

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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February 2018 - Issue 311

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Essa File ...Let's Hear it for the Volunteers

I trust that a certain degree of cross-newspaper praise is acceptable in this column, as I'd like to start by thanking Audrey Miller of the Cornish Times who attended her last full council meeting on behalf of the paper on 1st Feb, and has made a tremendous contribution to public understanding of the council's work, as well as to the wider life of Saltash. It's a strange but true fact that if I were still on the council I'd now be its longest serving member, which would mean that Audrey's stepping down would leave Saltash Observer reporter Martin as the only person with a longer current regular attendance than I!

This reminded me that one of my favourite things about Saltash is the sheer number of people who make a significant contribution to the community in a number of different capacities – the Mayor and fellow councillors have of course the advantage of formal public office and greater visibility, but they are only a small proportion of the people who serve in different ways. Some do it through journalism, others through paid public employment in education, health, uniformed service or local government, and hundreds of others do it in voluntary roles. Many Saltash organisations run entirely off the time and energy of such dedicated individuals, and I don't intend to exclude any others when I mention the various young and older

people's organisations, charities, environmental groups, and our excellent Saltash Heritage museum. The Saltash Hopper bus is driven by volunteers, parcels at the food bank are given out by volunteers, and many Christmas dinners and other social meals are cooked by volunteers.

In some cases I have to admit that I wish such functions didn't need volunteers – I find it extremely sad that food banks for example are needed in the 21st century, but that increases rather than decreases my admiration for those who put in the effort to make them work. Similarly, I wish it were not the case that without the intervention of volunteers many people would feel lonely at Christmas time, but the fact that people give up their own

Christmas to help them feel included in the festive season is deeply admirable.

Last week at school I was discussing with many of my Sixth Formers the benefits of volunteering, which can of course include gaining skills, improving one's CV, and being accredited through the Duke of Edinburgh or V Inspire schemes. It was very pleasing though that the students recognised that more important than the personal benefits are the benefits that volunteering, by its very nature, brings to others.

So this month I have no great moral or social point to make, except to say let's hear it for all those who make our community what it is, and in particular let's hear it for the volunteers.

Adam Killeya

Answers Sought on Future of Local Health Care

Two major issues concerning health care in Saltash are coming under discussion and review by our Community Enterprises PL12 group. Both result from the loss of services at St. Barnabas Hospital over the last year.

The questions are firstly when and how the lost beds, resulting from the inpatient ward closures are to be reprovided in the town.

Secondly when will our surgeries be financed to provide an enhanced minor injuries service to replace that lost from the hospital.

Cornwall Council, Kernow Commissioning Group and all local NHS providers are to start trialling an accountable care system. The detail of this has been worked out without formal consultation and the basic idea has been subject to criticism and occasional protest demonstrations by people who see it as a stealthy prelude to privatisation, reports our Community Enterprises group. They are encouraging local councillors and the public to watch out for a second round of public consultations of the long term plan for NHS Care in Cornwall.

Saltash.net Under-16 Girls Team Claim Hard Fought County Championship



Team left to right: Back row: Abby Shapland, Ellie Maunder, Lowenna Savery, Imogen Beer, Imy Stapleton, Molly Gill, Dani Spurling. Front row: Rosie Deacon, Maisie Godfrey, Daisy Winstanley, Merryn Richmond, Lucy Kane (c), Lois Lusher.

Saltash.net community school's under-16 girls football team were crowned county champions on Thursday 25 January, after a tense final in Bodmin which saw them emerge victorious against Penryn College. Nothing could separate the two sides, with the game remaining goalless, even after extra time.

The game was settled with the dreaded penalty shootout. The score reached 6-6, with saltash.net dispatching their 7th, with Penryn College missing to end the epic final.

As captain Lucy Kane lifted the shield, there was a definite sense of relief for the saltash.net players, in addition to the joy of the celebrations. Penryn College had the better chances in the match, but were stopped at every opportunity by an outstanding performance from saltash.net goalkeeper Merryn Richmond. While saltash.net's team were delighted, they were first to recognise and respect their

opponents who had made them battle all the way to achieve victory.

Team coach, Dan Budd, was delighted with the performance.

"I am exceptionally proud and pleased for the team who showed real resilience to earn the victory. No team deserved to lose that game and both teams can be proud of producing such a great final and advert for girls' school football," he said.



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Demand is High for Hopper Bus

The Saltash Hopper buses are being well used and demand was especially high for the last two months of 2017. Over eighty journeys were undertaken in November alone, the town's Community Enterprises PL12 group has reported. Their directors have now agreed a business plan for community transport over the next two years.

The Hopper bus is also scheduled to be used to bring shoppers from Torpoint and outlying areas to Saltash and its Waitrose supermarket while the Community Enterprise management is also taking over practical management of the Age Concern bus. A dedicated team of volunteers and volunteer drivers is reported as providing a responsive community service.

The Derriford bus service, offering a direct route from the town to the hospital, was subject to further review. The transport team was

endeavouring to keep it going but it continued to make a loss despite a Cornwall Council subsidy and the benefit of the recent VAT registration. Although relatively well used by commuters it is less used during the day when it runs an 'on demand' service aimed at hospital patients and visitors.

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Council Budget Rises to Cover Cost of Staffing

Saltash town council has unanimously agreed its 'precept', this being its budget for the forthcoming year. This includes a 21% increase in the town's expenditure. This may appear more excessive to the local council taxpayers than it actually is, since the increase only affects the small proportion of the annual council tax that is allocated to the town. The vast majority of council tax goes to Cornwall Council to pay for countywide facilities.

