

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

January 2019 - Issue 322

Established 26 years

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## New Year's Honour for Lizzy

Members of Saltash Heritage were delighted to discover that their hard working secretary, Lizzy Sharpe-Asprey, was recognised in the New Year's Honours List with the British Empire Medal for her work with Saltash and South East Cornwall Museums.

A founder member of Heritage back in 1986, as treasurer and then secretary she strived to achieve the town's museum which opened in 2000. She helped initiate the South East Cornwall Museums Forum which brings together nine of our local

museum organisations, and also runs the U3A genealogy group. More recently she initiated the popular local 'Family History' day, now in its fourth year and to be held in Liskeard on 15th June. This event has won a Cornwall Heritage award.

Liz's own family roots stretch back well into Saltash history, her great grandfather having been the town's Stationmaster in the 1860's.

She will receive her BEM from the Lord Lieutenant and subsequently attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace.



Photo Bruce Hunt

"While thrilled to be nominated I believe that it is not just me but the whole Heritage team that is being honoured and recognised for their achievements in creating and maintaining a first rate local museum and history centre that has received many plaudits and awards", said Lizzy.

"This is splendid news for Saltash Heritage in particular and all other museums in South East Cornwall with which she has been involved", added Heritage Chairman Bob Munro.

## Two Prestigious Awards for Saltash Regatta and Waterside Festival

Our very own Saltash Regatta and Waterside Festival has won two prestigious awards in the Reader Star Awards Primary Times, Plymouth, beating the British Firework Championships in Plymouth to second place to be awarded favourite Free Local Family Event, and winning over readers' hearts to be chosen as the favourite Local Fair, Show or Festival for 2018. The Royal Cornwall Show was runner-up in this category.

The Primary Times is a free family magazine which is distributed to schools across the UK and Ireland. It was started in 1989, and aims to inform parents and carers of children of primary school age about current forthcoming events, courses and days out, encouraging community involvement.

"We feel honoured and delighted to have scooped not just one, but two awards" says Karen Lilley, who leads the volunteer team that fundraises, plans and delivers the Saltash Regatta and Waterside Festival. "The volunteers all have families in Saltash, so we put a lot of effort in to



planning an event that the whole community will enjoy. These awards make all our efforts worthwhile because they have been voted for by readers -it's great to know the community appreciates our hard work!"

Dates for this year's edition

of the award-winning festival have been set for 22nd and 23rd June. The organisers plan to have two stages for live music again, and the popular, fun cardboard boat race will remain a feature, with gigs creating their sporting spectacle on the River Tamar.



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+ Wesley Cottage at Trewint

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01579 345699**

## Boxing Day Win Sees Saltash Rugby Club Into Its Fiftieth Year

Some post Christmas cheer and hope for the New Year came to Saltash Rugby Club as they played their traditional Boxing Day trophy match against St. Boniface Old Boys.

The bank holiday game attracted a goodly crowd at Moorlands Lane and the home supporters were heartened as open and aggressive play saw the home team winning 12-0 at half time.

The 'Bonnie Boys' apparently benefited from the half time pep talk as well as playing down the slope as the second half saw the action move to the Saltash end and the score moved to twelve all minutes from the end.

A dramatic last few minutes saw Saltash's Max Venables put a penalty kick between the posts to conclude the game 15 - 12 and see Saltash gain the trophy.

Saltash enter their fiftieth anniversary year in 2019 in a season that has brought them mixed fortunes after a triumphant 2018 saw them make their way to Twickenham. The last few games of 2018 showed fresh promise for the club's golden anniversary year.

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## The Homeless Are Always With Us

While minds are especially concentrated on those who are homeless at Christmas, as we emphasised in your December 'Messenger', the homeless are still with us through the cold months of winter and beyond. While the problem is more acute in Cornish towns further west, Truro and Penzance in particular, homeless people are still encountered on the streets of Saltash, many of them ex-servicemen, each with a tale to tell.

Saltash Town Council remains keen to assist in helping local churches offer help to them and work towards eradicating the issue of homelessness.

Saltash Baptist Church in particular has been working with the homeless, utilising its own church funds, and the town has asked the four local Cornwall Councillor to see if they can contribute from their own budgets, while the town and churches work towards a long term solution.

## Car Park Charges Stay Constant

Plans to increase parking charges for Belle Vue Road car park in excess to those in Alexander Square and behind the Co-op have been abandoned by Cornwall Council, Saltash Town Council has been advised.

Instead, in common with all car parks in Cornwall, charging increased will be limited to the rise in inflation, currently around 2.5%. Town councillors have been invited to consultation regarding proposed changes to off street parking.

Any increase in charges should go towards paying for improvements to our car parks, suggested Councillor Bill Phillips, who stated that Alexandra Square was in particular need of repair and could be dangerous. It was also noted by Councillor Mike Parker that the meter in the Co-op car park had been out of order for much of the previous month. Money generated from car parking, it was noted, is supposed to be spent on car parking.



# Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council  
Konsel an dre Essa



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## Library as Source of Revenue

The Saltash Library is still on target for takeover from Cornwall Council this spring subject to ongoing negotiations with Cornwall Council.

In order to ensure the best possible deal for the town's council taxpayers, the town is currently considering how future running costs might be offset by revenue from the building. This could include the use of the mezzanine floor and any spare rooms as office space or for use by the adjacent Health Centre which is eager to extend its patient services.

## Your Cornwall Councillors

**Saltash North**  
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## Cornwall Councillors – Cover such services as:

Housing - Education –  
Social Services  
Highways –  
Waste and Recycling –  
Tamar Bridge

## Town Council Tax Increase to Cover Extended Services

The past financial year has seen Saltash Town Council take over various properties and services from Cornwall Council and this will continue throughout 2019/20.

