

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

January 2012 - Issue 234

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

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THE CELTIC CROSS IS COMING

The long awaited Celtic Cross – of similar stature to Tyneside's Angel of the North and an anticipated Cornish icon, should be in position at the gateway to Cornwall later this year.

The Cross is intended as the main feature of a restored Elwell Woods, immediately to the North of the Tamar Bridge. Plans for the woodland have been delayed while a number of wildlife surveys had to be conducted. Now work in the woods is expected to begin in January and to be completed by April and the birds nesting season. The contract has been awarded to Glendale, formerly Sylvanus, and Councillor Joe Ellison, who has been

masterminding the plans, is hoping that local sub-contractors will be selected.

Volunteers are being sought to help with general clearance of the site, removing rubbish and stacking stones, over the weekend of 28th and 29th January. Young people in particular are being asked to help on the Saturday, but all will be welcomed from 10am on both days at the site between Lockyer Terrace and Lower Fore Street. Bags,

gloves and other equipment will be provided.

Work on the Celtic Cross itself should also start early this year. There have been five tenders for the work and the contractor should be chosen and contract signed by the end of January. The Cross, in contemporary style but in the pattern of a tradition Celtic Cross, will tower twenty metres high, to be clearly visible welcoming visitors and returning Cornish residents as they approach the Tamar. It will be constructed off site and, being of similar height to the acclaimed Angel of the North, its erection, anticipated in the Autumn of this year, should be a memorable spectacle.

Olympic Torch to Travel Streets of Saltash

The eyes of the world will be on Cornwall, including Saltash, next May when the Olympic flame will be borne by hand through the Town and crosses the Tamar.

This historic event will commence at Lands End at seven on the morning of 19th May. It will travel 'in convoy mode' with a number of heavy trucks for most of it's journey but there are twenty communities in Cornwall where it will be carried through the street by a runner. The last such community in Cornwall will be Saltash.

The exact route through the Town and the timing will be announced later, though since the torch will rest in Plymouth overnight it is anticipated to be early evening.

This is a great opportunity to promote Cornwall and Saltash, the Town Council has agreed, and a budget of up to £10,000 from reserves has been allocated to the event. It is hoped to involve as many community groups as possible in this "once in a lifetime" occasion and the Town Council is seeking to empower the local community with the chance to participate. Suggestions are invited from local groups, organisations, and individuals as to how to mark the day.

It will be a Saturday so schoolchildren as well as adults should be able to become involved in events throughout the day as well as watch the unique spectacle of the torch leaving Cornwall that evening.

'A Wizard of a Show at saltash.net!'



JJ Harding as the Scarecrow



With a cast of over 100, this year's whole school production of 'The Wizard of Oz' at saltash.net community school was a truly spellbinding show.

The acting, singing, dancing and amazing special

effects wowed audiences for 4 nights as well as 260 primary school children who attended for the dress rehearsal.

Not only were the audiences at 'The Wizard of Oz' treated to a spectacle of singing and dancing, they were also given the opportunity to visit the Emerald City for refreshments during the interval, with the school's canteen turned into an 'over the rainbow' haven of 'Ozilicious' delights, thanks to the creative efforts of teacher Suzie Allen and the

Friends of saltash.net community school.

Commenting on this outstanding school production, Headteacher, Isobel Bryce, said, "It was an incredibly ambitious musical to choose. The construction of a convincing yellow brick road alone would have deterred many producers! But with so many students, staff and parents supporting the show, we have proved that no challenge is too great. I congratulate everyone involved: it was definitely a Wizard of a show!"

Review on page 8

A Million Pounds to Spend a Penny

The threatened further closure of public conveniences, as reported in your previous 'Observer' will not be taking place – at least in the near future. Public protest has persuaded Cornwall Council to reverse their planned police of further closures as a means of budget reduction.

Instead a million pounds will be spent to subsidise conveniences for another year.

This will provide a period for local councils such as Saltash to reach decisions as to whether they are prepared to take over running their local essential facilities. These are now limited to three, Longstone Park, Belle

Vue Car Park and the Waterside, the latter being the conveniences previously threatened.

"The Town Council must now make its own plans for local convenience before a plan is forced upon us," warned County and Town Councillor Derek Holley.

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The Essa Files

A happy new year to all those reading this – particularly if there are any who aren't related to me and therefore reading it purely from a sense of duty!

The Christmas period does rather emphasise what it is like to be an ex mayor – it is very nice to have more time to spend with the family, but you also miss attending so many events, meeting so many interested people, and getting so many delicious mince pies.

The festive period also brings the New Year and a time for reflection on what has been achieved, and what is still to do for the next year.

This is particularly important for our efforts to enhance our town centre and support local trade – we had a great success in December with our very popular free parking scheme which received a lot of excellent publicity including ITV Westcountry and BBC Spotlight – over 2/3 of traders told it that it made a real

difference to their business. We have had other successes in the year too – with cleaning the street and enhancing its appearance.

However success inevitably brings the problem of what you do for an encore, and the Saltash Town –centre Improvement Group (STIG) will be meeting in January to discuss our priorities for the year, including how we follow up on the parking scheme.

We are also looking at other projects such as a 'talking bench' to introduce tourists to the history of Fore St, street coverings, and bringing markets to Saltash. Constructive suggestions are always welcome (adam_killeya@yahoo.co.uk).

SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



I sincerely hope all the Saltash Observer readers had a good Christmas and would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and healthy New Year.

Although Parliament has been in recess, I have been working hard in the Constituency over the Christmas period and began my own Christmas celebrations by attending the Babcock Christmas Carol service. Once again the Factory Shop in the Dockyard was decorated in a splendid manner and the Salvation Army band accompanied the many familiar carols. It was a real pleasure to hear so many children singing their hearts out during Away in a Manger. It was so good to see so many people from the Saltash area, who rely on Devonport Dockyard for employment, attending with their children.

I recently attended the Saltash Rotary Club January meeting at the China Fleet Club.

I am always pleased to visit the many Rotary Clubs in South East Cornwall and would like to pay tribute to their good work. It was opportune that I had visited The Memory Cafe in Lostwithiel which receives a lot of help from local Rotary Club and this demonstrated to me that we often forget the valuable time Rotarians give so freely to help with local projects.

This is, of course in addition to their valuable fundraising efforts.

