

**A Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year**

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER



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December 2020 - Issue 345

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Wondrous Window Wanderland

Ashleys Trelawney Road

Plenty of cutting, sticking and creativity transformed more than 300 windows in Saltash and surroundings over the first weekend of December, creating an outdoor art gallery in the town's first ever Window Wanderland. Organised by volunteers from the Chamber of Commerce as a Covid-friendly alternative to their annual Lantern Parade, a whole range of groups, from churches to Brownies and Beavers, from residential homes to schools and youth groups, joined hundreds of residents in a glorious celebration of community, hope and Christmas. The VIPs who toured Wanderland, including the Lord Mayor of Plymouth, the Mayors of Redruth and Penzance, and the High Sheriff of Cornwall, left with hearts full of happy, festive memories of Saltash, and were talking animatedly about how the event could be staged in their own home areas.

They say adversity builds and reveals character. It is certainly true that in the onslaught of the pandemic, residents of Saltash came together to support each other. In many ways we grew stronger. As the year draws to a close with the hope of a vaccine, so Window Wanderland proved to be a heart-warming illustration of the community spirit that has shone brightly here throughout the year, fostering fellowship and hope.

community enterprises PL12

Together We Can, Together We Do.

Hopper Shopper Link Timetable

Every Wednesday starting 2nd December 2020.

Outward	Return
Yellow Tor Rd/Pondfield Rd Gallagher Way Hawks Park /The Court Barkers Hill/Down Close	Tamar View Nurseries 12:00 Waitrose/B&M 12.04 Lidl/Food Warehouse 12:08
Forder Back Hill/Briansway Maybrook Dr/Manor Park Maybrook Dr/Holcroft Castlemead Dr/Oaklands Dr Warraton Rd/Grenfell Ave	10:15
The Rodney Pub St George's/St Anne's Rd Hillside Rd/Clearview Longmeadow Road Wesley Church	10:20
Top of Fore Street Bottom of Fore Street North Road Old Ferry Road	10:25
Pounds Park New Road/Bishops Close The Rodney Pub Callington Rd Pilmere Drive Roundabout Lidl/Food Warehouse Waitrose/B&M Tamar View Nurseries	10:30
	10:40

A return trip costs £3.00 and needs to be booked in advance by contacting the Hub on 017852 848348. Book early to avoid disappointment.

The times shown are the earliest times that the Hopper will leave that stop.

We have full Covid measures in place for your protection.

All passengers must wear a face mask to travel and use hand sanitiser provided.

Those wishing to travel need to be members of Community Enterprises PL12. Forms are available in the shop at 4, Fore Street.

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Community Enterprises PL12 | 4 Fore Street | Saltash | PL12 6JL

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
Email: educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk

Housing Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 161
Email: info@cornwallhousing.org.uk
Social Services Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 101
Email: children@cornwall.gov.uk

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

Highways Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 222
Email: customerrelations@cornwalllimited.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.

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

From the Mayor of Saltash

Dear Residents of Saltash
There can be no denying that Christmas 2020 will be so unlike the festive season that we have all come to expect. Whatever relaxations of restrictions might occur over five days of Christmas, there will be many families who will be unable to reunite and share the precious time together that they might have enjoyed under different circumstances.

It will be a particularly difficult time for those who live alone and may not be able to see relatives or friends as they might have done under different circumstances. Please spare a thought for them.

There is good news, however, that at least one vaccine has been approved for use and that vaccinations will hopefully have commenced by the time you read this column.

I am pleased that I can also bring some other good news that will not be sullied by the



current pandemic. The first bit of good news is that Saltash Town Council has approved the Town precept for the year 2021-22 and that the amount paid on a typical Band D property will DECREASE by approximately 8.9% which means a saving of more than £21 per year, easing the burden for many hard-pressed families. The Town Council have achieved this by streamlining rather than cutting any of the services that residents rely on.

Some more good news, albeit not yet confirmed in writing to the Town Council, is that the Post Office in Fore Street is to remain open, according to information obtained by the Chamber of Commerce. The retail business which accommodates the Post Office has apparently had a re-think and no longer has plans to close the Saltash branch, we are told.

Yet more good news comes from the Town Team, which consists of Town Council Members, Cornwall Councillors, Chamber of Commerce members and CIC members. An application for a grant to install a loudspeaker system in Fore Street has been approved (at no cost to local tax payers) and the installation is imminent. This is very good news for organisers of events such as May Fair and the Christmas Festival, who would normally have to find around £1,500 to have a temporary system for just a day or two of use. This will enhance the visitor experience to these events and will also make it more affordable for other

events to come to our Town, helping to rejuvenate the area and assisting local businesses who have been so hard hit in recent months.

The loudspeaker system will also be available for public service announcements during events, such as reuniting parents with lost children, owners with lost keys and similar. Rest assured that if you have read some mischievous and inaccurate postings on social media, the loudspeaker system will not be used to blast out continuous music day after day, nor for any other inappropriate reason, as the use of the system will be regulated by the Town Council, to whom potential users will need to apply. It is a condition that there will be no charge levied for use of the system.

It has been wonderful to



The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Plymouth and their granddaughter, Eva, are welcomed to Saltash Window Wanderland by the Mayor and Mayoress of Saltash and the Chair of the Chamber of Commerce.

Photo by Mary Crawford

Your Town Council

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Councillors' telephone numbers can be obtained at the Guildhall.