While the town is intended to reap the benefits of these being administered locally it does mean that the town's precept (its budget) which councillors have been busy preparing, will involve an increase in the share of council tax which goes directly to Saltash Town Council.

The total precept for 2019/20 is set to increase from £736,475 to £1,156,981 an increase of around 57%. This will include the ensuring of a "Contingency Fund" to cover four and a half months of emergency funding which auditors advise should be

at a minimum of £90,000 and will in fact be at round £170,000.

The last year has been the first complete year in which the town has operated the Waterfront Pontoons since its takeover in 2017/18 and this is now generating a steady increase in revenue for the town. The town also now

maintains and operates four public toilet blocks which might have been lost had the council not acquired them. Longstone Depot has also been acquired for the town as a base for the council's wardens and it includes a workshop where maintenance, which might otherwise have been put out for outside bodies to carry out, can

be done at reduced cost to the town.

The next year should see the renovation of our long dilapidated railway station building as well as the refurbishment of the Maurice Huggins Room, which could also be a source of revenue, and the town takeover of the library. The town also awaits

confirmation from Cornwall Council as to what other services it might adopt over the next year.

Council Tax payers will in addition, in their 2019/20 bills, have to cover a 4.8% increase in the Cornwall Council share of the apportionment, as well as any increase in the police budget yet to be confirmed.,

## Your Town Council

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**Councillors telephone numbers can be obtained at the guildhall.**

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Tel.: 01752 844846 Email: [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk) Website: [www.saltash.gov.uk](http://www.saltash.gov.uk)**

## Station Improvements Under Way

The station building should have been handed over to the contractors and work commenced upon its architect planned renovation by the time you are reading this month's Observer.

After consideration of the tenders submitted Town Councillors unanimously agreed to award the contract to Cormac and work was due to commence on 7th January. Phase 1 is aimed to be completed within twenty-two weeks from that date in time for the Spring. The Town Council is now working towards Phase 2 and it is hoped that this will be confirmed during the Phase 1 period.

The second Phase will include the upgrading of the section of building nearest the Royal Albert Bridge and the opening up of an upper storey. These extensions to the floor space could be let out, once upgraded, and form an income stream towards covering the ongoing costs of maintaining the Town Council owned property.

## Town Supports Youth Work

Since 2014, when Cornwall Council withdrew funding for youth work including in particular support for our local youth clubs, Saltash Town Council has been making an annual award towards their work with our young people.

This year £40,000 has been made available and it was agreed to award £15,000 each to Livewire and to The Core. The balance of £10,000 is retained and local youth organisations are invited to re-tender for this in the spring.

The funding is aimed to assist the groups with their outgoings in particular regarding the employment of a detached youth worker to assist those with special issues.

## Mark Makes It to Council

The Mayor welcomed to the December council meeting Mark Fox, newly elected unopposed to Saltash South Ward. He takes the seat vacated by Councillor Casey Warrington who has left the area due to work commitments.

Councillor Fox previously stood for the ward as independent. He is a Plymthian who has lived in Saltash since 1988 and is married. He already had deep local community involvement through Saltash Lions and Scouting.

## Strategy Sought for Fore Street Enhancement

The maintaining of a vibrant attractive and busy Fore Street will be a priority for a new strategy group set up to consider how to spend a forthcoming £258,000 of 'Section 106' funding. The money given towards town regeneration by Waitrose and Lidl's as a condition of planning permission has now gone. However a further quarter of a million pounds plus is promised by QUORA as a condition of their development of shops and restaurants at Carkeel. The funding will be released when the first unit opens, planned to be in March this year.

The strategy group will consist of three Saltash Town Councillors, agreed as Councillors Dent, Parker and Peter Samuels, together with one representative each from Cornwall Council, the Saltash Chamber of Commerce, and the Community Interest Company.

One of their first tasks will be to consider a strategy for the sign pointing to and

promoting the town centre and paid for by QUORA. The group is being asked to make its views known for consideration by the Town Council.

Beyond that, ideas will be sought from the Strategy group as to how, together with the Town Council, the town centre can be improved by possible landscaping and any other benefits to increase footfall in what are forecast as being dire time for all local High Streets.

Peter Ryland, Chair of Saltash and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told the Observer, "The Chamber at its December meeting agreed my proposal that such a forum was the best way forward but with a more proportional representation between Saltash Town Council, the Chamber of Commerce, Cornwall Council, The Community Interest Company and retailers.". He added, "However it is not the number of people involved but the calibre of their knowledge and experience that is important to make the forum effective".

## Mayoral Points of View...

Dear Resident,

Here's my last viewpoint of 2018, and I wish to share with you the achievements of both the Town Council and myself.

We have now finalised the Station Building project and on January 7th, 2019, Cormac will start the refurbishment. Phase 1 is scheduled to take 22 weeks to complete but moving ahead Council are busily working to get phase 2 in place to smoothly follow Phase 1. This will save large sums of money, keep the same team onboard and present Saltash with a Station Building in keeping with the Gateway to Cornwall.

Further successes achieved since May 2018 have been the restructuring of Committees, ensuring much more control of the Public purse, more input from all Councillors on decision making and accountability. We have also, as a Council, improved the Waterfront, it's facilities and are now generating a reasonable income from Waterfront activities.

Council have also improved our relationship with the Pillmere Residents Association and are forging ahead, in partnership, to improve facilities on the estate.

Also ongoing is the devolving of the Library to Saltash Control and Management by March 2019.

This year the Council have taken over Longstone Depot which, with the resources that have been put into this operation, can only benefit our ratepayers by improving maintenance and repairs of our assets, as well as reducing costs.

Also, this year, Council and the Community came together to provide a fitting tribute to those who gave of their lives, the ultimate sacrifice, in the Great War 1914-1918. The Centenary Committee put together over 20 projects in six months, and I am sure no other Town of comparable size achieved what our Committee did.