I would like to congratulate the Saltash Club in their efforts to raise a large pot of funds despite the adverse weather condition during the recent Santa Sleigh Run around the area. I understand that Santa gave out the contents of 6 tins of Roses.

My talk to the Rotarians at their January Dinner this year focused on the interesting events that I had engaged in during my year as your Member of Parliament that I would never have imagined taking part in. I told them how, despite having no head for heights, I conquered the High Ropes at Sibleyback Lake and this is an activity for all the family which I can certainly recommend.

Closer to home, I was delighted to attempt the Climbing Wall at K3 Youth Club and whilst I did not reach the top, I managed to drive my office manager Bob "right up the wall".

I have also visited the Saltash Canoe Club and joined them for an evening on the water. Having been a canoeist in my younger days, it was really good to spend some time on the water under the two bridges.

Finally, before returning to Westminster, I had my regular meeting with Steve Moore, the Chief Executive of Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust. I was updated by Steve on the moves towards GP Commissioning and things seem to be progressing well in this area. I was also delighted to hear more about the tele health project that is currently being piloted in Cornwall as one of only three in the Country. This is a really positive initiative and I believe there is the prospect of Cornwall being a leader in primary health provision in the future.

I am looking forward to starting 2012 with a visit from the Transport Minister and we will be meeting with Saltash Rail Users Group. I am also hoping to take the opportunity to show her how important a footbridge across the A38 at Carkeel is for the safety of pedestrians.

Whilst at the Rotary Club, I was asked about the Constituency Boundary issue. I have written and spoken to the Boundary Commission objecting to the proposed name change of the Constituency to Liskeard.

I feel that to identify a single town in the Constituency when there are six, particularly when Saltash is by far the largest does not reflect the Constituency well. This is why I have asked that the name South East Cornwall is retained because it is far more representative of the beautiful Constituency that has been my home for almost all of my life and that I am fortunate to represent.

Bridge Anniversary was a Royal Occasion

The Princess Royal crossed the Tamar Bridge and visited Saltash Guildhall to mark the fiftieth anniversary of her grandmother, the Late Queen Mother, officially opening the bridge.

After being greeted by a Royal Marine Band on the Plymouth side, she made slow progress over the cantilever, admiring works of art by students from saltash.net and Ernesettle Schools lining the walkway. The doubtful weather meant that she progressed by Range Rover rather than walked.

Some of the young artists met the Princess when she visited the Guildhall, having formally been introduced by the Lord Lieutenant Colonel Edward Bolitho, to the Mayor and Mayoress Colin and Marilyn Oakes.

Cornwall County Councillors, Bridge and Ferry Officials and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Plymouth also talked with the Princess who displayed a lively interest in the automatic Tamar Tag system and the history of the Bridge, the longest suspension bridge in Britain when her grandmother opened it.

The Princess Royal accepted a card from the Guildhall staff and took lunch there before proceeding to her next engagement in Truro.

Toy Train Runs Again

The Saltash Waterside Station once again has an operative train service for young residents to enjoy.

The play train on the green by Ashtorre had been out of service for around six weeks. It was re-opened following repair work subsidised by the Saltash Waterfront Residents Association and the Town Council. It is an extremely popular and well used feature of the Waterside, sadly missed during its temporary closure.

All in the Family

At least one sharp eyed reader noticed the error in last month's Christmas conundrum

corner. Elizabeth Mother of John the Baptist was of course Mary's cousin – Apologies, and we hope that you still enjoyed our fun quiz.



CORNWALL COUNCIL
& our PL12 Community

For: Observer readers

From: Councillor Bob Austin

Essa Ward, Saltash

Happy New Year to all!

What is 2012 going to hit us with?

Well for a start Cornwall Council is asking residents to help shape the future for Cornwall for the next 20 years. Consultation on the core strategy starts on the 9th Jan. - "Planning Future Cornwall" will be visiting Saltash Guildhall on Friday 13th Jan - noon till 7pm, I suspect however that the Observer will not arrive through your letter box until after this date, that being the case you can still get involved with points 2 to 4 below.

This is the plan that will set out the Council's aims and planning policies for new housing, employment, retail, the environment, leisure, community facilities, essential public places and infrastructure up to 2030.

Residents can give their views by either:

Visiting the roadshow in the Guildhall and talking to Cornwall Council Officers to express their views.

Visiting our website www.cornwall.gov.uk/1df and leaving comments on line.

Calling 01872 224283 to request that documents and feedback forms to be posted out.

Viewing the documents in Saltash Library and then contacting us by phone or on line.

Saltash Traffic Road Orders (TRO)

Within the next few months Cornwall Council will be working on new yellow lining throughout the town. This has been arranged and paid for by your four Cornwall Councillors - Cllrs Holley, Riches, Preston & myself, via the Councillors' Highway Allowance. The main thrust of the TRO's is of course Fore Street where, no doubt, many of you have seen the posters explaining the plan of attack. There are several reasons why this is being done:

The current yellow lining is out of date

To ease the parking situation within the town centre and make parking restrictions enforceable.

To stop the buses leaving their back ends out in the middle of the road, causing a back-up of traffic through the town centre.

It is hoped that the work will be carried out on a Sunday. Once this is complete you will need to ensure that you keep to the parking regulations set out on the signs as the enforcement team will be out in force.

Other areas being

covered by the exercise are Taylor Road, Glebe Ave (Opposite Wesley), St Stephen's Road/Wearde Road, Avery Way, Berry Park and Gilston Road. If anyone would like any more information on this then please let me know.

Christmas Car Parking in Saltash

Did this affect you?

Did you take advantage of this fantastic offer?

Were you excluded from shopping in Saltash as the car parks were full?

Saltash Town Council steered the way ahead, professionally led by Cllr Adam Killeya, with Cornwall Council to negotiate free public parking for Saltash during the run up to Christmas. Adam is to be congratulated on his negotiating skills and to arrive at what I believe was a tremendous success.

The feedback we are getting is that the shops in Fore Street enjoyed buoyant trading whereas other towns in the area where considerably down compared to previous years. We must support our shops in the town centre, which is a great asset to Saltash. It was the town council's objective to do so by allowing some of the 106 money (an agreed sum given by the supermarkets when applying for planning permission to assist the town council to regenerate the town centre) to pay Cornwall Council for all car parks during the Christmas period. We must learn from this exercise as there were some people taking advantage of this scenario by parking there all day. Suggestions have been made that we restrict the parking to two or three hours, which the Town Council will be looking at before Christmas 2012. There was also a problem as we got closer to Christmas that all the car parks were full and "would be" shoppers had to go elsewhere, so I believe there is a compromise to be made here.

