

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

Winter 2021 - Issue 346

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Praise for Vaccination Rollout as...

## China Fleet Mobilises to Support the NHS

NHS staff have been working extremely hard to ensure the rollout of their biggest ever vaccination programme goes smoothly – and residents are praising the local staff and volunteers delivering it. Ensuring that people in care homes are vaccinated against Covid is at the top of the national priority list, and confirmation that all care home residents and staff in Cornwall had received their first dose of the Covid vaccine by 25th January was greeted with delight and relief by Cornish families.

The majority of people in other categories will need to travel to a vaccination centre, which presents complex logistical issues trying to ensure that the environment is safe. But people have been telling the Observer how impressed they are with the way that East Cornwall's first vaccination centre at Pensilva is being run. Natalie Page took her 91-year-old father to Pensilva and

praised the staff and volunteers, saying: "Well done to them all. I'm extremely proud to say I'm Cornish!"

Pensilva, however, is a long journey from Saltash, so residents in the PL12 area were particularly delighted to hear that the China Fleet Country Club has also been designated as a key vaccination centre.

Managing Director of the award-winning China Fleet

Country Club, Dean Bennet, said: "We are delighted to be able to support the NHS and the local community by assisting in this huge vaccination effort and helping the NHS protect the population of South East Cornwall against Covid-19."

The China Fleet Country Club stands ready to operate seven days a week to help people get vaccinated as quickly as possible. It has a

distinguished history as a charity supporting the Royal Navy and Royal Marine serving and ex-serving communities. There are plans for Royal Navy volunteers to help with the vaccination arrangements.

East Cornwall Primary Care Network commented that they had been overwhelmed with offers of volunteer help with the rollout of the vaccines at Pensilva and China Fleet, and assured people that they will be contacted when it is their turn to receive the vaccine.

The vaccination programme is a bright ray of hope to start the New Year, and the Observer would like to add its voice of thanks to all those involved in its rollout.

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## community enterprises PL12

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### Community Fridge & Larder

At the Community Hub, 4 Fore St.  
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### Jigsaw Swap

Available from the Community Hub during opening hours for the Fridge & Larder. We are unable to deliver jigsaws during this lockdown.

### Shopping Service

We are continuing our shopping service on Tuesdays and Fridays for elderly & vulnerable who are unable to shop. Please call 01752 848348.

### Mobile Community Fridge & Larder

During Lockdown, our Hoppers are running a mobile Community Fridge service twice a week, distributing food which would otherwise be wasted.

Tuesday  
1000 Waterside/ Tamar Close  
1030 Moorland View  
1100 Warfelton Crescent  
1145 Alamein Road  
1200 Dartmoor View, Pillmere

Friday  
1000 Cowdray Close  
1030 Frobisher Drive/ Leanway  
1100 Babis Farm Close/ Babis Farm Way  
1145 Broom Hill Bungalows  
1215 Brooking Way  
1245 Grenfell Avenue

The Hopper will be at each stop for approximately 15-20 minutes, listen out for our bell. We follow strict Covid guidelines. Please remember to follow Hands - Face -Space. Food items will be pre-bagged for safety.

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Community Enterprises PL12 | 4 Fore Street | Saltash | PL12 6JL

# Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council  
Konsel an dre Essa



**Education Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
Email:  
[schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Education Welfare:**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
[educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Housing Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 161  
Email: [info@cornwallhousing.org.uk](mailto:info@cornwallhousing.org.uk)  
**Social Services Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
Email:  
[children@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:children@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Social Services Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 131  
[adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:adultcare@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Highways Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 222  
Email:  
[customerrelations@cornwallhighways.co.uk](mailto:customerrelations@cornwallhighways.co.uk)

**Transport Department**  
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(Bus Pass) Telephone: 0300 1234 222  
Email:  
[schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransport@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Roads, Transport and Parking**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 222  
Email:  
[roadstransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:roadstransportandparking@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Waste Department**  
Telephone: 0300 1234 141  
Email: via contact form on website only.

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*Town Messenger  
news is supplied  
by the Town  
Council*

## Your Cornwall Councillors

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

## From the Mayor of Saltash

It was around this time last year that I declared my intention to stand for the position of Mayor of Saltash for the year 2020/21, having been given encouragement by several fellow Councillors to do so.

When I was first elected to Saltash Town Council back in 2017 it had never occurred to me that I would ever hold such a position, but as time has shown, a lot of things can not be foreseen.

When nominations closed, I was the only candidate for the Mayoral role, but with the pandemic upon us and a lockdown situation, the formal vote and handover from the previous Mayor, Gloria Challen, was delayed from May until August.

What an unusual Mayoral term it has proven to be, with no ceremonial 'Mayor Making' event, no Civic Services, no Remembrance Day parade, in fact a lot of what would



normally take place has failed to materialise due to the obvious restrictions.

But it struck me as to how adaptable we all are, when faced with adversity and unusual circumstances, always striving to make the best of a situation.

Whilst there was no Remembrance Day parade, the two minute silence and wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial still went ahead with a very limited number of invited guests, socially distanced and keeping within the restrictions. An additional

## Ex Mayoress Dies Aged One Hundred

Link with what some still consider to be a classic era for Saltash and its town council was broken with the passing of former Mayoress Mrs. Winifred Brooking. We had reported upon her hundredth birthday earlier in 2020.

A Kentish maid by birth, born into a Dickensian world of cobbled streets, gas lighting and largely horse drawn traffic she was to witness a century of great change. Leaving school aged 14 she was later to serve during World War II in the hazardous work of munition making. It was then that she met Alfred Brooking, a merchant mariner serving on ammunition ships and based in Chatham. They married in that town in 1942 and subsequently lived in various seaports before settling in Saltash where Alfred had roots and where he wanted his first child born.

Alfred qualified as the youngest admiralty river pilot before being invalided out and joining the Civil Service. But his main concern was to serve his community and, with Winifred's support became an active member of Saltash Town Council. Winifred served as his Mayoress in 1975 and for two years as his consort when he was Chair of newly formed Caradon Council, Winifred enjoyed the honour of meeting various members of the Royal Family and was a guest at Buckingham Palace but she equally enjoyed meeting with countless members of the Saltash community.

Asked by Sue Hooper MBE as to her recipe for such a long life she replied immediately "a happy marriage with Alfred, good healthy living and my faith". She was an active member of St. Stephens Church and enjoyed gardening, cooking, reading and knitting for charity well into her nineties.

