

Wishing You a Very  
Healthy & Prosperous New Year  
Enjoy the Festive Season

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

December 2021 - Issue 357      Established 29 years

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## People Power Saves Saltash Leisure Centre



Photo Mike Pitches Photography

A grassroots campaign to save Saltash Leisure Centre has resulted in GLL agreeing to continue managing the Centre on behalf of Cornwall Council, much to the relief of the hardworking staff, residents, schools and other user groups including Caradon Swimming Club.

The campaign, fully supported by Saltash Town Council who donated money for banners and publicity, brought young and old together in a common purpose, and was praised by GLL for its positive approach.

Going forward, it is hoped that this community action will provide a solid base to work with GLL to revitalise diminishing membership numbers and allow Saltash Leisure Centre to maximise its full potential.

## A Runaway Success for the Santa Fun Run



Story continued on Page 4

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## Innovative Installation Brings Music to Fore Street

It'll be Jingle Bells all the way up and down Fore Street now that twelve music-quality horn speakers have been mounted to the street's lampposts. This innovative project makes Saltash the first town in Cornwall, perhaps in the UK, to have a permanent set of horn speakers on its main shopping street.

The installation is funded from a pot of money called Section 106, which was set up when supermarkets were built outside Saltash town centre. The Section 106 money needs to be used on projects that will boost footfall into the town centre, and as the speakers will enable even lone buskers to be heard the whole length of Fore Street, the intention is to run music-filled shopping events to encourage people into the town centre and showcase local talent. The system will also be put to good use in the town's Festivals such as May Fair and events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year.

Installed by local company Kernow Installations, speaker cable has been brought down to a patch box so that it can be connected to a portable rack unit that houses the mixer and amplifier.

The project has been delivered by a group called the Town Team, which comprises councillors from Saltash Town Council and Cornwall Council, as well as representatives from the Chamber of Commerce and Community Enterprises PL12. The speaker system is an asset of Saltash Town Council, who will carry out maintenance, ensure that noise decibel levels are not exceeded and manage bookings.

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# Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council  
Konsel an dre Essa



**Education Department**  
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Email: [schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Education Welfare:**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
Email: [educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Housing Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 161  
Email: [info@cornwallhousing.org.uk](mailto:info@cornwallhousing.org.uk)  
**Social Services Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
Email: [children@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:children@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Social Services Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 131  
Email: [adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Highways Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 222  
Email: [customerrelations@cornwallimited.co.uk](mailto:customerrelations@cornwallimited.co.uk)

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**Roads, Transport and Parking**  
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Email: [roadstransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:roadstransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk)

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*Town Messenger news is supplied by the Town Council*

## Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

**Saltash Essa ED**  
Cllr Hilary Frank  
[cldr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Saltash Tamar ED**  
Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd  
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**Saltash Trematon & Landrake ED**  
Cllr Martin Worth  
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**Cornwall Councillors Cover such services as:**  
Housing – Education  
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Tamar Bridge

## From the Mayor of Saltash

What a rollercoaster year 2021 has proven to be. Having spent so much of the year in lockdown, what a relief it was when restrictions were eased back in July. We were all surely thinking that we had ridden out the worst of the storm and have for a few months enjoyed comparative freedom.

Many of us have exercised caution, myself and the Mayoress included, continuing to wear face coverings in shops and supermarkets, also on public transport. Peculiarly it seemed that caution could be relaxed when attending a full capacity concert at the Royal Albert Hall and at other venues where large crowds could gather. When attending official engagements, we followed the 'when in Rome' rule, taking a lead from the organisers as to whether face coverings were required.

It has been good to be able to do so much more in recent months and I would like to thank all of those organisations who have extended invitations and made us feel so welcome.

I have now developed quite a knack of extending my right arm in such a way that depending on the response from the person I am greeting, it could result either in a handshake or an elbow bump.

What 2022 has in store for us is uncertain and as I write this column, the effect of the latest Coronavirus strain is unknown. Perhaps we shall all be wiser by the time you read this.

One thing that we can look forward to in the coming year, is that the Library refurbishment is likely to go ahead, the work having stalled



at the start of the pandemic. This Grade 2 Listed Building has been transformed from being 'just' a Library, to being an important community hub, I therefore thank those who had the vision to push ahead with this project, also the staff at the Library who have worked so hard to achieve some impressive results.

The Station building, AKA Isambard House, is proving to be a jewel in the Saltash crown, having now picked up multiple awards for what has been achieved with this once derelict building. As I said to the audience at the official opening of the building, we have become used to stories of the wrong kind of leaves on the line, or the wrong kind of snow, but here in Saltash we have a different problem with the wrong kind of train – easily identifiable when it doesn't stop at the platforms here in Saltash. I would like to think that comment did not fall on deaf ears amongst the rail industry guests who were in attendance.