We would therefore like your comments, ideas and concerns about this – please pass them into our Town Clerk at the Guildhall or email me..

To complete this article can I once again wish all the people of Saltash a happy and healthy New Year.

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From The Mayor's Parlour...

It is hard to believe that another year has ended and I am over half way through my Mayoral year. I know that past Mayors told me that the time would fly by and they were quite right.

The run up to Christmas has been a very busy time for us both. At the end of November, we were entertained by the Brunel Ladies Harmony Chorus at their 20th Birthday Concert which was a very enjoyable evening of wonderful music. We attended the GCSE presentation evening at Saltash.net and I was delighted to be invited to present the students with their certificates for both GCSE and vocational awards.

We have been to the St Lukes "Light up a Life" service, which was very moving and Christmas parties for Saltash Age Concern Social and Luncheon clubs. Music has featured a great deal in our pre-Christmas activities with concerts at Bishop Cornish School, the Saltash Guides carol service and the Bishop Cornish Christmas, all wonderful events.

I must thank my Deputy Martin and his wife, Maggie for attending the SHADO Christmas lunch as we were already busy with another engagement. They had a wonderful time and enjoyed meeting everyone, a taste of things to come!

I hope that many of you were able to join us for this year's Town Carol Service and lights switch-on. We were delighted to receive the new Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Colonel Edward Bolitho, who kindly agreed to switch on our



Christmas lights. It was a pleasure to welcome him to Saltash and he was delighted to see so many children and adults alike, enjoying the event.

I would also like to personally thank everyone who worked so tirelessly for us all to enjoy ourselves. The children worked incredibly hard making the lanterns which was a new venture this year. I was fortunate enough to visit Bishop Cornish, Brunel, Burraton and St Stephens Primary Schools to see them all hard at work and I think you will agree that the lanterns were spectacular.

My thanks also to Councillor Hilary Frank, whose idea it was to hold the lantern workshops, to Joe Ellison and the Civic Amenities committee and to Alex and Jan, who held the workshops in the four schools. Also thanks must go to the Air Cadets who always provide so much help at town events, the Bishop Cornish Drums and Saltash Town Band that led the procession and to Saltash Rotary and of course, Father Christmas himself! At the end of the service, we were delighted to accompany the Lord Lieutenant to the Christmas tree Festival at St.Nicholas & St.Faith Church which he enjoyed. The church looked fabulous. I hope that many of you were able to visit.

One of the highlights for us this month has had to be the visit from HRH Princess Anne who came to Saltash and Plymouth for the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Tamar Bridge. It was also a very special day for us as, back in 1962, I was a Scout at the Plymouth end of the Bridge and Marilyn was a Saltash Brownie, when the bridge was opened by the Queen Mother and we lined the route.

I was delighted that some of the pupils from Saltash.net were invited to meet the Princess and had an opportunity to speak to her.

We were very privileged to have a Royal visit during our Mayoral year and it will be another happy memory to look back on, long after our duties are finished.

We really enjoyed the "Wizard of Oz", the Saltash.net Christmas production which was excellent and it was wonderful to see all the students enjoying the performance. It was also obvious that the staff and helpers behind the scenes had worked extremely hard

to make the performance such a success, congratulations to you all.

Finally, we attempted to visit as many care homes and residential homes in Saltash as possible and received a very warm welcome from both residents and staff. Also included in our schedule was an invitation to the Saltash 2nd.Forum 30th Anniversary and a visit, on Christmas Day, to the patients and staff at St.Barnabas Hospital. We are always thrilled to meet Saltash people and these visits were no exception. Our year ended with a delicious Christmas Day lunch at Saltash Wesley Church when we joined Church members and Saltash residents, who normally live alone but came to the Church, for a meal and good company. A very different day for us and a very enjoyable one.

It only remains for me now, on behalf of Saltash Town Council, to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 What was the name of the prison in the TV series Porridge?
- 2 On which European peninsula are Spain and Portugal found?
- 3 Macaroon Biscuits are traditionally flavoured with which type of nut?
- 4 What name is given to the remains of an animal or plant preserved in rock?
- 5 Which is the southernmost island of the Inner Hebrides?
- 6 During World War 2 Wing-Commander Guy Gibson commanded which group of Royal Air Force pilots?
- 7 In Gulliver's Travels what was Gulliver's occupation before he was shipwrecked?
- 8 Which is the largest Brass instrument in an Orchestra?
- 9 Which is the only animal to have four knees?

Answers on page 7

**Observer
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Pram Race Helps make Chloe Mobile

New Year in Saltash started colourfully with the local tradition of our fancy dress pram race, organised each New Year's Day by Saltash Rugby club.

This year sixty six entrants helped raise over £1200 to help a severely disabled Saltash child become more mobile.

The fancy-dressed entrants each paid an entrance fee and extra money was raised by collecting at the eleven licensed premises at which the prams paused for a quick glass of beer while wending their way down the town to the Waterside and back via St Stephens to the Rugby club. The safety car was driven by Craig Jones and the timekeeper was 'Hoppy'.

Back at the Rugby club the family fun continued with waxing by Emma Mills and face painting by Emma Clarke of the Little Party Shop in Saltash.

The funds went towards the monies required to purchase a new walker for three year old Chloe Sheil, a Saltash girl suffering from Dyskenetic Cerebral Palsy. This condition means that she has difficulty in controlling her movement and has very little core stability. A walker is essential to provide mobility and the Saltash Observer too is intending to assist Chloe through our last-year's anniversary charity fund-raising.



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Tamar Trotters Win Award

Tamar trotters running club have won the Plymouth evening Herald Sports club of the year award for 2011. This is the second time the Saltash based club which has over 400 members has been nominated

The presentation was made at the Herald awards evening in Plymouth Pavillions The presentation was made by Sally Gunnell who was the guest of honour. Pictured above, the junior section of the club with the trophy

SALTASH U3A

The singing group opened the meeting with Christmas songs which made for a lively start, and this was followed by the Chairmans report of activities which have taken place since the last meeting.

