

# SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

Your only truly "local" newspaper ...

January 2022 - Issue 358

Established 29 years

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## New Trematon Tower is Tomorrow's Heritage



The countryside beyond the suburbs of Saltash is redolent of history, with ancient castles, manors and farms, steeped in centuries of heritage. History is an ongoing process, and to our local heritage has been added a tower, which to the passer by walking the lanes between Trematon and Trehan might appear a relic of bygone centuries. In fact, it has just been completed, but it is hoped that its traditional style will enable it to blend into the rural scene as a local landmark.

Lord and Lady Boyd built Voss Tower on a hilltop above their Trematon home. Trematon residents and others from the local community were invited to a reception in a marquee adjacent to the tower, to celebrate its completion. Between wintry showers, guests had the opportunity to mount the spiral staircase and enjoy the views towards the coast, the Cornish and Devon moorlands and the rolling countryside between.



The five-metre structure was designed and largely built by Anthony Elliott local stonemason who specialises in historical buildings and walls, Anthony selected local stone quarried near Yelverton, mixed with blue elven stone recycled from Saltash. The oaken door is custom-made for the tower, and on the south side is a stained-glass window, created by Maurice Diaper of St Cleer,

which bears the Lennox-Boyd family coat of arms.

The tower is designed to be eco-friendly and welcoming to wildlife. It has homes for bats and nesting sites for owls and hawks, whose traditional nesting sites are fast disappearing.

History continues to evolve, and the Boyd family is hoping that they have added to the local heritage, a piece of history for future generations to cherish and enjoy.



Photos Rachel Bullock

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### Return of the Mobile Larder...

|                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 17/1, 31/1, 14/2, 28/2, 14/3, 28/3 |                                     |
| 10.30 am                           | Tamar Street                        |
| 11.00 am                           | Saltmill                            |
| 11.30 am                           | Warfelton                           |
| 12.00 am                           | Jubilee Close/ Alamein Road         |
| 12.30 pm                           | Berry Park                          |
| 24/1, 7/2, 21/2, 7/3, 21/3         |                                     |
| 10.30 am                           | Cowdray Close                       |
| 11.00 am                           | Babis Farm Close/ Babis Farm Way    |
| 1.30 am                            | Broom Hill Bungalows                |
| 12.00 pm                           | Brooking Way                        |
| 12.00 pm                           | Grenfell Avenue by Community Centre |

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# Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council  
Konsel an dre Essa



**Education Department**  
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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**  
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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@cornwallimited.co.uk](mailto:customerrelations@cornwallimited.co.uk)

**Transport Department**  
(Schools Transport)  
Telephone: 0300 1234 101  
(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.

**Cormac Solutions**  
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Email:  
[customerrelations@cormacitd.co.uk](mailto:customerrelations@cormacitd.co.uk)

**Fly Tipping:**  
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Email:  
[refuseandrecycling@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:refuseandrecycling@cornwall.gov.uk)

*Town Messenger  
news is supplied  
by the Town  
Council*

## Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

### Saltash Essa ED

Cllr Hilary Frank  
[cldr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk)

### Saltash Tamar ED

Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd  
[cldr.sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwall.gov.uk)

### Saltash Trematon & Landrake ED

Cllr Martin Worth  
[cldr.martin.worth@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.martin.worth@cornwall.gov.uk)

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

## From the Mayor of Saltash

As we enter the new year, there is evidence of a new optimism that we can finally put most restrictions caused by the pandemic behind us.

From individuals who are planning to take a holiday and have a degree of confidence in making a booking, to organisations who are planning events to take place during the coming year.

Here in Saltash, we have Mayfair and Regatta to look forward to, plus some exciting plans being put forward by the Platinum Jubilee working group, working in conjunction with Saltash Town Council. I would not wish to spoil any plans at this stage by going in to any detail, but do look out in the local press and on the Town Council website for details as they emerge.

## Trematon Vacancy

Saltash Town Council has a current Councillor vacancy for Trematon ward. A vacancy was advertised but an election was not called therefore this vacancy will be filled by an interview process called co-option.

No formal qualifications are required to become a Town Councillor. Councillors are from all walks of life with various professional and personal backgrounds.

You do need passion for Saltash and its residents. Be able to commit to attending regular evening meetings, have discussions with the public and fellow Councillors and make decisions that affect the town.

The Town Council's aim is to make the town a safe, happy and rewarding place to live and work and you will be directly involved in helping to shape the future of Saltash.

Being a Town Councillor is a very varied and at times demanding role, but it is very rewarding!

If you are interested in the voluntary role you can apply by reading the documents and completing the application form on our website [www.saltash.gov.uk](http://www.saltash.gov.uk). Alternatively you can contact us for a copy on 01752 844846 or [humanresources@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:humanresources@saltash.gov.uk)

The completed application form has to be received by email or post no later than midnight on Friday 18 January 2022.

## Railway Bridge Light Up

The Royal Albert Bridge be illuminated, possibly in patriotic red, white and blue, for the weekend of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June.

Network Rail are giving this consideration, the town council was told. The bridge has previously been floodlit as part of its own anniversary celebrations, and it has been suggested that such lighting be made a permanent feature.



My sincere thanks to those who have put themselves forward to be part of the working group, they have already made much progress in such a short time.

There is also renewed enthusiasm regarding the Leisure Centre, which you will likely have heard is now

## Results Now In...

At the Services Committee held on Wednesday 15th October 2021 Members discussed and considered the results of the online dog fouling survey and areas of concern relating to dog fouling offences.

Here is a summary of the results of the online survey:

Total Responses Received: 40  
Top areas reported as 'hotspots' for dog fouling offences:

- Chapel Field
- Cinder Paths by Primary Schools Burraton and St Stephens
- Churchtown
- Football and Rugby Pitches

The Town Council are now able to assist by publishing free educational material to the community through social media channels and noticeboards in areas that are cause for concern. Saltash Town Council would encourage all dog owners to either report dog fouling offences to Cornwall Council via the following link:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/animal-welfare-and-enforcement/dog-fouling/>

Or download the fantastic free mobile application 'Pooper Snooper' which encourages dog owners and wider communities to take responsibility for tackling dog fouling in their local areas. Don't forget you can dispose of bagged dog waste in any dog bin, litter bin or general domestic bin. Keep our environment safe and clear for all to enjoy.

no longer under immediate threat of closure, with the current operators GLL having withdrawn their request to cease operations in Saltash. It is now for us all, not just the operator, or Saltash Town Council, or Cornwall Council, to ensure the long-term future of this valuable asset for generations to come. Again, my thanks to all who have contributed to this outcome.

Saltash Town Council will be continuing to promote wild meadows in suitable places across the town. Two new locations have been chosen to be planted with yellow rattle seed. These are Primrose Walk, Pillmere and around the Celtic Cross, at the entrance to the Tamar Bridge. Yellow rattle seed is an attractive

grassland annual that suppresses the growth of grass, giving other wild plants the chance to flourish. It will take two-three years for the plant to dominate and the wild meadow to really flourish. The plant attracts bees and other insects to the area and will be key to establishing wild meadows in our Town. Saltash Rotary Club have also donated yellow rattle seed to be sown in designated areas of St Stephens' Churchyard, this work undertaken by Adrian White and his team from Saltash Environmental Action.

