

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

*Your only truly "local" newspaper ...*

February 2017 - Issue 299

Established 24 years

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

## Hopper Bus Trips

February - March 2017

Sun 19th February

### Sunday Lunch Who'd Have Thought It

11.30am – 4.30pm £4.00

Tuesday 21st February

### National Trust Cotehele

2pm-5pm £4.00

Tuesday 28th February

### Agatha Christie's Greenway (National Trust)

### A woodland walk with the Gardeners to see all their Spring flowers

10.00am – 4pm £8.00

Saturday 4th March

### National Trust Lanhydrock

### PL Free entry weekend Bring proof of postcode

10am-5pm Price £6.50

Sunday 5th March

### Sunday Lunch at Dartmoor Lodge Ashburton

10am-5pm Price £6.00

Trelawny Shout at

### "Who'd Have Thought It"

### Relax enjoy and sing Trelawny in true Cornish style

7.30pm – 10pm Price £4.00

Tuesday 14th March

### Stroll at Kingsbridge, then a "Fishy" Lunch at Torcross & on to Dartmouth

10.00am-6pm £10.00

Sunday 19th March

### Cotehele Daffodil Day

2pm-5pm £4.00

Sunday 16th April

### Easter Sunday Lunch at Whitsand Bay Hotel

11.30am to 5pm £5.00

All prices are exclusive of food, drink and admission

Pick up and drop off around Saltash; times are at 4 Fore Street

All trips going West on A38 can stop at Tideford and Landrake

Book over the phone or at 4 Fore Street

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### New Bus Service - Saltash to Derriford

The new direct Saltash to Derriford

Hopper Bus service now in operation offering a quick and direct service between the town and hospital throughout the day

Buses available from:

Pilmere, Ploughboy, Fire Station, Church Rd, St Stephens Rd and Fore St

Leave Fore St (bottom) 6.45am, 07.38, 8.20  
11.25 13.25, 15.45, 16.45 & 19.00pm

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For **SALTASHCARD** holders only – cards available from the Community Market at 4 Fore Street

For more information, book seats and buy tickets Contact: [hopper@communityenterprisespl12.co.uk](mailto:hopper@communityenterprisespl12.co.uk)

**Tel 01752 848 348 or 07905 795256,**  
or call in to the Community Market at 4 Fore Street (Wed- Sat).



## Shock Hospital Closure Puts Strain on Surgeries

The closure of all the wards at St. Barnabas Hospital has followed the unexpected closure of the hospitals minor injuries unit as reported last month. With just the outpatient clinics in operation and no date given for any prospective re-opening the whole future of our town's community hospital is in doubt, Town Councillors agreed.

In December, the Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust closed the minor injuries unit, citing staffing problems, in order to consolidate existing staff on the wards. The trust explained that between August and November 2016 the average attendances with minor injuries were 42 per month. This compared with 1023 per month at Liskeard which is open for considerably

longer hours (8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily) and has x-ray facilities which Saltash lacks.

Saltash Town Councillors considered that the contrast in patient numbers was not a fair comparison given the limited hours and limited facilities at St. Barnabas and the fact that as it has previously closed and re-opened prospective patients are uncertain as to its availability.

Now, the Health Trust has advised it has been decided to 'temporarily' consolidate nursing resources from St. Barnabas onto one site at Liskeard Hospital for three months while further recruitment efforts continue. 'Both Liskeard and Saltash hospitals have suffered problems recruiting registered nurses.

This closure of the minor injuries unit at St. Barnabas is putting additional pressure on

local surgeries, Saltash GP Dr. B Morris told the council. 'Dealing with minor injuries is not our remit' she explained. To do this work in a proper manner the surgery would require x-ray and other additional facilities as well as a trained staff including an emergency care nurse and radiographer. Saltash Health Centre had asked if they could take over the role of a minor injuries unit with appropriate funding but had been told 'no'.

'Saltash residents and those of the area deserve an improved service, not a closed one' Town Councillor Richard Bickford told the Health Trust in a letter of reply. 'It is important that the closure of the ward and minor injuries unit is temporary and very short term'.

He is also seeking that when it re-opens provides the same x-ray facilities as Liskeard and is open for similarly long hours, and that full publicity be given to its re-opening.

He also accuses the health trust of 'a poor attempt to close the hospital by the back door', adding, 'I actually do not believe that the closure will be temporary and that you probably will never bring either in-patient beds or the minor injuries unit back into operation.'

Meanwhile the Town Council agreed to write strongly to the Health Trust, and to seek the support of Sheryll Murray MP in assuring the retention of full hospital services. A petition and a dedicated facebook page, in conjunction with the Friends of St. Barnabas Hospital were also agreed upon.

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## STOP PRESS:

Following the closure of Crocodon Produce Market

We are pleased to announce a new Regular Food Market at no 4 Fore Street With many of the Crocodon food producers!

**Third Saturday of the Month**  
**First Market on Sat 18th February, 10am till 2pm**

Locally sourced Meats, Baked Goods, Fruit & Veg  
Apple Juice, Chocolates, Fish oils & more...

**Don't forget** – our regular food market on the 1st Friday of each month is still going strong!

**For more information**  
Call in at 4 Fore Street or phone: 01752 848348



## Hopper Bus Derriford Link

The new Saltash to Derriford Hopper Bus now makes 16 trips a day between the town and hospital, cutting bus journey times from one and a half hours down to around 20 minutes. The new link has been welcomed by passengers, who have struggled with a poor indirect public bus service.