Two teams took part in the Town Quiz, and although neither team won we all had a very enjoyable evening. We also had a Christmas tree among the 57 which provided a wonderful display in St. Nicholas and St. Faith Church at the beginning of the month.

We held our second welcoming coffee morning for new members, when our Chairman, Mike Scott explained the origins and aims of the U3A, and introduced the committee and group leaders to the new members.

After attending the Regional Network meeting Joy Leadbitter reported that our 'Saltash Newsletter, which is produced twice yearly by Sue Martin, had been praised as a good example of what local U3As should be aiming for.

In 2012 U3A becomes 30 years old, and with its "teach and learn—learn and teach" approach it has become more and more popular.

It is intended that the National Magazine "U3A News" which all members receive by post, will be increased from three to five issues yearly, and members are asked to send in interesting photos and articles about activities within their groups.

Yvonne Oram gave the talk this month which was called "Sketches of Spain". Drawn from the experience of living in Spain for two and a half years, it was sometimes amusing, sometimes serious, but always interesting and very much enjoyed.

Our next meeting in January will be our Show Case, when we welcome anybody to come and see the displays which each activity group will put on.

More information on Saltash U3A can be found on our website, <http://u3asites.org.uk/saltash>

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Lantern Parade brought Christmas Cheer to Victorian Street Festival

“The best ever beginning to the festive season in Saltash”, was the opinion of many of those hundreds who lined a street lit up by lanterns borne aloft by up to two hundred excited local children.

The street, had been closed to traffic all afternoon and after a quiet start the mild and dry weather attracted growing crowds anxious to savour the Victorian flavour of the Christmas Festival. Between the Craft Fair in Victoria Gardens and the arena at the foot of Fore Street the shops were looking their best. Many windows had been specially decorated and some shop-owners and staff were in Dickensian costume and offering seasonal food and drink to passers by.

The finest decorated window, as selected by the Mayor Cllr Colin Oakes and Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce William Cotton was ‘The Hearing Room,’ which was awarded the coveted cup from the Chamber of Commerce.

Between the shops a Victorian organ played, the Bash Street Bobbies, Unicycle Sam and other street performers entertained, while a roundabout kept youngsters happy.

Then, as darkness fell, there emerged from the Guildhall a long line of lanterns, crafted by the children who so proudly carried them. The crowds stood back to watch them process to the top of the street where they joined the main parade.

The children, and some adults, had been constructing the lanterns during workshops held in schools and in the Guildhall the previous week. Alex and Jan Grant of Toozalii Community Arts had travelled from Salisbury to organise the workshops and were delighted at the enthusiasm which the children showed. “Art such as this brings a community, both adults and children together,” Alex told the Observer, adding that he would hope to see this as the start of a community arts programme in Saltash. “It

also provides useful life skills for children who are often used to buying everything ready made, learning how to make such items as a simple Christmas lantern out of basic materials.”

At the top of Fore Street the lantern bearing children joined the procession with the Mayor, Mayoress and other dignitaries, the Town Band sounding out Christmas music, and headed by Father Christmas in his sleigh (thanks to

Rotary.) At the foot of Fore Street the newly appointed Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Colonel Edward Bolitho,

switched on the Town's array of Christmas lights to the roar of applause. The Reverent Jeff Howden then led the mass voices of Saltash in the

traditional Town open air Carol Service and Saltash was once again fully into the Christmas Spirit.

Now visit....www.saltash-observer.co.uk



The Lantern Parade proved highly successful



Best window



Proprietor, Andrew's sister Susan, decorated the winning window in the Best Dressed Window competition.



The street was packed as families turned out to watch the parade



The Hearing Room staff followed the theme by dressing in Dickensian costume.

Rotary Thanks for Christmas Generosity

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Saltash (and, of course, Santa himself) I should like to say a big thank you to the people of Saltash and the surrounding areas for their generous support of the Christmas Sleigh this year. In a time that many are finding things a bit tough we have been overwhelmed by your generosity and kind words.

I must apologise that due to the bad weather (rain, this year, instead of ice) it was necessary to call off some of the evening trips as we didn't want Santa to be ill for his work on Christmas Eve but the ones that were completed again received complimentary comments about the sleigh. The monies raised will be used for our work within the community of Saltash and our support for overseas projects when disaster strikes.

Our grateful thanks must also go to the retailers who allowed us static sites during some of the days in December. Without the continued support of Lidl, Tamar View Nurseries, Tesco (Transit Way) and Waitrose our efforts would have been greatly reduced. A further thank you goes to Waitrose who again sponsored the Christmas lights competition this year and their assistance throughout the year is greatly appreciated.

I must admit that the lights this year were very difficult to judge with some very tasteful displays. If you didn't win please don't give up next year as all of the town enjoys the displays – some streets were little Blackpools with the houses all lit up – and it does give pleasure to a lot of people.

Finally, in closing, I must just advertise for new members. We have room for people who want to give back to their community and be involved in working for the benefit of the world community. We have a varied programme of social events and are an organisation involved in some massive worldwide campaigns (Shelterbox and Polio Eradication to name just two) and would provide a great



additional use to your skills.

There is no age limit so if you have recently retired this might just fill a gap in your time. Check out our website –

www.saltashrotary.org - or give me a call on 844281.

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Mike and Joan Say Thank You...

"Our first Christmas and new year welcoming regulars and new friends to the Ploughboy even exceeded all our highest expectations" Mike and Joan told reporter Martin Lister, as they paused to gather breathe and prepare for future events in 2012.

They wish to thank through the Observer all of those customers who thronged the bar and restaurant throughout the festive period helping make it so special for one and all.

Mike in particular took a special pleasure in welcoming old friends from the years when he ran the Brunel. The young people who packed the bar in those days are now bringing their own families to the Ploughboy and they shared the festive fun with Mike and Joan while helping them to

launch the new Ploughboy.

Filled with enthusiasm at the reception they received Mike and Joan are busy planning out for future special occasions. For those romantic moments "away from the kids" book now for a special Valentine's night out or arrange a special treat for your mother on mothering Sunday, March 18th.

Other events planned include a special disco for the 28th January with ever popular DJ Laurie.

Eyes Down for Bingo

The Ploughboy is also already building up its Euchre Darts and Pool teams and is now delighted to welcome the extremely popular Bingo sessions, formerly held at the Brunel, with really superb prizes.