She leaves one son, Barry, who himself served honourably in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, and subsequently to Alfred's death in 1999, spent over a decade back in Saltash caring for his mother.

Alfred and Winifred Brooking – Saltash will not look upon their like again.

two minute silence was observed at the Waterside with flowers being thrown into the water, near to where so many troops left Saltash for the last time to go off and fight for King and Country in the Great War. Many residents have commented on how touching this extra ceremony was and expressing a hope that this would be repeated in the future.

No Christmas Festival or official Christmas light switch on in 2020 but instead we had the Window Wanderland organised by the Chamber of Commerce, so a special thanks due to Sarah Martin, who is Chair of Chamber and also a Town Councillor, also to Cornwall Councillor Hilary Frank, businesses and residents, who put much effort into making this event the success it was. The High Sheriff of Cornwall paid a visit, as did the Lord Mayor of Plymouth, also

the Mayors of Penzance and Redruth and it was good to know that Saltash attracted such interest. Again, many have expressed the hope that this event will be repeated in 2021.

Without the Mayor Making ceremony, the tradition of throwing fruit and hot pennies from the Guildhall windows, for children to pick up, did not happen, but instead a bag of fruit was donated by the Mayoress and myself just before Christmas to every primary school child attending the schools in Saltash, my thanks to the schools for distributing these.

The Mayoress and myself also made a flying visit to residential care homes in Saltash to deliver some goodies to thank the staff for the work they carry out under very difficult circumstances.

There are many things that have been done differently over

the past several months, it would be good to think that when we get back to some sort of normality, that some of the events introduced during the pandemic will become embedded as part of the norm.

On a different note, I was sad to learn that the two PCSO's who have looked after Saltash, Mary Wells and Debbie Smith, were to leave just before Christmas. Mary has retired and looks forward to doing some travelling, when circumstances allow, whilst Debbie has moved to the Bath area. It was, however, a pleasure to visit the Police Station to present them each with a Fortnum and Mason as a 'thank you' for their sterling work in looking after us all.

There are a great many organisations and individuals who deserve praise for the way they have served the community during the pandemic, column space does

not allow me to mention them all, but my sincere thanks to them.

There is no doubt that the coming weeks are going to be tough, but as I write, the vaccination programme is being rolled out with millions already having received the vaccine and we can all therefore look forward to getting back to some sort of normality, but I suspect it will be a gradual process over a number of months rather than something that will happen overnight.

In the meantime, please do follow the rules that have been put in place to help protect us from the virus, there is no doubt there is a vital role for each and every one of us to play at the moment.

Stay safe and take care.  
Kind Regards  
Cllr Pete Samuels  
Mayor of Saltash 2020/21

## Your Town Council

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**Deputy Mayor:**  
Julie Rance

**Town Clerk:**  
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E: [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk)

**Councillors' telephone numbers can be obtained at the Guildhall.**

**Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street, Saltash PL12 6JX  
Tel.: 01752 844846 Email: [enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk) Website: [www.saltash.gov.uk](http://www.saltash.gov.uk)**

## Winter Maintenance Programme

Saltash Town Council Service Delivery Department are continuing to work on the Winter Maintenance Programme throughout the town. The work completed included clearing the pathways, steps and wooden bridges in certain areas. Work also involved removal of fallen foliage, cutting back of hedges, removal of loose mud and debris to return footpaths to their original size which has also assisted with social distancing for those using the paths.

We trust that the work being carried out is being well received within the town and thank the residents for their feedback.

**Observer Telephone Numbers  
07971484872  
or 01579 345699**

**Tell your friends & family to visit us at...  
[www.saltash-observer.co.uk](http://www.saltash-observer.co.uk)**



Before



After

## COVID-19 Safe Shopping

Saltash Town Council Services Committee recently approved to submit a bid for a grant to assist the town with re-opening safety. We are pleased to announce that following the successful application and subsequent grants from European Regional Development Fund, HM Government and Cornwall Council have purchase additional signage and hand sanitisers for the high street to promote COVID-19 safe shopping within the town and to ensure the safety of those visiting the town.

We hope that everyone continues to shop safely and continue to enjoy the facilities the town has to offer.



## Conundrum Corner

Taking the initial letter to the one-word answers to the following ten questions can you re-arrange them to make the name of a well-known celebrity? 5,5

- 1 By what name is Beethoven's Third Symphony known? (6)
- 2 Which mountain range forms a geographical boundary between Europe and Asia? (5)
- 3 There was an old man from . . . is a typical first line in which type of verse? (8)
- 4 What does Farci mean in the culinary world? (7)
- 5 How many British Prime Ministers were assassinated? (3)
- 6 What colour were the Suede Shoes Elvis Presley sang about? (4)
- 7 What type of creature is a Red Eft? (4)
- 8 In which European Country is Cape Trafalgar found? (5)
- 9 What colour are New York City's official taxis? (6)
- 10 What is the name of the large mountainous Island in the Firth of Clyde? (5)

Answers on Page 7



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## Chamber Chairman Sarah Martin Keeping us Updated...

Well, what a start to the New Year! Who would have guessed that so much would have happened between Christmas and the beginning of 2021! Wishing you all a Happy New Year seems a bit obsolete now we have ended up in a lockdown until at least the middle of February but I'll do it just the same.

For many small businesses, weeks of lockdown can mean a definite shift in the dynamics of how they work but it doesn't have to be all doom and gloom. At our January Chamber meeting it was heartening to hear some good news stories of new partnership working taking off between two Saltash businesses; a great start to the new year for a franchise company offering new opportunities for many made redundant in the first lockdown, and an exciting venture for a local translator which could open up important new export partnerships for Cornish companies.

In order to make sure Saltash companies are using all there is available to their advantage, here are a few tips which could come in handy in these uncertain times:

### Online Government Support Finder

If you're struggling to know what help you are entitled to or if new support packages have become available in this third lockdown then you need this Government tool. Just go through the questions step-by-step and it will give you a list of your options at the end. If you have already received help from Cornwall Council via a grant in the first lockdown, this will automatically be sent to you in this lockdown too: [www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder](http://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder)

### Help to transform and innovate

During the various guises of lockdown that we had, I've been blown away by the new ideas and ways businesses have found to keep themselves going. From offering a new 'click and collect' service, developing a vital social media presence, to shifting an entire business online, it's those decisions which have meant businesses sink or swim. The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Growth Hub is a one-stop shop to help businesses innovate and offer advice and support free of charge while helping businesses review their skills and training needs. And they are asking businesses to find #anhourtoskill this January to see how they can reset and recharge their businesses. You can call the Skills Hub on 01209 708660 or register online at [www.ciosgrowthhub.com/the-growth-hub](http://www.ciosgrowthhub.com/the-growth-hub) for free and impartial advice.