Derriford patients, visitors and staff are now being challenged – use the new bus and prove it can be self-financing. "Its future depends entirely on its use," says Mike Finch, Community Enterprises PL12 Hopper Bus director.

"Support the bus service and keep this vital hospital link on the road" he added.

Get more information and book through the Community Market at 4 Fore Street.

County champions, having been unbeaten in the 2016 season.

Steve is held in very high esteem throughout the Gig Rowing community, and has been involved in developing coaching material for a fixed seat qualification as well as delivering technique workshops for other clubs. New clubs and coaches come to Steve for advice & he has always been open to sharing his experience to support the development of others. He was also a very successful 'CRA' rower in the 80s and 90s, as is president of the association – who row flashboats and skiffs.

Steve also puts in a huge amount of time off the water, maintaining the clubs wooden gigs, running regattas and supporting the development of other club members. His passion for rowing is infectious and there is no doubt he has inspired many people to stay involved in the sport.

People involved in rowing across the South West have been showing their support for Steve on the Gig Clubs facebook page, suggesting recognition is 'long overdue' and 'very much deserved'. <http://www.caradongigclub.com/>

## A Festive FROST for February

The first FROST (Festive Representatives of Saltash Town) meeting of 2017 will be held on Friday 24th February at the Saltash Guildhall. The meeting is to discuss last year's Christmas Festival and to form a new team to plan this year's Saltash Christmas Festival.

"Everyone is welcome! The more the merrier," Matt Coot, who has organised the meeting, wants to encourage as many people as possible to attend. "There will be free tea and coffee, and there might also be some homemade mince pies to enjoy, so make sure you come along to have your say and to get involved."

Any questions and queries about the meeting should be emailed to Cllr Matt Coot (m.coott@saltash.gov.uk). There is also an event page on Facebook, which can be found on the Saltash Christmas Festival page.

## Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland...Keeping Us Updated

Cornwall Council appear to have realised the fragility of the high street economy and have decided to review again their proposed increases in car parking charges. I believe it was the concerted response to the consultation from all concerned that resulted in this backtrack.

Over the last few weeks it has come to my attention that many people of PL12 were not aware that you can park in Saltash car parks free for two hours. If you shop in the shops in the town centre that give the discount you can get the cost of the 2 hour parking (£1.60) deducted from the cost of your purchase. So, even if you only think that 1 hour parking is enough why not buy a two hour ticket and dwell in the town looking in other shops or having a coffee. Don't forget there are not only shops in Fore Street but also in Keast Mews, The Courtyard and Lower Fore Street, Culver Road and Wesley Road. The town centre has a lot to offer and with 2 hours free parking and discounts with the Saltash Card isn't it worth visiting?

Did you know that there is now a regular bus service to

Derriford. The Hopper Bus is trialling a service to take travellers straight to Derriford so if you work or have an appointment in Outpatients or are visiting somebody in hospital and have a Saltash Card you can use this service. Find out more at the Community Market at No. 4 Fore Street or on the community enterprise website.

Other matters that are concerning the Chamber include that business premises have had their rateable values re-assessed and this will, in many instances, result in business paying more rates. The Chamber is prepared to assist any business which feels that the increased assessment is excessive.

We are also keeping our eyes on what is happening with the site that was going to be a Tesco, adjacent to Carkeel roundabout. The site is on the market and, at the time of writing this article, there are, reputably, several companies interested therein with talk of a drive-through, hotel and public house. The Chamber will monitor what eventually is proposed to ensure the minimum impact on our members. Of course, any proposal contrary to previous consents will need planning consent.

Life as Chairman of the Chamber can be stressed at times but the belief that businesses in Saltash are worth representing is the driving force.

## Affordable Housing in Saltash – Land South of Fairway

My Colleges and I are always very supportive of opportunities to get planning for affordable houses in Saltash as we all know there is a very great need here with a total of 400 names on the Home Choice Register waiting for a council accommodation.

The development south of Fairway, otherwise known as Bearblock's Field, is now coming on well and when complete (Aug/Sept 2017) there will be 36 houses - 100% affordable.

It has come to my attention that there is a rumour going around the town (and it is only a rumour which needs to be nipped in the bud) that some of the affordable housing is being given to residents in Birmingham or Manchester. This I can categorically state is totally untrue! To confirm this I have contacted our affordable housing team at CC and their reply was as follows: - "As discussed please accept our assurances that neither the Council nor Westward Housing will be mass-allocating these properties to households relocating from Birmingham. I have attached the scheme s.106 agreement which sets out the local connection criteria which gives priority in the first instance to households with a local connection to Saltash then the wider county (Cornish connection) – which is our standard Town approach".

I have a copy of the S106 agreement - if anyone wishes to read it contact me on 01752 844666

Having got that out of my system I can now get onto the more interesting side and reiterate to you all how you

can apply for an affordable home, whether it be for rent or purchase.

### For Rental

The first step is to contact "Cornwall Home Choice"

1 The magazine is available at the Saltash One Stop shop in the Library or

2 You can get all the information you need on line [www.cornwallhomechoice.org.uk](http://www.cornwallhomechoice.org.uk)

3 Or you can ring for an appointment in Luxstowe House Liskeard and talk it through with a housing officer Tel 0300 1234 161 office hours 9am to 5pm

Once you have done the necessary paperwork and registered your interest then your forms will be sent in for assessment of your needs to make sure your situation fits with the Council criteria. After being accepted it is worthwhile keeping a check on the magazine (it is updated on a weekly basis on Thursdays). If you are particularly interested in the new builds at land south of Fairway the council will then send an S106 form to Westward Housing (Developers) who will then add you to the list.