So, those are some of the highlights of my Mayoral year to date. Regretfully, in many ways (apart from already written) 2018 was not the happiest for my family and me. Sometimes voluntary Public Service can be difficult, unkind and even cruel. However, I have found it the most rewarding experience, trying to lead and manage Saltash Town Council on behalf of our Residents, in the most efficient and cost effective way within the Mayor's remit.

It has been truly humbling to be aware of and meet so many organisations in the Town and appreciate what they do and what they give to the community of Saltash and beyond.

Jackie and I wish you all a really happy New Year in 2019 and hope you and your families achieve that what you wish for.

*Yours Sincerely  
Cllr John Brady  
Mayor of Saltash*

Town Messenger news is supplied by the Town Council

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## Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland - Keeping us Updated...

December started with the Christmas Festival. I hope everybody enjoyed it. The feedback we had was all positive and according to figures passed to me there was a total of over 4,000 people in Fore Street when the lights were switched on, the lantern parade went up the street and the fireworks were let off.

That was 25% of the people of Saltash and so I must ask the question, where was the other 75%, did they not know there was an enjoyable time to be had in Fore Street? The Chamber will be looking to do it again next year but we will need sponsorship/funding as the event costs £9,000 to put on. So please, if anybody can provide some sponsorship, please let me know.

At our monthly meeting in December, the Chamber decided that there is a need for a forum to try and find solutions to the regeneration of Fore Street. We decided that there was a need to put together a group of people who have the knowledge and experience to create ideas to persuade the people of PL12 to come to Fore Street. We agreed that not all the expertise is included in the Chamber membership and we would need help from the Town Council, County Council, CIC and, of course, the retailers from Fore Street. However, the Town Council at its meeting later the same week also decided that a forum was necessary but wants to be the predominant force. I can foresee some discussion in the New Year particularly as there will be a payment of circa £¼ million forthcoming, from the

developers of the retail park adjacent to Carkeel roundabout, which is to be used to regenerate Fore Street.

Whichever format of forum is eventually agreed, any ideas that are forthcoming will be considered so put your thinking caps on.

Wearing my CIC hat, we had our Christmas meal at Saltash College. What a wonderful meal was put on by the students, I can only speak favourably of the Dynargh Restaurant at the college. The meal represents a way for the CIC to thank our volunteers for all their efforts and don't forget if you have some spare time on your hands, we are always looking for more volunteers whether to help at No. 4 or Scrapstore or to drive one of our buses or to help with the Dementia Café. Call into No. 4 and have a chat. We would also welcome ideas as to how we might provide further help to the PL12 community.

Reverting to the Christmas Festival can I thank all those who helped to organise and run the event, in particular the students of Saltash.net whose input was vital and well done to all those young students of the primary schools who built and paraded their lanterns.

## Flame from Bethlehem lights up Christmas in Cornwall



Each December since 1986, a light kindled from the Eternal Flame in the Nativity Grotto in Bethlehem has been carried in two miners' lamps on an Austrian Airlines jet from Tel Aviv to Vienna. The Peace Light is then distributed at a Service of Dedication to scout and guide delegations from across Europe, who take it back to their own countries.

At a ceremony at County Hall to welcome the Peace Light to Cornwall, Chair of Cornwall Council, Councillor Mary May said: "From Bethlehem to Cornwall, the Peace Light continues to burn in the hearts of each of us". From Truro, scouts and guides carried the Light to hospitals and church services, spreading its radiance and message of peace throughout Cornwall.

## Clutter is Bad Stuff is Good Say Saltash Heritage

Hidden away half forgotten in so many of our homes is a treasure from the past, often with a tale to tell of its history, rooted in the family to whom it belongs.

Saltash Heritage have a number of such artefacts in their own storage attics which they intend to put on display for their 2019 exhibition. Entitled "Out of Grandma's Attic and into Granddad's Shed" it will allow them to show to the public so many items which have not yet fitted into the themes of past displays but which form fascinating fragments of our collective past.

The World War I trench

which attracted so many visitors, especially schoolchildren, during the four year anniversary of the war, has been dismantled and the museum itself cleared to make room for this years' display, due to open in April.

While Saltash Heritage have many items of their own they would especially welcome on loan, or as gifts, any items which might, fall generally within the "granny's attic" or "granddad's shed" theme. If they are of particular local interest so much the better and if there is a story attached Heritage would love to hear of it. Loaned items will be carefully kept and returned at the end of the year.

Anyone with possible exhibits is invited to bring them to the local History Centre, above the museum in Lower Fore Street on Wednesday between 2 - 4pm, Friday 7 - 9pm or Saturday 10 am - 1 pm. Or telephone the museum during those hours on 01752 848466 or the Secretary on 01752 847800

## Pavement Parking Injury

Careless parking across a pavement caused an unpleasant fall to a partially sighted pedestrian.

The victim, who had lost his guide dog and was awaiting a replacement, was feeling by means of a white stick when it struck a van blocking the pavement in the Warfelton area of town. He fell and his stick broke.

Investigation found that the van ironically belonged to a care company. The company was contacted and has apologised.



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## Letter to the Editor Have your say!

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PL12 community  
For Observer readers  
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dholley@cornwall.gov.uk



I would very much value your opinion on the following article which is about second homes and holiday homes numbers in Cornwall, and about a morally disgraceful but legal council tax avoidance scam.

First some context: when I was a science teacher and before I retired and became a councillor (and before you say it, not a proper job!) I worked at Torpoint School. We had school buses bringing pupils in from the Rame peninsula. When I started in 1975 one of those buses, the Cawsand and Kingsand bus was full of kids from that village and area. Cawsand was a working, vibrant village, full of families.

