

SALTASH AND DISTRICT OBSERVER

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January/February 2023 - Issue 369

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Treledan Promise of Affordable Homes, A Green Corridor and School Provision

A new primary school, financial support for Saltash Community School, and new roundabouts on the A38 and A388 will all be forthcoming as building on the Treledan development progresses. This was the promise following a site visit by local Cornwall Councillors together with representatives of the company Bloor Homes, which will be developing the site through Phases 2 and 3, taking over from Barratt Homes, who are in the process of building houses in Phase 1. Bloor Homes is one of the largest privately owned house builders in the UK but is new to the South West and is looking upon Treledan as its 'flagship site' west of Bristol.

The company is owned by British businessman John Bloor, who is taking a personal interest in Treledan and has already made a site visit. In reply to questions raised, Cornwall Councillor Martin Worth stated that 27.5% of the site is earmarked for affordable homes, which will be located across the entire site. There is an intention to increase the diversity of home designs and increase the number of bungalows to link in with local needs.

The start of work on road improvements at Roods Croft on the A388 is dependent on the progress of house building. Similarly, a new roundabout at Stoketon Cross and a 'crawler lane' up the hill from there will proceed once the housing numbers are triggered, and will be

tied in with a resurfacing of the A38 near to Stoketon Cross, planned for the financial year beginning in 2023.

Assurances were given that existing trees would be maintained as far as possible and that a nature corridor will be kept open along a north-south line, following a gas main which cannot be built upon. There are plans to link this with Carkeel Garden Centre, providing pedestrian access to the Centre without the need to use the main road.

Space has been set aside at the site of the promised primary school, while a further sum of money will be paid towards the provision of secondary education at Saltash Community School.

"We were impressed with Bloor Homes and their team," said Cllr. Worth, "and we look forward to working alongside them going forward to deliver a quality development that meets local need."

Town Lends Support To Toll-Free Tamar

The ideal of a toll-free Tamar should be supported, agreed Saltash Town Council after listening to a presentation from Dr. Mel Priston, Chair of the Tamar Toll Action Group.

The Action Group was founded as a Facebook group in April last year, and has gained considerable support after attending events such as May Fair and Regatta. It now claims around 2,000 members on both sides of the Tamar.

"We are campaigning for those hit hardest by the recent increases in tolls," said Dr. Priston. She cited in

particular people caring for relatives across the river, attending medical or dental appointments, business owners, and families taking children to and from school. According to data presented by Dr. Priston, the recent toll increase to £2.60 makes it the most expensive bridge crossing in the UK. "The tag toll increase ahead of the cash toll increase was especially unfair," said Dr. Priston. "We are simply seeking a fair deal for all who cross."

The only stretch of the A38 that is not funded by National Highways is the 335 metres across the Tamar Bridge. The Tamar Toll Action Group has written to local MPs and councillors of Plymouth City and Cornwall councils, who own and manage the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry as a joint operation, calling for action, including asking them to put pressure on National Highways to make a contribution to the maintenance of the A38 over the Bridge. Cornwall Councillor Martin Worth, who is Joint Chair of the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint

Committee, said that the councils welcome the commitment of the Tamar Toll Action Group and are willing to collaborate with it. The Joint Committee has commissioned an independent report to investigate funding of the crossings, and the evidence will be put to local MPs before the issue goes to Westminster, as any change to the status quo will require primary legislation from Parliament. The report is due to be presented to the June meeting of the Joint Committee.

Saltash Mayor Councillor Richard Bickford suggested there is a need to look at all the impacts, both of tolls and of removing the tolls, including the impacts on traffic congestion, public transport and property prices.

Following a proposal by Councillor Matt Griffiths, it was agreed by ten votes with three abstentions that Saltash Town Council supports the aims of the Action Group in principle, subject to further evidence, and encourages co-ordination between the Tamar Toll Action Group and the Bridge and Ferry Joint Committee.



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Observer Contact Details

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E: maryecrawford@hotmail.com

Town Messenger

Working for the People of Saltash

News from Saltash Town Council
Konsel an dre Essa



Education Department
Telephone: 0300 1234 101
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Cornwall Councillors/ Wards

Saltash Essa ED
Cllr Hilary Frank
cldr.hilary.frank@cornwall.gov.uk

Saltash Tamar ED
Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd
cldr.sheila.lennox-boyd@cornwall.gov.uk

Saltash Trematon & Landrake ED
Cllr Martin Worth
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

Firstly, a rather belated “Happy New Year”, I hope that 2023 is a great one for all in our community. There are many different challenges at so many levels, but I know that for the things we control, all at Saltash Town Council will try hard to support and provide services for everyone in Saltash.

I was saddened to learn about the passing of David Kent. Dave was Mayor of Saltash in 1980, and will be well known to many of you in Saltash, for me, he seemed ever present at just about every school I attended. He was very active in our community, being involved in a range of organisations including spending a number of years as the curator for Saltash Heritage. He will be sorely missed.

I'll hand you over to our Deputy Mayor Councillor Julia Peggs now. Julia has an



abundance of energy and enthusiasm, and always finds a positive where others might not, it is a pleasure to work with her and our staff, and I'd like to thank her for her support and advice.

Julia is chair of our Services Committee, whilst also tackling her Deputy Mayor duties.

*Councillor Richard Bickford
Mayor of Saltash 2022-23*

Deputy Mayor of Saltash

Well, where has that nine months gone! It has been a fantastic time. I have learnt so much, but it can also be very frustrating dealing with so many processes and protocols. In addition, the time commitment, I never envisaged almost moving into the Guildhall!

