

**A Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year**

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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December 2019 - Issue 333 **Established 27 years**

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Tamar Commuters Face Increased Costs

The cost of a single crossing for a private car on the Tamar Bridge or Torpoint Ferry has risen to £2. Those using the Tamar Tag, including the majority of Saltash motorists who make daily or frequent crossings, are seeing their charge increased from 75p to £1 per crossing. Weekday commuters thus face a £1.25 increase per week.

The overall 33% increase is the first such price hike in nine years. The Bridge and Ferry Committee sought the rise earlier this year citing inflation and the cost of maintenance and improvement works as the reason that the bridge and ferry together were now running at a loss. An independent public inquiry held in the Summer accepted the need for the rise. However, the inspector's report had to be put to the Secretary of State for Transport before the recommendation could be put into effect. This has now been done and the tolls were increased as of 19th November.

The Elephant in the Chamber

We are all familiar with the expression "The elephant in the room", Deputy Mayor told the November Town Council meeting which he had been chairing.

He then introduced the council members to Elmer the Elephant, a miniature model of the Elmers which have been brightening the streets of Plymouth during the summer.

This Elmer had been purchased in support of St. Luke's Hospice by the Mayor Councillor Gloria Challen and presented to the Council. It was suggested that he might be placed where he can keep company with the town clerk.

Saltash Rock Choir Donate Toys to Pirate FM Appeal



Photo Ian Robinson

Rocking the boat, Saltash Rock Choir members wowed passengers and crew en route to Santander when they formed a surprise flash mob. Together with rock choir members from throughout the South West they gave five spontaneous shipboard performances during their mini-cruise on the 'Pont Avon'. Back on dry land the family friendly choir members decided to forsake for this year their tradition of buying each other Christmas presents through a Secret Santa scheme. Instead they decided to put their money towards raising a smile for some of Cornwall's most vulnerable and needy children.

Funding that would have gone to the Secret Santa was donated by popular agreement, to the Pirate FM Radio's appeal for Christmas Gifts for disadvantaged local children.

The result was that choir members took toys worth in excess of £250 to the collection station in Liskeard where they received a fabulous welcome and appreciation for the choir's seasonal spirit.

We will be fully featuring the Saltash Rock Choir, welcome entertainers at many local events in a future edition.

Former Pub Will Remain "Eyesore" Claim "Residents Against Neglect"

An unknown pressure group has expressed concern that the owners of the former "Waterside" public house intends to let the building remain in its present shuttered state indefinitely.

A sign placed on the exterior by those declaring themselves "Residents against neglect" states that the owners' intention is "to leave this building an eyesore for the local community to endure".

There have been a number of planning applications concerning the site, the most recent approved a year ago was for an apartment block with four flats and a retail unit below. However, no start has been made and meanwhile the deterioration of the building resulted in the council issuing a notice back in 2017 ordering the building to be tidied and cleaned. This was not done and court proceedings were pending but were suspended following the planning permission granted in December 2018. Since then the building has been boarded up to prevent the trespassers who had previously been reported, and some whitewash has helped improve the outlook of the property at the heart of Saltash's historic Waterside. The informal sign however warns "don't confuse a coat of paint as any intention to ever improve this site".

The planning permission allows the demolition and redevelopment to begin within three years of it being granted, that is by two years from now.

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December 2019
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Tues 10th Louise
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Tues 24th Wireless Christmas Eve
Tues 31st The John Lang Band 70s-90s
New year's Eve Ticket Only
Wednesday 18th Open Mic
Fridays: Fri 6th Hungry Bears
Fri 13th 5 & Dimes
Fri 20th The Sultans
Fri 27th The Jack
Saturdays:
Sat 7th Bad Knees Blues Band
Sat 14th The Horizons
Sat 21st Becca & Vince
Sat 28th Los Limpos

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Runner Up 1 bottle of wine : Everyone Welcome

Seasonal Greetings
Saltash 844770

Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council
Konsel an dre Essa



Education Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 101
Email:
schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk

Education Welfare:
Telephone: 0300 1234 101
educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk

Housing Department
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Email: info@cornwallhousing.org.uk
Social Services Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 101
Email:
children@cornwall.gov.uk

Social Services Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 131
adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk

Highways Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email:
customerrelations@cornwallimited.co.uk

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

Roads, Transport and Parking
Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email:
roadstransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk

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

Cormac Solutions
Telephone: 01872 323 313
Email:
customerrelations@cormacitd.co.uk

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

*Town Messenger
news is supplied
by the Town
Council*

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Cover such services as:**
Housing - Education –
Social Services
Highways –
Waste and Recycling –
Tamar Bridge

From the Mayor of Saltash



*Greetings Dear Residents
of Saltash*

Congratulations are in order to our local community participants and visitors alike, for a warm heartfelt and moving Remembrance Service and Parade this year.