Looking ahead on a personal basis, at the beginning of May 2022, a new Mayor will take

over the reins for the year 2022-23 and I look forward to taking things a little easier for a while, having by that time served 15 months as Deputy Mayor and then 21 months as Mayor. One thing they don't tell you is that upon becoming Mayor, your email inbox increases five-fold. At least, taking things easier is the current plan, but having very recently been elected as President of Saltash Rotary Club for the year 2022-23, it may well prove to be that I am as busy as ever, time will tell.

May I wish you a happy and hopefully better year for 2022, but as always, please take care and stay safe

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



Mayor of Saltash and the Chair of the Chamber of Commerce hosted a Window Wanderland Walkabout attended by the Lord Mayor of Plymouth and her Consort as well as the Mayor of Launceston. The walkabout finished in the gloriously restored Station Building, now named Isambard House.

Photo Mike Pitches

## Your Town Council & Wards

### Saltash Essa:

1. Cllr Richard Bickford  
[r.bickford@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:r.bickford@saltash.gov.uk)
2. Cllr Rachel Bullock  
[r.bullock@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:r.bullock@saltash.gov.uk)
3. Cllr Gloria Challen  
[g.challen@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:g.challen@saltash.gov.uk)
4. Cllr Matt Griffiths  
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5. Cllr Jon Foster  
[jon.foster@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:jon.foster@saltash.gov.uk)
6. Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd  
[s.lennox-boyd@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:s.lennox-boyd@saltash.gov.uk)

### Saltash Tamar:

1. Cllr Lewis Challen  
[l.challen@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:l.challen@saltash.gov.uk)
2. Cllr Sarah Gillies  
[s.gillies@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:s.gillies@saltash.gov.uk)
3. Cllr Sarah Martin  
[s.martin@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:s.martin@saltash.gov.uk)
4. Cllr Julia Peggs  
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5. Cllr Pete Samuels  
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6. Cllr Jean Dent  
[j.dent@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:j.dent@saltash.gov.uk)

### Saltash Trematon:

1. Cllr Steve Miller  
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2. Cllr Brenda Samuels  
[b.samuels@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:b.samuels@saltash.gov.uk)
3. **Vacancy**
4. Cllr Yates  
[d.yates@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:d.yates@saltash.gov.uk)

### Mayor:

Cllr Pete Samuels  
**Deputy Mayor.**  
Cllr Richard Bickford

### Town Clerk:

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E: [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk)

**Councillors' Telephone Numbers can be obtained at The Guildhall.**

**Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6JX**  
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Website: [www.saltash.gov.uk](http://www.saltash.gov.uk)

## Saltash Station Restoration Scoops National Award

The long awaited project to restore Saltash Station to its former glory has received much acclaim amongst locals and across the region. After many years of dereliction, Saltash Town Council boldly took the building under their wing and with the help of many partners have delivered a result that will deliver benefit to many.

The project took a derelict former station building and transformed it into a multi use Community space, that has already been used for meetings, presentations, a Murder Mystery night and a banquet dinner. In addition part of the building is given over to provide passenger waiting facilities, providing a warm and welcoming space for anyone waiting for a train. There are toilet and baby change facilities and hopefully soon somewhere to buy refreshments.

The town council worked with local architects, The Bailey Partnership and their construction partner Cornac to deliver something to be very proud of. The project has been funded with the help of grants from Cornwall Council, Great Western



Railway, The Railway Heritage Trust and the Community Rail Network, and some critical assistance from Network Rail.

Earlier in the year the project won two regional awards. At the Constructing Excellence South West Awards the project picked up 1st place in the Conservation & Regeneration category, and at the LABC Building Excellence regional awards, it won the Best Non Residential Conversion category.

Now, Isambard House, as the building is now called has scooped a major national prize at the National Railway Heritage Awards held on the 1st December in London. Deputy Mayor Councillor Richard Bickford accepted the award on behalf of Saltash Town Council. The Network Rail Community Award was presented by Network Rail CEO Andrew Haines.

The judges commented that the project was a 'A really

clever re-invention of a station, and something the residents and town council of Saltash should be proud', and that it is, 'A fitting neighbour to the famous historic railway bridge'.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel's, world famous Royal Albert Bridge that spans the River Tamar begins just a few metres from Saltash Station and is well worth a visit.

For further information, specific quotes, or to view the building contact Saltash Town Council on 01752 844846

## Chamber Chairman Sarah Martin Keeping us Updated...

As December comes to a close...

What a month it's been! It would be really remiss of me not to mention first and foremost the fabulous Christmas Festival that our Chamber committee managed to pull off on Saturday 4th December. And I say that in the nicest possible way. I know our committee were keeping an eye on those 40mph forecasted winds at the start of the week and keeping everything crossed that they wouldn't materialise to hamper the day. We had a few hail showers and a couple of friendly gusts during the festivities but otherwise it all went so well to plan.