Over this time, I have had the immense pleasure of working with our Mayor, Councillor Richard Bickford. Richard and I have very similar values, and ambitions for the town. We have been working hard together with our fellow Councillors trying to meet the



criteria of various funding pots for local projects, there has been a lot of toing and froing with expressions of interests to application forms, this very often takes months and sometimes years to come to fruition.

The town is lucky to have now in place, a very proactive

and young Town Council. Most of your Councillors have fulltime jobs and home commitments as well as volunteering on the Town Council. All are involved in projects, committees, or working groups. They are also very often volunteers with local organisations as well.

Lots of work is going on behind the scenes regarding the Waterside, the Library, greening more areas around the town, better connectivity, anti-dog poo competition, funding for youth projects and play parks, war memorials, to name a few.

We would love to see more residents attend Town Council meetings held at the Guildhall. We value your questions and

look forward to receiving more in the future, so please follow the Town Council social media page or look on the Town Council website or the notice boards around the town to see when various meetings are taking place, or contact the Guildhall for further information, our staff are always happy to help.

I have also met some fantastic organisation, clubs and residents who have all been so welcoming, and I look forward to continuing to do that, even when I am walking my dog in the park or shopping in Fore St, do not forget to say hello.

*Warmest regards to you all
Councillor Julia Peggs
Deputy Mayor Saltash 2022-23*

Your Town Council & Wards

Saltash Essa:

1. Cllr Richard Bickford
r.bickford@saltash.gov.uk
2. Cllr Rachel Bullock
r.bullock@saltash.gov.uk
3. Vacancy
4. Cllr Matt Griffiths
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5. Cllr Jon Foster
jon.foster@saltash.gov.uk
6. Cllr Sheila Lennox-Boyd
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Saltash Tamar:

1. Cllr Lewis Challen
l.challen@saltash.gov.uk
2. Cllr Sarah Gillies
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3. Cllr Sarah Martin
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4. Cllr Julia Peggs
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5. Cllr Pete Samuels
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6. Cllr Jean Dent
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Saltash Trematon:

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3. Cllr Brian Stoyel
b.stoyel@saltash.gov.uk
4. Cllr Yates
d.yates@saltash.gov.uk

Mayor:

Cllr Richard Bickford

Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Julia Peggs

Town Clerk:

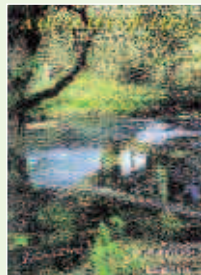
Sinead Burrows
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E: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk

Councillors' Telephone Numbers can be obtained at The Guildhall.

**Saltash Town Council, The Guildhall 12 Lower Fore Street
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E: enquiries@saltash.gov.uk W: www.saltash.gov.uk
Facebook: [SaltashTownCouncilOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/SaltashTownCouncilOfficial)
Twitter: [SaltashTC](https://twitter.com/SaltashTC)**



*Saltash Library Hub film Fridays every week at 2pm free of charge.
Visit the Library to find out more or just come along on the day.
We look forward to welcoming you and hope you enjoy the film of the week.*



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Parking Changes Threaten Businesses

Proposed changes to local parking charges include not only increase in fees but extending the hours over which charges will be made. This could threaten local businesses, with drivers being more inclined to visit the malls where there are large areas for free parking, Saltash town councillors fear.

Cornwall council are intending to standardise fees which vary vastly from town to town and believe that this will reduce admin costs and boost revenue. Saltash would then come under category “B” charges.

This would mean that the minimum parking charge would increase from 70 pence to a pound. Of more concern to town councillors and local trades is the intention to charge for parking between 4pm and 6pm and on Sundays.

Many people currently call in to visit local shops on the way home from work, relying on free parking, it was stated when town councillors were informed of the prospective changes. These shoppers would now be likely to park on street, adding to congestion or go out of town to shop. There would also be a fee to pay for those attending church

Vital Library Link is Retained

A vital life line for some house bound residents could be lost if Saltash town council does not step in, Councillor Mrs Jean Dent told Saltash town council.

Cornwall Council is withdrawing it's long standing Home Library Service and invited the town council to take this on. At present WVS volunteers take books out to people unable to visit the library and for some this would be a rare chance to speak to people outside the house.

In fact there were only six households currently using the service based on Saltash library, councillors were told, and two of them were in the Callington area. If the town takes on the service they would have to pay transport costs for the volunteers.

After debate and considering the likely effect of withdrawal of the visits, the town council agreed to take on existing home library clients but limiting future clients to those in the Saltash area only.

or shopping on Sundays.

The council will make it's views known during the consultation period, prior to prospective new tariffs being introduced in April.

Saltash Town Council Signs Up to Civility and Respect Pledge

At the Full Town Council meeting held on 1st September 2022 Saltash Town Council passed a resolution to sign up to the ‘Civility and Respect Pledge’. The Civility and Respect project is funded by the Civility and Respect Working Group and is supported by representatives from across the sector including the SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks), National Association of Local Councils (NALC) councils, County Associations and One Voice Wales (OVW).

The pledge states

1. Saltash Town Council has agreed that it will treat all councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role;
2. Saltash Town Council has committed to training councillors and staff;
3. Saltash Town Council has signed up to Code of Conduct for councillors;
4. Saltash Town Council has good governance arrangements in place including, staff contracts, and a dignity at work policy;
5. Saltash Town Council will commit to seeking professional help in the early stages should civility and respect issues arise;
6. Saltash Town Council will commit to calling out bullying and harassment when it happens;
7. Saltash Town Council will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and

aspire to being a role model/champion Town Council e.g., via the Local Council Award Scheme;

8. Saltash Town Council supports the continued

lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.

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Chamber Chairman Peter Ryland Keeping us Updated...