We seriously considered buying there ourselves. When I retired in 2003 you could just about count the children coming from Cawsand on one hand. Between those times the village had changed drastically into a second home and holiday home area.

#### Soaring Prices

This pattern has been repeated through virtually every seaside and numerous internal villages throughout the county. One of the problems is that since 2013 there has been no way of actually counting these properties. We assess the situation through soaring prices in the villages and the way in which our young people have been priced out of living in the areas in which they were born and brought up. Many of these villages are more or less dead for eight months of the year and if you want to check that visit Cawsand in the late autumn, winter or early spring and witness the numbers of shut-up houses; it is only a hard-working parish council there that keeps the community left going. Unbelievably Saltash is starting to suffer in the same way for a variety of reasons. Now I fully understand and appreciate the substantial contribution to jobs and general county income that the tourist trade makes. It is essential to our economy and I value and defend it. What I am talking about is coming somehow to a balance between that and allowing villages to thrive and our young people to be able to afford houses.

#### Private Members Bill

So in my naivete I once asked an MP (not our local one) if she would put in a private members bill to Parliament with the aim of limiting the percentage of second and holiday homes in any community to a figure, say 15%. I can remember the MP laughing and when I asked why, she said, "Derek, every MP has one or more second homes, often in Cornwall - how far do you think that would get?" I concluded there was something wrong with our democracy.

So it was with pleasure that last month I put my name to a member's motion, one part of which was to lobby the government to limit through Neighbourhood Plans (which a community would have to

approve by referendum) the changing of main residences to second homes or holiday homes.

#### Motion Was Lost

Oddly, very oddly this motion was lost and I still don't really understand what happened for it to be lost.

All was not lost, though. The next part of the motion was about lobbying the government to change rates legislation to close a dreadful and morally reprehensible loophole. This is quite simple and it goes like this: if you declare a holiday home (or second home which you say is available for others to rent for more than 140 days a year) as a small business you can then transfer your council tax to this business. It gets better. Then you apply for 100% small business rates relief, so in effect you pay no business rates and no council tax. So who picks up the bill for all the services the property gets from Cornwall Council, and for all the other services, rubbish, beaches, environment, roads, fire etc. etc.? Yes, you've got it, muggins, you and me, residents of Cornwall. Wouldn't you have thought that Parliament would have seen this loophole and shut it tight? I wonder why they didn't?

If you like facts and figures this loophole, if filled, could add now and at current rough estimates at least £800,000 of income a year. Astoundingly there maybe more as perhaps there are 6000 properties in Cornwall that benefit from this legal scam, about 17% of the total properties like this in the whole of the UK.

#### Hold Officers to Account

To be fair CC has already requested of government a discussion on more fiscal (taxation) freedoms, but this motion, thankfully passed by the council will give added strength to the whole procedure and now we can hold officers and the cabinet to account on this issue. We are not stupid, we understand that this is a change to national legislation but you have to start somewhere. Nevertheless I would welcome your views - if you agree I would very much like you to write a short letter or email to our MP, Sheryll Murray. Just address it C/O House of Commons, London. If you disagree write to this paper, or to me.

The council also agreed to lobby that councils should be allowed anyway to charge higher council tax to second and holiday homes for the purpose of providing affordable homes for our people. Great.

I'm suffering from a bad knee and accordingly the garden is also suffering from a bad knee. However dreadful SOG has returned and except for those parts of the garden where I grow plants through black plastic I dare not put my feet on the soil. I'll just have to sit inside with my foot up, in the warm, with my beer, keep an eye on my Brussels through the window and wait patiently.

## Heritage Triumph in Town Quiz

In which country is the Glomma, the longest river? What was Captain Hook's fate? And what was Captain Pugwash's ship?

These were some of the mind bending questions put at the annual town quiz, held as usual at Saltash.net school and organised by Saltash Scouts. This year the question master was Andrew Jewell but tribute was paid to John White who had played this role so successfully over three decades and who continued to set the questions.

Twenty teams had entered and the winners, not for the first time, proved to be the Saltash Heritage team of which your 'Observer' correspondent was a member.

And the answers to those three questions were, Norway, Eaten by a crocodile and The 'Black Pig'.

**Observer Telephone Numbers**  
07971484872 or  
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## Silver and Gold for Teenage Achievers

Ten local teenagers whose achievements were being recognised by the award of their Duke of Edinburgh award certificates also received an inspiring talk about what further can be achieved by the first Cornishmen to conquer Everest. Ed Buckingham described how, from being a Saltash Postman, he went to stand on the summit of Everest in 2011 and in 2014 looked down from Mount Vincent in Antarctica, having completed the seven summits challenge, reaching the top of the highest mountain in every continent.

He then went on to present, silver awards to the six who had qualified this year at the Saltash Open Award Centre. They were Finn Hilsdon, Alex Maciver-Redwood, Cameron McFarlane, Eva Pascoe, Max Robins and Georgia Furmeaux.

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## Christmas Comes to Rowan House

Christmas is always particularly memorable at Rowan House residential home when the programme of events, which is laid on for residents throughout the year, takes on a special seasonal flavour. Live entertainment in the lounge including a children's choir, builds up as Christmas approaches. Then it is the grand Christmas party at which residents come together with staff, the large body of domiciliary staff, and many residents' family members of all ages to share in the fun. This year the Mayor and Mayoress, John and Jackie Brady were honoured guests wishing the compliments of the season to the residents. There was live music from Johnie Scott, a sumptuous buffet prepared by Chef Jasper, and the grand draw with a myriad of fine prizes.