The increase above inflation is accountable to the fact that the town council has taken over a number of responsibilities from Cornwall Council in order to ensure that they are maintained for the benefit of the town. In order to maintain them new staff have been employed, including the town and waterfront wardens, the benefit, which has already been noticeable. In fact the precept is much as last year's apart from the additional staffing costs.

While the cost of staffing has increased this is partially balanced out by the fact that the town council can now save money by having much work done 'in house' by their own staff, instead of through the use of outside sub-contractors which is considerable more expensive.

Saltash Leads in Water Refill Campaign

Where Cornwall leads, England follows, as towns throughout the country hasten to join the campaign to save on plastic waste by reducing sales of single use water bottles.

Bude began the scheme, followed soon after by Saltash, where Saltash Environmental Action launched reFILL Saltash back last October. As a result there are five outlets in Saltash bearing the reFILL sticker where anyone can have their own water bottle refilled without making a purchase. They are Oggy Oggy, Petit Pain, Jennifer's, Caffe Corradi and No 4 Fore Street.

Following the exposé of damage done to the oceans and the environment generally by waste plastic on television's "Blue Planet" other towns are hastening to join the scheme and an updated list of participants can be found by downloading Google and searching the ReFILL app.

Longstone Loo's Hit by Vandalism

Frequent mindless vandalism to the public toilets in Longstone Park is costing the Saltash council taxpayers, since the town council assumed control of them from Cornwall Council in order to preserve the facility.

While they continue to be well appreciated by the many who enjoy the park and its facilities consideration will have to be given to closing them on weekdays in the winter period in an attempt to reduce this drain on the council's purse. When run by Cornwall Council they were only open during weekends in winter but the town council has been anxious to extend this facility throughout the year.

The public are encouraged to report any information they may have on the vandalism to the town council or the police.

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Mayor Choosing Starts in March

It will soon be time for nominations to select the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2018/19.

Under the newly introduced mayor electoral system all town councillors are invited to put forward nominations for these two roles in writing in March. There must then be a special meeting called within twenty-eight days with just two items on the agenda, the election of the next Mayor and Deputy. If there are more than two candidates the election will be by means of a single transferable vote.

They will formally assume the mayoralty and deputy mayoralty at the council meeting in early May, though they can choose to hold a mayor choosing ceremony and social function on a subsequent date.

Mayoral Matters

Despite the rather miserable weather lately Bill and I have been quite busy over the last month. We have visited the Saltash Sailing Club for their cadets awards evening and again for the Save Our Soup lunch for the RNLI.

The sailing club is to be greatly commended for their youth programme; it is amazing how many young people sail from the club.

The training and support given has allowed them to progress through a training scheme and the proof of their success was demonstrated in how many have sailed with success in races locally and internationally. The soup was delicious too!

On Saturday 20th we were honoured to attend the RNA No 4 Area annual general meeting in the Saltash Social Club and in the afternoon to attend the 1st birthday party of the Dementia Voice PL12 Veterans Group. It is obvious we are still a naval town.

The time has come around for the Rotary Club and the Freemen of Saltash to decide on the Citizen, Environmental Citizen and Young Citizen of the year. Please think long and hard about the people you know who deserve to be given one of these awards. It would be great to have a vast amount of people to choose from. We are a vibrant and busy community, you know who make this happen, you know who works so hard but rarely gets the recognition they deserve. So go for it, drop into the Guildhall for the nomination form, or email reception@saltash.gov.uk.

Cllr. Jean Dent, Town Mayor

Post Office is Opening

We hear so much these days of traditional facilities, including post offices, closing so it is good for a change to know that a new post office is opening to serve Saltash.

The shop in Gordon Court, off Church Road, is acquiring post office facilities. Opening times will be available on the post office website.

Keep Saltash a Tidy Town

The Waterside environment has become notably cleaner and tidier since the town council appointed its town and waterfront wardens. One of their duties is to maintain a daily patrol of the waterfront and collect any rubbish, waterborne or dropped along the foreshore.

Meanwhile Saltash Environment Action continue to do their bit to maintain the town as litter free as possible, holding their monthly litter picks at different targeted areas. All, of any age, are invited to participate, with litter pickers being provided.

Many concerned citizens also make a point of picking

up rubbish outside their own homes, and others are encouraged to consider doing so.

One problem, in particular in our otherwise beautiful Churchtown Farm wildlife reserve, is that of 'dog poo bags'. Many dog walkers on the reserve pick up after their dogs, which is appreciated.

What is not appreciated is that some then deposit their bags on the ground, on a fence, or hang them on a bush for the 'dog poo fairy' to remove. There is no such fairy and dog walkers are reminded that there are bins specifically for such bags by the main access points to the reserve.

Your Town Council

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Councillors telephone numbers can be obtained at the guildhall.

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

Letter to the Editor...



Dear Editor,

I feel compelled to write a response to the article in this weeks Saltash Observer about Saltash Town Council not allowing Either McDonald's or Costa Coffee to have premises just off the roundabout at Carkeel.

I thought we were living in the 21st Century (most of us are anyway). Here we have two of the biggest franchises in the country wishing to set up home in Saltash and they have been turned down due to fear of traffic congestion.

Get a grip please! Look at the bigger picture! Surely this can only be good for the town. I am sure with greater consideration and planning this can be

achieved in this day and age. If Brunel can build a bridge across the Tamar in 1859, surely with more forethought and head banging this can be achieved on what quite frankly is currently an eye sore to drive past. I'm sure if an application was submitted for more housing it would get the "green light", but everything else gets knocked back.

I know the Council represent the people of Saltash, but I often feel many decisions are at times taken too quickly by those who have the say.

We do live in the 21st Century, honestly!