The Civics and organisations paraded down Fore Street, lead by Saltash Town Band and were joined this year by a large number of the community and various Saltash youth organisations, including, Scouts, Beavers, Guides, May Queen and Princesses, and Military Kids; plus many uniformed youth groups all proudly attired for this most moving occasion of tribute and remembrance.

Saltash is proud of its long-standing connections with the Armed Forces who were also proudly represented.

In the morning I attended St Stephens Church Service to lay a wreath on behalf of Saltash Town Council which was very touching.

Saltash as usual marked Armistice Day in Fore Street where once again many children from local schools, gathered to take part as the town paused for the two minutes silence.

Both days were blessed with fine weather and the Royal British Legion did us proud once again.

I would like to express my thanks to all those who came to pay their respects.

A number of Saltash Fire Cadets paid their respects on Armistice Day at Ypres.

This trip is organised by two instructors from Saltash and has

been running for the past 12 years.

I was privileged to attend as Mayor the WW1 Pebble Memorial Service which was a project instigated and led by The Saltash Great War Committee. Each pebble has been placed to remember each one of the 140 men known to have died during WW1. I also proudly presented Reverend Cathy Sigrist with the committee's scroll of 44 names missing from Saltash War Memorials, at a service at St Nicholas and St Faith Church, alongside Sue Hooper and Lynn Marsh officers on the Great War committee

Launceston Civic Service was welcoming and packed and once again the sun was shining.

The dedicated Volunteers of St Barnabas Hospital League of Friends held their AGM which I was invited as Mayor and was very honoured as St Barnabas Hospital played a huge part in my childhood as I spent many hours at the hospital visiting as my mother who was employed there for many years.

Staying on the subject of volunteers, I was delighted to meet members of Saltash Rotary Club and give them some background information on myself and also to hear how the volunteers see the future of Saltash.

Saltash Rugby Club once again welcomed me and my husband Neil to have lunch with them and to watch a home game which was most enjoyable.

I was delighted when driving back from our daughter's Graduation to see the white string of lights lit up in Fore Street, and with the Christmas Festival just around the corner this would help to brighten up the darker days before the wonderful Christmas lights go on Saturday 7th December.

Furthermore, again this year Saltash residents will enjoy a traditional carol service at the Waterside on Sunday 8th December, from 5pm; children will be welcome to bring their

own Christmas tree bauble to put on the tree.

Many visitors will be visiting St Nicholas and St Faith Christmas tree Festival where over 80 wonderfully decorated trees will be on display, provided by local organisations, schools and businesses (don't miss this!).

Forder Community & Conservation Association Carol Service will be taking place on December 14th at 6.30pm. This has been a traditional

community event for so many years and is quite amazing too!

I will endeavour to support as many organisations as possible this year, and intend to visit residential homes, Police Station, Saltash Post Office, and St Barnabas Hospital.

A committee of Saltash Town Council Members has been formed to discuss and plan A Vision for the Future of Fore Street.

The Committees immediate aim is to look at a short-term project of changing the street furniture including benches and

planters, which we hope will pave the way for longer term projects to improve public access and to try and encourage more Saltash Residents to shop in Fore Street.

Councillors will look at and discuss larger long-term projects to include more public space, making better use of shops which are being considered regarding the vision of Fore Street.

Saltash Town Council are working closely with the Saltash Neighbourhood Plan to link our Vision with that of

Saltash Residents.

The Library are continuing to hold many events over the Christmas period, and all are welcome to join us. One in particular is the Christmas Craft Fair with wonderful crafted gifts from local businesses, individuals and community organisations, it is an event not to be missed!

I hope to see many of you soon at some of these places and events.

*Yours sincerely,
Gloria Challen
Mayor of Saltash*

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telephone
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the guildhall.**

**Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6JX
Tel.: 01752 844846 Email: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk Website: www.saltash.gov.uk**

Walkway and Cycleway Project Proceeding

Work is to go ahead early in 2020 on the planned walk and cycleway from Carkeel through to the top of Fore Street. The route will be as in the plans described in your October "Saltash Observer" with some amendments following consultation.

The proposal to reduce traffic congestion at Carkeel by preventing or discouraging traffic turning right out of Gilson Road, by the new Carkeel shopping complex, has been removed. Although there was some support for this, it was well outbalanced by the considerable number of objections by those who feared it would encourage increased traffic in residential areas of Saltash.

The one-way system around Longview Road restricting access to and from

Callington Road has also been taken out of the scheme, again as a result of objections outweighing those in favour.