Many of you know Hilary Frank as a Cornwall Councillor, but I'm not sure how many of you know how busy she is every year with this particular Chamber event. Much of it is precise like a clock movement because of the time and energy she and our event organiser Diverse Events CIC put into making sure the planning is faultless. This year, more than any other, was an important one for her with the 10th lantern parade – and she has organised every single one. It was a poignant day - and also a groundbreaking one with the first ever Santa Fun Run bought to us through collaboration with the Tamar Trotters.

Every year Hilary goes above and beyond to make sure that Saltash gets a Christmas Festival to please the crowds, schoolchildren, stall holders and Fore Street retailers alike. I would personally like to thank

her for again bringing us a stunning event. Thank you, too, to the Diverse Events Team and all our lovely volunteers - as well as the new ones who are willing to join our events committee next year. We can't wait to start on the plans for what will be a bumper crop of events including celebrations around the Queens Platinum Jubilee in June, so watch this space!

### The Saltash Chamber Window Wanderland

Again, this year the Window Wanderland windows in Fore Street and around the town wowed our VIP guests including the Mayor of Saltash, the Lord Mayor of Plymouth and the Mayor of Launceston. The displays made by our Primary schools for Guildhall windows and windows of Fore Street shops were superb, and anyone who has driven past St Stephens CP School at night can't fail to have noticed the colourful adventures of the Stickman character adorning its many windows. With their window designs and the wonderful work on the lanterns for the festival parade by all our Primary Schools, we are very privileged to have such a creative bunch of schools in the town!

### Car Parking Initiative

Just a quick reminder that the new Chamber initiative to subsidise car parking is up and running in all Cornwall Council Pay and Display car parks in the town. Charges of up to £1.60 will be able to be redeemed at



Photo Mike Pitches

participating shops against a purchase of £5 or more. At present, £1.60 gets you two hours car parking in Saltash, so that's two hours of shopping time free of charge, at least up until the middle of February. We now have nine shops participating, so look out for the stickers in their windows. If it goes well we will be extending the scheme, so please make good use of it.

### And the Best Dressed Window goes to...

Now it just leaves me to mention the two businesses chosen by the children from Brunel Primary Academy and St Stephens CP School who judged the Best Dressed Window and the

Children's Champion Window. Unanimously, the two groups involved chose the same two shops, with Nicky's Glow Beads as the winner of the Children's Champion for their wonderfully festive window, and Donna with her stunning Christmas scene at Eclectic at Home keeping hold of the Chamber Cup for a further year. Congratulations to both and so well deserved.

So, to all residents and our Saltash retailers from me and my excellent team at Saltash Chamber of Commerce, have a great rest of the year, and we look forward to seeing you all shopping locally in 2022! We wish you a prosperous New Year!



Photo Mike Pitches

## Tamar Toll Hike of 30% Proposed

A hefty hike in bridge tolls, of between 30% and 35% is required as a result of falling traffic levels on the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint ferry.

Joint Chair of the Bridge and Ferry Committee Martin Worth warned Saltash Town Council that after traffic levels fell dramatically during the pandemic, they are still only back to around 90% of pre-pandemic levels when annual income of the bridge was around £16 million. Working from home is the main cause of the shortfall and it is predicted to be 2025 before traffic returns to its previous volume. Meanwhile reserve funds are falling and will be non-existent if no toll increases are applied. By 2025 there would be a deficit of up to seven million pounds and Plymouth and Cornwall Council tax payers would have to meet this.

Accordingly, a 30% increase for both tag owners, which includes most local motorists and for cash payers has been recommended by the joint committee. This would increase the tag charge from £1.00 to £1.30 per crossing for cars and from £2 to £2.60 for cash payers. Alternatives suggested included a 35% increase for all users or 35% for cash payers and 30% for tag holders.

The last increase was just two years ago in 2019.

The proposals will be put out to public consultation early in 2022, this being obligatory before any planned increase is submitted to the Secretary of State who has to give final approval before an increase can come into effect. This means that it is likely to be early in 2023 before any change in tolls is applied.

## Saltash Town Council Precept

At the Full Town Council meeting held on 2 December 2021 Members of the Town Council voted and agreed to set Saltash Town Council precept at £1,255,690.00 for the year 2022/23.

Saltash Town Council precept information leaflet for the year 2022/23 will be distributed in the New Year to all households within the Saltash boundary.

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For the first time ever, I have decided to close The Windy Ridge over the Festive period. With what has gone on during the past couple of years, Covid, staff shortages etc, I have decided to reward my loyal team who have worked tirelessly to keep the business going. Therefore, I am happy for them to enjoy an extended Christmas break as a thank you for all their hard work and dedication to the Windy Ridge.

Also we need to do some essential maintenance work so this is also the ideal opportunity to do this at the same time.