Regards
Mr R Budd
Saltash

CAB Threatened by Council Cuts

Saltash is at risk of losing its much used Citizens Advice Bureau if Cornwall Council proceeds with plans to cut its grant to the CAB.

The CAB currently has nine offices open to the public throughout Cornwall and all are kept busy dealing with a variety of issues, many arising from financial worries.

If the Cornwall Council grant is reduced by more than half, as is suggested, the CAB will have its own financial

worries and is likely to have to close seven of the nine offices, all of which it rents. Only the two that it owns outright, one of which is in Liskeard, will remain open. A petition intended to persuade Cornwall Council to rethink this has been available for signature in local CAB offices.

A New Dawn and Anticipated Award for Saltash Museum

A new exhibition featuring the promise of a supposedly brave new post war world for Saltash and Britain is planned to open in Saltash museum in April, the museums stewards were told at the annual party at which they are thanked for their support.

To mark the centenary of the ending of World War I the museum this year will have the theme 'A New Dawn', reflecting the changes that the 1920's brought about.

The stewards were also told of the appreciation shown to Saltash Heritage by Cornwall Museums Partnership who have shortlisted Saltash for an award for innovation. This is in recognition of its outreach work, particularly regarding the volunteer hours spent on the Nepean papers project, transcribing fascinating documentation from a prominent Saltash family of the 18th and 19th centuries, Archivist Terry Cummings advised that this has been so successful that he now has several similar project in mind to do.

Bruce Hunt, deputy chair, welcomed all of the stewards and thanked them for the hours they put in welcoming and assisting visitors to the museum. He was also pleased to announce that Viscount and Viscountess Boyd have

accepted an invitation to become patrons of Saltash Heritage and they too attended the social gathering.

Following a pasty lunch stewards and other guests were entertained by a talk from former store detective Julie Turner who fascinated and amused her audience with tales of the ingenuity used by those seeking to rob our stores and the tell-tale signs by which they can be spotted.

They also learned of the shoplifter who collapsed with hyperthermia as a result of a close encounter with a frozen chicken, and of the frozen turkeys spotted 'flying' over a supermarket wall just before Christmas.

The museum depends upon its valued band of stewards and more would always be welcome. Full training is given, stewards always work in pairs, and they can give as many or as few hours as suit individual needs. Anyone interested may contact the Secretary on 01752 847800.

Peter Ryland Chamber Chairman...Keeping us Updated

Christmas 2017 is past but, believe it or not, the Chamber is already making plans for the Christmas Festival 2018. The positive comments for 2017 have made us believe that with a few tweaks we will have a successful event in December this year.

However, although we hope to secure some funding through the support of the Town Council, we will need some support from businesses in and around Saltash. If readers know of any source of possible sponsorship then please let me know either via this newspaper or through the Chamber website or Facebook page.

The Chamber is reviewing the car park refund scheme which has now been in operation for nearly 3 years. The questions being asked are: - has it been effective in producing footfall in Fore Street? What traders have benefitted? Should it operate in a different format?

In conjunction with this we are aware of the petition presented to the Town Council re. Fore Street parking. We will be asking our members as to their feelings re. whether it should be half hour or one hour. The half hour was introduced to create a bigger turnover of vehicles which it certainly appears to have done. However, although this benefits some traders it has not benefitted all. Again, any public opinion would be appreciated.

We continue to talk to the developers/owners of the site at Carkeel Roundabout. We have expressed concern as to the congestion the proposed use, which includes, two drive-thru's will create in an already busy traffic area. This will have an effect on all businesses/people in the area. We have made suggestions as to how we would make improvements to the layout proposed but also believe that the planning authority, Cornwall Council, should ensure that the development should not increase traffic flow at an already congested area. The improvements recently carried out at the roundabout may have helped but we are very concerned as to the impact at peak times and particularly in the summer.

Finally, I would apologize for, as my wife puts it, misleading you with my comment last month re. not buying off the internet. It seems that some of the presents she bought for me to give to her were internet sourced. But, as I explained to my wife, I did not buy them to which her comment was that I did pay for them - I must take her credit card away.

Labour Party Hears from Election Candidate

Labour is the principal opposition to the sitting Conservative member in South East Cornwall and now is the time to build upon the result of last year's election, claimed Gareth Derrick who took second place as labour parliamentary candidate. He was addressing the second Saltash branch labour party meeting at which he spoke of his journey in the party since joining it in 2015 after a career mainly in the Royal Navy. He had previously stood for police and crime commissioner, finishing within a thousand votes of the successful conservative candidate.

Members had been told of the recent death of former chair of the constituency labour party Ruth Wilson. She had been a tireless party supporter who died after a long illness and would be much missed.

Liz Pearson and Jack Griffiths were elected joint chairs of the Saltash Labour Party. Members were told of an informal briefing meeting for anyone putting themselves forward as candidate for the next general election.

St Stephens by Saltash Womens Institute

A lively start to the New Year with the January meeting of this longstanding WI continued with a visit to the Azores in a travelogue given by Institute Treasurer Janet and her husband.

After the recent death of their longstanding President Mrs Margaret Woodridge the ladies feel a great sense of sadness and loss. All the members agree that Margaret would have wanted St. Stephens WI to continue and grow and continue to provide a pleasant afternoon institute for members to enjoy.

One new lady joined at the January meeting which was very encouraging and the Ladies would like to invite anyone interested to come along to the Lower Hall of the Burraton Community Centre at 1.30 pm on Wednesday 21st February when the Speaker will be Lorna Grainger on 'Superstitions and Myths'. If anyone would like more information please ring Institute Secretary Christine Woolcock on 848182. You are assured of a warm welcome and a lovely cup of tea!

Parking Changes Threaten Shops Survival

The survival of the shops in our town centre is endangered by a change in street parking regulations, a Fore Street trader claims.