Your Town Council has agreed that herbicides will not be used to tackle weeding issues in the town. Any weeding issues that are a

health and safety concern should be reported to Cornwall Council for further action. Saltash Town Council will not normally carry out weed control within the town, but where significant issues are reported, the Service Delivery Department will use mechanical methods to remove the weeds, subject to the departments' availability.

Much has already been written about the award-winning Station Building, also known as Isambard House, but the latest development is that the Town Council has signed a lease for the telephone box that sits outside the building, also for the land beneath it, with plans for the box to be refurbished and a defibrillator installed in

place of the defunct telephone equipment. The work is to be carried out by volunteers from Saltash Rotary Club and materials have been purchased and donated to enable this work to start.

So many local businesses in our Town have gone the extra mile during the last couple of difficult years, so as we move forward into this new year, could I suggest that you support our local companies and favour them with your custom. Keeping trade within Saltash is ultimately of benefit to us all.

*Wishing you all a happy and prosperous 2022.*

*With warmest regards  
Cllr Pete Samuels, Mayor of Saltash 2021-22*

## Your Town Council & Wards

### Saltash Essa:

1. Cllr Richard Bickford  
[r.bickford@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:r.bickford@saltash.gov.uk)
2. Cllr Rachel Bullock  
[r.bullock@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:r.bullock@saltash.gov.uk)
3. Cllr Gloria Challen  
[g.challen@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:g.challen@saltash.gov.uk)
4. Cllr Matt Griffiths  
[m.griffiths@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:m.griffiths@saltash.gov.uk)
5. Cllr Jon Foster  
[jon.foster@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:jon.foster@saltash.gov.uk)
6. Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd  
[s.lennox-boyd@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:s.lennox-boyd@saltash.gov.uk)

### Saltash Tamar:

1. Cllr Lewis Challen  
[l.challen@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:l.challen@saltash.gov.uk)
2. Cllr Sarah Gillies  
[s.gillies@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:s.gillies@saltash.gov.uk)
3. Cllr Sarah Martin  
[s.martin@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:s.martin@saltash.gov.uk)
4. Cllr Julia Peggs  
[j.peggs@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:j.peggs@saltash.gov.uk)
5. Cllr Pete Samuels  
[p.samuels@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:p.samuels@saltash.gov.uk)
6. Cllr Jean Dent  
[j.dent@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:j.dent@saltash.gov.uk)

### Saltash Trematon:

1. Cllr Steve Miller  
[s.miller@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:s.miller@saltash.gov.uk)
2. Cllr Brenda Samuels  
[b.samuels@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:b.samuels@saltash.gov.uk)
3. **Vacancy**
4. Cllr Yates  
[d.yates@saltash.gov.uk](mailto:d.yates@saltash.gov.uk)

### Mayor:

Cllr Pete Samuels

### Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Richard Bickford

### Town Clerk:

Ray Lane  
T: 844846

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)

## Saltash Concert for the World's Largest Male Choral Festival

Tickets will soon go on sale for a concert in April in Saltash Wesley Church hosted by Burraton Male Voice Choir and featuring a German Youth Choir.

It is one of the regional concerts of the International Male Choral Festival, which will see choirs performing in churches and chapels from Saltash to St. Just as well as in iconic venues such as St Michael's Mount. The culmination will be a Gala Concert in the newly refurbished Hall for Cornwall in Truro.

Staged biannually since 2003, the Festival has grown to be the largest of its kind in the world. Covid has meant that there are fewer international entries this year, but it is anticipated that there will still be over 2000 singers from 54 choirs taking part in more than 40 events in 30 locations across Cornwall.

The Cornish male choral tradition forms a rich part of Cornwall's life, and a key difference from many other festivals is the role played by local choirs, who not only help keep the tradition alive

but also act as hosts for the regional concerts, organise social time afterwards and get actively involved in the promotion of the Festival.

The concerts afford amazing cultural links, with choirs sharing their rich heritage through the universal language of music, something that is all the more welcome as we emerge from the pandemic.

## Plan for Street Cameras Given Go Ahead

Closed-circuit television cameras in Fore Street and elsewhere in the town have long been considered but never delivered. Now a viable scheme has been agreed by Saltash Town Council, and the council hopes to see progress made at last. The scheme includes six cameras within the Fore Street area of the town centre. One other is proposed for the Waterside outside the Union Inn, and one by Saltash Leisure Centre. A ninth camera has also been suggested for Alexandra Square Car Park.

Some funding is available from Devon and Cornwall Police, who are eager to promote such schemes, and the town council is looking to apply for funding from Section 106 money, a pot of funding held by Cornwall Council and paid to the town by developers as a condition of planning permission for their out-of-town developments. Section 106 money is intended to fund projects that will boost footfall into the town centre.

## Parking Problems Persist Around Schools and Elsewhere

Parking issues are increasingly a problem, in particular around Saltash Community School. During the town council's public question time, a letter was read out from a concerned resident who referred to cars in particular being parked on pavements, causing problems for elderly and disabled who are being forced to walk in the road.

Other issues included vehicles illegally parked within ten metres of a junction, impeding access to properties by being across or adjacent to driveways and endangering the public, and impeding the passage of emergency vehicles. The situation is getting worse with little chance of offenders facing prosecution, the

correspondent stated, and suggested that the town council might have better chances than individuals of enforcing the parking regulations.

The Mayor's response was sympathetic, but he pointed out that the town council had no powers regarding parking infringements. Cornwall Councillors had in the past been successful in obtaining enforcement and the issuing of fines, and he suggested that any specific issues should be referred to Cornwall Councillors or the town's road safety group.

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Richard Bickford, advised of a current scheme being put forward by Cornwall Council to improve traffic issues for the drop off and collection of pupils at St. Stephens and Saltash Community Schools, which he said should hopefully address some of the problems raised.



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

Happy New Year to everyone from this my first column of 2022. And what a busy year's it's proving to be already. That lull after Christmas didn't last for long and now we've been thrust into the New Year - with yet another public consultation on increasing the charges for crossing the Tamar Bridge...

### Bridge Consultation

Due to Covid-19 and the loss of earnings during the first lockdown, and the fact that traffic volumes across the bridge haven't returned to pre-Covid levels, the Joint Bridge and Ferry Committee is proposing to increase tolls for all users by 30% as soon as there is authorisation to do so. The joint councils Cornwall and Plymouth City Council are able to modify discount tolls without government authorisation, and the Tamar Tag tolls are set to rise prior to the cash tolls to avoid a deficit.

It always baffles me that local residents using the bridge day in, day out, have to pick up the tab to have a bridge which creates such a vital link between the two counties. The previous joint committee were looking for alternative funding opportunities and that work continues now as well as looking to National Highways to pay to have a road run across it. Relying on the locals like our commuters and local businesses to fund it just

because they don't have any choice but to use it daily is an argument that is wearing very thin. The bridge provides a vital road link that is part of the Strategic Road Network, and that needs to be acknowledged on a national level starting with our MP.

To participate in the consultation, go to [www.tamarcrossings.org.uk](http://www.tamarcrossings.org.uk) and fill out the questionnaire online. You can also pick up a paper copy from their offices by the bridge. Chamber will be feeding back an opinion as part of this consultation and we encourage all our members and town residents to do the same.