Cheque Presentation to Macmillan Nurses

One event fast becoming a regular fun fund-raising evening is the Ploughboy's unique 'Comical Euchre night' Mike explains, "it began with our regular euchre team deciding to have some extra fun and raise money for charity. We fixed a system of forfeits and fines resulting in an evening of laughter and a demand to do it again.

The second time word had spread and we were able to donate £144 to Macmillan Cancer Nurses. Now everyone wants to share the fun at the next night to be arranged in mid-January – a different charity will be decided for each evening.

Residents at Rowan House Enjoy a Special Christmastide



Pictured: John Pocock having a ball at the Christmas Party

Residents of Rowan House joined with family and staff in the festive mood for a fun filled Christmas party.

Music from regular entertainers Dave and Pam Carter soon had all in party mood singing along and, in many cases, dancing while working up an appetite for the fine festive fare.

Resident chef Jasper, formerly of Boringdon hall had excelled himself with feast, the centrepiece of

which was a fresh dressed salmon.

Father Christmas had paid a visit that afternoon with presents for all residents and the party concluded with a grand Christmas draw. The prizes were well distributed between residents, staff and guests with the star prize a laptop computer, going to a resident's son. The evenings festivities were agreed by all to have ensured the residents were ready to enjoy a special Christmastide.

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New Band Struck up the Seasonal Spirit

A newly formed group of musicians has been enhancing local seasonal events over the Christmas period.

'R Wind Band' came together in May 2011 as a number of amateur but experienced woodwind and brass players keen to play together in particular as a part of community events. Many will have heard them play in St Nicholas and St Faith Church during the Christmas Tree Festival. They were also invited to participate in the Burraton Methodist Chapel Carol Service where a packed church clearly enjoyed singing traditional carols to an orchestral accompaniment, as well as listening to a number of familiar and less familiar seasonal airs before, during and after the service. Conductor Ruth Ballantyne explains, "Following my completion of a course in conducting I was keen to fill a gap in the local music scene, being inspired by symphonic wind band music to create a locally based band. I started by inviting musicians whom I knew and by word of mouth we have grown into a band capable of putting on entertainment to suit local events and hopefully bring pleasure to our audiences."

The young band is still welcoming more members with suitable abilities. To find out more, or to ascertain the band's availability contact ruth@rwindband.co.uk or on 01752 844017.

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Free Pre-Christmas Parking Welcomed by Shoppers and Shops

Saltash shoppers took good advantage of the free parking offered to them in all of the Town Centre car parks from 10am each day through December to Christmas

This was a 'Christmas bonus' intended to encourage both residents and visitors, attracted by the banners at each end of Fore Street, to come into the town centre and enjoy exploring its wide range of independent shops at their leisure. Starting the free parking from 10am was intended to encourage shoppers while discouraging the all day blocking of spaces by workers or commuters.

In 2010 free parking had been offered for the week before Christmas but car parks had been icebound for most of this time. In 2011 the weather was milder and high occupancy of the car parks indicated the scheme to be successful.

The cost of the parking charges lost to Cornwall Council was funded by 'Section 106' money provided for community use by those granted planning permission for commercial purposes. It was organised by Saltash Gateway Community Interest Company through its 'STIG' (town centre improvement group) with support from the Town Council and Chamber of Commerce.

The Saltash Chamber of Commerce commented, "the Chamber is delighted to support this scheme, designed to encourage new and existing shoppers into the Town Centre. They will have been able to explore the diverse range of shops that Saltash has to offer."

The regeneration of town and city centres which all face stiff competition from out of town malls with unlimited free parking is now being actively promoted by the government which recently sought the support of "Mary Portas, Queen of Shops."

Saltash's STIG and Chamber of Commerce however have already been embarking on initiatives put forward in her report, the free pre-Christmas parking for shoppers being one such example.

On behalf of STIG, Saltash town councillor Adam Killea concluded, "We are tremendously pleased at the positive effect on trade during this critical period. Over two thirds of the traders surveyed said that business was improved. We hope that Cornwall Council will take note of the improvement to town centre trading".

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**RING OUT THE OLD!**

The bells of our ancient St Nicholas church have once again rung out the old year of 2011 which had arrived mid snow and ice. It ended in mistiness and unseasonal mildness with snowdrops, primroses and even daffodils already peeping through our gardens.

The year saw us in Saltash enjoy a warm Spring, a mixed but mainly damp Summer and a pleasantly mild Autumn into Winter.

Saltash also enjoyed its traditional seasonal pattern of community events enhanced by several special "one offs."

The year has also as always seen a number of changes in the Town, some for the better, others less so. On the worldwide scene the economic uncertainty with which we entered 2011 seemed no clearer at the year's end than those mists that hung over the Tamar as the bells rang out.

Once again your Saltash Observer has always been at the forefront of the Town's happenings reporting back to you through 2011. Now once again we take our annual look back over the year that has passed as well as looking to the future and to some of the topics which we anticipate you will be reading about in your 2012 Saltash Observer.

Winter

*"Iced airs wheeze through
the skeletoned hedge from the
North*

*With steady snores, and a
numbing that threatens snow
And skaters pass, and merry
boys go forth
to look for slides"*

Thomas Hardy (1840 - 1928)



Winter 2011

The words of the carol "In the Bleak Midwinter" had seemed particularly pertinent as we sang them in the last days of 2010, though the beginning of January saw a thaw that enabled us to enjoy viewing Winter wading birds on the Tamar and around Churchtown Farm. We also enjoyed a crisp night walk to Botus Fleming to join with young and old in visiting starlit orchards and share the ancient tradition of wassailing.

The future of Saltash as a thriving commercial centre was under debate in the early months of 2011 following the release of a report prepared for the Gateway Community Interest Company. A public survey showed considerable enthusiasm for a town market and this is still very much

under consideration for 2012. Other proposals for a Town square as a centre for the community, with Alexandra Square put forward as a site, met with less public support.

We had sad news to report in February, the funeral of one of Saltash's best known and well loved character, twice Mayor and loyal supporter of so many of the Town's organisations, (over thirty at least) Mona Tomazeska-Honywill passed away after a long illness and St Stephens Church, where she had been christened, married and

proclaimed Mayor, was packed with those paying tribute.