Jasper had been especially busy throughout the past year since Rowan House has changed its dynamics and now, instead of offering



outside day care, welcomes day care visitors to the home on different days, where they may feel part of the Rowan House family, enjoy the home comforts, and share the home cooked food. Indeed many family members visit and also enjoy eating with those in the home. The same high quality home cooked meals also continue to be delivered throughout Saltash as part of Rowan House's meals on wheels care service.

Staff, as every year made a Christmas presentation to owners and management. In response Rowan House owner Mike told the staff, "the atmosphere here is fantastic, it is difficult to put a finger on it but when you walk in it is just there".

Thanking the staff for their care for all he added "It can be hard to care for the elderly but there is joy to be gained too - don't forget how great you are!".

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## Bridge Ambassadors Sought

Volunteer Bridge Ambassadors are now being recruited to support the Bridging the Tamar project. The role could include giving guided tours of the Tamar Bridge, welcoming visitors as they stop off at the Learning Centre on their way to Cornwall, or inspiring children on a school trip.

The engineering legacy of the Tamar Estuary's historic bridges will be celebrated by a new Learning Centre currently being fitted out at the Tamar Bridge, which is due to open in Easter 2019.

The 'Bridging the Tamar' project has been able to happen as a result of The Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee receiving a grant of £272,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to interpret the heritage of both the Royal Albert Bridge and the Tamar Bridge. This latest grant forms 75% of the cost of the implementation of the project, the remainder being funded by the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee.

The Learning Centre will explore the engineering brilliance of both the 20th century road bridge (the country's longest at the time of its construction) and Brunel's iconic 19th century

Royal Albert Bridge.

An interactive exhibition space and a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) learning and events programme will bring the heritage of the iconic bridges to life.

The programme will be developed with local partners including The Box, schools, universities and community organisations.

You can find more information here [www.tamarcrossings.org.uk/](http://www.tamarcrossings.org.uk/) volunteering. If you're interested in volunteering please download a Volunteer Registration Form from this address or pick one up from the Tamar Bridge Offices and send it back to [volunteer@tamarcrossings.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@tamarcrossings.org.uk). Informal interviews will be held in January and training will be delivered prior to opening at Easter. Call 01752 361577 for more information.

## The Boy in the Bell Tower

Photo by Ian Robinson



In the bell tower, a young visitor to the recent Open Day at St. Nicholas & St. Faith church is fascinated by the primitive mechanism of the early 18th Century clock, itself a rare antiquity in a Cornish church.

## Local Historian Holds Saltash Launch for Railwayana Book

Acclaimed writer of thirty books on local interest, Chris Robinson was a welcome guest at Saltash Bookshelf where he was welcomed by proprietor Tracey Hayton. Many customers enjoyed sharing memories of the Plymouth area which Chris has been recording over the past forty years, in the 'Herald' newspaper and in book form.

He was particularly pleased to display a fascinating new book about a well loved and fondly remembered typical West Country branch railway. 'Backtracking around Plymouth Tavistock and Launceston' is the latest in a local series by former railwayman Bernard Mills and features 152 pages of historic pictures of the line that opened up the Plym Valley and Dartmoor to countless local trippers in the early 20th century. These are contrasted with fascinating pictures showing the same scenes today. The book is available in 'Saltash Bookshelf' and is a perfect gift for anyone interested in railways, local history or just wallowing in nostalgia for a more leisurely age of travel.



## New Homes at Carkeel Rejected

Four proposed new houses at Carkeel north east of the garden centre were turned down by the Town Council which noted that the development would be within the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It was also considered that there was insufficient safe and suitable access for vehicles onto the busy main Callington Road and lack of a full safe footway. It was recommended that Cornwall planners refuse the development.

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or

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## Home Alone Go and Ride the Red Bus

With a variety of attractive destinations for their Sunday luncheon outings added to the ever popular Wednesday afternoon tea excursions and more outings in the planning stage, Saltash's Red Bus means that no one need sit alone at home each day.

The Red Bus is run through Saltash and District Age Concern who are, however, anxious to emphasise that those of all ages from 50 upwards are welcome to share the fun and friendship that the outing promises.

Mike Finch who has brought fresh enthusiasm and ideas to encourage even greater usage now manages the bus. The Sunday lunch outings are to a diversity of destinations including country and Dartmoor Inns and a farm shop. Favourite destinations for the afternoon tea trips have included Trago Mills, Kernow Mills and garden centres. A short country tour is usually included before returning to Saltash.

There are various pick up points around town, including churches for those enjoying a trip out after a Sunday service, and home collection can be organised for the less mobile.

These trips are all dependent upon volunteer drivers and at the Age Concern Christmas lunch party a formal farewell and thank you was given to Alan Roberts, a driver for nearly ten years.

Many, with Kirsty Muir, social club and trip co-ordinator summing up, "He had the personal touch and knew everybody, and he will be really missed", paid tributes to him. In reply, Alan confirmed that "It was my pleasure to pick you all up for the lunch club every week and we have had many laughs together," He is giving up regular driving due to family commitments but may still

help out when required.

More voluntary drivers are needed and anyone interested is invited to contact Mike Finch to discuss what they are able to offer. Those interested in participating in the red bus outings are also invited to contact Mike who is also hoping to extend the outings, perhaps to include hiring larger coaches for longer outings. He can be contacted on 07905795256.

There are also a few places available at the ever popular Thursday Lunch Club where a friendly welcome and social gathering together with a delicious hot meal is guaranteed. Transport to the lunch at the Burraton Community Centre can be arranged and those interested can call Mary on 01752 218815.

As one happy member told us after the Christmas dinner to which we were invited together with Councillor Mrs Hilary Frank and husband Shojiro, "You have got to make an effort to get out or you just sit at home and think."

## Waterside Mural Restoration

The eye-catching mural that adorns the side wall of the "Union Inn" is to be renovated and cleaned by the original artist.