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

Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 The Farn Islands are a group of islands off the coast of which English County? (7)
 - 2 From what are Black Piano keys traditionally made? (5)
 - 3 What is the largest mammal in the Ape family? (7)
 - 4 What was the name of the first Bridge captured on D Day? (7)
 - 5 How many front teeth does Disney's Goofy have? (3)
 - 6 Amnon, Absalom and Solomon were three of the sons of which King of Israel? (5)
 - 7 What brand of Medicine deals with injuries or disorders to the Bones and Joints? (12)
 - 8 Which is the World's largest Island? (9)
 - 9 In traditional Indian cooking what shape is Samosa? (10)
 - 10 What was the last Novel Jane Austen published during her lifetime? (4)
- Answers on Page 7

Photo Ian Robinson

observe the incredible efforts put in by participants of the Saltash Window Wanderland event, which has drawn attention from far and wide, with the Lord Mayor of Plymouth and Mayors from Penzance and Redruth visiting our Town to see for themselves. My sincere thanks to the organisers of this event, who I know have put in much time and effort to bring it to fruition.

As I write this column,

comes the news that more nationally known retailers have become casualties, both of the pandemic and also the move to online shopping. A major department store chain is reportedly closing down, which does sadden me, because my first job after leaving school was in a department store and I have very fond memories of those days. But with the demise of some of these larger

companies, comes the opportunity for independent specialist businesses to open up and it is so encouraging to see and hear of new shops opening in our Town. I wish each and every one of the new and existing businesses here in Saltash, success and prosperity.

All that is left for me, at this stage, is to wish one and all, the merriest Christmas possible and hope for a return to something nearer normality in 2021.

Kind Regards
Cllr Pete Samuels
Mayor of Saltash 2020-21



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Jenni
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Chamber Chairman Sarah Martin Keeping us Updated...

Taking over the chairmanship of an organisation is like stepping into someone else's shoes, and that's how it feels writing my first proper Chamber update after my introduction in last month's issue of the Observer. Previous Chairman Peter Ryland, tall in stature and presence, certainly left some big shoes to fill but, despite me being the little to his large, I'm looking forward to the challenges of the year ahead.

Lots has been going on, with lockdowns coming and going, and now the introduction of the tiered system of living with Covid. I don't know about you all, but I feel there is a sense of excitement in the town at the present time which, considering how the High Street in general is faring with the news of the Arcadia Group and also Debenhams going into liquidation, fills me with hope for us as a town as we move towards the New Year.

New Town Centre Shops

We have a range of new shops that are setting up in Saltash: it was a pleasure to attend the opening of the boutique tea shop Two for Tea – a new venture for David from More Than Art; Saltash Cards has morphed into the lovely gift shop Gallery 53, and it was a pleasure to welcome Michelle and her business to the town; Michael at The Fresh Fox is now open in the place of Petit Pain, bringing a new style in refreshments to Fore Street; and the new children's clothes and toy shop All4Smalls in Lower Fore Street is a welcome addition for all our Saltash families. We wish them all the very best of luck!

New Shopping Directory Website

The great team at Carbon Pixel has developed a business directory for our town where traders in Saltash and surrounding areas can upload

their business information for free. We would like to get this directory populated with all our shops and traders in the town as soon as possible. To upload your details, go to www.shop-saltash.co.uk and add your profile. It's going to be a really useful tool for residents to find local businesses to support them during these uncertain times. Thank you to Chamber member Antonia and her team at Carbon Pixel.

McColls and the Post Office are Staying!

It was with great relief that we were informed this week that we won't be losing McColls or the Post Office from Fore Street. The continuity of businesses is so important to residents - especially the elderly who rely on the Post Office and all the services they continue to offer as the number of banks in the town diminishes.

Business Webinars

Cornwall Council is running a series of free webinars every Thursday in December and January (but not Christmas Eve) around guidance about how to trade safely and in compliance with the latest Covid rules and regulations. Each webinar will involve a presentation of a 15 – 20 minutes bringing people up to date with the latest changes and key issues, and will be followed by a weekly topic update. If you can't make the webinar live a recording will be available afterwards and questions can be sent in advance.

Book your place at www.businessregulatorysupport.co.uk/our-services/business-recovery/webinars/.



Window Wanderland was a Hit!

Over 300 windows were decorated in the magical outdoor art gallery organised by the Chamber's volunteer Christmas Festival team. The amount of work that went into the windows was clear to see, and as a Chamber we were blown away by how the community signed up to support the event.

The Wanderland was a great way to light up the dark nights, bringing us much-needed good

cheer as the year draws to a close. I wish residents, retailers and Saltash businesses the very best of Christmas seasons. I think all of us will be very glad to leave 2020 behind in the hope that 2021 brings some form of the 'normality' that we have been missing this year. For us as a Chamber, the coming year will bring new challenges but also opportunities as we look for ways to work together bringing our new slogan 'Here to Help' to life.

Saltash Community Fridge and Larder

Community Enterprises PL12 has had a busy month, and we're really excited to announce the opening of our Community Fridge from our Hub at 4 Fore St. It's a space where anyone can exchange surplus food - reducing food waste, giving people access to nutritious food, helping save money, and helping the environment.

Our team of dedicated volunteers has been working with local supermarkets and food suppliers, to intercept food that would otherwise have been wasted. We've had days with 50 bunches of bananas, crates of kiwis, trays of filled rolls and pasties, sacks of flour, boxes of protein bars, UHT milk, tinned fish, salad & veg, and dozens of pullet eggs. We never know what's coming in, but we make sure it gets used; lots of banana bread and smoothies!

