

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

January 2020 - Issue 334

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Station Rebuilding in Final Stages

Renovations to provide Saltash train passengers with waiting, refreshment and toilet facilities to complement the improved rail service are proceeding apace

despite unforeseen problems.

Readers may recall that June's Saltash Observer reported on a visit to the building which had been stripped out to form an empty shell.

Observer reporter Martin Lister revisited the site before the Christmas shutdown together with photographer Ian Robinson. They arrived just as a new brown wooden door in

traditional style was being fitted to accompany the new GWR pattern windows. They were hosted by Cormac's Site Manager Richard Daden.

"We are on the last stages and the end is clearly in sight" Richard Daden advised. This was despite rotting timbers in the roof trusses having been found to need replacing and the wall plates need rebuilding. All of the roof slates had to be replaced with new slates fitting in well. These works had resulted in a funding shortfall but Councillor Richard Bickford who had also accompanied the visit and has overseen the entire project was delighted that Cornwall Council, GWR and the Railway Heritage Trust had come forward with the extra funding. There was even enough funding to rebuild the extension at the east end of the platform. It is anticipated that this, as well as part of the main building, may be leased out to provide a source of income for the town.

Already the SF40 space age

insulation is installed, the insulation in roof, floor and the underfloor heating helping to make the building eco-friendly. "The building is of the highest spec throughout", added Cormac's Richard.

Soon installation should begin for the kitchen, refreshment area, disabled friendly unisex toilet and waiting area with seating for around twenty passengers. It is anticipated that the area will display railway and Brunel related pictures and artefacts as well as various artefacts discovered during the work.

Richard Bickford paid tribute to the Cormac work team and their co-operation with the Town Council throughout the project. In the New Year an enhanced work team should accelerate the remaining work with an opening dated anticipated for the Spring and hopefully well in time for the 161st anniversary of the opening of the Royal Albert Bridge and Saltash's first station in May 2020.

Direct Bus to Derriford Hospital to Start in April

In the first week of the New Year, Cornwall Council awarded a new contract to Go Cornwall Bus to deliver a network of bus routes, including a new route linking Saltash and Liskeard directly to Derriford Hospital.

Cornwall Council currently subsidises over 50% of bus routes across Cornwall. These are routes that bus companies have said are not commercially viable, but the Council considers them to be vital to connect communities and offer an alternative to the car.

Councillor Hilary Frank, representing Saltash South on Cornwall Council, said: "Over the years, many Saltash residents have raised the issue of the lack of a direct bus route to Derriford with me, so I am thrilled that we are finally able to introduce this."

From May, Saltash residents will also be able to enjoy reduced bus fares as a result of a funding package of

£23.5m awarded to Cornwall at the end of 2019 by central government. Zones will be set up within Cornish towns, and the cost for making multiple bus journeys within these zones will be capped.

Along with an increase in the number of trains stopping at Saltash, Cornwall Council is hoping the increased, cheaper bus routes will encourage a modal shift towards public transport – better for the environment and better for family finances.

Hopper Bus Goes to Age Concern

The town's popular Hopper Bus service could meet all its commitments and work more efficiently with two buses instead of three, the new Community Enterprises transport director Dave Waters concluded following an initial review. Accordingly, one of the buses has been sold, which reduces the costings.

The bus has not been lost to the town since it has gone to Saltash Age Concern, with whom Community Enterprises co-operate well.

The usual range of Hopper services will continue and additional volunteer drivers have recently been welcomed and trained to join the team. The Hopper bus services will also benefit from a new contract with Cornwall Council to transport people with disabilities to their day centre.



Photo Ian Robinson



by Ian Robinson

HOPPER community enterprises PL12 TRIPS

February

Sunday 2nd 11:00 – 15:30
(£12.00)

Lunch at The Maltsters Arms and Wadebridge

Saturday 8th 10:30- 16:00
(£6.00)

The Garden House

Friday 14th 11:00 – 17:00
(£10.00)

Valentines Day Mystery Trip

Sunday 16th 11:00 – 15:30
(£9.00)

Lunch at Dartmoor Lodge

Tuesday 25th 10:30 – 16:00
(£12)

Greenway House



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Annual New Year Pram Race

On New Year's Day 54 costumed fundraisers pause at the Union pub in the annual Charity Pram Race. First run in 1975 to benefit Saltash youngsters, visiting 10 pubs, the rugby club event this year raised over £2,100.

The money will assist local player Mattie Davis, recovering from a spinal stroke last September. Club organiser Tony Hopkins thanked all the landlords, stewards, donors and participants who again made the occasion such a success.

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Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

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Email:
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Fly Tipping:
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*Town Messenger
news is supplied
by the Town
Council*

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**Cornwall Councillors –
Cover such services as:**
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Social Services
Highways –
Waste and Recycling –
Tamar Bridge

From the Mayor of Saltash



*Bledhen Nowydh Da!
Happy New Year!*

A new year brings new challenges which Saltash Town Council will be expected to take in its stride. Saltash Town Councillors are committed to fulfil their pledges to the people of the town, and our work will continue in earnest.

The past 8 months as Mayor for Saltash I have received many thanks from residents, expressing how they have noticed how the Town Councillors have worked hard on bringing projects together for our community. I believe this is due to the community working and getting involved with the Town Councillors.

I was delighted to host a thanksgiving evening recently to thank various volunteers and members of staff at Saltash Town Council; this was a truly humbling experience for me and the teams around me.

The past month I have had the privilege of attending many local engagements in Saltash and some further down in Cornwall; I couldn't have done it without help and support from my family and Councillors Pete and Brenda Samuels Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, and I thank them both most sincerely.