### Treledan Housing Development

Eagle-eyed residents may have noticed that the new homes at Carkeel at the Treledan development are now being marketed in Fore Street and online on Rightmove. I suppose it's a sign of the times, but I was horrified to see the prices of the properties on this development.

In a time of little movement on the housing market in Saltash and across Cornwall, which has already led to a casualty from a Saltash estate agency, local families are crying out for homes, and now it seems we will be getting them at a time of a real shortage pushing prices out of reach. Affordable houses will be



available as part of this first phase but whether they will quench the local need for homes remains to be seen.

### Membership Renewal

It's membership renewal time for 2022. We are a growing group of business members who pride ourselves on listening to local businesses and supporting the Saltash community with community events such as May Fair and initiatives like the Fiver Fest to encourage us all to shop local. We are a non-profit organisation, we meet once a month on the first Monday at 6pm (August being the exception) either at the China Fleet Club or a Fore Street venue, and we discuss pressing matters as well as using the meetings as networking opportunities. The meeting is also held on the Zoom platform offering a hybrid option for those who cannot attend in person. The membership fee to join Chamber is just £25 for the year, and you can register easily online. Contact [chair@SaltashChamber.co.uk](mailto:chair@SaltashChamber.co.uk) for more info.

## Community Enterprises PL12 News Return of the Mobile Larder!

We're really pleased that our Mobile Larder is resuming from 17th January, following alternate routes around Saltash every Monday. (See our advert for times & details). Our volunteers will be announcing the arrival at each stop with a little bell, and will be at each stop for 15 – 20 minutes. We hope this service will help people who find it difficult to access our regular Community Fridge based at 4 Fore Street.

All the food offered is surplus food which would otherwise have been wasted; this includes supermarket end-of-day stock, "reject" produce from growers and farmers, and fresh Cornish-grown produce which has been gleaned by volunteers. Our aim is to save good food from being wasted, so it's free to anyone who will use it, although a small donation towards our operating costs would be very much appreciated. We're hoping the Mobile Larder can now be a permanent fixture for us, complimenting the 3 days a week when the Community Fridge re-distributes surplus food.

### Seed Swap & Share

We're holding a Seed Swap & Share at our Community Hub, 4 Fore St, on Saturday 12th February, 1 – 3pm. Bring along any surplus veg or flower seeds you have – whole or part packets – and swap with other gardeners. We also have over 300 packets of veg seeds which have been donated by seed producers; these are FREE to anyone who will grow them, all we ask is that some of the produce grown is

donated to the Community Fridge.

Last year, we distributed over 700 packets of vegetable seeds free to the PL12 community, to enable people to grow tasty, nutritious veg at home. A big Thank You to everyone who donated plants & produce last year! We will be holding another Plant Swap & Sale during May Fair this year, and would appreciate donations of any surplus plants you have. All the proceeds support our Gardening Group, which grows produce at the Community School, & donates it to the Community Fridge.

### Jubilee Wildflower Seedshare

Grow your own patriotic wildflowers! As part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, our Gardening Group has hundreds of bags of red, white & blue wildflower seeds to give away; these will be available at the Seed Swap on 12th February, or from our Community Hub at 4 Fore St during February.

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## Livewire Funding Secures Future for Wellbeing Work

A major grant from the National Lottery's Reaching Communities Fund has ensured that a local youth facility is able to continue supporting young people through mental health issues for another five years.

Livewire submitted a grant application at around the time that the pandemic was declared. The decision to award the club more than £219,000 took some time, but it came as an early New Year's present for Livewire co-ordinators, Andy and Julie Rance. "This is the biggest grant that Livewire has ever received," Andy told us, "though it does have to be spread over a five-year period. It is specifically intended for mental health and wellbeing work."

The grant will enable Livewire to continue its much-needed counselling and one-to-one youthwork. In particular, it will assist in supporting the wellbeing group that meets each Friday evening. A diverse group of young people aged 13 to 21 who have anxiety issues and could not cope as part of the crowd who enjoy club facilities on Monday and Wednesday evenings, members of the wellbeing group come together to share activities such as arts and crafts, or just to talk. They share conversation with professionals, including a counsellor, a youth worker and a musician, and especially enjoy Akira the therapy dog, who accompanies owner Karen Palmer. Above all they feel safe.

This is in addition to the one-to-one youth work that is carried out at Livewire by qualified therapeutic counsellors as well as members of Livewire's own youth team, who have upskilled in mental health issues. Livewire works with Saltash Community School, as well as with other local schools and colleges, taking referrals for students who can attend Livewire at daytime or evening appointments.

There is special outreach

for young people struggling with their sexuality. "We work with the LGBTQ+ community, who we just accept as part of the community and they are just accepted by all of our members," says Andy. "Our message of 'learn to love yourself for who you are' underpins everything."

It has been difficult for many young people during the pandemic, and the online learning has left many struggling to cope socially as well as academically. The impact of Covid and the lockdowns has had a profound impact on some young people, and Livewire professionals need to work with them, to help them re-engage.

"But the better news," say Andy and Julie, "is that there is an increasing sense of optimism for the future from the young people that we meet. We hear more and more of them say that it feels like things are starting to get back to normal. And while anxieties have increased during this time, the grant funding should do much to help our local young people adjust to a post-pandemic lifestyle."

Back in 1997 a significant lottery grant of £90,000 saw the club change direction, from a generally sports oriented Saltash Boys' Club to more of a music venue as Livewire. While its mental health work has developed, especially over the last two years, it remains a centre of excellence for would-be musicians. And Andy emphasises that "we still and always will value the Saltash Boy's Club history."

As to the latest lottery grant enabling Livewire to secure its future for five years, Andy believes, "this is fantastic news for Livewire, fantastic news for the town."

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## ADVANCE WARNING

Roads closed for:  
Saltash May Fair 2022  
& Saltash Half Marathon 2022

SAT 7TH MAY 2022 06:30 - 19:00

A39 Sliproad (south lane of south offslip)

Fore Street (full length)

Wesley Road (full length)

Victoria Road (King Edward Road TO Wesley Road) - Eastbound only

Belle Vue Road (Car Park junction TO Fore Street)

King Edward Road (Essa Road TO Victoria Road) - Northbound only

SAT 7TH MAY 2022 10:00 - 10:15

Callington Road (Fore Street TO Glebe Avenue)

St Stephens Road (Fore Street Roundabout)

Glebe Avenue (Callington Road TO Longstone Park Car Park)

SUN 8TH MAY 2022 09:55 - 10:10

Callington Road (Church Road TO Glebe Avenue)

SUN 8TH MAY 2022 11:00 - 11:15

Callington Road (Church Road TO Glebe Avenue)

Parking Restrictions for:  
Saltash May Fair 2022

SAT 7TH MAY 2022 06:30 - 19:00

St Stephens Road (Essa Road TO Fore Street)

King Edward Road (Wesley Lane TO Fore Street)

Callington Road (Fore Street TO Glebe Avenue)

Glebe Avenue (Callington Road TO North Road)

Longstone Car Park is the only carpark affected



## Essa Voices

It's a New Year, which calls for a new set of Resolutions. With the clamour around climate change I reckon I need resolutions that will help lead to a healthier planet.

But wait. Those were my resolutions last year, too. And looking back I didn't really get much done about them. Climate change is such a complex, scary subject that I didn't know where to start. So, I didn't.