### Local Restrictions Grants

Local Restrictions Support Grants have been announced as part of the 4.6 billion in new lockdown grants from the government. Eligible businesses include importantly those who haven't received help before; non mandated but severely affected businesses; new businesses and different structures (such as CICs), and large businesses with over £51,000 rateable value. The grants available are between £667 and £1,500 for every 14 days that the restrictions apply. The amount is determined by the rateable value of the property you occupy. If you think you qualify then find out more by going to the Cornwall Council's page: <https://cutt.ly/sjcvYse>.

## Community Fridge & Larder Takes to the Roads...

The Saltash Community Fridge & Larder which operates from the Community Hub at 4, Fore Street is to 'go mobile' reaching out to more families around Saltash. The service, which started in November, takes donations of surplus food from supermarkets and offers them free of charge to anyone who needs them. A Saltash Hopper bus will be used to transport the surplus food, bagged up and ready to give out at stopping points around the town starting from Tuesday 26th January.

Chair of Community Enterprises PL12 Jo Baskott said: "The Community Fridge & Larder is proving to be a vital community asset and we want to make sure as many people as possible benefit from it. By

offering this service from a Hopper we can open it up to more people around the town, and help out those people who prefer not to come to the Fore Street during lockdown or are home working with families.



The Saltash Hopper helping deliver food parcels to families from St Stephens CP School with Mrs Bev Jones and volunteer driver Chris Tandy.

### Membership this year

At our AGM in October we decided that this year would be beneficial to cut our membership fees so that they wouldn't be a hurdle to new businesses joining up. So for the coming year, there will be no fee payable to become a Chamber member. So what do you get? As we're now an affiliate member of Cornwall Chamber you will have access to all their services and that is going to be hugely beneficial in the year to come with a host of events and virtual business fairs. We have a regular Chamber meeting every first Monday of the month which also means that you have a say in decisions that directly impact our community. So, if ever there was a year to join us, it's this one!

### And the winners are...

Our Honorary President Bill Cotton and I had the pleasure in December of delivering the best-dressed window awards which is customary for that time of year. The main award went to Donna from Eclectic at Home for her amazing Christmas fireside scene unanimously decided during our Window Wanderland walkabout with the Lord Mayor of Plymouth and his Consort and Saltash Mayor Pete Samuels and his consort Brenda Samuels. Tracey at The Bookshelf was a very popular and equally unanimous recipient of the Children's Choice for her Mary Poppins on skis scene.

### Last but not least...

With the recent success of our Window Wanderland in December, we've had some great feedback and considering the latest lockdown, we'd like to suggest another! Let's show our love for local businesses in Saltash by dressing up our windows again for Valentine's Day. It will mark the launch of our *Love Local, Shop Saltash* campaign where as a Chamber we will be promoting Saltash and its businesses. It will also serve as a colourful reminder of our great community spirit as we take our daily exercise and do our essential shopping

Let's hope that this time next year, we would have had a more 'normal' Christmas season, but in the meantime, Saltash Chamber is 'Here to Help' businesses and retailers in our town.

"We will be preparing bags of food to hand out to anyone who turns up at the stops but we do ask that people follow social distance guidelines and wear a mask when interacting with our volunteers."

Sue Ellingham, Director of Community Transport added: "Although our Shopper link is still running on a Wednesday to help residents get access to do their essential shopping in town and in our retail parks, we have not been able to get back to trips as we'd hoped. Instead we are using the Hoppers to help schools deliver food parcels and now to accommodate the Community Fridge & Larder. Our buses are misted using a high-grade fogging sanitising machine after each use to ensure we're complying with all the Government guidelines".

If you have a need for a Hopper during the lockdown that you'd like to discuss then please contact the Hub at 4, Fore Street on 01752 848348 or email [hub@cepl12.co.uk](mailto:hub@cepl12.co.uk). Follow our FB page @SaltashHoppers for up to date info on our services.

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## All About The Shoes

Richard & Theresa Wish you all well  
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We look forward to seeing you again very soon

Lunar - Rieker - Joseph Sibel

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## Saltash Rotary Sponsors ...

Cornwall Air Ambulance Crew

The Rotary Club of Saltash has become the first club in Cornwall to sponsor a Cornwall Air Ambulance crew member's uniform.

The club donated £950 to the lifesaving charity to fund a 12-month sponsorship of a new flight suit for trainee critical care paramedic Martin Bunt.

Saltash Rotary has supported the charity in previous years, raising money towards the New Heli Appeal and even has its club name on the underside of the helicopter.

Club President, John Smith, said: "The air ambulance is absolutely vital to saving lives and the latest aircraft is proving a major step up from the previous version. We held various fundraising events in 2019 and the early part of 2020, raising more than £2,100 towards the purchase of the aircraft and its equipment. We were delighted to be able to see Martin as the beneficiary of this latest donation."

Saltash Rotary recently celebrated the 60th anniversary of its charter and has a proud history of supporting initiatives that help the local community.

Steph Bray, Corporate



Fundraiser for Cornwall Air Ambulance, said: "Saltash Rotary has been a great supporter of the charity, from donating to help bring the new helicopter to Cornwall, to supporting the crew who fly in it. We are delighted to have them on board."

If your business or club is interested in sponsoring one of the aircrew, find out more at [www.cornwallairambulancetrust.org/sponsorship](http://www.cornwallairambulancetrust.org/sponsorship).

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## Don't Get Complacent

There is light at the end of this long Covid tunnel: data is showing that vaccinating people in the top 9 priority categories should reduce hospital admissions by 99%; amazing NHS staff are working night and day to roll out the country's biggest ever mass vaccination programme; the China Fleet Country Club has opened as a vaccination centre, ready to operate 7 days a week; staff at Saltash Community School and our primary schools are doing an incredible job of teaching and supporting our children, both online and on site; and volunteers in our communities are steadfastly providing food and support.

But the Covid situation in Cornwall is at its most severe since the beginning of the pandemic, and it is not time to get complacent. Please stay at home as much as you can.