My sincere thanks go out to; St Stephens Church, Saltash Great War Commemorative Events Committee, Tamar House, Saltash Police Station, Saltash Fire Station, Malvern House, St Lukes Hospice, St Pectrocs, Forder Community, Saltash Library, Forest for Cornwall, Saltash BAPS, St Anne's, Tamar Friendship, Rowan House, St Barnabas Hospital, The Elms, Saltash Heritage, Saltash Sorting Office, Waitrose, Saltash Coop.

All working on behalf of the residents and organisations to benefit the quality of life within Saltash and further afield.

Saltash Town Council resolved to provide Road Closure Management Training for 10 members of the community of Saltash, the take up is most promising, and this is another example of Saltash Town Council working with active members of the community.

The greatly admired seasonal Floral Hanging

baskets in Fore Street will not only continue to pleasingly embrace the centre of the town; they will also feature down Lower Fore St and the Waterside. These wonderful displays will support our local businesses and underpinning that Saltash is a town that cares and is prepared to take extra steps to make a difference for locals and visitors alike.

Saltash Town Council now have a Town Centre Vision Sub Committee which are looking at immediate works to be progressed prior to any larger and more long-term developments being considered regarding the vision of Fore Street.

This very worthy committee will discuss all possibilities of town improvements to encourage extra footfall into Saltash, again supporting the local businesses that help to maintain the local economy and provides employment.

Saltash Town Council has funding opportunities for local organisations to tap into to enable them to advance their organisational voluntary and charitable work in Saltash; namely the Saltash Community Chest and Festival Fund.

Many thousands of pounds, by dozens of local organisations have been drawn down over the years for numerous worthy projects, all of which have benefitted local residents and at the same time frequently brought extra footfall into Saltash.

Any charity or organisation can apply by contacting the Guildhall in the first instance. Applications are then considered at a Policy and Finance Committee meeting by Saltash Town Councillors.

In addition, there are other funding opportunities from sources that the Town Council can advise on, and often help fund. Organisations such as; Mayfair, Christmas Festival, Saltash Town Regatta, Kalan Gwav, Saltash Music Festival, Saltash Youth Council, Saltash Youth Clubs Projects, Football and Rugby Clubs, Cine Club, Community Centres, Saltash Chamber of Commerce, Saltash Heritage, Saltash Royal British Legion, the town embroidery project, Commemorative events, Olympics and Queen Elizabeth 2nd Anniversary events, Charities, and more, have all been supported; and many of those projects are supported annually; again testament of what funding support can help to achieve for Saltash.

I have been delighted to support many of these organisations in various ways, and as Mayor I have been honoured to meet the volunteers working mainly behind the scenes.

May I take this opportunity of sending you all my sincere best wishes for 2020 and the

New Year.

I would finally like to thank Mary and Martin of the Saltash Observer, for kindly providing me with this platform to speak to the people of Saltash, and indeed their role, together with the advertisers and deliverers bringing local news to our homes.

*Tereba nessa
(Til the next time)
Councillor Gloria Challen
Mayor of Saltash (2019/20)*

MySaltash

Friday 24th and Saturday 25th January 2020, 10am – 1pm
Plougastel Drive, Saltash
Looking for a fresh start in 2020? MySaltash is your opportunity to meet fantastic groups and organisations that can help you feel healthier, happier and living life to the full.

MySaltash is a FREE event for all ages which is definitely not to be missed! Plougastel Drive will be buzzing with activity across the two days, with many venues taking part, including Saltash

Library, Saltash Leisure Centre, SHADO Centre, Saltash Family Hub, Saltash Health Centre and St Anne's Care Home.

Join in with the fun activities, tasters (yoga and water workout) and interactive sessions at these wonderful venues and find out about the amazing things they (and others) have to offer. Everyone is welcome at MySaltash, bring your family and friends along too!

And don't worry, when you need a bit of a break after all that excitement, you can relax with a nice hot drink at the SHADO Centre.

Keep an eye out on the Saltash Library Hub Facebook page for the latest news on MySaltash: <https://www.facebook.com/Saltash-h-Library-Hub-102288281278530/>

To get involved in MySaltash or find out more, contact Laura Chapman from Volunteer Cornwall at LauraC@volunteercornwall.org.uk or 07968 706112.

MySaltash is kindly supported by Volunteer Cornwall, Saltash Town Council and Pluss.

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be obtained at
the guildhall.**

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Tel.: 01752 844846 Email: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk Website: www.saltash.gov.uk**

Meet Your Councillor

Councillor Brenda Samuels – North Ward Saltash

Brenda is married to fellow Town Councillor Pete and has one son and two stepsons, plus a dog who rules the household completely!

Born and educated in Cornwall, Brenda started her working life at a local estate agent in Liskeard, moving on from there to being one of the first female insurance agents in the country.

Next was a move to Nationwide and then on to a property developer, progressing to the role of Area Manager. When the company was taken over, Brenda decided to take redundancy and go into business with husband Pete and they now run their own company which is based in Saltash.

For many years Brenda was a member of Saltash and District Ladies Circle, rising to the position of Area Chairman for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Brenda joined Saltash Rotary Club a few years ago, becoming their President in 2016-17 and was recognised by the Club for her work within the charity in 2018 by being created a Paul Harris Fellow, an accolade that reflects hard work and achievement within the Rotary organisation worldwide.

Having seen husband Pete join Saltash Town Council and enjoying his involvement in local matters, Brenda decided to



stand as an Independent candidate in 2018 when a vacancy arose, being elected unopposed and she has gone on to become a member of several committees including being Chair of the Personnel committee, a role which Brenda says she enjoys immensely. As a Town Councillor for Saltash North ward, Brenda really likes being involved in the local community and helping residents when assistance is especially needed.

Brenda can easily be contacted via the Town Council website.