Over the coming months, we're planning to expand on opening times and activities, including providing simple recipes using the produce (kiwi jam, anyone?), meal boxes, cooking workshops, veg seed swaps and veg plant swaps, and building on Saltash's strong sense of community. We're working in partnership with Saltash Foodbank, and work to Covid-safe practices.

It's estimated that the average family of four could save a whopping £730 a year by reducing their food waste. The Covid crisis has given us all the opportunity to reconsider how we shop, cook, eat, and live; the Community Fridge can help us all live more sustainable, less wasteful lives.

If you haven't discovered the Community Fridge and Larder yet, pop down to the Community Hub and see what you can save from landfill; it's all free.

Our opening hours are limited over the festive period; see our advert in this paper for opening times, or contact us; hub@cepl12.co.uk 01752 848348 www.facebook.com/cepl12

We are always happy to welcome new volunteers, so if you can spare a few hours a month helping us with the Community Fridge project, we'd love to hear from you.



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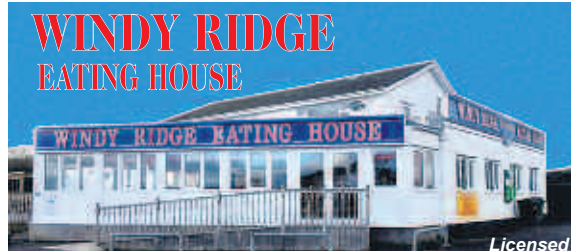
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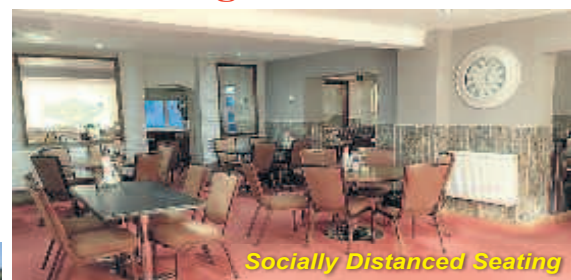
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Covid-19 Update

Cornwall has one of the lowest cumulative case rates of Covid-19 in the UK, and was placed in Tier One coming out of the second lockdown, but the number of new cases in November was very much higher than in October or September. In the week ending 21st November, for example, Cornwall's 7-day case rate was 90 per 100,000, which would have put us in the highest Covid-19 tier of restrictions back in the summer.

The tiers are reviewed every two weeks, and following a clear increase in cases, especially in South East Cornwall and Plymouth, Cornwall is close to being moved in to Tier Two. The number of people in hospital in Plymouth and Exeter with Covid-19 is nearly at the same level as at the peak of the first wave, and is expected to keep rising for the next few weeks. We all need to remain vigilant if we want to save lives, save businesses and remain in Tier One.

Cornwall Council's tracking team is continuing its excellent work bolstering the national effort in tackling the spread of COVID-19, with other local authorities looking to follow Cornwall's track and trace model. The tracking team comes from a range of backgrounds including public health, environmental health and nursing staff. They work on a rota basis with five people each day on weekdays, and one person making calls at weekends. This work helps Cornwall Council understand the bigger picture of data in Cornwall and act quickly if areas of concern are identified.

Cornwall Council is using surge funding made available by central Government to introduce an initiative that will see 'Covid Advisors' have a visible presence in many towns across Cornwall, including Saltash. Starting on 2nd December 2020 and concluding on 8th January 2021, the marshals will make daytime and evening patrols, supporting shops and licensed premises, assisting the public and businesses to comply with Covid regulations, and helping keep our communities safe.

Cornwall Council is working closely with the NHS, the Police and other agencies to get everything ready for the mass vaccination programme that will be led by the NHS. The priority for roll out in the first instance is likely to be frontline health and social care staff. If you have experience vaccinating or think you could support the vaccination programme please visit www.england.nhs.uk and enter 'join the Covid vaccine team' in the Search facility.

The four Cornwall Councillors in Saltash would like to thank all the key workers here, including refuse collectors, school staff, nurses, care home staff and all who are working outside and alongside their everyday working lives to support our community this winter season. The best Christmas present we can give each other is to follow government restrictions and think Hands, Face, Space. Have the flu vaccination if you are eligible and haven't already had one, because this will help your immunity and protect others. If you have symptoms, try to isolate from the rest of your household to avoid spreading the virus further. Stay safe and enjoy a Healthy New Year, One and All.

Gender-Based Violence

Over the last 12 months a staggering 4,695 people accessed domestic abuse services in Cornwall.

Domestic abuse can take many forms and often those who are being hurt don't see themselves as experiencing abuse. In Cornwall, young women aged between 18 and 25 are most at risk of direct victimisation of domestic abuse and sexual violence. It can have devastating, long lasting and sometimes tragic consequences.

In recognition of the growing need, Cornwall Council's Safer Cornwall team and Together for Families Directorate joined forces with the police, the NHS, the voluntary sector, Probation Services and Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service to launch a campaign called 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence. The campaign aims to highlight the issue in Cornwall and try to remove the stigma, and encourages people to speak out and access the help they need.

Cornwall's integrated domestic abuse and sexual violence service, Safer Futures, provides support, safety planning and information for adults, young people and children, via their phone helpline, text service, face to face and online. It's important to remember that even in lockdown people at risk can still leave their home to access safety and support.

If anyone feels unsafe or feels that they are in immediate danger, they should still contact the emergency services via 999. Devon and Cornwall Police work very closely with local domestic abuse and sexual violence services and will ensure that follow-on support is provided.