Over 9,000 cases of Covid-19 have been recorded in Cornwall since the onslaught of the virus. That figure alone is stark. But, worryingly, more than 75% of those cases have occurred in the last two months. Cornwall Council's public health team has released figures showing that there has been a dramatic rise in infection rates since November: we now stand at more than 360 cases per 100,000 compared to 18 cases per 100,000 when the second national lockdown was lifted in November. There are currently serious outbreaks in care homes, and we are seeing the highest infection rates in the 20-35 years age group - a pattern that is similar to other parts of the region and nationally. There are more community cases in general, with the new strain accelerating the rapid spread of the virus.

And at Cornwall Council, an increasing number of our staff are contracting the virus. All of these factors led us to take the decision to move to response mode from the middle of January. This has led to temporary changes to the way we are working, with many Cornwall Council staff redeployed to support the response to the pandemic.

Devon and Cornwall Police have enforcement responsibilities for travel, face masks and gatherings, while Cornwall Council is responsible for business compliance. The Council has a dedicated Covid Compliance team that is working seven days a week, and in the last month alone compliance officers visited more than 700 businesses, issuing three notices. Cornwall Council's Covid marshals are on patrol in 17 towns, including Saltash, helping to keep towns safe.

In response mode, Cornwall Council's dedicated email address remains a crucial way of managing demand for answers to questions, and helps give us an accurate picture of the issues residents are trying to cope with. If you have a Covid-related enquiry or concern please send an email to [covid19@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:covid19@cornwall.gov.uk).

Don't forget that anyone who needs help can request a volunteer by ringing 01872 266988 or emailing [requestforhelp@volunteercornwall.org.uk](mailto:requestforhelp@volunteercornwall.org.uk).

Importantly: please don't get complacent, and please stay at home as much as possible. Most importantly, though: please take care of each other.

## Miserable Potholes

Latest figures show that Cornwall Council's highways crews had to repair an average of 62 potholes every day during 2020. This is despite investment by Cornwall Council that will see an extra £20 million being spent on Cornwall's roads by the end of this year. So far, this investment has enabled more than 500 roads to be resurfaced, improving safety and preventing an estimated 2,400 potholes from forming. But more investment is needed to carry out preventative work, so Cornwall Council used the opportunity of National Pothole Day on January 15th to highlight the £270m backlog in road maintenance on Cornwall's 7,300km highway network, calling for funding at a national level.

Potholes are not new. In fact, their name comes from the days of the Roman Empire, when roads were built on a bed of clay and topped with gravel and hard-baked bricks. Holes were formed where potters would break open the road's surface to get at the good potting clay underneath. It was a great source of clay but a miserable source of trouble for the chariots and wagons that travelled those roads.

Cornwall Council undertakes safety inspections on a regular basis, but potholes can develop over a very short time, especially in adverse weather conditions, so please report any miserable potholes using Cornwall Council's website: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/report-it](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/report-it)

Potholes will be inspected and prioritised as soon as practical. If they are considered to be a significant hazard they will be treated by the end of the next working day.

## Be A Councillor

What matters to you in Saltash, Botus Fleming, Hatt or Landrake? Is it improving services for young people? Perhaps you want to lead the fight against climate change? Well - you could be the person to deliver change by becoming a town, parish or Cornwall councillor at this year's local elections.

Candidates can be nominated through a political group or may choose to stand independently. All are elected for a four-year term of office, and all play an important role in deciding how services are provided, funded and prioritised.

Town and parish councillors are able to claim a small allowance, which tends to be around £200 per year. The allowance for a Cornwall councillor is larger in recognition of the evidence that Cornwall councillors spend on average 33 hours every week on council duties. A discount of 25% is applied to reflect the fact that councillors are providing a public service, making the total annual allowance for a Cornwall Councillor just under £14,500.

Given the situation with Covid there is a possibility the Government may delay the elections, but if they go ahead as planned on 6th May, then the deadline for submitting nomination papers is 4pm on Thursday 8th April.

Local government can only be as effective, relevant and vibrant as the people elected to run it. So why not stand? You will find more detail about topics such as eligibility criteria and nomination processes on Cornwall Council's Be A Councillor website: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/beacouncillor](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/beacouncillor)



## On The Mend

A new project called MHEND (Mental Health Employment Needs and Debt advice), has been launched in Cornwall to provide both mental health support and practical advice on money, jobs and housing to the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Funded by Cornwall Council, experts from Citizens Advice Cornwall are joining forces with Pentreath, a leading Cornish mental health charity, to provide an outreach service for residents who have been badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, especially people on low incomes accessing high-risk loans and private renters.

The project is launched as the recent Cornwall Council Insights report highlighted a doubling in the number of people claiming Universal Credit - from 23,000 in January 2020 to 49,000 people in October 2020. Local surveys also show that job insecurity and other concerns related to the pandemic have doubled the risk of suffering from anxiety and depression. It is also thought that many people suffering with mental health issues - often for the first time in their lives - are not accessing the help and support they need.

The MHEND project aims to provide a single point of contact for people, and will see three teams each with two advisors working across Cornwall offering support in several ways including telephone and face-to-face consultations and web chats.

People can be referred to MHEND, or can refer themselves, by contacting Pentreath on 01726 862727 or by completing the referral form available on the Pentreath website.

Information on mental health support is available on the Cornwall Council website, but if you'd like to talk to someone about your mental wellbeing you can call the 24/7 NHS mental health helpline on 0800 038 5300.

If you feel you are in urgent need of support, call the Samaritans on 116 123.

## Free Parking

Cornwall Council has suspended parking charges in all of its 133 car parks from Saturday 16th January until the end of this current national lockdown.

Free parking will ease the number of cars parked on residential roads, which was becoming an issue as increased numbers of people work from home. It has the added advantage that Enforcement Officers will not need to be out and about, reducing their risk of contracting Covid, and meaning they can be redeployed to other areas to support Cornwall Council's Covid-19 response. It also means that key workers and carers will not have to pay for parking, and drivers will not have to touch payment machines - reducing the risk of the virus spreading.