### For Shared Ownership

The first step here is to go on the "Help to Buy SW" website

[www.helptobuysw.org.uk](http://www.helptobuysw.org.uk).

The main thing here is timing. As mentioned previously the development will be finished in Aug/Sept 2017 so it is important that you allow 12 weeks for the application to go through the Westward Housing procedures which means you ought to have your application in May 17.

Good luck in finding your new affordable house, please let me know how you get on, or indeed if you found the system good to use or not.

### NHS/Social Care

I am wondering what your thoughts are on the state of our current National Health Service? I have been to



CORNWALL COUNCIL & our PL12 Community For: February 2017 Observer From: Councillor Bob Austin, West Ward, Saltash Email: baustin@cornwall.gov.uk



## Stop Press – New Market @ 4 Fore Street

A market like Crockadon will be open on the 3rd Saturday of every month starting on 18 Feb at 4 Fore Street. Stalls will include butcher, fish, pies, cakes, cheese, chocolatier, apple juice all provided by local producers. Don't forget if you have a two-hour parking ticket you can get that refunded by the shop provided you spend more than £5. This is being funded by the S106 scheme.

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several meetings recently about the new STP proposals

and how the NHS is going to work closer with social services. One was with our MP Sheryll Murray and other Cornwall Councillors and the other I chaired at the Guildhall, where we met various high ranking medical staff from the NHS and Cornwall Council and I must say I am totally confused with it all. Admittedly this is still very early days so there is a long way to go but with so little money to spend on it. My thoughts are thus - this government has asked Cornwall Council to pilot a scheme to link the NHS and social care, which we are doing, but there is no money on the table to prove the success. So, come on Cornish MP's, don't bury your heads in the sand like the rest of the Conservatives. Lets get this show on the road with investment, fight for your county health service now and get some more investment - it will not happen otherwise. I believe, and tell me if I am wrong, that we as a country should invest more in our health system. Our National Insurance should go up to whatever it takes to run the health service how we would like to see it. We seem to be held to ransom, where all the politicians with any power are refusing to budge on this - why?

Whilst writing this piece I was reminded that St Barnabas Hospital is now closing its ward so the nursing staff can be transferred to Liskeard Hospital because of staff shortages (a nationwide problem). Is this the thin edge of the wedge? No one can say! The only thing they are saying is that this has nothing to do with the STP consultations.

### Community Interest Co (CIC) - Hopper Bus Derriford

This is a community transport service available to members of Community Enterprises PL12. To become a member, you need to purchase a SALTASHCARD (£2). This is a local discount shopping card as well and available at the Community enterprise shop at 4 Fore Street.

Buses will operate on demand from central Saltash locations throughout the day. Currently the first bus leaves Fore Street at 06.45am to meet the needs of early shift workers; the last bus leaves the Derriford site at 20.15. These services are for all visitors to Derriford not just the staff, so please ring the shop 01752 848348 for more details.

Journeys should be booked in advance and fares are as follows:

Single: £2.50, Return: £4.50. Passengers can save money and buy a book of 10 @ £20.00

## Mayoral Matters...



There is plenty to love about the refurbished, swanky Co-op on Fore Street, emerging after a £700,000 refit. It has a wider range of refrigerated stock, for example, and donations are being made to Saltash charities (currently: Livewire,

St. Barnabas League of Friends and the Blind and Partially Sighted Society). But let me focus here on 2 particular aspects.

First: isn't the open space by the entrance doors wonderful? OK – so it makes it harder to pop in for a quick shop because you end up chatting with people there. The Bookshelf, for example, runs many themed events (wasn't 'Allo 'Allo glorious?); Truly Scrumptious hosts children's parties; Sue and Geoff at Petit Pain have raised huge amounts of money for local charities over the years; and 4 Fore Street, which is home to a bustling general market from Thursday to Saturday, hosts the Dementia Café on Tuesdays from 10am to 1pm. 4 Fore Street is also home to a Local Food Market on the first Friday of each month –

Yes: shopping locally is a

powerful tool in building community. As well as the casual chats, there is also a wide range of events and projects hosted in our local shops, benefitting a wide range of people and charities.

The Bookshelf, for example, runs many themed events (wasn't 'Allo 'Allo glorious?); Truly Scrumptious hosts children's parties; Sue and Geoff at Petit Pain have raised huge amounts of money for local charities over the years; and 4 Fore Street, which is home to a bustling general market from Thursday to Saturday, hosts the Dementia Café on Tuesdays from 10am to 1pm. 4 Fore Street is also home to a Local Food Market on the first Friday of each month –

These are all important economic reasons, but shopping locally also helps shape the character of our town. Jennifer's Coffee Shop is a case in point. It also looks very swanky after a stunning refit, which adds greatly to the ambience of Fore Street. The new-look shop is a gift to the town. Thanks, Jennifer! Independent retailers help give our community a distinct personality, as well as encouraging local talent and local entrepreneurs – just look at the wide range of crafty local talent that is being promoted in shops like Driftwood in Keast Mews and the Pop-up Shop on Fore Street!

Oh dear – I've used up so many words promoting the virtues of shopping locally that I've only just got enough room to tell you about the other aspect I particularly love about the newly refurbished Co-op: the aisles are now wide enough to dance in!

Hilary Frank  
Mayor of Saltash

### Disabled Passengers Barred from Station

**D**isabled passengers are no longer able to take advantage of the increased number of trains stopping at Saltash bound for Plymouth, Exeter and beyond.