Mona, as a proper Cornishwoman would have been delighted to note the Observer article confirming that an array of Cornish St Piran flags was to line Fore Street as befitted the Gateway to Cornwall.

Less cheerful news was the reducing of library opening hours as part of Cornwall's cost cutting. We



Wassailing at
Botus Fleming

also reported on the public consultation concerning the proposed incinerator across the river from Saltash at Barne Barton, subsequently to be given the go-ahead by Plymouth Council despite widespread objections from both sides of the Tamar.

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Spring

*"This is the weather
the cuckoo likes
And so do I,
When showers betumble
the chestnut spike
And nestlings fly."*

Thomas Hardy

Saltash emerged into Spring as always with the community coming together for May Fair which we quoted the Mayor by describing as "one of the best festivals of its kind in Cornwall." The sun shone, the crowds came and packed the street, entertainment was enjoyed and stallholders left the street happy.

In addition there was one of the special "one off" celebrations which Saltash does so well.

One fine Spring morning declared a public holiday, Saltash and the rest of the world sat glued to the television to enjoy the winning combination of romance and royalty as Prince William and Kate, now the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, were wed with the pomp and pageantry that Britain does so well. That afternoon crowds flocked for our own celebrations, the 'Picnic in the Park,' and your Observer featured an exclusive picture of Councillor Sue Hooper MBE and Observer reporter Martin Lister with the royal couple - albeit that the newly-weds were cardboard cut-outs.

May as ever also witnessed our own piece of pageantry with the formal Mayor Choosing ceremony. Councillors Adam and Merryn Killea handed over their chain of office to incoming Mayor and Mayoress Colin and Marilyn Oakes, and this year an added ceremony was the passing on of a symbolic key to the Town.



Claire Sargent entered
into the Spirit of the Royal
Wedding

"Station building's future uncertain" we reported in April and this continues to be

*"Ring out, wild
bells, to the wild sky.
The flying cloud, the
frosty light:
The year is dying in
the night;
Ring out wild bells
and let him die."*

Alfred Lord

Tennyson

(1809 - 1892)

the case.

A more positive future was promised for our community school which gained academy status. We also attended, for the first time in our reporting career, an official opening to a cemetery extension, this being at St Stephen.

The long sunny Spring was welcomed in Saltash and the Countryside around and we especially enjoyed a dawn chorus walk around Churchtown Farm followed by bacon rolls in the 'Cecil Arms.' Unfortunately, the Spring promise of fine weather to come did not hold out for the Summer.

Summer

*"Far off the rook, tired by
the mid-day beam
Caws lazily this Summer
afternoon*

*The butterfly, with
wandering up and down
O'er flower-bright marsh
and meadow wearied seem."*

*Thomas Doubleday
(1792 - 1870)*

Fortunately, the weather held out for Saltash Regatta weekend, as the queues for ice cream and cold drinks testified. Many children and adults entered fully into the theme of 'Pirates of the Tamar,' and crowds flocked to enjoy the multitude of activities ashore and afloat.

Your Observer also reported an exclusive interview by Martin Lister with Terpsichorean ex Cabinet Minister and Saltash Baker's granddaughter Ann Widdecombe. She was one of the guests at the highly successful Literary festival held at Pentillie Castle and organised by Saltash Bookshelf's Jill Male.

A ceremony in the Tamar Bridge car park attended by our Mayor and Mayoress celebrated the start of a major and long overdue project, the repainting of the Royal Albert Bridge. Now partially shrouded, the bridge is having all of its paint cover scraped back to bare metal (save a representative fragment of it) and the fresh covering as well as renovation works will take up to two years to complete.

We welcomed a late-night independent pharmacist to Fore Street's Regal Court and reported on further awards to Saltash Academy for teaching excellence.

Other breaking news that Summer which was to be

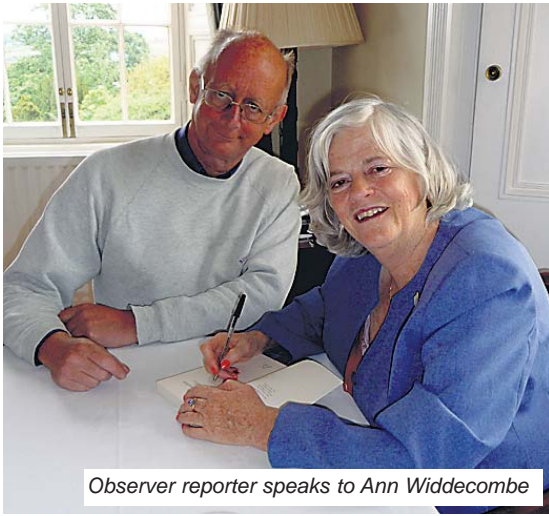
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Observer reporter speaks to Ann Widdecombe

followed up was the anticipation that the Olympic torch might pass through Saltash – it will, and the suggestion that due to complaints from Town traders the 2012 May Fair might shift from Fore Street – it is going to.

Autumn, Winter

"The trees are undressing and fling in many places. On the gray road, the roof, the window-sill - Their radiant robes and ribbons and yellow laces A leaf each second so is flung at will."

Thomas Hardy

The good news which we were delighted to report was



Beer Festival at the Union Inn

that Saltash was set to remain Cornish. The previous Autumn we had reported on a mass rally at Waterside demonstrating local concern that Saltash might be incorporated into a Plymouth-based parliamentary constituency.

In October 2011 we confirmed that the boundary commission was not recommending this, though North Cornwall might not be so fortunate.

Town all through December, generally welcomed by almost all.

Walkers too were interested to read our report on the public enquiry into a popular riverside footpath at Antony Passage, this too will run into 2012.

Your Observer was active in the community helping to launch a sailing day for local disabled children and adults, attended by Editor and Reporter, Mary and Martin.

Martin also took especial interest in reporting upon the Town first beer festival and in helping to empty the barrels at the 'Union', as well as participating and reporting upon the ancient tradition of cider making at Botus Fleming.

The highlight of the Autumn however, had to be the fiftieth anniversary celebrations to mark the last sailing of the Saltash Ferry and the opening of the Tamar Bridge. It was truly a 'you had to be there' event the atmosphere of which we sought to recapture in our report.

We also reported on the opening of the climbing wall at the K3 Youth club, the memorable Spirit of Africa evening at the school, and the

national headlines telling of austerity, inflation, unemployment and economic chaos.