**Cllr Hilary Frank:**  
[hilary.frank@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk](mailto:hilary.frank@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk)



**Cllr Derek Holley:**  
[derek.holley@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk](mailto:derek.holley@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk)



**Cllr Sam Tamlin:**  
[sam.tamlin@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk](mailto:sam.tamlin@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk)



**Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd:**  
[sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk](mailto:sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk)

## Useful Contacts

- Cornwall Council's COVID-19 information page: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/coronavirus)
- Queries relating to Coronavirus: [covid19@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:covid19@cornwall.gov.uk).
- Cornwall Council's Helpline for advice on employment: 0333 0150699
- To book a Coronavirus test: [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)
- For guidance for businesses [www.ciosgrowthhub.com](http://www.ciosgrowthhub.com)
- For community safety: [www.safercornwall.co.uk](http://www.safercornwall.co.uk)
- For domestic abuse services: [www.saferfutures.org.uk](http://www.saferfutures.org.uk) or 0300 777 4777
- Worried about a child? Ring 0300 123 1116
- Worried about an adult? Ring 0300 1234 111
- For mental and emotional distress: [www.valuedlives.co.uk](http://www.valuedlives.co.uk) or 01209 438 option 1
- If you see someone sleeping rough: [www.streelink.org.uk](http://www.streelink.org.uk) or 0300 500 0914
- For help with alcohol or drug issues [www.wearewithyou.org.uk](http://www.wearewithyou.org.uk) or 0333 2000 325
- To report a scam, ring Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040
- If you smell gas, ring Wales and West: 0800 111 999
- To report a water leak, ring South West Water: 0800 230 0561
- To report a power cut, ring Western Power: 105 or 0800 6783 105



## Vaccine Scams

GP surgeries in Saltash are urging patients not to ring up to enquire about vaccination appointments, insisting that invitations will be sent out to eligible recipients as soon as preparations are in place.

They are also warning patients to be wary of scam text messages or emails offering a Covid vaccine. Scam messages read: 'We have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine' and then prompt you to click on a link for further information or to 'apply' for the vaccine.

The NHS will never ask you to apply, ask for payment or ask for your bank details.

If you receive a text or an email that asks you to provide information such as your name, credit card or bank details, it's a scam.

Please forward any spam text messages to 7726 ('SPAM' on a keypad). And if you've unwittingly responded to a scam about the vaccine, or have been the victim of a Covid-related fraud you can help yourself and others by reporting the fraud online at [covidfraudhotline.org](http://covidfraudhotline.org) or by ringing the Covid Fraud Hotline on 0800 5030.





CORNWALL  
COUNCIL  
and our  
PL12 community  
For Observer readers  
Derek Holley  
Cornwall Councillor, Saltash East.  
derek.holley@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk



We are all sick and tired of this terrible Covid virus, of the effect it is having on all our lives, and of the devastation it is wreaking on people and on the economy that keeps us going in Cornwall. So I am not going to bang on about the things we all know and the things we should do to prevent its transmission. I am, however, going to bang on about and urge you, every one of you, not only to have the vaccination as it arrives, but to try and convince others to do the same.

To put it simply, I think we have a duty, a long-term duty to ourselves, to our families, to our friends, to Saltash and to the whole population to take this simple measure, if we are able to. If you don't, I think you, you the reader, are actively harming all our chances of returning to a normal society in Cornwall, harming our chances of returning to a time when we can touch and shake hands, hug, kiss and be human again. That's a judgmental, even brutal, statement, and I suspect my inbox will get a

battering, but I don't regret writing it.

Please bear with me for a minute as I take you back briefly to the 1950's - I'm not going to be maudlin, just factual. I'm taking you back to my junior school, which had pupils suffering from the effects of that most awful childhood disease, polio, as did other schools. I had a classmate who had caught it. She was in a wheelchair, could not breathe and had to have lots of time off to spend time in an 'iron lung'. She made it to the age of 17 but then she died. Polio is pretty much gone now, confined to history - we don't have it in Brunel, St Stephens or any of our schools. This is thanks to enough children being vaccinated by the late 50s to kill off the virus. Occasionally, though, I think of this girl - and I can still hear her struggling for breath. Vaccinate!

When I was eight I caught measles and spent three weeks downstairs, in a dark room, in a bed by the fire. Apparently, I was seriously ill and lucky not to lose my sight. Vaccination now stops our children having to go through that, stops them

suffering brain damage or dying. So I feel dreadfully, terribly sorry for those kids whose parents take a real chance with their children's lives by not allowing them to have the MMR vaccine. All because a criminal doctor, now struck off, invented, actually invented statistics purporting to show a link between MMR and autism. Vaccinate!

That's it. Lecture and history lesson over. Of course the chances are that those who read this column are probably likely to act responsibly anyway. But you might well be able to influence somebody else, and that's why I am writing this on behalf of the county. If you do influence somebody else you will have done your bit.

I was going to mention something which is being talked about a lot on social media, and that is the organisation by NHS Cornwall of the vaccination centres. I'm talking about the higher-level organisation, not about the hospitals and health centres, the doctors, nurses, health workers etc who as usual continue to be so hard working and brilliant. But many people are saying the organisation is patchy. Penzance for example, knocked out 1200 jabs on the 8th and 9th of January. And in SE Cornwall we have one vaccination centre which has only just started

jabbing, miles up on the moor in Pensilva - frankly an inaccessible place. Why don't we have a centre in Saltash yet? But I won't mention any of this because by the time you read this it should be better, I hope. And anyway it might well be the fault of slow, slow Whitehall.

There is something else I am sick and tired of: visitors to our garden (when that was allowed) making rude remarks about the two yellow number plates from previous cars that are hung up in the greenhouse. They are covered in car grease to trap the dreaded whitefly, but visitors used to jibe, making comments like "Got wheels for that greenhouse, Derek?" and other such immature remarks. Here I am trying to avoid nasty chemicals and I get abused for it. A gardener's pest control lot is not a happy one!

Derek Holley  
Cornwall Councillor  
Saltash East  
derek.holley@cornwallcouncillors.org.uk



Grace



Issabelle &amp; Freddie



Lewis

## Little Litter Rangers

More than 40 young Litter Rangers have joined their Mums, Dads and grandparents and are enthusiastically picking litter on their adopted street on a regular basis.

The tools for this army of litter pickers are on loan from Saltash Environmental Action, which has also supplied them with hi-viz jackets emblazoned with the SEA logo thanks to funding from Cornwall Councillors. "Parents tell me how proud the children are when they put on the jackets," commented Sho Frank, one of the leaders of the Litter Ranger project, "but it also means we can make sure they keep safe."

There are still some lonely streets that are 'unadopted'. Why not adopt a street as one of your New Year's Resolutions? Visit the Litter Ranger website for more information: [www.seasaltash.org.uk/saltash-litter-rangers](http://www.seasaltash.org.uk/saltash-litter-rangers)



James &amp; Andrew

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[www.saltash-observer.co.uk](http://www.saltash-observer.co.uk)

Observer Telephone Numbers  
07971484872 or 01579 345699

## SALTASH LIBRARY HUB

For the past 12 months Saltash Town Council have been engaged in the proposed development and investment consultation for Saltash Library. The Council view this as a great opportunity for the town since Cornwall Council's devolution programme allowed the future management and running of the library to be transferred locally.