Ancient Cobbles Cause Concern

There are two sections still remaining of the cobbles that once covered the streets of our ancient borough. One section is between the Guildhall and St. Nicholas Church. The other is behind the derelict inn, formerly the 'Wheatsheaf' and a local resident has been complaining to Cornwall Council that they are in urgent need of maintenance. It is a planning condition that they be maintained when the 'Wheatsheaf' site is redeveloped.

Cornwall Council has arranged a site inspection and confirmed that the way through, though messy and unsightly is not a safety concern and can still be walked through. Saltash Town Councillor, to whom the matter was referred, noted that work was done on the route some time back and that weeds are growing up that might dislodge the cobbles. They agreed to pursue the matter with the local Cornwall Councillor to seek to ensure that the historic cobbles were properly maintained.

Pillmere Goes Wild

A colourful display of natural wild flowers is anticipated for this year's Spring and Summer at Pillmere. A wildflower meadow at Grassmere Way has been sown following an application request for a community chest fund, made by the Pillmere Community Association and funded by Cornwall Council.



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

Photo Ian Robinson

Our last Chamber meeting was before the Christmas Festival so we were unaware how successful it was going to be. However on behalf of the Chamber I would like to thank all those people of Saltash and beyond who supported the Christmas Festival. It was estimated that, in total, over 4000 people came along to Fore St. on the 7th December. Some stayed all afternoon but others just came along to see the 300 Santas on Bikes, others to see the lantern parade and/or the fireworks, some to visit Santa in his Grotto, the snow machine, the stilt walkers or other musical entertainment on the stage.

Some of you were kind enough to listen to me on stage. The general feedback that we had was that everybody enjoyed themselves and the traders on the stalls and in the shops were grateful for the trade that you did with them.

I failed on the day to thank Saltash Town Council for providing the lights and, in

particular, Councillor Mike Parker who had overall responsibility. I also failed to thank all those members of the Chamber who organised the event. I hereby do so.

2020 is now with us and I do sincerely hope that it is the start of a decade that will bring the various organisations in the town together to fight for a

common goal-The Betterment of Saltash.

The Chamber is hoping to take an active role in not only town centre initiatives but also others that will affect the whole business community. We are already involved in the S.106 panel which can provide a funding source for footfall enhancement and employment opportunities in the town centre. We were reminded at our December meeting that there were still funding opportunities also available re Community Led Development. We are also

a participant of the Safer Saltash initiative which is endeavouring to ensure that Saltash is a safer place to live and work.

Unfortunately there were no totally correct answers (despite the typing error to one of the anagrams) to the quiz that I included with my December article but thank you to those who participated.

Finally car parking, in town centre car parks, at 50p for 2 hours runs to the end of March but, if it is to continue beyond then, it must be used.

Council Urged to Take Lead in Climate Emergency

The Saltash community needs to join with others worldwide in making significant changes in the behaviours and consumer choices over the next eighteen months if we are to avoid the catastrophic outcomes that scientists are predicting, Saltash Town Council were told. Saltash Environmental Action (SEA) gave a presentation to the Town Council meeting in which they urged the council to show a lead and to declare climate emergency.

The local community can contribute, they were told, by substituting walking and cycling for car use, installing solar panels, heat pumps, triple glazing and insulation in their homes, creating better living environments, eating locally grown primarily plant based diets, planting more trees and generally living more locally as against long distance commuting or flying to distant destinations. All of these actions have associated health benefits for residents from reduced stress and increased exercise to healthier diets.

SEA noted that the Town Council already supports Plastic Free Saltash, litter picking, hedgehog conservation and Green Infrastructure for growth. These campaigns, they believe, are starting to make a difference for biodiversity but have little effect on climate change and specific policies are needed. The Neighbourhood Plan, nearing completion, sets out an excellent planning framework covering several green issues, SEA agree, though it does not address the behavioural changes that are urgently required. If the Town Council declares an emergency SEA anticipates that because of their influence other organisations and smaller councils are likely to follow. Declaring a climate emergency includes putting zero carbon emission at the heart of every decision, "The local environment is yours and you can show leadership", the SEA speaker concluded.

Town Councilors discussed the issue, with Councillor David Yates, who has led the Neighbourhood Plan, noting that while the plan can set up a green environment it cannot be extended to monitoring and maintaining it. It was agreed that the Mayor with Councillor Yates, would draw up an item for discussion at the next council meeting. One suggestion was the setting up of a working group to involve town councillors, SEA members and other interested parties.

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Tree Removal Causes Concern for Flooding

The proposed clearing of trees and shrubs on an unadopted piece of land by Church Road is likely to cause flooding issues, a local resident has told the town's services committee. "The trees are vital for the prevention of flooding onto Church Road", he has stated, and queried why they cannot simply be pruned.

He referred to a former pond on the site where a culvert now takes some of the excess water away. However, the removal of the trees would, it is claimed, be almost certain to cause additional run-off of rainwater affecting the houses on the opposite side of Church Road.

The services committee, when discussing the request

from Cormac Limited for supporting the clearance of the trees and shrubs that are causing "overgrowth issues", decided to ask for a more detailed plan with a map showing what was proposed for removal. They also asked Cormac to confirm whether replacement trees were to be provided and why significant pruning would not be sufficient.

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Summery of Year 2019

Once again like Janus, the two-faced god of gateways who gave his name to January, we stand at the gateway to a new decade as we look both forward and back to a tumultuous year that has passed. As we hope for a somewhat more peaceful year to come, we recall twelve months of political tumult, largely regarding the Brexit issue, culminating in the first end of year election in eight decades. And as we wonder what 2020, and the 2020's may have in store for us locally and nationally, let us look back at the issues which your only truly local newspapers have brought to your attention during 2019.