The mini-roundabout by Plougastel Drive is to go ahead, together with an adjacent pedestrian crossing. Some Saltash town councillors were opposed to this, Councillor David Yates in particular considering that a pedestrian crossing immediately alongside a roundabout would endanger those crossing there. Cornwall Councillor Sam Tamlin disagreed, stating that similar schemes elsewhere have proved successful.

The work to include shared paths for pedestrians and cyclists and altered junctions on the north side of Callington Road should begin in January or February.

*Heap on
more wood
The wind is
chill
But let it
whistle as it will
We'll keep our
Christmas merry still
SIR WALTER SCOTT
(1771 – 1832)*

Parking Prohibitions for Pillmere and Essa Road

Following consultation and a mixture of responses to proposed new parking restrictions there have been some variation to planned "no waiting" orders in the Pillmere estate and in the town centre on Essa Road.

Sections of Grassmere Way and Pillmere Drive are to have parking bans on both sides to prevent obstructions, though a proposed no waiting zone opposite Chestnut Close was deleted. Sections of Kingsmill Road and Pillmere Way/Meadow Drive are also to be implemented as advertised.

Residents in Essa Road were concerned that further extending the area for no waiting at any time would

create problems for overnight parking where older houses have no garages for residents. While there will be no waiting at any time introduced where the road bends, the section nearest St. Stephens Road will now be no waiting only between 8a.m. and 6 p.m. on Mondays to Saturdays, allowing residents to continue parking overnight.

New Housing Development Threat to Wildlife Habitat

The removal of an existing hedge in connection with a proposed housing development by Old Churchtown Farm Lane, opposite St. Stephens Church, would be detrimental to wildlife habitat, the town council considered when recommending refusal of a planning application.

The outline application involved seventeen new homes, twelve being self-build and five being affordable homes. A variation of a previous planning condition was being sought.

The proposed loss of the ancient hedge would reduce wildlife corridors and threaten the habitat of natural surrounding wildlife, it was stated. It would also significantly reduce the existing amenities and outlook for neighbours.

Tree Felling Refusal Recommended

The felling of seven tall Holm Oak trees in a historic Victorian residential area of Saltash has been recommended for refusal by Saltash Town Council.

An application to take the trees down was made by a Higher Port View resident. In recommending refusal the Town Council referred to the importance of retaining trees in Saltash which here should take priority over the adjacent wall. They were reported to be healthy and their destruction would ruin the natural wildlife habitats and surrounding environment. They are also considered an important backdrop feature of Saltash and their removal would be significantly detrimental to the surrounding area, councillors considered.

Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland - Keeping us Updated...

50p for 2 hours car parking is now operational and having spoken to several customers in shops in the town, it is already encouraging the 'dwell factor' with people staying longer to do a bit more shopping or have a coffee before returning to their car. What also needs to happen is for more of the community to make use of the town centre. Why not try it and use your Saltash Card to get discount in some of the shops. At the time of writing this article, I am hoping for good weather on the 7th December for the Christmas Festival. This year could be the last unless the Chamber can find funding to run it in future years. On the day there will be collection buckets in the town so please give generously to help us raise the £7000 we need to run next year's festival.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

As it is nearing Christmas I thought, for a bit of fun, it would be a good time to have a little quiz which, for the first two correct entries drawn out of a hat will result in a 1st prize of a £25 gift voucher from The Bookshelf and a 2nd prize of breakfast for 2 at Bakers Coffee House. Please write your answers, along with your name and contact details on a sheet of paper and hand it in to The Bookshelf on or before the 17th December. Winners will be notified before Christmas 2019.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the full name of the Engineer responsible for the construction of the Railway Bridge across the Tamar?
2. What is the full number of Town Councillors for Saltash?
3. What year was the Tamar road bridge opened?
4. This is an anagram of the name of a shop in Fore Street - A HI SPAR - what is the shop?
5. Another anagram of a shop in Fore Street - CALL ONLY GOLIV
6. Yet another anagram of a shop in Fore Street - HI FLOOK THESE

7. Name two of the four County Councillors for Saltash.

8. What is the name of the bus service operated by PL12 Community Enterprises?

9. Who is the present Mayor of Saltash?

10. One more anagram of a shop in Fore Street - PASS OR CERT

11. What is the cost of parking for 2 hours in the town centre pay and display car parks?

12. Final anagram of a shop in Fore Street - ROPIER FEW **Don't forget to hand your entries into The Bookshelf on or before the 17th December 2019..**

It would seem that I am always writing about Fore Street but we have several members who are based on the various industrial estates in the town. Some of them have commented on the traffic problems as a result of the retail park which opened earlier this year off Gilston Road. Our members are hopeful that something can be done early in 2020 to ease the congestion during peak hours.