It is the start of another year and the start/continuation of many issues that the Chamber is trying to help resolve. One such problem is the traffic congestion around Gilston Road and Carkeel roundabout, particularly at peak hours. One of our members did their shopping in Lidl in 10 minutes but then took 25 minutes to get out of the car park and onto the A38. We know this is a problem that has been looked at by both Town and County Councillors but this problem is only going to get worse with extra vehicles coming from the new development beside Lidl and the development of the Treleden estate. Surely it is time for some blue sky thinking to solve this issue which is not only impacting on the businesses but also customers.

Another issue on the industrial estates relates to the difficulty with cars, parked both legally, and sometimes illegally, on the roads within the estates. Members and non-members have related stories of vehicles parked so that larger delivery vehicles cannot gain access and hence stock does not arrive, again, blue sky thinking is needed to resolve this issue.

On top of the above, businesses are likely to have a

larger rates bill come April with the revision of the Rateable Value which, could have, on some businesses, an additional impact on their profitability and this comes on top of recent large rises in the cost of energy. Another issue to affect town centre traders is the cost of car parking with, we understand, Cornwall Council proposing to increase charges from April so that, for instance, the cost for one hour will rise by 43% to £1.

It is a troublesome time for businesses but the Chamber is there to help when possible.

Looking at other matters affecting businesses, the cost of the tolls on the bridge have risen which again will have an additional cost re. deliveries. The Chamber raised, during the consultation period, this issue. However, the income on the bridge subsidises the cost of running the Torpoint Ferry which runs at a loss and so it was inevitable.

On a positive note, both in the town centre and on the industrial estates, there are few empty/non-trading units and this shows how Saltash is a good place to locate, but the Chamber not only represents businesses with several/many employees but also many sole traders and therefore has a diverse membership.

If any business or sole trader is interested in joining the Chamber then contact may be made through our website.

Chamber Chairman
Peter Ryland

“Our Eco Crafters Club

As we are now firmly in 2023 it's a good time to learn a new skill and that's exactly what the Community Enterprise PL12 are offering this year.

Following on from their very popular workshops throughout 2022, the Eco Crafters group announce their new calendar of activities.

“We have so much on offer this year,” said Marketing Director Melanie Cowie. “The Eco Crafter’s team has so much for beginners and experienced crafters alike. From sewing to macrame, decoupage to papercraft, we have so much to do, learn and have fun with.”

Based in Fore Street, The Community Enterprise manages a busy gift and accessories shop, community transport and trips, food larder and a vibrant community space called The Kitchen.

“Our Eco Crafters Club meets each Wednesday in the Community Shop at Number 4, Fore Street in Saltash, from 1630 to 1830. For a small suggested donation of around £5.00, we supply all the teaching and the materials you need and with easy projects, we especially welcome beginners and those whose skills may be a bit rusty.” added Melanie.

“Learning new skills is proven to be good for your brain and can be even more fun when shared with friends” added Melanie. “Plus, with a cuppa and a cake included, and a really friendly group, it's a great way to have fun

too.”

See www.cepl12.co.uk, pop into the shop or email hub@CEPL12.co.uk for details and to book.

The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding

This was the title of an Hercule Poirot mystery by Agatha Christie but Saltash Observer correspondent Martin Lister, has his own unsolved mystery.

Coming home a few days before Christmas he found a foil-wrapped pudding by his door. Opening it, it proved to be a Christmas pudding. No note was attached and no pudding had been promised.

Fearing that in Agatha Christie fashion it might have been poisoned, Martin was slightly dubious about eating it but decided to take the risk. It proved to be a delicious seasonal delight but still no one has admitted to placing it there – the mystery remains.

The kind donor is invited to contact Observer editor Mary at: marycrawford@hotmail.com - to give Martin the opportunity to say thank you.

Town Council Environmental Measures

The fleet of vehicles owned by Saltash Town Council should be subject to a full survey of current usage and options, with a view to ensuring it becomes more economic and delivers improved environmentally friendly usage in the near to medium term.

This was one of the proposals put forward by Councillor Sarah Gillies, who heads up the town council's Climate Change and Environmental Working Group. The group also recommended that a further survey should be carried out scrutinising and measuring the council's energy usage in order to combat the growing financial and environmental cost of all forms of power.

Trees have been planted thanks to funding from the town council, through Cornwall Council's Forest for Cornwall initiative as well as through Saltash Environmental Action, and there was an assurance given that only peat-free compost is being used in flower beds and hanging baskets tended by the town council.

Announcement PUBLIC NOTICE

Licensing Act 2003

We, Sir Robert Geffery Memorial Hall Committee, give notice that we have applied to Cornwall Council as Licensing Authority for the variation of a Premises Licence in respect of Sir Robert Geffery Memorial Hall, Landrake, Saltash, PL12 5EF.

The application is to: Add sale by retail of alcohol.

A responsible authority or other person wishing to make representations to this application may do so by writing to: East Licensing Team, Cornwall Council, Chy Trevail, Beacon Technology Park, Bodmin. PL31 2FR or email: licensing@cornwall.gov.uk not later than 13th February 2023.

NB during the Covid-19 pandemic, please email licensing@cornwall.gov.uk to make alternative arrangements to view the application.

Details are also at www.cornwall.gov.uk by searching 'List of current premises licence applications. Alternatively, telephone the Licensing Office on 0300 1234 212. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5000.

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Essa Voices

Timing is a funny old thing

If I'd been writing this column yesterday it would have been extremely different. But I'm writing it on the day when the Conservative mayor of the West Midlands, Andy Street, expressed dismay over the latest round of levelling up funding, saying it proves the government's "bidding and begging-bowl culture is broken", and that "the sooner we can decentralise and move to proper fiscal devolution the better".