Well, I'm determined to at least make a start this year. And there is a book called Drawdown, edited by Paul Hawken, that is helping me. It looks at 100 of the most promising solutions to tackle climate change, and illuminates the ways we can overcome the fear, confusion and apathy surrounding climate change. Its resolute focus on a positive response has helped ground my thoughts.

The three major solution clusters identified in Drawdown are: decarbonising the food chain; rolling out renewable energy; and protecting and enhancing natural carbon storage. Interesting. But if I'm honest even these are still so big that I'm tempted to just sit back and say that it is government and big commercial enterprises that need to get on with it. I'm too little to make a difference in those big things.

But then I got introduced to a book called The Carbon Buddy Manual. It's a practical guide with Top Tips for getting started (crucial for me!) and then keeping going. The manual is the brainchild of a local author called Colin Hastings. In it, he calls action to reverse climate change 'the most exciting and complex collective rescue effort the world has ever undertaken', and says he aims to unleash an avalanche of billions of small actions.

It makes sense that huge numbers of people carrying out practical actions on a daily basis has the potential to make a huge difference, even if the actions are small. I'm making myself a list so I



Councillor Hilary Frank  
cllr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk

can get on with making small local actions and nurturing nature. I thought I'd share some with you.

### Saltash C.R.A.P.

Yes. CRAP. It stands for Community Resources Associating People, and is a Facebook page administered by three volunteers. Between them, they approve around 50 posts a day of things that people are offering for free to others. The items range from leaky wellies to wobbly chests of drawers, but they are all things that people have kept hold of because they shouldn't be in landfill. They are all things that someone else wants.

### Saltash Scrapstore

Saltash Scrapstore on 89 Fore Street also aims to minimise the amount that goes to landfill, providing an outlet for things like fabric scraps or handfuls of beads, and making them available to schools, community groups and individuals to reuse and get creative. And now Scrapstore Too has opened across the road specialising in electrical goods.

### Saltash Community Fridge and Larder

On three days every week, the Community Fridge and Larder at 4 Fore Street shares surplus food that has been collected by volunteers from supermarkets and businesses. Donations are welcome, but the food is free. In their first year they saved over 16 tonnes of food from being wasted, and served over 8,000 people, making a huge difference to Saltash families as well as to

the environment.

### Trees for Saltash

Adrian White, volunteer tree warden in Saltash, is spearheading a 5-year project to plant plenty of trees in Saltash. It is well known that trees improve planetary health through absorbing carbon dioxide, but Adrian is keen to highlight that trees are good for human health, too, stressing that trees improve mental health.

If you'd like to help planting or nurturing trees please contact Adrian via email: info@seasaltash.org.uk

### Litter Rangers

Saltash Environmental Action has a stock of litter picking equipment to give out on permanent loan to residents who would like to 'adopt' a street and become a Litter Ranger, cleaning their adopted street whenever they can. The Saltash army of adult and 'little' Litter Rangers already covers nearly 150 of the 300 streets here, but the organisers are keen to get the whole town covered. Visit the Saltash Environmental Action website to adopt a street.

### Build a Beetle Home

The Wildlife Trusts and the Royal Horticultural Society have set up 'Wild About Gardens' to encourage people to use their gardens to help support nature. Their campaign this year is to Bring Back Beetles. Visit the Wild About Gardens website to download a free guide on creating a beetle home.

### Refusing Plastic

Recycling plastic is often hailed as a solution, but some estimates suggest that only 9% of plastics ever manufactured have actually been recycled! You may already bring your own shopping bags, but there are plenty more small changes you can make to shrink your plastic footprint.

The Deli Bazaar on 31 Fore Street has a Refill Pantry, for example, where you can fill up bottles with liquids including shampoo

and washing up liquid. And Community Enterprises on 4 Fore Street sells toothbrushes made from sustainable bamboo. Both of these places accept various items for recycling too, like stamps, ink cartridges, crisp bags and bread bags, with proceeds going to charity.

You may be surprised to hear that some teabags have plastic woven into the fibres, or are sealed with a plastic-based glue. You could consider buying loose tea from a shop like Two For Tea on 65 Fore Street.

I'm running out of room and I haven't even mentioned the Saltash Wesley Repair Café or the campaigning group South East Cornwall Climate Action Network. And of course, it's great that Saltash still has an independent butcher and greengrocer, helping us buy food with fewer carbon miles.

Now I've figured out how to start I realise there is so much I can do! I also realise I need to have help along this journey. Let me know if you want to buddy up and we can work through the Carbon Buddy manual together – helping each other get our resolutions resolved and the planet get better.

## A BIG THANK YOU

On the 6th December I passed out in Fore Street and I would like to thank all the people who offered help to my wife to make me comfortable before she was able to get the car and take me to hospital.

A special thank you to the first aider who stayed with me until my wife was able to get the car.

It only shows how caring the people of Saltash are.

PETER RYLAND

## Gospel Hall Youth Club

The leaders of Saltash Gospel Hall in Moorlands Lane, are pleased to report the relaunch of their two youth clubs on Friday evenings. Any child in Years 1-6 is welcome to join their Junior Club which runs from 6-7.00 and has a variety of activities including singing, Bible stories, quizzes, crafts, table tennis, snooker, air hockey and Lego. They also run a tuck-shop so although it's free to attend, it would be good to carry some cash to buy a few bits for the evening.

The Senior Club is for young people in year groups 7-11 and runs from 7.30-8.45. It has age-appropriate activities and also includes the opportunity to attend a summer camp in August.

All leaders are volunteers and have current DBS certificates.

If you require further information, please contact Stuart Dan on 07784654703.

## A Magical Evening at Forder

Well over 150 people attended the Forder Community and Conservation Association's 55th annual open air Christmas Carol Service on 18th December last year.

Mary Crawford, editor in chief of the Saltash Observer, started the proceedings by switching on the lights of the enormous Christmas tree installed by residents at the head of Forder Creek. Rev. Di Burrows then led the Service, with readings and carols sung by residents and children from the village and neighbourhood, accompanied by the Forder Minstrels.

Santa Claus arrived on his sleigh pulled by reindeer, and merrily gave out Christmas presents to the excited children, a foretaste of what he would deliver on Christmas Eve.

The magical evening concluded with mulled wine and mince pies. Instead of writing cards to each other, residents donated money and wrote greetings on ribbons, which were tied to the Christmas tree. Together with contributions for mulled wine and mince pies this raised nearly £250 in total, which has been donated to St. Luke's Hospice.

"We want to thank Mary for switching on the lights in such style," said Carole Brown of the Forder Community and Conservation Association. "Her kind words were a wonderful start to a special evening celebrating Christmas and community."



Ever popular Santa



Reading Luke 2 Freya Cotton

## Reduction in Traffic Could Lead to Increase in Tolls

A consultation has been launched on proposals to raise tolls to address the shortfall caused by the ongoing reduction in traffic levels on the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferries, with the increase in tag tolls potentially being implemented this year.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, there was an expectation that tolls would not have to be increased before 2023. Traffic levels at both crossings remain significantly below those recorded before the pandemic, however, and are not expected to rise. This means the latest figures are forecasting an annual funding gap of £3.2m by March 2024, with an accumulated reserve deficit of £6.9m by March 2025.