Mr. David Whitley painted the mural to portray various events and characters in the history of Saltash and in particular the Waterside where it is situated. It also includes a number of the 'regulars' of the Union Inn at the time of painting.

The Town Council has agreed in principle to finance the cleaning and restoration subject to an accurate quote being supplied.

## Youth Club Rejects Mayor's Charity Funding

A prominent Saltash youth project, selected as the Town Mayor's Charity of the year, has declined the offer.

In a letter to Mayor Councillor John Brady, on behalf of Livewire Youth Project reference was made to the trustees and management of various political and personal controversies and disputes within the town and Town Council.

Reluctant, they say, to be associated with local controversies they have asked to be withdrawn from their provision as beneficiary, while thanking the Mayor for his consideration.

In response the Mayor declared himself saddened that the charity should appear to involve itself in local politics.

## Musical Tribute 'To Suffragettes' Sufferings and Success

The Great War, which concluded a century ago largely, eclipsed a conflict almost as bitter and divisive that was reaching its climax in 1914.

This year Saltash community joined to celebrate in music, song and verse, not only the end of the war but the victory for those who had campaigned for women's suffrage.

A packed Wesley Church enjoyed the resultant musical 'Blood Red Rose' which told in poetry, prose and song of the peace abiding Suffragists and of the Suffragettes whose motto was 'Action not words'. Months of rehearsal by a cast ranging from children to senior citizens, many of whom had never sung in public before resulted in a polished performance under the leadership of composer and director Julian Barnicoat.

Much of the dialogue, spoken and sung, came from quotations of the time, with male parliamentarians crying out 'Why change a thing?' singing strongly against the strident monstrous regiment of women.

The early 20th century consisted, it was said, of an unhappy, unequal society and one of its tragedies was that so many who fought did not live to realise what they were fighting for.

The idea of the show came from Mrs. Sue Hooper MBE who, after it concluded in rapturous applause, admitted 'it was a journey that we never thought we would complete.'

In his vote of thanks Mayor Councillor, John Brady spoke of 'a great community event, a fitting end of what has been going on for so many months through the World War I committee's hard efforts'. He had been certain, he said, when he invited Mrs. Sue Hooper to chair the commemoration committee that she would ensure a programme of events worthy of Saltash and this had clearly proved the case.

And Composer and Director Julian Barnicoat, turning to the cast who he had brought together and fine tuned concluded, 'I am proud of you all'.

## SHERYLL MURRAY MP WRITES...



I hope everyone has had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas. I would like to remember at this time of year all those who were not able to spend all day Christmas day with their family. I always like to thank all those who work on Christmas day be it the armed forces who keep us safe from foreign threats or our police who protect us from domestic ones. The fire service who is always on call and those in the health service who care for us when we fall sick. In our coastal communities we must also remember those who also keep us safe on the water like the coastguard and the RNLI.

I would ask that we are a bit responsible so we don't

unnecessarily call on their services. Every year people drown or find themselves in difficulty when they drink too much near water. We recently had a meeting in Parliament of the Water Safety All Party Parliamentary Group where this was highlighted. I have joined the group as a Vice Chairman to try to highlight the need for water safety.

We must thank all those who make Christmas such an enjoyable day. It might be those on TV who entertain us or the many who back them up. It could be the servers and chefs when we do not make our own meal. At this time of year it is important we enjoy our utilities be it gas or electricity for power to keep us warm or the telephone so we can contact our loved ones. Whatever they do - I thank them all.

Towards the end of the year I visited the Royal Mail Delivery Offices in Torpoint, Callington, Looe, Liskeard and Saltash to say thank you for all the work they do and many other deliverers do at this time of year doing their best to get our gifts delivered on time.

It has been a very busy year in Parliament and it looks like next year will be even busier. Next year is the year we leave the European Union. This is something that the people of South East Cornwall voted to do in the vote of the people of 2016. The Prime Minister, David Cameron, made it very clear that the people's wishes would be respected and that whatever was decided by the people would be enacted. I will continue to work towards this in the New Year as we leave at 11pm on Friday 29th March 2019.

On a more personal note I am looking forward to my marriage to Bob which is also due to take place in March 2019. Whatever you are doing I would like to wish you a prosperous, healthy and happy New Year.

## Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 What is the subject of Renior's painting Les Parapluies? (9)
- 2 Cape Comorin is the southernmost tip of which Asian Country? (5)
- 3 Which lumbering animals appear in the Fantasia ballet dance? (6)
- 4 Which is the only Antarctic Penguin to breed during Winter? (7)
- 5 Which past-time is started with a Squidge-off? (11)
- 6 In a Fish and Chip shop which Fish is often labelled Rock Salmon? (7)
- 7 From Robert Browning's Poem on which River does the town of Hamlin stand? (6)
- 8 The Cheddar Gorge cuts through which range of limestone hills? (7)
- 9 During the English Civil War where were the Headquarters of King Charles's Royalists? (6)

Answers on page 7

## Announcements Public Notices

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## Change from Garage to Housing Refusal Recommended

An application to demolish the Station Garage in Culver Road, next to the Baptist Church, and replace it with housing was criticised by Town Councillors.

The plans included an underground residents' car park/ garage but councillors decided that the planned access to it was excessively steep. They recommended refusal of the plans for this reason and also due to access issues on to Culver Road and the insufficient width of the side lane for parking and passing.

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## Towards Plastic Free Status for Saltash

Plastic free status for Saltash is a real possibility, claims the co-ordinator of Environment Plymouth, Jackie Young. She described to Saltash Environment Action Group how she had helped achieve Plastic Free Environment Status for Plymouth Waterfront and is now seeking to extend this through to be city wide.

The recent 'Blue Planet' television series is proven to have inspired an amazing 62% of the nation, yet nine million tonnes of plastic waste continues to be dumped in the sea each year.

