of the crown dispersed to visit the shops, many of which remained open until 7.30 p.m. For the younger citizens of Saltash however

the area entertainment continued with a Yuletide Youth Concert. Opening with the newly formed musical youth group Page 2 Stage performing music from their show 'Peter Pan' to be produced next spring, the programme also included Rosina and Beulah, Jamie

Pullan, Paul Armor and the Western Approach Singers. For the estimated three and a half thousand Saltash citizens and visitors who thronged Fore Street this was indeed a fine and fitting intro to what should be a very special Christmas.

More coverage in next issue

Saltash Observer Receives Royal Approval

The Saltash Observer's account of Saltash's Summer celebrations to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee have merited a letter of thanks from Buckingham Palace.

As we continue to celebrate our twenty first year of service to Saltash we were especially pleased and proud to receive a royal seal of approval. Your Observer is not only read and enjoyed throughout Saltash and its environs but literally throughout the world, thanks to our website. It has also been perused in the Palace to which we sent a copy of the Observer showing how the jubilee was enjoyed locally.

The Queen was touched by the good wishes and pictures which you have sent to her and the Duke of Edinburgh' we were informed in a letter accompanied by an illustrated card of thanks. Her Majesty's apologies for not

responding before, due to the enormous volume of letters, cards and messages received, were given.

We are of course delighted and thrilled with the letter and card, and even more so to know that the 'Observer' has been received and read in the palace and its residents made aware of how Saltash marked in style a very special royal occasion.

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Town's Torch Celebrations Receive Tourism Trophy



A mystery visit to Newquay concluded with the receiving of a prestigious award for Saltash and for the Town Councillor who organised one of last summers 'highlight events. Hilary Franks' husband Shojiro had been ordered by her fellow councillor Bob Austin to take her to the Headland Hotel, Newquay, where they found themselves sipping cocktails with around three hundred smartly attired guests at the Cornwall Tourism Awards ceremony. Among those present were television wildlife presenter Nick Baker, Head of Cornwall Tourism Malcolm Bell and Chief Executive Kevin Lavery. When dinner was announced Hilary and Shojiro were surprised to find themselves on the top table, and even more

amazed as Hilary's name was read out by Malcolm Bell as the recipient of an award for 'Outstanding Service to Tourism', the trophy being the 'Olympic Torch Volunteer Award'. The celebrations surrounding the torch's progress through Cornwall had been responsible for raising many millions of pounds in tourism revenue, Malcolm Bell announced. "It was great afterwards to hear so many people say that they had heard how good the Olympic torch celebrations in Saltash were, it seemed that the day had really helped put Saltash on the map", Hilary told the 'Observer' later. The other spin off from the Olympic Torch day was the amount of goodwill generated from the numerous volunteers who also came forward

subsequently to help with the Saltash Christmas event, and whom Hilary hopes to call upon for yet further major community events that she has in mind.

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CORNWALL

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& our PL12 Community

For: Observer readers

From: Councillor Bob Austin

Essa (South) Ward, Saltash



Matching the Neighbourhood Development Plan to Cornwall's Strategic Plan. Coming out of Recession – Is Saltash Ready to Prosper?

Most of you will know by now that the Mayor is leading the way to complete a "Neighbourhood Development Plan" to match Cornwall Council's Strategic Plan where there is a requirement to build 900 houses in Saltash - one of the conditions that Saltash Town Council has made is that we try and match this with a growth in employment opportunities.

With this in mind I arranged a business breakfast with local business leaders, Cornwall Councillors and Officers to discover the challenges that this may incur and how we can deal with them. The first meeting took place on the 29th November at a local Business Centre in Saltash where twenty seven of us met, gave presentations, and took part in an open debate. The meeting started with a presentation from Cllr Stephen Rushworth (Portfolio holder for Economy and Regeneration, Cornwall Council), our Mayor followed with ideas of what Saltash has to offer and some thoughts on our way forward. Liam Bradley (Chairman of Saltash Community Interest Company) also presented some facts on town regeneration and the involvement in it. My thanks

must go to the CIC for financing the whole operation and providing the bus for some site visits. Various officers from Cornwall County Planning, Economy and Regeneration and the Gateway Community Network Area also gave their thoughts on how we should proceed. From the commercial side Chris Bond (W H Bond), John Parker (Waitrose), John Yandell (Spinnaker Products), Peter Noakes (Noakes & Habermehl), Peter Ryland (Stakeholder in Fore Street), Mo Gregory (Zero Gravity), Sarah Adkins (Bond Pearce), Clive Kidman (Federation of Small Businesses) attended the event.