There has always been a difficulty in boarding and alighting at the 'up' (Plymouth bound) platform due to the extreme difference in height of the platform and the train doors.

This has however always been overcome by an onboard ramp carried on each train and which the conductor has lowered to assist less able passenger in using the train service.

However First Great Western are no longer able to access this service, Richard Bickford of Saltash Train Users Group told the Observer. The reason cited is 'Health and Safety'.

This, therefore, will effectively bar the less able and many elderly passengers from using the train service from Saltash.

### Town Opposed to Evening Parking Fee

A parking charge between 4 p.m. and 11.30 p.m., when parking in Saltash is currently free, has been proposed by Cornwall Council.

This proposed charge would be harmful to the town's night time trading, especially in view of Saltash's fragile shopping economy and the effect on it from neighbouring Plymouth's shops, Town Councillors agreed. It would discourage in particular the many Saltash residents who call in to shop in the town on the way home from work.

It was agreed that the Town Council oppose this, and that it also oppose the suggested increase in the minimum short term parking charge during the day from fifty to seventy pence for up to an hour. The town's Chamber of Commerce had already objected to this on behalf of local traders.

Following numerous objections Cornwall Council has deferred a decision on the proposed parking charge until later this year.

### Thank you

We would like to thank everyone for their kind words and continuing support. We really can't thank people enough and would like to assure you that your messages, cards and letters have really helped us as we come to terms with Christopher's tragic death. It is a comfort to know that he was so well loved and respected by so many people. We have always been proud of Christopher and the inspiring young man he had become. Since his death, it has become even clearer to us how his kindness and generosity of spirit has touched so many lives.

We would particularly like to thank Pengellys Funeral Directors for their professional yet caring service; the committees for May fair, Regatta and Christmas lights for their amazing traffic cone floral tribute – very fitting; our friends and colleagues, the ATC for their support for our family and the guard of honour at the church service and Nick Stafford for his moving, yet amusing, tribute (Christopher would have enjoyed listening to your anecdotes). Finally, last but definitely not least we would like to thank absolutely everyone who attended the service in celebration of Christopher's short yet full life.

Chris and Eva Tandy

### Observer Telephone Numbers

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Sat 4th Sugar Thieves (Bar)

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Fri 17th March (St Patric's Day) Josh Taylor

Fri 31st March Josh Taylor

Check our website for more information Telephone 01752 845888 or E: [info@thecardinals-hatt.co.uk](mailto:info@thecardinals-hatt.co.uk) W: [www.thecardinals-hatt.co.uk](http://www.thecardinals-hatt.co.uk) Callington Road Hatt Saltash PL12 6PJ

# Life Saving Cancer Equipment Unveiled... We Really Did Help to Make a Difference!

Mens health care in the South West of England took a giant leap forward with the unveiling of the latest in technology designed to speedily diagnose the most common form of cancer in men.

We were proud to attend the unveiling at Derriford Hospital of the Ultrasound-MRI Fusion for Targeted Diagnosis of Prostate Cancer on behalf of our generous Saltash readership who last year joined us in raising £12,000 (half of which went) towards the £105,000 cost of this equipment.

Our reporter Martin Lister joined with the region's media to hear Consultant Urologist and Trustee of the Chestnut Appeal Paul Hunter – Campbell explain how this equipment puts Plymouth in the national forefront of prostate cancer treatment. Unlike other cancers, he explained, there was previously no way of diagnosis other than the random insertion of a number of needles to seek out the cancerous cells. The new equipment will use ultrasound to provide precise and speedy targeting maximising the chance of detecting significant prostate cancer with less side effects and hastening the treatment which

## SALTASH U3A

Despite the bad weather, many members attended Saltash U3A's first meeting of 2017. The Guest Speaker – Michael Pikeathy – delivered a very entertaining talk on 'Living on a Nuclear Submarine'. With many years of first hand experience, he was clearly able to highlight the 'highs' and 'lows'.

He explained that in the 1970's and 80's there were two types of submarine – Polaris and Fleet – and on both, the Ships Company's objective was 'to maintain health and morale in a steel tube'

Living on a submarine there are 3 essential requirements: air, drinking water and food. A dangerous machine, the electrolyser, splits fresh water, obtained from seawater, to provide oxygen but it needs a specialised engineer to operate it. Two crewmembers act as carbon dioxide scrubbers to clean the machine. Fresh water, therefore, needs to be used sensibly. Food has special significance since breaks can't be taken up on deck, but fresh food will only last for between one and four weeks and reliance then falls on tinned, frozen and dehydrated food.

The crew (100-125 on a Fleet submarine) have variable patrols from 8 to 10 to 14 weeks. There are 97 bunks (racks) and hot bunking is the 'norm'. With shifts of 6 hours on and 6 hours off the bunk is still warm when one crew member takes it over. Unbelievably sleeping bags are not cleaned for 8 weeks. Trainees have even worse sleeping conditions and recruits are no longer given the choice of whether they want to work on a submarine or not.

While members were sitting in shock Michael did

explain that hygiene and cleaning were very important on a submarine and at least uniforms are cleaned twice a week. It was reassuring that the slides illustrating the talk showed crew members all smiling.

## May Fair Grant Towards Increased Entertainment

The 2017 Saltash May Fair committee is seeking to offer an increased amount of popular entertainment acts and to introduce a professional stage for the performers. A request for a £3000 donation towards this was made to the town's festival fund.