Finally, on behalf of the Chamber members can I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Vote Saltash 2019: Campaigning Underway!



Vote Saltash 2019 candidates and supporters with their posters, along with Joint Returning Officer Emma Metters.

Campaigning has begun in Saltash Community School's mock general election. 'Vote Saltash 2019' will see students choosing their own election winner from amongst nine student candidates representing multiple different political parties - both the traditional and the new.

The election, which will take place on December 12th along with the UK general election, has been planned to be as much like the 'real thing' as possible, and will include hustings, opinion polls and poster campaigns as well as less traditional election elements such as twitter and political muffins.

Voting will also be organised like real life elections with an electoral register, polling clerks, voting booths and ballot boxes, and of course the thrills and tensions of an election count.

The election is being organised by Emma Metters and Adam Killeya, who between them make up the school's Politics Department. Mr Killeya said "by the next scheduled general election 80% of these students will be

able to vote: we feel that it is really important for them to have a chance to experience it now, and learn why it is so important, so that they will engage with politics as adults."

The full list of candidates is Madeline Bishop (Brexit), Matthew Chapman (Labour),

Hayden Cole (Conservative), Christopher Glanville (Wise Vote), Hannah Kennington (Green), Henry Lambert-Gorwyn (Communist), Jordan Mortimore (Ferrum Guard), Lewis Shaw (Monster Raving Loony), and Jade Whorlow (Liberal Democrats).

*Then heigh-ho! the holly!
This life is mostly jolly*
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
(1564-1616)



Chamber of Commerce Have Introduced 2 for 1 Parking

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Band STARGAZER 7.30pm - 10pm

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Christmas Day

Open 11am - 2pm BAR ONLY

Boxing Day: Open 10am - 12am

Entertainment 5pm - 8pm Rebecca Chew

Basket Meals being served in Members Bar 12noon - 6pm

New Years Eve: The Dockneys

Main Hall 7pm - 1am

Basket Meals being served in Members Bar 12noon - 5pm

Ticket Only - £5.00 Members & Guests

New Years Day: Open 10am - 11pm

2 Course Carvery

Main Hall 12noon - 4pm

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Children Read Poems to Launch War Anthology

Children who had contributed to "Saltash Remembers", an anthology of poetry commemorating World War I, came to read some of their poems as the Anthology was formally launched at Ashtorre Rock Centre.

Among other guests were Paul Carey and Jane Ford from MVV Environment Devonport Ltd an Anglo German company who had sponsored the publication. Community liaison officer Ms Ford commented on their pleasure at this being an inter-generational project bringing older and younger people together and helping children to understand the past. Mr. Carey noted that his company was especially pleased that the book also included poetry from the German side of the trenches emphasising how both sides suffered.

The poetry was written following workshops given by performance poet Andy Blackwell on behalf of the Saltash Great War committee. He spoke of how the poetry project had galvanised the community spirit, bring so many people together.

Lily of Sir Robert Geoffrey's School Landrake then read her haunting poem commencing "A sea of death flows through the trenches". Her classmate Rose wrote how "Haunting me night and day, All I can see is soldiers drowning in agony" while Taran wrote of "faded memories of home as the clammy and sweaty flesh of sleeping soldiers smother me". Rosie too wrote of home memories as "The cold winter winds running through my fingertips, constantly I think of home", as Dulcie described the dead "their fumes spread as the stench of horror fills the air when we live in our nightmare".

By contrast 7 year old Freya of St. Andrews School wrote imaginatively a series of letters from a child in wartime Britain to a father in the trenches. All children received well deserved applause from their audience.

In conclusion Lynn March of the Great War Committee added that the soldiers in the trenches were reported as saying that all they wanted from us was to remember them. The young and not so young contributors to "Saltash Remembers" have done so in vivid fashion.

Police Proactive on Drug and Tombstoning Issues

The increase in drug trafficking related offences in Saltash was one of the major issues raised at the Cornwall Gateway Community Network Panel when a police update was provided by Sergeant Drake. He advised that subsequent to a major drug bust in the Grenfell Avenue area of the town proactive work continues to address this.

County lines and organised crime groups remain a top priority. County lines is the term given to the sending of drug mules, often schoolage children, from London and other major cities to carry drugs to towns such as Saltash for onward distribution. Work continues to raise awareness of this including a pilot initiative with the local primary schools.