The time limit for parking on Fore Street has been reduced from sixty to thirty minutes. Local trader Mike Woolford told the town council of a shocked response by retailers and the public and a noticeable downward effect on businesses. He has organised two petitions seeking that the parking time limit be restored, one of them having been signed by many of his fellow Fore Street retailers. The other has been signed by around eight hundred members of the public. Both have been passed to the Town Council but he is continuing to collect signatures.

The change was made by Cornwall Council, not the town, Mr. Woolford was told, but the town council agreed to discuss the issue.

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CORNWALL COUNCIL
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 For Observer readers
 Derek Holley
 Cornwall Councillor, Saltash East.
 dholley@cornwall.gov.uk

I am convinced that people are more understanding if councils and governments are straight and tell the truth. What I hate is "spin" such as playing with figures to hide an unpleasantness. To be fair to Cornwall Council's publicity department I think most of the stuff they put out is reasonable, but there is absolutely no excuse at all for "spin". Accordingly I got on my high horse and wrote to all Cornwall Councillors when a "saving", directly caused by government cuts, proposed to slash more than half the budget of the CAB, now just called Citizens Advice (CA). This was presented in a way that actually made it look as if they were increasing it from nothing to the proposed amount. This was not worthy of an organisation that despite much criticism and in the face of dreadful government cuts is still providing a respectable range of services, albeit cut to the bone in most places.

You can probably tell that I am a great supporter of Citizens Advice. They help the most vulnerable and are chiefly run by wonderful, skilled volunteers. The proposed cut would have effectively and unacceptably reduced it to a telephone service with only two face-to-face offices in Cornwall, and the likely loss of the volunteers. I just do not know what I would do without one of their offices in Saltash where I could send desperate people to get face-to-face help. The people I refer mostly have financial problems but critically for many of them this is complicated by mental health issues, age-related issues or just inability to understand complex forms, some of which I cannot understand myself. These groups have great

Veterans Group Celebrate 1st Birthday



Demetia Voice PL12 Veterans Group celebrated their 1st Birthday at their new venue The Shado Centre Plougastel Drive Saltash, on Saturday 20th January 2018. The Mayor Of Saltash Jean Dent and her Consort Bill Dent attended as well Representatives from the RBL & RNA. Pictured are The Mayor Jean Dent and Veteran WRNS Joan Russell who joined the WRNS in 1952. Joan has attended the Veterans Group since the launch. Facilitator Carol Emmett said it has been a wonderful year friendships have been forged service days reignited, days out, and Military Dates Commemorated. It has really improved a lot of our Veterans Quality Of life. Which has to be a positive on all levels. The Veterans Group meets Fortnightly on a Saturday at The Shado Centre 4.30pm -6.30pm where a Complimentary Afternoon Tea is served.

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fact except cuts to the CA and adding to the tax burden. So here I propose hitting top officers, the arts and farmers. Don't go into the councillor game to be popular. It doesn't work like that. You have to go into it to help the most people you can, but especially those who can't help themselves. Little else. I am desperate to get onto the garden and do something without wellies and mud. It's got to the stage now when I feel like temporarily putting a bag over my Christian beliefs and holding a heathen sun-dance on that Churchtown farm hill overlooking the Lynher. Anyone going to join me?

Stop Press
 " We have just heard that Cornwall Council cabinet have found enough money to restrict the council tax to 5% so Councillor Holley may not have to vote against the budget ! "

A Charming Story

An author from Cornwall has written a book about one teacher who reveals the truth to her students about fairies: They're Real!
 Cornwall author Gilly Sloper has just released her debut novel; The Fairies of Jenny's Field is a charming story of when a school art class takes a twist when the drawings of three children merge and a portal to a whole new world opens, and it brings magic and adventure. "The fairies that lived in the Jenny's Field of my childhood were as real to me then" says Gilly Sloper. She remembers the moment when one of her students inspired her to write her novel: "It was his innocent question 'Do you believe in fairies, Mrs Sloper?' that prompted a strong memory from when I was eight years old." Travel in time with the children as they are sent back to the childhood home of their teaching assistant, and read along as they discover the fairies in her field. Experience the friends and foes that they make along the way and marvel at the acts of bravery as these children face dangers beyond their imagination. Gilly Sloper graduated from Worcester University, and spends her days as a teaching assistant. She also runs her own business where she restores chairs. ISBN (Paperback): 9781785548024

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What would I do instead? I would ramp up the selling of council-owned land not strictly needed including some of the county farms. Next and I don't believe I'm saying this because I fully realise how many people value these areas highly, particularly myself, I would cut any funding related to arts, culture and the Cornish language that has not been proved to give a significant return - until better times come when I would call for reinstatement. This would mean cutting the councillors local organisation allowances related to those areas. A small thing but I would instigate a targeted and planned review of the future of officers salaries over £100,000. Not by cutting current salaries (I know some of these people and they are good, competent officers) but by rigorously on every retirement or a leaving of a post readvertising on lower, reasonable rates (a minefield with myriad problems but you have to draw a line and start somewhere). As for us, the councilors, our numbers are being reduced by 36, which will increase workloads significantly for those left but will save money each year. I would consider anything, in

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Mayor Survives Attempt to Oust Her

There were angry criticisms of Saltash Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Jean Dent, from two of her fellow councillors who had submitted a motion of no confidence in her following an alleged racist remark.

In her defence Mrs. Dent replied that the racist word had been quoted by her in a private discussion in which she deprecated the use of it by a local resident. The private discussion took place in the Guildhall and another councillor who reported the Mayor to the Cornwall standards department in Truro overheard the word. The standards officer agreed that the use of the word in a public building was a breach of the town's code of conduct and told the Mayor to apologise to the councillor concerned and to undergo diversity training.