The bridge and ferries are jointly owned by Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council, and are operated together as a single business by the two councils. Over 100 staff are employed to deliver the service, and the two crossings carry around 18 million vehicles a year. The Tamar Crossings receive no subsidy from either central or local government – operation and maintenance are funded solely through toll income.

Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council say they have looked in detail at spending areas, including staffing and service levels, in an attempt to address the financial shortfall. Letters have been written to central government requesting that a contribution is made, but these requests have not been supported.

Traffic levels are still running at only around 90% of pre-Covid levels. At a time when both authorities are facing significant and pressing demands on their finances, and without ongoing funding support from central government, the committee

also being invited from a range of key stakeholders including the emergency services, local councils and haulage associations. The consultation will run until 14th February, and anyone not part of the structured survey exercise, including tag account holders who did not use the crossings on 13th or 15th January, can provide feedback by writing to Tamar Crossings (the Tamar Bridge office is on Pemros Road, PL5 1LP) or by sending an email to: consultation@tamarcrossings.org.uk

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## Platinum Jubilee

This year, the Queen will become the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years on the throne, and Saltash will join communities nationwide in marking this historic moment.



Princess Elizabeth became Queen on 6th February 1952, the day her father King George VI died, but official celebrations will take place at the beginning of June, when the late May Bank Holiday which would have fallen on 30th May will be moved to Thursday 2nd June. A new bank holiday has been introduced on Friday 3rd June to create four days of national celebration.

Events in London include the Queen's Birthday Parade on 2nd June. Also known as Trooping the Colour, members of the Royal Family on horseback and in carriages will be joined by over 1,400 soldiers and 200 horses to parade down the Mall. Tickets for this are available to the public, and applications are open until the end of February. For more details visit: [qbp.army.mod.uk](http://qbp.army.mod.uk)

Volunteers including Town and Cornwall councillors as well as representatives of community groups have come together to form the Saltash Platinum Jubilee Team to co-ordinate local activities. Plans include a Big Lunch street party in the town centre on

Sunday 5th June and a civic event in the evening of 2nd June on the Waterside, when Saltash will join with over 1,500 places across the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth in lighting a beacon.

Saltash Town Council has also agreed to set up a Platinum grants scheme to support Jubilee events. With awards of around £50, the scheme is designed to enable local groups to join the celebrations, and councillors are hopeful that residents will come forward with innovative, creative and inclusive ideas.

More details of the Jubilee events and the Platinum grants scheme will be released on a dedicated page on the Saltash Town Council website as well as through social media and in the Observer.

## Show the Love with the Climate Coalition

In February, The 'Show the Love' campaign will be creating an opportunity for Saltash residents to tell their decision makers that they support them taking real and rapid action to tackle the climate and nature crises.

The impact of climate and ecosystem breakdown is now being felt by millions of people around the world, with effects becoming increasingly visible at home. The last few months of 2021 saw public concern about this issue reach an all-time high, but many of us are unsure what we as individuals can do.

Some are coming together to seek solutions. This momentum is being captured by a long-running annual campaign by the Climate Coalition, a group which currently represents over 22 million people. Much of this representation comes from member organisations, which include the National Trust, Women's Institute, Oxfam, and RSPB, but they also have many individual supporters.

Throughout February, be on the lookout for green hearts appearing around the town, in local shops, schools and public amenities. Feel free to take one to wear, make your own or give one away. Alongside these small tokens, you will also see cards with information on how to ask your MP to take action in Parliament. It is important that our representatives are aware of the extent of public concern, to strengthen their mandate to speak on our behalf.

Information on the campaign, resources and ideas can also be found by following the link printed below.

The UK government left COP26 with a huge to-do list. They will be relying on the support of ordinary citizens to enable them to make the changes needed to guarantee our futures and the future of the living systems we depend upon. Why not take this small step as part of the action you are taking in your own life, to show that you care?

<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love/>  
Yours sincerely,  
Dr Marc Bramham  
Saltash

To Advertise in the Observer

Contact Mary Crawford  
E: [maryecrawford@hotmail.com](mailto:maryecrawford@hotmail.com)

## Churchtown Farm - Winter Litter Pick

Friends of the reserve organised two litter picks a year, where we usually get an average attendance of about 10 people. In November we welcomed over 40 people including some youngsters who were completing their Duke of Edinburgh award activity also some Cubs from Saltash Scout group and several youngsters from Saltash Environmental Association (SEA) Thanks to all who participated in the clean up.



Bob Austin Chairman of the Friends of Churchtown Community Reserve, Saltash

## The Blondie Bar

An Exciting New Business Now Open In Saltash!

A new take away cafe, The Blondie Bar Ltd has recently opened in Saltash. Saltash girls Sophie Jones and Leanne Orgacki have decided to take the step and start up their own business together.

Both Leanne and Sophie previously worked in childcare. During the lockdown when they had more time on their hands, they found themselves baking brownies, blondies and cupcakes with their kids. Leanne has been baking for a while, often making occasion cakes for people. Sophie states that during lockdown she was enjoying baking so much that started handing it out to her neighbours, friends and family.

They had both noticed the growing popularity of the bespoke destination cafes that are dotted around in local towns and Plymouth and realised we didn't have such a thing in Saltash. So they've now taken the plunge and are opening one of their own.

The Blondie Cafe will be serving Cornish coffee, brownies, Blondie, cupcakes as well as pick 'n' mix sandwiches, wraps and salads.

The Blondie Bar is based in Trelawney Road, just off St



Stephen's Road, a perfect place to grab a coffee/wrap before heading for a walk down in to Coombe Woods.

As well as the cafe, The Blondie Bar offers gift boxes full of tasty treats. Pre-orders are now being taken for their Valentine boxes.

Sophie and Leanne would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to their husbands, family and friends for all their support in getting this business off the ground.

The Observer team would like to wish them the best of luck.

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## Saltash Half Marathon

### Returns to May Fair

Entries are already open for the Saltash Half Marathon, returning as part of the May Fair weekend on 7th and 8th May.

The onslaught of Covid meant Saltash May Fair had to be cancelled in 2020 and 2021, but organisers are planning to come back in style on Saturday 7th May with all the traditional fun of the May Fair including the Parade of Youth and stalls on Fore Street, with added SaltFest vibes of music into the evening on Longstone Park. Organisers are particularly pleased to be working with Tamar Trotters to bring the Saltash Half Marathon back to the May Fair on Sunday 8th May.

The Saltash Half Marathon is one of the oldest Half

Marathons in the country, but it is also one of the toughest. For less seasoned runners, the popular Saltash Fun Run will set off at 10am, incorporating the Primary Schools Half Marathon challenge. And people taking part in the Couch to 5K challenge either with Tamar Trotters or using a smartphone app, will have the opportunity to test their newly honed ability in a new Saltash 5K event that will start alongside the Half Marathon at 11am. All runs will start and finish in Longstone Park where there will be family activities, music, refreshments and stalls.

The races are also providing a fundraising opportunity for local clubs: about 50 marshals are needed to help guide runners safely round the courses, and organisers are offering to donate £10 per marshal to the local club or organisation of the marshal's choice.