This fits in well with the Council's ambitions and plans to not only secure the library's future for its community now and in the future, but also its overall plans and vision for the town. The building itself, being 60 years old, is in need of restoration to make it fit for purpose, and it's this timing that creates an opportunity to make the library a much more complete community asset creating a number of other uses with the popular library at its heart.

With this in mind, and as allowed in the current pandemic protocols, Saltash Town Council are organizing six online Zoom presentation showcases presented by the Councils Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Library Sub Committee,

the Assistant Town Clerk and the Community Hub Team Leader all about its plans. While this isn't a debate we are keen to continue the interaction with the community and that is why we are asking members of the public to join us by submitting your question in advance together with your full contact details.

Already, through the Council's recent consultations, there have been many helpful suggestions ranging from more variety and newer books to well-lit spaces for reading, from child friendly spaces to the introduction of classes. These have all been adopted in the strategy of internal floor and activity plans as well as many others. Dates planned for the online Zoom

showcases are :-

Wednesday 17th February 2021

11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

Saturday 20th February 2021 11 a.m.

Wednesday 24th February 2021

11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

Saturday 27th February 2021 11 a.m.

If you would like to attend one of the above dates to view the showcase and ask a question then please do contact us at

[enquiries@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saltash.gov.uk) or 01752

844846 providing your full contact

details, your question, and two

available dates from the list above **no**

**later than Friday 5th February**

**2021.** If the Zoom online route is

difficult for you there is another option to join Zoom by telephone.



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*Saltash 2020 – A Year To Remember For Better and for Worse*

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. So did Dickens memorably write of revolutionary France in his opening to “A Tale of Two Cities”. And so, might we write of a revolutionary year in which amid the tragedies we were enabled to see some of the best of humanity as well as to reconnect with nature as an unnatural silence fell upon our land and the sounds of the natural world were strangely enhanced.

We need little reminder of the worst of 2020, and within Saltash the events which mark out our calendar and draw the community together, Mayfair, Regatta, Forder Fete and many others including the planned VE Day commemorations all were cancelled. Even so the community drew closer together as neighbours offered assistance, especially to the elderly and needy and of course we all emerged on our doorsteps each week to applaud our NHS. Within my own local neighbourhood friendships were strengthened and when regulations eased somewhat, we gathered in gardens, socially distanced, for refreshment on balmy Summer evenings and watched the hedgehogs emerge.

For myself it was also a year for re-discovering literary classics again comedy and tragedy from Austen to Hardy, the magic of Harry Potter and the mysticism of Philip Pullman.

But above all it was a year for discovering or rediscovering the marvels of our local countryside. With travel by public transport discouraged from March, it was time to walk roads devoid of traffic fumes and noises and note how nature, pandemic or not, performed its annual miracle. The green road aptly named Paradise Lane leading to Landulph marsh was in turn bedecked with primroses and bluebells, as wild daffodils bobbed beside the Tamarside track beyond Cargreen. Trematon had its own magic appeal as scarecrows in a variety of wild and wacky costume adorned each lawn.

But across the Tamar too was a world worthy of exploration by foot. On various Spring days I walked the near-empty main roads to Central Park, across to the Barbican and Hoe, then back via Devonport Park. Other times I walked woodland and meadow to the sound only of birdsong and out of sight of buildings, yet only yards from major housing estates while between Whiteleigh and Ernesettle, or Ham and Honicknowle. There were also forgotten villages to discover in the heart of Plymouth at Honicknowle, Kings Tamerton and Weston Mill.

As Spring turned to Summer, I ventured further on my day rambles into Cornwall, through woodland budding into pale green towards the prehistoric

Cadson Bury Fort, over ancient New Bridge and back via Amy Tree. On another occasion I followed along an ancient pathway over the golf course to St. Mellion and home along deep sunk Cornish lanes. And most memorable of all was the day I wandered to Wisewandra, Trewandra and Trenance, then back via Blunts and Pillaton Mill.

Then lockdown eased and all the beaches, coastal and moorland paths opening up again, yet I was still anxious for an Autumnal rediscovery of those Spring and early Summer lanes and pathways marking the changing of the season since the previous exploration.

Our special Saltash Christmas community celebration performance was, of course, cancelled. Yet still the magic of that special season was captured as one wandered Fore Street and the residential streets beyond to share the ingenuity that created a Window Wanderland, and while many Christmas gatherings were cancelled still, we could come together in small family groups to share the magic and the promise of hope that this special season still offers, as it has for two thousand years.

As we stood in the garden on New Year's Eve the pattern of fireworks across the river once again offered a new hope for a New Year.

When that promise of hope will be fulfilled, we know not, we are all prepared for some difficult months yet ahead. Meanwhile the best immunity on offer for Covid, or for any other physical or mental ailment is to get out, fill one's lungs with fresh air, and watch and listen as the annual miracle of the seasonal changes once again begins its eternal never-ending pageant.

To quote Dickens once more, “It was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of Hope .....

*Martin Lister*

**Observer Telephone numbers**  
 07971484872  
 or  
 01579 345699  
 maryecrawford@hotmail.com

**Cards for HMS Tamar from a School by the Tamar**



On 17th December, at a commissioning ceremony in Portsmouth, just along the dock from HMS Victory, Britain's newest and greenest warship HMS Tamar was officially welcomed in to the Royal Navy.

A few hours later, the sailors who had been standing proudly to attention were reading Christmas cards made for them by children from Bishop Cornish Primary School. Some cards showed angels, other cards showed the Tamar Bridge, and others showed angels flying over the Tamar Bridge. All cards were really gratefully received by the ship's company, as shown in this post from HMS Tamar's Twitter feed.

**Tamar Bridge Power Points For Electric Vehicles**

As a part of its commitment to “green” transport the Tamar Bridge Authority has placed two charging points for electric vehicles alongside the bridge. They are located by the car park on the Plymouth side.

This follows Cornwall Council's declaring its ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030. This is also the year when Britain intends to ban the sale of vehicles burning fossil fuels.

The fast charge units will be available at all hours every day and will be accessible by use of smartphone app or the web app. The charge of 35 pence per kilowatt will cover the costs of providing this facility. All electric and hybrid vehicles should be able to refuel at the Tamar Bridge.