By building on this public concern Saltash said Ms Young, could join with Totnes, Sidmouth, Bude, Penzance and other West Country towns in becoming officially plastic free. She outlined five ways to achieve this, including firstly by encouraging the Town Council to lead by example and attempt a resolution to tackle plastics. At least six local businesses need to be encouraged to eliminate single use plastics, and community groups such as churches, schools and youth groups should be urged to be involved. Events such as beach cleans, but which could include the monthly litter picks already taking place, must be organised at least twice a year, together with a fund raising event which must meet at least once a year.

'It is great fun, a great thing to do and has a lasting effect on the environment', enthused Ms Young.

Other speakers to Saltash Environmental Action's workshop evening included

Sarah Martin who spoke on the Norwex range of products which can 'detox your home and your life' cleaning the home with water only using no chemicals or plastic.

Zilla Robinson talked of 'Fathoms Free' the voluntary divers who retrieve plastic waste, largely fishing gear, from local waters where up to three hundred seals have been found trapped in such nets. She has used the plastic waste to create artwork sold in support of funding.

Involving children at an early age in caring for their world is the aim of Looe children's' author Ellie Jackson who wrote book on the treatment and release of a turtle which ate plastic based on an event that she and her four year old daughter witnessed. She followed this up with an equally popular book on a puffin that swallowed a balloon and most recently one on a dolphin caught in fishing gear. All books offer positive alternatives for children to consider and her aim is to get her books into every school. 'Our children are positive and full of hope, giving adults the hope that we need', she has discovered.

## Crime on Increase

The number of reported crimes in the Saltash area has increased by 97 over the last twelve months, Inspector Julian Morris has advised. He informed the Cornwall Gateway Community Network Panel that this was reflected in an increase of 360 reported crimes across the network area, including an increase of 25 for the area covering Landrake and St. Germans.

This can partially be attributed to changes in the crime recording standards. There was in particular a marked increase in violence without injury which includes harassment, nuisance telephone calls and abuse via the social media. Better news is a marked decrease in drug trafficking attributed to proactive work of the police teams involved.

Other better news is that

there are no plans to reduce the number of police officers in the sector. The tri-service officer pilot scheme would also be enhanced to increase the number of such officers to ten, focusing on areas with a low police footprint. The future of Saltash Police Station also seems assured following recent refurbishment, though it no longer has a public office available.

## Essa Files

I'm not, generally speaking, a fan of new year's resolutions: if a resolution is worth resolving then why wait until Jan 1st; if it's not then why bother at all? I get that, having indulged over Christmas, some see resolutions as a way of restoring the balance: 'I ate a little more cheese than might be strictly healthy, so I'm going to balance it out by going to the gym.'. However, making it about 'new year' tends to play into the second part of the new year's resolution ritual - breaking them by mid-January.

My other slight reservation about new year's resolutions is that they tend to be quite 'me centric'. It's certainly not a bad idea to care for ourselves, and it's good to think about what we plan to do in the forthcoming year. However, we should try to look at the whole year not just the start, and to think about our communities as well as ourselves. So my question becomes not 'what do I want for me in January?' but rather 'what kind of 2019 do I want the world to have, and how can I help?'.

My own answer is that I'd like 2019 to be kinder, more inclusive and more about the future than 2018. By kinder I don't mean that we stop disagreeing about stuff, or that we don't call out things that aren't acceptable. My personal plan is to try to actually do the 'say three nice things for every disagreeable thing' cliché in practice. I won't necessarily say them to the same people - some people need the kindness more just as some need calling out more - but I will try to ensure that the world as a whole hears much more of nice Adam than narky Adam.

Inclusion means focusing on those who are currently being excluded, usually because in some manner or other they aren't seen as 'normal'. This is very rarely the people who shout 'but what about people like ME?' the loudest, and more often it's those too busy surviving to be able to shout for themselves: in the words of the statue of liberty "Give me

your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free". In our modern world it's the desperate immigrant, the trans teenager, the victim of sexual abuse, the struggling parent, the homeless veteran, the person with a disability being denied support. As I am someone with a lot of privilege, my 2019 plan is to 'shout more for other people'.

But 2019 can't just be about 2019, which is where the future comes in. If we take the world only one year at a time we will only store up more problems for the future - social problems, environmental problems, political problems. I'm currently playing a computer game, Crusader Kings, where one has to build a dynasty, so that when your current character dies someone else can take over and you can keep playing. This requires a lot of planning, sometimes in bizarre detail - for example working out who to betroth your children to and not getting side-tracked by the promise of a powerful ally now but also looking for a match that will increase your chances of grandchildren being brought up to make good rulers!. This isn't, weird context aside, actually a bad way to look at the world: make more decisions about what kind of world we want in 20 years, rather than 20 minutes time. This is hard in practice, because we often feel we have very little personal control over the future of our world, but it's also essential to making that future better. I'm personally aiming to halve the number of times I need to buy a 5p bag in the shops because I've forgotten to bring one of the hundreds of the damn things I already have in my kitchen: a small start, but still a start.

**Conundrum Answers:**  
 1 Umbrellas 2 India 3 Hippos 4 Emperor 5 Tidilwinks 6 Dogfish 7 Weiser 8 Mendips 9 Oxford. Re-arranged the letters spell Widenmouth.

## Hospital Expands – But Wards Stay Closed

While its inpatient wards were closed almost two years ago and are unlikely to re-open St. Barnabas Hospital, Saltash is playing an increasingly vital role as an integrated hub for community health care, former Matron Anita Cornelius, who now serves on the NHS Directorate, told the St. Barnabas League of Friends' annual general meeting.

Whereas in the 1980's when she was training, hospital based treatment was prioritised, current research favours home based treatment, with the elderly and frail encouraged to keep as active as possible.