Winter

*"There is something about Winter
Which pares things down to
their essentials
A bare tree
A black hedge
Hold their own stark throne
in our hearts
Moya Cannon (1956 -)*

Irish poet

The past year will surely be remembered as that in which Saltash, with the wider world beyond, awoke to the urgency of plastic waste, climate change

and all other ecological issues. It was therefore fitting that in a January paper in which we reported that our own Lizzy Sharpe-Asprey had received a well-deserved New Year's Honour, we also noted "Towards a plastic free Saltash". A theme to which we would be returning often throughout the year.

We also noted that the station building had been handed to contractors for work to commence and again we would and will continue to follow progress here. And we also noted that increase in

locally run services means an increase in local council taxes, another story deemed to be repeated in 2020.

In February we reported on pollution issues with Tideford villagers suffering from unsafe traffic fumes and unsafe traffic while demanding a safe crossing. Back in Saltash plans for a new cycle and pedestrian way right through the town received a mixed reception. We also reported that the historic Mayoress' chain continues to be unworn, no end in sight yet to that controversy.

March saw the opening of the new superstore at Carkeel at the same time as concern grew over the supposed 'improvements' recently concluded on the adjacent roundabout. With new out of town shopping also came a new project FISH, 'Future Initiatives for Saltash High Street' and there are active plans to regenerate our town centre which we hope to hear more about in 2020.

Spring
*"I dreamed that as I
wandered by the way
Bare Winter suddenly was
changed to Spring"*
**Percy Bysshe Shelly
(1792-1822)**

With the coming of Spring to Saltash and the daffodils coming into bloom in our parks and gardens your 'Observer' was to report in April on several issues that were to continue to run. We noted the threat of future disruption to walkers and cyclists with the closure of their lane on the Tamar Bridge, though this was to be delayed. We advised of the growing momentum of a campaign to abolish the tolls for traffic on that bridge, though it currently shows little sign of success, and we reported how the promise of local authority action to remedy a long running sore on our otherwise attractive Waterside, the former 'Wheatsheaf Inn' was delayed due to a planning application.

More positive news saw the official handover of the library to the town. Since then we have been delighted to report on the various events and attractions planned to make the library more friendly and welcoming to all and we look forward to continuing to do so.

And after a year which had seen some controversy and ill feeling within our town council, some of it reaching the national press, we witnessed and reported upon the choosing as Mayor of a true local 'Saltash Maid' Councillor Gloria Challen, with Peter Samuels as deputy

heralding a more peaceful era in local politics.

A highlight of Easter for your Saltash Observer reports was sharing the wonder and glory of the Easter story with pupils of Bishop Cornish School at their magnificent Passion Play enacted in St. Nicholas Church.

'Cornwall Council censured for delays on Forder village green application', we reported. The long-delayed hearing was eventually held just before Christmas and we are promised a decision in February which we will bring to your attention.

But Spring in Saltash is above all a time to celebrate and as ever we enjoyed mingling with the throngs that turned out to enjoy the sunshine at a highly successful May Fair and later for an equally successful and enjoyable Regatta weekend, even if it did dampen over on the Sunday.

Summer
*"The walks put on their
Summer liveries
The trees with leaves, with
fruits, with flowers clad
Embraced each other,
seeming to be glad".*

Emily Lanier (1569 - 1645)
The environment was again to the forefront as in July we announced that Saltash was joining the plastic free campaign. In August we advised that after discussion the Town Council decided by a majority vote not to declare a Saltash climate emergency though as you may read elsewhere there is pressure for reconsideration on this.

Bad news for motorists, commuters especially, came with the rejection of suggestions to keep 'tag' tolls at their current level. Meanwhile the bridge committee were also under pressure to raise the height of the barriers to discourage jumpers and a meeting in Saltash Guildhall agreed to consider the effectiveness of this.

The much-loved mural on the 'Union Inn' on Waterside was refurbished by the original artist and the Saltash Card relaunched. Our own celebration came as we marked the 28th year of us bringing you all of your local news while promoting local businesses in your Saltash Observer. Where have those years gone?

A more universally significant anniversary was the centenary of the signing of the well-intentioned Treaty of Versailles, marked with a service at St. Stephens Church organised by the town's highly active Great War Commemoration



Autumn and Winter

*"When lofty trees I see, barren
of leaves
Which 'erst from heat did
canopy the herd
And Summer's green all girded
up in sheaves
Borne on the bier with white
and bristly beard"*

**William Shakespeare
(1564 - 1616)**

Once again environmentalists took the headlines as local members of the National Extinction Rebellion campaign marched down Fore Street to present their declaration at the Guildhall. Saltash was continuing to involve itself in environmental issues as we noted the plans to commence a major re-afforestation of Cornwall at Tintcombe. Local schoolchildren were proud to partake in this as we reported subsequently,

Saltash Rugby Club was also proud as it entered its fiftieth anniversary season. Less good news for all users of the Tamar Bridge. The tolls for tag users and cash payers all rose by 33%, though we were reminded that this was the first increase in nine years. And,

They also proudly launched the publication of a book of World War I poetry, produced by local poets, mostly pupils and students of Primary and Secondary schools - a truly magnificent and lasting achievement.

Less happy news from Waterside where the Ashtorre Rock facility felt forced to close due to intimidation from young people using it as a jumping point into the river. Fortunately, a superfluity of local support saw it swiftly reopen.

Other news concerned Carkeel businesses bemoaning loss of trade due to traffic chaos on the exit road, controversy over proposed crossing points on the trans-Saltash cycle/footway and Saltash becoming a town of hedgehog heroes.

But summer in Saltash we will chiefly remember as a season of such idyllic days, as that spent at Forder Fete enjoying a cream tea by the Creekside as the town band played. "Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer..."

Saltash Christmas Festival 2019

several months later than anticipated the free bus service was brought in for cyclists and walkers whose own lane was closed. For those who do cross the Tamar Bridge by whatever means there is now an interesting Visitor Centre, in the newly opened bridge offices. It was also to be decided that raising the bridge barrier would not be justified.