**Town Council Support Shop Saltash**

Saltash Town Council are pleased to support local businesses with the promotion of the Shop Saltash website, which is anticipated to become a great resource for the local community.

The website is a central location for finding local shops and services available in the Saltash area and is free for everyone to use including those advertising their business.

For more details visit <https://www.shop-saltash.co.uk/>

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# Tamar Reflections

## THE IMPERIAL PICTURE HOUSE, SALTASH

(also known as Quickies)

**Present...** on Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday – May 6th, 7th, 9th and 10th 1938 - Charles Laughton and Clark Gable in – “Mutiny on the Bounty.”

**Posted:** “In all the annals of the sea, never a story so amazing, in all the history of the Cinema. Never a Picture so magnificent. A two and quarter hour film and every minute exciting.”



Then on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday – May 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th 1939 - William Powell with Myrna Loy in “The Great Ziegfeld.” Publicised: “The greatest spectacle ever seen on Stage or Screen. A three hour perfect entertainment.”

And that’s not all! What about other films at Quickies? The pick of the World’s productions presented there... *The Good Earth, The Dark Angel, Marie Walewska, The Great Garrick, Fire Fly, Double Wedding, Aunt Sally, High Society Blues; Red Ensign, and A Study in Scarlet;* all featuring the most famous film stars of that era... *Greta Garbo, Charles Boyer, Olivia Dehaviland, William Powell, Jeanette MacDonald, Cicely Courtneidge, Janet Gaynor and Charles Farrell* - to name but a few.

In the early 20th Century, Mr J Quick introduced moving pictures to Saltash Fore Street in various premises, including the old Saltash Guildhall, followed by the Star Temperance Hotel.

These were magical times for Saltash, and I have read most humorous accounts of a young picture house goer of the Imperial recently, when turning out old photos, writings and books featuring Saltash by-gones.

**One such account read:**

“Once a week we would speculate 3d. at Quickies, the local cinema: *The Imperial* was its proper name. At first the films were silent; few of us were impressed with the arrival of the “talkies”, poor reproduction coupled with American nasal twang was quite disappointing. Then there was the way stars would at the slightest provocation, burst into song, completely ignoring the theme or continuity. It was the serials that hooked us mostly, with the hero or heroine trapped into an impossible situation, then on the screen would flash ‘To be continued in this theatre next week.’

“In those days we gave vocal encouragement to the images that flicked upon the silver screen. Cowboys were invited to look behind them, women would scream, “Don’t go there,” villains were hissed at, etc. The technical quality was poor, but as we had no yardstick, we thought it was marvellous.”

Sadly in April 1941, The Imperial (Quickies) was bombed during the terrible bombing raid during the WW2 Blitz.

A new Cinema opened in Fore Street in 1951 “The Regal” (now Regal Court shopping precinct) but that is another story for another time soon!

**To be continued .....**  
Sue Hooper MBE

### Conundrum Answers:

1 Ervica 2 Urals 3 Limerick  
4 Smithed 5 One 6 Blue 7  
Newt 8 Spain 9 Yellow 10  
Arran Re-arranged the letters

## Saltash Food Alliance

As the impact of Covid bites deeper, various groups in Saltash working to tackle food poverty and eliminate food waste have come together to form an alliance to help identify food-related need and to collaborate on the delivery of food support activities.

Saltash Foodbank and the Community Fridge are joined in regular online meetings by representatives of Age Concern, the Core Youth Centre, the Saltash Chamber of Commerce, Community Enterprises PL12, church groups and schools. Currently, the two focal points of the Alliance’s discussions centre on eliminating food waste and on making sure that food donations, surplus food from supermarkets and hot meals are getting to people in need.

“One of the best things about the Alliance is the level of connectivity we’ve managed to maintain, even through the disconnect of the current lockdown,” said Cornwall Councillor Hilary Frank, who is coordinating the Alliance. Hilary went on to say: “The connectivity means we can all work together to identify the need

and then meet that need. To give you an example - Community Fridge volunteers are picking up surplus food from places like supermarkets and working with Foodbank volunteers, the Core and schools to make sure it gets to people most in need in our community. Remaining food goes on to the tables at the Community Fridge, where anyone can pick it up. It means food isn’t going to waste and people are eating. The collaboration and its outcomes have been great. Really great.”

Food Alliance members intend to continue the collaboration long after Covid has withered away, hoping to tackle root causes of food insecurity and develop projects to eliminate food waste and promote community cohesion, such as recipe books and inter-generational food clubs.

## Let the Love Shine



The team from the Saltash Chamber of Commerce that brought you the Window Wanderland is inviting residents to fill their windows with hearts for Valentine’s Day.

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Hilary Frank, one of the organisers, said: “The theme for the Valentine Windows is love. A little predictable, perhaps, but love has held us together through the pandemic and it will hold us until the end. And perhaps people can use their windows to send a message of love to teachers, NHS staff, refuse collectors, carers and other key workers who have shown so much care for our community.”

Conscious that we may still be in a lockdown situation in February, the Chamber has stressed that the event won’t be at the same scale as the Window Wanderland of December. There will be no interactive map, and people will not be asked to register. Instead, the Chamber is encouraging people to take a photo of their own window display and upload it to an online art gallery – more details can be found on the Saltash Christmas Festival Facebook page.

The Chamber is hoping that Windowmakers will leave their displays lit up over the following week, which will be Half Term, to help brighten the darkness for any ‘bubbles’ out on an evening walk as part of their daily exercise.

## Saltash Rock Choir Carry On Singing

When the 100-strong members of the Saltash Rock Choir were forced to abandon their weekly rehearsals in the Saltash Baptist Church in March last year, they decided that not even a pandemic was going to stop them singing or raising funds for their nominated charity ‘Children’s Hospice South West’. Under the guidance and tutelage of their inspirational leader and professional musician, Richard Toomer, they have continued to learn and rehearse new songs, virtually, to add to their rich repertoire normally performed for the residents of Saltash in events such as the Saltash Regatta and May Fair.

In normal circumstances, in addition to supporting local charity events with their performances, the choir annually choose a charity to support and raise funds for throughout the year with events like coffee mornings, cake sales and book sales. None of this was possible, of course, and with all charities in dire need of funds there was some concern among the membership about how they could fulfil their promised support.