I'm writing it a couple of days after we voted unanimously at Cornwall Council to approve plans to impose a premium of up to 100% on council tax bills on second homes that remain empty. These new powers to charge double council tax are being given to all local authorities in England under Clauses 75 and 76 of the new Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, which went through its second reading in the House of Lords a couple of weeks ago. If all goes

smoothly with the passage of the draft Bill into legislation, the 100% council tax premium could be introduced from April 2024.

It is widely recognised that too many empty second homes in a village can destroy the heart of the community, and that empty second homes have a negative impact on the local housing market, pushing up prices outside of what locals can reasonably afford, so this new power is welcome as it should hopefully bring more homes in to productive use. What's more: there are 13,292 second homes registered in Cornwall, so it could be worth up to £25 million in additional revenue each year.

Skewed Consultation

I'm also writing this on the day I responded to the consultation regarding the proposed 'Devolution Deal' to bring powers and funding from central government to Cornwall Council. There are welcome benefits in the proposed Deal, but in order to unlock the funding Whitehall is requiring Cornwall Council to change to a model of governance where the Leader of the Council is replaced by a Mayor, who will



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

have wide-ranging powers and be elected in a separate vote to councillors (similar to a US Presidential election). To be honest, I'm disappointed that the consultation seems skewed to lauding the benefits of the proposed Deal without giving clear information on the cost of a Mayor of Cornwall. Perhaps if I'd filled in the consultation before the vote on second homes council tax, I'd have been more impressed. The major pot of funding in the Deal, for example, is a £360 million investment fund over 30 years. It sounds like a lot, but actually equates to just £12 million per year - less than half the £25 million we expect to receive from second homes Council Tax premiums! My greatest disappointment with the consultation, though, is that there is no question on whether there should be a referendum asking the public whether they accept the Deal or not. The move to a Mayoral model represents a significant change, one which to my mind should only be implemented if there is clear, widespread support from the people of Cornwall. In December last year Saltash Town Council

passed a resolution supporting a referendum on the Deal, joining more than 70 town and parish councils throughout Cornwall who have publicly called for a referendum, so I am clear that when this is debated at our meeting of Cornwall Council in April I will be voting in favour of a referendum.

Proper Fiscal Devolution

Going back to that timing thing, though: as part of the debate on the second home council tax premium, I learned that the devolved government in Wales already has the power to charge not just a 100% premium, but as much as a 300% premium, if they choose! Taking a fresh look at the Deal through the 'devolved power' lens, apart from the ability to set up Mayoral Development Corporations to help deliver regeneration it seems to offer promises of 'closer working' or 'support', but no actual powers. My Conservative colleagues have said a Mayor 'would have a powerful voice', but thinking back to Andy Street - if the Conservative Mayor of West Midlands feels his asks are being ignored, what hope would there be for a Mayor of Cornwall?

Please Respond to the Consultation

However flawed it may be, the responses to the consultation will guide the path that Cornwall travels, so please submit a response. The deadline is 17th February. There is room in the text box at Question 13 for you to write your views and say whether you want a referendum or not: <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk>

China from China as Art in Saltash Library



Around 200 children in Saltash primary schools have collaborated to create two magnificent mosaic murals from fragments of china. The two pieces of art have been donated to the town, and children representing their schools helped the Mayor and Mayoress, Richard and Sarah Bickford, in the formal unveiling at Saltash Library, proudly identifying the fragments they had placed in the artwork.

Work on the two mosaics was overseen by eco artist Chrissy Wallis of Calstock, who creates art entirely with waste and sustainable material such as willow. For this project, she worked with fragments of china collected from Churchtown Farm and the countryside around Saltash by the children and Saltash residents. The china fragments, known as 'Dock Dung', were embedded in the horse manure that was taken from the streets of Plymouth in Victorian times and transported in barges from Devonport docks to market gardens along the

River Tamar. Fragments of this Dock Dung china can still be discovered to this day, and include fragments of chinaware from China itself, some of which have been used in these mosaics. Children from Bishop Cornish, Brunel, Burraton and St. Stephens schools worked with Chrissy in designing and then creating the two mosaics. One takes its inspiration from the Royal Albert Bridge, with Brunel puffing on his cigar in the foreground. The other has a regal theme as a celebration of the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Both are now on permanent

display in Saltash Library. The Mayor paid tribute to the creativity of the children, and Nicki Carvell, Assistant Headteacher at Burraton Community Primary School and co-ordinator of the project, said: "Creating the mosaics was a wonderful opportunity to bring the four schools together and collaborate on creating a lasting gift for the town on such an auspicious occasion as the late Queen's Jubilee."

Village Limits

Speed limits for villages around and about Saltash area are to be reduced if current Cornwall Council plans receive the go-ahead. Botus Fleming which includes Hatt is targeted for a 20 mph limit in the main built up areas, while currently derestricted roads approaching the village will have a 30 mph limit. Similarly in Landulph parish the road approaching Cargreen is targetted to receive a 30 mph limit.

Viewfinder Tours Raises £950 for Charity

In 2022 Michael and Janet Scutt of Viewfinder Tours raised £950 from raffles of holiday souvenirs and donations on the twelve coach tours they operated and would like to thank everyone who contributed. The money was divided between the Devon Air Ambulance and Hospicecare. Since they started operating in 1991 Michael and Janet have raised an average of £850 a year for charity.

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Unprecedented Double for Bishop Cornish Football Team

The half term leading to Christmas was busy and highly successful for both the boys' and girls' football teams at Bishop Cornish Primary School. First, the boys' team retained their crown as Cornwall champions after winning all their matches in the English Schools Football Association (ESFA) County Championships (boys).