After the debate there were some actions taken and information gained for the next meeting. These include:- Commercial Traffic on the Tamar Bridge and its limitations.

The use of an enterprise zone.

More information on the Neighbourhood Development Order for Broadmoor Farm.

Gap Funding

106 and community

infrastructure levy awareness

City Deal Plymouth /

Mayflower 2020/City of

culture – Saltash involvement

High speed broad band and

ultra high speed broadband

for specialised businesses

European business boost

fund.

After the meeting there was a tour of the business centre and the new business park being set up at Marjory Court by Fred Rodgers.

The next meeting will be held on the 7th March 2013 if any business leaders in the Saltash area are interested in joining us then please contact me on 01752 844666.

Councillors Allowance

I have to make a minor correction to a comment made by our Mayor in last month's paper. The Mayor said that Cornwall Councillors have voted themselves a 20% allowance rise but are actually not getting a rise at all. The published rise (from an independent commission) would be for future councillors, if elected, after the next election. This could be debated if they wished and accepted or rejected...this is exactly what happened four years ago when your four existing Cornwall Councillors and the others did exactly that.....they unanimously rejected any allowance rise on the grounds that most of our residents were not getting a pay rise, therefore nor should the councillors.

Congratulations to Cllr Hilary Frank

Well done Hilary on your award from the Cornwall Tourist Board given for all your efforts organising the Olympic Torch celebrations in Saltash.

May I close by wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

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Talking Trash Cans

Following the recent plans for a 'Talking Bench' in Fore Street as reported in your October 'Observer' a suggestion has been made as to talking litter bins being provided. These are highly popular in the Netherlands, a member of the public stated during public question time at the monthly Town Council meeting.

As litter is deposited in the mouth the bins are programmed to say 'thank you' (in Dutch!) Others, which look like popular comic characters, add various comments to the amusement in particular of the children.

The bins do have a serious side in as much as they encourage a responsible attitude against littering at an early age.

The Town Council promised to give the idea further consideration.

From The Mayor's Parlour...

Dear All,

As I write this there are 22 days to Christmas and it seems no time since I last wrote to you,

The Remembrance parade was very well attended and was blessed by good weather so that the fly pass by a World War 1 and replica of a World War 2 aircraft was successful. Thank you Fred Rogers. The band were terrific and over 350 paraded to St Stephens church

December has started with an enormous festival. The Christmas Fair, the Nativity Play and Christmas Lights switch-on were all outstanding. Thanks go to so many; but in particular to Hilary Frank who motivated, cajoled and encouraged the town to produce a fabulous event, and the Festival lights team of Bruce Reid, Brian Carter and Dave Wilde who raise the money, maintain, erect and remove the lighting. Thanks to all the helpers with a special thanks to the Air Cadets and Fire Cadets.

In between these events our friends (?)! Cornwall Council have done very little to progress matters. There is still no movement by the legal department on the leasing of land. The Ashtorre project to site a work of art has now been delayed even further. The Town Council needs legal approval from Cornwall to cross the pavement by one flagstone! It is as though we are going to use JCBs and bulldozers to build a block of flats! The current paper work seems to imply this lease of land (about 100 sq ft) will have a document of 28 pages long????? Delays and inefficiency cost you and I money. Cornwall are slow

and laborious and because of this Saltash town has to pay more for increased legal costs. Another instance: at the start of the negotiations with Cornwall for the Grenfell site (for 3 small allotments) , it said the costs would be minimal. The cost to the Town now will be over £600. This is for a lease to regain land bought originally by the people of Saltash.

The war continues with Cornwall. I believe that Cornwall legal department is full of highly trained staff who have forgotten (or were never told) that Local Government is a service for the people. Small 3rd tier local Government such as Saltash is trying to help its constituents not make profit by gaining assets for sale and profit.

And the next winner by Cornwallif they cannot remove 2feet high (600 milimetres high) weeds on the sides of the streets of Fore Street, then we have no hope in the outskirts. I am also very worried that promises made last month by Cornwall about ensuring contracts for street cleaning will not be fulfilled.