Her apology was not accepted and Councillor Steven Thorn, in support of his motion of "No Confidence" read a speech in which he emphasised that it gave him no pleasure to put such a motion. His second, Councillor Mike Parker, expressed personal anger saying, "Saltash deserves a better first citizen to respect and look up to."

In reply the Mayor confirmed that she was condemning a racist remark that she had heard and was sad that Councillor Pinckney, who overheard this, refused to accept her apology. "I believe that I

have been a good Mayor, I have worked hard and done my duty for the Council and the town", she stated. "I have put my heart and soul into working for the people of Saltash".

She paid tribute to the number of people who had written or spoken to support her and told her not to resign. "I hope for a better future and the ability to work for the town and with no petty feuding", she concluded.

The vote of no confidence was rejected with ten councillors voting against it and six in favour. There was applause from the public as the result was announced.

Refreshment Room May Become Office

A former refreshment room in Victoria Gardens, by the top of Fore Street, may be used for administration by Saltash Town Council, the public were told when a public member queried the future of the Maurice Huggins Room.

Founded by a former Mayor for the elderly to enjoy a rest and refreshment, the building closed as a cafe due to lack of demand and has stood empty for some time while a new use was sought.

The increased powers and responsibilities of Saltash Town Council have resulted in growing staff and lack of room in the Guildhall. The Maurice Huggins room is under consideration as a base for staff, as are rooms due to be vacated in the Citizen's Advice building in Belle Vue Road.

Heritage Welcomes Exhibits for Centenary Exhibition

This Spring sees a new exhibition in our friendly and welcoming local museum based on the centenary of the peace that ended World War I a century ago. Entitled 'A New Dawn' the theme connects the ending of the 'war to end all wars' and the promises that the peace appeared to offer of a 'land fit for heroes'.

While the Saltash Heritage society has a large range of exhibits on which to draw, they would welcome others to enhance the display, either as loans or outright gifts.

For the war theme in particular any examples of 'trench art', artefacts made by the soldiers for loved ones' back home, as well as medals and other post war awards or mementoes' would be appreciated.

The post war world will feature an agricultural display and for this any ornamental full size pig,

lamb, rabbit or other such domestic animal would be welcomed. On the 'home front' domestic items that would have featured in the home between 1918 and 1930 would add to the atmosphere of that era, as would any hats or in particular period school uniform items.

This is also the anniversary of (some) women achieving the vote and jewellery or mementos of the women's suffragette movement would be especially welcome. Also welcome would be any item relating to Colonel William Price Drury, author, playwright, Saltash resident and one time mayor.

Anyone with any suitable item to loan or gift is invited to contact the museum on 01752 848466 (leave a message if unanswered) or via info@saltash-heritage.org.uk.

Alternatively call in to the local history centre (above the museum in Lower Fore Street) on Wednesday afternoon or Saturday morning. Otherwise the secretary can be contacted on 01752 847800.

Audrey Awarded for Seven Decades of Journalism

Seventy years of serving Saltash by reporting on its community affairs, including thirty-five years of attending and reporting town council meetings, earned Miss Audrey Miller a standing ovation from current councillors and a host of past mayors.

She was also awarded a bouquet and a certificate of achievement from current Mayor Councillor Jean Dent at what was to be Miss Miller's last council meeting.

Her first press report to 'The Cornish Times' was in 1948 when she reported on how the girl guides (of whom she has been a lifetime supporter) helped the nuns nursing at St. Barnabas Hospital. She had been attending town council meetings since 1983.

Former Mayor Mrs. Sue Hooper MBE was invited to address the town council and spoke of early days fifty years or so ago when a member of the Saltash Operatic and Dramatic Society. 'On stage at the old Wesley Church it meant so much to us budding performers to see Audrey present and later to see what was written about us as a company and sometimes as individuals', Mrs Hooper recalled.

She spoke of Miss Miller as 'open and candid, forthright and honest, who never failed to speak her mind and councillors respected this'. She added that Miss Miller has touched all of our lives in one way or another.

As well as a guide Miss Miller was a bellringer, a parishioner of St. Nicholas for over seventy years, a member of the International Friendship League for over sixty years, and had been made Freeman of Saltash in recognition of her services. 'She is as enthusiastic now as seventy years ago', concluded Mrs. Hooper.



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Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 By what name is Lesley Homby better known? (6)
- 2 In the Jungle Book what type of creature is Ka? (5)
- 3 What was the home Town of Fred and Wilma Flintstone? (7)
- 4 Which Italian River is overlooked by the Leaning Tower of Pisa? (4)
- 5 What nationality was the composer Frederick Delius? (7)
- 6 Which was the first Safari Park to open in Britain? (8)
- 7 What term is used to describe Geese in flight? (5)
- 8 What type of vegetable is a Scallion? (5)
- 9 What type of 19th-century transport was a Barouche? (8)

Answers on Page 7

Waterside Warden in Lifesaving Drama

One of the town's recently appointed town and waterside wardens helped rescue from the River Tamar a teenage girl.

The teenager, reported to be just 16, had fallen from the Tamar Bridge when Warden Jeff Diamond was on duty below. She hit the water feet first, a fact which saved her life, and she was observed from the shoreline trying to hold on to a mooring buoy in midstream.

Quick thinking Jeff threw a life saving ring out to her and she was hauled ashore. Several people who had watched the drama were able to help and an ambulance and MOD Police launch were soon on the scene. We understand that the girl sustained no serious injuries.