After discussion the council's policy and resources committee agreed to support the application and fund up to £2000 on the basis that quotes be reviewed by the Mayor, Town Clerk and committee chairman prior to payment.

An application for £1000 towards the town's Music Speech and Drama Festival was recommended for refusal due to current surplus funds. However festival organisers were advised that any future application during the current financial year would be considered.

## Dementia Voice Open for Ex Armed Forces Personnel



Dementia Voice PL12 is proud to announce that, due to funding from Greenwich Hospital London, we have started a Veterans Group in Saltash. This is aimed at those who have served in the Armed Forces and are in anyway affected by Dementia.

The Venue will be the Community Market, 4 Fore Street Saltash. The Group will be held fortnightly on a Saturday from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm.

The Launch of this new project took place on 28 January 2017, which was thoroughly enjoyed by

all. The event was formally opened by Ms Minette Wright, representing Greenwich Hospital, and was attended by Councillor & Mayor Hilary Frank and her consort Mr Shojiro Frank, together with Lieutenant Commander Lynda Brown, Officer In Charge of Initial Training at HMS Raleigh, and representatives of local armed forces organisations and ex

service personnel who have been affected by dementia.

Following a toast by Lt COM Brown everyone spiced the mainbrace with a tot of rum and the cutting of a wonderful cake by Tony and Una Kidd.

An afternoon tea was then served; our thanks go to local businesses and individuals for all the lovely food that was donated.

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## Letter to The Editor...



Dear Editor,  
Re: Fire Fighters'  
Families Plead for War Memorial to Honour Their Sacrifice.

In January 2017 - Issue 298  
The St Stephen's Parish Magazine of December 1949 say (I paraphrase)

That 'although the names of those of St. Stephen's Parish who gave their lives in the last war will be included on the Saltash Borough War Memorial a variety of wishes had been expressed that their names should also be added to the existing Great World War Memorial in the Churchyard. This was considered by the Parochial Church Council and the principle approved.'

The St. Stephen's Parish Magazine of May 1951 says:

'The names of the men who fell during the war who belonged to the St. Stephen's Parish have been added to the War Memorial.'

St. Stephen's-by-Saltash Parish ceased to be a separate Local Authority Parish in 1934 and became a part of the

Borough of Saltash. The St. Stephen's Parish referred to above must have been the Church Parish, not the Local Authority Parish as in 1950 that had long since ceased to exist.

There are 88 names on the Saltash Borough War Memorial of these 29 were selected by the then St. Stephens Church PCC to go onto the side of the St. Stephen's Church Great World War Memorial because they 'belonged' to the St. Stephen's Church Parish – 59 were not seen as belonging to the St. Stephens Church Parish and they were not included.

I believe that there are many anomalies on 'our' local War Memorials that do need correcting: but before any names are added or corrected lots more research needs completing.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely  
Peter Clements Saltash

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# Charities Benefit as Store Re-Opens



Two local charities joined in celebrating a refurbishment and re-opening of a Fore Street store. Weatherhead, the company that carried out the work on the Saltash Co-op marked its completion by donating £350 to two local causes.

A cheque for £250 was gratefully accepted by Sue Hooper MBE on behalf of the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation. The foundation offers financial support for young people who are talented in the performing arts, enabling them to improve and practice their talents.

Miss Ursula Davey received a cheque for £100 donated to the Cecily Baker Trust. Founded by a former Saltash District nurse, the trust provides on loan a wide variety of medical equipment for those in need.

Phil Johns, contract manager for Weatherhead explained, 'We always like to make donations to local charities on completion of a project. Being based at Lee Mill we were delighted to be involved in a local refurbishment and to help support two such excellent local causes.'

## Mayoral Matters - St. Barnabas

Councillors were stunned to learn that the Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust had decided to close the beds and the Minor Injuries Unit at St. Barnabas Hospital for 3 months from February. Their reasoning? So that nurses from St. Barnabas can be temporarily redeployed to Liskeard to help cope with the shortage of nurses there.

For more than a year there have been warnings of nursing shortages. In July last year, for example, the Institute for Employment Studies revealed that 93% of the 137 NHS Trusts they had surveyed were saying they did not have enough nurses. Nursing is physically hard and emotionally draining, and the pay nurses receive is low. I pay tribute, humble tribute, to the many residents of Saltash who are nurses. Thank you for being nurses, and for continuing to be nurses despite the current conditions.

Although I understand the reasoning behind the temporary redeployment of nurses, I am still utterly frustrated that the needs of Saltash residents are being neglected. Historically, health care provision has favoured the Liskeard area over Saltash, and these temporary closures at St Barnabas will only exacerbate that imbalance. Let's not forget that Saltash is one third bigger than Liskeard – and that's before houses are built on Broadmoor! I cannot accept that a Cornish town of our

size should be deprived of such vital services. Other town councillors find this situation unacceptable, too, and at the town council meeting on 2nd February unanimously demanded that as Mayor I protest vociferously.

So there I was in our kitchen the following afternoon with thoughts of health care provision in Saltash swirling in my head, re-reading the consultative documents from the Sustainability and Transformation Plan, drafting a petition, drafting letters. I heard our car pull up. I heard a scream. Our eldest daughter had crushed her thumb in the car door. Our daughters have always been supportive of Mayoral tasks, but little did I expect Darling Daughter E to go above and beyond the call of duty and lead me on a tour of local emergency care facilities. We could see the blood weeping from under her nail, but the X-Ray also revealed broken bones, so we got referred to Derriford Hospital. We arrived at A&E, bedraggled, at 7:30. 'It's busy tonight', the receptionist said. 'We've just been told that the Cumberland Centre has had to close their doors because they can't cope with the patient volume.' A&E was definitely busy: we didn't get home until 10pm. Without a fully-functioning Minor Injuries Unit in Saltash there will certainly be a negative impact on both Derriford and the Cumberland Centre.