Former League of Friends President and local GP Dr. Colin Randall spoke of when he came to Saltash in 1971, largely attracted by the fact that the town had its own hospital. He and two colleagues' initiated the town's second surgery alongside it so as to have easy access to its operating theatre and to their patients in its eighteen beds.

Now there are seventy-four staff based at the hospital including community nurses, and an acute health care team, which is found to provide more speedy patient recovery than hospital, stays. Patients come to St. Barnabas for physiotherapy and to see consultants who travel to Saltash and save patients the journey to Derriford. Sister Cornelius spoke of the compliments received from patients who believe they 'regained their independence more quickly with care at home' and of the current policy of prevention and taking care of one's own health, St. Barnabas' services to the community are to be further enhanced shortly with infusion and transfusion services to commence there, the first in North and East Cornwall. But as to re-opening the wards, with 19 beds currently empty in East Cornwall hospitals the demand is no longer there.

The League of Friends continues to provide a vital link with the hospital, she confirmed, as it continues to provide equipment unavailable through NHS payments.

The meeting saw the retirement of the League's Chair, Mrs Joyce Mepsted. Dr Randall spoke warmly of her services to the hospital and her fundraising efforts since her time as Mayor in 2002/3. She was given a presentation and bouquet as she was elected, instead to the vacant role of President. Newly elected Chair is Barbara May with Dr. Mary Shears continuing as Secretary.

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## Young Poets to Publish War Writings

The year in which Saltash has joined the country in commemorating the centenary of the armistice ending the Great War is over but should not be forgotten.

The wide variety of events organised by the Saltash World War I Commemoration Committee has attracted great support and interest, not least from our children and teenagers. They have been encouraged to put into words their ideas and emotions concerning that century ago conflict and a number of poetry and prose pieces are to be incorporated into book form with some adult contributions.

Some of the young writers came together in the Ashtorre Rock centre to read out their pieces and have them recorded. Present was published performance poet Andy Blackwell who with the Saltash World War I Committee has been working with local primary and secondary schools to encourage this work.

As well as the readings there was a short play in which Andy joined with two boys whom he is teaching, Theo Mruk (13) and Levi Spry (12), to portray a father, son and friend on the brink of war, based on an actual Saltash family it led up to the departure for the front commencing with the crossing of the Saltash ferry among the soldiers portrayed in a mural now outside Ashtorre and by the ferry slipway.

It is intended that the publication will be produced early in 2019.

## Remembering Lost Babies of Wartime

Largely eclipsed by the loss of life on the battlefields of war, sadly some babies and young people were among those lost during the two world wars.

Earlier this year we reported upon the corner of St. Stephens churchyard dedicated to children lost before birth and to the plaque and rose bush where they can be remembered.

It is now intended to place a plaque recording names and dates of any babies lost locally during either of the two world wars. Anyone who wishes to put forward such a name is invited to contact Councillor Avril Pinckney through the Guildhall or the contact details shown on our 'Town Messenger' columns.

## Press Secretaries & Correspondents

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## Centenary of Great War Remembered at Waterside and Station

'The excitement, banter and anticipation' of the troops lining Saltash Station platform on the first of November 1914 is well portrayed through their body language. So said Brigadier Simon Young CBE on the 1st November 2018, as he stood on that same platform to unveil a memorial plaque and a board depicting those optimistic young men on the verge of what they anticipated was their great adventure.

Once again wives, sweethearts and children lined the opposite platform, this time actors re-enacting the heartfelt scene. Your Observer correspondent Martin Lister, a member of the World War I Commemoration Committee, was in World War I uniform, to the evident bewilderment of passengers on passing trains.

The cast of the soon to be performed show 'Blood Red Rose' sung one of their songs

a capello before the Last Post, two minutes silence and reveille from bugler and piper. A moving poem 'Dear Daddy' written by seven year old Freya Gavsingha was read. After chair of the organising committee Sue Hooper MBE had closed with a vote of thanks, the crowd moved down Albert Road, following the route of the World War I troops who were to leave Saltash by ferry, leaving the station to the newly unveiled picture and to

used the slipway on the way to the battlefield from which many would never return.'

Again there was a wreath laying, Last Post, silence and reveille, followed this time by a dedication and a blessing of the River Tamar by Prebendary Brian Anderson. Children in period costume came bounding to the slipway, members of Sterts Youth Theatre Company portraying the sons and daughters of those distant departing soldiers. And



finally, young actors stood, in World War I uniform, in silent homage around the poppy carpets made up of fifty thousand poppies, created by local youth groups, residential homes, and others bringing together all age ranges in the community.

Following the solemnities the crowds gathered on the darkened Waterside admired the poppy police car, the vintage Cottons' coach and other exhibits, including World War I reproduction tanks and planes from Saltash Model Club. On the wall of

Livewire a film created by Saltash Heritage was a projected showing scene of World War I Saltash, the trenches and ships, to which our men were sent, and as role of honour of those who were lost. On a nearby stage entertainment was provided by 13 year old Tom Skeldon a talented vocalist and guitarist followed by Rosie Grey singing poignant wartime favourites, some of which may have been sung by those troops, as they left from Saltash never to return.



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Photo by Ian Robinson

the ghosts of long gone soldiers.

On the Waterside, following a reception at Ashtorre Rock, all foregathered around the slipway from which many of the troops based at Wearde Camp, opposite Saltash School, had crossed by ferry at the beginning of what was for many, their last journey to the Western front.

Now a spectacular poppy carpet lay across the slipway over which they had passed. Here again Brigadier Young was to unveil a plaque and picture of those soldiers boarding the ferry and who, as he commented, 'had little idea of the new technology that would lead to the death of millions. The horses and men



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