Still Fore Street remains relatively robust some shops have sadly been lost to us, others have opened and we wish them well. Remember, shop in Saltash, keep our Town flourishing, and make sure our money remains in local hands, not with the national conglomerates.

So what will we be reporting upon in 2012? Well, two national celebrations will be shared by our Saltash community.

Britain will host the Olympic games and the Olympic torch will pass through Saltash on the first stage of its journey from Lands End, crossing to



Children enjoy the ancient tradition of cider making

civic service at which we said goodbye to Cornwall's Lord Lieutenant Lady Mary Holbrow.

We were pleased to welcome her successor, Colonel Edward Bolitho on the occasion of the Princess Royal's visit to the Tamar Bridge and the Guildhall. We welcomed him also at Saltash's very special Christmas event, reported upon elsewhere in this 'Observer,' at which the always excellent event was enhanced by a spectacular lantern lit parade of our local children – and a mild and dry afternoon and evening.

Then, after the joyful build up during which we sang carols in church, chapel, Fore Street and Forder Village, at last darkness fell on the most magical of nights, the atmosphere of which should be preserved for all times, before excited children opened their stockings and the bells rang out for Christmas Day.

'Ring in the New!'

*"Ring out the old, ring in the new
Ring, happy bells across the snow
The year is going, let him go
Ring out the false, ring in the true."*

And few perhaps will mourn the passing of 2011 with its constantly gloomy

Plymouth on the 19th May. Its route through the Town will not be disclosed until nearer the time but already a day of celebrations is being organised.

Another truly royal celebration will be the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Following the highly successful picnic in the park for last year's royal wedding a similar event is being planned out. Observer reporter Martin Lister has also been asked to lead a beating of the bounds, similar to that enjoyed by scores of walkers and boat-passengers in 2009.

And what of other local issues? The Tesco store sought for Carkeel has not gone away, negotiations concerning access are continuing and planning applications are likely to be



The new Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Colonel Edward Bolitho visited Saltash



During the morning service at Saltash Wesley Methodist Church on Sunday 6th November, the minister Rev. Nicki Slateford presented cheques from the proceeds of a recent craft fair held in the church.

A cheque for £460 was presented to Jamie Lee, the Partnership Fundraiser (Devon & Cornwall) for Action for Children (formerly National Children's Home).

Another cheque for £457 was presented to Phil Taylor the chairman of Saltash Wesley Music Foundation which will be used for repairs to the church organ.

PROBUS CLUB

Over 40 members and guests enjoyed the annual Christmas Lunch at the Whitsand Bay Hotel on 7 December. The meal was followed by a seasonal sing-song led by the new Chairman Ted Parr accompanied on the keyboard by Sue Davies.

Saltash Probuc Club is part of a nationwide chain of clubs promoting fellowship and social activities for retired professional men or businessmen. Last October the Club celebrated its 21st. Anniversary with a lunch at the Holland Inn.

Meetings are held at 10am on the 1st. and 3rd. Wednesdays of each month at Saltash Guildhall with the business part of the meeting being followed by a talk by a guest speaker or occasionally a member. Over the years we have had an interesting range of speakers and anyone who would like to give a suitable talk should contact us.

The Club has about 30 active members and would welcome some new members. Those interested should contact the Secretary, Bruce Crowhurst on 01752 846835 or Email: bruce.crowhurst@talktalk.net.

back for consideration.

The vexed issue of our sadly decaying station building is also likely to be an ongoing issue – hopefully to be resolved in some way.

May Fair, at its new venue outside the Town centre, and the Waterside Regatta will as ever no doubt be among the major events of the year.

Of more concern are ongoing austerity measures and council cuts. Will our library and other resources be affected? Will cuts in subsidies reduce our bus services into Cornwall.

On a more positive note we may well see the much vaunted Saltash market and more may be heard concerning our suggested Town Square, the location of both being still up for debate.

And at long last we hope to see the dramatic erection of our Celtic Cross marking the Gateway to Cornwall, a proud symbol of our Cornish heritage, its Christian faith, and our hopes for a shining future.

Gardeners Question Time

BBC Radio 4 Gardeners Question Time is being hosted by the Lynher View Allotment Association on Monday 13th February 2012 at the Saltash .net Community School. Tickets £2.50 Telephone Ken Wasley on 843432

Road is off the Map

A Saltash resident has been living at his present address since 1967 yet the road is still not shown on the local A-Z map.

Porter Way, off Oaklands Drive, has never appeared on the Plymouth Street map which also shows Saltash, a local resident advised the Town Council.

Fortunately, the postman is aware of the road which does have its own sign fully noticeable.

A Town Councillor observed that her own road, Warfelton Terrace, opposite Longstone Park, was similarly omitted from the map until recently, it having for long been a private street.

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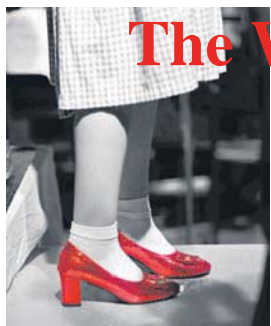


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The Wizard Proved Pure Magic

For what must be their most ambitious production yet, saltash.net.community school took their enchanted audience along the yellow brick road to the zany and colourful world of Oz.

'The Wizard of Oz' movie is familiar seasonal television fare but the live production filled with the youthful enthusiasm and talent of a hundred eager young students from our community school proved a truly magical experience. With a performance in the round the fifty or so Munchkins and citizens of the Emerald City were given full rein to strut their stuff and perform to perfection the excellently choreographed dance and song.

The 'Wizard' depends on its Dorothy and Hannah Paull aged 14 did not disappoint, her fine voice being equally well pitched to the rousing choruses and the tear-jerking 'Over the Rainbow.' Her three fellow travellers well complemented her as did family and friends back in Kansas. All those with speaking roles well mastered the American accent with the Cowardly Lion in particular coming over pure Brooklyn.

This is not an easy show for amateurs and especial praise is due to the technical team for special effects, a truly tremendous tornado and a spectacularly spirited and scary entry on each occasion of the two Wicked Witches of the West who have cloned themselves since I last saw the movie.