The problems of young people tombstoning into the Tamar from the Royal Albert Bridge pillar and Ashtorre Centre were also raised. Sergeant Drake confirmed that Saltash Police had worked closely with the St. Budeaux neighbouring police team to

Child War Dead Remembered

While Saltash, together with the rest of Britain, was honouring its war dead the young children of Saltash who died in two world wars were not forgotten.

A poppy wreath was laid at the rose tree memorial for lost babies in St. Stephens churchyard, on behalf of "Eva's Little Stars", Averil Pinckney wishes to thank Councillor Mrs. Jean Dent and her husband Bill for providing the wreath.

Saltash Should Speak with One Voice on Hospital's Future

Three years ago, Saltash saw the sudden and unexpected "temporary" closure of its in-patient wards at St. Barnabas Hospital. Three years later they still stand empty.

Saltash's Community Enterprises PL12 are actively engaged with the 'Shaping Our Future' consultation from NHS Kernow. Chairman Peter Thistlethwaite has asked town councillors to join in preparing together for the next round of consultation as the timescale seems to be extending further into the future.

The minor injuries unit seems unlikely to return to St. Barnabas as the town's two surgeries have taken over this role. While the ground floor of the hospital is busy with consultants' clinics, and hosting an acute case team as well as physiotherapy sessions the town still awaits a decision on the future of the empty wards. "I still have hopes that we may have a cottage hospital back in Saltash", Councillor David Yates replied to Mr. Thistlethwaite.

Sweet Wrappers are the Art for Raising Funds at Ashleys

Customers and staff at Ashley's hair salon have, for the past twenty-five years or so, been entering into the seasonal spirit by creating their own quirky and imaginative form of art work. The great Ashley's sweet wrapper art competition is a fun way of fund raising for charity but entered into with eager enthusiasm.

Last year's theme was "Colour" and was won by Mandy Bailey who was thus to have the honour of switching on the Ashley lights this Christmas. The other winners were the Chestnut Appeal who benefitted by £165 and the Macular Society for those losing their eyesight who received £110.

This year's theme is "Nativity" and Mary and her staff were promising to dress as Wise Men complete with camels. The chosen charities are Blood Bikes and St. Johns Ambulance -one of their cadets being on the Ashley's team.

Fund raising for charity seems always to the fore as throughout November the window was bright with over four hundred knitted poppies, red and purple (for the animals lost). Customers created these and also raised over £200 for the Royal British Legion.

Mary of Ashley's takes the opportunity to thank for their contributions all of her staff and her customers, many of whom have become firm friends during her thirty-three years of business at Ashley's.

Mobile Sign to Tackle Speeding

Speeding hotspots on roads in the town are to be targeted in a road safety campaign with the aid of a mobile speed activation scheme.

A mobile sign warning fast drivers, to observe the speed limits is to be financed by the Cornwall Gateway Community Network Panel. The eleven parishes which includes Saltash and Torpoint can request the sign to placed in their area. It is to be retained for four years and may be moved twelve times each year so that up to forty-eight speeding points can be covered.

Four have been already suggested within Saltash. These include Liskeard Road near the Methodist Church, chiefly to tackle westbound traffic, St. Stephens Road near the "narrows", again aiming mainly at westbound vehicles. New Road east of Burraton traffic lights and Callington Road close to Longstone Park and the top of Fore Street, Saltash councillors were invited to suggest other positions for placement of the sign.

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play
And mild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth,
goodwill to men!*
HENRY
LONGFELLOW
(1807 - 1882)



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Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 Carson City is the Capital of which U.S. State (6)
- 2 What type of Music did Ira D. Sankey compose? (5)
- 3 Iago is the villain in which Shakespearean tragedy? (7)
- 4 What is the name of Mickey Mouse's pet dog? (5)
- 5 Which River is spanned by the Pulteney Bridge? (4)
- 6 What type of creature is the semi-aquatic Coypu? (6)
- 7 The Colorado Beetle is known for destroying which crop? (8)
- 8 What is the only English anagram of Toenail? (7)
- 9 Who was the U.S. President at the end of World War II? (6)

Conundrum Answers Page 7

Observer Telephone Numbers

07971484872
or 01579 345699

Woodland Wildlife Project Granted Funding

Coombe Woods, between Coombe Creek, and Babis Farm and Port View have, over the past few years been transformed from rough scrubland to an attractive and wildlife friendly woodland. This has been carried out entirely by volunteer labour and funding creating new paths, signed and named, their borders laid out with seats placed and bulbs planted out.

Now an application has been made for funding to purchase up to fourteen colour printed Perspex screens to be placed around the area. These are to depict educational information relating to the abundant wildlife found in the woods. The applicant would pay for the wooden frames required and any installation costs.