I would like to wish you all a very

Happy Healthy & Prosperous New Year  
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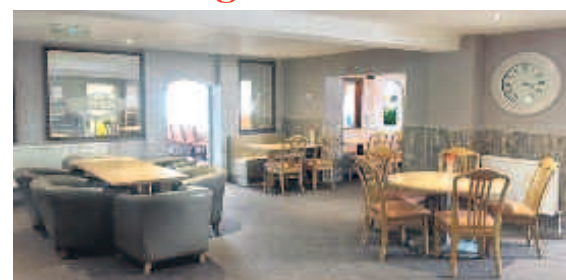
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### Essa Voices

#### Of Mince Pies and Mary

Mince pies are thought to have originated as early as the 11th century, when Crusaders returned from the Middle East with recipes and spices. And rumour has it that the number of mince pies you eat directly correlates to the amount of luck you'll experience in the following year. If that is true, then I'm due for a lucky year ahead as December has seen me tucking into a mince pie (or three) in various venues across Saltash.

Mince pies have been occupying my mind as well as my tummy over the 2021 festive season. I've found out, for example, that I need to be careful not to eat any on Christmas Day, because in England that act is technically illegal! In the 17th century, Oliver Cromwell banned mince pies and some other food he associated with gluttony, you see, and apparently the law has never actually been rescinded.

I've also found out that recycling six mince pie foil cases saves enough energy to power a television for 30 minutes. You can recycle the cases along with your tins, cans and any other clean tin foil in your red recycling bag. And just a reminder that it is 'business as usual' for Cornwall's hardworking refuse collection staff, so rubbish and recycling will be collected as usual on 27th and 28th December as well as on 3rd January 2022, even though they are all bank holidays.

One of my most memorable mince pie feasts in December was after the uplifting Carol Service at the Saltash Gospel Hall, served by the one and only Mary Frantom. Many Observer readers will know and admire Mary, as she has led youthwork at the Gospel Hall for an incredible 56



Councillor Hilary Frank  
clhfrank@cornwall.gov.uk

years. There are children of children of children who attended the youth club in those early 1960s who go along to the youth club now! Over the years, Mary has been ably supported by her husband, Ray, always at her side throughout their 50 golden years of marriage.

In this festive season an American pastor said: "There is a reason the Virgin Mary is everywhere. I've seen her image all over the world, in cafes in Istanbul, on students' backpacks in Scotland, and in a market stall in Jakarta. It's because mages of Mary remind us of God's favour - God giving us the ability to do something which is humanly impossible for us to do."

Although the American pastor is, clearly, referring to a different Mary, our Gospel Mary has been a shining example of someone who has the ability to do something other people might find impossible. Her steadfast, caring devotion over so many makes her a worthy inheritor of the name Mary.

So, I'm sure you will join me in wishing Mary the greatest joy as she retires from youthwork at the Gospel Hall. Mary is also retiring as speech secretary of the Saltash Music, Speech and Drama Festival - a role she has held for an incredible 32 years. Thank you, Mary, for being such an inspiration to generations in Saltash.

And I wish you all great joy and excellent health in the New Year ahead. If you want to top it all off with a little luck... keep eating those mince pies!

## Festive Fun is Back as Saltash Celebrates the Season

Neither the threat of covid nor the more immediate threat of severely high winds could prevent Saltash from coming into the town to share the joy and promise of another festive season. After last year's more subdued celebrations the town seemed more determined than ever to enter into the fun as another Christmas festival got under way.

By mid-morning Fore Street was already closed to traffic and stallholders were beginning to set up for business along the full length of the street. By early afternoon business was already brisk as the crowds turned out, tempted by the scents of festive fare being served up and of the wide array of gift ideas on sale not only on the stalls



Photo Mike Pitches Photography

### Santas Had Such Fun on the Run!

The inaugural Saltash Santa Fun Run, organised by Tamar Trotters Running Club as part of the Saltash Christmas Festival, was a runaway success, with 150 Santas running down Fore Street, across the Tamar Bridge and back.

Even the flurry of hail right before the start didn't dampen spirits as the Santas, including many families, set off down Fore Street. Taylan Jones was one of the youngest runners, but first back. A couple of the oldest were Pam (83) and Jill (77), who ran in the London Marathon in 1989.

Each finisher received a splendid medal, generously donated by Ben Boyd, as well as fruit and goodies donated by Waitrose and Community Enterprises PL12.

Organisers say the positive feedback means they are looking to make the Fun Run a feature of every Christmas Festival going forward, especially as the entry fee helped to generate funds for the firework display that brought the Festival to a colourful close.

but in the town's wide range of small independent shops, most of which had their enticing Christmas window displays as well as seasonal stock on offer.

As ever there was a whole range of attractions and stage entertainment for those of all ages who packed the street. On the stage school choirs singing seasonal songs, alternated with dancing, acapella singing and even fire eating. Stilt walkers mingled with the crowds, who stood back as the traditional 'Santa's on Bikes' passed through the town on their annual run to bring presents to the children at Mount Edgecumbe Hospice.