One of the stated aims of the Sustainability and Transformation Plan is: 'Improve the quality of local health and care services'. If the Plan is to deliver on this aim in Saltash, then because of the size of the town, because of the impact on Derriford Hospital and because of the poor transport infrastructure in this part of Cornwall, it is abundantly clear that Saltash needs a fully-functioning MIU with X-ray, ultrasound and other diagnostics. We should all be making our voices heard loud and clear that we will accept nothing less from the Sustainability and Transformation Plan. The Town Council urges you sign the petition (available at the Guildhall), which also calls for the urgent reopening of wards in St. Barnabas Hospital, another vital service that St. Barnabas provides to the town. Come along to the Coffee Morning hosted by the League of Friends of St. Barnabas at the Guildhall between 10am and 12 noon on 18th March to show your support.

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## Medieval Home Needs Renovation

The property known as Mary Newman's Cottage is in need of work to stabilise the first floor ceilings, and the Tamar Protection Society has sought listed building consent for the works to be carried out.

While the building's connection with Sir Francis Drake's first wife is dubious the cottage, which is open to the public as part of the Saltash Trail, is a rare and well preserved example of a medieval town house.

The Town Council recommended approval for the stabilisation work enlargement of the roof hatch and general remedial work including external work upon the central front chimney stack.

## Short Story Writers Sought for Community Competition

Local writers have the opportunity to have their work recognised as a new national writing competition is launched in Saltash. The Saltash Short Story Competition is open to adults and children in three different age categories and is already drawing the attention of the country's bestselling writing journal 'Writing Magazine' which is carrying a feature on it.

'We are looking for spectacular short stories that show a true creative talent in telling a story about community', say Matt Coot, the creative mind behind it, who has worked with the May Fair Committee to set up the competition.

Children, teenagers and adults are all encouraged to enter in their own category with a story of up to a thousand words on the theme of 'community'. The deadline is 31st March and winners will be announced at the May Fair.

Full information can be obtained by e-mailing matt@rallidae productions.co.uk

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If you are interested to find out a bit more about what I have in mind drop me an email or text:  
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## Conundrum Corner

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

1 Who is the Captain of the Whaling Ship in Moby Dick? (4)

2 The Lace Market is an historic area in which English City? (10)

3 What did Yankee Doodle name the feather he stuck in his cap? (8)

4 In which Country did the Boxer Rebellion of 1900 take place? (5)

5 Which is the only large mammal that can kneel on all fours? (8)

6 What word means both a Bird and the material used for Flags? (7)

7 What term is used for the edible parts of an animal such as the Heart, Liver and Tongue? (5)

8 What word is traditionally muttered repeatedly to simulate conversation by actors on stage? (7)

Answers on Page 8

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## Proper Cornish Tribute to Museum Volunteers

Cornish music and pasties were enjoyed by those of the sixty-three volunteer museum stewards who attended the annual Saltash Heritage party organised to thank them for the hours they contribute in the museum.

the 'Burton Boys'.

More volunteers are always welcome and are given full training. They always serve in pairs so are never alone in the museum. Anyone willing to offer time, from just a couple of hours a month or more is invited to contact the secretary on 01752 847800.

## Surfing the Net Display at Roundabout

A stainless steel structure portraying fishing net with a surfboard riding on it is the latest suggestion put forward as a potential display in the centre of Carkeel roundabout.

It is intended to welcome visitors to Cornwall with a sculpture symbolic of the county. A previous suggestion was a mock-up of a gig rowing boat, another was a mining engine house.

The fishing net could have LGD lighting and carry such messages as 'Merry Christmas', County Councillor Bob Austin told the Town Council. He added that a later suggestion substituted a fishing boat for a surfboard on top of the net.

The final decision as to which, if any, erection will be chosen will rest with Highways England who are also likely to expect the town to pay for it.

## SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



Last year the British people voted to leave the European Union. People voted for change and for an opportunity to shape the country's future. And, last month the Prime Minister set out her plan to deliver exactly that.

We want to build on this success and that means getting the right deal abroad to ensure that we get a better deal for hardworking ordinary people.

The Prime Minister has been clear we will remain a good friend and neighbour to Europe - and that means pursuing a bold and ambitious Free Trade Agreement with the European Union. But we also want to be able to strike trade deals with other countries. This offers fantastic opportunities for our towns and villages here in South East Cornwall.

I am disappointed that the Liberal Democrat/Independent administration at Cornwall Council seem to want to press on with European Union related projects as if the Referendum never happened on the 23 June last year. They want Cornwall to be the European Capital of Culture in 2023 and are going to put money behind this bid.

This is a European Commission designation which is part of the EU which we will no longer be in. The handout on Capitals of culture makes it very clear it is a city designation. Indeed they "will show how arts, culture and the creative sector can help us to rethink and shape our basic social, urban, cultural and economic patterns of behaviour". I would hardly describe Cornwall as Urban.

This is just another vanity project. This money could surely be better spent on care of our elderly, keeping public toilets open, libraries or indeed promoting Cornwall to tourists. ie what a Council is supposed to be doing. This rather than spending vast amounts of time, money and resource on a project which we are likely not to be even eligible for. I hope our Councillors will rethink this waste of money.