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I spoke in the second reading debate and sat on the Committee on the Space Bill. I was delighted to make the case for the new Spaceport to be located in Cornwall. I spoke about Cornwall's tradition of innovation with engines with people like Trevithick and its expertise in communications at locations like Portcurno and Goonhilly. I was also pleased to be able to thank Cornwall Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership for the work they have undertaken in preparing this bid. I will continue to make the case for Cornwall to the Minister in the hope that we can bring this investment to the Duchy.

I attended an event in Parliament to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. It is important that we learn lessons from the past and that these dreadful events are never forgotten. A few years ago I had the opportunity to join some school pupils from the South West on a visit to Auschwitz II (Birkenau) concentration camp, where an estimated 1.1 million people were killed. It is a visit I will never forget.

I was pleased to welcome two local producers to Parliament. Firstly I joined the National Farmers Union and the All Party Beer Group who did a joint cheese and beer event. At this event I was pleased to see St Austell Brewery was represented by their 'Bad Habit' beer. It was also good to welcome local farmer Mike Hamby

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



who is the current Chairman of the Crops Board on the NFU. He farms 500 acres in a family partnership near Callington, producing cereals, oilseed rape and beef. Mike has worked with initiatives to promote Cornish Grain and has been instrumental in developing links between Ginsters and growers for the production of identity preserved Cornish Milling Wheat. It was good to see him in Parliament.

Secondly it was good to meet with the team from Fowey Valley Cider at the All Party Parliamentary Cider Group. Fowey Valley Cider is produced in a small cidery in Golant, near the town of Fowey, Cornwall. It was also good to see Cornish Orchards represented at the event. Cornish Cider producers really do produce quality products.

I was interested to meet with Matthew Sullivan from Bikepark Cornwall which is a project to develop a new purpose built, off road cycling facility in mid-Cornwall near Cardinham Wood. The plan would see intermediate and advanced cycling trails that currently can only be found elsewhere in the country. This would be an additional tourism draw and create new jobs. As well as a great way to get

fit who knows - we may see more great sportsmen come from Cornwall if we have the facilities.

I have met with the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP who is the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. I have been contacted by a number of fishermen who have been catching Bass and then having to throw them back dead. He said we must have greater flexibility after we leave the Common Fisheries Policy on catch limits.

I was able to tell the government straight in debate that I feel it is wrong what is happening to my constituent Dennis Hutchings. He had a distinguished career in the Life Guards for over 20 years serving in Northern Ireland. He has been charged and is now facing prosecution over 40 years later having been told that he would not do so. I am now meeting the Defence Minister to ask him to look personally into this case. During this debate I was pleased to be able to thank my late constituent Surgeon Captain Rick Jolly for his work in the armed forces and particularly his part in the Falkland's War.

I joined local Councillors, Highways Agency officials, Council Officers and business representatives to discuss further a bid to get improvements to the A38. I am pleased to report that work is progressing and would like to thank all those involved.

I was also pleased to meet the new Environment Agency Area Director Rich Stockdale. I was able to discuss with him a number of issues including those in Par, Liskeard, Looe and a scheme in Calstock. I am looking forward to a further meeting in Calstock with local residents and the Environment Agency to see how the scheme can meet people's needs.

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No Footpath on the Foreshore

A public right of way along the foreshore between Waterside and the head of Coombe Creek cannot be created, the Town Council has been told.

As recently reported Cornwall Council has already agreed on a modification order to create public rights of way at both ends of the route, from the town quay behind the Sailing Club to the end of the road, and from Babis Land to the tidemark. The Town Council, while pleased to accept this had sought a link along the foreshore between the two ends.

This cannot be done, Cornwall's countryside access records officer has reported, on the basis that there is no clearly defined route on the ground indicating a path established by long use. The area is under the tidal waters for long periods, and there are numerous obstacles to negotiate. There can thus be no convincing evidence that people have walked the same line and did not wander generally along the foreshore. The area below the medium high water mark is not, as is normal, crown land but here is privately owned.

The Town Council reluctantly has accepted this conclusion and will make do with the two short sections of rights of way with no right of access between them.

Museums Future is Assured

The promise of a renewed lease for the Saltash Heritage Museum and local history centre has assured the long term future of our active and popular heritage centre.

The building in Lower Fore Street is owned by the Town Council and leased to the Saltash Heritage Society for a nominal rent. The current lease is not due to expire until 2024 but Heritage have sought a renewal at this stage since there would be difficulty in accessing grant money in order to continue their work in preserving and presenting the town's history unless they can prove they have long term security for their premises.

Following negotiations between a panel of town councillors and Saltash Heritage representatives a new lease was agreed in principal. This was put to full town council who agreed that it be signed on their behalf.

Saltash Heritage have expressed their appreciation and look forward to continuing to work with the town council in promoting the town and its rich history.

How Cornish Heritage is Carved from Stone

Saltash Old Cornwall Society members at their January meeting were privileged to hear from a craftsman who is keeping one of Cornwall's traditional industries alive and has helped in the restoration of many of its historic buildings.

Bearah Quarry on the heights of Bodmin Moor began operations in the 1860's when around sixty men cut and carved granite to be loaded on to the railway that ran down to Liskeard and Looe. Ian Piper took the business over from his father and now helps his son, together with three workmen, and the granite is carried out along a three quarter mile rough track built by his father.

A former duchy quarry, in which Prince Charles showed interest, Bearah now provides the brown granite which matches that of the many Devon and Cornish churches which have been restored with rock carved by Ian Piper and his team. A former butcher, Ian became involved in the family business when his father was restoring granite windows at Cotehele House, and has since developed a deep love for the skills required to match those of long gone craftsmen. Truro Cathedral and the gatehouse at Lanhydrock are among the many local buildings that he has helped restore and the firm

is currently involved in work on Castle Drogo on Dartmoor.