But then Richard Toomer came up with idea of a virtual Christmas Big Sing party during which the Saltash members would join with members from his other Devon Rock Choirs to dress up, sing and most importantly, donate! To say it was a success would be an understatement with an incredible £1795 raised to be split between Children’s Hospice South West and Guide Dogs Southwest.

Rock Choir nationally have also been busy supporting charities. In December they released a single of ‘Keeping the Dream Alive’ - a virtual recording made by over 4500

Rock Choir members, including Saltash Rockies. The single went straight to Number 1 in the iTunes chart and all proceeds went to the Mental Health Foundation. And with the aim of lifting the spirits of the nation they have also reintroduced their ‘Keep Britain Singing’ initiative, which is a free daily sing via YouTube at 12 midday Mondays - Fridays. This is available not just to Rock Choir members but also to the general public, with a special weekly session for children and teenagers.

Richard and his choir members are doing everything they possibly can to carry on in these difficult times but, without exception, they cannot wait for the day when they can return in person to rehearse, perform and raise money for local charities.

In the meantime they are very much open for business. The new term has just started with the membership learning the uplifting ‘Take a Chance on Me’ by Abba, and the choir are still welcoming new members via the website [www.rockchoir.com](http://www.rockchoir.com).

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# Celebrating Thirty Years of Service

*To the Motorists of Saltash and Beyond...*

Celebrating thirty years of service to the motorists of Saltash and beyond, Dale Brett is already planning further expansion of his business, D B Autos, when circumstances safely allow. Dale continued working through last year's lockdowns, and intends to continue through this current crisis, offering vital auto services, in particular to our key workers. D B Autos also supplies and maintains the commercial fleet for local businesses including Saltash Town Council.

One recent achievement has been for D B Autos to become part of a prestigious chain of independent garages, enabling them to work on new vehicles within warranty period. Part of the firm's continuing expansion can be ascribed to continually developing state-of-the-art techniques as vehicle technology changes with the times.

D B Autos are equipped with the latest in diagnostics to work on all vehicles, including hybrids and fully electric cars as well as more traditional and classic models. Light commercial vehicles, too, are a speciality, and MOTs can be carried out on Class 4 and 7 vehicles, as well as taxi tests. Services offered range from simple



oil changes up to full engine rebuilds, four-wheel alignment, cambelt replacements and air-con re-gassing, including the latest 1234 air conditioning systems. The company also stocks a wide range of tyres to keep motorists safely gripped to the road.

Over the past three decades, Dale Brett Van Hire has expanded, and their fleet of Transits, Lutons and Low Loaders are now a common sight on West Country roads. He has also built-up a business in Camper vans, which he envisages will experience an especial boom this year once we are all free to enjoy the freedom to travel again.

D B Autos also offer a wide range of used vehicles, all fully serviced to the highest standard, and there is an ever-changing array of cars and light commercial vehicles, fully warranted, available on part exchange with assistance on finance if required.

Dale's enthusiasm for mechanical perfection is evident in the quality of the service he offers, the vehicles he hires and sells, and in the eagerness with which he marks the thirtieth anniversary of his business, looking forward to future expansion as a Saltash-based company.

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*Dale Ensures DB Autos will Remain ...*

## A Family Firm at Heart

Throughout thirty years of expansion and development of the latest in auto technology Dale Brett has been pleased to ensure that D B Autos remains at heart a family firm.

Dale started in early 1991 as a one-man business with the support of his wife Suzanne. He took on a small unit in Gilston Road on the Carkeel Industrial Estate, which was eventually to become too small to house his expanding range of services and

the latest technological equipment. Twenty-two years later he was able to move across Gilston Road to a much larger premises with six ramps and separate MOT bay, now in his thirtieth year of business he has plans for further expansion.

Starting off as a one-man business, he is now able to offer employment to five local technicians, all of whom have been kept busy throughout lockdown, where safely possible.

Very much a Saltash man, Dale is pleased that his teenage sons have shown some interest in the business, while still in full time education in the town, are ever willing to help out when educational commitments permit.

Dale, Suzanne and the team look forward to the fourth decade of D B Autos with their customary enthusiasm, and believe the family-based business has a promising future ahead when restrictions ease for all of us.

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## Leisure Facilities Future In Doubt

The company that runs Saltash Leisure Centre and thirteen others on behalf of Cornwall Council gave a stark warning as to the viability of all the county's indoor swimming pools when they re-opened in early December. Since then, Cornwall has been plunged back into Tier Two and then Tier Three restrictions with further limitations on leisure and subsequently into lockdown.

Even before these further rules came into effect Greenwich Leisure Limited advised that with facilities open to pre-booked sessions only and at reduced capacity it was essential for local residents to use the facilities provided or risk losing them. Cornwall Council has previously made available £6 million by way of support loans and grants to ensure the facilities' future. However, it was emphasised that their future depended upon more government support as well as support from residents using the pools and other facilities that the centres provide.

## Mary Ceases to Pound the Saltash Beat

A familiar figure in uniform will no more be pounding the beat in Saltash. After twenty year's service with the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary PCSO Mary Wells has taken well deserved retirement after receiving a plethora of cards, gifts and good wishes.

Mary became a traffic warden in Saltash in 2000, when the police still were responsible for enforcing parking regulations. She decided to seek to become a police community support officer and proudly passed out in June 2007, resuming duties in Saltash where she was already a familiar figure but in a different uniform.

PCSO's she describes, as being very much the police presence in the street involved in collecting intelligence and dealing with low level crime for which the police have little time or capacity. Much of the work consists of reassurance in phone calls and visits and resolving disputes. They have no power of arrest but power to detain for

thirty minutes while summoning full police officers. However, Mary seldom felt the need to do so, being able to sort most problems out verbally by applying common sense.

Over two decades she made many friends within the community but particularly enjoyed the many school visits that she made locally. Summing up the decades she recalled "many happy momeants and a few sad ones". She was however, happy to accept voluntary retirement when numbers were to be cut by fifty and looks forward to spending more time with husband Alan, adult daughters Mandy and Cindy and her granddaughter. She will also, when times permit, resume her daily swim,



acting as beater on local shoots, and plans to try her hand at gardening. She will also, we are pleased to say, continue as part of our friendly Saltash Observer delivery team.

Mary was overwhelmed with the good wishes and cards received from friends and colleagues at work and

especially with the cards from local school children. She received a certificate, medal and paperweight from the police force and an especially unexpected gift, a Fortnum and Mason Hamper of food and drink from Saltash Town Council presented by Mayor Peter Samuels.



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