A new Town Cryer was chosen, a female for the first time in the town. We hope, literally, to hear more of her in the New Year.

A request from a former commando that the Town Council supports his project to add the 'missing names' of 44 war dead from World War I and 30 from World War II to the town's war memorials was rejected by the Town Council - but we somehow feel that we may also be hearing more of this in the coming year.

On the subject of World War I, one of the final events organised by the Great War Commemoration Committee was the magnificent musical performance of 'Lowenna', locally set. This included the wedding of your Observer correspondent conducted by the Mayor's Chaplain in St. Stephens Church. A card received subsequently from

friends claimed that we are still recovering from the shock of your nuptials and "we feel a warning should have been announced at the start of the play to ensure the safety of those in the audience of a nervous disposition".

Then of course came December and with the election campaign constantly in the background the town bedecked itself as always for Christmas. As news came of the Tory landslide and our own former MP re-elected with an increased majority there were individual rejoicings and commiserations.

But meanwhile our town was to come together as ever to celebrate the switching on of the lights and the grandest ever parade of illuminated lanterns welcoming in once again, the never changing season of light for the world. Then as always, with the falling of darkness on Christmas Eve the town appeared to hold its breathe and pause while once again, as in that other town of Bethlehem two thousand years ago the miracle of Christmas took place.

A miracle that promised Peace on Earth, a peace that we hope we may all enjoy as the next decade unfolds.

Happy New Year from...

Saltash Social Club

Newly Refurbished Members Bar Now in Use

New Members Always Welcome

Forthcoming Events in the Members Bar

January 2020

Sat 18th **Silverlight** (Rock/pop covers)
Sat 25th **Laurie's Disco/Quiz** (Starting 8pm)

February 2020

Sat 1st **Fastlane** (Tunes for 18s - 80s)
Sat 8th **Rudi's Message** (Huge reputation
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Fri 14th **MAIN HALL - M J THE LEGACY**
(Tribute to King of the Pop)
Members £5 visitors £10
Sat 15th **Bottled Blondie** (Tribute Act)
Sat 22nd **Opium** (One of your favourites)
Leap Year - Sat 29th Stargazer (Glam it up)

March 2020

Sat 7th **Voodoo** (Pop/Rock Duo)
Sat 14th **The Pause** (Vicious Kitten Spin Off)
Sat 21st **The Sound**
Sat 28th **Stage 2 Duo**

Regular Events

Karaoke with Vince & Kaz Every Sunday Evening
Quiz Night with Prizes first Tuesday of every month
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Coats to Keep off Winter Cold for Needy Families

The Winter cold brings hard times for some local families who are hard pressed to afford hats, coats and jumpers suitable for the chill days of December through to February. A Saltash Town Councillor Averil Pinchney, whose attention was drawn to local families struggling to keep warm, has set up a Winter clothes bank and has been delighted at Saltash residents' generosity towards their less fortunate fellow citizens.

'I now have eight rails full of beautiful coats suitable for men, women and children', she told us at the beginning of January. 'I also have Winter hats, boots and a kind lady is knitting scarves for me'. There are also toys for children whose parents could not be as generous as they would wish at Christmas. 'The good quality clothing and other items donated have been amazing', Averil added. One lady made a roast post-Christmas dinner to deliver to one of the needy families of whom Averil has become

aware.

She has been using the Maurice Huggins Room in Victoria Gardens as a store and anyone needing help for themselves or others can contact her there usually on Fridays between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. - She will open at other times by special arrangement and can be contacted through her Facebook Messenger page.

She would like to donate some of the duvets and coats to the homeless either in Saltash or, if any kind volunteer would offer to drive her around, in Plymouth.

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Better Trains, Better Service now and Better Station Shortly

A greatly increased number of stopping trains with more numerous and more comfortable seating now offers Saltash the best train service since the 1950's, when it was the busiest station in Cornwall. Trains will be up to half hourly for much of the day.

There are now up to twenty-six trains a day, in each direction, stopping in Saltash. Those heading to Plymouth mostly continue as a stopping service to Exeter. However there continues to be direct services via Plymouth to London Paddington, while new services link Saltash with Bristol and Cardiff, West bound trains all head for Truro and Penzance with connections to Looe, Newquay, Falmouth and St. Ives.

Most stopping services are now provided by four or five coach units which formerly served the Intercity 125 express services, but have been replaced by new trains and are now on local services. There is increased comfort, leg room and luggage space compared with the two car units which formerly covered most local services.

And for added comfort for Saltash passengers, eastbound at least, there will soon be a warm and comfortable waiting room with catering facilities in the Victorian station building, restoration of which is nearing completion.

Tincombe Trees Herald Major Reforestation Programme

Over a hundred young trees planted by Saltash school-children and adults mark the beginning of a "Forest for Cornwall" that is intended to cover an additional two per cent of Cornwall's land area, a total of thirty-two square miles.

The Cornwall wide scheme was launched on the open land at Tincombe in the presence of Cornwall Council's cabinet member for climate change, Councillor Edwina Hannaford. The extra trees are intended to capture around one per cent of Cornwall's current greenhouse gas emissions.

The children were clearly excited to be at the forefront of the ambitious re-forestation programme and proud to think that the 105 mixed saplings that they helped to plant included oak trees that should survive them by five centuries or more.



Santa was up the creek in Forder when the 53rd consecutive annual Carol Service was held in the village.

Father Christmas having lost his way, his reindeer and his little helper, hitched a ride on a passing boat and arrived in Forder in time to give out presents to the children who had gathered in the village along with family and friends to take part in the annual carol service.

The village musicians, led by Dr Derek Pilgrim provided festive Christmas music and the accompaniment to the carols.

The Mayor, Councillor Gloria Challen switched the Christmas Tree lights on and the Rev Kathy Sigrist officiated at the carol service where Lila Foyle and Zara Ness were the readers during that service.