Not to be outdone, the Bishop Cornish girls' team comfortably beat Wadebridge Primary School in the semi-final of the ESFA County Championships (girls) to secure a place in the final against Parc Eglos School. Totally dominating that match, the team became Cornwall champions with a fantastic 2-0 victory. En-route to the final they had scored 41 goals, conceding only once!

This qualifies both boys' and girls' teams to represent Cornwall at the South West England ESFA Finals, to be held in Bristol at the end of March. The Bishop Cornish PE Co-ordinator and Coach Bob Brown said: "I couldn't be prouder of the children. To qualify one team for regionals is amazing, to qualify two in the same year is unprecedented."



Letter to the Editor...



Dear Editor

I feel compelled to write to you to express my gratitude to our local ambulance service. At present we hear so much criticism regarding the public services, therefore praise where praise is due.

Very recently my daughter had cause to dial 111 on my behalf, to our utter amazement the ambulance was with us in five minutes. They proved to be thoroughly efficient and knowledgeable and completely restored our faith in the NHS.

Within half an hour the 111 service had advised that my GP at Port View be contacted to assess the situation he speedily issued a prescription, which was equally speedily dispensed by Tamar Pharmacy.

So well done Jasmine & Lee you are certainly providing a service you can be very proud of.

Yours faithfully
Mrs. Rosemary Foord, Saltash

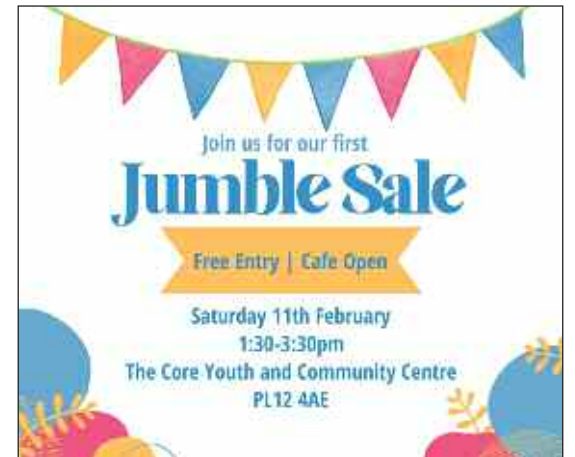
Author Tania Crosse Seeks Your Help!

Many of you will remember local author, Tania Crosse, whose debut novel, Morwellham's Child, based on the history of Morwellham Quay, took the area by storm two decades ago. Tania then went on to have published a series of historical sagas based on Dartmoor's rich and fascinating history, and met many of you at her signings at The Bookshelf.

Tania is now researching for her eleventh local novel and is seeking your help. The story is to be based around two student nurses at Plymouth City Hospital during WW2. Tania has seen all that is available at the records office at The Box, but would be interested to hear from anyone who has knowledge of the hospital at that time, just about anything from being a patient or a nurse (lectures, nurses' accommodation, uniform, etc.) or indeed the layout of the

buildings. The hospital changed its name a few times - as an example, shortly after the war, it became known as Freedom Fields - before finally closing when Derriford opened, but Tania understands it was still called The City Hospital in the period she is interested in. (This is opposed to the nearby

Prince of Wales Hospital that was later known locally as Greenbank, although some confusion over the names of the hospitals still reigns.) If anyone has any information, Tania would be extremely grateful. You can get in touch with her by email on tania@tania-crosse.co.uk



maryecrawford@hotmail.com

Catalytic Theft

There have been a number of recent thefts of catalytic converters from cars parked in and around Saltash, police have warned, asking that any suspicious activity around a vehicle be reported.

Councillor Sheila Lennox-Boyd, as part of a report from the Safer Saltash group, stated that these anti-pollution devices contain valuable metals such as platinum, palladium and rhodium, and are targeted by gangs who find a ready market for them. The motorist is only aware of the theft when next attempting to start the car.

Cars dumped on the industrial estates, especially around Gilston Road, are also causing concern, reported Cllr. Lennox-Boyd, with suggestions that some are being used in banger racing.

NEW Form Filling Service

Every Wednesday & Thursday

Our form filling service is provided by our volunteers who can help complete forms on paper & online such as:

- Carers Allowance
- Attendance Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- DLA claimants moving on to Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- New Personal Independence Payment (PIP) claims
- Work Capability forms for ESA
- Blue Badge Applications and Renewals
- Taxi Card
- Housing Benefits

Contact us for information 01752-848 348

The service does not provide advice or advocacy; if you need advice and advocacy, you should contact the Citizen's Advice

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Leave Saltash 10.30 return 16.30 - Travel Only £10

Sunday 5th February

Lunch at Honicombe Manor

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Leave Saltash 11.00 return 15.00 - Travel Only £5

Tuesday 14th February

Lunch at Riverford Kitchen Buckfastleigh
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ADVANCE WARNING

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& Saltash Half Marathon 2023

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Fore Street (full length)
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Victoria Road (King Edward Road TO Wesley Road) - Eastbound only
Belle Vue Road (Car Park Junction TO Fore Street)
King Edward Road (Esse Road TO Victoria Road) - Northbound only

SAT 6TH MAY 2023 10:00 - 10:15

Callington Road (Fore Street TO Glebe Avenue)
St Stephen's Road (Fore Street Roundabout)
Glebe Avenue (Callington Road TO Longstone Park Car Park)

SUN 7TH MAY 2023 09:55 - 10:10

Callington Road (Church Road TO Glebe Avenue)

SUN 7TH MAY 2023 11:00 - 11:15

Callington Road (Church Road TO Glebe Avenue)

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Saltash May Fair 2023

SAT 6TH MAY 2023 06:30 - 19:00

St Stephens Road (Esse Road TO Fore Street)
King Edward Road (Wesley Lane TO Fore Street)
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Glebe Avenue (Callington Road TO North Road)
Longstone Car Park is the only carpark affected