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## A Matter of Honour

Cornwall has, over recent years, not been receiving its proper share in the New Year and Queen's Birthday honours list, it has been observed. This, suggested Rear Admiral Mark Wood, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, might be because as a rural and thinly populated county obtaining knowledge of those worthy of honours is less easy than in more densely populated areas.

The two annual honours lists total around eleven hundred names and of these around 650 are 'ordinary folk' working within the community, he told Saltash Town Council. The queen has personally asked that this proportion by increased.

Any nominations, he explained, are put to the cabinet office then referred to a subcommittee which makes its recommendation. A final list is put to Buckingham Palace where staff make the final recommendations to the monarch. It can take up to two years between nomination and award.

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## Awards Night Marks Successful Year for the Tamar Trotters

Simon Yeo and Rebecca Ezra have been honoured with the top awards at the Tamar Trotters Running Club's annual awards evening for 2017. After outstanding years, which saw Simon selected to represent the Cornwall cross-country squad and Rebecca being the first lady to finish in races across the South West, the pair were named the Male and Female Runners of the Year respectively.

The awards were held on Saturday 28th January in the stunning surroundings of Pentillie Castle, and were a celebration of the whole club's achievements over the past 12 months.

These have included numerous athletic and social

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successes, as well as the staging of the ever-popular Saltash Half Marathon and Magnificent Seven races in and around the town.

Alan Williams, Chairman of the Tamar Trotters, said: "The awards evening was a great way to celebrate our many successes of 2016 and to reward all the outstanding individual and club achievements. All our winners have earned their awards through a combination of hard work and

determination, while having fun at the same time. That is something we hope to build on over the next 12 months, with new training programmes and activities already proving a hit with our members old and new."

The full list of Tamar Trotters winning awards is as follows:

Male Runner of the Year: Simon Yeo; Most Improved Male: Matt Caves; Senior Male: James Blight; Male 35-39: Dave Tucker; Male 40-44: Pete Waumsley; Male 45-49: Paul Gregg; Male 50-54: Kevin Baskott; Male 55-59: Ian Ross; Male 60+: David Salvage.



Simon Yeo & Rebecca Ezra

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**Y**ou will be aware from the reports and columns elsewhere in this edition of the Observer of the closing of wards at St Barnabas for at least three months, as well as the continued closure of the Minor Injuries Unit, which had previously had only very limited hours since its reopening. The whole Town Council is united in its determination to have a full service restored at St Barnabas, and then to have a proper look at the best ways of maintaining a service in Saltash in the long-run.

Aside from the specific issue about Saltash's poor treatment on hospital facilities though, there is another aspect of this affairs which represents one of my biggest irritations in Politics – 'consultation' that isn't.

There were recently several meetings across Cornwall 'consulting' about the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) for Health Provision. At January's full council Mr Confue, Chief Executive of the Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, attended to talk about the future of health provision in Saltash, and naturally St Barnabas was discussed at length. During none of these meetings was any mention even made of a plan to close the wards for three months, let alone the council's or public's views sought on how to avoid such an event. In theory the ward closure is completely unconnected to the STP, and is due to the need to plug nursing gaps in Liskeard. However, the timing is at best very unfortunate and may lead people to doubt how much of a difference any public input will make to decisions about the future of St Barnabas.

'Consultation' is important in politics, because it should be a genuine opportunity for people to put across their views. They won't always get what they want, but there has to be at least a chance that their input will make a difference. On those rare occasions where something has to be done regardless of what people think then don't say that you are 'consulting'. Pretending to consult people and then doing

**BURRATON COMMUNITY PLAYERS  
PROGRAMME FOR 2017**

Burraton Community Players have announced their programme for 2017.

Saturday 25th February is the date set for the first event: -

**A Fun Quiz**

This annual occasion is always popular with teams in friendly competition for honour and insubstantial prizes!

Over the years the players have made a feature of their "murder mystery" evenings: blood-curdling plots, fantastic twists, dubious humour and a tasty supper. A new Murder Mystery evening with the working title,

"**MURDER BEHIND BARS!**" will be presented on Saturday 3rd June at Burraton Community Centre.

The group will break new ground with their 26th pantomime, "**THE CASE OF THE PURLOINED PANTOMIME**" which for the first time will be presented before Christmas rather than in January or February.

The original script, which may or may not pay homage to Conan Doyle, will be performed at Burraton Community Centre on 14th -15th & 16th December

The group is always looking for new members: -actors, singers, dancers, backstage helpers—the more the merrier and all ages from 10 to 100!

To find out more, call 01752 842109 OR see our Facebook page OR visit our website, [www.burratoncommunityplayers.co.uk](http://www.burratoncommunityplayers.co.uk)

**A new exciting dining experience is promised at**

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Liskeard Rd Saltash

*Mike & Joan welcome you to join them for great food and congenial company.*

### **Mother's Day**

**Sunday 26th March**

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**Book early to try our**

**New Sunday Carvery – choice of meats**

*With an imaginative array of seasonal fresh vegetables & Lesley's special home made Yorkshire Puddings*

**Adults £7.95 & Children 12yrs & under £5.95**

**Enjoy a Sunday Lunch with family and friends**

\*\*\*\*\*

*The Ploughboy is available as a Venue for Quiz Nights & Charity Events (See Mike & Joan for further details)*

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**Gluten Free & Vegetarian selection available**

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*And all enquires...book early to avoid disappointment!  
Bookings advisable*

## **Bridging the Tamar Showcased in New Centre by Bridge**

**T**he full and fascinating history behind the building of our two iconic bridges will be on display in a project 'Bridging the Tamar' to be mounted overlooking the river and Saltash.