Lexie Ness helped Father Christmas to sort out the presents, acting as his little helper and the reindeer were badly behaved!

After Father Christmas had delivered the presents and gone on his merry way to deliver to

other children, mince pies and mulled wine were the choice of the adults and the children managed a mince pie or two along with some non-alcoholic refreshment under the gazebos erected for the occasion in the centre of the village.

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Fabulous festive lights in Hobbs Crescent Saltash where donations raised over £350.00 for St Lukes Hospice.

Council's Festive Thanks To Staff

A festive pre-Christmas celebration was provided for the Saltash Town Council staff and the volunteers who work with them. Held in the Guildhall, it was an opportunity for Town Council staff and Councillors to mingle socially, as well as with your 'Observer' reporter.

During a brief lull in the lively chatter Mayor Councillor Gloria Challen expressed the thanks of herself and fellow councillors to all those present. "It has been a hard year with a number of changes and we really appreciate the support of the council team," she announced, hoping that they would all remain as part of the council team well into the future.

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Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 Eve's Pudding is a desert traditionally made using which fruit? (6)
- 2 What is the name of the large island in the River Thames estuary at the mouth of the River Medway? (7)
- 3 From which animal is Morocco Leather obtained? (4)
- 4 In the Batman and Robin films what colour was Robin's cape? (6)
- 5 The Halleluiah Chorus is part of which larger choral work? (7)
- 6 According to the Book of Proverbs how many Pillars has Wisdom's House? (5)
- 7 What was the last novel Jane Austen published during her lifetime? (4)
- 8 On which river does Eastleigh stand? (6)
- 9 Who was the last British Monarch to be married whilst on the Throne? (8)
- 10 What is the Capital of the Canadian Province of Alberta? (8)

Conundrum Answers on Page 7

Saltash Old Cornwall Society

Taking as their theme 'Curious Corners of Cornwall', Brian and Valerie Jacobs showed Saltash Old Cornwall Society a number of slides illustrating that off the beaten track you never know what you will find.

Examples included the hidden 'put on' and 'take off' stones where extra horses were required on a hill near St. Ive, the 'thousand-year-old oak' on the edge of Bodmin Moor and a telephone kiosk converted to a public convenience. There were a selection of follies, stone circles, chapels and little known churches. Of particular interest were a number of farmhouses throughout Cornwall still showing elements of their original stonework from when they served as manor houses for some of Cornwall's oldest families.

In his vote of thanks society secretary Martin Lister noted how the illustrations had proved a reminder of the need to keep eyes open and keep observation while on the lanes and byways of Cornwall. *Martin Lister*

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I hope that everyone enjoyed Christmas and would like to wish all readers a happy, prosperous and healthy New Year. I would like to thank all those people who have worked over Christmas to keep us safe.

I would like to thank everyone who voted for me and for the Conservative Party in the General Election. I am truly humbled by the over 20,000 majority and the over 31,000 votes I received. I am determined that this trust is repaid and will do all I can to ensure that all the people of South East Cornwall are

represented to the best of my ability.

I would also like to thank my team. It was not an easy election to fight with early nights and wet weather but they worked tirelessly to secure victory. I would like to thank all the council clerks, police and all others who ensured a smooth running election. I would also like to thank those who had the courage to put themselves forward in opposition to me. Democracy is reliant on a variety of people with differing views putting themselves forward so that the people have a genuine

choice. But once a vote has taken place that result should be respected and this, more than any other vote, has shown how important that democracy is to the people.

Work is already underway and I am already back in Parliament with a clear mandate to get Brexit done so that we can move on to the other key priorities of the NHS, our schools and policing. In the constituency it was a pleasure to drop round our postal offices to thank them for all their hard work over the festive season and of course over the election period.

Hotel at Hatt Would Harm Landscape

A substantial fifty-six bedroomed hotel adjacent to the A380 Saltash - Callington road, just outside the Saltash boundary has been refused planning permission by Cornwall Council.

The proposed hotel would have an adverse impact on the landscape of the Tamar Valley, it was decided. It falls just inside the Tamar Valley Area of

Outstanding Natural Beauty, looking down towards the Tamar from a site by the Cardinal's Hatt.

Permission for a smaller hotel was granted in 1998 but as no building work commenced the permission lapsed. The current plan for a four-storey building was substantially larger and caused concern to objectors in Botus Fleming, whose parish it would be in.

Current planning policy is for new hotels to be in towns, where they boost the local economy, and not on sites such as this where lack of public transport and pedestrian access would attract increased traffic to access the hotel facilities, the planning officer had advised.

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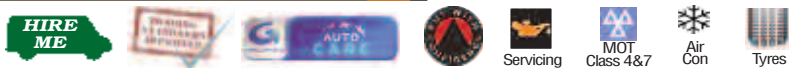
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British Legion Gold Badge for Bill



A quarter century of service to ex-servicemen in Saltash and throughout Cornwall has been recognised with an award of a gold badge by Bill Dent of the Royal British Legion.

He has been at the forefront of organising the annual tradition of the Remembrance Day Parade with church service on the nearest Sunday to Armistice Day and he also inaugurated what is now an established tradition of the 'Last Post' and the two minutes silence in Fore Street at 11 a.m.

on each 11th November. He and his wife Jean are both active in promoting the work done by the Legion for former service personnel and last year he received the Chairman's Cup and Certificate for outstanding work on welfare in Cornwall. He currently serves as County Vice Chair.

'This award is a wonderful and unexpected honour', Bill told the Observer, 'It is a tribute not only to myself but all members of Saltash and District branch who have always been so supportive.'

Tell your friends & family to visit us at...
www.saltash-observer.co.uk

Waterside Building Bedecked by Yarn Bombing

A Christmas decoration with a difference brought colour and character to Ashtorre Rock in time for its varied seasonal events.