The saga of toilets continues. This is a game of brinkmanship by Cornwall officers. There is nothing formal written to the Town Council. What is certain is that the toilet block under the bridge will be closed. The land is owned by Network Rail (as all land under railway bridges) and leased to Cornwall. This toilet was the priority one for Saltash Town Council to remain open because there was no other way of fulfilling demand for this type of facility in the locality— information as usual

ignored by Cornwall. It is understood that the toilets in Belle Vue car park and Longstone park are to remain open. Cornwall want the Town to take them on and will pay us £16,000 to do so for one year They currently cost over £ 26,000, including opening and closing. (I think this figure is very low and believe that Cornwall officers are naïve in analysing how much the total cost of running these facilities are) It annoys me to think that we are subject to what is called double taxation. This is when we pay Cornwall to provide a service for the whole of Cornwall (in this case toilets) and also we pay tax to Saltash Town Council to provide the same service. Cornwall needs to decide who provides what service universally.

The Local plan has started with a well attended first meeting explaining how the process works. Many more meetings are planned. Please contribute.

Most importantly Cornwall's Local plan will be available for viewing and comment in early January. Please look at it and comment. I am afraid I have no other details as surprisingly Cornwall have not supplied anything.

On a happier note, the Town is now looking extremely festive. You will notice there is some coming and going with shop ownership changing over the next few months.

The FREE car parking carries on everyday from 10 o'clock until Christmas.

*A Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year to you all
Martin and Maggie Gee
Mayor & Mayoress of Saltash*


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- 3 Total Recall 2012
- 4 The Bourne Legacy
- 5 Step Up 4
- 6 New Year's Eve
- 7 Expendables 2
- 8 Keith Lemon the Movie
- 9 Codename Geronimo
- 10 The Man Inside.

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A photograph of a Christmas tree decorated with purple, pink, and white ornaments. A large white bow is prominently displayed in the center of the tree. The background is dark, making the ornaments stand out.

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BREADED BRIE WEDGES(V) - two deep fried, melt in the mouth breaded brie wedges, served with a cranberry dip and salad garnish.

SOMERSET ASPARAGUS CHEESECAKE (V) - a savoury cheese, leek and spring onion base topped with brie and served with salad garnish

Mains:

ROAST TURKEY - traditional succulent Turkey, served with four seasonal vegetables and roast and new potatoes.

ROAST BEEF - Cornish topside beef, served with four seasonal vegetables, roast and new potatoes and a Yorkshire pudding.

HADDOCK FLORENTINE - a fillet of prime haddock, served on a bed of spinach, in a rich cheese sauce and accompanied with carrot and green bean bundles and new potatoes.

MUSHROOM AND WALNUT HOTPOT - a crisp pastry case surrounding rich, braised mushrooms and onions and topped with slices of potatoes and finished with chopped walnuts. Served with seasonal vegetables and new potatoes.

Desserts:

CHRISTMAS PUDDING - traditional Christmas pudding, served with brandy sauce or Cornish clotted cream (must be stated on pre-order)

WHITE CHOCOLATE AND RASPBERRY CHEESECAKE - an individual white chocolate cheesecake on a crumble biscuit base, marbled with raspberry sauce.

ICED HAZELNUT AND HONEY PARFAIT - this frozen dessert is flavoured with honey and finished with chopped, caramelised hazelnuts and served with Cornish clotted cream.

CHOCOCALATE BOX - an all butter shortbread base, topped with an indulgent dark chocolate mousse, surrounding a caramel centre... naughty but nice!

Tea or Coffee, & Mince Pie.

Tel: for a Party menu/planner to be sent out

Call 01752 842861 for bookings

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

Normal menu also available throughout the festive period
Bookings advisable

Watch your Observer for further details of
Events & Entertainment, during the Festive Season
Liskeard Rd. Saltash Cornwall



A Childhood Dream Come True

Many of us may have had a childhood dream of owning our own sweet shop. Now, Danielle Frith has been thrilled to see her dream come true with the opening of 'Truly Scrumptious' and since opening in Lower Fore Street she has been delighted to discover that reality lives up to the dream. Before realising her childhood dream, Danielle enjoyed helping with community work, also more recently running her own events company.



Quirky

She has also found time to raise three girls now 15, 8 and 2 and shared their delight in the sweet things of life. So when she found the shop in what she describes as 'the quirky end of town' she was full of plans to turn it into the ultimate sweet shop selling all from traditional sweets to rarely discovered American candies. While preparing the premises for a grand opening with the invaluable help of all her family, in particular Uncle Peter, she came to know many of the local community who expressed interest in what she was doing. The result was that by the time the Mayor cut the opening ribbon she already felt a part of the Saltash community and had already started to build what has become a strong rapport with many who have become regular customers on first name terms with Danielle.