In conclusion society secretary Martin Lister thanked Mr. Piper not only for a fascinating illustrated talk but for playing a vital role in maintaining many of the buildings that are our heritage.

Street Cameras Under Consideration

The issue of installing CCTV cameras in Fore Street is still a live one, the Town Council confirmed when a question was raised during public question time.

This followed a recent situation when a crowd of teenagers had crossed from Plymouth and were reported as intimidating the public in Fore Street. CCTV might have helped confirm identification in such a situation it was suggested. In fact, in this instance the cameras on the Tamar Bridge would have picked them up, the questioner was told, and they had been identified through their schools.

Before CCTV can be considered councillors need to decide exactly what they are to watch and which areas of the town should be prioritised and this discussion is ongoing.

Great War Centenary Commemorations

Saltash should mark the centenary of the armistice that ended the "Great War" of 1914 - 1918 with some special commemoration in November this year, it has been agreed.

St. Nicholas Church is already planning its own commemorations which will include a special and spectacular poppy display.

The Town Council suggested that coherent plans for local commemorations should be worked out with service and ex-service organisations and Saltash Heritage if they so wish. A Town Council working party is to be set up which may include interested members of the public.

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Conundrum Answers:

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U3A

Members of Saltash U3A have been spoilt so far this year with a mix of Guest speakers covering topics from history, through humour to more factual accounts. It was with some curiosity, therefore, that they welcomed Simon Dell to the January meeting to talk about '3 Murders and a Suicide'.

Simon is a retired Police Officer and his talk centred around his work with the county pathologist, Dr. Frederick Hocking. The 3 murders, all shootings, were very different but centred around pathological evidence, which led to the arrest of the 3 culprits. It was nearing the end of his talk and the suicide hadn't been mentioned. Then Simon concluded by telling members that Dr. Hocking lived to be 98. When his wife died he wanted to be with her and committed suicide.

He left notes explaining what pills he had taken and how they would have killed him and also an apology to the Police Constable who had to deal with the suicide - Simon Dell!! It was a talk full of wit and humour but also a final, very sentimental touch.

The Inner Wheel Club of Saltash

The final months of last year were very busy for the club we collected clothes for the homeless locally and in Plymouth, also filled Rotary Shoe Boxes with household items and sent many items to Mission Moldova an overseas charity we support regularly.

On the social side a very interesting trip was held to look around the Energy from Waste Plant with supper provided after by President Miriam.

In November several members visited Jo Down Glass in Launceston and had a tour of the glass design centre which was very interesting and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

In December the club had fun decorating a Christmas Tree for the festival at St Nicholas and Faith church. Then of course we helped our Rotary Club with their collections on the Xmas Sleigh, members really enjoy meeting the public and a good amount of money was raised - all for local charities.

We have a busy year ahead including planning for a Fashion Show in April with 3 other local clubs which includes a cream tea this will raise money for Childrens Hospice South West and St Lukes Hospice.

We would welcome anyone who thinks they would like to join us. The Club meets on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6.30 in the Ploughboy Inn.

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Continuing our review from January issue

Autumn

*'When yellow leaves, or none, or few do hang
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold
Bare ruined choirs, where late the sweet birds sang'* W. Shakespeare (1564 - 1616)

With our autumn editions we were pleased and proud to share with our readers our quarter centenary, over 25 years of bringing news and views, as well as promoting local businesses, to each and every home (as far as possible) in and around Saltash.

One feature which we especially enjoyed writing, and our readers enjoyed sharing, marked the tenth anniversary of the Annual Armistice Day visit by our local Fire Cadets to the World War 1 battlefields and memorials.

Back home we reported upon the town council's acquisition of buildings at Longstone Park. Added to its ongoing acquisitions on Waterside, this is another issue, which will continue to run into 2018 as more properties, and powers are devolved to town council level.

On our roads we noted the opening, six months ahead of schedule, of the remodelled Carkeel roundabout, though the configuration of the traffic lights, particularly as traffic approaches from Burraton is causing particular concern and may have to be reconsidered.

Nearby Broadmoor, with its substantial housing, retail and services development again hit the paper, as the commencement of building upon this substantial site grows ever closer.

Traffic issues again were to the fore with our report on near saturation of the Tamar Bridge

and some controversial suggestions for staggered tolls, or freeing the bridge altogether. Another issue likely to run into 2018 and beyond.

But November and December are above all festival time in Saltash. Our second Kalan Gwav, a uniquely Saltash Autumnal celebration of apples and fireworks proved as popular as the first. The Christmas event, organised this year by our Chamber of Commerce, packed the town especially for the spectacular lantern parade and yet more fireworks.

Then after a host more special seasonal events families in Saltash, and throughout the world, gathered to celebrate their own special Christmas festivities. A few days later and, a damp and misty New Year's Eve erupted into a riot of fireworks welcoming into Saltash the year 2018 and all that it has to offer. Once again your 'Observer' looks forward to being at the forefront and sharing the year's event with our loyal readers throughout our 26th and into our 27th year of serving as your own local community newspaper.

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Year 11 Students Thrive with Exeter Chiefs in Front of BBC Cameras



A group of Year 11 students at saltash.net recently spent a day with the Exeter Chiefs, as part of the 'Try for Change' project, which develops employability skills through rugby.

The students have been part of the project for the last ten weeks, developing their skills through weekly visits by coaches from Plymouth Sports Charity. Sport Relief

funds the project and as the students had progressed so well over the course, they were selected to take part in this day which enabled all involved to come together.

A BBC crew followed the students throughout the day, filming students playing rugby and enjoying lunch with two England players, Sam Simmonds and Alec Hepburn, who play for the Exeter Chiefs.