Access support by calling Safer Futures on 0300 777 4777 or visiting the website at: <https://saferfutures.org.uk>

Healthy Children

Cornwall Council's Education and Public Health teams are working hard to help schools minimise the risks of Covid-19 and ensuring as many children as possible are able to stay in their education setting. Approximately 0.36% of the school population in Cornwall has tested positive for Covid19, but the knock-on impact of staff shortages has led to a number of school closures.

Looking ahead to the Christmas holidays, Cornwall Council has allocated £399,000 of funding received from central government under the 'Covid Winter Grant Scheme' directly to schools in the form of vouchers that can be used by families in shops or supermarkets local to the schools. By acting early, schools have had the time needed to be able to distribute vouchers before the end of term, and the 13,300 children in Cornwall entitled to benefit-related free school meals will each receive a voucher for £15 a week over the two-week holiday.

Parents who think their child may have become eligible for Free School Meals in recent months can apply via a simple, confidential process on Cornwall Council's website: www.cornwall.gov.uk/schoolmeals

Pregnant women, women with a baby under the age of one and children aged up to their fourth birthday are also eligible to receive Healthy Start vitamins, as well as vouchers for fresh fruit and vegetables. Only around 50% of eligible people in Cornwall are currently accessing the Healthy Start vouchers, and only 2% are accessing the vitamins. Please do find out more about the Healthy Start scheme by visiting: www.healthystart.nhs.uk

Winter Wellbeing

Fuel poverty is a long-standing health issue: the impact of cold housing on health and the stresses brought on by living in fuel poverty have been recognised for decades by researchers, medical professionals and policy makers alike. At the same time, it is an issue that often gets dismissed as the 'tough nature of things' because our housing stock is old and Cornwall has a damp climate. Cold housing is so widespread that many have come to regard it as a normal state of affairs. It should not be so.

This is the seventh year of the Winter Wellbeing project, a programme where over 30 partners including Cornwall Council, NHS Kernow, Citizens Advice Cornwall and the Cornwall Community Foundation work together to help reduce fuel poverty and improve health.

The programme offers access to a range of services to help people stay warm and well over the winter period, including access to heating and insulation grants; support for families with children who have additional needs and advice on reducing energy bills.

The work of the Winter Wellbeing partnership last year alone saved the NHS over £43,000 in avoidable hospital admissions, but over the years Winter Wellbeing has enabled 1,630 households to access the Winter Wellness Emergency Fund for electric, gas, oil, logs and coal to stay warm; enabled first-time central heating to be installed in over 1,000 homes; and enabled 413 households to receive over £250,000 in extra income through Discretionary Housing Payments.

Of particular interest this year is Cold Weather Priority Service, which is designed to ensure that fuel is available to customers who are most vulnerable to cold conditions. If you know someone who is elderly, caring for young children or in poor health and worried about fuel bills, debt, keeping safe and warm let them know about Winter Wellbeing. Ring Freephone 0800 954 1956, or download the Winter Wellbeing Guide from Cornwall Council's website.

Gyllyn Warbarth: Together We Can

An ambitious plan that sets out a Vision for Cornwall in 2050 was approved at a full meeting of Cornwall Council held on 25th November. It was developed following a listening exercise called The Cornwall We Want, that saw thousands of people in Cornwall get involved and have their say.

Over 25,000 people visited The Cornwall We Want online platform, and over 4000 people contributed by taking surveys, participating in live events and focus groups or sending in written contributions.

Gyllyn Warbarth (Cornish for 'Together We Can') commits to creating a cleaner, greener, fairer and more inclusive Cornwall, with key goals including becoming plastic-free and carbon-neutral, ending street homelessness and securing a real living wage for every job.

Gyllyn Warbarth will influence and shape Cornwall Council and partner strategies for years to come, and has already been endorsed by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Health and Care Partnership Senate, the Cornwall Association of Local Councils, the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership and Cornwall's Youth MPs. The Youth MPs commented: "This Vision places the most pressing concerns for children right at the heart of plans for Cornwall's future, from protecting the environment through to improving mental health, ending child poverty and giving everyone an equal chance of a good life".



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Cllr Derek Holley:
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Cllr Sam Tamlin:
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Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd:
sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk

Useful Contacts

- Cornwall Council's COVID-19 information page: www.cornwall.gov.uk/coronavirus
- Queries relating to Coronavirus: covid19@cornwall.gov.uk
- Cornwall Council's Helpline for advice on employment: 0333 0150699
- To book a Coronavirus test: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus
- For guidance for businesses www.ciosgrowthhub.com
- For community safety: www.safercornwall.co.uk
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CORNWALL COUNCIL

You're Welcome

Cornwall Council is reminding EU nationals to apply for the government's settlement scheme and to seek support if they need it. All EU nationals who are resident in the UK before the end of the transition period on December 31st this year are eligible to apply.

More than 10,700 people living in Cornwall have already applied, but the deadline of June 30th next year is approaching fast. Cornwall's EU residents are our family members, friends, colleagues and neighbours - they are part of our communities and we want them to stay.

Inclusion Cornwall can provide practical support to people who need help to complete their applications - the service has already supported 38 individuals with complex cases. If you, or someone you know, is having difficulties applying for settled status, please contact Inclusion Cornwall on 01872 326440 or by email at hello@inclusioncornwall.co.uk.