Living close by she has entered two year old Isabella into St. Nicholas pre-school and feels already very much a part of Saltash, eager to support local events and charities. We on the Observer must thank her for helping to deliver some of our bumper extra deliveries of our special Christmas Event November 'Observer'.

More exciting news in the New Year

Already, delighted as she is with the success and support she has received since opening in Lower Fore Street, Danielle is branching out into an exciting new plan to enable others to enjoy the wide variety of delights that 'Truly Scrumptious' deliver, more news of this will follow.

Christmas Candies with a Dash of Artistic Flair

Saltash as we have so often emphasised, is a very special place for Christmas shopping, with so many family owned businesses able to help the individual customer select a personal and unique gift for every happy recipient.

This has become even more so this Christmas following the recent opening of 'Truly Scrumptious' and Danielle has got straight into the Christmas spirit with what she has to offer.

Edible Christmas Wreaths

The range of edible Christmas wreaths on her wall not only add to the seasonal attraction of the shop but show what a combination of sweets and floristry, with a dash of artistic flair, can produce hand prepared to order. These chocolate wreaths which can bring a unique work of seasonal art to any home – if one can manage to leave them uneaten – are just one of many suggestions for Christmas Gifts with a difference. Young or old, anyone with a sweet tooth will be thrilled to receive a candy bouquet, a lucky charm pot, or one of the gift cups or Christmas goody bags or gift jars on offer. Ladies in particular will enjoy the gift handbags, all hand made, each one unique. A special and individual gift for any lady from toddler to senior



can be the beautiful 'retro aprons' which itself could be a useful stocking filler with, perhaps, a jar of Fluff or of Lucky Charms.

Open Sunday 23rd December

So that one and all may have the opportunity of sharing the Christmas Magic that Truly Scrumptious has to offer Danielle will, with various other shops in the town be staying open until 7.30pm on the last three Fridays, before Christmas and opening during the day on Sunday 23rd December.

"A Sweet Disposition"

'Pucker Powder Sherbet Machine'

Row upon row of jars filled with the tasty treats that our grandparents used to enjoy range alongside the latest in exotic candies that the cool kids of America favour, all are part of the magic of 'Truly Scrumptious'

New and unique to the area the 'pucker powder sherbet machine' is attracting the attention of all ages. Here you can have fun blending your own colours and flavours while filling your own scrumptious straw. This is popular with those of all ages, the only problem being that some find the sherbet filled straw really looks too good to eat. A taste of America offers numerous trans-Atlantic delights rarely seen hereabouts. These include the Wonka range – try their 'nerds', and the 'lucky charms' – ideal stocking fillers. Also ideal for Christmas Stockings or as a fun gift to any age group is a jar of 'Fluff' from which to make one's own fresh fudge or cheesecake, - recipes included. Other amazing American candy choices include cookie bites, Goobers –

chocolate peanuts with a difference, and sweetarts, described as a 'merry mix'

Winter Mixture & Aniseed Balls

For those wishing to select from more traditional sweets one can enjoy the old fashioned thrill of watching ones selection poured out and weighed from any of around a hundred old-style sweet jars ranged around the shop. Before opening Danielle spent many happy hours researching traditional sweets. Since opening she has been delighted to bring to a new generation, as well as those who remember them of old, such favourites as bullseyes, aniseed balls, Army & Navy, Winter Mixture, sherbet strawberries and coconut mushrooms. There is also a vast range of liquorice and of scrumptious bonbons as well as hand made fudges from Dartmouth.

Children especially enjoy selecting their own pick and mix choice, especially as a preliminary to a trip to the cinema or other treat.

There is also an extensive choice of sweets suitable for diabetics and those with various allergies, diabetic customers have been flocking already from afar amazed at having such a selection of sweets suitable for them.



It's Party Time!

The sweet delights of Truly Scrumptious can be shared by holding your own children's party in the shop's own 'Wonka Workshop'. Alternatively Danielle will be delighted to discuss bringing the sweet magic to your home or wherever you may choose to hold your party.

Parties of up to ten children (with an accompanying adult present) can share an hour of party fun in the sweet boutique discovering perhaps how to make their very own crazy candy kebab. This they can take home together with a selection of sweets of their own choice at the end of a magical hour which they will long remember.