The town council's policy and finance committee agreed this to be appropriate use of the town's community chest funding and awarded £630 to the Coombe Woods Regeneration Project.

Parliamentary Candidates Questioned in Lib-Dem Forum

Two Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidates together with a former Mayor of Saltash came together to answer questions on party policy at a public meeting held in the 'Ploughboy'. South East Cornwall candidate Colin Martin was joined by Saltash Town Councillor Sarah Martin, who was standing for the parliamentary seat of Plymouth Moor View and by former Saltash councillor and Mayor Adam Killea.

Issues raised by those present included support for local business, the environment, agriculture and not surprisingly Brexit.

Asked how he would seek to support local businesses Colin Martin referred to the Localism Act passed by the 2010-15 coalition government and which seeks to ensure that when going out to tender local authorities seek to consider the tender that brings about most local benefit. He suggested a push for business rates on retail park car parks to aid the struggling High Street traders. He also put forward the proposal that the Highways Agency, responsible for the A38 on either side of the Tamar Bridge, should also take responsibility for the road over the bridge and free it from tolls.

All three speakers stressed the need for environmental concern on an international, national, local and personal basis. They referred to the Cornwall policy of ensuring that any environmental change resulted in environmental improvement. On agriculture they spoke of the Liberal Democrats help

to reform the Common Agriculture Policy of the European Union.

Asked about education Sarah Martin a mother of two primary school age children spoke of her support for the Liberal Democrat policy to abolish SATS and OFSTED. While all three speakers appeared personally opposed to private schools and grammar schools, none wished to abolish them, though Colin Martin spoke against the tax breaks, subsidies and charitable status offered to public schools.

A penny in the pound on income tax was one way in which Liberal Democrats would seek to subsidise major improvements in health services, and mental health in particular needed particular financial support. It was proposed that cross-party consensus should be sought on the improvements to health services that all appeared to agree we needed.

On the most controversial issue, that of Brexit, Colin Martin spoke of the Liberal Democrat's announced policy to withdraw Brexit and remain in the EU with no further referendum.

The election of a majority Liberal Democrat government would he said send a strong signal from the people to drop Brexit and bring an action on other issues. It would of course be open, in any subsequent election, or any political party to re-introduce Brexit on is manifesto.

No other candidate held a public meeting in Saltash

Announcement Public Notice

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December 2019. A record of the application can be viewed at the Licensing Authority's address Monday to Friday (except Bank Holidays) during normal office hours.

Details are also at www.cornwall.gov.uk by searching 'List of current premises licence applications'.

Alternatively, telephone the Licensing Office on 0300 1234 212.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5000.
Signed: Laura Dunlop
Dated 14th November 2019

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Former Commando Seeks Memorial to 'Missing Names' of War Dead

A memorial for Saltash recognising the 'missing' names of those who died in both world wars but for reasons unknown are not recorded on the town's two existing memorials is being sought by local resident and former Royal Naval Commando Barry Brooking. He is himself the grandson of a volunteer fireman killed on duty in the Plymouth blitz whose name is recorded on a memorial.

He asked that the town council consider leading a project to enable the 44 names from World War I and 30 from World War II to appear on a new memorial which he suggested might be placed in the garden of St. Nicholas Church or in the Peace Garden opposite.

The War Memorial Trust has confirmed that there are mistakes and omissions all over the country but Saltash, with almost 50% of World War I casualties and almost 40% of World War II omitted is one of the highest. Exhaustive research by Saltash Heritage and in particular Mr. Peter Clements was unable to discover any Saltash connection to many of those who are named on the two memorials by St. Nicholas and St. Stephens churches but also discovered the considerable number of servicemen with local connection who were omitted.

A precedent had been set with the 'Pebble garden'

which includes all known local World War I casualties, said Mr. Brooking, but a traditional memorial should also be placed and should only cost around £5000. Torpoint had recently erected a memorial to its full number of known war dead,

Town Councillors, while agreeing in principal that all of the war dead should be honoured, considered, as stated by Councillor Mrs. Jean Dent, "Before we commit public money, we would need to ensure that we have a full and complete list of names. It takes a huge amount of research to ensure that this is correctly done." Councillor Julia Peggs added that they would not wish to suddenly find more names to be added. Mr Brooking pointed out that space could be left for additional names if necessary but there was no space on the existing memorial to add all of the additional names now known.

The council voted not to commit public money, while

research was not totally completed and Deputy Mayor Peter Samuels who chaired the meeting suggested that Mr. Brooking might look to public subscriptions to get things moving.