Many people reading this will already know that the toll increase which had been considered for January has been suspended thanks to £1.6m from a government scheme aimed at supporting local government's lost income due to Covid-19. I'm pleased to say that despite uncertainty over several months, and even opposition from certain quarters, the Bridge and Ferry have been allocated the maximum 71.25% available under the scheme. This includes lost income incurred when tolls were suspended during the first lockdown - I am particularly pleased by this as making the decision to suspend the tolls was difficult, although I've always felt it was the correct one to protect staff and support people making journeys to Derriford Hospital. This first tranche of money covers lost income between April and July, but the scheme will eventually cover lost income until March next year including the second lockdown.

Whilst the funds from



CORNWALL
COUNCIL

and our PL12 community

For Observer readers
Sam Tamlin

Cornwall Councillor for Saltash West
E: sam.tamlin@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk.



government have been very welcome the longer-term picture is still uncertain as current forecasts show traffic returning to only 90% of levels seen before the pandemic.

The consultation conducted in October showed that over a quarter of users said the pandemic would affect the way they travel in the future, with less car use and more working from home. We have cut as many costs as possible without impacting service levels, but because the vast majority of income comes from tolls (which are all used to operate and maintain the Bridge and Ferry) income levels still may not recover to where they need to be.

The Bridge and Ferry Committee are meeting on 18th December to look at all

options and decide the next steps, including an offer from the Maritime Minister with helping to try and secure maintenance costs of running the A38 over the bridge from Highways England.

Thank you to everyone who emailed me with their thoughts on the Bridge and Ferry in October. I was only able to reply to about half of your emails, but the comments were very useful and helped form debate. I will make sure all ideas are looked at over the next couple of months.

Changing the subject completely: I've been really pleased to see the work carried out by volunteers in Latchbrook Leat in the last few months, organised by Cormac and supported by volunteers including some from Saltash Environmental Action. The area has seen a huge improvement with bramble and path clearance, bulb planting, new bird boxes, as well as several volunteers learning to coppice trees.

A Friends of Latchbrook group is being created and more information can be obtained by emailing volunteers@cormacltd.co.uk

I think Christmas is going to be particularly special this year, partly because social events have been so thin on the ground but also because my children who are seven and five have already been talking about it for months! It will be great to see my family, although some of our Christmas get togethers will have to be over Zoom with my sister staying in Manchester instead of traveling to Cornwall.

Looking at next year, I'm really looking forward to being virus-free and hoping for life to return to some normality, although I'm going to be making a few new resolutions. I think it's going to be time to get on my bike more, where did I put that hi-vis jacket?

Tanya – Making Saltash Shine

A community-minded resident of Saltash has received a prestigious 'Unsung Hero' award from the High Sheriff of Cornwall.

For many years Tanya Hatch has raised funds for a wide range of charitable causes - her coffee mornings are legendary, and many people still wince at the memory of the blisters on her feet after she took part in the 100km London to Brighton Challenge. Tanya has also played an active role in organising Saltash community events, including acting as the Treasurer of Saltash May Fair.



In the spare time that she doesn't have, Tanya volunteers at Saltash Foodbank, is a founder member and administrator of the C.R.A.P Saltash group, saving items from going to landfill, and has been instrumental in setting up the Community Fridge.

Tanya, a teacher at a primary school in Plymouth, said: "Along with raising my family, I enjoy nothing better than raising awareness for things that are important. If I can bring that out in others too, then that pleases me even more. We all have 'more' inside us, so when the time is right and the opportunity is there - grab it and take others with you. Make Saltash shine with kindness."

The High Sheriff of Cornwall, Kate Holborow, commented: "Tanya is a shining example of the kind of

person who holds the fabric of our communities together. Never seeking glory or accolades, she selflessly gives of her time and energy, and encourages us all to be a little better than we were the day before. Tanya Hatch is utterly deserving of this Unsung Hero Award."

In these days of Covid, the High Sheriff had planned with Tanya's husband, John, that she would pay them a surprise visit, knock on their door and make the presentation in their garden. The ceremony took an unexpected turn, however, with the news that a child in Tanya's school class had tested positive for Covid-19, meaning that Tanya would have to self-isolate. Plans were hastily adapted, and on the night in question, the High Sheriff, standing at one end of Tanya's garden path, rang Tanya to tell her the news. Tanya's four proud children, who had been hiding in the garden, burst in to a massive round of applause when Tanya came to the door, wearing happy tears and the brightest of smiles.

John came around with a tray of mulled apple juice for his guests in the garden. With warm hearts and warmed hands people raised their glasses to toast the figure in the doorway: Tanya Hatch - Unsung Hero who makes Saltash shine with kindness.

Waterside Switches On Christmas Tree Lights

The annual switching on of Christmas tree lights at the Waterside that took place on Tuesday December 1st was very different to other years.

It still took place on Waterside Green, but with the participants and volunteers socially distanced in accordance with Government Covid-19 secure guidelines.

Saltash Fire Cadets provided the Christmas tree with the Saltash Waterside Residents' Association (SWRA), and Brian Prichard of the Union Inn providing the colourful lights. The Union Inn once again most generously provided the electricity to light up the tree. Saltash Lions Club supported the switch-on, providing warm mulled wine.

This year's modest switch-on was attended by Saltash Town Councillors, Gloria Challen and Mark Fox, Lion Sonia Fox and Club President Lion Neil Challen.

Joining the small group were longstanding SWRA members, Clare and Joe Ellison, together with Cornwall Councillor Derek Holley who is the Divisional Councillor for the Waterside area.

Councillor Gloria Challen said: "I would like to thank all the Waterside residents who have supported this lovely community Christmas tree switch-on event, and also the Saltash Fire Cadets for kindly donating the tree, and indeed SWRA once again for providing the festive tree lights. We hope that the tree will add to the enjoyment of the local residents and the community generally, during these most challenging times for us all."