The show more than movie emphasises the links between the characters in Kansas and they counterparts in Oz. It also develops the musical themes and the musicians too deserve congratulations. With its familiar and lively tunes sung and danced by a cast who really threw themselves into their roles and with the trite but true message of 'no place like home' this was a show to inspire and a perfect intro into the festive season.



Jasmine Smith as Auntie Em



Hannah Paull, as Dorothy

Now visit.... www.saltash-observer.co.uk

Town Council Train for Environmental Crime Enforcement

Environmental crimes which include dog fouling, tipping, littering and the abandonment of vehicles or nuisance vehicles may be regulated and penalties enforced by Saltash Town Council staff.

Cornwall Council does not have enough staff with power to enforce these problems throughout the County, explained Cornwall's Environmental Protection Officer Karen German during a presentation to Saltash Council's Civic Amenities Committee. Their policy therefore is to recruit and

train staff from town councils such as Saltash to fix penalties and take enforcement action. This may not include nuisance or abandoned vehicles for which Cornwall Council has to carry out extra legal action.

Councillors and members of local organisations are encouraged to gather and report on such environmental crimes to their trained staff.

The benefit to Saltash is that revenue from enforcement action is divided with 80% coming to the enforcement agency, in our case Saltash and the other 20% to Cornwall Council.

The Town Clerk and two Caretakers, the Civic Amenities Committee agreed, should undergo the necessary training in fixed penalty enforcement.

Boat Theft Campaign Launched

Following a spate of thefts from boats around Saltash local police have launched an anti-boat theft campaign with deterrents for would-be thieves.

A special paint containing micro-dots which can be read is available for application to boating equipment. This can subsequently be read and enable stolen property to be identified.

Outboard motors are an especial target of thieves and a cover for motors, now available has a notice advising that a part has been removed and the motor is inoperable. The kit is available for £20.

Local police have also opened a twitter account in the rural areas around Saltash. P.C. Chris Chilcott advised Saltash Town Council, with a view to extending it to the Town. He also confirmed that £500 is being sought to improve lighting at Salt Mill following complaints that children are too intimidated by older young people to use the facilities intended for them.

Local crime over the previous month dropped slightly from the equivalent period the previous year, 58 reported crimes as against 59. These included four burglaries from dwellings, eight other burglaries from outbuildings and the like, eleven assaults and eleven thefts.

There was also one allegation of sexual assault, one of drug supply and one of sending offensive text message.

Music in the Park

Saltash Environmental Action (SEA), with financial support from Saltash Town Council, is hosting a series of band concerts next spring and summer to be performed in Victoria Gardens on Sunday afternoon by Saltash Town Band.

This idea was supported by most residents who completed the SEA survey at May Fair in 2011. The survey asked for suggestions on how to make better use of Victoria Gardens. In addition to the series of band concerts, SEA hopes to raise funds to improve the landscaping in the gardens, install a parent and toddler play area next to the Maurice Huggins building, and hold workshops in the gardens to help people grow their own fruit and vegetables.

Denise Watkins, a spokesperson for SEA's Victoria Gardens project, commented: "Thanks to the hard work of Director, Chris Spreadbury and all the musicians in both junior and senior bands, we now have a very fine Town Band. We should flaunt it. This series of concerts will give the bands a chance to perform a variety of music which may surprise the people of Saltash, and I know will be enjoyed by all. We are very grateful to Saltash Town Council for funding this series."

Congratulations!

Kelly comes of age

Family friends and 'regulars' filled the Union Inn and over-spilled



into the adjacent marquee to celebrate the 21st birthday of firm favourite, landlady's daughter Kelly Pritchard.

Despite being born with Cerebral Palsy and largely confined to a wheelchair Kelly enters fully into all local activities, especially enjoying the wide variety of live music performed in father Brian's pub. Described by her mother Barbara as 'music mad' Kelly loves everything from the 60's onwards and appreciates the recordings often given to her by generous locals. She has also been 'horse mad' since aged seven and especially enjoys the facilities provided by Erme Valley Riding for the disabled who accordingly were offered the profits from the Union's recent beer festival.

Kelly has, also always been a firm favourite of ourselves at the Observer and we were delighted to organise for her a zip-wire experience at Churchtown Farm Lanlivery when she was a teenager. Last Autumn we enabled her to participate in an exciting sail across Plymouth Sound.

Having attended saltas.net school Kelly is now enjoying adult skills for life course at King's Road Devonport. We at the Observer were delighted to share the celebrations with all her many family and friends and wish Kelly a very happy future.

Responsible Persons Required

If you are a responsible person and you enjoy walking for health or for pleasure or need a little push to go for that all important walk, why not deliver a few papers on route.

I need active persons in the Pillmere area.

If you are interested please call Mary Crawford on 07971 484872 or 01579 345699

Saltash Leisure Centre

into fitness
Welcome to a great way of keeping fit, staying healthy & most importantly, having fun!

Membership

Saltash Leisure centre offer a range of memberships to suit your needs, and that offer great benefits in using the facilities regularly. Please call to speak to an advisor today or come in for a tour of our facilities and see what we have to offer.

Swimming pool:

25 metre pool with side learner pools

Adult swimming lessons

Junior swim lessons

Fitness Suite: State of the art fitness suite with cardio and weight training equipment.

There are also fully qualified instructors

Dance Studio: (inc)'Zumba'

Birthday parties: We offer a whole host of party options to help you celebrate your little ones special day.

Coffee shop: We have lots of meals on offer, including daily specials, healthy and vegetarian options.

New To Saltash Leisure Centre...

FLABeLOS weight loss and toning machine...

We now have a FLABeLOS machine at our centre. FLABeLOS is a vibrating plate machine, it is simple, fast, quiet and fun! They say you can drop a dress size in **3 weeks!** There are a number of staff trying it out so do not hesitate to ask us how we are doing. Using the power plates burns fat, helps weight loss, reduces cellulite, builds muscle tone, increases flexibility, promotes circulation, increases bone density, improves varicose veins, minimises lower back pain and helps you look fab! It is also beneficial to those who suffer from osteo-arthritis, Parkinsons and MS. 10 minutes = 1 hour workout! There is plenty of information about this product if you wish to Google it. We are offering 1 session for £4.00 - 1 week course for £10 (4 sessions) - 4 week course for £30 (16 sessions)

Tel: 01752 840940 www.cornwall.gov.uk/leisurecentres



Visit your local leisure centre



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