Following this came a new attraction, the first ever Santa Fun Run. A hundred and fifty entrants of all ages donned Father Christmas costume to run down Fore Street across the Tamar Bridge to Devon and back. Among the oldest were two ladies of 83 and 77, previous London marathon runners, both of whom collected the medallions kindly donated by Ben Lennox-Boyd and given to all who completed the run. It is hoped that this will become an annual event.

Meanwhile the 'real' Father Christmas was kept busy in the Fore Street Community Kitchen, with visiting children telling him their Christmas wish lists. There was also a special opening of the Saltash Heritage Museum and a Christmas Treasure Hunt organised by Saltash Redeemer Church.

As the short December day darkened the town's spectacular lights illuminated the crowd and soon it was time for the Lantern Parade, its tenth anniversary and seemingly more magical than ever. Following workshops held in local schools around 150 lanterns were borne up the street by our local children, with some adult help. The ones that drew most gasps of wonderment included a Flying Snowman, a weight lifting strongman, and a reproduction of our Cornish Cross.

The high winds had threatened the spectacular end to a fabulous festive day but it still went ahead - the fireworks were as marvellous as ever eliciting the usual 'oohs' and 'aahs' as the crowds looked on across the Saltash sky before wandering homeward knowing that yet another Saltash festive season had been welcomed in as Saltash always does so well.

The traders reported good business and many were already eager to book for next year. As well as Ben Lennox-Boyd, those to thank include the Tamar Trotters for organising the Santa Run, Waitrose for providing refreshments, and above all the amazingly small group of hard-working local volunteers who put in so much time and effort to give so many so much seasonal pleasure.



The bells of the Church of St Nicholas and St Faith rang out for the lanterns this year, ushering in the 10th annual Saltash Lantern Parade.

The community really pulled together to overcome challenges including Covid and strong winds, and delivered yet another magical community event," said lead organiser Hilary Frank, who introduced the very first Saltash Lantern Parade in 2011 and has been the driving force behind every Parade since then.

The Lantern Parade was the culmination of a day of festivities at the Saltash Christmas Festival, organised by Saltash Chamber of Commerce. It started with over 100 Santas on motorbikes parked up on Fore Street, taking a rest on their journey to spread festive cheer at Little Harbour Children's Hospice. The inaugural Santa Fun Run brought a healthy glow and plenty of fun, and there was entertainment from groups as diverse as GraceNotes Acapella, St. Stephens School choir and Geraldine Lamb School of Dance. Thousands thronged on to Fore Street to shop at the Christmas market, search for clues in the Redeemer Church Treasure Hunt and revel in the festive community spirit. Hilary was keen to underline her grateful thanks to the volunteers who helped get the lanterns ready, as well as to the primary schools for their enthusiastic involvement, and Royal Navy Submarine Qualification for support as marshals.



## Ring Out Those Bells!



Photo Mike Pitches Photography

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## Budget. Save. Spend

Christmas is over, we're all facing a New Year and none of us knows what is going to come across our paths in 2022. Some things we can't control; others we can, at least to a certain extent, so let's talk about the future and money. Whether you have overspent – again - or whether you have big plans ahead of you, money affects us all.

If you are saying to yourself "If only I could manage my money a bit better, then..." maybe you could do with a few hints and tips to point you in the right direction. The CAP Money Course is exactly what you need. It will provide you with the tools to make the most of your money; even better, the principles will work to organise your finances whatever size income you have or how much you understand the financial world.

The CAP Money Course has been helping people to manage

their money since 2008. There are thousands of people not in debt today because of what they have learned and put into practice, so here's a flavour of what you can expect...

### Budget

The best way to manage your money well is to build and live on a budget. How? You'll have to book on a course, so keep reading!

### Save

The CAP Money system taught on the course will help you divide your money into a three-account system, simplifying the way you keep track of your finances. It may sound a little complicated but it's not really, it actually works and can help you to start saving for all those things you might have just dreamed of.

### Spend

What we all want to do! It might start off just living week to week and making small changes but, if you can live on money that's yours rather than those never-never credit cards, you can be in charge of your



Tim Squires Debt Centre Manager  
Christians Against Poverty Saltash  
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money rather than the other way round and gain control of saving and spending. The next Money Course starts at 7.30pm on 25th January and runs for 3 Tuesday evenings at Saltash Baptist Church. You can register for the course at [capmoney.org](http://capmoney.org) or email: [moneycourse@saltashbaptist.co.uk](mailto:moneycourse@saltashbaptist.co.uk) for more information. Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity with over 580 services across the country delivering debt counselling, money management education, job clubs, life skills groups and more. Visit [capuk.org](http://capuk.org) to find out more.

## Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 Informally, what word is used in Britain, for a Military policeman? (6)
- 2 In the Winnie the Pooh stories what was Piglets favourite food? (6)
- 3 In the Walt Disney film Snow White and the Seven Dwarves who is the only Dwarf that does not speak? (5)
- 4 In which County is Stanstead Airport found? (5)
- 5 Dogger Bank, the site of a Naval battle in 1916, lies in which Sea? (5)
- 6 In the Bible the Exodus refers to the departure of the Israelites from which Country? (5)
- 7 In rhyming slang what is a Tea Leaf? (5)
- 8 Which part of a Motor Vehicle is a Catalytic Converter fitted to? (7)
- 9 Which is the chief Port of the Netherlands? (9)
- 10 Which Country did Hitler's Army invade on September 1st, 1939? (7)

Answers on Page 7

## Life Time Achievement Award for Len

Saltash Town Youth Council presents Len Maddock with a Life Time Achievement Award in recognition of his outstanding service

At their recent AGM, the Saltash Town Youth Council awarded former Scout leader, Len Maddock with their highest recognition award. Len has been a volunteer Scout leader for most of his life.

His time as a Scout Leader started at the age of 18 at the 4th Devonport Scouts. In those days Scouts lost Leaders to National Service and Len was in a reserved occupation so carried on the role as Leader passing on the skills of self-improvement and helping others. Within five years Len was asked to take over a new Venture Scout Unit at HMS Drake which became Drake & Intrepid this was for lads of 16 years and up to 21. Learning new skills and rescue techniques for helping with the Dartmoor Recovery team. At the same time he was approached by the Welfare Office in the Dockyard to help and give instruction to the apprentices who wanted to join the Outward Bound Club, it was a fore runner to the Ten Tors.

By this time Len had moved to Saltash and was approached in 1972 to start up the 2nd Scout Troop. In the 2nd Saltash Group, they had three Cub Packs and only one Troop and they needed another Troop. This he stayed at as Leader for almost seven years, arranging trips to Austria and Switzerland and running local activities. During this time he was called to the Admiralty House in the Dockyard and was awarded the Civil Service ISM for his services to the Community.

The Scout Group was getting large, nine sections and he was asked to become their Group Scout Leader.

This became a time consuming post, overseeing the training of the leaders being the go between the parents and the leaders, finding ways to fit in the less abled youth, readjust accommodation for them, this also helped the rest of the Scouts to see how the less abled had to cope, but most of all seeing the youth making good progress in their Scouting life and having fun.

One more side step, in the nineties, Len got involved in the formation of the Saltash Town Youth Council, helping other youth groups get together to see if they could help one another with ideas and grants.

Eventually, the old Scout hall was too small for the



Len receiving his proud award from Don Berry (Chair of the Saltash Town Youth Council).

Scouting group and they were looking to expand, and went through all the planning tape and got turned down because they could not provide parking space. They ended up after years of looking for a new site at Latchbrook, starting by paying for rent with planning going on for a new build on site,

Len said: "With great thanks to our local Councillors at that time, that helped to fight for us and we got our 99 year lease.

"Throughout my Scouting time a lot of support to me was through my wife Sylvia, moreover, the leaders, parents and Councillors who had a great interest in the life of Scouting."

In 2015 Len received the Silver Wolf Award for services to Scouting of the most exceptional nature.

Len stood down as Group Scout Leader in 2019 but has carried on with a role on the Executive Committee of the Saltash Town Youth Council.

Don Berry Chairman of the Youth Council stated: "This most coveted award for Len, is so well deserved after half a century of service to young people in the Scouting family, the Youth Council is blessed to have outstanding volunteers such as Len within its midst."

Len concluded: "The Saltash Town Youth Council still put up with me on their Executive Committee; and I thank them for this proud award; it is a pleasure to be of service."

In 2020 Len had totalled up 50 years in Scouting Leadership.

## Saltash Old Cornwall Society

Returning to her Cornish roots to destress after living in London Kate Williams abandoned her former career and set up as a cleaning lady. How she built up her business covering much of Cornwall and part of Devon with six vans and around thirty staff formed an interesting story told to Saltash Old Cornwall Society under the title 'Keeping Cornwall Clean'. Some of her tales were amusing, others, including that of the gentleman suffering with cancer who had not allowed anyone into his home for fifteen years, showed what a vital function those such as her can fill.

She spoke of hoarders whose homes are stuffed with strange articles and of others whose homes appear immaculate when the cleaner arrives. A crime scene training course opened up new horizons as did a course in 'fogging' which proved vital during the pandemic. While the business has clearly become profitable Kate emphasised that to her what is important is the gratification and appreciation of her clients which gives her a job satisfaction unrealised before.

In his vote of thanks society secretary Martin Lister noted that Kate appears to combine the professions of cleaner, social worker, psychiatrist, forensic scientist and totally enjoys each one.