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Mary
 I have got to say a big thank you for placing a notice in the Observer newspaper about my lost ring.

I have had it for many years, and it is of great sentimental value to me. I thought I would never see it again, which upset me very much. But Linda Fisher found it and, having read the notice in the Observer, kindly returned it to me.

I can't thank you both enough! It just shows how good your paper is for the community, especially as it is always full of local useful information - for which we are all very grateful.

Thanks again to you, and to Linda for returning my ring.

Yours sincerely,
 Rita Hooper

Rita and Lost Ring are Reunited

Tuesday November 17 was already a grey day, and not a good one for Saltash resident Rita Hooper, widowed in January. Bound for the shops, she struggled with an awkward, bulky bag as she left the house. Sparkling on her finger was a small, distinctive, fan-shaped diamond ring, which she'd worn regularly for well over 20 years.

Irreplaceable, and of enormous sentimental value, it had been the engagement ring of a very close friend, gifted to Rita by family at the occasion of the friend's London funeral. On the bus, to her horror, Rita missed the 75-year-old heirloom, possibly lost when she swapped hands with the bag on the street. Devastated, getting no sleep, she called the Co-op and the bus company, re-walked her route four times, told everyone she knew, including the police, put it on social media and even had her brother pray to St. Anthony, patron saint of lost things. Friends, who realised the enormity of Rita's loss and her distress, suggested she approach the Observer. We were about to go to print. At the 11th hour, editor, Mary Crawford, stopped the presses to squeeze the tiny notice, very prominent by its irregular intrusion, on to page 2.

At this point, enter Linda

Fisher, whose grand-daughter, Daisy, coincidentally, is on our team of Observer deliverers. Linda was taking chocolates to her grandchildren and checking the ground as she'd once dropped a watch thereabouts. To her immense surprise, she spotted a ring gleaming amongst fallen leaves! Flabbergasted, she unsuccessfully tried social media to find the owner when, by chance, her son recalled reading the Observer 'LOST RING' notice.

Rita returned home to find amongst her messages a call saying a ring had been found. Once identities had been established, a grateful Rita collected the lost gem yesterday... appropriately, on Thanksgiving Day, (in America, as I reminded her). "It's a miracle! Everyone knows how much I love this ring. Trust St. Anthony!" Rita exclaimed delightedly to me. She was adamant that the Fisher family receive the offered Reward, which they accepted, with reluctance, on condition it was put in their charity box. The ring is currently safe in Rita's possession.

I suspect everyone who read the notice hoped the tale would end how it did! *Ian Robinson*

Snapshot of Bridge Raises Funds

A seasonal snap of our iconic Royal Albert Bridge has resulted in a substantial sum being raised for two well-deserving local causes.

When Zoe Angear looked up at the Bridge at 9am one autumnal morning, she realised it would make a stunning picture. Many other people agreed, since when she posted the picture on local social media the sites were soon busy with positive comments. The reaction was so overwhelming that Zoe decided to benefit from it by raffling the picture, managing to raise £260. The funds have been divided between the Saltash Foodbank, which has experienced unprecedented demand this year, and the Livewire Youth Centre, which has been working hard to support young people impacted by this year's events.



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Seasonal Greetings

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



I recently asked a question of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government about shortfalls in funding on the Tamar Crossings due to reduced traffic due to the Coronavirus. The Minister, Luke Hall, has since written to me saying, "Since the start of the pandemic, Cornwall council has received over £60m and Plymouth council has received over £30m. We also have a Sales, Fees and Charges scheme to reimburse councils for much of their planned losses, which can include irrecoverable losses from toll bridges and roads. I am hugely grateful to Sheryll and the local Conservative team for bringing this to my attention so quickly."

I wrote to the Chief Executive at Cornwall Council and I am pleased to report that she confirmed that the owners of the bridge, Cornwall and Plymouth Councils, are receiving £1.64 million from central government and that this would be for the period to July and that there would be a second payment. The Council was due to discuss an increase in the tolls recently but that item was withdrawn following this news. I would like to thank the Government for this generosity in maintaining these vital arteries between Cornwall and Devon. I would also like to thank the Chief Executive of Cornwall Council for her kind words when she said to me, "thank you for your support in working with us to

secure sustainable funding for these vital Tamar Crossings".

We now have a vaccine and have moved out of the National lockdown period of restrictions and here in Cornwall, as I write this, we have moved to Tier 1 restrictions or medium alert. This is good news as businesses will be able to open as long as they operate in a safe way. We do however need to be careful and remain alert to the virus. We are not virus free and people are still catching this disease in Cornwall. Please remember hands, face, space. We still need to wash our hands regularly for at least 20 seconds and use hand sanitiser to keep our hands clean. We should wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet. We should also stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place. By working together we can stay in tier 1 and more businesses can stay open. This is vital for our local economy. We are so nearly at the end of this period but we must give enough time to get the vaccinations circulated.

Lastly in this festive period I would like to wish everyone in South East Cornwall a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. Please look after each other.

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Tamar Reflections

**“Who is Mary?
What is she?”**

I speak not of our own Mary, editor-in-chief of the Saltash Observer, nor of Shakespeare, but of Mary Smith, formerly of Ince Castle, a Grade I listed building that stands gracefully at the peninsula on the north shore of the Lynher

Stephen’s parish church, descending steeply into Forder Village, up to Trematon Castle, and then winding around until the road rounds the creek, leading to the tree-lined pathway up to Ince itself.