The two knitting groups who regularly meet there on Thursdays and Saturday, decided to show their appreciation of the welcome that Ashtorre offers them by 'Yarn Bombing' the building. With the willing consent of

management, a group of around twelve ladies erected a Christmas tree, kindly donated, and covered it in knitted decorations. The rest of the building was smothered in knitted flags and other colourful creations. The crew were kept going with mince pies and chocolate biscuits donated by Waitrose.

'Ashtorre is so lovely that we have been busy working on this since September to make it look extra special for Christmas', we were told.

Fire Cadets Win Community Cup

Young Saltash Fire Cadets who have been actively involved in community events over the past year triumphantly collected from Truro the Chief Fire Officers Cup for Community Safety which had been awarded to them.

The varied activities which had merited this achievement included attending at such events in Saltash as the Christmas Festival and Mayfair as well as travelling throughout Cornwall to be represented at various fire stations' open days. They had been active in promoting community safety at events such as the Festival of Youth. Back in Saltash a number of them spent 24 hours stirrup pumping in shifts at the

regatta to raise funds and they lined the old ferry slipway when the poppy carpet was laid during World War 1 commemorations. Each year a group visits the battlefields of Flanders and joins in the Armistice Day Remembrance at Ypres, and in 2019 ten members enjoyed a memorable experience there despite cold and rain.

Anyone of secondary school age is welcome to join and can find out more by attending at the fire station between 6.30 and 8.30 p.m. any Monday evening in school term time.

Waterfront Update

Success! A new rubbish bin has finally been installed in Huntly Gardens (and being used) following several calls to Cornwall Council... Thank you.

On November 29 contractors removed a yacht hulk from beach fronting the derelict Waterfront pub; the mast was left behind along with a second hulk, apparently scheduled for removal 3 days later... still to happen. Meanwhile, at the Brunel Green end, abandoned hulks have received updated abandonment notices, threatening disposal after February 29.

Albeit slowly, things are happening down by the river!
Ian Robinson.

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Essa Files

Firstly a very happy new year, and indeed new decade to you all! In preparation for the 2020s I have been reading up a little on the 1920s.

I have been sadly unable to find out much about 1920s Saltash in particular although it's a fair bet that like so many other communities in the UK the town was recovering from its losses in the Great War and adjusting to the new changes and opportunities. The 'roaring 20s' often gets romanticised as an era of flapper dresses, jazz and the post-world war one consumer boom and certainly there was a lot of change for the better. Technological advances brought us, amongst others things, commercial air travel, public broadcasting and talking pictures; more opportunities opened up for women and there was greater social mobility.

Equally the 20s started and ended with economics crises (hyper-inflation in Germany, and the Wall Street Crash), Ireland and Russia to name but two experienced bloody civil wars and there was the UK General Strike, the rise of fascism in Italy, and the failed experiment of prohibition fuelling organised crime in America. It's also worth noting that even the social change was pretty limited: opportunities for women, especially poorer women, were still very restricted by 1930 whilst rights for LGBT people, ethnic minorities and disabled remained more or less non-existent.

So what then can we expect from the 2020s, both in Saltash and around the world? Like the 1920s I'm expecting a lot of bumps along the way

– more conflicts, continuing divisions in society and the world, and more environmental catastrophes. Equally I'm hopeful that we might make progress on some of the challenges of our time – climate change, global poverty, and social inequality, and that by 2030 we'll be looking forward to a brighter community and world than those in 1930 were faced with.

The challenge for each of us is to work out what we can personally do to help the ups outweigh the downs, both in Saltash and around the world: what, in effect, are our new decades' resolutions. I'm going to suggest three broad ideas. First what are you going to do this decade to help those less fortunate or privileged than you? Secondly what are you going to do to reduce your personal impact on the environment? Thirdly what are you going to do to help spread kindness and understanding, and help it overcome hatred and division? I'll leave it to you to work out what you can personally do for each, hopefully to last longer than the usual new-year resolutions!

Adam Killely

Conundrum Answers:

1 Apples 2 Sheppey 3 Goat
4 Yellow 5 Messiah 6 Seven
7 Emma 8 Ichen 9 Victoria
10 Edmonton Re-arranged
the letters spell Mearagisssey

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Letters to the Editor...

Dear Editor,
Missing names of War Dead
 Since your Council report was printed I have been asked a number of disturbing questions about Saltash Council competence and integrity:

Councillor Dent said such a project takes a huge amount of research. Yet we have been told by the local expert that the research with regard to the missing names is 90-95% accurate. 74 names have been identified as missing.

Councillor Samuels suggested we could look at public subscriptions to get things started but Councils permission is still needed to add the names.

Why did Councillor Samuels, who chaired the meeting, not allow a very sensible proposal by Councillor Lennox-Boyd to put the matter to committee? This would have enabled an appropriate discussion on a very sensitive subject. This was peremptorily dismissed by Councillor Samuels.

Why did Councillor

Dear Editor,

You kindly printed a letter from me in the Observer, October Edition, relating to the Town Centre and a vision for Regeneration. Regretfully my plea for the various organisations such as Saltash Chamber of Commerce, Saltash Town Council and Saltash CIC to work together has fallen on 'deaf' ears. Saltash Town Council have informed various parties that they are not prepared to work with me, if I am involved in regenerating Saltash. How sad and puerile! Saltash will remain a backwater while 'personality's' take precedence over common sense.

*John Brady
 Mayor of Saltash 2018-2019*

Samuels abuse the usual meeting protocol of taking the resolution from the actual question? I made the point 'will Council consider leading a project' and 'it might even cost Council nothing if we could crowd fund'. But the resolution voted on was 'not to commit public money until the project is complete and all of the names of the fallen but not forgotten have been established'.

Why does Saltash Council behave in such a closed and defensive manner?