Lollipop Trees

Already Danielle has been busy with bookings, for sweet themed parties in private homes, halls and even a 'Thank you' party in a hospital ward lined with lollipop trees and decked with a candy display. Birthday parties for children, or anyone with a sweet disposition can include amazing displays, candy buffets and with party bags for all to take home.



Weddings too are being booked well in advance, with for example in April a Willy Wonka Wedding where the bride will bear a chocolate bouquet, the bridesmaids chocolate posies, all along an aisle lined with lollipop trees. At 'Truly Scrumptious' Sweet Dreams really do come true.



New to Saltash

*Solve your Christmas Present Problems
With Christmas gifts galore for all the
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Truly Scrumptious Sweets

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Saltash – Free Parking Plus!

Saltash Town Council has announced a 'bigger and better' Free Parking scheme for 2012, with the free parking in the Christmas run-up combined with an expanded Christmas Event, winter hanging baskets and late night shopping on Fridays. The Town Council, and its partners in the 'Saltash Town-centre Improvement Group' (The STIG) have organised the scheme to be paid for by 'section 106' monies from supermarkets already built in the town. They are paying Cornwall Council the full costs of the money they would otherwise have taken in parking fees.

The free parking will run from 10am on every weekday, and all day on the weekends, from 1st December up to Christmas Day.

This follows free parking in the Christmas run-up last year, and 'free Saturday parking' from July to November, and will be followed by an extension of Free Saturday Parking until at least the end of March.

Saltash's Christmas events

started with a highly successful Victorian Christmas theme, which took place on Saturday 1st December, which included late night shopping, there will be further late night opening on Friday 7th, 14th and 21st December with over 30 retailers opening to at least 7pm.

In addition the town has expanded its Summer hanging baskets, which were part of the package that secured Saltash the 'Caradon in Bloom' award for

2012, to add a new season of Winter Baskets, complimenting the Christmas Event and Christmas Lights.

Town Mayor Cllr Martin Gee said 'Saltash Town Council's highest priority is the continued enhancement of the Town Centre – it is of the utmost importance to our community.

We are also grateful for Cornwall Council's work in allowing us to carry out the scheme: working in partnership is what localism should be all about' STIG Co-Chair Cllr Adam Killea, who organises the free parking scheme, added 'Last year's parking scheme was a big success, and businesses told us that it made a real difference.

We were determined to not simply repeat it but to expand it, and link it in with a number of other projects" Peter Ryland, Vice-Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and an investor in Fore St properties, said 'Christmas is an important period for town centre businesses as, for some, 25% of their annual turnover is transacted in the Christmas period.

The free parking and the Christmas Event all help to attract shoppers to the town in this critical business period" whilst owner of the Bookshelf Jill Male confirmed that 'Free Parking has certainly made a difference to my business'

'A Triumph' said one



Photo supplied by Mary Brown

* Such good feedback from traders ('a triumph', said one)
 * Delighted faces at Santa's Grotto
 * Craft stall holders who say they want to come back next year
 * Huge amount of interest in the Heritage display of photos
 * Loads of fun in Consider Yourself
 * A crowd of over 3,000 for the Lantern Parade
 * More lanterns than the Plymouth Parade
 * Captivating Nativity Play
 * Stupendous singing at the Yuletide Youth Concert
 And such a great base to build on for next year's Christmas event... Many thanks, FROSTy people.
 Together, we're establishing the Saltash Christmas festivities as a magical, family event where the community celebrates together in the town centre.

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Fri 14th Blue on Black Fri 21st TBA

Fri 28th The Cuckoo Collective

Sat 15th Free & Co

Sat 22nd XLR Sat 29th Bad Luck 'n' Trouble

New Years Eve Monday 31st TBA

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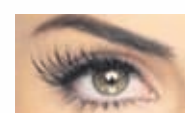
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Essa Files

A few days ago the long-awaited Leveson report in to press standards was finally published. It occurred to me that it is a little unfair to describe it, as it often is, as an inquiry into the culture and ethics of the press, when it's more or less entirely about the national press.

After all, as far as I know, the Cornish Times has never phone-hacked anyone, the Cornish Guardian does not make corrupt payments to police officers and our own Saltash Observer does not invade the privacy of local celebrities.

In fact 95% of the newspapers in the UK, the local newspapers, almost always behave impeccably. I suppose in the same way that I don't know any town councillor who have fiddled their expenses and yet in the wake of the MPs expenses scandal it was suddenly 'all politician are on the fiddle'. Of course even most national newspaper journalists, like most MPs,

behave well and follow the rules.