The connection that Mary Smith has with Ince is fascinating, especially since she arrived there under

was reason to believe that the Smith family had been “discreetly installed” at Ince Castle by the Prince Regent himself because, “according to records and traditions preserved by her descendants, Mary was the daughter of a lady called Penelope Pitt (possibly connected with the third Lord Camelford or the Pitt-Rivers family) and the



© the Whitworth, The University of Manchester
“Ince Castle, Cornwall, the Front Entrance” [D.1926.245], Mary Smith

estuary, at its confluence with the River Tamar.

Ince Castle commands one of the most picturesque and breath-taking views in Cornwall, and the view of Ince from the estuary has hardly changed since Mary Smith sketched her drawings.

Many are intrigued by the seclusion of Ince Castle. Those who have been privileged to visit it will be familiar with the route via St.

mysterious circumstances and very little is known of her or her life. We do know, however, that from 1805 Mary lived at Ince with her adopted parents, Mr and Mrs Edward Smith, and that the prolific sketches that were made of Ince and its beautiful countryside at the time are attributed to her. According to Christopher Hussey’s article in Country Life in 1967, there

Prince Regent”. The history of Ince Castle is well documented, but very little has been written of Mary Smith despite the fact that she was one of Ince’s most artistic and creative residents, recording the castle’s history through her exquisite drawings.

Mary typically sketched Ince Castle, but she also captured Trematon Castle, Port Eliot Estate, Portwrinkle, the Hamoaze, Land’s End and other views and landscapes around Cornwall and Devon. She was an extraordinary amateur artist, and it is thanks to her that we have a true, historic insight of these buildings and landscapes in Cornwall in the early 1800s, especially as there have been various restorations over the years.

Mary married Captain Henry Crease, and they raised their family at Ince Castle thereafter. Following the death of her adopted father, Mary went on to inherit the estate, but sadly had to sell it in the 1850s after hitting financial hardship.

The magnificent, historic drawings that Mary Smith sketched were acquired by the Whitworth Art Gallery at the University of Manchester as part of a large bequest of prints and drawings from William Sharp Ogden’s collection in 1926.

Then to Mary, let us sing!
Sue Hooper MBE

Letters to the Editor...

Dear Mary,
I’m writing to say that Window Wanderland has been an absolute joy, showcasing the community spirit of Saltash. Families got creative together, spending quality time designing (and sometimes arguing about!) their Wanderland windows.

Thank you to the organisers: what a fantastic job they have done in bringing this to life! I feel this needs to be an annual event at Christmas, so please do organise it again next year – I’m sure it will be even bigger!

*T. Hatch
Saltash*

Dear Mary,
Our usual evening walks have been an absolute joy this Christmas. All the great Window Wanderland displays have been amazing, and have made our walks a lot longer stopping to look at them all.

We had a lovely talk to a couple outside the Baptist Church, and even got some prezzies for the grandchildren! A house in Callington Road had little treat bags to take - what a wonderful idea!

Hopefully this will be an annual event. Thank you to all the organisers and window dressers for your hard work - real community spirit.

Karin Clark

Photo: Ian Robinson



Dear Mary,

Our whole family thoroughly enjoyed the Window Wanderland. It was good for family and good for the community.

Great organisation, and lovely to see the High Sheriff of Cornwall enjoying the occasion, too.

It has raised the profile of Saltash, and must become a regular feature of Christmas here - it’s a no brainer. Let’s do it again next year!

*F. Salter
Saltash*



Photo: Ian Robinson

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Thieves Pass, While Ships Park in the Night!

It was after midnight. All was still on the Tamar. Brunel’s big bridge is in darkness. The Waterside was quiet, dogs and walkers long in their beds.

At Saltash Sailing Club, the last of the 30-metre yachts had only just been craned ashore for winter storage. In the early hours of Monday November 23, protective flood lighting had shut down as I am ticked by. Halyards still rattled on darkened masts in the gentle breeze. Sadly, in the shadows, thieves with bolt-cutters were afoot in the club boatyard. Four yachts, together in a quiet moonlit corner, were forcibly entered and ransacked, probably by more than one person. Equipment totalling around £10,000 was stolen... a chart plotter and AIS (automatic identification system), a lot of battery operated hand-tools, fishing rods, medical First Aid kits, expensive foul-weather gear, and even a bottle of rum went! They climbed from boat to boat and although no bodywork was damaged, canopy ropes were cut and one broken lock was discreetly put back to disguise entry.

Local police were informed, and visited the same day, but no arrests to date. Burgled myself years ago, I sympathised with one owner who confessed he won’t fully realise all the stolen items until he needs to

use them again... making the loss no less significant. Future intruder deterrents will be an agenda priority at the imminent December AGM, and already various new measures (best not publicised here) have been introduced to increase security.

Rear House Commodore Martyn Rouse spoke of his dismay at the illegal invasion, stressing what a beneficial community resource they were to youngsters and seniors alike. “We have over 80 local cadets benefitting from safe junior introduction to the water, utilising a fleet of available dinghies, RYA instructors, safety boats and insurance cover.” Similarly, the convivial atmosphere in the clubhouse is well known to locals, including welcome non-boat owners. Even I, probably more a non-nautical landlubber type, quickly detected the boatyard bond between sailors on my brief visits beneath the rigging... sad that a course-changing event like this seriously interrupts pursuit of life’s friendly flow sometimes.

If you hear anything, please contact enquiries@saltashsailingclub.co.uk

Ian Robinson.