Unlike Saltash, Torpoint Council allow the public to ask questions at the actual meeting and participate in the debate. It would appear that Torpoint Council is much more engaged with their residents.

Our 74 missing men and the community deserve better from a Council in which many of us lack confidence.

*Barry Brooking
 Saltash*

Dear Editor,

I hereby reply to the article in the December 2019 'Observer' on "Missing Names of War Dead". I agree with Councillor Jean Dent that if the missing names of war casualties are to be placed on a memorial for future generations to pay homage to, that research must be accurate - as far as is possible - I guess it may not be possible to be 100% accurate due to the passage of time. I suggest that once Saltash Councillors are satisfied that the names of those missing off the current memorials have been sufficiently researched, which I understand they have been, then perhaps 'Crowd Funding', or similar, could be set up to raise sufficient funds to enable names to be added. I particularly like the added 'scroll' panel as placed on the Tavistock War Memorial. I believe that Torpoint Councillors have done the proper thing and added names missing off their memorial. So, come on Saltash Councillors, give support to the son of one of Saltash's former Councillors and Mayor.

I can remember the immediate after effects of war and can only ask that Saltash Councillors agree to adding the names that have been researched by Saltash Heritage and in particular Mr Peter Clements. I would not have liked to have witnessed what these brave souls had to - we must never forget all of them.

*Mary Wills
 Saltash*

Dear Editor,

Wake up, Saltash Town Council! Your article was important and telling. How can they do nothing about this? It would not have happened under last year's Mayor, an RN veteran.

Clr Dent has close contacts with Saltash Heritage, RBL and RNA. She should be able to get them to do something rather than procrastinating.

Clr Pegg says she doesn't want any names left out, so why not go ahead with what we have got and leave spaces for any new names like Torpoint Council did.

Clr Samuel says public subscription should be actioned. This would be fine, but why can't Saltash Council start things like Torpoint Council? They funded their memorials with help from their local RBL and RNA as well as the community. In fact, I understand Saltash Council gave the Great War committee a thousand pounds, have promised one thousand four hundred pounds to the VE day celebrations and are even applying for a twenty thousand pound loan presumably for the Library. They are simply not consistent. I hope Saltash voters will remember the Councillors who decided to do nothing about this at the next local elections.

C Turner

Cut Carbon Footprint, Saltash Environmentalists Are Told

A transformed countryside with totally changed biodiversity is a vital element to counter climate change, Saltash Environmental Action members were told by Dr. Rebecca Pearce PHD, who works in the National Drought and Water Scarcity programme. She envisaged a Britain of reduced pastureland, reforestation of a quarter of the country, and the protection of peat bogs and salt flats to combat humanity's carbon footprint. She also saw the need for many more wind turbines offshore and on land.

Environmental scientists have calculated each country's need to reduce emissions and Britain is targeted to reduce them by 86% from 1990 level before 2030. Progress is being made with reduction of 46% to date but this still leaves 40% further reduction within ten years to ensure that the critical line of 1.5 degrees global warming is not exceeded.

Dr Pearce advised and members discussed how we can all work to achieve these reductions as a country, a community and individually.

There are some hopeful signs, the number of miles driven is surprisingly down substantially, and renewable energy is replacing fossil fuel far more speedily than predicted.

There remains, concluded Dr. Pearce, a need for massive government and individual investment in creating a better world for everybody.

Hospital Chapel Could House Historic Tapestry

The historic and beautiful Victorian chapel at St. Barnabas hospital could be an ideal home for the Saltash Chronicle tapestries and become a local visitor attraction. The suggestion was put to the Saltash Town Council during public question time.

The hospital and its chapel date from 1888 and form a landmark building and heritage landmark in the town's Neighbourhood Plan. The Saltash Chronicles Tapestry, modelled on that of Bayeux, represents many hours of work by local embroiderers and involved the whole community, including children, in portraying the town's story

from pre-history through Norman, Elizabethan and Victorian eras to the present day. It was a much-visited attraction when it hung around the walls inside the Baptist church but since the room was otherwise required there has been a problem in finding a building with sufficient length of wall to display it.

It could be a superb visitor

attraction in the hospital chapel, suggest Ms. Denise Watkins, within easy walking distance of the town's car parks. It could attract Heritage England funding to help restore the chapel and staircase. Embroiderers could staff it and visitor income support its maintenance. She advised that NHS Kernow and property services saw no

difficulty in negotiating a transfer since the hospital clinics which continue in active use could be closed off from the chapel. The Town Council confirmed that any further approach from the health authorities regarding transfer could be referred to the Town Clerk.

Dear Editor,

I've expressed dismay at Mrs Murray over her free use of the word 'democracy' in your pages. Any result is 'democratic' if it fits one's own views.

No one is in much doubt that the recent election was another vote about Brexit. But it was a general election rather than a 'people's vote'. 56.4% of electors specifically said they didn't want a conservative government. Of these, 55.5% voted for parties opposing the tory brexit bulldozer. Where is the will of the people now? Clearly the general stomach for Brexit has changed, but the Tories don't want to know. Until we bring our worn-out voting system up to date we will have a crippled form of democracy, and ludicrous unfairness. Split the total national vote into MPs elected and this is what you get: a Green party MP would represent 330 times the number of people that elected a single SNP Member of

Parliament. A Tory MP is elected with 38,264 votes, while a Labour MP would need 50,835 votes, 33% more. A Libdem would need 336.38 votes, nearly ten times what a Tory would need.

This goes a long way to explain our election result.

Let's grow up, and like the rest of the world choose a system of Proportional Representation for our voting, and allow some representation of the ignored majority. And don't let Mrs Murray tell you that we've had a referendum on the subject...only AV was on offer. And why do we need a referendum on the subject anyway? Let's just Get It Done.

*sincerely
 Richard Sowman*

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