Having said that, the actions of the few still have to be taken seriously and they do mean that a stronger 'enforcer' is needed to make sure that the tabloid press in particular behave reasonably. They don't need to stop pursuing stories, or challenging those in power, or asking awkward questions – that is part of what they are there for. However when it comes to ethics, and in particular how to treat people, I can't help but wish that they would just follow the example of our local journalists, and know how to behave decently without having to be made to.

By adam Killeya

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In the weeks before Remembrance Day I had several meetings concerning our Defence Industry and particularly the Royal Navy. I was very fortunate to have spent some time at BRNC Dartmouth to find out about the Officer Training as part of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. I also met with Admiral Sir George Zambellas, Fleet Commander and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, in Parliament and heard about his views on a variety of defence related matters.

I was also delighted to welcome EU Naval Officers who are working as part of Operation ATALANTA, the EU counter-piracy mission off Somalia. Operation Atalanta is the first operation to be undertaken by the European Union Naval Force. After a tour of the House of Commons, which included some time in the Gallery, we listened to the Military Wives Choir. It was a privilege to share my beautiful workplace with Naval Officers from other Nations.

I also joined the crew of HMS Westminster collecting for the RBL Poppy Appeal in Westminster Underground Station.

On the 8 November, the Government published for consultation a Green Paper on the future of our Armed Forces Reserves – Future Reserves 2020: Delivering the Nation's Security Together – which sets out our response to the recommendations of the Future Reserves 2020 Commission that were published last year.

The Reserves of the future will be integral to, and fully integrated with, our Regular Forces. They will be capable of being deployed as formed sub-units and units in appropriate circumstances, as well as continuing to provide individual augmentees to Regular units. Together with our Regular Forces, our Reserves will provide an agile, high-tech capability to defend our country, project power overseas and protect our national interests.

To deliver this, we have committed an additional £1.8 billion over the next 10 years for new equipment, uniforms and training for the Reserves. The number of trained Reserves will grow to approximately 35,000 across all three Services by 2020, giving a mix of Regulars and Reserves more closely aligned with that of many of our allies. The Army will see the biggest change with 30,000 trained Reserves, creating a total land force of approximately 120,000. The Maritime Reserve will grow to a trained strength of 3,100; and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force to 1,800.

Reserve units will be paired with, train with and achieve the same standards as their Regular counterparts. They will use the same equipment, the same vehicles and wear the same uniforms as the Regulars. They will also deploy routinely with Regular Forces on major overseas exercises.

Delivering these proposals will require a new relationship between the MoD, Reservists and employers. For Reservists, in return for a commitment to

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



regular training and periodic deployment, we will give them much better-defined, more fulfilling roles that are properly resourced and with adequate training. This offer will be underpinned by a package of remuneration and support for them and their families that is much more closely aligned to the pay, allowances and welfare support provided to the Regular Forces.

For employers, Government is determined that we create a much more open and collaborative relationship:

providing greater certainty about Reservists' liability for deployment, with advance warning of when their call-up liability period will be;

giving confidence that the skills and aptitudes Reservists develop in training and on deployments will be of benefit

in their civilian careers; and recognising that the relationship will need to be tailored to different types and sizes of employers.

The proposals have been welcomed by large businesses. For example, the Director General of the CBI has said: "I think this is the right thing for the Government to do".

I urge employers in South East Cornwall to review the Green Paper and to respond to the consultation. Electronic copies are available on the Ministry of Defence website: www.mod.uk

I would like to wish all readers a merry Christmas and the very best over the festive season. In particular to all our brave armed forces, both regulars and reservists, who are out on deployment at this time of year.

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Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 In the song The Twelve Days of Christmas how many Pipers were Piping? (6)
- 2 In Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol what was the name of his tiny character? (3)
- 3 What word is repeated in the Carol Holy, Lowly? (6)
- 4 What sign did the Wise Men follow to lead them to Bethlehem? (4)
- 5 What was the Christian name of the English Ruler who banned the eating of Mince Pies? (6)
- 6 According to the Carol what size was the Town of Bethlehem? (6)
- 7 Hollywood is referred to as what type of Town? (6)
- 8 Which Christian Festival is celebrated on January 6th? (8)
- 9 Which of the Wise Men presented the Baby Jesus with Frankincense? (8)

Answers on Page 8



Let the Ten Tors Begin

A group of Year Ten saltash.net students have recently commenced training for next year's Ten Tors 35 mile challenge.