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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? 3,7

- 1 What name was given to the mischievous child of the Charles Dickens era? (6)
- 2 In which English town is the Lowry Centre found? (7)
- 3 Moving anti-clockwise on a dartboard what is the number next to four? (8)
- 4 Sedimentary and Igneous are types of what? (4)
- 5 What shade of Pale did Purple Harum sing about? (6)
- 6 Which is Shakespeare's longest Play? (6)
- 7 Where is the College that Officers train for the Royal Navy? (9)
- 8 The words Lot and Gavel are most associated with which occupation? (13)
- 9 The coastal arch known as Durdle Door is in which English County? (6)
- 10 Sunderland stands at the mouth of which River? (4)

Answers Page 7

New Drop-in

I can't believe it has been 2 years since I started the debt centre in Saltash – how time flies by! Over that time, we have been able to expand what we offer through an amazing team of volunteers at Saltash Baptist Church and we brought this under the one banner of 'Saltash Hope' last October. To date, 39 people have booked in for help going debt free and that many again have received support in other ways. We now do what we can in all of the following areas:

- Debt help
- Budgeting courses
- Crisis funding
- Homeless help
- Settling people into a new home

This month, we are delighted to add to this as we start a weekly drop-in. Every Wednesday from 10.30am – 12 noon, the church building is going to be open for anyone



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

to come and have a tea or coffee, meet with others, have some company and be in a warm place. There will also be toys for pre-school children to play with and a safe place for babies and families to enjoy time together.

The drop-in is completely free and will run throughout the school term, breaking just for holidays. Tim Parkman, church minister, says 'Before Covid struck we used to run a very successful parents and toddler group. We now want to provide more than this and have something available for people of any age so that everyone is welcome – a really positive mix for the whole community. We have a fantastic range of people and ages at our Sunday service

and we would love to see this repeat itself during the week'.

This will add to the warm spaces already available in Saltash at The Core, Wesley Methodist Church, The Community Kitchen, the library and the poolside café at the leisure centre. What a range and what a community we live in!

If you want help with budgeting, the next Money Course is running on 3 consecutive Wednesdays 1-3pm, starting 22nd February. The course is ideal for anyone wanting to save towards a particular goal, picking up tips on making savings wherever possible or for those struggling to make ends meet. Email Jane for more info - moneycourse@saltashbaptist.co.uk.

If you want help in any other area, contact me and we can have a chat. Here's hoping and praying for a truly happy New Year!

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Murder by Midnight

A brand-new murder mystery group, Murder by Midnight, held their first show at the newly refurbished Isambard House in Saltash on the 10th of December. A cast of 9 put on a well-received debut performance in front of a sell-out crowd.

Hence the name "A Pharaoh's Curse" the plot centres on the 100th anniversary of the discovery of King Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922 by Howard Carter. With help from the Lord Mayor Richard Bickford and

Rachel Bullock, Town Councillor, the team at Murder by Midnight, led by Kate Gibbons and Adrian Chapman, put on a thrilling show to their audience dressed in the 1920s or Egyptian-themed attire. Those in attendance had one job, to solve the pharaoh's curse and find the murderer.

All proceeds from the ticket sales from this event went to the Lord Mayors charity.

The council aims to continue to host successful events at Isambard House, breathing new life into the station building, which has been derelict for over 50 years. While Kate and Adrian's plan for the future is to develop the newly formed murder mystery group into a well-respected and leading figure in the live-action performance industry in Saltash and the surrounding area.

You can get in touch with them via social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram under the name Murder by Midnight.

Harry Maplesden



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Tamar Reflections

St. Barnabas Hospital,
Founded 1888

Like many, I walk past St. Barnabas Hospital on numerous occasions, and each time seems to be a trip down memory lane, as a great deal of my friends and members of my family have worked there or have been patients and inpatients, several were born there and many have died there. Moreover, a great deal has recuperated at St Barnabas following major surgery and other health reasons.

'Friends' of St. Barnabas Hospital

Over past decades, I have attended, the Friends of St. Barnabas Hospital (founded in the 1960's) coffee mornings and summer fetes, often when I was Mayor of Saltash; and I can still hear the echo of the cheerful and welcoming voices of the hard working Committee of the 'Friends of St. Barnabas' - such as the late Mona Tomaszewska-Honywill (of 'ello me 'ansomes!), John Honywill, Colin and Dorothy Piddock, Dennis and Doreen Bolstred to name but a few of the wonderful team dedicated to raising multi thousands of pounds for their beloved Hospital. Indeed, through their dedication and those too of dozens of other local people in the past, helping at events, hundreds of thousands of pounds were raised to benefit the hospital and its patients in every capacity of health care. The Friends raised money for a Day Centre (1978) and a new Day Centre (1986), additionally a lift to the upper wards, furniture, E.C.G.

Machine, lockers, beds, cooker and dishwasher, curtains, rails, bed lifters, cardiac recorder, wheelchairs, TV, and Physiotherapy and Dermatological clinics, a Psychogeriatric Centre and a patients lounge amongst so many other vital items.

Closure to inpatients

Sadly, St. Barnabas as an inpatient hospital closed some years ago, and now hosts outpatient clinics, and many of the items and nursing staff have been transferred to Liskeard Community Hospital, where a large amount of Saltash residents can receive treatment and care.