An evidently disappointed Mr. Brooking gave a statement later to the Observer. He commented that "there appears a difference between Saltash and Torpoint Councils over how those who lost their lives are treated, both in finance and in acceptability of accuracy of the total number fallen. Because of the lack of rigour of recording casualties one can never be 100% sure of full accuracy". He concluded, "I am of course bitterly disappointed with the result not for myself but for those killed. The forgotten men have not been recognised for some hundred and seventy years. That is surely long enough and I should still like to put it right as soon as possible."

Sad Loss of Saltash Local Historian

A proud and true Cornishman whose knowledge of Saltash local history was describes as 'encyclopaedic' was remembered by family and friends following the passing of Colin Squires. A founder member of Saltash Heritage and its late President, his funeral was conducted by current Heritage chairman the Reverend Bob Munro.

With his father's family from St. Blazey and his mother's from Herodsfoot, his lineage was 'proper Cornish'. His immediate past family were the Squires whose Fore Street coachbuilding company premises feature in many old pictures of Saltash.

A founder member in 1964 of Saltash Radio Club, and long member of Saltash Old Cornwall Society Colin, was one of around ten local history enthusiasts who came together in 1986 to form Saltash Heritage and strive toward the establishing of a town museum and local history centre, a dream they were to realise with Colin as its first curator in July 2000.

Less well known were Colin's musical skills. His cousin Roslyn has vivid memories of being made to join in piano duets with him when she would far have preferred to listen to him play boogie-woogie jazz, without benefit of score. A more distant cousin Tony Rickard attributes in part to Colin his own enthusiasm

which led to him studying music at the Royal Academy and to his present career at the Royal Opera House.

Colin's own career, following National Service, began as a surveyor with Saltash Borough Council followed by the Cornwall Highway Surveyors department. He took early retirement in the 1980's, enabling him, and the Saltash Community to reap full advantage of his love for local history and his enthusiasm for preserving it in the museum building that owes so much to him.

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Conundrum Answers:

1 Nevada 2 Hymns 3 Orhelo 4 Pluto 5 Avon 6 Rodent 7 Potatoes 8 Elation 9 Truman Re-arranged the letters spell Porhtpean

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Essa Files

For the first general election in some time I am not involved in any major organisational capacity – I am dropping the odd leaflet or two hundred but I'm not a candidate, agent or party official. My only significant role in one of the most important political events of our age is as joint organiser and returning officer of Vote Saltash 2019 – our traditional mock general election at Saltash Community School.

I can't pretend that we generally follow the national trends – the last four winners have been Green, Green, Monster Raving Loony, Independent, with UKIP, UKIP, Independent and Lib Dem respectively in second place – but we always have a well fought and engaging campaign. As ever this will feature hustings, posters, social media campaigns and – a particular favourite with the Observer reporters – political muffins. My colleagues and I have already been drumming up interest in assemblies, working to convince youngsters of the importance of expressing their views and getting involved, and as a result we have nine candidates ready to do electoral battle. We've also had some of the 'real candidates' in to speak to our Sixth Formers – three of the contestants for the South East Cornwall constituency, not only to help those who are 18 decide how to vote but to encourage all to take an interest.

Which brings me on to the purpose of this column. I'm certainly not going to use it to suggest how you vote, but I will strongly suggest two things: the deadline for my traditional third thing (register to vote) having passed in late November.

Firstly, despite the no-doubt considerable temptation to avoid all TV and newspapers over the remaining few days, and possibly book a holiday somewhere far away for the 12th itself, please do pay attention to the election and what the parties stand for. There are some huge issues at stake in this election – not just the question Brexit and the economy, but also the NHS, poverty, housing and education – and unlike some elections the political parties have some very different opinions on this issues. Look into what they think and find the candidate who most closely matches your views and values.

Secondly, if you are registered and haven't already voted by post, vote. Vote for someone – my candidate, the other candidate, any candidate. If you really don't like any of the candidates then turn up and spoil your ballot, but please do take some positive action to participate, to put across your view. Democracy is not perfect, but the more people who take part the better it reflects what people really think.

And look on the bright side, after December 12th we won't have another General Election for at least...well ok, who knows!?

Adam Killeya

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The New Line ...

“We pride ourselves”, Mr Bramley-Smith would say, “on being thoroughly old-fashioned as far as the bringing up of children is concerned.

Mrs Bramley-Smith would say nothing but her beaming smile registered smug approval.

Their friends would protest or look sceptical (for it was a modern and progressive suburb on the whole).

But they realised that everyone in the suburb had a right – almost a duty – to develop a ‘line’.

The Forsyth’s ‘line’, for example, was modern music. The Swains went in for nudism in a discreet way.

The Bramley-Smiths’ special foible was for bringing up their Tony on strictly traditional lines. So be it. It was quite bizarre, according to the standards of the suburb, but it was their ‘line’.