Whilst the training so far has been classroom based the group managed to get out on to Craddock Moor (Minions) in November to do some practical training. The weather was in their favour – the sun shone

gloriously, allowing them to achieve a great deal of Map and Compass work. Students were also able to practise using the Emergency shelter, and just as importantly, 'brew up' on the Trangia cooking stoves.

Graham Drewery, Ten Tors Manger said, "The Team are now looking forward to getting out on Dartmoor from February 2013, where each time out, the back packs get bigger and the distances get longer!"

Online Promotion of Chamber Businesses

Saltash businesses now have the opportunity to promote themselves online through the Saltash and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry's new website. For over two years the chamber has established its own website offering members who might be too busy running their own businesses the opportunity to participate and air their views and suggestions online. A blog running since 2010 has enabled opinions to be publicly promoted on a variety of topics constantly changing as new issues arise. The newly created website will continue to include the forum and blog as well as giving details of the chamber and generally promote the town and its variety of businesses. In addition a business directory is now being added to include full details of all chamber members unless they ask to be excluded. Full contact details as well as the nature of the business will be included. Members will also be able to peruse online the minutes of the monthly meetings over the previous twelve months as well as the agenda for the forthcoming meeting.



A Message from the Editor...

Here we are in our 21st year of service as your community newspaper we once again enter the time of year when Saltash takes on its special seasonal magic.

By the time you are reading this the Christmas Festival & Lantern Parade will have taken place, the lights will be on and the shops will be fully stocked with everything needed to ensure a very special Christmas.

As we continue in this our 21st year to bring news and views as well as looking back over the years, we would like to wish all the seasons' compliments to our advertisers, some of whom have been supporting us throughout these years, and to all of our readers and friends in Saltash and, through our website, throughout the world. May you all be filled with the joys of the festive season?

Calendar Exposes Local Ladies for Cancer Charity

If the ladies of a Yorkshire Womens' Institute could tastefully expose themselves for a charity – based calendar then the businesswomen of Saltash could do so as well, if not better. So thought Shirley Thompson who herself owes her life to the research conducted through 'Breakthrough' After serving twenty years in the police force as a detective she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006 and reacted with the same shock as any victim would.

Since then she has undergone eighteen surgical operations and been advised that she would not be alive were it not for the ongoing research which is in continuing need of funding to help save further lives. Now Shirley is sufficiently fit not only to walk two young dogs on a daily basis but to plan a sponsored 'ten-day trek along the Great Wall of China in April. Meanwhile, inspired by the hit movie and play 'Calendar Girls' she has asked a number of prominent local business ladies to stand in for the roles placed by Helen Mirren, Julie Walters and others by posing for an artistic calendar in suitable poses appropriate to their businesses. Twelve such ladies, aged from late teens to sixties have done so and Mike and Joan of the 'Ploughboy Inn' have agreed to sponsor the publication, Shirley's mother Joan is herself 'Miss June' The calendar will be widely available in December for a minimum of £7.00 or

more if you so wish to boost the funds raised for this fabulous production, in the 'Ploughboy' and 'Railway inns', and other businesses including Hair.Comb, Nailfix Glow, The Hearing Room, and Distinction Dog Grooming parlour. The businesses marketing the calendar will also be holding sponsorship forms prior to Shirley's epic trek through China in the company of a 'Breakthrough' group. Shirley wishes to thank all of those who have agreed to participate in this fun money raiser for a truly deserving cause and hopes that the people of Saltash will participate by buying and so help countless ladies as yet undiagnosed survive the trauma that follows being told that they have cancer.

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Crime Falls by a Fifth

The number of recorded crimes in the Saltash police area continues to tumble. This is in accordance with national but against South West regional trends. There were eighty two crimes reported in October as against One hundred and six during the same period in 2011, PCSO Mary Wells told the Town Council.

These included ten thefts from motor vehicles, mostly committed on the same Saturday night in the St. Stephens area. There were no burglaries from dwellings, two burglaries from garages or sheds and five thefts from shops, as well as eight other thefts. Eleven assaults were reported and two drug offences. The community speed watch project continues with two more volunteers reported, more are welcome. New high visibility and waterproof jackets and

trousers have been received to ensure no more soggy volunteers.