To enter one of these runs or to volunteer as a marshal and raise funds for your club or group, visit the Tamar Trotters website at:

[www.tamartrotters.co.uk/saltash-half-marathon/](http://www.tamartrotters.co.uk/saltash-half-marathon/)  
To book a stall at May Fair, visit the event website at: [www.diverse-events.com/events/saltash-may-fair-2022/](http://www.diverse-events.com/events/saltash-may-fair-2022/)

## Letter to the Editor...

Dear Mary

Having read the Observer for several years, I have also been walking the routes in the Quality of Life book since I was a teenager- first on family outings with my parents and now with a child of my own. I was delighted when I moved back to the area and discovered it in The Bookshelf, in print and going strong.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Marc Bramham

Saltash

See "Show the Love" article on this page

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Peter M: 07775 645337 or have a word  
with Rosie in our shop in Fore Street.

SEE YOU SOON!

Please contact the Scrapstore at  
[saltashscrapstore@gmail.com](mailto:saltashscrapstore@gmail.com) or

Telephone 07395 332799



## BreakFree from Debt: A New Year's Resolution Worth Making

If you started the New Year with money worries, you're not alone. January is notoriously the busiest month of the year for debt advice organisations like Christians Against Poverty (CAP), as the financial implications of the Christmas season hit home.

This January, as CAP launches its #BreakFree campaign, we're encouraging people to seek help with problem debt now, before things get worse. Here are five New Year's resolutions to make if you're struggling financially.

### Resolution 1: Make a budget and review it monthly

Making a budget is the first step towards getting your finances under control. Look back over your bank statements to get a clear

picture of how much money you have coming in regularly and where you're spending it. If it doesn't balance, be strict with yourself and decide where you can cut back. Then, review things on a monthly basis and stick to it!

### Resolution 2: Cut costs

With the cost of living at the highest it's been in a decade, it's unlikely you'll find better deals currently, especially for energy. However, there are still ways to spend less, so check out [moneysavingexpert.com](http://moneysavingexpert.com) where there are tons of tips.

### Resolution 3: Get the help you need

If you're in debt, the best New Year's Resolution you can make is to get help. It may be easier said than done, but many CAP clients say the



Tim Squires Debt Centre Manager  
Christians Against Poverty Saltash  
Book an appointment with him by calling 0800 328 0006 or email [timsquires@capuk.org](mailto:timsquires@capuk.org)

single act of making that first phone call for help lifts a weight off their shoulders and gives them hope that things are going to get better. Whether it's CAP or another free debt advice organisation such as StepChange, Citizens Advice or Community Money Advice, the most important thing is that you get help sooner rather than later.

### Resolution 4: Talk to someone

Maybe you're not ready to get professional debt help yet. If so, you can make a small step towards sorting things out by telling someone close what

you're going through, whether that's a trusted friend, family member or support worker. Being in debt can make you feel isolated, convincing you that no one cares or that no one can help. That's just not true. Speaking to someone can help lift the burden and show you that you're not alone.

### Resolution 5: Know that there is always hope

CAP helps thousands of people become debt free every year. There's a solution available for everyone and, if this is you, I pray you find it soon.

*Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity working with over 580 churches to deliver debt help, budgeting guidance, support to find work, life skills groups and more. Visit [capuk.org](http://capuk.org) to find out more. Discover and share stories of hope using BreakFree on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.*

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## Musical Memories The Late Patricia Lewis

The jaunty airs of Sir Arthur Sullivan made a fitting introductory to a Thanksgiving Service for the late Patricia Lewis at Saltash Wesley Church. Patricia, herself an accomplished singer, had always taken great delight in sharing her joy of music, and particularly light opera, with others.

Born Patricia Poole in 1937 at Didbury in the West Midlands, she never quite lost the Midland accent during her many years in the West Country. She and her two sisters attended the local Methodist church, where her

interest in music was awakened, and in her teenage years she trained as a singer and joined the local operatic society. In 1954 she married Arthur Wakelin and the couple moved when his work brought him to Plymouth. She worked with the MOD and became an active member of the Civil Service Fellowship. Arthur sadly died, but Patricia was to find fresh happiness with Geoff Lewis, and the couple married in 1994 at St Stephens Church. Geoff died in 2012, and though Patricia had no children herself she came to look upon Geoff's sons, David and Steve, as her family.

She will be best remembered for organising parties of friends and acquaintances to travel to the theatre, in particular to share in the whimsical magic of Gilbert and Sullivan's operettas.

Others will recall the concerts in which Patricia brought together local singers and musicians under the name 'Mixed Company' to bring pleasure and raise funds for good causes.

In his eulogy, Reverend Jonathan Budd recalled Patricia listening to music and commenting: "Isn't it wonderful!" He surmised that her love of music stemmed from its ability to bring people together, to laugh and to cry, sharing musical experience.

Several years ago, Patricia had to leave her Saltash bungalow and her beloved garden for a care home, where she died in December aged 87.

The memorial service concluded with Wesley Church organist Phil Taylor playing a voluntary from Gilbert and Sullivan's Cornwall-inspired 'The Pirates of Penzance.'

## Conundrum Corner

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

- 1 What word describes a piece of writing given in praise of a person? (6)
- 2 In which Jane Austen novel does the heroine have the surname Woodhouse? (4)
- 3 Who composed the Anthem Zadok the Priest? (6)
- 4 What was the surname of the Brothers who founded the Guinness Book of Records? (9)
- 5 Knotty Ash is a district in which English city? (9)
- 6 What is the name of the device used to measure Spirits in a Public House? (5)
- 7 What word is used to describe the remote bush country of Australia? (7)
- 8 How many legs does a true Insect have? (3)
- 9 Which is the longest bone in the forearm? (4)

Conundrum Answers Page 7



A number of residents at Hobbs Crescent Saltash illuminated their property during December with colourful Christmas lighting. Public donations taken on behalf of St. Lukes Hospice amounted to £540, which was greatly appreciated.

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## Tamar Reflections

### Saltash Regatta

Following last month's edition of Tamar Reflections, I promised more of the Saltash Regattas of times past. There is so much wonderful history of our regattas recorded in various publications, periodicals, and notations, many of which I have collected over the past 50 years.

As said previously, more recent regattas evolved over the years, which have proved very popular and thousands of locals and visitors alike enjoy the competitiveness of the rowing and sailing races, with much going on too with shore-based stalls, entertainment, fun and family activities.

The regattas took place on Saltash Waterside Beach, where families have lived and rowed boats since well before the Normans built Trematon Castle. It is unclear when racing started, but almost certainly there were competition races before 1800.

Now for a moment to the early 20th Century Saltash Regattas, in particular, Monday 22nd June 1914, 'The Saltash Royal Regatta' had quite an attractive programme. There were fourteen pulling and sailing races for club boats, watermen and women, training ship (Mount Edgcombe) boys and the Navy. In addition, the 'Prince of Wales' cup presented in 1909 by the Prince of Wales (also Duke of Cornwall) and later to become H.M King George V. This event was the highlight of the regatta and was open to officers of the Navy. They rowed in twelve oared cutters, and always attracted numerous entries and was a keen and exciting contest. Crews in each boat had to belong to one ship or boat service and English built. Maltese built boats were barred. First prize was the 'Prince of Wales Perpetual Cup', plus £3,

second prize £2.10s and third prize £1.10s. Special trains were run, and all the river steamers were used to ferry people from Plymouth to Saltash.