All of our young people conducted themselves extremely well on the day and have really thrived throughout the project. Two students, Josh Ainsworth and Hayden Cole, were selected to chat 1 to 1 with the England players in front of the film crew.

They shared stories about their lives with the players, positive changes they are making and are intending to make and how the project has

helped them, and were outstanding.

The film crews and directors were mightily impressed with how they spoke with clarity and confidence. Josh and Hayden now have an opportunity to meet the whole England team at their training camp in February. Footage from the day may be broadcast nationally on one of the BBC Sport Relief programs in the build up to the main day in March.

renew family ties. The custom of honouring Mothering Sunday and 'going a mothering' was gradually lost as less of the younger generation lived with their employers and in 1912 the custom, in Hertfordshire, was described as 'now by no means forgotten but declining'.

It has since been given a new lease of life. Many churches now see clergy hand children attending service a bunch of flowers or a slice of cake to pass to their mothers. Indeed the custom of honouring the mother church has been revived at Cookham in the Thames Valley, where parishioners come together to link arms around the church, a revival of the custom of 'clipping' the church and literally embracing it.

How, then, has Mothering Sunday become once again an important fixture in the family calendar? This we owe to unrelated American tradition introduced into Britain by the troops who crossed the Atlantic in World War II.

In 1907 Miss Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia, following the death of her own mother, prevailed upon the minister of her local church to hold a service on the anniversary of her death, this to be dedicated to all mothers living and dead. Those attending were asked to wear a white carnation.

'All that I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother,' had claimed President Abraham Lincoln and Americans took "Mother's Day" to their hearts. The celebration spread through Philadelphia and beyond until in 1914 Congress was prevailed upon to formally declare the second Sunday in May as "Mother's Day". Red carnations worn in celebration of living mothers, white in memory of the dead.

Far from home and family American GI's brought to Britain the Mother's Day practices and Mothering Sunday again came to importance as the day on which one and all celebrate the Jewish saying that "God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers".

Apprentices, live-in farm workers and female servants especially enjoyed the rare opportunity of a day off to

A Day To Remember Mother

'On Mothering Sunday above all other
Every Child should dine with it's mother'
(Northamptonshire 19th Century Verse)

On a certain Sunday in mid-lent each mother looks forward to a special day when her year of loving and labouring for her family may be rewarded perhaps with flowers, chocolates or a meal out.

Mothers in the seventeenth century equally eagerly anticipated a visit from children who might be apprenticed or living with their employers but who would traditionally be given this day off to return to their mother's home. They would bring with them perhaps a posy of primroses gathered along the way or a special 'simmel' cake or other traditional delicacy. And so our tradition of Mothering Sunday dinners began.

The first written references to Mother Sunday date from the mid-seventeenth century.

'Every mid-lent Sunday is a great day at Worcester when all the children and godchildren meet at the head and Cheife of the family and have a feast. They call it the Mothering-Day' recorded Richard Symonds in 1644. Four years later in his poem 'A Ceremonie in Gloucester' the poet Robert Herrick wrote; - "I'll to thee a simnel bring, Gainst thou go'st a mothering".

The custom therefore would appear to have been local to the South Midlands, subsequently spreading across all England and Wales. In Scotland a family feast similar to Mothering Sunday was held on Passion Sunday when a 'car cake', a highly spiced pancake was given to mothers.

In England the simnel cake was the traditional offering. Its origin is portrayed in a carving in Leighton Buzzard Church, Bedfordshire, dating from the fifteenth century. It shows two local characters quarrelling over whether to boil or bake their dough. On Mothering Sunday they did both and simnel cake, its name derived probably from the Latin 'simila' 'fine flour' was born.

Shrewsbury simnel cake baked with spices and boiled for hours, was famous, while Devizes in Wiltshire and Bury in Lancashire were also renowned for their own recipes.

In Warwickshire the traditional dish was a chine of pork followed by fig pudding, in Hampshire a more modest fare of thin batter wafers was served to mothers on 'Wafering Sunday'. Frumenty too was a mid-lent treat, a porridge made of spiced wheat and milk.

The custom may have originally been associated with pre-reformation medieval tradition by which parishioners from far afield would go in procession to visit their mother church, perhaps taking the opportunity to visit their own mothers and making a small presentation to them.

Apprentices, live-in farm workers and female servants especially enjoyed the rare opportunity of a day off to

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Hopper Bus Trips February/March

<p>Fri 23rd Feb 10am - 5pm (£10) Greenway House & Gardens Snowdrop time - walk with gardener Sun 25th Feb 11am - 4pm (£12) Lunch at the Earl of St Vincent Wadebridge Trelawney Garden centre Mon 26th Feb 10am - 4pm (£6) Trago & Newton Abbot</p>	<p>Wed 15th Mar 9.30am to 6pm (£10) Start Bay Inn (famous for its fish) Tortcross then onto Dartmouth for afternoon tea Sat 17th Mar 1pm-4pm (£4.50) Daffodil time at Cothele Sun 18th Mar 11am - 5pm (£7) Lunch at Homeleigh Garden Centre Dutson Launceston Thurs 22nd Mar 9am - 4pm (£12) Caerhays Castle and gardens at Gorran St Austell Sun 25th Mar 9am - 5pm (£15) Clarks Village & Street Mon 26th Mar 10am - 4pm (£6) Trago Mills & Newton Abbot Good Friday 30th Mar 11am - 5pm (£6) Lunch Port & Starboard @ Indian Queens then Truro Easter Sun 1st April 11am-5pm (£10) Lunch at the Pickwick Inn @ St Izzey Cream Tea with the locals at Trevone Village hall</p>
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Mother's Day

Sunday 11th March

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