Built as a Memorial Hospital

Built in 1888 and funded by benefactor Mrs Caroline Ley, who lived next door at 'Claremont' in Port View. It was built in memory of her late husband the Reverend Richard Ley. A Memorial Stone is placed at the South West corner of the hospital and a stone alter slab is inserted in the East wall of the mortuary chapel in the basement. There is a bottle buried under the stone containing information of the Hospital at that time, it reads: *"This Hospital is built to the Honour and Glory of God: is humbly dedicated to St. Barnabas, and is erected as a continual and loving remembrance of Richard Ley, Priest, by his wife Caroline Ley. This stone was laid by Bessie Gray on January 5th, 1888 in the presence of the Mayor of Saltash, George Adams Esq; Rev. Julian Moreton, Vicar; George H. Fellowes Prynne, Architect, R. M. Rouse, Builder and numerous friends. May God Almighty ever bless the work carried on in these walls."* There is a beautiful Chapel on



the first floor and I have been very privileged to have attended many a Christmas Service there.

Cottage Hospital

The hospital was known then as St. Barnabas Cottage Hospital and Convalescent Home, to benefit male and females living within a radius of 15 miles of Saltash to convalesce from varying illnesses and conditions. There were small entitlement and annual subscription costs to be recouped (this was before the National Health Service). When it first opened it accommodated ten adults and three children, and during its first year 74 patients were admitted for up to 34 days. During the first year the hospital was transferred by Mrs Ley and vested in Trustees, to be managed by the Wantage Sisterhood as a branch of the Church of England, although care was provided to anyone irrespective of their religion, profession or personal circumstances. The internal working of the hospital was carried out by the Sisters of St. Mary's Home, Wantage until the end of 1893 whereupon the staff was recalled to work at a newly built hospital in Worthing. Consequently, St. Barnabas was transferred to the community of St. Margaret's, of East Grinstead; the Sisters took over in 1894 and remained at St. Barnabas until the NHS took over hospital care in 1948.

Friendly gifts of the unusual kind

St. Barnabas Hospital even in those early years benefitted from gifts to the hospital, such as; a washing machine (I wonder what that would have looked like?) rabbits, pumpkins (from St Nicholas Church Harvest Festival), and a gallon of whisky (gosh!) a donkey and a Bath Chair to name some incredulous gifts! During Victorian times Saltash was short of water and during

1896 and 1897 the hospital was closed for five weeks in each year because of the shortage of water, until in 1897 when water was provided by the Borough of Saltash. By 1905 the average number of inpatients treated each year was about 70 at the cost of approximately £450. The costs were met from endowments, subscriptions and the patients themselves.

Great War inpatients

The Hospital closed in 1911 for 5 months for vital building improvements which also resulted in a new operating theatre in 1912. During 1913 just before the outbreak of WW1 over 94 patients were treated at the hospital, 9 successful operations were performed with no deaths during that year. Indeed, during the Great War, St. Barnabas Hospital played a significant role. For over a year the hospital was used as a Section Military Hospital and during that time 365 soldiers were treated and concerts were given for their benefit. During the whole of the War 646 soldiers were treated at the hospital, so too, many civilians.

Electricity

Eventually, electricity was installed in 1923 at a cost of £450 which resulted in three emergency operations to be performed at night.

Expansion

In 1927 'Claremont', the house previously owned by Mrs Caroline Ley (who died in 1898) was purchased and joined to the hospital as an extension and was once used as a Maternity Section and a ward for the chronically sick. It was later converted to an outpatient's department and a flat for staff. In 1987 St. Barnabas received over 1200 'casualty' cases and over 700 patients for Physiotherapy, further, operations were performed every week, additionally, 420 inpatients, various clinics and Geriatric and Psychogeriatric Day Centres did outstanding work.

Iconic Victorian Building

Although St. Barnabas is no longer an inpatient hospital as we knew it; this Saltash Victorian building is still one of the most iconic and beautiful structures still standing in Saltash today. Admittedly, it looks tired and is in great need of external cleaning and enhancing. I really do hope that this magnificent St. Barnabas Hospital steeped in the most glorious welfare history will get all the help it needs to make it as majestic again now, as it was 134 years ago. Thank you, one and all, past and present, for such outstanding service to our local community!

(Some extracts taken from - St. Barnabas Hospital (A short History) Sue Hooper MBE Email: suehcf@msn.com Tel 01752 843073



Autumn Sun Shone on Beating of the Bounds

Over 60 people joined Mayor and Mayoress Richard and Sarah Bickford and other councillors to enjoy the countryside around Saltash and participate in the ancient tradition of bumping dignitaries on parish boundary stones.

It was a warm and sunny October day as the party set off to Beat the Bounds of Saltash parish. Martin Lister, who firstly outlined the history of the tradition and later related the history of places on route, led the walk.

It was a medieval custom to bump the dignitaries and children of the parish on its boundary stones to impress their positions on their memories, and in accordance with this historic practice walkers including the Mayor and young Joe and Rowan were lifted and bumped on each of the five parish boundary stones.

A proclamation, which dates from at least Victorian times, was read out at the stones, and followed by a blessing by Reverend Tim Parkman, Mayor's Chaplain, and Reverend Richard McGrath.

The walk concluded at the boundary marker on Notter Bridge. Walkers enjoyed refreshment in the beer garden at Notter before buses took them back to the restored Saltash station building for a well-earned cream tea.

And for those who missed out on this enjoyable social event in the Saltash Countryside, or wish to repeat it, it is intended to repeat it this year as part of the towns coronation celebrations - watch for further details.

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Conundrum Answers:

1 Urchin 2 Saltford 3 Eighteen 4 Rock 5 White 6 Hamlet 7 Dartmouth 8 Auctioneering 9 Dorset 10 Wear. Re-arranged the letters spell Huw Edwards.

Saltash Old Cornwall Society

Liskeard is not generally associated with the heavy industrialisation of the Victorian era but it did for many years have two substantial iron foundries serving the mining and agricultural businesses in the vicinity, work from which can still be discovered by the eagle eyed observer in South East Cornwall.