There was also another exciting race for a Perpetual Challenge Cup, presented by E.



The photo depicts 'Saltash Royal Regatta', 1905

Smith Esq, for competition between the amateur rowing clubs and schools in six oared gigs.

Of the fourteen races on that day, there were competitions open for Port of Plymouth dinghies, Nautilus Sailing Club, Torpoint Mosquito Fleet, Torpedo boat dinghies, skiff dinghies (belonging to H.M. Navy and Royal Auxiliary Forces), in rigged boats, Service gigs or galleys (for men of the Navy only), 12 oared cutters rowed by boys belonging to Training Establishments and Ships in the Port, Service whalers any build (except Destroyer's light scantling type), fully licensed Watermen's boats and women in skiffs (costume white!). Most of the entry fees were in the region of 1s and up to 2s.6d.

There were three prizes for each race, 1st, 2nd and 3rd comprising - 1st prize £1 - 2nd prize 10 shillings and third prize 2s 6d. There were very small differentials of just shillings and pence, but not many! The Prince

of Wales Cup race won a little more, as I said earlier.

It is also interesting to note the important input of the Landlords of the Waterside public houses at that time, notably, Mr Bennetts (Union Inn), and Mr Goodman (Wheatsheaf Inn). So too, the strong localism with the sideshows and carousels, where ladies and girls dressed in their white smocks.

The Saltash Regatta remained very dominant during the early 19th Century, and hundreds of supporters and spectators were able to view the races from the river banks and from boats moored on the river, just like they do today.

Ultimately, Saltash Regattas were the main attractions on the Saltash Waterside calendar for many decades from 1835, with breaks during the two world wars and for a few years with diminishing interest. Since 1963, the regatta has continuously gained great admiration and importance thereon.

It is unclear why and when the regatta got the name of 'Royal Regatta.' It certainly has been recorded that it was because the Prince of Wales donated the 'Prince of Wales Cup,' in 1909; however, P.E.B. Porter's book "Around And About Saltash," published in 1905 refers to a "Flash Cutter race, at the Royal Regatta," so it must have been earlier.

So, going back and taking various ideas and theories into consideration (of which space in Tamar Reflections do not allow me to go into in great detail), and the fact that following the Coronation of Queen Victoria on June 28th 1938; it was recorded that in recognition, the Saltash Regatta should take place on that date and continue annually on June 28th. Although Queen Victoria never visited Saltash herself, her husband, Prince Albert, did when he opened the Royal Albert Bridge in 1859.

It would have been impossible for incumbent Regatta Committees to keep to June 28th annually due to tides and conflicting dates. However, as the Saltash Regattas from 1838 were closely linked to Queen Victoria's coronation, it seems quite acceptable to link 'Saltash Royal Regatta' to this close association.

Furthermore, I have a 1950 'Saltash Royal Regatta' programme headed that H.M. The King (Duchy of Cornwall) was Patron.

Moreover, in 1984 when the late Norman Harrison as secretary of the Saltash Regatta Committee wrote to the Home Secretary to request of Her Majesty the Queen, that our regatta be re-designated as the "Saltash Royal Regatta." the claim from the Home Office, was that was no record of the "Royal" ever having been granted!

It is there that I rest my case!  
Sue Hooper MBE

## Woodland Work of Art to Auction for Community Causes

A century-old piece of our local woodland heritage, lovingly seasoned and shaped into a sculpture over almost a decade, is on display in the town, giving local residents the chance to view it before a silent auction which it is anticipated, could attract international interest, with funds raised going to local causes.

Coombe Woods ranger and town councillor, Jon Foster, had admired a cherry tree, believed to be around a hundred years old, before it fell in winter storms eight years ago. He cut it into large logs which were left to season for three years. After this Jon, a carpenter by profession, moulded them into a single sculpture which he entitled 'The Family,' leaving it to settle and dry, sealing it with waxes and transferring it to Ashtorre on Waterside, where it is now on display.

Jon's affection for Coombe Woods dates back fifteen years to the time he was taking a break from caring for a parent with dementia and he would walk his dogs through the overgrown scrubland. He set out to trim and tidy it, resulting in complaints to Cornwall Council. Then to his surprise, Cornwall offered him the role of ranger, with responsibility for the woods. Since then, Jon has transformed the area into a well-loved attraction, with its tangle of twisting and connecting footpaths, each named for a family member, friend or in some cases commemorating a deceased loved one. With the aid of local schools, cubs, beavers and other youth groups, he has helped plant 670,000 bulbs and 3,500 saplings of varieties of traditional English hardwood.

But to families with young children the main attraction is the fairy houses and other settlements which draw cries of joy from those who still share the enchantment of these woodland folk. The fairies disappear in late Autumn but Jon assures us they will return in early Spring.

While Jon received a town council community grant towards erecting boards identifying bird life with wood generously donated by Precise Shopfitting, Jon generally has to fund his work himself. He sells fairy homes and boxes to assist towards this.

The proceeds of the sale of the cherry wood sculpture may, he hopes, help towards restoring a lost bridge in the woodland. He would also like to donate to Woodside Animal Shelter, from where he obtained his own dogs. Otherwise, he plans to ensure through Saltash Lions, of which he is a member, that funds raised will go to local needy causes.

His unique piece of local art can be viewed during normal daily opening times at the Ashtorre Centre on Waterside, underneath the Royal Albert Bridge. Further information is available from Jon or his wife Dee on 07505 022 411 or deefoster11@Yahoo.com

## Ensuring the Future of Saltash Leisure Centre

Following the announcement in December that the immediate closure threat to Saltash Leisure Centre had been lifted, Cornwall Councillors and Saltash Town Councillors have been engaged in talks with the operator GLL to explore ways to work together so that the potential of the Centre can be maximised, jobs kept safe and the Centre's long-term sustainability secured.

Talks have included looking at the feasibility of installing a soft play area and leasing out the café. In the short-term, GLL is keen to train people to work as lifeguards, and is looking at running a training session in Saltash. Anyone aged 16 years old or over and interested in obtaining qualifications to work as a lifeguard is encouraged to visit the Leisure Centre in person or online for more details.

Membership sales have apparently been good since the Centre's reprieve, but all stakeholders are keenly aware of the need to build on the groundswell of support going forward.



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## Top Bands Return to Waterside Venue

An air of optimism prevails, as Livewire looks forward to welcoming a nationally famous band to play alongside their own home-grown talent this spring.

The Waterside venue is thrilled to confirm that the folk-funk band 'Stiff Little Fingers' will be performing a warmup show in the club on 8th March, when they will be supported by Livewire's own punk artists, 'Creation.'

And the 'Rocking by the River 3' on 19th March resumes the popular local festivals, with five New Wave of Classic Rock bands following on from Livewire's 'The Kites' opening the show. 'The Kites' have already gained local popularity, playing at last year's Saltfest and Regatta.

Meanwhile in February, the club hosts 'Metal 2 the Masses.' Livewire bands will be playing in the Devon and Cornwall heats to decide who shall go on to play the Bloodstock Heavy Metal Festival, later this year.

Any young person with a feel for music can take advantage of music lessons and the state-of-the-art recording studios on Waterside, provided by such all-time great bands as AC/DC and The Who.