That was understood. ‘The world has become the poorer’, he would continue, ‘for the dying out of old traditions. Father Christmas for instance,’ I believed in Father Christmas

until I was ten. I hope Tony does, too. Why, I remember...’ And the voice of Mr Bramley-Smith would drone on and on. For the truth is that Mr. Bramley-Smith was a most likeable man, but a crashing bore. Upstairs in his cot four-year-old Tony could hear the faint buzz of his father’s voice.

It was late but he could not sleep. He was having a terrible time, poor little chap. It was all this business of Father Christmas. For Tony, unnatural child! had conceived a violent fear and loathing of Father Christmas.

The idea of anyone, a perfect stranger, suddenly appearing in his room by way of the chimney he found quite terrifying.

He had asked him not to come: shouted it up the chimney, the way his mother had suggested.

‘I don’t want anything at all. Please, Father Christmas, don’t come down my chimney.’

He had met Father Christmas several times, of course, in the street and in the stores.

Sometimes he had looked quite fierce and Tony had been frightened of him, even in broad daylight. At other times had been kind and gentle.

But to have him in the same tiny room – and in the dark –

that was different. It was more than a little boy could stand.

He must have drifted off into an uneasy sleep at last because the next he remembered was awakening to a sense of keen alertness.

For several minutes he kept his eyes closed for fear of what might be there. But he HAD to look. At first, he saw nothing and his breath became more regular.

Then suddenly his little heart gave a bound. Silhouetted against the curtain there was a shadowy figure. He gave a shrill scream and beat blindly with his fists.

The figure stiffened and a voice, a strange hoarse voice, said ‘It’s all right, it’s only me’.

And the shadow moved towards the cot. The screams were abruptly silences, the small kneeling figure became still, frozen with terror.

He knelt there, waiting for the end. Nothing could save him.

Suddenly, like a miracle, he heard the blessed sound of his mother’s voice. He shouted aloud the one word in which salvation lay.

‘Mummy, Mummy, Mummy,’ The light was switched on suddenly and Tony’s world became safe and sound once more. Father Christmas had gone and his father had miraculously

appeared in his place.

His sense of relief was so great that he did not notice the rather cross tone of his mother’s voice as she asked, ‘What’s going on? What was all that noise?’

‘Father Christmas’, and Tony try as he would, could not keep a tremble out of his voice, ‘He was here’.

‘Nonsense, you goose, it was I,’ said his father, and his mother added, ‘Father Christmas hasn’t been yet.

You go to sleep again like a good boy and he will soon be here’, A new vista of horror opened up to Tony.

He realised that as soon as his parents left him and switched off the light, the torture must begin all over again.

It had to be stopped at all costs. He had already had as much as he could stand, ‘Don’t let him come. Don’t let Father Christmas come,’ he cried, and his voice rose to a high-pitched, hysterical screaming.

Mr and Mrs Bramley-Smith exchanged glances. Mr and Mrs Bramley-Smith looked helpless and bewildered. His wife went over to the cot and lifted the terrified child.

He clung tightly to her and became quiet. ‘You want Father Christmas to come and bring you some nice presents, don’t you?’ She felt the small muscles stiffen and his shrill voice, almost in her ear, ... ‘No, No, No’.

Once more his parents exchanged glances. This time they held a message. ‘I am going to’, said Mrs Bramley-Smith’s glance.

Mr Bramley-Smith’s troubled glance was a reluctant and shamed acquiescence. ‘Look here, chicken,’ said his mother, ‘It is all a mistake. There is no such person as Father Christmas’.

‘But ... but I’ve seen him’.

That was just a funny old man, all dressed up.’

‘Your mother’s right, old man’, added his father, ‘it is just a silly story, that’s all’.

There was an embarrassed silence, then, ‘You do believe us, don’t you chicken?’ For the third time the couple exchanged glances. This time the message was very clear. His mother put it into words. ‘Would you like to sleep in our bed tonight, chicken?’ There was no audible reply, but the vigorous nods shook clear a large tear-drop and it fell on his mother’s hand.

The Bramley-Smiths have a new ‘line’ now. Child

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No fairy stories, no evasions.

The truth every time. Mr Bramley-Smith is more a crashing bore than ever.

As for the effect on Tony, it is negligible.

Instead of hearing fairy stories out of books, he now has to invent his own. He finds this quite satisfactory. His favourite is where he engages in a single combat and destroys a great, fierce figure in a long red robe and with white whiskers. Sometimes with features that rather resemble his father’s.

E.G. LISTER

And Christmas stories tortured into rhyme Contain the essence of the true sublime.

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