A two hour morning survey of the A38 at Tideford showed Nine hundred and fifty vehicles an hour passing through not one exceeding 39 mph, indicating, said PCSO Wells, that speeding problems in the village are not so serious as supposed. There had been no problems reported from trick or treaters over Halloween, though the dismal weather that night may well have helped.

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Seasonal Greetings

Clean Up Kids Gain Cinema Treat

Children from the Babis Farm estate gave up a day of their half-term holiday to help improve the local environment. Eleven children of various ages joined a police scheme to litter pick on the estate and move rubbish into a large skip. "The willingness of the children was amazing, the police reported. "When we ran out of jobs to do on the estate we went to the cinder path near the K3 Building and six large bags of rubbish were picked up, with a break for a pasty lunch. The police showed their appreciation of the children's community spirit with a treat at the end of half term, including bowling, a pizza meal and a visit to the cinema.

Rattle Police Station Door if you Find Property

How does one report lost or found property now that the public desk at Saltash Police Station is permanently closed, a Town Councillor asked PCSO Mary Wells as she gave her police report. Dial the police non-emergency number 101 is one answer, she replied. Alternatively the public blue telephone outside the police station is still in use and acts as a direct line to police headquarters. The station is still manned, she advised, and many of the public knock or rattle the front door which usually results in a police officer arriving to attend to a query.

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Conundrum Answers

Answers: 1 Eleven 2 Tim 3 Infant 4 Star 5 Oliver 8 (Cromwell) 6 Little 7 Tinsel 8 Epihany 9 Melchior Nine-letter word: Mistletoe

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Great Prizes... Everyone Welcome!

Make an evening of it...come a little earlier;

Have your dinner before the bingo

The Ploughboy is available as a Venue for

Quiz Nights

(See Mike & Joan for further details)

Celebrate Christmas at...The Ploughboy

Private function rooms available

Book now for your office & family Parties

Weddings, Christenings & Funerals

Groups & Organisations welcome for regular or

One off events

Tel: 01752 842861 for more details

Look Out for details of our...

Entertainment at the Ploughboy

Saturday 15th December

Disco Night

Christmas Eve - Mon 24th Dec

Come & Dance to your favourite DJ Laurie

Sunday 30th December

Jazz Evening

Jazz Night last Sunday in every month

Monday 31st December

Celebrate New Year's Eve at the Ploughboy

Come & Dance to your Favourite DJ Laurie

Comprehensive Menu with Specials Board

Choose from Our Varied Menu

Monday to Thursday

Enjoy 2 Home-made specials for £12.00

(Choosing from the home-made special Menu)

All day Tuesday 2 Rump Steaks £13.00

Food...

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

Mon-Thurs-5pm-8.30pm Fri-5pm-9pm

Saturdays from 12noon-9pm

Sundays from 12noon-8.30pm

Clubs, Organisations & Coaches Welcome

We are open for Morning Coffee & Afternoon Tea.

Call 01752 842861 for bookings

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

-- Bookings advisable --

SALTASH LEISURE CENTRE CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS FOR 2012 TO 2013

Mon 24th Dec 9.00am – 2.00pm
 Thu 27th Dec 7.00am – 6.00pm
 Sat 29th Dec 7.00am – 6.00pm
 Mon 31st Dec 9.00am – 2.00pm
 Wed 2nd Jan BACK TO NORMAL

Tue 25th Dec CLOSED Wed 26th Dec CLOSED
 Fri 28th Dec 7.00am – 6.00pm
 Sun 30th Dec 7.00am – 6.00p
 Tue 1st Jan CLOSED

SALTASH LEISURE CENTRE

4 Course Christmas Lunch
Available 1st – 23rd Dec
£16.95 per person (£10 deposit)
Max 20 places per day
Book now to avoid disappointment

Brunel's

*Thursday 20th
December*

11.30am

Cheese & Crackers

Wine & Mince pies

Raffle Tickets

£1.00

from the Coffee Shop

*WE HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A FANTASTIC
FESTIVE HOLIDAY EATING DRINKING
AND BEING MERRY*

*BEST WISHES TO YOU & YOUR FAMILIES
FROM THE STAFF*

*A Leisure Centre Membership
Will Make a Great Christmas Gift*

Tel: 01752 840940 www.cornwall.gov.uk/leisurecentres



PFS Pengelly Funeral Service
 139 Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6AB
Tel: 01752 848838
 24 hour service 365 days a year
 www.wcpltd.com email: crownhill@wcpltd.com
 Family Owned Business serving Saltash & surrounding Areas

Pre-Paid Funeral Plans Available