# Saltash Second Forum Celebrates its 40th Anniversary

*Deputy Mayor of Saltash Councillor Richard Bickford, cuts the cake as Saltash Second Forum celebrates its 40th Anniversary*

Former Mayor of Saltash, and friend of the Saltash Second Forum for over thirty years, Sue Hooper, was the keynote speaker at the anniversary party at the Saltash Social Club. Sue gave a comprehensive history of the Forum since its inception 40 years ago.

Sue told the gathering members and guests that in the past, Saltash had been very rich with various forums, and there were eventually four of them (first, second, third and fourth).

When in 1981 there was a long waiting list to join the First Forum, the late and well-loved Amy Farnworth, a past member and dear friend to so many worked very hard sounding out local supporters, and those on the First Forum waiting list, with a view to start a 2nd Forum, and successfully, on 14 December 1981, Amy called the first meeting at, 20 Ridgeway, Saltash; around 10 people attended. So on that date 40 years ago, was the launch of the Second Forum.

At that meeting it was decided that future meetings would take place at Well Park House on Fridays from 10.30 until midday. Coffee and biscuits would be served, and speakers would be invited to talk on various subjects.

In addition, on Mondays, members would meet in Well Park House car park, to share cars to certain points and then take a walk calling in somewhere nearby for refreshments.

The Committee that set up on 14 December comprised of the founder who became

Chairperson (Amy Farnworth) Treasurer Ron Atwill, Secretary Beryl Ross and walks organiser Jack Stothers

On January 8 1982 was the first official meeting following the formation of the 2nd Forum and as agreed was at Well Park House, and 15 attended.

And on Friday January 15 1982 Mr Batters was the very first speaker, he gave a talk on his work at the Citizens Advice Bureaux.

On Monday 18 January, cars were driven to Pillaton, and the members had a lovely walk around the area, with refreshments at the Weary Friar, then an additional walk to Clapper Bridge and back!

On Friday January 22 the Forum's second speaker was Mr Keen, who talked about Saltash Town, ancient and modern. This was followed by tea/coffee and biscuits at a charge of 15p each member, with a raffle costing 10p a ticket. 19 members attended.

On Monday 25 January the members went to Calstock Church, and walked via Harewood to Calstock, and stopped at the Boot Inn for refreshments - 13 attended.

On Friday January 29 there was no speaker, so members were able to get to know one another better and discuss how

to make money for the Forum funds. Barbara Gourd offered to style member's hair with donations for her services given to the funds. Reni Toyne would hold a coffee morning at her house, with possibly a bring and buy stall.

That is how the 2nd Forum began in earnest, with walks, and talks, and speakers a plenty.

At the beginning, the members of the forum met twice a week and the membership gradually increased.

Some of the places the forum visited for walks and trips and always refreshments to finish off were also; Cawsand, Tideford, Burrator, Cremyl & Mount Edgcombe (Maker Church & Rame Head), Two Bridges on the Moors, Kingsbridge, Wembury & Heybrook Bay, Polperro, Lanivet, Peter Tavy, Avon Dam, Noss Mayo, Bere Ferrers, Buckland Monchorum, Buckfast Abbey, Shaugh Bridge, Horrbridge, St Dominick and Halton Quay, Clarks shoe factory, Lanhydrock, Exmouth, Lynton and Lynmouth (this was with Wallace Arnold Coaches at a cost of £97.50 a 45 seater!! Siblyback, Stoke beach, trip to Ilfracombe, Falmouth & Truro, Newquay and Falmouth Carbis Bay & St Ives, (often staying overnight in the hotels when their sleeper trips were organised).

There were many speakers over the years, talking on very interesting topics...Amy, one of the first speakers gave very interesting talks on her holidays abroad, including Greece, Egypt, Cyprus, Switzerland and the Italian lakes, And many Mediterranean Countries.

Mrs Salter gave a talk on her work teaching the deaf to lip read, Mrs Cask of Cawsand talked on the Royal Commission of Criminal Procedure (25 present), Barbara Stanlake spoke on her journey across America, New York, Arizona (on board a Greyhound Coach!), Mr Baker talked about his work as a Coast Guard, Sgt Voles of the Launceston Police talked about public security, Ken Willcocks spoke of his years as a Saltash Community Police Officer, Rev Brian Fretwell spoke about his life in a Monastery. There were also, doctors, teachers, actors, health visitors, Saltash Mayors, and MP Colin Breed.

There were so many other interesting talks by notable people to include, Royal British Legion, RNLI, Councillors about local Governance, Age Concern, Palmistry, Royal Family, Plymouth Palace, RSPB, Corn Dollies, Spinning and Weaving, Antiques and Collectables, Toch-H, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Prince's



*Saltash 2nd Forum members, with the afore mentioned guests and Sue Hooper the key note speaker (far left). Floral arrangements were presented to the guests and Sue.*

Trust UFO'S, Letter Boxes on Dartmoor, Towns' Womens' Guilds, Archaeology of the Tamar Valley, Camen Islands, Ethiopia, Albania, Australia, Russia, Old Plymouth, Plymouth Magistrates Court, Music, Royal Occasions, Natural History Museum, Theatre Royal, British Rail, Schwartz Spices, RAF Mountbatten, SAGA holidays (Amy's speciality as a well-informed representative), film shows by Mr Dawson, Cornish language, nature at night, guide dogs for the blind, history of Saltash, Citizens Advice Bureaux, to name many!

There were quizzes, bingo, wild drives, car boots and jumble sales and beetle drives, pantomimes, amateur dramatics, Christmas church services and carols, skittles and swimming at the Riverside Country Club.

The membership grew over the years from the original 10 to 55 at its peak, with its own waiting list of folks of only retirement age. During that time, the Forum moved to the Wesley Church meeting rooms.

All these wonderful experiences were originated by Amy Farnworth. Amy was so well loved and cherished by all her friends of the Forum. Amy was born in the county of Lancashire March 27th 1916, during the reign of King George 5th. Amy lived through two World Wars and lived to see four Monarchs. And unimaginable changes from the early 20th Century and she adapted and rose to the challenge of new technology and fangled dangles. Amy was fiercely independent in so many ways.

Amy was a very talented communicator, elocutionist, singer and teacher, and a woman of faith, and she used all her skills in her private, Christian and professional life,

and put them to excellent and positive use!

Sue stressed that Saltash was blessed that Amy came our way! It was because of Amy's parents passing and retirement from her professional life up country and then the Westcountry, that Amy eventually moved to Saltash, to be near her sister Lucy, and her nephew Bob (Austin) and his wife Jackie.

100's of local residents have passed through the 2nd Forum over the past 40 years, many long gone. So too, scores of speakers and entertainers (Sue and John Hooper too have been part of those over the years!).

It is remembering and

paying tribute to Amy Farnworth, who sadly died on 14th February 2020 in her 104th year - that today the Second Forum celebrates its 40th year of friendship, comradeship and togetherness in style!

Sue congratulated the Saltash 2nd Forum and wished the Forum every success for the next 40 years and beyond.

Other guests present were the Deputy Mayor of Saltash, Councillor Richard Bickford, Deputy Mayoress Mrs Sarah Bickford and Amy Farnworth's nephew Bob Austin and his wife Jackie.

A reception followed, and a wonderful time was had by all that attended.

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