## Isambard House Wins Awards!

Saltash Town Council are pleased to announce that Isambard House, the recently refurbished Saltash station building has won two awards.

It was joint first winner for the Network Rail Community Award for its restoration of the station building from dereliction and won first prize from the National Railway Heritage Awards.

Isambard House is available to hire for community groups and private functions.

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# Tamar Reflections

## Saltash Royal Regatta

Like so many of our Saltash community volunteers over the years, I have volunteered many years serving the Saltash Regatta, during the 1980's and 1990's as general secretary and other practical roles, under the leadership of the late Sydney Harley and other officers such as the late Joan Worth, Norman Harrison, and Leslie Cox; and I am aware how much work goes into organising one of the most enjoyable and prestigious events on the Saltash Calendar.

During my years serving the Saltash Regatta, I wrote to the powers that be in London requesting that the Saltash Regatta be re-designated as the 'Saltash Royal Regatta,' as I was convinced there was a chance this could happen once again as it is recorded in the Saltash history books and periodicals.

During that time, I did a lot of research and learned so much about the history of the Saltash Regatta, some of which I would like to share with readers in Tamar Reflections, in two parts.

Historically, for many centuries, Saltash was a maritime town, with notable ships moored in the river estuaries. There were also watermen and women that used their little rowing boats to row produce to neighbouring markets and take passengers to work on the estuaries. So Saltash had its own inbred rowers, going back centuries.

Moreover, Saltash women were very dominant rowers both in their daily river work, but also as competitive water sports champions, in Saltash Regattas and further afield.

Accordingly, it was first

officially recorded that in 1835 there was a Saltash Regatta, but certainly there would have been Regattas before that date. The great men's crew in 1835 was known as 'Nonpariels.'

Before then, in 1824 Saltash ladies four with a cox won £8 at the Plymouth Regatta. In 1834 the ladies won £20 at the same Plymouth Regatta.

Most popular was the



acclaimed Saltash woman Ann Glanville and her crew, who in 1833 travelled to Le Harve, racing against Frenchmen. Ann and her crew entered as 'Les Anglaise Saltash' they won the race! The ladies competed wearing short white bed gowns with blue safeguards and blue favours tied in their white caps; quite racy considering it was prior to the Victorian period!

The highlight of the Saltash Regatta in 1909 was when H.R.H. Prince of Wales (later King George V) presented a trophy; open to men serving in the Navy, they rowed in twelve oared cutters. Naval personnel have always been supportive of the Saltash Regattas, even to this day.

During the First and Second World Wars the Regattas stopped and officially resumed again in 1963, there were a few

unsuccessful attempts to start the events earlier.

These days of the 21st Century (and many years previous), our Saltash Regattas are organised by volunteers and a committee made up of people from all walks of life; and due to the numerous visiting rowing and gig clubs has less emphasis on Naval Establishments and now also has an enhanced shore based approach to entertainment and involving the vast amount of supporters locally and visitors alike.

I have a newspaper cutting in our collection, promoting the 'Saltash Royal Regatta' dated June 22nd 1914 (just before the outbreak of WW1). The Patronage is astonishing, and the likes we would not see today! Not one woman amongst them either! Patrons such as..... Admiral Sir G. le Clerc Egerton, KCB. Commander-In Chief, Devonport. Rear- Admiral G.H.B. Mundy, M.V.O., H.M Dockyard, Devonport. Commodore T.D.L. Sheppard, M.V.O., H.M Royal Naval Barracks, Devonport. Captain F.H.S. Jackson, and Officers, H.M.S. Defiance. President: His Worship the Mayor of Saltash, G.J. Lockwood Lang, Esq., J.P.

The Committee in the same year being ..... Alfred Burden, Esq. (Chairman), Commander L.J.G. Anderson, Lieut-Commander, H.J.R. Trischler, Lieut. A.C.H. Duke, R.N., Lieut. C.E. Finlay, R.N.R. Asst. Paymaster C.E.G. Jeffreys, Messrs. C.W. Leader, T. Lean, H. Buteel, E. Bennetts, H. Goodman, J.A. Venn, Captain. Harkcom.

Entries needed to be sent to the Saltash Guildhall, where the Committee would sit. Post entries would be received from crews of ships arriving in port up to the morning of the Regatta! How interesting!

It is unclear when and why our Regatta was named 'Saltash Royal Regatta', or why it was stopped? As some of our historic records seem to differ, and in my next instalment, I will convey some of the ideas expressed in historic publications and notations.

I will also tell some wonderful stories of the races and winners' financial rewards - like first prize £1, second prize 10 shillings (50p today!).

The image depicts the winning crew in the Flash Gig Race (1923), at the 1923 'Saltash Royal Regatta.' The gig is the Beatrice, built in James Goss Shipyards at Calstock. In the background is the Training Ship Mount Edgecombe, and Saltash Steamers, Alexandra, Princes Royal, Albert and Empress.