The history of the Roseland Vale Forge on the River Seaton in Menheniot parish and of the Liskeard Iron Works at Moorswater was outlined to Saltash Old Cornwall Society, by Brian Oldham who has recently

published a book 'A Peek into Liskeard's Past.'

Some of the Iron ore used to supply the local forges was mined locally at Restormel, near Lostwithiel machinery, to supply not only the Cornish tin and

copper mines but for export as far as Australia. Some was for agricultural use ranging from ploughs to turnip cutters and machinery engraved with the name of Zack Williams of Liskeard Iron Foundry is still sometimes found in local farmyards.

This name is also still to be found in cast iron gullies and other street furniture in and around Liskeard while the cast iron rose, marking the products of the Roseland Foundry, can still be found on a few old gas lamps in Barras Place Liskeard and in villages such as Blissland and St Germans.

Society President Mrs Sue Hooper MBE thanked Mr Oldham for introducing members to a fascinating and little known aspect of local industries which still leaves its footprints today, for those who choose to explore for them.

Last Farewell...

A train waits up on
Brunel's Bridge
With a seat reserved for me
I'm looking forward to the
journey
As I've heard it sets you free

The challenges we face in life
The pain and stress we breathe
Don't exist where I am going
Only happiness, I believe

It's wonderful to see you all
To wish me on my way
Buts it's not a journey you
can take

It's not your time today
There'll be many destinations
Most are happy, some are sad
Each one a brief reminder
Of the great times we've
all had

Family and friends are waiting
Who took an earlier train
To greet and reassure me
That life is much the same

We will take the time together
To catch up on the past
To build a new beginning
Forever this will last



One day you'll take
your journey
On this train just like me
And I promise that I'll be there
At the station you will see

That Life is just a journey
Enriched by those you meet
But now it's time to say
Farewell
I'm tired, I need to sleep

But I'll see you all again
one day
Of that we can be sure
Yours truly ... Ian Robinson
With Love ... forever more xx

Your Little Brother
Brian Sansom



Steam Train passed by during the dedication

RIP my friend

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Safe 38 Petitions to Bring Safety Measures Forward

Safe 38, the A38 safety campaign set up five years ago and campaigning to save lives and livelihoods on a road they deem to be unfit for purpose, took their campaign to the December full council meeting of Cornwall Council.

James Millidge, Chair of Safe 38, appealed to Cornwall Council to support their bid calling for the series of short-term safety measures identified in the recent National Highways consultation to be delivered earlier than proposed. He said: "Currently, average speed cameras and other small scale, affordable safety interventions identified in the recent consultation will not be delivered until 2028 at the earliest. Will Cornwall Council lobby National Highways earnestly to deliver these interventions far sooner?"

Clr. Connor Donnithorne, the Cornwall Council cabinet member with responsibility for Transport, reassured Mr. Millidge that road safety, particularly along the A38, is an absolute priority, and that meetings had already been set up for early 2023 with the South West Regional Director of National Highways. Clr.

Donnithorne promised to continue collaborating with officers in Cornwall Council's Transport team as well as with Sheryll Murray MP to deliver as many improvements along the A38 as early as possible. The urgency for improvements was keenly felt at the end of January, when a three-car collision at Notter resulted in 4 people being taken to hospital.

James Millidge said: "The case for investment on the road, which forms part of the strategic network, should be treated as a matter of urgency. We know that we have the support of our local MP Sheryll Murray who herself in June 2018 agreed that the road is dangerous. We now need to ensure we have the full support of Cornwall Council, so that the A38 doesn't slip down the list of priorities - especially at a time when any Devolution deal from Westminster seems to be taking up a fair bit of the council's time and energy."



Just thinking aloud...

In 1942 Clem Attlee said "If we really believe in the supreme value of every human individual, and this is the core of our democratic faith, we must change a system of society which does not express this in institutions. We still live in a class society. The recognition of equality of opportunity for all has yet to be attained".

Eighty years later Rowan Williams said "It was repeated often enough during the pandemic that no one is safe unless everyone is safe... this applies to our economic as much as to our medical well-being".

Early this year Jon Snow asked "What sort of society do we want to live in?", focusing his question on what he sees as "our calamitous unwillingness to confront inequality", and Polly Toynbee pleaded for "a truly honest conversation about class in Britain".

The BBC reports this month that current living standards have just fallen by the biggest percentage in the last seventy years.

Attlee was our prime minister in the immediate postwar years, Williams is a former Archbishop of Canterbury, Snow is a journalist, and Toynbee is a social democrat journalist and writer.

We can look all round our world as we move hesitantly and fearfully into 2023. Do the rich contribute as much as they can afford to improve and sustain the health and wellbeing of the poor?

Even setting to one side the obscene effect of ongoing wars on both children and adults, how many millions upon millions of the world's children have little or no access to adequate social care, healthcare, clothing, nutrition, education, housing and all the other things which those of us of more comfortable means have been used to taking for granted?

By now, if you are still persevering with my meanderings, you may well be wondering what any of this has to do with us here in Saltash. Quite a lot, actually. In fact, more than quite a lot.

Unless you are quite incredibly well-heeled, during the coming year and onwards, your income is going to take a whopping hit and it is going to be more than a bit of a struggle just to make ends meet. We already know from shopping, from energy bills, from our bank accounts and so on that our net worth is going south at a rate of knots. We know from personal experience or from verifiable stories that the quality of life for many individuals and families in fair Esse now has less to commend it.

Given the foregoing, what can we do? Is there an answer? There must be, but it should bring together worldwide all people of honest goodwill. Humanity does not have much time.

Bob Munro

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