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In the beginning...



Saltash Scrapstore has become a 'destination' on Fore Street, with customers travelling from both inside and outside the PL12 area to rummage its unique collection of donated stock. Many others appear at the doors laden with a vast range of items maybe not suitable for the traditional charity shops. In just over 2 years the once empty unit in the middle of the town has become a thriving hub of creativity and resourcefulness. So, where did it all begin?

The store was born out of a conversation between two former shop owners who found themselves sitting on the remainder of old stock which was too good to throw away. Why not, suggested one, open a place where people can give all the 'stuff' in their homes which is too good for landfill but which might be just what someone else is looking for? It could be a not-for-profit space, run for the benefit of the community on environmental principles, with success measured in the volume of materials saved and reused.

That idea was developed and gained the support of three key local groups - Saltash Chamber of Commerce, Saltash Environmental Action and Community Enterprises PL12. With their backing,

Rosie Waters (ex The School Shop, Plymouth) took the idea first suggested by Betty Walkey (ex Regal Fabrics, Saltash) and approached the Town Council for seed funding to get the project underway. After some discussion this was agreed, so long as the new Scrapstore took over one of the unused retail units in the town centre.

Peter Ryland, chair of the Chamber, thought the empty shop next to the Brunel Inn would be ideal and negotiated rental terms which would give a chance to prove the idea could work without tying the project into a long term tenancy. Volunteers were drafted in and a call went out for spare furniture, wood, shelving, a kitchen sink - anything which could be used as shop fittings. Though most of the staff would be

voluntary (and still are) a part-time manager was employed (there are now two).

The Scrapstore opened in October 2018, the shelves stocked with craft materials, stationery, educational resources, fabrics, wool and haberdashery - most donated by Rosie and Betty - as well as 'junk' materials and clean industrial scrap. The back of the store was laid out with table space for kids craft activities and adult evening classes. Artwork from local primary schools brightened the walls and Memberships (£5 or less) allowed shoppers to access very cheap new stock and fill up a swag bag of 'scrap' - that idea hasn't changed, but the range of stock and scrap has grown enormously. A Facebook page helped spread the word and very soon the new store was attracting donations from Saltash homes and fast becoming one of the busiest shops on Fore Street.

Every cloud...

Saltash Scrapstore's first year of trading went better than hoped. The shop established itself as a permanent fixture in the town, extending opening hours across the week as demand increased. While the membership and customer numbers grew, so did the volume and range of donated stock. The rear table space was in daily use for regular children's activities, evening workshops, craft parties and private group hire. Over £1000 was donated to local causes, with the hope of more to follow. By the time of its first anniversary in October 2019, Saltash Scrapstore was able to become independent of its launch partners and celebrate a very successful year.

Then came the news the team had been dreading - a local trader had made a bid for the shop lease which, if successful, meant the Scrapstore would have to be out within a month. Faced with the prospect of moving out over the Christmas holiday, the management team looked at alternative venues and very soon realised that they already had the ideal spot and really didn't want to move! Negotiations with the landlord were successful - a long term lease was established but at three times the previous rent. Though the shop was never designed to turn a profit, it had to cover its costs - which had just escalated overnight.

'It was the push we needed,' said founder Rosie Waters, 'and as 2020 unfolded I'm very pleased we were pushed! I was upset that we might lose our shop lease to another trader, but their bid for our shop started a chain of events which left us stronger and more financially secure.'

The lease uncertainty and financial pressure going forward rekindled an idea which had been discussed but never pursued - to apply for charitable status, which brings rate and tax reliefs. An application was submitted in early March 2020, and Saltash Scrapstore became a charity just a few days before the first government lockdown.

The enforced closure felt bleak - cancelled workshops, loss of income, plans on hold. Then in April, joint manager Toni went to check on the store and discovered overnight rain had flooded part of the shop floor. She said: 'The flood led to us rethinking the shop layout, and lockdown gave us the time and space to do it.'

Customers have returned to a redesigned and expanded sales area, with more stock where the workshop tables had been. A card reader is installed, aisles are wider and the shop is bigger, brighter and COVID secure. The Scrapstore has recorded its best ever weekly sales in the weeks after lockdown was lifted.



Giving back...

Let's keep useful stuff from being thrown away, and if we manage to make any money we can give it back to the community - that was the original concept when the Scrapstore was first imagined by Betty Walkey back in 2018.

Two years on and the project is a huge success, encouraging reuse (around 1,000 facemasks made by volunteers from donated fabric), recycling items back out to customers, and often coming up with goods which are difficult to find elsewhere. Shoppers come to the Scrapstore from as far afield as Tavistock, Liskeard and Plymouth on the hunt for something a little different.

The success of the Scrapstore benefits Saltash in other ways. The shop employs two part-time managers, Toni and Lizi, who share the role equally. They are helped by a team of six volunteers (more are always welcome) while founder and charity Trustee Rosie is usually at the till. Through their efforts donations have been made this year of:

£200 towards creating a sandy beach at Waterside slipway for children during lockdown

£480 to buy litter pickers for the SEA street cleaning teams

£750 in goods and cash to support Creativity in the Community at the Core

£1000 to fund online content and craft packs for the Winter Wanderland project

Rosie said: 'While 2020 is proving a very bleak year, the Scrapstore has brought some relief as a treasure trove of useful things to do when we have time on our hands and limited money in our pockets. When you've turned out your cupboards please don't nip to the tip - drop down to the shop! We'll find your unwanted stuff a new home and put the profits back into the town.'



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