Until the next time!  
"Fair Winds"  
Sue Hooper MBE

# Road Names Could Cause Confusion

The proposed names for the new development at Treleden have been submitted to the Town Council and received general approval. It was agreed that the main spine road from the new roundabout be named Treleden Way.

However, a small cul-de-sac called Long Meadow could cause confusion with Longmeadow Road within the town and it was suggested that this be changed. Similarly, a proposed Hawkins Park could be confused with Hawks Park at Latchbrook and it was suggested that this might be given another suffix such as Hawkins Close.

# Saltash Lions Club Celebrate Their Half Century Charter In Style

On November 27th the Lions Club of Saltash held their 50th Charter dinner in style within the newly refurbished Victorian Saltash Railway Station.

The Saltash Lions Club, have been established for over 50 years, and many fellow Lions attended to celebrate their outstanding achievement.

Lions came from Saltash, and further afield such as, Crewkerne, Torpoint, Plymouth, Looe and Callington, and enjoyed a magnificent buffet supplied by Gloria and Neil Challen of the Bullers Arms of Landrake.

The successful event was attended by Saltash Deputy

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# Solidarity Walk – A Mark of Respect



On 25th November, the day designated by the United Nations as the International Day for the

Elimination of Violence Against Women, a group of Saltash residents, connected by the wish to remember

female victims of crime, walked together in solidarity across the Tamar Bridge.

Organiser Karen Lilley wanted to remember victims like Sarah Everard and Bobbi Anne McLeod. She was supported by friends ranging from Aaron Monk at Diverse Events, who volunteered to co-ordinate the logistics, to Nicky from Nicky's Glow Beads, who donated orange bracelets for the walkers.

Together, they showed solidarity as a mark of respect, kindness and support for each other and for victims locally and nationally. They also raised money for the Primrose Foundation, the breast care charity based in University Hospitals Plymouth.



Lion President Jim Virgo (left) presenting the gifts to the Deputy Mayor (right)

Mayor Councillor Richard Bickford and the Deputy Mayoress Mrs Sarah Bickford, the civic pair was accompanied by the Lions Club Vice District Governor Lesley Chudley; both gave excellent speeches.

Enhancing the evening proceedings was local composer and vocalist Florence Hope, who sang songs from the Musicals to an appreciative audience.

Saltash Lion President Jim Virgo gave thanks to Lion Neil Challen, Lion Mark Fox and Town Councillor and Saltash Lion Gloria Challen.

Lion President also presented the Lions Banner and a framed print to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Richard Bickford.

The Saltash Lions Club is affiliated to the International body of Lions, whose motto is "We Serve." And its Mission Statement is: "To empower Lions clubs, volunteers, and partners to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian services and grants that impact lives globally, and encourage peace and international understanding.

For further information on the work of Saltash Lions, check out their Face Book pages.



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# Walking in a Window Wanderland

For a second year, windows in shops, schools and homes were decorated using tissue paper and creativity, and the streets of Saltash became an outdoor art gallery.

All four Saltash primary schools merrily took part in the Saltash Chamber of Commerce Window Wanderland event at the beginning of December, with children from Bishop Cornish School joining young people from Livewire in decorating windows in the Guildhall, children from Brunel and Burraton Schools creating stunning displays for Fore Street shops, and children from St Stephens School welcoming Stick Man with his Stick Lady Love onto the windows of their school. Brownies and Guides joined in, too, decorating the windows of their Headquarters on Warfelton Green with jolly Christmas images.

Children from Burraton and Brunel schools proudly showed off their artwork when the Mayor of Saltash and the Chair of the Chamber of Commerce hosted a Window Wanderland Walkabout attended by the Lord Mayor of Plymouth and her Consort as well as the Mayor of Launceston and councillors from Saltash Town Council.

The walkabout took the Mayoral party to the Christmas Tree Festival in the Church of St. Nicholas and St. Faith, where there were gasps of admiration for the 74 trees on display, and finished in the gloriously restored Station Building, now named Isambard House.

Everyone on the Window Wanderland Walkabout took home happy memories of the creative community spirit in Saltash.



Photo Mary Crawford

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## Saltash is Safer from Crime – But Drug Use Increased

Saltash's crime rate is low compared with the rest of Cornwall, with offences of violence with injury having fallen by 13% over the last year. This was the good news presented to the town council by Safer Saltash.

However there had been an increase in drug possession and complaints of anti-social behaviour – the latter being largely neighbour disputes over such issues as noise. Alarmingly there had been nine cases involving possession of illegal weapons.

Priorities for Safer Saltash during 2022, it was stated, would include drug use, and ASBO's, especially on the Waterside area. Anti-Social Behaviour Orders given out had increased by 18% over the last year.

Other priorities to be addressed would include suicide attempts, domestic violence and especially, following national concern, violence against women and girls.

### Observer Telephone Numbers

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