A new centre will be created to showcase the history of the bridges as part of the restructured Tamar Bridge offices adjacent to the car park on the Devon side of the river. The replacement of the existing offices, intended as only temporary when erected at the opening of the road bridge, is long overdue and as a result of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £37,000 the new building can include a public display of archive material as well as information on the present structure. This it is hoped will be of interest to local residents as well as a visitor attraction, encouraging tourists to stop, visit the centre overlooking the two bridges, and then perhaps walk across the road bridge and visit Saltash.

Both bridges were considered pioneering engineering achievements of their era and are well known internationally, the Tamar road bridge having been the longest suspension bridge in Britain at the time of its construction.

## **New Industrial Estate Given Planning Permission**

A development for ten new industrial units with associated roads and parking has been given the go-ahead by Cornwall Council.

Saltash Town Council had previously recommended refusal for the plans on the site to the east of the Callington Road at Carkeel, beyond the existing industrial units. Local councillors had expressed concern at the increase on traffic pressure at the nearby roundabout as well as at increased noise and light pollution. However Cornwall Council's Planning Officer over-ruled these objections and Town Councillors agreed to accept the officer's position and approve the application subject to conditions.

## **Lottie Summed it Up...**

**"Whole Experience of BETT was a Once in a Lifetime"...**



Pictured: "DJ" Hollie

**M**inisters from a number of countries in attendance at the annual BETT Show in London were given the expert opinions of Year 7 and Year 9 students from the Saltash Multi Academy Regional Trust (SMART). The BETT (British Educational Training and Technology) show, which took place at ExCeL London, is the largest exhibition in the world that focuses on the role of technology in education. Members of the Multi Academy Trust attended for the second year running, following the visit of saltash.net and Landulph students in 2016.

Students from Liskeard, Looe and saltash.net gave a confident and informed performance, with the Romanian Ambassador to London describing their presentation as, "an amazing demonstration of how much education has changed and how much we need to catch up as adults."

He described the experience of being presented with a business card by Holly from the Tech Team in Year 7 as, "truly remarkable".

Technology company Siveco had visited saltash.net earlier in the year, meeting the students. They

were so impressed they agreed to cover the total cost of the trip. As lead programmer Marius put it, "a wider audience needs to see how skilled these guys are."

Morgan from Looe stole the limelight in the Q and A session by explaining why children are in such a good position to deal with technological change.

"We have grown up expecting change, we see it as essential and part of everyday life. Apps change and children have learned the skills to adapt where adults may not have these skills," he said.

James from Liskeard impressed the audience when he explained the work he had done leading discussions with primary children from the MAT whilst Lottie from saltash.net summed it up well in her report. She remarked that the, "whole experience of BETT was a once in a lifetime... it was pretty much all amazing."

The students were joined by Dan Buckley, joint CEO of SMART, who presented alongside the students. After returning from BETT, Mr. Buckley praised the students.

He said: "I was both proud and inspired to see students from across the MAT working so well together. Most adults would find this difficult enough in their own place of work but to perform at the BETT show to ministers and ambassadors from all over the world is exceptional. SMART is well and truly on the map!"

## **Celtic Pilgrim Trail to Cover the Length of Cornwall**

**A** new trail for pilgrims and other walkers to follow through 125 miles of Cornish Countryside will begin a few miles from Saltash at the ancient Cornish priory and former bishopric of St. Germans. It will end at the magnificent ancient holy site of St. Michaels Mount.

This follows the signing in May 2016 of a fifty year lease by the Diocese of Truro with the St. Germans Priory Trust, a charitable trust formed to take over management of the Norman Priory Church and to keep it open for a variety of events including concerts, conferences, market and art workshops as well as worship.

The trust are delighted that the Priory will also be the start of the new pilgrimage trail which will meander through villages whose churches are dedicated to Celtic saints and also pass the sites of holy wells and ancient stone crosses.

The Bishop of St. Germans, Christopher Goldsmith, will inaugurate the pilgrimage at the Priory on Friday 31st March when a cutting from the Holy Thorn at Glastonbury will be planted and blessed, a short commissioning service held and breakfast enjoyed. The Bishop will then welcome one and all to accompany him through countryside filled with Spring flowers on the first stage of the Pilgrimage to Downderry. Full

information is available on the website at [www.cornishcelticway.co.uk/about](http://www.cornishcelticway.co.uk/about)

The Bishop will also be giving a talk on the pilgrimage trail across Spain to Santiago de Compostella at St. Germans Eliot Hall on Monday 27th February at 6 p.m.

The aim of the Cornish Celtic Way is to aid people of all ages to explore and develop their spiritual faith in a different way.

It is hoped that the way will develop spiritual growth and personal reflection through stories of the Celtic Saints, Cornwall's rich history, incredible landscape and the people and communities encountered along the way.

It is intended to publish an overall guide to the pilgrimage this year and throughout early 2017 a series of walks along its sixteen sections are being planned for which all will be welcomed. The whole walk can be completed in about two weeks or in sections over a longer period of time.

### **Conundrum Answers:**

Answers: 1 Ahbab 2 Nottingham 3 Macaroni 4 China 5 Elephant 6 Bunting 7 Oftai 8 Rhubarb Re-arranged the letters spell Camborne